



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 23, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Here's what your Congregation Council discussed at our January 17 meeting:

- ✚ We've got a PLAN!! We organized our 2022 calendar, determined Ministry Night and Council meeting dates, set annual church dates, and got everyone's birthdays on the calendar.
- ✚ We discussed the agenda for the Annual Meeting on January 30 beginning at 9:45 am.
- ✚ A fruitful Council Retreat was scheduled for February. We plan to learn more about each other and plan for Muhlenberg's 2022!
- ✚ Names for the Nominating Committee were discussed.
- ✚ New and seasoned Council members were assigned as liaisons to our standing Committees.
- ✚ Expressed appreciation for Chip Bayer on his retirement and authorized the Personnel Committee to appoint an interim cleaning person for the church.

✚ Best of all, we were doing God's work by being Open, Authentic, Relational, and Serving toward each other!!

Blessings,

Greta K. Willis

Congregation Council President

CHIP BAYER IS RETIRING

At the end of January, I will be retiring and concluding my time as Muhlenberg's Sexton. I have enjoyed 12 years of service to God and this congregation. Thank you for the opportunity. God bless, Chip Bayer

We are grateful to Chip for his many years of faithful service to Muhlenberg, and give thanks for the ways that his skills and abilities were used each day for the good of all. Though Chip declined public recognition honoring his retirement, we encourage you to send him a note expressing your appreciation. We pray for God's continued blessings on Chip!

(Chip's address is 1946 Buttonwood Court, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.)

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

GATHERING TOGETHER TASK FORCE UPDATE

Muhlenberg's Gathering Together Task Force continues to meet periodically to assess our practices and safety procedures in light of local COVID transmission and CDC guidelines. We recently reviewed our current procedures and concluded that in-person worship will continue with ongoing safety measures in place (e.g. distancing our seating in the sanctuary, everyone wearing masks, communion in prepackaged containers, etc.) The congregation has responded well to these safety practices, and they are working.

One addition to our safety precautions is that Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex will each take rapid COVID tests every Sunday morning before 8:30 am worship to ensure that they are not unknowingly infected before interacting with the congregation.

We strongly encourage everyone who has ANY symptoms of illness to stay home and worship online. In addition to COVID, we have influenza, RSV (Respiratory syncytial virus), stomach bugs, and other illnesses circulating in our community and we want to all do our best not to share!

If you have COVID symptoms, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, please visit this website to find a testing site: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/protect-yourself/covid-19-testing/covid-19-testing-sites/>. Getting tested, and following guidelines for quarantine and/or isolation helps to stop the spread.

In addition, we continue to strongly recommend that everyone who is eligible be

vaccinated and boosted before attending worship in person.

We welcome questions and feedback from the congregation! While we are all ready for these pandemic restrictions to be over, we are grateful to be part of a community that cares for one another, and especially the most vulnerable, through this time.

Task Force Members: Erin Burke, Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, Greta Willis, Pastor Lauren Eanes, Pastor Alex Zuber

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG!

Held over from last week due to snow...

If you are new to the Muhlenberg community, or would simply like to learn more about the congregation, please join us for a *Welcome to Muhlenberg* experience **TODAY (1/23) at 9:45 am**. Meet leaders, hear about ways to get involved, and take a tour of our campus. We'll also share information about membership at Muhlenberg. If you're interested but unable to attend, please contact Pastor Lauren (434-3496 or eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org) so you can receive an invitation to our next event later in the spring.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASS LOCATIONS

Pre-K – 5th Grade meet in the Muhlenberg Activities Center [MAC] (behind the church)

These classes meet downstairs in the church:

Grades 6 -12 ~ Campus Room

Devotional Classics Adult Class ~ Nielsen Rm

Faith Lens Adult Class ~ Kairos Room

To attend virtually, use this Zoom Link:
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Winter Greetings! Please accept this invitation to attend the January Annual Meeting of the Congregation. As you've probably seen in *The Chimes*, we will hold a Hybrid Annual Meeting on January 30 at 9:45 am. For those who are more comfortable participating from home, we've got you covered! You can Zoom into the meeting or even make a phone call to be connected. See the next page for details.

Sunday morning Christian Formation classes will be cancelled for the morning of January 30 so all may attend our Annual Meeting. For those of you who normally attend 8:30 am worship, have a bigger breakfast, plan to stay a little longer and join us!! For those who normally attend 11:00 am worship, set your alarm clock a little earlier and join us!! It's so much better when we're all together, safely distanced and masked, of course!!

You can see the agenda we'll be covering below. It will be a great time together looking over the 2021 Year-End Reports, electing some folks, and saying a big THANK YOU to several outgoing leaders....and a few others.

I look forward to seeing everyone and introducing you to Muhlenberg's new Lay Leadership Team — we've got a GREAT group! See you then!

Greta K. Willis, Congregation Council President

You are invited to a...

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 9:45 AM

You may attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom (online or by phone)

The Purpose of the Meeting:

- † **Review 2021 Year-End Reports***
- † **Elect Nominating Committee**
- † **Receive an Update on Changes to Synod Assembly**
- † **Recognize Outgoing Leaders and VIPs**
- † **New Business**

*Reports will be sent electronically and are available from our website:

www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting.

Hard copies are available from the Connection Center and Connection Box (outside the Gathering Area). To have a hard copy mailed to you, contact Linda Depoy (depay@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

~see next page for participation instructions~

ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE:

Join us in the Sanctuary to attend the meeting in person.

ZOOM ONLINE ATTENDANCE:

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. Visit the website highlighted above for a video tutorial about Zoom.

STEP 2: ATTENDING THE MEETING

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

- The meeting is on Sunday, January 30 at 9:45 am. Please logon approx. 5 minutes before the meeting using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>
- 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"
- For this meeting, you will be separated into different "breakout rooms" (small groups) for member voting. This will happen automatically – there's nothing you need to do. Each breakout room will have a moderator. For voting, please follow the instructions of the moderator so votes can be accurately tallied. You will then be automatically sent back to the main meeting room.

STEP 3: ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- To assist moderators, edit your name on Zoom to include the names of all voting members in your home. Visit the website highlighted above 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.

ZOOM PHONE ATTENDANCE:

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:

1-929-205-6099 (Meeting ID: **847 3141 6878**)

QUESTIONS/MORE INFORMATION:

- If you have questions about Zoom, please **contact Communication Minister Christian Perritt** at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org or **540-810-3996**.
- Visit our website at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/congregationalmeeting for meeting materials and additional information. To receive materials in print form, visit the Connection Center or Connection Box or contact Linda Depoy at 434-3496.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us each Wednesday at 10:30 am for Bible study via [ZOOM](#):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

COMFORT MAKERS

Thursdays through April 7 anytime from 8 am - noon! For details, contact Linda Morrison (glenm778@comcast.net or 383-5085).

MUHLENBERG NEWS CREATION CARE TIP



Have you considered reading the news online? It takes a lot of resources to produce a newspaper, from the trees that are cut to manufacture the paper and the chemicals used to produce ink, to the energy used to run the printing press. Reading the news online is an eco-friendly alternative. Visit the websites of your local newspaper and TV stations to find out what is happening in your community.

Today's issue of *The Chimes* is printed on green paper to coincide with Epiphany being a "green" liturgical season. We give special thanks to Muhlenberg member Bob Crittenden for donating the paper. Bob retired and closed his printing business and has donated a lot of special paper to us that we will use in the coming months and even years. Thank you, Bob!

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION OPEN DOORS

Muhlenberg will provide food for homeless guests at Open Doors **January 31-February 6**.

Open Doors' mission is to engage the community of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County in partnership to provide shelter, compassionate support, and access to services for people who are homeless. The shelter has a maximum capacity of **60** guests, but depending on the weather, numbers can fluctuate a great deal. **In the last few weeks they have been averaging 55-60 guests daily.**

The shelter is available daily from 6:30 pm - 7:00 am and is currently located at 677 Chicago Avenue, Harrisonburg (formerly Red Front Supermarket).

We need prepared food, hot and ready to serve! Food will need to be dropped off at the former Red Front supermarket at 6:30. Volunteers are needed each night to serve in the kitchen (plating food) from 6:30-8:00. Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/yv6cvmt>. Thanks to all who have already signed up!

Contact Susan Lawrence (540-908-0073 or lawrensj@comcast.net) if you have questions or need assistance dropping off food.



DESIGN OUR BULLETIN COVERS IN 2022

Do you have artistic gifts or an eye for photography? Your gifts can help tell God's story! One of our congregation's strategic initiatives over the coming year is to "Become a Congregation of Storytellers." While our lectors and Biblical Storytellers do a wonderful job of proclaiming God's story each week in worship, there are other means of storytelling. Whether you use your own art, photography, or any other visual medium, you have the opportunity to pick a week this spring with the corresponding biblical story, and use your gifts to design our Sunday worship bulletin cover! Storytellers of all ages are welcome to sign up here to claim your favorite stories from the Gospel of John this Spring: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45ACAB2DAAFDC34-bulletin>.

Contact Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org) with any questions about ways you can use and share your gifts to help us become a congregation of storytellers!

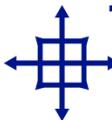
--- Sunday of the Liturgical Season

The Date, 2022

YOUR VISUAL
STORYTELLING
GOES HERE

Story of the Day Here

John #:#-#



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE NEWS

FINANCE MANAGER NEEDED

We are renewing our search to hire a paid part-time Finance Manager. We need a staff member who can manage our financial affairs, while also working with our Parish Administrator and volunteers.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

As you know, Crystl Whitmire has retired. We are so thankful for her service, and she will be dearly missed. As a result of her retirement, we are beginning a search to fill the open position. The Administrative Assistant will report to Parish Administrator Linda Depoy.

If you or someone you know may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Great news! We are very pleased to announce that Jane Eanes has accepted the Interim Finance Manager position. Jane comes to this position with years of experience as a Finance Manager at another church. Her expertise will be valuable to us during this transition, as we conduct a search for a permanent Finance Manager. We are very appreciative of her willingness to share her gifts. Please help us extend a warm welcome to Jane as she begins her new role!

We also want to thank Kathy Thompson for her willingness to help by significantly increasing her hours as an office volunteer as we conduct our search for a permanent Administrative Assistant. Kathy has a history of going above and beyond to serve, and this is just one more example. Thank you so much Kathy!

Mark Warner, Personnel Committee Chair

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

MIDWINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Our second annual midwinter Power in the Spirit online gathering is coming soon! Join us for live sessions online **Monday, January 31, to Wednesday, February 2**. We'll open our virtual doors at 5:30 pm each night, and by 5:45 we'll be enjoying lectures and workshops from a variety of leaders. At 7:00 pm we'll close with worship. Registration opens January 3. Click [HERE](#) for more information or visit vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit.

SYNODWIDE CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

Mark your calendar for the Synodwide Celebration of Service in conjunction with Power in the Spirit at Roanoke College **July 15-16**.

Unlike Assemblies, congregations are not limited in the number of people you can send to the gathering. Participants can arrive on July 14 and attend all the Power in the Spirit events or come on July 15 for the Synodwide Celebration only.

Registration will open in April. We look forward to seeing you at the first in-person gathering of the entire Synod since 2019.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

1/9	8:30 Holy Communion	38
	11:00 Holy Communion	48
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	61
	Total Views this Week	280
	Hours Viewed this Week	82.4
1/16	8:30 Holy Communion	43
	11:00 <i>in-person service cancelled due to weather</i>	
	Combined Wellstream Worshippers.....	71

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Below is the final 2021 report from Treasurer Ted Sudol.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 31, 2021			
	Year to Date <u>Actual</u> (thru 12/31/21)	Year-End Totals Budget (thru 12/31/21)	Year-End Totals 2020 Actual (thru 12/31/20)
Gifts/Offerings	\$594,704	\$867,332	\$651,830
Other Gifts & Revenue	\$150,894	\$99,230	\$87,897
Total Revenue	\$745,598	\$966,562	\$739,727
Total Expenses	\$844,361	\$966,562	\$814,339
Income/Expenses	(\$98,763)	\$0	(\$74,612)
Testamentary Gift	\$79,095	—	—
Gov. Subsidy (Payroll Protection Prog.)			\$85,989
(Deficiency)/ Surplus	(\$19,668)	\$0	\$11,380

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 3,898.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 2,890.00
Total Giving for 1/10-16/2022	\$ 6,788.00

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 24-30, 2022

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

Mon	2:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tues	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
Wed	10:30 am	Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thu	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sun		Third Sunday after Epiphany
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Annual Meeting of the Congregation (no Christian Formation)
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube

The **weekly deadline** for routine articles for *The Chimes* is **Thursday at 8:00 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](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran)

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Printed sermons are available on the table in the Gathering Area and upon request from Linda Depoy in the church office.

Devotionals for January-March 2022 are available from the Connection Center or the Connection Box.