



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 26, 2020

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

**NEW WORSHIP SERIES
BEGINS TODAY**



What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined.

Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. This worship series will explore 7 stories of unraveled identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new.

Our Sunday and Wednesday worship services will focus on these stories, and a daily devotional will continue to be available on Facebook, using the same Facebook group ("Muhlenberg Summer Psalms Devotional"). If you'd prefer an individual journal, a print-at-home journal is available, or you can request a hard copy be mailed — contact Linda Depoy for either option. Additionally, a few journals are available from the red cabinet outside the MAC's main entrance (along with quarterly devotionals).

In the messy reality of our lives, our worship in the coming weeks will create space for us to explore the holy and surprising ways God moves in and around us in those moments— weaving together the loose ends of grief, isolation, or loss in our life, while also unraveling injustice and suffering.

TASK FORCE GUIDELINES

Our Gathering Together Task Force has created guidelines for our Muhlenberg community life together through August. A letter was emailed and mailed recently with a summary of the guidelines. To see the complete guidelines document, click [HERE](#) or contact Linda Depoy to request a copy be mailed to you.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

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
 - **10:15:** Kids Story Time
- **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.

WELLSTREAM PHONE

Are you 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 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 DIGITAL ATTENDANCE

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

7/12: 103 Total Live Views

611 Total Views

113 Hours of Content Viewed

7/19: 95 Total Live Views

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through June 2020			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$318,608	\$405,294	\$341,069
Total Receipts*	\$376,485	\$458,452	\$388,912
Expenses	\$390,836	\$493,418	\$416,958
Excess Income/ (Expenses)	(\$14,352)	(\$34,966)	(\$28,046)

* Includes \$12,000 – federal PPP proceeds

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 6,771.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 4,798.43
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 11,569.43

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

Physically Distant Fellowship



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Fellowship Committee is holding *Spaced Out*, a gathering of Muhlenberg members. You are invited to attend! We plan to hold “new normal” gatherings at various locations and times. Here are the details on the first gathering:

NEXT Sunday, August 2*
Oakdale Park in Bridgewater, Shelter #3
7:00 - 8:30 pm (No Restrooms)

- **Please RSVP** to Fellowship Committee Chair Barbara Roadcap (bbroadcap@gmail.com or 540-830-1896) with the number attending from your family as only **20 guests** from our congregation can attend each gathering . You don't have to live in Bridgewater to attend! First come, first reserved!
- **Bring your own chairs and own beverage/snacks**
- **Wear masks or face coverings/shields**
- **Observe social distancing while at event and follow directional flow**

Please attend *Spaced Out* only if you feel safe, well and comfortable doing so, for the sake of yourself and others.

** Two additional events are planned to be held in other areas in the city and county. The response to this Spaced Out event will determine interest in additional events.*

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Spend the summer exploring the book of Esther (along with its additional parts in the Apocrypha) and the book of Tobit. All you need is a Bible that contains the Apocrypha, but if you don't have that, don't worry—contact Pastor Lauren and she can get you a copy of the two books. If you have to miss a week, that's no problem, as sessions are recorded for later viewing. Join in from 10:30-11:30 am Wednesdays:

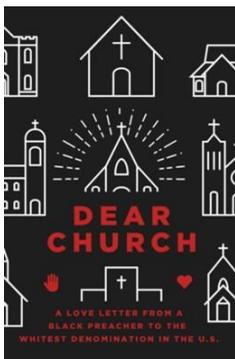
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

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

JULY PASTORS' CLUB

Wish to continue conversations on anti-racism and dismantling white supremacy with a particular focus on the church? Join us **THIS Wednesday, July 29, 6:30 pm** via [Zoom](#) for a Pastors' Book Club conversation on *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US* by ELCA Pastor Lenny Duncan. Contact Pastor Alex if you would like a copy of the book, or you can find it online [HERE](#). For additional information, see last week's issue of *The Chimes*.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VIRTUAL VBS

See pages 5-6 for details about our virtual Vacation Bible School.

TABLE TALKS ON RACISM

We are incredibly grateful for the willingness of folks to engage in conversation around the topic of racism through our Table Talks. Both previously scheduled talks have filled up quickly and produced great conversation. We are looking at the possibility of scheduling more, so if you are interested in participating in a **Table Talk on Racism**, complete this interest form and the Pastors will be in contact with you about setting up more dates and times:

<https://forms.gle/nDQXWmn9sBMuXRePA>

If phrases like white privilege, systemic racism, or white supremacy are new or challenging, then these conversations may be a great opportunity for you! Sign up today, or schedule some time to speak with the pastors.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Online: The daily devotional, [Christ in Our Home](#), is available free online.

Hard Copy: *Word in Season* and *Christ in Our Home* (July-September) hard copy devotionals are available from the cabinet outside the MAC entrance for anyone who lives close by. If you can't get to the church, contact Linda Depoy (434-3496 or depoym@muhlenberglutheran.org) to request a copy by mail.



2020 VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
COMPASSION CAMP: BE LOVED, BE KIND, BE YOU
(PRE K – 5TH GRADE)

OPENING: Sunday, August 9 at 4:00 pm join us for VBS 2020 “Compassion Camp” social distancing parking lot corral kickoff! We will have music and provide each family with an activity bag to use at home during the week with complete instructions for the event.

THEME: As we look around the world, what becomes clearer each day is our deep need for compassion - now more than ever. *Compassion Camp*’s goal is to cultivate compassion for each other, ourselves, and the world. We will examine different places in our lives where we can cultivate compassion using music, Bible stories, crafts, games, movement exercises, and more!

SERVICE: Our Service Projects will show our compassion for others as we share food items for Patchwork Pantry, dog & cat food for the SPCA, and school supplies for Second Home & Minnick School. Items will be collected at our opening and closing “Car Corral” events. Adult members are invited to take part in the service projects.

CLOSING: Sunday, August 16 at 4:00 pm -- “Ice Cream Car Corral”.

DETAILS: For more information, see p. 6, visit our website, or contact Diane Bayer (bayer@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

COMPASSION CAMP: BE KIND! BE LOVED! BE YOU!

SESSION BREAKDOWN

Each of the five sessions included has a central scripture passage about the day's theme. We will focus on Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3.

SESSION ONE

At the Table Luke 15:11-32

SESSION TWO

To the Neighbor Mark 2:1-12

SESSION THREE

For Myself Mark 12:28-31



(We will not be doing days 4 & 5; however, families are welcome to explore them on their own: SESSION FOUR Along the Way Ruth 1:1-22 and SESSION FIVE With the World Leviticus 25)

We will examine different places in our lives where we can cultivate compassion. Using each of the components of Compassion Camp, we'll explore themes of compassion with each session's scripture. Below, you can find a brief description of those components:

GATHERING & MUSIC

The Family Pack has a short reading to introduce the theme. It's an ideal time to lead everyone in the original music written for each session.

- **BIBLE STORY:** A child-friendly paraphrase of the Bible story, accessible for all ages, with imagining and wondering questions to connect more deeply with the story. We also included a coloring page and a Compassion Camp Poster (using your Mosaic Poster Tiles) that can be made into fun VBS decor (even for children's homes!).
- **CREATE & PLAY:** A fun mix of crafts and games throughout all five sessions to practice our compassion skills and have fun together.
- **MOVEMENT:** Physical engagement to connect our minds, bodies, & spirits with God. We will focus on our breathing alongside some basic yoga poses connecting the main themes of Compassion Camp with our lives.
- **COMPASSION in ACTION:** Our Compassion in Action activities help participants think creatively about sharing our compassion and love. These simple, small, tangible acts help us express God's deep compassion for each other, ourselves, and the world.
- **SENDING & MUSIC:** Wraps up the session's theme.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

COMMUNICATION MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee conducted preliminary interviews and have given our pastors information on the three most qualified candidates for final consideration. Pastors have scheduled interviews, and we are excited that this process is progressing well. We give thanks to Sarah Sunde, Katie McConnel and Linda Depoy for their dedication and hard work to get us to this point in the hiring process.

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.

Use Green Transportation: How do you get from place to place? Make a plan for how you can reduce your footprint. Does your city/town have public transportation? Are there places where you can walk or bike instead of drive? Are there places you can carpool? School, work, and small group meetings are great places to carpool when it is safe to do so. Make a commitment and plan to improve your carbon footprint.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Lauren and Pastor Alex are working to stay connected with as many people as possible. **Our pastors are returning to in-person pastoral care, when necessary, and with specific guidelines in place as identified by the Gathering Together Task Force.** See p. 1 for more information. Additionally, they are both available for phone conversations, email, and video meetings. Simply email or call the church office — they'll be happy to hear from you!

REMINDERS

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 which Day Care uses).** 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!

NEW NICHEs AVAILABLE

An additional 24 Columbarium niches have been added to the Caring Corner. The Property Committee has made upgrades to this room with new lighting, including eternal spotlights shining on the niches. If you are interested in a niche or want additional information, please contact Bill Compton (compton1080@gmail.com or 437-8933).

PATCHWORK PANTRY

If you would like to donate to the Pantry during the pandemic, please call them directly at 540-433-2148 to learn about current guidelines for accepting donations.

NEED A MASK?

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

YOUTH & CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

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

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

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

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

✝ We offer prayers of thanksgiving for Russell MacArthur Carneal who was born on his due date, July 11. Russell weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz. and was 19" long. Parents Emily and RW report "He is as sweet as he can be and [we] love being his parents!"



BUILD houses and
LIVE in them;
PLANT gardens and
EAT their produce.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 27 — August 2, 2020

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
- Wed. 10:30 am** Bible Study via [Zoom](#)
12 noon Service Livestreamed on
[Facebook](#)
6:30 pm Pastors' Book Club
via [Zoom](#)
- Sun. [Sunday AM Zoom link](#)**
9:00 am Faith Lens Class
10:15 am Kids Story Time
10:30 am "Coffee Hour"
11:00 am Service Livestreamed
via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
7:00 pm Spaced Out Fellowship

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

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