

# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2019

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Weaver of life, framer of the ages,  
we marvel at your artistry and the trust  
you place in us.

From our first cries to our final breaths,  
we are your own.

Bind us now to each other in ways beyond  
our choosing,

that your purpose might find fulfillment in our  
common life and service,

for we pray in the name of Jesus, the firstborn of all creation.  
Amen.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE                      Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs                      Walther Haffner

### BRINGING THE LIGHT

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as the family of God,  
**bound together in the body of Christ.**

We gather as the children of God,  
**called together in the presence of the Spirit.**

We gather this day to worship God  
**and join our lives in the life of the church.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE              God the Sculptor of the Mountains                      Hymnal, No. 5

#### \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**O God, you are the potter,  
shaping the world and molding our spirits.**

**Your creation is an act of grace  
and your every word a fountain of life.**

**Mold and shape us once again, O God,  
as we confess our sins before you.**

**Drip the water of your Spirit  
onto our dry and cracking edges,  
and push us with your gentle fingers  
to reflect your handiwork.**

**Create love where there is hatred,  
deep faith where there is shallow religion,**

**generosity where there is selfish greed,  
and wholeness where there are shattered pieces.  
For we know that your work is not complete in us,  
and that our lives are made complete in you.**

(Time of silent reflection)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

\*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory Be to the Father

Hymnal, No. 581

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Larry Upton

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Page No. 629

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my  
thoughts from far away.**

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it  
completely.**

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot  
attain it.**

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are  
your works; that I know very well.**

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were  
written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as  
yet existed.**

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

**I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.**

ANTHEM                                      All the Way My Savior Leads Me

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:25-33

Page No. 852

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE                                      What Comes First

Tracy L. Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH                              O God, You Search Me

Hymnal, No. 29

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Ricercare

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

\*DOXOLOGY                              Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, No. 606

\*DEDICATION PRAYER

### **FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG                              Help Us Accept Each Other

Hymnal, No. 754

\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE  
CHORAL BENEDICTION

Take Up Your Cross

\*POSTLUDE

O How Joyfully

Erwin Horn

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

**Lectionary Readings** for September 15: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 15; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

The **Food & Shelter** item of the month for September is **pasta and pasta sauce**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

**Hearing-assistance** devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

**Ushers** for today's service are Melissa Gill & Linda Eckel.

The Sunday School Class that Samuel McCann will be leading will begin **next week, September 15th**, 9:30, meeting in the library. Books are available from Tracy (\$12) or download a Kindle copy of **The Death of Race: Building a New Christianity in a Racial World** by Brian Bantum.

We have a start date for Kids Club! We will begin **Wednesday, September 18**. Lisa Coker, our Administrative Assistant will be taking on the coordinating duties including carpools and meals. THANK YOU to those who have volunteered to do pick-up duties at schools. We are still needing some help in the kitchen. No major cooking, just heating, serving and clean-up. Even the occasional Wednesday would help. Let Lisa, Karen Girdner or Tracy Evans know if you are willing.

**Please help us gather the following items recommended by our own educator – Jo Beth Bailey.** These are things that teachers constantly need and run out of, because they don't get contributed as much as more conventional supplies for students: Hand sanitizer; Bleach wipes; Lysol spray; Baby wipes; Kleenex; Paper towels; Coffee filters (used as snack bowls); Card stock – 8 ½ by 11" - white & colors; Painter's tape and Packing tape. There are lists on the bulletin board in the hallway to help you shop. We will collect your contributions and deliver them to Kennedy and Jackson Schools. You can also, of course, contribute cash or a check; please annotate it for "School Supplies."

**SUNDAY**

**September 8**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

**TUESDAY**

**September 10**

- 7:00 P.M. – Fellowship & Hospitality

**WEDNESDAY**

**September 11**

- 6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

**SUNDAY**

**September 15**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 12:00 P.M. – Deacons Meeting
- 5:30 P.M. – Stewardship Meeting

## KNOWN JOYS & CONCERNS

### Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll  
Sandy Clarke  
Jan Cunningham  
Jim Eckel  
Laura Eckel  
Doug Forsyth  
Alice Lanning  
Jayelle Martin  
Gene Thraikill  
Jona Thiessen  
Devyn Upton  
Karen Upton  
Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)  
Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)  
Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)

### Those who Experienced Recent Loss

John Beck whose mother Mary Jean died on August 19.  
Donna Vint whose husband Harry Wright died on July 7.

Carl Forthman whose mother Betty Forthman died on July 1.

### Seminary Graduate

Samuel McCann, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and pray for the unrest our brothers and sisters are experiencing there.

### Birthdays

September 8– Jona Thiessen

September 9– Liam Farris

September 10– Donna Vint

Moume Ngom

September 11– Terry Cast

September 14– Mike Cole

September 15– Rebecca Bates

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week:

### Ghana, Nigeria

#### We are thankful for:

- Christians and Muslims who take risks to work for dialogue and reconciliation, and people of disparate ethnic groups who strive together for the common good
- churches who have been faithful in spreading the Good News, serving the people and pursuing justice in these societies
- economic growth from natural resources, where it benefits all people – and especially the poor – in these nations
- how people, especially in Nigeria, have been sustained by God in the face of attacks and violence in the context of the movement of population groups and from extremist elements like Boko Haram.

#### We pray for:

- those affected by violence and terrorism, and that such violent attacks might cease
- leaders of churches, that they might speak out courageously against political, social and economic injustices
- Just and peaceful relations between members of different ethnic groups and between Muslims and Christians
- Those who suffer from malnutrition and diseases such as malaria, whooping cough and HIV and AIDS
- Better stewardship of the environment and natural resources.