



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 17, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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:

1/3	8:30 Communion	17
	11:00 Total Live Views	102
	Total Views this Week	288
	Hours Viewed this Week	148.2
1/10	8:30 Communion	19
	11:00 Total Live Views	100
	4:00 Parking Lot Service	21

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	\$ 12,031.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 440.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 12,471.00

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg is not suspending its ministry through this unprecedented time, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to maintaining our ministries, even if they are in a different form for now. We also want to be able to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

You can make a one-time or recurring donation through the [donation page](#) on our website, or mail your check to the church:
281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

THIS WEEK

“I  a DREAM...”

The church office will be closed Monday, January 18 in recognition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE January 18-21

Virtually 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.

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](#). It will be recorded and available to view any time.

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 **THIS 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>

PRAYER VIGIL

Friday, January 22, 12 noon. The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Interfaith Association, an affiliate member of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICCP), invites your participation in VICPP's Prayer Vigil to Abolish the Death Penalty in Virginia. While none of the in-person regional events are local, there are additional ways to participate at <https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/criminal-justice-reform/death-penalty/>.

You can click the link below for information for the Central Region (Roanoke) Prayer Vigil that includes a litany.

<https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Prayer-Vigil-Central-Region.pdf>

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 will be available no later than Jan. 22 from the pick-up box outside the Gathering Area. Contact Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) to have a hard copy mailed to you.

**See page 6 for details about Synod Assembly.



~see next page for participation instructions~

ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

Virtual Annual Meeting of the Congregation *Sunday, January 24 at 12:15 pm via [ZOOM](#)*

STEP 1: ZOOM DOWNLOAD / PHONE OPTION

First, download the Zoom app. Go to <https://zoom.us/download> and follow the prompts for installation, as with any downloaded program. Click [HERE](#) for a video tutorial about Zoom.

If you can't download the app, you can always join by phone. Call the number below 5 minutes before the meeting and provide additional information as prompted:

1-301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 847 3141 6878) *no passcode needed*

STEP 2: ATTENDING THE MEETING

Once Zoom is downloaded, you're ready to attend the meeting:

- The meeting is on Sunday, January 24 at 12:15 pm. Please log in approximately 5 minutes before the meeting by clicking [HERE](#) or this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>

Please note this link was incorrect under Step 2 in our mailed invitation — use the link above.

- Follow the prompts to run Zoom, and then wait for the meeting host to let you in. If, for some reason, Zoom doesn't open, you can always open Zoom manually, select "Join a meeting" and enter this 11-digit Meeting Code: 847 3141 6878.
- Once you are admitted by the host, select "Join with computer audio"

STEP 3: ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- To assist moderators, edit your name on Zoom to include the names of all voting members in your home. Click [HERE](#) for a video tutorial that includes instructions on name editing.
- Mute your audio (click on the "Mute" option) until you are asked to unmute for voting, etc.
- Make sure video is turned on so the host can see you and know you're still logged in.

QUESTIONS/MORE INFORMATION:

- If you have questions about Zoom **before the meeting**, please **contact Communication Minister Christian Perritt** at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org or **540-810-3996**.
- **On the day of the meeting**, **Bill Wightman** is available for support at **540-435-6868**.

For meeting materials and additional information, visit our website at <https://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting.html>

MUHLENBERG NEWS

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 **online Friday, June 11 and/or Saturday, June 12**. Muhlenberg may elect up to 6 voting members to attend, and this election will be held at the Congregational Meeting **NEXT Sunday, January 24**. If you are interested in attending, *please contact Pastor Lauren or Council Vice-President Greta Willis*.

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.

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.

Drafty windows, leaky faucets, and the stuff that keeps the roses bug free directly impact the health of the environment. They cause us to use more energy, spread unnecessary toxic chemicals, and generally continue to eat away at our planet. Let's help turn the environment around by taking some simple, practical steps in our own homes and our community.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

For details, contact Music Minister Elizabeth Williams (williams@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

ADULT CHOIRS

Celebration Singers & Sanctuary Choir meet via Zoom every other **week resuming February 2, Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 pm.**

February 2 & 16

March 2, 16 & 30 April 13 & 27

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Tuesdays via Zoom, resuming **February 2**.

Tweens and Teens ~ 5:00 – 5:30 pm

For grades 6 - 8, led by Miss Elizabeth.

Children's Choir ~ 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Cherub Choir and SonShine Singers have been combined into one choir for ages 4 – 5th grade. Miss Rachel will lead the group. Even if you haven't participated in the past, you still can! For more information, contact Rachel (rgpeters@gmail.com or 570-975-5457).

OPEN DOORS

Muhlenberg Hosts February 1–7, 2021



Open Doors provides shelter for anyone over the age of 18 who is experiencing homelessness in our community. This season the shelter is located in the old Red Front grocery store building on Chicago Avenue. Faith communities provide meals each night and grab-and-go breakfasts. This year, paid shelter staff interact directly with the guests. Muhlenberg volunteers will provide:

- **dinners**
- **grab-and-go breakfasts**
- **volunteer servers** (work behind plexiglass in the old meat department; there is no-contact with guests)

To sign up to provide food or serve, visit our Muhlenberg Members Facebook page, or visit <https://tinyurl.com/yv6cvmt> for our volunteer spreadsheet. Food must be delivered by 6:30 and should be ready to plate. Drop offs are at Red Front, 677 Chicago Avenue. You may also make arrangements to drop food off at the church* or to have the a LGM Committee member pick it up at your home!

*If you have questions, food drop off needs, or prefer a different method for signing up, contact Susan Lawrence (lawrensj@comcast.net or 540-908-0073) or Emily Wicht Carneal (emily.wicht@gmail.com or 202-805-3683).

Members who wish to participate in an alternate or additional way may consider making a donation. Make checks payable to Muhlenberg, noting Open Doors in the memo line. We will use the funds to purchase needed supplies for the week.

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

✚ Congratulations to Doris Sipe who turns 90 next Sunday, January 24! If you would like to send Doris a card, please mail it to 525 West Wolfe Street, Harrisonburg, 22802.

✚ We pray for Elizabeth and Jeff Williams and their family following the death of Elizabeth's father Charles Dressler on January 5. Charles had been in declining health for some time.

✚ 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. See details below for a digital Celebration of Life.

✚

PAYNE MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

HIGHLIGHTS

January 18-24

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

- Mon. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
Church Office Closed
6:30 pm Congregation Council Mtg.
- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study
via [ZOOM](#)
6:30 pm Pastors' Podcast Club
via [ZOOM](#)
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun. Third 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](#)
12:15 pm Congregational Meeting
via [ZOOM](#)

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@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.