

# 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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**May 24, 2020**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## **WHAT'S THE BUZZ?**

### **FROM BISHOP BOB HUMPHREY**

May 14, 2020 – “Due to the highly infectious nature of COVID-19, the lack of available testing, the absence of an effective treatment for the disease, and the time needed to prepare for gathering again leads the **Bishop's Office to recommend abstaining from in-person gatherings through Forward Virginia Safer at Home Phase 1, Phase 2, and possibly beyond.** As each new Phase of reopening occurs in Virginia, congregational leaders will need to consider how to protect the health and well-being of the entire community, not simply do what is allowable or legal.”

### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE**

Council gathered via Zoom Monday night with the main focus of discussion being “how and when to safely interact in person” in light of COVID-19. Following good conversation, **Council was in complete consensus that Muhlenberg will follow Virginia Synod guidelines to abstain from in-person gatherings during Virginia's Phase 1 and Phase 2 reopening plans, and continue to consult Synod guidelines moving forward.**

Council approved the creation of a Muhlenberg Pandemic Task Force that will

develop short-term and long-term plans regarding in-person gatherings, safety policies, and the logistics of returning to in-church worship and activities. A team of five members will be assembled to work with the pastors in navigating the path before us. The Task Force will welcome member feedback, and avenues to provide this feedback will be shared soon. Watch for a letter with additional information from the Pastors about our COVID-19 response.

### **ENTERING THE CHURCH**

Staff continues to work mainly from home, while Harrisonburg-Rockingham Day Care and Second Home are running carefully regulated, pared-down programs for children most in need of care. **All doors are locked at all times.** In order to continue to keep everyone safe, **we ask that congregation members refrain from coming to the church building unless necessary. If you need to be in the building, please use the Gathering Area doors to enter and exit (NOT the back red doors used by Day Care).** We suggest you wear a mask as much as possible. If you have something to drop off at the church, please arrange with a staff person to receive it ahead of time. Do not drop items off at the MAC. Thank you!

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### WELCOME GUEST PREACHER

We welcome Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick as our guest preacher today. She serves as Assistant to The Bishop in the Virginia Synod, ELCA.

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each **Sunday from 9:00 – 11:00** using this link:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878)

- **Sunday School** ~ All are welcome to join.
  - **9:00:** Faith Lens, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls
  - **9:30:** 40 Day Journey, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
  - **10:15:** Kids Storytime
- **Pastoral Care** ~ If you would like a private word with one of the Pastors, we will provide a private breakout room for you and the pastor “on call.”
- **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.

Livestreamed worship at 11:00 am on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) continues.

***Note:** If you tried to join us on Zoom last Sunday morning, you likely experienced some issues. Zoom went down worldwide last week, but they assure us the problems have been corrected. Please use the link highlighted above to connect. The one-time link Pastor Alex shared last week will no longer work.*

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### RECENT DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

While we aren't meeting in person, we are able to track our online viewership:

**5/10: 128 Total Live Views**  
**410 Total Views**  
**151.9 Hours of Content Viewed**

**5/17: 145 Total Live Views**

*Note: the ELCA has made recommendations for tracking online attendance. We will now provide total views for the most recent week, and full details for the week before.*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through April 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$216,981	\$275,193	\$231,661
Total Receipts	\$252,906	\$314,548	\$267,821
Expenses	\$272,133	\$334,234	\$279,355
<b>Excess Income/ (Expenses)</b>	<b>(\$19,227)</b>	<b>(\$19,686)</b>	<b>(\$11,534)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan \$ 8,760.00  
Giving to Other Designated Funds \$ 5,839.67  
**Total Giving for the Week \$ 14,599.67**

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 at 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

## BLESSING OF GRADUATES

Muhlenberg is excited to recognize members of our congregation who are celebrating their graduation this spring. You'll have a chance to see our graduates and join in their blessing at the end of today's service. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

**Olivia Arndt** will graduate from Harrisonburg High School and plans to attend the University of Michigan.

**Grace Britt** will graduate from Turner Ashby High School and attend Virginia Commonwealth University School of Art.

**Eli Derrick** will graduate from Harrisonburg High School and will attend Carrabassett Valley Academy to continue competing internationally in Ski Cross.

**Ellie Hardwick** graduated from the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind.

**Lily Harmison** will graduate from Eastern Mennonite School and plans to attend Roanoke College.

**Brandon Stees** will graduate from Harrisonburg High School and plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College.

**Kasey Britt** graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater, Philosophy and Classics.

**Cannie Campbell** graduated with a Master of Arts/Education Specialist Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from James Madison University.

**Vicki Heitsch** graduated from Blue Ridge Community College with an Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree.

**Nathan Horner** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from James Madison University.

**Andrew Miller** graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management and minors in General Business and Human Resource Development.

**Victoria Trumbo** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Hollins University and plans to attend Chatham University for her Master of Fine Arts.



## THIS WEEK

### STAFF HOLIDAY

Memorial Day is a staff holiday, so we will not be checking voicemails and emails

### WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

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

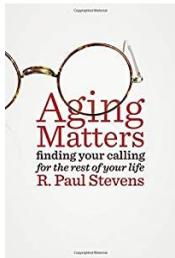
<https://zoom.us/j/200491556>

The study isn't limited to Muhlenberg members, so feel free to invite a friend.

### WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

We will have a brief prayer service on [Facebook](#). Tune in live or watch later.

### PASTORS' BOOK CLUB



Pastors' Book Club is scheduled for **THIS Wednesday, May 27, 6:30 pm**. We'll discuss the book *Aging Matters: Finding Your Calling for the Rest of Your Life* by R. Paul Stevens (originally scheduled for April, but

postponed due to shipping delays.) Join the conversation via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88631865800>.

Next month, Pastors' Book Club will take place **Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 pm**. We'll discuss the book *Stars Beneath Us: Finding God in the Evolving Cosmos* by Paul Wallace. Wallace is an astrophysicist who inspires readers to engage with the natural world in new ways and find God, as it turns out, everywhere. You can order the book from Amazon and other online bookstores.



## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### 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](mailto:rsanders97@verizon.net).



The goal of being waste-free is to fully return resources to our ecosystem so that nothing is sent to a landfill. Last week's tip was about zero-waste in storage; this week it refers to cooking and eating. Reconstitute leftovers into jams or sauces. Keep food waste out of trash cans. Donate used cooking oil for recycling into bio-fuel. Never pour cooking oil down the drain. Dine and drink with traditional dishes, glassware, and stainless-steel utensils. Do not use paper or plastic plates or cups. Ban all Styrofoam products from your household. Carry your lunch in an insulated reusable container. Never use paper bags to store your lunch or snacks.

### CONTACTING OUR PASTORS

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!

### NEED A MASK?

If you need a mask, contact Janet Simmons (434-5258). She will mail or deliver it to you at no charge.



## INTRODUCING *WELLSTREAM* PHONE

Do you feel like you're missing out on worship because you don't have an internet connection? We want all members to have the opportunity to "participate" in worship and hear The Word. ***Wellstream* Phone is a new service that works from your home or cell phone — no internet required. Simply call the number below and select an option. Services/sermons will be available by 11 am each Sunday.**

**The Details:** When you call, Pastor Lauren will welcome you to *Wellstream* Phone and give you the 8 options listed below. For example, if you want to hear the most recent sermon, you would press 1 and then the # key (located on the right side of 0 on your phone). Or to listen to the last week's entire worship service, you would press 4#. **Tip:** Most hand held and cell phones are equipped with a speaker. Using the speaker allows you to hear worship without holding the phone to your ear the entire time. You may even want to listen to worship while doing something else.

There were no numbers local to Harrisonburg available for this purpose, so unfortunately the phone number is long distance. If your home phone service does not include long distance, perhaps you have a cell phone that does. If you do not have access to long distance and want to use this service, please contact Linda Depoy (434-3496 or [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)) and she will be glad to assist.

We hope you will try this new service and give Linda your feedback. For example, we already know the music sound quality needs a little help; but just like clicks, pops and white noise from a vinyl record, the sound quality doesn't keep you from enjoying the experience. Contact Linda with any questions or concerns.

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***Wellstream* Phone Number: 1-434-205-8777**

Press **1#** to hear **this week's sermon**

Press **2#** to hear **this week's entire worship service**

Press **3#** to hear **last week's sermon**

Press **4#** to hear **last week's entire worship service**

Press **5#** to hear **announcements for this week**

Press **6#** to **leave a message or prayer request**

Press **7#** to **contact the pastor on call for pastoral emergencies**

Press **8#** to hear **how to send in your offering during this time**

## MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

### COMMUNICATION MINISTER

We are pleased to announce that we are moving forward to fill the position of “Communication Minister.” This position was approved in our last congregational spending plan and Council approved a small adjustment in salary, if needed, to ensure that we can attract the best candidates. As you will recall, Mycah McNett was previously in a similar position until she entered Seminary.

It is critical that we fill this position at this time as our communication needs and strategies have drastically changed during the pandemic in recent months and will continue to be more in demand as we move forward. Our Pastors have taken on these communication duties admirably; however, we now need a full-time person to focus on the communication role so that our Pastors may fully invest their time pastoring, leading and serving our faith community.

*Mark Warner*

Personnel Committee Chair

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### Update

A Search Committee has been formed and includes Katie McConnel (from the Personnel Committee), Sarah Sunde (from Council), and Parish Administrator Linda Depoy. The Pastors will provide support and conduct interviews with the top candidates. The Search Committee has met with the Personnel Committee for guidance, and it is hard at work to develop the process to advertise the position and begin receiving resumes. Watch *The Chimes* for updates and the opportunity to apply for the position. If you have questions in the meantime, contact Linda ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496).

## VIRGINIA SYNOD NEWS

VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA

### VIRTUAL “TONGUES OF FIRE” 5K

SUNDAY, MAY 31 FROM 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM



Muhlenberg hopes to put together a team in response to the Virginia Synod’s invitation to join them in a Virtual 5K! You can run, walk, jog, or even cheerlead as part of the 5K. Here’s how this will work:

- Between now and May 31, we’ll form a team and name a team captain who will register us.
- Cheerleaders will not physically compete but will root and pray for those participating the whole way! Dress up, make an encouraging sign, and be a positive force for those competing on your team!
- Between now and May 31, limber up! Get some daily walking or jogging in.
- You can join in the conversation about your training on the [Virginia Synod Facebook Event page](#)! Share how you're training, your personal training playlist, and what keeps you motivated as we prepare for May 31.

**For Race Day:** You will be walking, jogging, running, or cheering along 3.2 miles in your own home or neighborhood. You can use your own course, your treadmill, etc. You will have 24 hours to complete your race (you may start at any time). Once finished, report your finishing time and any photos to our team captain. Remember to drink water and be safe!

For details, visit [vasynod.org/virginia-synod-5k](https://vasynod.org/virginia-synod-5k). If interested in participating, contact Pastor Lauren ([eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:eanes@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

## SECOND HOME THANK YOU

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)

There is no more appropriate time for this verse than the present. Second Home is blessed to be part of Muhlenberg’s caring community. Your support allows us to serve our neighbors during these difficult times. With your help, we have been able to provide groceries for 12 families and have served 3 meals a day to our students. We have received much needed monetary donations and in-kind donations of art and educational supplies, masks, food, and other items. Our students are engaged, learning, exercising, having fun, and more importantly, safe. Their parents are able to work and serve our community with a peace of mind, knowing that their children are taken care of by well trained and caring staff. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.



*Krisztina Szekely, Executive Director*

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

### MINI REFRIGERATOR NEEDED



**People  
Helping  
People**

People Helping People is enjoying their new offices in the Ott Street House and are currently open to serve their clients in need during the pandemic. They are looking for a mini refrigerator for staff and volunteer use. If you have one for sale (less than \$75), contact Director Leanne Shepherd ([peoplehelpingpeopledirector@gmail.com](mailto:peoplehelpingpeopledirector@gmail.com) or 433-7286).

## YOUTH & CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

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

All in-person activities and events are cancelled until further notice. Adult faith formation continues to meet via [Zoom](#). See page 1 for details.

### CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

Miss Diane and Miss Kathy invite Sunday school children to join in **Sunday mornings at 10:15** for storytime via [Zoom](#). We will hear a Bible story together and then have time to visit with our church friends. See p. 2 for sign in instructions.

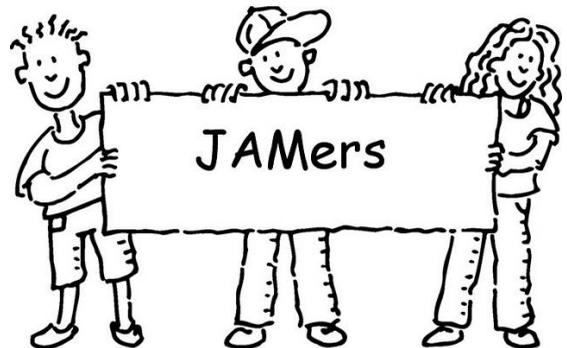
### JAMERS

Miss Diane and Miss Holly had a wonderful time connecting on Zoom with some of our JAMers last week. We are going to meet again **NEXT Sunday, May 31, 4:00** using the same link (see below). We hope to see more of you and catch up with each other!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82770890120?pwd=MW4vSDhwMCtndktwRGUxSkQ3SnZRdz09>

Or call 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 827 7089 0120; Password: 460220



## REMINDERS

### ATTENTION MINISTRY GROUP LEADERS

Zoom video conferencing 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*, email Pastor Alex ([zuber@muhlenberg.lutheran.org](mailto:zuber@muhlenberg.lutheran.org)) and he will gladly set it up.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ZOOM

Not sure how to download and use Zoom? A little apprehensive about trying something new? Check out this video prepared by Pastor Alex to get you started. Click the link below and choose *Zoom Tutorial from Pastor Alex*.

<https://www.muhlenberg.lutheran.org/covid19-962911.html>

### THIS JUST IN...

Pastor Lauren and her family are on the mend. Their coronavirus test came back negative! She is grateful for our prayers and well wishes.

Pastor Alex is also feeling much better after his bout with kidney stones and is grateful for the care and prayers of the community.

**Thanks be to God!**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

May 25-31, 2020

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

**Mon. Memorial Day – Staff Holiday**

**Wed. 10:30 am Bible Study via [Zoom](#)  
12 noon Service Livestreamed on  
[Facebook](#)  
6:30 pm Pastors' Book Club  
via [Zoom](#)**

**Sun. Day of Pentecost**

**[Sunday AM Zoom link](#)  
9:00 am Faith Lens Class  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Class  
9:30 am 40-Day Journey Class  
6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
10:15 am Sunday School Storytime  
10:30 am "Coffee Hour"  
11:00 am Service Livestreamed  
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)  
4:00 pm JAMers via [Zoom](#)**

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)).

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/muhlenberg.lutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberg.lutheran).

WEAR RED FOR  
**Pentecost**

**NEXT Sunday, May 31** is Pentecost Sunday! Wear red and join us for this major festival and fun celebration of God's Spirit in our midst.