



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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August 1, 2021

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED

Over this coming week, please keep an eye out for mail and email communication from Muhlenberg about a **new Gathering Together Task Force and Congregation Council survey**. The Gathering Together Task Force is looking to hear your **reflections on safety measures** necessary for gathering for indoor worship this fall, and the Congregation Council is looking for **feedback on our newly proposed fall worship times: 8:30 and 11:00 am, with a dedicated Sunday School hour at 9:45.**

Your voice is valued and will help us make informed decisions for the best path forward as a congregation. There will be ways to **complete the survey digitally and in handwritten format**. Once the survey is available, you can also pick up and/or return completed surveys by using the Connection Box outside the Gathering Area. Please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (540-434-3496) if you have any questions or need assistance.

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.

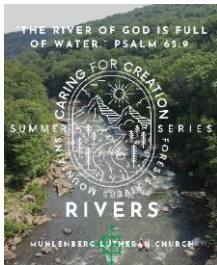
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WHAT'S THE BUZZ? (CONT'D)

- 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



Continuing today with our 3-week worship and sermon series, we consider our relationship to God's creation and our responsibility to care for the earth. See page 3 for details.

You are invited to share photos you've taken of **Mountains** that are special or sacred to you and your family. Email photos with the location to Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org).

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets **TOMORROW (8/2), 7:00 pm** via [ZOOM](#). Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us! For details, contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88053197319?pwd=UFVVeVAzdXhTSDgxUXFBV3gzemhUZz09>

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

7/18	8:30 Communion (in person-19 + Zoom-10).....	29
	10:00 Outside/Communion.....	48
	11:00 Total Live Views.....	37
	Total Views this Week	180
	Hours Viewed this Week	51.7
7/25	8:30 Communion (in person-26 + Zoom-12).....	38
	10:00 Outside/Communion.....	46
	11:00 Total Live Views.....	38

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	\$ 20,821.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 28,210.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 49,031.00



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!

Continuing today, 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 Sanders** for giving her time and talent to help develop this excellent list! We will also share all of these resources in *The Chimes* during the course of our worship series. Here are two additional resources.

VOICES OF THE SHENANDOAH SPONSORING "IN STORY AND SONG" EVENT SERIES

Calling all storytellers and musicians for stories and songs of the river. Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River is hosting an event series this summer entitled *Voices of the Shenandoah – In Story and Song*, featuring storytelling and live music at local breweries throughout the valley.

More info: <https://fnfsr.org/voices-of-the-shenandoah-in-story-and-song-dates-location-music-and-submission-details/>

Dates / Venues:

- August 13 - Music by Prince Bellarose @ Backroom Brewery (Front Royal) 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- September 17 - Featuring Music by Katie & Kelly @ Swover Creek Farms (Edinburg, VA) 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

CITY OF HARRISONBURG ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The City of Harrisonburg offers a number of resources on their website - from information about programs and projects to helpful links!

More info: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/environmental-initiatives>

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**

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

FINANCE MANAGER NEEDED

We are hiring for a paid part-time Finance Manager. Historically, we have been so blessed with faithful volunteers stewarding our finances. However, as we have grown as a congregation, we no longer believe our current model is sustainable.

We need a staff member who can truly manage our financial affairs, while also working with our Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Parish Administrator and volunteers. If you, or someone you know, are interested in exploring this opportunity, you may find the

job description and application instructions by clicking [HERE](#). We hope to fill this position quickly, so please lift up our search in prayer.

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).



Grab your shovels and your gardening gloves and get ready to be inspired. Trees are the oldest living organisms on the planet. Not only are they aesthetically beautiful, but they offset environmental impacts and create a healthy, clean environment for us to enjoy. The benefits of planting trees are far reaching. Ramona Sanders shares her list of the most important benefits of all.

- Trees create jobs for thousands of people all over the world. Farmers spend their days in forests and orchards, reaping the endless benefits of trees.
- Trees provide food, shelter, and so many of the things we take for granted. **Give back the best way you know how and plant a few trees.**
- Air quality is not what it used to be. Harmful greenhouse gases have been building up in the atmosphere, creating a dangerous bubble. The benefits of planting trees to absorb these gases is a no-brainer. Trees soak up and store CO2 naturally, creating cleaner, healthier air and decreasing the CO2 concentration in the atmosphere. Furthermore, trees use CO2 during photosynthesis to produce sugar, thus providing energy and releasing oxygen. The average-sized tree can store hundreds of pounds of CO2 over the course of its lifetime.

See *The Chimes* next week to learn more benefits of planting trees.

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 (OCP). 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.

Note: OCP has changed the date Muhlenberg will help make concrete pavers for their water access project. We hope you will join us **Wednesday, August 11.**

OCP will schedule a date when 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

✠ 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

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 2-8

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

- Mon. 2:00 pm** Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Eldercare Support Group
- Sun. Eleventh 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

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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