



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 24, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

The Congregational Council met January 18 and conducted the following business:

- Assigned council members to liaison positions on standing Ministry teams
- Reviewed the agenda for the Congregational meeting being held today (1/24)
- Planned a Council retreat for February 6 where we will revisit Muhlenberg's Strategic Plan and discern staff and volunteer needs and structures required to execute our strategic plan

The Congregational Council looks forward to an exciting year of service to Muhlenberg Lutheran Church and our community.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us for a Congregational Meeting **TODAY (1/24) at 12:15 pm**. See details and participation instructions on pages 3-4.

COVID-19 VACCINE

Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen time and time again that avoiding in-person gatherings and wearing a mask are currently the best ways to "love your neighbor" as Christ commanded. Over the coming months, many of us will have the opportunity to heed Christ's call to "love yourself" by receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Visit the website below to sign up online for information about when a vaccine will be available to you, and also receive an email when it's time to register:

<https://vdh.jebbit.com/amkwk6m1?L=Owned+Web&JC=Vaccine>

If you qualify as a Category 1a or 1b vaccine recipient but don't have reliable internet access, contact Pastor Alex (540-309-2414) for assistance registering online.

PAYNE MEMORIAL SERVICE TODAY AT 4:00

There will be an online service via Zoom to celebrate Ann Payne's life **TODAY (1/24), 4:00 pm**. To attend, go to our website, muhlenberglutheran.org, and click the Zoom link on our home page.

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:

1/10	8:30 Communion	19
	11:00 Total Live Views	100
	Total Views this Week	442
	Hours Viewed this Week	111.6
1/17	8:30 Communion	17
	11:00 Total Live Views	115

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$650,777	\$862,300	\$725,476
Total Receipts	\$827,662	\$968,616	\$822,089
Expenses	\$814,332	\$969,616	\$825,435
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	\$13,330	(\$1,000)	(\$3,346)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 20,271.43
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 9,303.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 29,574.43

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.

You are invited to a ...

Congregational Meeting

Today, 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 next page for participation instructions~

ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

Virtual Annual Meeting of the Congregation Today, 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 **TODAY, 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>

THIS WEEK

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

We invite you to start reading the February Pastors' 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 using the link below: <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/stamped-from-the-beginning>

MUHLENBERG NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTORS

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

MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

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: (rsanders97@verizon.net 433-1165 or

You might be surprised at how much energy you can save by dressing more warmly to retain your own natural body heat. Wearing long-sleeved sweaters can result in 2-4 degrees of added warmth; two lightweight sweaters add about 5 degrees of warmth because air between them serves as insulation.

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 **Tuesday, 7:00 – 8:00 pm** **resuming February 2.**

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).

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](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).

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.

HABITAT FAITH BUILD UPDATE

Excavating on our Habitat Faith Build Duplex on Virginia Ave. will begin next week with lower walls being installed by the end of January. We are in need of licensed electricians and plumbers. Please contact Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431) if you are able to support our Faith Build as a licensed electrician or plumber. Thank You!

BRIDGE OF HOPE

Bridge of Hope has reached out to us to help spread the word about a need in their organization. They are currently seeking a half-time case manager who will provide support for 3-4 families and foster relationships with neighboring volunteers.

Bridge of Hope seeks to engage Christian faith communities in ending family homelessness through neighboring relationships that demonstrate Christ's love. Muhlenberg supported Bridge of Hope in 2018-2020 with a small group of members who became neighboring volunteers to a homeless mother and her two sons. We hosted the annual Locavore, an annual fundraising event, in the MAC and the organization has been the recipient of alternative gifts.

If you or someone you know is interested, please find more information here: hr.bridgeofhopeinc.org/job-opportunities

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.

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 **NEXT 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!

7th DAY

All those in 5th and 6th grade, mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 6, 9:00 – 1:00** so you can take part in 7th Day, the Virginia Synod Youth event for YOU. We will gather with friends from across the state via Zoom for faith, fun and fellowship. This promises to be a good time! Watch *The Chimes* for more information to come.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

✚ Congratulations to Doris Sipe who turns 90 today (1/24)! If you would like to send Doris a card, please mail it to 525 West Wolfe Street, Harrisonburg, 22802.

✚ I would like to thank you for your cards and prayers and concerns on the occasion of my Dad's passing. It has been a very sad and difficult few weeks, but I take strength in the Lord and my Muhlenberg family. Thank you all for your continued support as my family and I work our way towards knowing that Dad is at peace, probably tending to the many animals and gardens up in heaven. *Elizabeth Williams*

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 25-31

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

- Wed. 10:30 am** Wed. Morning Bible Study
via [ZOOM](#)
- 7:00 pm** Holden Evening Prayer
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sun. Fourth 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](#)