



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 30, 2022

FOURTH 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 January 30 (today) 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!!

Greta 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.)

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Today at the 11:00 am service, we welcome new members Matthew Wade and Kelly Atwood, and their daughter Emerie!



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

BLESSING OF THE COMFORTS

Katie Ray provided this article many years ago. She was always so proud to have the hard work of our Comfort Makers blessed on a Sunday morning each year. Our current comfort makers carry on this same tradition.

Are you cozy and comfortable today in the pew? Aren't they beautiful! Imagine the joy one of these warm comforts will bring to someone who needs warm winter bedding. Over the past 20 years, Muhlenberg has made more than 2,500 comforts to give to local, national and international disaster relief projects.

ANNUAL MEETING

We hold our Annual Meeting today at 9:45 am. See pages 3-4 for details.

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).

FOOD COLLECTION

NEXT Sunday, February 6 in the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products.

YOUTH NEWS

Our middle school youth will gather **NEXT Sunday, February 6, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm**, to study the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed and have some fun together! Details about the location and what to bring will be emailed to all middle school families. If you would like to be on the email list, please contact Pastor Alex.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A SHEPHERD?

The Care Committee has a "Shepherd" ministry to help members stay connected and support each other. Muhlenberg members are divided into geographical areas, each having a Shepherd or co-Shepherds (*fellow members who live in that area*). We work to build connections and relationships, and get to know each other as well as support each other when needed.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Care Committee members Linda Morrison or Sandy Randolph, or consider joining the Annual Meeting of current Shepherds via Zoom **NEXT Sunday, February 6 at 1:00** by clicking [HERE](#).

John 10 says, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and I'm known by my own; even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep." Zoom in to learn more!

MUHLENBERG NEWS

CREATION CARE TIP

Salt might make the ice melt, but it's harmful to the environment. Excess salt can kill trees and increase the acidity of water. It also attracts wildlife such as deer to the roadways, causing collisions with cars. Sand is a salt-and-chemical-free alternative that's just as effective for preventing your driveway, porch, and sidewalks from becoming too slippery.

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 **TODAY (1/30)** 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.

Adult Sunday morning Christian Formation classes are cancelled this morning 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

TODAY (1/30) 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 (depoy@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 **TODAY (1/30) 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.

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!

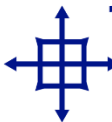
--- Sunday of the Liturgical Season

The Date, 2022

YOUR VISUAL
STORYTELLING
GOES HERE

Story of the Day Here

John #:#-#



MUHLENBERG
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ALTAR FLOWERS

RESERVING ALTAR FLOWERS



For the past 15 years or so, we have offered the opportunity for two families to honor or remember loved ones by signing up to sponsor altar flowers at a cost of \$25 per vase. If only one family signed up, we used reserve funds to pay for the other vase. Unfortunately, our reserve funds are depleted, so now we need to ask families to supply both vases if they wish to recognize loved ones in this way.

Like all businesses, our florist is experiencing increased costs and must increase the price from \$25 per vase to \$30 per vase, for a total of \$60 to sponsor both vases on a given Sunday.

So we have a new procedure for altar flower donations, and now we ask you to sign up for both flower vases at **\$60 per week**. You are welcome to partner with another family to share the cost and worship booklet designation.

Please sign up in the notebook at the Connection Center. Online signups will be available again soon. In the meantime, you may also contact Louise Layman (540-442-1524 or louiselayman@yahoo.com) to sign up. **Note: Sign-ups close on Sundays for the upcoming week.**

We request payment at the time of signup. Please make checks payable to Muhlenberg with *Altar Flowers* on the memo line. Place your check in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the church office.

JOYS, THANKS & CONCERNS

This is the space for sharing joys, thanks, and concerns of our congregation, our synod, and the wider church. Please lift these up as a part of your daily prayers. To share joy, thanks, or concern (e.g. birth, illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member; thank-you and congratulatory notes, etc.), contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

✚ We give thanks for the life of Katie Ray who died January 17. Katie was a member of Muhlenberg for many, many years and we continue to ask for your prayers to be with her family. A funeral service was held yesterday (1/29), and the family is eager to welcome everyone to a Celebration of Life for Katie **Sunday, May 15**. We will worship together at 11:00 am, then head to an outdoor venue to share stories and food. Details will be coming, but please save the date now.

If you would like to send condolences to the family, you may bring cards to the church this Sunday and next Sunday (1/30 and 2/6). Please also feel free to share any remembrances including photos, written memories, etc. by sending them to info@muhlenberglutheran.org, and we will share them with the family. They would love to hear your stories and memories of Katie!



LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

OPEN DOORS



Thank you to all who have signed up to provide food for the homeless guests at Open Doors **next week, January 31-February 6.**

Food should be delivered between 6:30 and 7:00 pm hot and ready to plate. For more information, contact Susan Lawrence (lawrensj@concast.net or 540-908-0073).

We are grateful for the support, love, and prayers that Muhlenberg has for those experiencing homelessness in our community!

PATCHWORK PANTRY THANK YOU

To Members,

This letter is to acknowledge with gratitude the gift of \$1850 which you made to the operation of the Patchwork Pantry during this past year. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated especially during this special time of need.

Because of congregations such as yours, we are able to continue to help needy members of our community with food and non-food items when they come to us on Wednesday evenings.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your consideration and from all of us who come together as a "patch2work" of community help. We could not serve them without the support of individuals like you.

*Betty Hoskins, Corresponding Secretary
Patchwork Pantry*



Patchwork Pantry
a 501(c)3 organization

VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

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.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE NEWS

PERSONNEL UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that Jeff Williams will be serving as our Interim Sexton following Chip Bayer's retirement. He will be serving part-time and working hard to keep our facilities spick-and-span. We are also grateful for Jim Doyle, our evening Sexton, who is increasing his responsibilities during the interim time as well.

Also, we have received several applications for our Administrative Assistant position. Interviews will begin soon, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Click [HERE](#) for the position description and application instructions.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

1/16	8:30 Holy Communion	43
	11:00 <i>in-person service cancelled due to weather</i>	
	Combined Wellstream Worshippers.....	71
	Total Views this Week	217
	Hours Viewed this Week	86.6
1/23	8:30 Holy Communion	40
	11:00 Holy Communion	50
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	58

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Below is the final 2021 report from Treasurer Ted Sudol.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through **December 31, 2021**

	Year to Date Actual (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	\$ 9,071.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 610.00
Total Giving	\$ 9,681.00

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

January 31 — February 6, 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	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	
	Food Pantry/Lay Communion Sunday	
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation Classes
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube
	1:00 pm	Shepherd Meeting via Zoom
	2:00 pm	Youth Gathering

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.