



# 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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**March 7, 2021**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

## **WHAT'S THE BUZZ**

### **YOUTH MINISTRY AT MUHLENBERG**

As you have heard in recent weeks, Congregation Council has been working diligently to update and implement our Strategic Plan. As part of that plan, Council has examined the staffing needs to accomplish our spiritual development goals. One very important component of the plan is to uplift our focus and attention on youth ministry.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hiring a part-time Youth Minister. This person will provide dynamic leadership and oversight for youth ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Youth Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in young people grades 6 - 12 and their families.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in exploring this opportunity, you can find the job description and application instructions on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

Please lift up our search in your prayers.

*We are also looking for a Finance Manager.  
See page 3 for details.*

## **UPDATE FROM THE**

### **GATHERING AREA TASK FORCE**

The Gathering Together Task Force met last week to review the current situation regarding COVID. While we are all encouraged by vaccine distribution and lower rates of infection in our area, we recognize that we must still remain vigilant in our fight against COVID. We see hope on the horizon, but we remain committed to our protective measures until it is truly safe to gather in person. Therefore, current guidelines for Muhlenberg will remain in place.

We continue to support and encourage online connections, and will happily set up a Zoom meeting for any group wishing to gather in this way. We'll be keeping an eye on vaccination and infection rates, as well as statewide and local restrictions, as we move into the summer. We are grateful for the people of Muhlenberg's resilience and faithfulness through this challenging time, and welcome any feedback you have.

*Gathering Together Task Force  
(Neil Alexander, Erin Burke, Cynthia Page,  
Kevin Stees, Crystl Whitmire, Greta Willis,  
Pastor Alex and Pastor Lauren)*

## 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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class  
**9:30 – 10:00** 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 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:

|      |                        |       |
|------|------------------------|-------|
| 2/21 | 8:30 Communion         | 20    |
|      | 11:00 Total Live Views | 108   |
|      | Total Views this Week  | 395   |
|      | Hours Viewed this Week | 162.8 |
| 2/28 | 8:30 Communion         | 24    |
|      | 11:00 Total Live Views | 106   |

### FINANCIAL REPORT

| Through February 2021                |                   |                   |                    |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                                      | Y-T-D<br>Actual   | Y-T-D<br>Budget   | Y-T-D<br>Last Year |
| Gifts & Offerings                    | \$91,128          | \$137,879         | \$99,702           |
| Total Receipts                       | \$112,491         | \$162,758         | \$124,225          |
| Expenses                             | \$155,267         | \$180,714         | \$157,885          |
| <b>Excess Income/<br/>(Expenses)</b> | <b>(\$42,776)</b> | <b>(\$17,956)</b> | <b>(\$33,660)</b>  |

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Giving in support of our Spending Plan | \$ 7,960.00         |
| Giving to Other Designated Funds       | \$ 17,484.67        |
| <b>Total Giving for the Week</b>       | <b>\$ 25,444.67</b> |

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**

### **MINISTRIES NIGHT**

**Monday (3/8), 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! *See page 8 for information about our new Communication Team.* You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

### **WEDNESDAY MID-DAY WORSHIP**

Ecumenical leaders are leading a mid-day Lenten Worship each **Wednesday, 12:15 pm**. Services are about 20 minutes long, shared live on our [YouTube](#) page and available for viewing later. Click [HERE](#) or use the link below to access this week's service:

<https://youtu.be/uBOMBfEaR8I>

### **MINI RECITALS**

Every **Thursday at 12:15 pm**, a live-streamed, 15-20 minute concert will be hosted by Elizabeth Williams. Eat your lunch to the sounds of beautiful music, live on Muhlenberg's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

**3/11** - Linlin Uta, piano: classical masterpieces for solo piano

**3/18** - Elizabeth Williams, piano: "All Bach" program celebrating the birthday of J. S. Bach

**3/25** - Catherine Creasy, French horn; Elizabeth Williams, piano: sacred greats for horn and piano

### **TIME CHANGE THIS WEEK**

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour **THIS Saturday (3/13)** night before you go to bed.



## **PARKING LOT SERVICE**

### **HOLY WEEK/EASTER ACTIVITY BAGS**

Join us for a brief worship service **NEXT Sunday, March 14, 4:00 pm**. We'll share communion and have bread available or bring your own if you're more comfortable.

If you collected items for **Baskets of Promise**, please bring them to the parking lot service and place them in the wood bins. The JAMers youth group will assemble the kits.

The Christian Formation team will hand out Holy Week and Easter activity bags for all ages. They include crafts, coloring sheets and booklets that will explain the "Three Amazing Days" (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil). It is our prayerful hope these will enhance your journey to the Cross of our Salvation. If you are unable to attend the service and want an activity bag or have Baskets of Promise items, contact Diane Bayer ([bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org) / 804-363-8523).

### **FINANCE MANAGER NEEDED**

We are creating a paid part-time Finance Manager position. Historically, we have been so blessed to have had faithful volunteers stewarding our finances. However, as we have grown as a congregation, we no longer believe our current model is sustainable.

We need a staff member who can truly 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 on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

We hope to fill this position quickly, but will take the time needed to find the best person. Please lift up our search in your prayers.

# LENT AT MUHLENBERG



## LENT 2021: *UNEXPECTED*

Below are some ways to engage in our Lenten Journey; more information can be found at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2021). Click on the links provided for each activity, or see the next page for links to all our Lenten worship and activities.

### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Join your friends each **Wednesday through March 24** for connection and formation. We invite you to make a commitment to learn and grow together in faith by participating in the following opportunities via [ZOOM](#) or use the phone-in option:

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 812 2682 5160 Passcode: 212430

#### 1. **Book Study of *Stamped from the Beginning* with Pastor Alex ~ 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Repentance is central to the season of Lent and racism is a sin. As we seek to repent from the sin of racism that manifests in personal and systemic ways throughout our nation and lives, we must learn how we got here. *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi will serve as our guide to these conversations. We will bring the lens of faith and repentance to conversation around racism in our history and our present. The book is divided into 5 sections which we will cover each week.

#### 2. **Prayer and Contemplative Practices with Linda Alley ~ 7:00 – 7:30 pm**

Would you like something fresher and deeper for your prayer time? Learn about five types of contemplative prayer and practice them during this 5-week workshop. Most types encourage more listening than speaking and more spacious rest than effort. Led weekly by Linda Alley, each half-hour session will include teaching, practice and feedback.

*Interested in both options? Join Prayer and Contemplative Practices first. You will be given the option to join the Book Study (already in progress) at 7:30.*

*~continued on next page~*

## LENT 2021: *UNEXPECTED* (CONT'D)

### 3. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Lauren ~ 10:30 – 11:45 am**

Explore the parables Jesus tells on his journey to Jerusalem. Pastor Lauren leads this discussion-based group in a deep dive into the gospel of Luke. Join via [ZOOM](#) or use the phone-in option:

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 200 491 556 No passcode required

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP ~ 6:30 – 7:00 PM**

Sign on to the same [ZOOM](#) link and phone-in option as our Wednesday classes **for conversation and fellowship**, with classes beginning at 7:00 pm. *There will be no Holden Evening Prayer during Lent.*

### **DAILY DEVOTIONS**

Lent is a 40-day season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus. Throughout the season, our Daily Digital Devotionals will focus on Lenten Micropractices. Through our [Muhlenberg Digital Devotionals Facebook Group](#) or [in your email inbox](#), you'll find a new practice to guide you each day on your journey of preparation. Some practices can be done on the spot, some during the day, and others will take some time and/or prep work. Traditionally, there are three pillars of Lent: praying, fasting, and alms giving, which come to us from Matthew 6:1-18. Our micropractices rotate through these themes, along with additional practices that don't fit neatly in one of those categories ("more"). You're encouraged to share photos or reflections in our Facebook Group or on Social Media using #UnexpectedLent with how these Lenten Micropractices revealed *Unexpected* grace. Printed devotionals are available from the Connection Box or contact Linda Depoy to have a copy mailed to you.

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## LINKS FOR LENTEN WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study via [ZOOM](#): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>**

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 200 491 556 No passcode required

**Wednesday Mid-Day Worship via [YouTube](#): (link changes weekly)**

3/10 ~ <https://youtu.be/uB0mBfEaR8I>

**Wednesday Night Fellowship/Classes via [ZOOM](#)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81226825160?pwd=RnRVdXJ4Rm9kNDIvTnAxemRKVHBFUT09>

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 812 2682 5160 Passcode: 212430

**Thursday Mini Recitals: [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)**

## WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPERS AT HOME

Each week, we'll share favorite soup recipes from a fellow Muhlenberger that you can make at home. Recipes are available in *The Chimes*, from our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page, or delivered to your inbox (make sure you're signed up for our email list — the form is on our [website](#)).

### LENTIL SOUP

Submitted by Vito, Katharine, Giorgio, Giuliana, Gianluca, & Gabriella Pellerito

This is a favorite in our house and in the restaurant. It makes a perfect, nutritious meal for all ages!

- 1 small bag of lentils
- 1/2 yellow onion
- 1 whole carrot
- 3 small celery stalks
- 2-3 whole peeled tomatoes
- 1 container vegetable broth

Soak lentils in water for a couple of hours. Then drain and rinse. In a pan heat up olive oil, then add diced onions, celery and carrots and cook until lightly browned. Add lentils. Add whole peeled tomatoes, squeezing by hand one at a time. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add vegetable broth as needed to get to desired consistency. Bring to a boil and then simmer for one hour.

**Optional:** Add any small cooked pasta to the soup (our children love this with chopped up spaghetti) or pour the finished mixture into a food processor or blender and blend until smooth. Serve piping hot! ENJOY!



### HUNGARIAN SAUERKRAUT SOUP

Submitted by Krisztina Szekely

- 1 lb smoked pork chops or chicken thighs
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 tsp salt (more or less to taste, esp. if using cured meat)
- 1 sliced carrot
- 1 sliced parsley root (hard to find, but Martins sometimes has them – can be omitted)
- 6 cups broth
- 1 lb sauerkraut
- 3 1/2 oz sliced mushrooms
- 3 1/2 oz smoked sausage, sliced
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 tbsp rice
- 2+1 tbsp oil
- 2 tsp sweet ground paprika
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 tbsp flour (omit for gluten free)
- 3 tbsp sour cream

In a sieve wash sauerkraut under running water to help mellow the sourness. Wash and rinse rice. Sauté onion and salt in 2 tbsp oil until soft and translucent. Remove from heat, stir in paprika until dissolved in the hot oil. Add carrot, parsley root, and diced smoked pork (or chicken) and sauté quickly, making sure paprika doesn't burn. Season with freshly ground pepper, add bay leaf and half of the broth and cook over medium heat until the meat and vegetables are cooked but not too soft.

Add sauerkraut, mushrooms, sausage, rice and remaining broth. Cook about 30 minutes. Mix flour and sour cream and use it to thicken the soup. Cook 5 minutes stirring regularly. (For a thinner soup, or as a gluten free option, omit the flour and add sour cream only.) For the tastiest soup, make a day ahead to allow flavors to blend.

## LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Chair *Emily Wicht Carneal*  
([emilywicht@gmail.com](mailto:emilywicht@gmail.com) or 421-1994)  
for more information.

### OPEN DOORS



The Local & Global Mission Committee gives a big thank you to all who volunteered for Muhlenberg's week to host Open Doors! We had a successful week serving a total of 289 meals. Whether you offered prayers, prepared food, helped serve, donated supplies, or contributed monetarily, thank you for being a part of ensuring that Open Doors is able to continue serving those in need of shelter.

Open Doors is a low-barrier shelter that welcomes anyone age 18+, even if they have a criminal record or are struggling with substance abuse issues. It is a little like God's love, which is unconditional. Recently, Open Doors announced that a guest had moved out of the shelter and into his own apartment. Dave is a veteran who has utilized the shelter's services for years. Often, there are strings attached to housing vouchers and some may not be able to meet those conditions because of issues they are still battling. Members of Muhlenberg, other local churches, and the community made sure that Dave, along with many others, had a warm meal and a bed until he was ready to move on. Thank you for showing God's unconditional love in such an important way.

† † † † †

*Devotional booklets for  
April-June are  
available from the Connection Box.*

† † † † †

## HABITAT FAITH BUILD

### Meet Our Partner Families

**The Tomelso Family:** Gubsa and Rahawa have five children—the 3 oldest are girls and the two youngest are boys. The children range in age from 17 to 6 months old. They came to the United States from Eritrea and Ethiopia. Gubsa works at George's in Harrisonburg.

**Ngeleka Kapiamba Family:** Charly and Nina came to the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and they both work at George's in Harrisonburg. They have three girls and one boy ages 15 to 4.

Both families have been diligently working to earn the sweat equity hours required by Habitat for Humanity. This includes attending classes, taking part in other groundbreaking and dedications, and doing physical work on their own lot preparation and other construction sites.

### Faith Build Blessing, afternoon of March 21

At this event we will have an opportunity to write blessings on framing boards of the new home. These messages can be written directly on the boards or on paper that will be stapled to them. There will also be an opportunity to write messages on cards or paper to give to the families the day the homes are dedicated. Due to Covid restrictions, we need to know how many members would like to attend the Blessing in person so time slots can be allotted. **TODAY (3/7) is the deadline to contact me if you want to represent Muhlenberg in person on March 21.** Blessing messages can be written and dropped off at the Parking Lot service next Sunday, March 14 or placed in the envelope in the Connection Box.

*Karen Thomsen*

[kethomsen25@gmail.com](mailto:kethomsen25@gmail.com) or 540-421-4431

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### NEW COMMUNICATION TEAM

#### Calling future members of the Muhlenberg Communication Team!

Muhlenberg is seeking volunteers who wish to help the church improve the breadth, consistency and quality of our communications with members and the community. These days effective and consistent communications are so important — and we would love your help making our messages heard online, in print, on social media, and more.

As this will be a volunteer team, we will try to work around people's individual schedules the best we can. We meet monthly via [ZOOM](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83341180538) (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83341180538>) on Ministries Night (second Monday of each month). Our first meeting will be **TOMORROW (Monday 3/8), 7:00 pm.**

So if you have gifts to share in the areas of digital communication, web or graphic design, media production, or any other aspect of communications, we would love to have you on board! If you are interested or have questions, please contact me or just show up via Zoom on Monday!

Communication Minister Christian Perritt  
[perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org)

### 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](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net) or 433-1165)



Remember your baptism today. What does it mean to you to be baptized? Spend some time praying or journaling about what happens to this sacrament when the world's waters become polluted and inaccessible.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March 8-14

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

- Mon. 7:00 pm Ministries Night  
via [ZOOM](#)
- Tue. 5:00 pm Tweens and Teens
- Wed. 10:30 am Wed. Morning Bible Study  
via [ZOOM](#)  
12:15 pm Ecumenical Worship,  
click [HERE](#)  
Wednesdays in Lent via [ZOOM](#)  
6:30 pm Fellowship  
7:00 pm Classes
- Thu. 12:15 pm Lenten Mini Recital  
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Sat. DST begins – turn clocks ahead 1 hour
- Sun. Third Sunday in Lent  
[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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class  
9:30 am 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class  
9:30 am Faith Lens Class  
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class  
11:00 am Service Livestreamed  
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)  
4:00 pm Parking Lot Service

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](mailto:depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org/434-3496)

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