



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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281 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 ✚ Phone: 540-434-3496

E-mail address: info@muhlenberglutheran.org ✚ Website: www.muhlenberglutheran.org

Senior Pastor Lauren Eanes: eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org Associate Pastor Alex Zuber: zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org



April 19, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

GREAT NEWS!

We heard from Summit Community Bank that our application for the Payroll Protection Program under the CARES Act was approved! We will receive \$112,000 to cover payroll and benefits for Muhlenberg staff and employees of Second Home for a period of 8 weeks. This money will significantly help us with the downturn in giving as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We still incur expenses above and beyond this amount, so please continue giving as you are able to help us carry out our mission — to equip all people to live out Christ's love as we strive to be Open, Authentic, Relational and Serving.

Gary Calleo, Congregation Council President

✚ Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex are working to stay connected with as many people as possible. While they will not meet in person with anyone except those in critical situations, they are available for phone conversations, email, and video meetings. Simply email or call the church office — they'll be happy to hear from you!

EARTH DAY

Each year, people around the world recognize April 22 as Earth Day, as a reminder of the action that is needed to care for the environment. Earth Day points us back to the Creator in our work and in our worship. Our **Wednesday, April 22 noon service** will focus on God's gift of creation.

Many have expanded this to celebrate the whole month of April as Earth Month. Especially during the month of April, we encourage you to consider new ways you can continue to care for creation. Check out the creation care tips that are in *The Chimes* each week, and see more local ways to get involved at <https://earthdayeverydayofharrisonburg.org/>

In Genesis, we are reminded God has created all we have, and God has given us the charge to care for ALL of God's beautiful creation. If you have little ones at home, you can read to them the story "Creation" found on page 2 in their Spark story Bible.

May we all take the opportunity this month to pray, learn, and take action to care for God's planet and God's people.

TODAY

ADULT SUNDAY

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Join in these adult opportunities Sunday mornings via Zoom! The information below will work for each week the class meets.

Faith Lens Class at 9:00 am

Use the link/phone number below to join the *Faith Lens Class*:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/430216424>

Phone Number: +1-929-205-6099

Zoom Meeting ID: 430 216 424

40-Day Journey Class at 9:30 am

Use the link/phone number below to join the *40-Day Journey Class*:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/s/759744734>

Phone Number: +1-312-626-6799

Zoom Meeting ID: 759 744 734

If you have any questions or concerns, please let Pastor Alex know!

COFFEE HOUR

We offer an **online “coffee hour” Sundays, 10:30 - 11 am via [Zoom](#)**. Make yourself a cup of coffee and sign in to visit with your church family before you head over to worship on Facebook or YouTube. Log in by clicking this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/388500586?pwd=VUYraGFZMEZTTDk5ekROZUx1OQ3pSQT09>



FINANCIAL NEWS

LAST WEEK'S "ATTENDANCE"

While we didn't meet in person last week, we were able to track our online viewership:

Peak Live Viewers:

Facebook ~ 114 YouTube ~120

Total Engagement/Views:

Facebook ~ 661 YouTube ~ 321

Total Time Watched:

Facebook ~ 236 hrs YouTube ~ 276 hrs

~see p. 3 for *The Great Three Days "Attendance"* ~

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$158,040	\$207,212	\$174,467
Total Receipts	\$188,891	\$239,816	\$204,703
Expenses	\$207,357	\$255,408	\$210,086
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$18,465)	(\$15,592)	(\$5,382)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 7,270.00

Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 1,443.50

Total Giving for the Week \$ 8,713.50

April Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$30

To give online, scan here →



The church is certainly not suspending its ministry through this season, and we ask you not to suspend your financial contributions either. We are committed to paying our staff and maintaining our ministries, even if they will be 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 www.muhenberglutheran.org, or mail your check to the church at 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Meets **Wednesdays, 10:30 am** via Zoom using this link:

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

If you've never attended this study before, now could be the perfect time to join in as we begin a new study! We will learn about two women of the Bible: Ruth and Susanna. This isn't limited to members of Muhlenberg, so feel free to invite a friend. Contact Pastor Lauren for details.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

Wednesdays at noon, we will have a brief prayer service on [Facebook](#). Tune in live or watch the video later.

PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

April's Pastors' Book Club selection is *Aging Matters: Finding Your Calling for the Rest of Your Life* by R. Paul Stevens. What does it mean to get older? How do we go about it fruitfully? The book delves into matters of calling, spirituality, and legacy in retirement.

Whether you're already retired, looking towards retirement, or journeying with friends or family members, you'll find this book to be a rich resource for perspective, guidance, and personal and spiritual growth.

We will meet via Zoom THIS Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 pm. To join in, use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/335559292>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MINISTRIES NIGHT IS BACK!

Though we cannot be together in person, the ministry of the church continues. Join us **Monday, April 27 at 7:00 pm** for a "trial run" of Ministries Night on Zoom and the opportunity to catch up with others on your ministry team. Join via computer/tablet at <https://zoom.us/j/92193459263> or contact Pastor Lauren for the phone-in option.

We'll have an official Ministries Night on our usual 2nd Monday, May 11, at 7:00 pm.

ATTENTION MINISTRY GROUP LEADERS

We have a Zoom video conferencing account, which allows us to hold meetings, Bible studies, and other gatherings online. If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting for your group or class during this time of *spacious solidarity*, please email Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) and he will gladly do that.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

LAST WEEK'S "ATTENDANCE" (CONT'D)

Below are "attendance" figures for The Great Three Days.

	Facebook	YouTube
Maundy Thursday	40	37
Good Friday	39	35
Easter Vigil	35	33

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Area Shepherds have been making phone calls to those in their Shepherd Group. They are asking questions about needs you may have, as well as ways you may want to serve over the coming weeks. We are setting up phone partners to check in with one another, grocery and pharmacy runners who can help others avoid exposure, and whatever else we need to make sure we all stay safe and connected through this time.

Let us be creative and resourceful as we find new ways to care for one another. Be kind and patient with others—we're all doing the best we can. Take time to care for yourself as well.

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.

Earth Day is April 22 every year. 2020 will mark 50 years of Earth Day. The theme for this year is *climate action*. The enormous challenge, but also the vast opportunities, of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary.

SECOND HOME NEWS

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In this rapidly changing situation, Second Home leadership and staff have put a lot of thought into its program and how we can still support our families.

After careful thought, prayer, and planning, Second Home re-opened April 15 with a full day care for a very limited number of students whose parents work in the critical infrastructure and find it difficult to provide a safe place for their children. As always, we are following and exceeding all licensing regulations and CDC guidelines to make sure the children and our staff are as safe as possible.

Second Home has received funding from the United Way to help offset some of the costs of this emergency program. If you are able and willing to help us in this trying time, please continue your support. We welcome both in-kind and monetary donations. For more information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you, and we hope you stay healthy.

Krisztina Szekely

Executive Director

2ndhomedirector@gmail.com

540-432-7989



YOUTH & CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Contact Christian Formation Minister Diane Bayer
(434-3496 or bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org)
for more information.

All in-person activities and events are cancelled through May 1. Adult faith formation continues to meet via Zoom. See page 2 for details.

We also share a resource called *Prayer and Worship in our Homes*, an opportunity to “Grow closer to Christ even when you can’t be in church. Learn more about the practice of prayer in its many forms from an array of studied experts.” Also, there is a wonderful resource for families called *Pandemic Hope*, a 7-week devotional that has a daily Bible reading and activity for families and children to do together. Visit our website for details.

Resources and activities are available on our website under the COVID-19 tab. Select *Resources* to find activities for children, families and adults as we continue to be church together. Need assistance? Contact Diane.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

April 20-26, 2020

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Congregation Council Mtg.
- Wed. 10:30 am** Bible Study
12 noon Service Livestreamed on [Facebook](#)
6:30 pm Pastors’ Bible Study
- Sun. 9:00 am** Faith Lens Class
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class
10:30 am “Coffee Hour” via Zoom
11:00 am Service Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

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 (depay@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496).

Additionally, requests to utilize space in the Gathering Area on Sunday or post information at the Connection Center should be made to Linda as soon as planned, but no later than Thursdays at 8 am.

Check bulletin boards for community information.

Like us at facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran.



April