



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 25, 2021

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coming soon... The Abundance Task Force is working to create videos of our members sharing the story of why they give to the ministries at Muhlenberg. These videos should be ready mid-August. Please contact Karen Thomsen (540-421-4431) if you would like to share your story.
- Council members will participate in a Congregation Council Constitution Study (CCCS). Each month we will delve into specific sections of our Constitution and By-laws to increase our knowledge of these documents.
- Council reviewed a draft facility usage agreement with Second Home as they move to become their own non-profit independent entity.
- The Gathering Together Task Force is preparing a survey for feedback on worship times for this fall as well as feelings about in-person worship. The survey will be distributed electronically as well as through the mail. All members of Muhlenberg are urged to complete the survey.

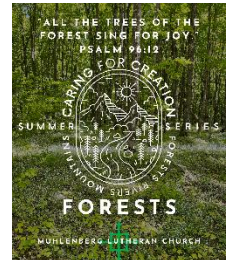
- Council reviewed our Strategic Plan for final edits and will adopt two or three focus areas as priorities for the upcoming program year.
- **Save the Date** - There will be a gathering for the entire congregation **Sunday, August 22**. More information with details will be coming in the weeks ahead, but mark your calendar now for this exciting event.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CARING FOR CREATION

Summer Worship Series Begins Today

Beginning **TODAY**, we will consider our relationship to God's creation and our responsibility to care for the earth we've been given through a 3-week worship and sermon series. See page 3 for details.



As we prepare for this worship series, you are invited to send in photos that you've taken of **Rivers**, and **Mountains** that are special or even sacred to you and your family. Email photos with the location of your photo to Christian Perritt at perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

WORSHIP UPDATE

As we continue to journey through the summer with our current worship schedule, we hear comments from folks celebrating the safety measures we are taking as well as those who feel they are no longer necessary. All of us desire to return to in-person worship, and we are committed to doing so in a safe and responsible manner. The Gathering Together Task Force will meet this week to plan for fall. We ask for your grace and continued patience as we move forward in these unprecedented times and continue to work together so that we can gather in person more safely and more frequently in the future.

In the meantime, we hope you will take advantage of the options available for Sunday worship. *(see page 4 for details)*

- Our **8:30 am service** of word and sacrament is both in person in the sanctuary or by Zoom.
- Our **10:00 am outdoor service** is also a service of word and sacrament. It is wonderful to see our fellow members while being safely distanced outdoors with masks optional.
- Finally our **11:00 am service** is online via Facebook and YouTube and accessible to all our brothers and sisters in Christ, near and far.

If you have questions about any of the services, please feel free to contact Linda Depoy or Crystl Whitmire in the church office.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

7/4	Total Views this Week	212
	Hours Viewed this Week	51.4
7/11	8:30 Communion (in person-23 + Zoom-8).....	31
	10:00 Outside/Communion	60
	11:00 Total Live Views	42
	Total Views this Week	194
	Hours Viewed this Week	58.8
7/18	8:30 Communion (in person-19 + Zoom-10)....	29
	10:00 Outside/Communion	48
	11:00 Total Live Views	37

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$269,986	\$410,343	\$295,495
Total Receipts	\$327,287	\$460,120	\$376,485
Expenses	\$421,624	\$488,280	\$390,836
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$94,337)	(\$28,160)	(\$14,352)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 9,459.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 30,345.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 39,804.00

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg has not suspended 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.



CREATION CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Beginning today (7/25), we will consider our relationship to God's creation and our responsibility to care for the earth we've been given through a three-week worship and sermon series. The Bible is full of references to trees, rivers, and mountains, so we will use these aspects of creation to discern our role in Caring for Creation.

If you'd like to put creation care into action, click [HERE](#) to visit our website which has a reference list of events, activities, and resources in our community to get you started! While this isn't an exhaustive list by any means (we encourage you to research other creation care ideas and opportunities), we want to thank **Ramona Saunders** for giving her time and talent to help develop this excellent list! We will also share all of these resources in *The Chimes* over the next three weeks. Here are two resources to get you started.

SUMMER WILDFLOWER AND BUTTERFLY WALKS ON SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN

"Join us for three summer walks led by Virginia Master Naturalist John Holden and nature photographer Jeannie Holden to see the many species of beautiful butterflies and wildflowers that make Shenandoah Mountain home."

More info / registration: <https://www.friendsofshenandoahmountain.org/butterfly-walks.html>

Dates: July 24 - Hone Quarry Reservoir; August 21 - Braley Pond

Time: 10:00am - approx. 1:00pm

Registration: Required (Registration will open 1 month before each Walk)

HARRISONBURG FARMER'S MARKET

"The Harrisonburg Farmers Market mission is to provide the public with easy access to fresh, nutritious, locally produced agricultural goods and crafts of the highest quality, to assist local and regional farmers and other producers to directly market their products to the local customer base, and to support environmental stewardship and community well-being." ...not from Harrisonburg? Find a farmer's market near you?

More info: <https://www.harrisonburgfarmersmarket.com>

Location: 228 South Liberty Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 (right down the street from the church!)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 AM HYBRID SERVICE: IN THE SANCTUARY AND ON ZOOM

In-Person Attendance

- In-person attendance will be limited, and **advanced registration at rsvp.church/r/2yUWXSEz will be required** to give us your name, the number attending and a confirmation email address. At the beginning of each week, registration will open for the following Sunday. If you do not have internet access, you may call Karen Thomsen at 540-421-4431 to register by phone.
- **A well-fitted facemask is required** at all times in the building.



Online Participation

- **To connect online, simply go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>.** To join in Holy Communion, have bread and wine or juice ready before the service.

10:00 AM OUTDOORS: IN THE OTT ST. PARKING LOT (BEHIND THE MAC)

- **Bring your own chairs, shade and/or coolers! When you arrive, please check in at the Welcome Tent.** There will be special music but no congregational singing at this service.
- Given the latest CDC recommendations, **masks are optional at this outdoor service.**
- **THIS SERVICE IS WEATHER PERMITTING.** If weather does not allow us to gather, an email will be sent Sunday morning by 8 am, and a notice will be put on Muhlenberg's website.



11:00 AM WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

- **Join in worship wherever you are at www.facebook.com/MuhlenbergLutheran or www.youtube.com/c/muhlenberglutheranchurch**
- **Sing hymns and enjoy special music, as well as a full Service of the Word with sermon, prayers, etc.**
- **Practice generosity through online gifts at muhlenberglutheran.org/give**

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible study is **taking a break for the rest of the summer and will resume in September**. Watch *The Chimes* for details in late August.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

FROM OUR FINANCE MANAGER

Dear Muhlenbergers:

I wanted to share the news with you that I have resigned my position as Muhlenberg's Finance Manager this past week. When I applied for and accepted the position, I was concerned about the timing being off, but we were both willing to be flexible and take the risk since my most recent work experience as the treasurer and admin for another local church lined up so well. Unfortunately, it has become more and more evident that the timing and demands are not a good fit for me and my boys right now.

I so appreciate the opportunity you've given me to serve in this capacity and though I will continue to be around to bridge the gap until a new Finance Manager can be hired, I look forward to continuing to worship with you all and opportunities to serve Muhlenberg in other ways in the future. I am especially appreciative of Pastors Lauren and Alex, staff, and Council for their continued grace during this transition.

With love and appreciation,
Elizabeth Fletchall

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 or 433-1165).



Many of the world's plastic containers and bottles are contaminated with toxic PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). New data suggests that it's probably leaching into food, drinks, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, and cleaning products at potentially high levels. One US plastic company reported "fluorinating" - or effectively adding PFAS to 300 million containers in 2011. New revelations suggest that the compounds are much more ubiquitous than previously thought, and fluorinated plastic containers, especially those used with food, probably represent a major new exposure point to PFAS. The chemicals used are called "forever chemicals" because they do not naturally break down and can accumulate in humans. The chemicals are linked to cancer, birth defects, and a range of other serious health problems.

SECOND HOME NEWS

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our outdoor musical, *The Lion King Jr.* with cast dinner and concessions donations, making costumes, and coming to see the play. It was wonderful to see familiar faces from Muhlenberg in the audience. The show was a huge success, and we are so proud of our students!

Second Home Staff

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

HABITAT BUILD DEDICATION

Our Faith Build is complete! Many, many thanks to all who offered their time, financial assistance, and prayers for this build. The dedication was held on Sunday, July 18. Members from all four church congregations that sponsored the faith build were present as well as community members and present and future habitat partner families. It was a beautiful evening with everyone providing well wishes and prayers to the Tomelso and Ngeleka families that their new homes be filled with love and joyful memories.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT MUHLENBERG

As you have heard, 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 children's ministry.

We are pleased to announce that we will be hiring a part-time Children's Minister. This person will provide dynamic leadership and oversight for our children's ministry at Muhlenberg. In addition, our new Children's Minister will nurture a vibrant and growing Christian faith in **children from birth to grade 5, 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 or by clicking [HERE](#). Please lift up our search in your prayers.

Children's Ministry
at Muhlenberg



FAITH LENS CLASS PROJECT

The Faith Lens adult Christian Formation class invites our fellow congregants to join us in a summer project to help Our Community Place. During our two-year reading and conversation of what it means to be a Christian, we have explored the Bible's messages and the Lutheran teachings. This has led us to understand that it is not enough to just talk about "being Christian," so we are putting action with words to help Our Community Place.

THIS Wednesday, July 28 we will join staff and volunteers to improve the area they have opened to allow the homeless to get water anytime. We will meet mid-morning to make pavers to place around the public water spigot and then share a meal.

In mid-August we will place the pavers and gravel in the access area so people do not have to walk through mud to get water.

We welcome anyone who would like to help with this project. Please call Jean Helmick (540-830-1930) for exact times, directions and more information.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12



*"Love
each other
as I have
loved you."*
JOHN 15:12, NIV



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 depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org). Submissions will be printed with consideration for space and appropriateness at the discretion of the pastors and editor.

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your prayers and your patience as I continue to recover from pneumonia. Unfortunately I have developed some new, concerning symptoms. I hope and pray we will get to the bottom of this soon, but in the meantime my doctor is recommending that I continue to focus on rest and recovery.

While it is extremely frustrating to me not to be able to be with you all for this extended period, I know that Muhlenberg is in good hands. God is faithful and our community is strong. You will continue to gather for worship, serve those in need, pray for one another, and learn together, because that is what our community does! God's presence will continue to strengthen and sustain us.

I miss you all and can't wait to be present with you once again!

Peace,

Pastor Lauren

✠ We would like to thank everyone for their expression of sympathy — the cards, calls, prayers — and to Pastor Alex for his beautiful service following Jim's death. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Sue Rotzin and Family

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 26 — August 1

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

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting

Sun. Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Sunday am ZOOM link](#)

8:30 am Hybrid Communion Service

9:00 am [ZOOM](#) "Coffee Hour" begins

10:00 am Outdoor Worship

11:00 am Faith Lens Class via [ZOOM](#)

11:00 am Service Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join your Muhlenberg friends and family for education and fellowship via [ZOOM](#) each **Sunday from 8:30 – 9:30** using this link [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84731416878](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731416878) or call 1-301-715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 84731416878.

No internet access? Call Wellstream Phone:
[1-434-205-8777](tel:1-434-205-8777)

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:*

(depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

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