



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 31, 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings, Muhlenberg!!

Your Congregation Council met July 18 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

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG



Muhlenberg family, THANK YOU! Since beginning this *Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign in May, your generosity and support have been remarkable. We have reached our goal of pledges, secured our second \$5,000 challenge grant, and we look forward to celebrating this achievement with you in the weeks ahead. The Holy Spirit is moving at Muhlenberg, and we are grateful for the ways that you have responded joyfully and generously to God's work in this place.

It's still not too late to make a commitment if you and your family haven't had a chance. Just visit our website to learn more:

muhlenberglutheran.org/strengthandhope.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

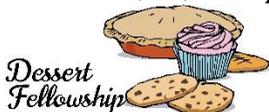
MASKING OPTIONAL

Thank you to our Pastors, staff, volunteers, and especially our congregation for following increased precautions the past two Sundays. As has been our policy, we've followed the recommendations of the Gathering Together Task Force to make masking optional when the surrounding area is in CDC "Green" status, and when there are no / low infection and exposure rates among our Muhlenberg family. There had been multiple exposures involving Muhlenberg staff and volunteers, so we went back to masking and social distancing. Again, thank you for doing your part in keeping everyone safe when in worship during this time.

This week, we return to having masks optional (but always welcome!) in worship, as we are still in CDC "Green" status, and exposures have declined among our staff and Muhlenberg family. As always, we will continue to monitor the local status and follow the recommendations of our Gathering Together Task Force. We will keep you informed on any status updates!

DESSERT FELLOWSHIP

TODAY (7/31) 6:30 pm ~ Oakdale Park



Dessert Fellowship

Come out to **Oakdale Park, Shelter #2** 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 or 540-830-1896).

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

STAFF RETREAT TOMORROW (8/1)

Staff will have a day-long retreat Monday and be unavailable most of the day. We will have volunteer office coverage 9:00 – 3:00. In case of an emergency, our volunteer will know how to reach us. If needed, emergency contact instructions are always included on our pastors' voicemail greeting.

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Tomorrow (8/1), 7:00 pm via [ZOOM](#)

Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us by clicking [HERE!](#) For details, contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com).

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).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BLOOD DRIVE

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



Save the date! The American Red Cross will be in the MAC for a blood drive. If you regularly give blood, please time your donations so you can donate that day. There's currently a serious shortage of blood, so please plan to donate!

Appointments are encouraged. **To sign up online, click [HERE](#).** If you don't have computer access to sign up online, or for more information, contact Linda Morrison (540-383-5085 or lindamm778@gmail.com). Linda will be glad to sign you up.

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) 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).

CREATION CARE TIP

Turn your car off while you wait. For every minute your car idles, it emits almost 7 grams of pollutants like nitrous oxides and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. You can also save gas by reducing excessive idling. If 10% of the U.S. population avoided idling for 5 minutes per day, we could lessen CO2 emissions by 1 million tons and save more than 422,000 gallons of gas every year.



MUHLENBERG NEWS (CONT'D)

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 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, 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!

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)*. If you prefer to sign up online, follow the path below from our website:

[Worship + Serve in Worship](#)

Prefer to work behind the scenes? We have many opportunities – talk with Kathy to learn how you can serve.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

JUMP INTO RINGING

August 27, 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 (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).

A Workshop for Beginning and Level 1 Ringers

presented by

MOSAIC
Handbell Ensemble



Jump
Into
Ringing!!



Sat. Aug. 27, 2022 10-1

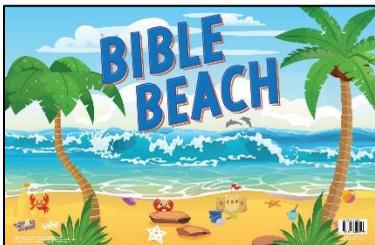
Registration Deadline Aug. 20

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 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!

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.

REMINDER

ACCESS SERMONS ONLINE

Following the Narrative Lectionary allows us to tell a continuous story of faith week after week. If you missed or would like to revisit a particular sermon, you can find a [playlist on YouTube](#) that is updated weekly! Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) to see the sermons posted, and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)!

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@secondhomelc.org) or Caleb Chaplain (boardsecretary@secondhomelc.org).

FOOD COLLECTION

Next Sunday, August 7



In the Gathering Area, we collect non-perishable food for Patchwork Pantry. No glass jars please. The Pantry is also in need of paper products (paper towels, wraps, food storage bags, toilet tissue, etc.), cleansers (dish, laundry, all purpose), diapers, and all types of personal hygiene products.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

7/17	8:30 Holy Communion	54
	11:00 Holy Communion	44
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	45
	Total Views this Week	212
	Hours Viewed this Week	49.6
7/24	8:30 Holy Communion	39
	11:00 Holy Communion	45
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	41

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)	\$(24,283)	\$(64,631)	\$(90,129)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 4,335.50
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 271.93
Total Giving	\$ 4,607.43

June Thrivent Choice Dollars - \$61

To give online, scan here →



WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 1 - 7, 2022

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

Mon	9:00 – 3:00 Staff Retreat
	7:00 pm Eldercare Support Group via ZOOM
Tues	1:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
Wed	6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle
Sun	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Food Pantry/Lay Communion Sunday 8:30 am Holy Communion in person 11:00 am Holy Communion in person and Livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube

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:

[\(depay@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496\)](mailto:depay@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

Like us at 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 depay@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 90th birthday August 8! If you would like to send a card, her address is 2668 Minie 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 T H F

I am not available

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