



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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October 17, 2021

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

A WORD OF WELCOME

One of our focus areas at Muhlenberg is to "Create a Culture of Welcome, Hospitality, and Care". After 19 months of physical separation due to COVID-19, the relationships and connections of our community need special attention. Welcome is for everyone from newcomers to those who have been here for a long time. Muhlenberg has a strong history of being a welcoming and friendly church here in the Friendly City. Not taking that tradition for granted, I want to encourage each member of our community to refocus on welcome, hospitality, and care in the coming weeks. Here are some things you can do:

- + **Take the extra moment on a Sunday to say hello to those around you.**
- + **Don't be afraid to ask for names.** Memory may be fuzzy and we're wearing masks! It's ok to ask and be asked!
- + **Make a note of who sits near you regularly, and if you don't see them one Sunday, call to say hello and see how life is going.**
- + **Wear a nametag.** They're available in the Gathering Area each week.

- + **Invite a friend or neighbor to worship.** Personal invitation is an important way of offering welcome to a new community.
- + **Digital worshippers, call someone in the congregation to say hello, just like you would have done in the Gathering Area.**

When we say we want to build a "culture of welcome" at Muhlenberg, we know this means we can't just entrust this responsibility to our greeters and ushers alone. Culture involves everyone, and all of us have what it takes to make folks feel welcome and cared for whenever we gather.

If you're new to Muhlenberg, WELCOME! We'd love to get to know you better, hear your story, and find the ways that we can grow together. There are blue cards in the pews and a QR code on the inside of the bulletin where you can share your contact information and questions. I'd love a chance to connect with you personally and welcome you to Muhlenberg. It's been such a joy to welcome everyone back to the Sanctuary for worship, and I'm excited to see the ways our whole community offers welcome and care in the weeks to come. Feeling authentically valued is an important first step in *Equipping all people to live out Christ's love.*

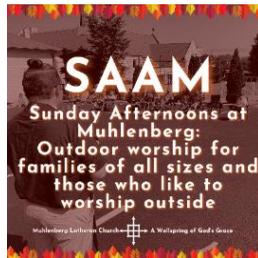
In Christ, *Pastor Alex*

TODAY AT MUHLENBERG

SAAM: SUNDAY AFTERNOONS AT MUHLENBERG

Some families (especially those with children under 12) and individuals may not feel comfortable worshipping indoors. We also recognize that, throughout the summer, some folks have realized they really like worshipping outdoors. With that in mind, **we are offering an outdoor service at 1:30 pm TODAY (10/17) and the dates below.** These will be services with Holy Communion and the added safety of gathering outdoors. In order to best steward the time and resources of our congregation, it is not possible to offer this service weekly on Sunday mornings, but we hope this service will be a meaningful addition to your family's worship plans.

**SAAM Worship
Schedule, 1:30 pm:
TODAY, October 17
November 7
November 21**



DIAMOND JUBILEE

For our members 75+ years old



TODAY (10/17) we will gather outside **following the 1:30 service.** In case of cold or bad weather, the service will move into the MAC. Come share a snack as we socialize and gather together. If you didn't receive an invitation, contact the church office to be sure we have your birth date in our database.

THIS WEEK AT MUHLENBERG

WEDNESDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Join us each Wednesday at **10:30 am** for Bible study. Led by Pastor Daniel Hess via **ZOOM:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/200491556>

COMFORT MAKERS

Join us **Thursdays, 8:00 – 12 noon** in Wayland Hall. All are welcome! Contact Linda Morrison (lindamm778@gmail.com / 540-383-5085) for details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACK TO PASTORS' BOOK CLUB

Join us for Pastors' Book Club at 6:30 pm this fall. Watch for details about how we will meet.

Oct 27, *[Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God](#)*, by Kaitlin B. Curtice
Nov 17, *[Baptized in Tear Gas](#)*, by Elle Dowd

You can order the books online using the links above, or contact Pastor Alex if you need help ordering.

SECOND HOME NEWS

SNACK DONATIONS

Second Home provides morning and afternoon snacks to students every day. The goal is to serve balanced snacks that complement students' nutrition and reduce daily food insecurity. We appreciate all the wonderful donations from Muhlenberg. These donations enhance our food options and help us stretch our budget. If you are willing to donate a specific food item once a month, or as a one-time donation, please contact Lori Reich (secondhomeharrisonburg@gmail.com or 540-432-7989). Thank you.

MUHLENBERG NEWS

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

In this new season of hybrid ministry, you'll notice in our Attendance section that we track the number of Wellstream Worshipers each Sunday, averaging around 50. But what does this mean? We know that each week there are families of 3 or 4 worshipping online, couples worshipping from the hospital or rehabilitation, or folks watching alone at home or while travelling. So our average of 50 Wellstream "worshippers" reflects only the number of screens tuned in live on a Sunday morning. We estimate that for each screen there are an average of 2 people behind it. As we worship at 11:00 am, there are likely around 100 more people virtually in the Sanctuary at that time. We encourage you to reach out and say *hello* to friends who are worshipping online. If a neighbor is looking for a church home, suggest they check us out online first if they're hesitant to attend in person. If *you* worship online, be sure to greet others in the comments section, fill out our [Digital Visitor Card](#), or email Pastor Alex (zuber@muhlenberglutheran.org) to say hello! These days, our church community is here, there, and everywhere, so we give thanks for the Holy Spirit who weaves us together in love wherever we are!

CREATION CARE TIP

 Don't throw away those old or unused winter coats, hats and gloves. Instead donate them to a charity or homeless shelter. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans discard more than 68 pounds of clothing and textiles *per person* per year.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We are in need of worship servants: lectors, ushers, acolytes, greeters, communion assistants/stewards, etc. **Sign up** in the notebook at the Connection Center: deadline for October is **TODAY (10/17)**. 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 + Sermons > 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

For information about adult and children's choirs, contact Music Minister Elizabeth Williams (434-3496 or williams@muhlenberglutheran.org.)

Children's Choirs

Cherub Choir ~ Tuesdays, 5:30 – 6:00 pm

For ages 4 – grade 3; led by Cherub Choir Director Rachel Peters (rgpeters9@gmail.com or 570-975-5457). Until further notice, rehearsals are postponed until vaccinations become available to this age group.

Tweens and Teens ~ Sundays, 12:15-12:45

For grades 4 – 8; led by Music Minister Elizabeth Williams. **Rehearsals will resume Sunday, November 7.** All participants must wear a mask. Social distancing will be observed. Rehearsals will take place in the sanctuary.

FINANCIAL NEWS

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Here are some interesting statistics from our recent online viewership:

10/3	8:30 Holy Communion.....	48
	11:00 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	49
	1:30 Outdoor Worship	19
	Total Views this Week	289
	Hours Viewed this Week	71.8
10/10	8:30 Holy Communion.....	54
	11:00 Holy Communion	55
	11:00 Wellstream Worshippers.....	48

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 2021			
	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Last Year
Gifts & Offerings	\$324,075	\$470,326	\$333,574
Total Receipts	\$387,348	\$525,881	\$432,960
Expenses	\$457,127	\$565,080	\$451,756
Excess Income/	(\$69,779)	(\$39,199)	(\$18,796)

Giving in support of our Spending Plan	\$ 15,645.00
Giving to Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,465.00
Total Giving for the Week	\$ 17,110.00

To give online, scan here →



Muhlenberg has not suspended its ministry through this unprecedented time. In fact, in some ways our outreach and ministry have been strengthened and enhanced. Regardless of the worship opportunities you choose, we ask you to continue your financial contributions. We also want to continue to support the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. You can make a one-time or recurring donation through our [website](#), place your offering in the basket on Sunday morning, or mail your check to the church: 281 E. Market Street, Harrisonburg 22801.

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October 18 - 24

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

Mon	2:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Congregation Council Mtg.
Tues	6:30 pm	Celebration Singers
	7:00 pm	Gloria Dei Ringers
Wed	10:30 am	Wed. Morning Bible Study via ZOOM
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thur	8:00 am	Comfort Makers
Sun	8:30 am	Holy Communion in person
	9:45 am	Christian Formation Classes Children's Ministry Youth (Confirmation) Devotional Classics Faith Lens
	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 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.

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](#)!