



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 2, 2020

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



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.

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.

MUHLENBERG DIGITAL DEVOTIONALS

After finding success online with a daily digital devotion during our "Summer of Psalms" series, we plan to continue to offer devotional opportunities through the Facebook group "Muhlenberg Digital Devotionals". Based on the "Unraveled" series, we have started a new

devotional approach for the weeks ahead that involves different facets of our creativity in reflecting on our weekly focus stories. These devotions will be a little different from the Psalms, but we hope you'll be able to engage them daily in creative and meaningful ways. The group can be found [HERE](#).

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).

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

ELISE CAROLE DRIVER

Baptized, A New Child of God

Welcome Elise, daughter of Beth and Brandon Driver, into the Body of Christ and the Muhlenberg family! Elise was baptized Friday at her Grandmother's home, and the video will be part of our worship service today. We continue to surround her with our promises and God's promises through our responses today in worship. Welcome to the Lord's family, Elise!



TODAY AT MUHLENBERG (CONT'D)

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:

7/19: 95 Total Live Views
428 Total Views
96 Hours of Content Viewed

7/26: 106 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	\$ 1,380.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,674.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 3,054.00

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:

TODAY!*

Oakdale Park in Bridgewater, Shelter #3

7:00 - 8:30 pm (No Restrooms)

- **There are still some spots left! Please RSVP** to Fellowship Committee Chair Barbara Roadcap (bbroadcap@gmail.com or 540-830-1896) with the number attending from your family. You don't have to live in Bridgewater to attend! First come, first reserved as we can only host 20 people from our congregation.
- **Bring your own chairs and 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

ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Meets TOMORROW (8/3) at 7:00 pm via [Zoom](#). Negotiating the journey of eldercare together...we listen, we laugh, we cry, and we hope you'll join us! Contact Jennie Warner (476-2020 or mjwarner1@aol.com) for details.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566714450>

Meeting ID: 865 6671 4450

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,86566714450# US (NY)

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. Contact Pastor Lauren if you need the resource. Sessions are recorded for later viewing. Join in Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>.

WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICE

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

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.

PASTORS' BOOK CLUB: PART 2

After good conversation this past week on Pastor Lenny Duncan's powerful book *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US*, we decided to continue the conversation next week, **Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30 pm** via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85264820543>

All are welcome to attend this discussion, but *if you did not attend the first session, please contact Pastor Alex* to be sure we're on the same page and so conversation moves forward. Copies of the book are still available at the church through Pastor Alex.



2020 VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
COMPASSION CAMP: BE LOVED, BE KIND, BE YOU
WE HOPE TO SEE ALL OUR BOYS AND GIRLS IN PRE K – 5TH GRADE!

OPENING: NEXT SUNDAY (8/9) at 4:00 pm. Join us for VBS 2020 “Compassion Camp” social distancing parking lot corral kickoff! We will have music and a treat as we gather in our cars and see our church friends. Each family will receive an activity bag with complete instructions to use at home during the week.

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 participate as well.

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, and 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.

Online registration is now open. Please click [HERE](#) to register.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

COMMUNICATION MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee conducted preliminary interviews and has given our pastors information on the three most qualified candidates for final consideration. Pastors have conducted interviews and are evaluating the candidates.

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.

Carbon pollution from burning coal, oil and gas is out of control, resulting in pandemic-like human suffering worldwide. Like the current coronavirus pandemic, poor and minority communities are disproportionately harmed. Carbon emissions and their heat-trapping properties result in sea level rise and more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires, and extreme weather events. Air pollution, mostly due to burning these fuels, causes more than [8 million premature deaths annually](#). These are the tragic and unsustainable costs of fossil-fueled economies.

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. 4 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!

ELCA NEWS

ELCA ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE

As church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are also called to act and respond to injustices. We invite you to commit to anti-racist actions at [ELCA.org/RacialJusticePledge](https://www.elca.org/RacialJusticePledge).

THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN

You are invited to study and reflect on Martin Luther's treatise "The Freedom of a Christian" in 2020, its 500th anniversary. The treatise invites us to hear, share and experience the Lutheran witness of the Christian faith as it relates to God's narrative of freedom in Christ. This initiative extends our engagement in the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Learn more at [ELCA500.org](https://www.elca.org/ELCA500).

REMINDERS

TASK FORCE GUIDELINES

To learn about current Gathering Together Task Force guidelines, click [HERE](#) or contact Linda Depoy to request a copy be mailed.

ENTERING THE CHURCH

Staff continues to work mainly from home. **All doors are locked at all times.** 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, 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, arrange with a staff person to receive it ahead of time. Thank you!

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

Contact Chair Emily Wicht Carneal
(emilywicht@gmail.com / 421-1994)
for more information.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

Local & Global Mission invites you to join us in prayer for brothers and sisters living both locally and globally that are suffering from injustice. Each month we will highlight a group in need of our prayers and support. We invite you to click on the links we provide to do more reading on your own. Each of us is called by Christ to love our neighbor!

August Focus: The Uighur People of China

The Uighur people, who are Muslim, live in western China in the Xinjiang region. More than a million Uighurs have been arbitrarily detained in reeducation camps as just one part of the government's effort to rid the country of these people because of their religion. Read more about their plight by clicking this link:

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-repression-uighurs-xinjiang>

What can we do?

- Pray that the Uighur people feel God's love in the midst of their suffering
- Pray that China will respect the human rights of all people living within their borders
- Research the origins of the items you purchase and the working conditions of the people who make those items. Use your purchasing power to support only those companies and countries that provide workers with decent working conditions and wages.

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 3-9, 2020

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

- Mon. 7:00 pm** Eldercare Support Group
via [Zoom](#)
- Wed. 10:30 am** Bible Study via [Zoom](#)
12 noon Service Livestreamed on
[Facebook](#)
- 6:30 pm** Pastors' Book Club Part 2
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](#)
4:00 pm VBS Opening

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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