



The CHIMES

MUHLENBERG: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church strives to be a Wellspring of God's Grace in Jesus Christ.

Open † Authentic † Relational † Serving

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January 10, 2021

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

We made it to 2021! However, so did COVID-19. We are in the midst of a surge in cases in the Harrisonburg/Rockingham area. Even though we are all weary of pandemic restrictions, **it is more important than ever that we care for one another** through distancing, mask-wearing, and quarantining.

We want to remind you of the important work of our Gathering Together Task Force, which has implemented thoughtful guidelines for our congregation. **Over the next few months, it's crucial for us to be aware of, and follow, these guidelines:**

- **Please do not come to the church building unless it is absolutely necessary.** All of the staff really does want to interact with you, but it must be through the phone or video conferencing as much as possible!
- **Staff is working from home as much as possible to keep themselves and others safe.** Each staff member has instructions on how to reach them on their church voice mail or are notified immediately when they receive a new message.

- If you need to come into the church building, **please DO NOT come to the office wing.** Feel free to **use the phone in the Gathering Area** to buzz back to the office to see if someone is available to assist you.
- If you need to come into the church building, **please ONLY use the glass Gathering Area doors.** Do not use the back, red doors which are reserved for the Day Care.

The Task Force also implemented NEW guidelines regarding special services. Until further notice, **baptisms and weddings are suspended. Funerals and memorial services will be conducted digitally ONLY.** Pastors will not conduct in-person services.

Though these restrictions are difficult, it is vital for us to do everything we can for the sake of everyone's safety. As vaccines become more widely available, and the COVID positivity rate decreases, we will resume in-person ministries. Until then, **we continue to love and support one another from a distance!**

In Christ,
Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each **Sunday from 8:30 – 11:00** using this link:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

8:30 – 9:00 Communion Service via Zoom
9:00 – 11:00 “Coffee Hour” Fellowship
9:30 – 10:00 K - 3rd Grade Class
9:30 – 10:00 4th - 5th Grade Class
9:30 – 10:30 Adult Faith Lens Class
9:30 – 10:30 Adult 40-Day Journey Class
10:15– 10:30 Pre-K Story Time
11:00 Worship on [Facebook](#),
[YouTube](#), [Wellstream Phone](#)

- **Pastoral Care** ~ If you would like a private word with the pastor on call, we will provide a breakout room for you.
- **Small Group Fellowship** ~ Want to catch up with a small group of friends? We have private breakout rooms for that!

If you don't have a reliable internet connection, call in on Sundays at 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

WELLSTREAM PHONE

We want all members to have the opportunity to “participate” in worship and hear The Word. **Wellstream Phone is a service that works from your home or cell phone — no internet required. Simply call the number below and select an option. Information will be available by 11 am each Sunday.** Contact Linda Depoy (434-3496) with any questions.

Wellstream Phone Number:

1-434-205-8777

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

12/20-12/26	Total Views	2,241
	Total Hours Viewed	582.3

12/27 11:00	Total Live Views	89
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Month of December:

	Total Unique Viewers	10,220
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1/3 8:30	Communion	17
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No additional details available.

*People watched the Christmas Eve service at the time that worked for them. From 4:30 – midnight, 365 screens participated. A large number of those screens had more than one or two people behind them as many of families gathered to watch. Using Synod guidelines, if we average just 2 people per screen, that means that the total number of Christmas Eve worshippers we had this year was more than last year's total attendance of 701. Pretty cool!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$561,483	\$778,337	\$624,790
Total Receipts*	\$719,884	\$877,902	\$715,607
Expenses	\$727,723	\$891,130	\$748,891
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$7,839)	(\$13,228)	(\$33,283)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 15,593.70

Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 26,437.02

Total Giving for the Week \$ 42,030.72

To give online, scan here →



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



This Sunday is about Jesus being baptized by John the baptizer. The voice of God speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends like a dove.

This story is also about us: we too have been baptized, we have heard God's loving call, and we have received the Holy Spirit and are sent out into our daily lives with the message of God's love and forgiveness

PARKING LOT SERVICE

Today (1/10) at 4:00 pm

Join us for a brief worship service. The audio is broadcast through a radio transmitter so people can stay in their cars. We'll share communion. Bread will be available, but if you prefer bring your own bread.

THIS WEEK

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (1/11) Evening, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83341180538#

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10:30 am, participants study the Narrative Lectionary text for the upcoming Sunday. All are welcome to join via [ZOOM](#).

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm this service is livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PASTOR'S PODCAST CLUB?!?

Yes, you read that right — Pastor's Book Club is going to be discussing a podcast this month! We'll discuss *Are We Losing Our Religion?* from Kelly Corrigan Wonders. Requiring less than an hour to listen to (and you can do it while you're folding your laundry!), this podcast episode raises lots of important questions about the role of religion in individual lives and in society as a whole. Listen at

<https://www.kellycorrigan.com/kelly-corrigan-wonders/eboopatel>

Join us **Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 pm** via [ZOOM](#):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87163761216>

We also invite you to start reading the February Pastor's Book Club selection, *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi. It's a longer book than we normally do, but worth it! Learn more and order the book at <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/stamped-from-the-beginning>

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

**DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE
January 18-21**

Join people of faith and goodwill from across Virginia to make your voice heard on economic, racial, social, and environmental justice issues. Learn the issues from dynamic speakers and workshops, meet with legislators and engage with advocates in your region. Register at tinyurl.com/dfap2021.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

The Gathering Together Task Force has put into place new guidelines for weddings, funerals and baptisms. As the local COVID numbers continue to rise, we will abide by the Governor's limit of no more than ten people at a gathering, indoors or outdoors. (Parking lot events allow for larger gatherings because people can remain in their vehicles.) You can read the complete Muhlenberg Gathering Together guidance at muhlenberglutheran.org/covid19.

TREASURER NEEDED

Our Treasurer, Bill Vance, will be moving to North Carolina this spring. We are grateful for all Bill has done to manage our finances this year! We are now looking for a new Treasurer, and it would be ideal to identify this person before Bill moves so he can help train them. Duties include preparation of monthly financials, bank reconciliation and journal entries; preparation of federal and state quarterly payroll reports and annual W-2's and Form 1099; preparation and presentation of the annual spending plan; and serving as a voting member of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Congregation Council. Duties are shared with an Assistant Treasurer. Ideally, the Treasurer will be someone with education and experience in accounting. The time commitment is approximately 10-15 hours a month. Contact Congregation Council Past President Gary Calleo (vnccall@yahoo.com or 540-421-5463) if you would like to learn more.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Each year, representatives from all ELCA congregations in the Virginia Synod gather to experience and express what it means to be called to be church together as the Body of Christ, through attending to necessary items of business, experiencing corporate worship, and engaging in fellowship and faith formation.

This year's Synod Assembly will be held **Friday, June 11 — Saturday, June 12**, at Roanoke College. Muhlenberg may elect up to 6 voting members to attend the assembly; we will hold this election at the Congregational Meeting **Sunday, January 24**. If you are interested in attending Synod Assembly or would like more information, *please contact Pastor Lauren or Council Vice-President Greta Willis.*

CREATION CARE TIP

Creation Care offers a simple tip that will help you protect God's earth. Contact Ramona Sanders for more information: 433-1165 or rsanders97@verizon.net.



Genuinely earth-friendly products do help minimize your environmental impact. When you spend your money, favor companies whose goods protect the climate, eliminate toxins, keep the air and water clean, and safeguard forests and other natural places. Here are shopping principles that might get manufacturers to transition to the most earth-friendly practices available: buy less, read the label, support sustainable standards, look for third-party verification, choose fewer ingredients, pick less packaging, and buy local.

You are invited to a ...

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 24

beginning at 12:15 via [ZOOM](#)

(same Zoom link we use Sunday mornings)

Annual Meeting Agenda:

- + **Review 2020 Year-End Reports***
- + **Elect Nominating Committee**
- + **Elect Synod Assembly Delegates****
- + **Recognize Outgoing Council President**
- + **Recognize Outgoing Council Members**
- + **New Business**

*Reports will be sent electronically and hard copies available from the pick-up box outside the Gathering Area. Contact Linda Depoy to have a hard copy mailed to you.

**See page 4 for details about Synod Assembly.



Watch The Chimes for participation instructions.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

2020 UPDATE

Earlier in the year I wrote a grant to Harrisonburg city and received \$50,000 from the CARES Act funds, earmarked as follows: \$30,000 for client services and \$20,000 for operating expenses including PPE, facility modification and other general expenses. Through CARES Act funding distributed by The Community Foundation, we also received \$60,000 for client services. This money was to be for expenses accrued March - December 2020. While this was certainly a humongous task and caused us to be very creative in how we saw clients during the pandemic, we got it done! I am happy to report that we used the entire amount of \$90,000 for direct client services for Harrisonburg residents. We also received \$15,000 for Rockingham County residents that was very easily used.

All of this was accomplished by a very dedicated and small group of people: only 5 volunteers and 2 paid staff members, instead of our normal 15 volunteers. Special recognition goes to volunteer Judy Phillippi (mother of People Helping People's Board Chair) who took on an enormous number of tasks during this time.

People Helping People certainly looked different in 2020, but we stayed true to our mission of providing assistance to those most in need. We look forward to what 2021 has to offer for our organization and with your support will continue to serve our community.

Leeanne Shepherd
Executive Director

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

POWER IN THE SPIRIT Midwinter Session

Click [HERE](#) for details or to register today to join us for the first-ever Midwinter Power in the Spirit Online event **Sunday, January**



31 - Thursday, February 4. Our summer event went online, and we found ourselves enjoying the experience! So we thought gathering for prayer, study, worship, and conversation would be a great way to spend some of the coldest days of the year.

This winter's theme will center on the illuminating festival of Candlemas and our keynote presenter will be The Rev. Dr. Dave Delaney, Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Virginia Synod!

There is no fee to attend, but we do suggest a donation of \$25 to the Virginia Synod. One hundred percent of donations will be used to support neighbors in need around the world through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Our goal is to give a "family farm" to help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty—only \$715! Please give as the Spirit leads you!

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

After some shipping delays, The Word in Season and Christ in Our Home are now available from the member pick up box outside the Gathering Area. If you are unable to come to the church, please call Linda Depoy or Crystl Whitmire to request a copy be mailed to you.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer
(434-3496 or bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org)
for more information.

STORIES & ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

PreK – 5th Grade Students

Check out Muhlenberg's website for the stories and activities you can download and print for your child/children for January – March.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

✠ We extend sympathy to the family of Annabelle “Ann” Payne who died on December 30. Ann was a long-time member of Muhlenberg and held many roles, including Financial Secretary, Congregation Council Member, Stephen Minister, and chair of various committees. Burial will be private. The family is planning a digital Celebration of Life in January 24 (*see details below*). An abbreviated obituary was emailed to the congregation January 1. The complete obituary was published in the *Daily News-Record* January 6 and is included on the following page.

PAYNE MEMORIAL SERVICE

There will be an online service via Zoom to celebrate Ann Payne's life **Sunday, January 24 at 4:00 pm**. To attend, go to our website, muhlenberglutheran.org, and click the Zoom link on our home page.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 11-17

*If viewing electronically, you can
click the links below to access meetings and services.*

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Ministries Night
via [ZOOM](#)
- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study
via [ZOOM](#)
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun. Second Sunday after Epiphany**
[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)
8:30 am Communion Service
9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins
8:30 am Communion Service
9:00 am “Coffee Hour” begins
9:30 am K – 3rd Grade Class
9:30 am 4th - 5th Grade Class
9:30 am Faith Lens Class
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
11:00 am Service Livestreamed
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

The weekly deadline for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Thursday at 8 am**. Requests for a series, inserts or full-column articles should be made two weeks in advance. *Submit information to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy:*

depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.

Annabelle “Ann” Miller Payne

Annabelle Lee Miller Payne, 92, of Harrisonburg, died on Dec. 30, 2020, at Shenandoah Nursing Home and Rehabilitation, Fishersville, Va. She was born in Shenandoah County, Va., on Feb. 1, 1928, to the late Rev. Ernest Lee Miller and Clemence Gertrude Doll Miller, the fourth of five children. After the family moved to Harrisonburg (about 1945), she worked at Sears Roebuck and Company where she met Otho Miller Payne, whom she married in 1952. Otho preceded her in death in 1987.

After leaving Sears and Roebuck, Ms. Payne worked for over 30 years as an Administrative Assistant to the General Manager at Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative. During her career she completed the strenuous study and testing requirements in 1970 to become one of the first Certified Professional Secretaries in the Shenandoah Valley.

Following her retirement from Shenandoah Valley Electric in 1992, Ms. Payne returned to school, to graduate magna cum laude in the honors program with an undergraduate degree from James Madison University in 1995 and cum laude with a Master of Counseling degree from Eastern Mennonite University in 1997. Following graduation, she completed supervised training and passed the rigorous state exam to become a Licensed Professional Counselor in 2005, at age 77. She used her new professional skills to serve as a volunteer with hospice and as a volunteer chaplain at Rockingham Memorial Hospital.

Ms. Payne was a devoted member of her beloved Muhlenberg Lutheran Church for 65 years serving in many roles, including Sunday Church School teacher, member and chair of the church council, financial secretary, Stephen Minister, Luther League Advisor, and chair of various committees. Ms. Payne was active in the community, frequently requested as an inspirational speaker to a wide variety of community organizations promoting professional women and the pursuit of excellence. She served as a charter member as well as holding various leadership roles in the local chapter of the National Secretaries Association and was selected as Secretary of the Year in 1967. Ms. Payne co-chaired a study at Blue Ridge Community College to explore the feasibility of establishing a local chapter of the Future Secretaries of America and later as a member of their advisory board. She served as the last president of the Parent Teacher Association at the old Pleasant Hill Elementary School and the first president of the Parent Teacher Association with the opening of the new Pleasant Valley Elem. School.

Surviving are two children: daughter, Judy Payne Hughes with husband, Robert T. Hughes of Matthews, N.C.; and two grandchildren, Thad Hughes with wife, Carolina Tropini of Vancouver, Canada and Johanna H. Mencil with husband, Joe Mencil of Matthews, N.C., as well as son, Jerry Allen Payne and wife, Cheryl Payne of Harrisonburg, Va., and two grandchildren: Laura Beth Payne of Tidewater, Va., and Eric Osyda with wife, Sarah Osyda of Harrisonburg, Va. Also surviving are a half brother, David Gee of Florida; a half sister, Julie Anna Miller of Richmond, Va.; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ann loved and was devoted to her family; her great delight in life was to support the dreams and happiness of her children and grandchildren. But Ann’s love did not stop at home, as she was frequently providing assistance to those around her in who were in need or despair. A dear friend wrote: “She has fought the good fight, she conquered many daunting challenges, she remained faithful and loving to her family. And she actually accomplished the words of Micah: What does the LORD require of you? To act justly, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

Ann’s mother, Clemence, loved poetry, and until just a few months prior to her death, Annabelle often recited Poe’s poem for which she was named. For those who knew and loved her,

The moon never beams, without bringing us dreams, Of the beautiful Annabel Lee; And the stars never rise, but we feel the bright eyes, Of the beautiful Annabel Lee; And so, our souls can never be dissevered from the soul, Of our beautiful Annabel Lee (Edgar Allen Poe)

See service information on previous page. Those who wish may make a donation to: Hospice of the Shenandoah, 78 Medical Center Drive, Fishersville, VA 22939 or to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, c/o Annabelle Payne Memorial (where donations will be divided equally between The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Appeal and Muhlenberg’s Second Home Learning Center).