

# 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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**July 24, 2022**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

### **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

Greetings, Muhlenberg!!

Your Congregation Council met this past Monday and had a wonderful time of business, fellowship, and working for the glory of God. Here are some things we discussed:

- Pastor Lauren brought forth a proposal to replace our white paraments in honor of David Hill.
- We approved the date of the Church Picnic...**September 18!** Mark your calendar. The site is to be determined.
- Council will receive an updated Building Use Policy within the next couple weeks to review.
- **WE HAVE A KICKBALL TEAM!** The roster is being built for the **Mule 'N Bergers with Cheese Kickball Team**. See info on page 3 for all the details!

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have a question, concern, or idea your Council needs to explore.

See you in the pews!!

*Greta Willis, Congregation Council President*

### **INCREASED PRECAUTIONS**

Due to increased COVID exposure among the Muhlenberg community and beyond, and in collaboration with the Gathering Together Task Force, **we are implementing precautions for TODAY (7/24). Masks are required and we will practice social distancing** by using every other pew. Thank you for doing your part!



### **WE'RE ALMOST THERE!**

**We are VERY CLOSE!**

**We have 78 commitments**



toward our *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign. When we reach 80, we'll receive another \$5,000 challenge grant! Learn more and submit your commitment online at

[muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope).

We plan to celebrate the successful conclusion of our campaign next week, so please help us by being one of the two pledges that we need to reach our goal of 80 commitments and earn our \$5,000 challenge grant or consider an extra gift to help us close the **\$1,476** gap to reach our \$60,000 goal!

## TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

### CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS)



Zachary Baxter from  
Church World Service will be here

**TODAY (7/24) at 9:45** to share information about the co-sponsoring process. Please join us in the Nielsen Room to learn what it means to be a co-sponsoring church and how Muhlenberg could help a refugee family get settled in our area.

## THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

### DESSERT FELLOWSHIP

**Sun., July 31, 6:30 pm ~ Oakdale Park**

*Dessert Fellowship*



Come out to Oakdale Park in Bridgewater for a pot luck dessert and evening of fellowship. Bring your corn hole boards and other outdoor games and join in the fun. See you there! Have questions? Contact Fellowship Committee Chair Barbara Roadcap ([bbroadcap@gmail.com](mailto:bbroadcap@gmail.com) or 540-830-1896).

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers/greeters, crucifers, sound techs, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center for **August**. Signing up really helps the schedulers avoid time calling/emailing. One-on-one training can be arranged – just indicate the training needed on the sign-up sheet or *contact Kathy Thompson (578-4830 or [thompskb@jmu.edu](mailto:thompskb@jmu.edu))*. If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website: [\*\*Worship + Serve in Worship\*\*](#)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### STAFF RETREAT ~ August 1

Our staff will have a day-long retreat Monday, August 1 and be unavailable most of the day. We will have volunteer coverage 9:00 – 3:00 that day. In case of an emergency, our volunteer will know how to reach us, or emergency contact instructions are included on our pastors' voicemail messages.

### PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING CIRCLE

**Wednesday, August 3, 6:30-8:00**

Join us in the Gathering Area to create a prayer shawl through knitting or crocheting. No experience necessary; we'll teach you basic stitches! This prayerful ministry and spiritual practice reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy.



If you desire a prayer shawl to give to someone who is ill, recovering from an illness, healing from broken bones, grieving a loss, parent with dementia, awaiting a birth, in need of comfort, new birth, a grandmother, birthday, wedding, on a journey, graduation etc., please contact Jackie Wells (540-434-6283).

### BLOOD DRIVE

**August 21, 9:00 am- 1:00 pm**

**Blood DRIVE** Save the date! The American Red Cross will in the MAC for a blood drive. If you regularly give blood, please time your donations so you can donate before or after church that day. There's currently a serious shortage of blood, so please plan to donate! For more info, contact Linda Morrison ([lindamm778@gmail.com](mailto:lindamm778@gmail.com) or 540-383-5085).

## MUHLENBERG NEWS

### NEW PRAYER PETITIONS



In August, you'll notice a new petition as part of our Sunday prayers. Each week, we will lift up five households from our congregation in prayer. We'll do this using our directory of active members, going alphabetically by last name—and when we get to the end, we'll start back again at the beginning! In this way, we'll get to pray together for each person in our congregation over the course of the year. We encourage you to pray for these five households throughout the week. And when it's your week to be prayed for, take comfort in knowing your Muhlenberg family is thinking of you and praying for you!

Why are we doing this? Prayer is at the heart of the life of faith and so prayer is also at the heart of a community of faith. We pray for each other because, in the grace of God, we have been given to each other as siblings in Christ—given to each other to love and to care for, to support and to encourage. As we pray for each other, we commit each other to the love, mercy, and wisdom of God.

We hope you find this a valuable addition to your prayer practice. *[Also, please note: if you or someone you know is inadvertently omitted from the prayer list, please contact the church office. We work hard to keep our records accurate and up-to-date, and we appreciate your assistance in helping us do so. Additionally, we will include the names of people we pray for each week in The Chimes below the Weekly Calendar Highlights section. The Chimes is posted to our website, so if you prefer your name not be listed, please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (434-3496 or [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)) to opt out.]*

### ADULT KICKBALL TEAM

Wanted: Players for Muhlenberg's very own adult coed kickball team, **The Mule 'N Bergers with Cheese!** Games will be played Tuesday evenings, **August 16 – October 18** at Ramblewood sports complex. No experience necessary; all skill levels desired. To sign up, contact Russell Presnell (540-746-3562 or [Russellepresnell@gmail.com](mailto:Russellepresnell@gmail.com)).

### CREATION CARE TIP

Yard waste accounts for 50% of the waste sent to the landfill. Grass clippings break down easily and add nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil, cutting down on fertilizer use. Leftover grass clippings also stimulate earthworm activity, which reduces thatch. You'll be reducing waste and enjoying a lush green lawn without any effort at all.

### ENTERING THE CHURCH

Jesus was able to walk through locked doors (see John 20) but entering Muhlenberg's building is sometimes a little harder for those who come to the church on a weekday! For the safety of all who use our space during the week, all doors remain locked at all times. When you arrive at the church, we ask you to call the church's main phone number, located on a sign on the Gathering Area doors, and a staff person will come to open the Gathering Area door for you.

If you're planning to come to the church during the week, we invite you to call ahead to make sure there is someone here who can let you in. Generally, there is someone here between 9am and 3pm, but it's always best to double check before you make the drive. Often we can accommodate access at other times, as well, especially if we know ahead of time. We look forward to welcoming you to Muhlenberg!

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### YOUTH MINISTRY

As you have heard, Congregation Council has been working diligently to 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 creative and dynamic leadership, in addition to oversight for youth ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Youth Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in people from 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 by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

**CONTACT  
information**



With our ever-changing lifestyles, it's sometimes difficult to be sure everyone has your correct contact information. Have you recently ...

- moved?
- cancelled your home phone?
- changed your cell phone number?
- changed your home/work email address?

If so, please be sure we have your updated information by contacting Parish Administrator Linda Depoy ([depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496).

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### JUMP INTO RINGING

**August 26, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Have you listened to Gloria Dei Ringers during worship and said to yourself, "Gee, I'd love to do that!" Here's your chance to give it a try. Mosaic Handbell Ensemble is offering a Beginners Workshop at Harrisonburg Baptist Church to help "Jump Start" the ringing season!! All equipment is provided. No ringing experience needed. Muhlenberg's Gloria Dei Ringers' Director Kath Wissinger will present one of the three ringing sessions. See [MosaicBells.com](http://MosaicBells.com) (or use the QR code below) for more information. Youth must be accompanied by an adult, full-time. If you have questions or want more information contact Kath (540-289-6973 or [longwalk3@aol.com](mailto:longwalk3@aol.com)).

A Workshop for Beginning and Level 1 Ringers

presented by

**MOSAIC**  
Handbell Ensemble



Jump  
Into  
Ringing!!



Sat. Aug. 27, 2022 10-1

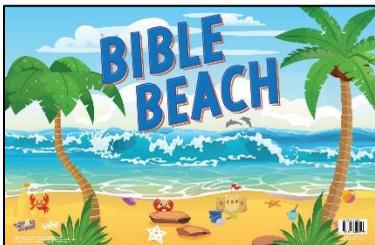
Registration Deadline Aug. 20

# PASSPORT to PEACE

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 8-12, 5:45 -7:45 pm.

At *Passport to Peace VBS*, children discover that there are many ways to live as peacemakers in our world. Kids are invited to see every person as part of God's family, and every interaction as an opportunity to make peace. **Come and enjoy music, games, art, drama, small group times, and fellowship as we all learn to be peacemakers.** VBS is open to everyone in the community, so please invite your friends ~ all are welcome! Please complete your registration form (available on the back page) today! (Place completed forms in the designated box in the Gathering Area.) For more info, contact Children's Minister Ashley Saunders ([saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org) or 434-3496).



Small Group Discussion  
Grades Pre-K-2, Ashley Saunders  
Grades 3-5, Meg Wightman



Arts & Science  
led by Karen Thomsen



Physical Activities  
led by Adam Copeland

**Additionally, Middle and High Schoolers will have an opportunity to fellowship in a small group led by Lily Harmison!**

## SECOND HOME NEWS

### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED



Second Home Learning Center, in partnership with Muhlenberg, exists to ensure that working families have access to safe, affordable, quality childcare, with a firm focus on academic services. Being all inclusive and having low fees and scholarships assure that the program is available for even the lowest income families. No children are ever turned away due to the inability to pay fees. The program provides care for 100 HCPS students in grades K - 5 before and after school. Second Home is a fully licensed, independent non-profit 501(c)(3) agency governed by a Board of Directors.

Second Home is seeking new members to join the Board. If you feel called to become part of this organization, or to get more information, contact Krisztina Szekely ([executivedirector@secondhomeinc.org](mailto:executivedirector@secondhomeinc.org)) or Caleb Chaplain ([boardsecretary@secondhomeinc.org](mailto:boardsecretary@secondhomeinc.org)).

### REMINDERS

#### WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AT 11 AM

Digital ministry is now an essential part of our community. Our *Wellstream* service at 11:00 am allows those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a hybrid service of Holy Communion. This means cameras will be on during worship, and we want to be sure our community knows what to expect. Cameras will be primarily focused on worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the sanctuary. *We will not intentionally focus on congregation members in the pews*, but you

may briefly appear in view depending on your seat. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Alex or Communication Minister Christian Perritt ([perritt@muhlenberg.lutheran.org](mailto:perritt@muhlenberg.lutheran.org)) for possible solutions. You're welcome at any time during worship in the sanctuary to connect on Facebook or YouTube to comment a word of welcome or peace to those worshipping online!

#### HAVE THE HEART OF A SERVANT?

Want to spend a morning or afternoon each week in a welcoming environment while serving your church and community? The church office is looking for members who have time to serve in a volunteer capacity as an office assistant/receptionist in the Narthex and Gathering Area. Orientation and training are provided.

Can't make a firm commitment? You can still help. We also need assistants to *fill in* on occasion. Additionally, we periodically have special projects that may be done at the church office or sometimes from home.

To explore any of these opportunities, *please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy* ([depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberg.lutheran.org) or 434-3496). In compliance with state regulations and Safe Church policies, there is an interview and application process.



PSALM 116:16

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

7/10	8:30 Holy Communion .....	46
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	62
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	44
	Total Views this Week .....	229
	Hours Viewed this Week .....	53.4
7/17	8:30 Holy Communion .....	54
	11:00 Holy Communion .....	44
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	45

### NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

*As we finish the first half of the year, I hoped gifts and offerings would be a little more, but we had strong giving in June due to the Strength for Today campaign. Thank you for your continued gifts and your prayerful consideration in how you will support the ministries of Muhlenberg. Expenses are much less than they have been in past years. Kudos to the staff and ministry teams who have been fiscally prudent in their spending.*

*Sarah A. Sunde, Treasurer*

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2022

	2022 YTD <u>Actual</u>	2022 YTD <u>Budget</u>	2021 YTD <u>Actual</u>
Gifts & Offerings	\$245,449	\$307,500	\$283,695
Total Income	\$313,058	\$351,875	\$326,939
Total Expenses	\$337,341	\$416,506	\$417,068
Excess Income/(Deficit)	<b>\$(24,283)</b>	<b>\$(64,631)</b>	<b>\$(90,129)</b>

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 7,673.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 501.73
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 8,174.73</b>

June Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$61

To give online, scan here →



## WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 25 – 31, 2022

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

Tues	1:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Sat	6:30 pm	Dessert Fellowship-Oakdale Park
Sun		Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Church World Services visit
	11:00 am	Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">YouTube</a>

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

Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran)

## 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 [depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org)). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.*

✠ Congratulations to Norma Armentrout who will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday August 8! If you would like to send a card, her address is 2668 Minnie Ball Lane, Keezletown, VA 22832.





Child/Children's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Children's Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardians Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 1 (name and phone)

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 2 (name and phone)

\_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Special Needs

\_\_\_\_\_

Can the child/children be photographed?

Yes    No

Parents: While we will have the event fully staffed we would be grateful for any additional supervision you can provide. Please select what option best fits your availability.

I am available every evening

I am available some evenings (please mark when) M T W TH F

I am not available

*Place completed forms in the designated box in the Gathering Area.*