



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 8, 2021

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED

This past week we mailed and emailed a survey from Muhlenberg's **Gathering Together Task Force and Congregation Council**. The Gathering Together Task Force wants to hear your **reflections on safety measures** necessary for gathering for indoor worship this fall, and the Congregation Council wants **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. **Please fill out one survey per person so we can get a clearer sense of data.** To complete the survey **digitally, click [HERE](#).** One hard copy was mailed, but **if you need additional copies, please pick them up from the Connection Box** outside the Gathering Area. You can return completed hard copies via the Connection Box, in-person worship, or by mail. Please contact Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (540-434-3496) if you have any questions or need assistance.

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

CARING FOR CREATION Summer Worship Series

Today we conclude our 3-week *Caring for Creation* 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.*



Thank you to all who provided personal photos of trees, rivers and mountains.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

MINISTRIES NIGHT

Monday (8/9), 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us via [ZOOM](#) tomorrow evening – all are welcome! You may also join us by phone:

Meeting ID: 833 4118 0538

One tap mobile +13126266799,,83341180538#

THIS WEEK (CONT'D)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERIES

Some of the best conversations start with good questions—questions we’ve been meaning to ask, questions that keep us curious, and questions that lead us deeper into courage and connection. **Beginning next Sunday (8/15)**, we begin a new worship series around four guiding questions: **“I’ve been meaning to ask... Where are you from? . . . Where does it hurt? . . . What do you need? . . . Where do we go from here?”** As you can see, these questions aren’t surface level; they invite us to tell our stories, share our pain, care for one another, and dream about a new way forward together.

May this series help us to behold each other as images of the divine. May it help us strengthen our capacity for empathy and compassion. May it remind us of the power of unassuming questions. May it show us that courage is rooted in the heart. Through vulnerability and authenticity, may our courageous conversations lead us to glimpse hope, joy, and beauty—and to become the community God created us to be.



FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

7/25	8:30 Communion (in person-26 + Zoom-12).....	38
	10:00 Outside/Communion	46
	11:00 Total Live Views	38
	Total Views this Week	181
	Hours Viewed this Week	63.5
8/1	8:30 Communion (in person-24 + Zoom-12).....	36
	10:00 Outside/Communion	49
	11:00 Total Live Views	45

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	\$ 6,615.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 5,033.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 11,648.00



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 consider our relationship to God's creation and our responsibility to care for the earth we've been given. The Bible is full of references to trees, rivers, and mountains, so we can 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! Here are two resources.

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!)

HARRISONBURG ELECTRIC COMMISSION RESOURCES

Harrisonburg Electric Commission offers free energy audits (to existing residential customers) as well as additional tips on their website for energy conservation.

More info: https://www.harrisonburgelectric.com/programs/energy_audit

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

*(Please note the date
change from 8/22)*

There will be a gathering for the entire congregation **Sunday, August 29** for fellowship, food, and exploring the ministries of Muhlenberg. More information with details will be coming in the weeks ahead, but mark your calendar now for this exciting event.



MUHLENBERG NEWS

FINANCE MANAGER NEEDED

We are hiring a paid part-time Finance Manager to replace Elizabeth Fletchall who recently resigned her position. 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 may be 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).



More benefits of planting trees:

- The first obvious benefit of planting trees is they create homes for wildlife. Dozens of critters, insects, and birds use trees as shelter, food sources, and homes.
- Planting trees also contribute to growing the diversity of flora and fauna in the area. Depending on the type of tree that's planted, additional flowers, leaves, and fruits are used by the wildlife. The waste and debris of any kind also enriches the soil once they fall, creating even more places for wildlife to burrow underneath for safety and security.
- Trees also create a shady sanctuary from extreme temperatures and storms.

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**

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Jesus said, "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes...." Matthew 25

People Helping People is hope for many people. It is an ecumenical crisis ministry of churches and faith communities serving Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. They are an organization whose purpose is to ...

- Coordinate services for people in need
- Partner with clients by helping them with assistance they may require
- Improve the quality of life for individuals and families in our community

People Helping People, located in the Ott Street house on Muhlenberg's campus, is open limited hours (Monday and Wednesday) by appointment. If you are vaccinated and this ministry speaks to you, please contact Director Leanne Shepherd (Peoplehelpingpeopledirector@gmail.com or 540-433-7286) to discuss volunteering or how you might help those in need in our community.



REMINDERS

CONTACT INFORMATION

With our ever-changing lifestyles, it's sometimes difficult to be sure everyone has your correct contact information. Have you recently ...

- **moved?**
- **cancelled your home phone?**
- **changed your cell phone number?**
- **changed your home/work email address?**

If so, please be sure we have your updated information by contacting Parish Administrator Linda Depoy (depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org or 434-3496).

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Natural disasters devastate the areas they hit. 100% of gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response go directly to aid in disaster relief. Ways to give:

- **Online:** www.elca.org.
- **Phone:** 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 Central Time).
- **Mail:** make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response, designate if there is a particular disaster you would like to support, and send to ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.
- **Offering:** make checks payable to Muhlenberg, and designate Lutheran Disaster Response.
- **Via Thrivent:** Thrivent members can direct Choice Dollars to Disaster Relief and/or make a personal donation that will be matched by Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com Disaster Response for details.

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

✚ An update will be arriving by mail this week, and will be mentioned during the announcement time of worship, regarding Pastor Lauren's health. Please keep her in your prayers during her continuing recovery.

✚ *[We] just wanted to say thanks again for all the help from Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in memorializing and saying goodbye to Dad. We were utterly thrilled with the music, the eulogy, and the overall grace of the service in the sanctuary and then graveside. And the reception afterward was a wonderful opportunity to mingle and catch up with friends and relatives. We simply couldn't have hoped for more!*

*While still grieving, we also feel enormous peace & gratitude knowing we said goodbye in **the** most fitting place and laid Dad to rest next to Elizabeth. We are blessed.*

The Jim Reilly family

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 9-15

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

Mon. 2:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Ministries Night via [ZOOM](#)

Sun. Twelfth 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:*

(depoy@muhlenberglutheran.org/434-3496)

Like us at [facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran](https://www.facebook.com/muhlenberglutheran).