



METROPOLITAN



INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

SUNDAY, August 28, 2016

15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION

*The Pastor's entrance and the beginning of the musical prelude are the calls to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

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**THE GATHERING**

*We are standing on Holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around.*

*Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in God's presence on Holy ground.*

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**LITANY**

- Leader: The hand of the Lord has touched your lips, putting God's word in your mouth. What have you heard with the ears of your heart? What are you sent to proclaim?
- Women: The word of the Lord has come to us, saying, "You peoples of earth have indicted me, charging my ways are not just;
- Men: "To this I reply, in anger and sorrow: Is it not *you* whose ways are unjust?
- Women: "You, who approach me with prayers on your lips, while your wandering spirits are far away;
- Men: "You, who do wrong under cover of night, thinking, 'Who will be out and about now to see?'
- Women: "You, who make plans, though the plans are not mine;
- Men: "You, who do good – for those who repay?
- Women: "Despite your sin, you judge the world and declare that you are innocent,
- Men: "And your pride digs a canyon between earth and heaven, accusing *your God* of guilt and transgression!
- Women: "Can you not see what a horrible thing is happening upon the earth?
- Men: "Your prophets prophesy falsely, and your ministers echo their counsel;
- Women: "Your leaders take you down terrible paths, and you are content to follow!
- Men: "Tell me, you stubborn and rebellious people: What will you do when the end comes?
- ALL: "Yes, what will you do in the end?"
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## OPENING HYMN

*“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

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O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guide while life shall last, And our eternal home.

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## WELCOME – *Visitors standing*

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If you are here for the first time, we are delighted that you came. If you are dropping in for a second or third visit, we are glad you found something you were looking for. We hope you will be challenged by our worship and that you will come back again. If you are looking for a faith community, we would welcome you as a part of our church family. When you are officially welcomed as a visitor, you will receive a Visitor’s Information Card. Please fill it out, and return it to the Pastor, or place it in the offering plate. **WELCOME!**

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## CONCERNS OF CHURCH AND CITY

*D. Billye Sanders*

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## OFFERTORY

*“For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.” 1 Chronicles 29:14*

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### **Your tithes and gifts help us:**

- Pay the mortgage, utilities, maintenance, and security for the Metropolitan Meeting House;
- Provide free pastoral counseling services to members of our congregation;
- Fund the First Response Center, serving over 700 people living with HIV/AIDS, and others at-risk;
- Pay for the personnel and operating costs of our ministries;
- Provide educational materials and resources to assist in the spiritual growth and development of our community;
- Maintain meeting space for ministries, Girl Scouts, recovery/support groups, and community events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;
- Give emergency assistance to members of the congregation and community through our benevolence fund.

**Every gift of your *time, talent and treasure* makes a vital difference in the life and ministries of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church. *Thank you!***

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## SONGS OF PRAISE

The Voices of Metropolitan  
*Reginald Green, Minister of Music*

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## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly host: Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

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## **RESPONSE**

*Please do not leave the sanctuary or in any other manner create a distraction during the invitational period. This is a moment of **unparalleled** importance.*

### **MOMENTS OF REFLECTION**

*Voices of Metropolitan*

#### **INVITATION TO LIFE IN CHRIST**

**This church will welcome into its membership any persons who love and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and who promise to live according to His Laws of Love, recognizing all people as brothers and sisters for whom He gave His life.**

#### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Communion Prayer*

We do not presume to come to this, Thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs from under Thy table. But Thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this sacrament of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life and grow to reflect Thy Spirit in all things forevermore. Amen.

*(We will eat and drink together after all have been served.)*

#### **FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE**

We've come too far to turn back now;  
By the grace of God we're gonna make it somehow.  
Nobody knows the trouble we've seen; We've come too far to turn back now.

When trapped by walls of disappointment and tempted to panic by disordered thinking, calmness is the only solution for men, for the acts of Providence are so hidden that it is hard to understand how delicate are the influences emanating from our own mind...

Consider: you believe that you are a child of God. You have a vision, however vague, of your own sense of godhood. Your bewildered, tired, impatient self can only glimpse this in moments far between as you conceive time. But what is a week, a month, yea, even a year? In the deep, inner quietness of your spirit, time stands still—before and after we are lost in now, there is no movement, no action, even the outer edges of awareness blend into the surrounding calm.

It is this calmness that now you must carry with you into the maelstrom of your hectic days. Let it be a remembered grace and a nourishing companion. And this is enough!

(From "The Centering Moment," in *For The Inward Journey*, pp. 295-6)

**HOWARD THURMAN**

### **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

2128 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208

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**Phone: (615) 72METRO (726-3876) Fax: (615) 259-9210 website: [www.micwhosoever.org](http://www.micwhosoever.org)**

***Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, The Senior Servant***

***Rev. John Cross, Senior Pastoral Assistant***

***Pastoral Staff: Rev. Marcella Lockhart, Rev. Clifford Smith, Rev. Christopher Davis,***

***Rev. Terry Terrell, Rev. Regina McCrary, Rev. Neely Williams,***

***Rev. Stephanie Thompson, Rev. Cherie Booker, Rev. Christopher Goodwin***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner by Circle 3; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children**

*Suspended:* Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series will *not* meet during the summer months of July and August. Join us again in September on Saturday mornings at the First Response Center.

**Ecclesiastical Council Meeting** – Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> following morning worship

**Retention Task Force Meeting** – Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

**Prayer Breakfast – Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by a blend of the Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series team and the Retention Task Force. Look for an additional insert with further details.

**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** – Saturday, October 22, 2016

Sign up to *Join* and/or *Sponsor* Team **WHOSOEVER – Walking by Faith** at [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=77439&pg=team&team\\_id=2073111&s\\_oo=I1HUa6vmVcEhcqJAWAYUw](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=77439&pg=team&team_id=2073111&s_oo=I1HUa6vmVcEhcqJAWAYUw)

**Friday evening Dancercise, 7 p.m. // Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday, 12 – 2 p.m.**

**Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.;** *The Voices of Metropolitan* sing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month.

**United Way Employee Giving Campaign:** Please designate #3255 to support the First Response Center. For the Combined Federal Campaign, *Write In* Metropolitan Interdenominational Church First Response Center.

***It's that time again...*** Please **RENEW your enrollment** through **Kroger Community Rewards** [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) during the month of August in order to continue supporting the MIC First Response Center whenever you shop *and* use your Kroger Plus card.

### MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE

<b>September 7</b>	<b>Circle 4</b>	<b>September 28</b>	<b>Circle 7</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>Circle 5</b>	<b>October 5</b>	<b>Circle 1</b>
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Circle 6</b>	<b>October 12</b>	<b>Circle 2</b>

### ~ Giving Summary ~

Date	Offering - Budgeted	Offering - Actual	Offering – (Un)Realized	Summary (Un)Realized
January, 2016	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 21,668.00	(\$ 7,182.00)	(\$ 7,182.00)
February, 2016	\$ 23,080.00	\$ 22,536.10	(\$ 543.90)	(\$ 7,725.90)
March, 2016	\$ 23,080.00	\$ 27,527.23	\$ 4,447.23	(\$ 3,278.67)
April, 2016	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 29,929.83	\$ 1,079.83	(\$ 2,198.84)
May, 2016	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 26,483.66	(\$ 2,366.34)	(\$ 4,565.18)
June, 2016	\$ 23,080.00	\$ 20,684.67	(\$ 2,395.33)	(\$ 6,960.51)
July, 2016	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 29,991.85	\$ 1,141.85	(\$ 5,818.66)
August 7, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 5,148.86	(\$ 621.14)	
August 14, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 5,579.66	(\$ 190.34)	
August 21, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 3,928.00	(\$ 1,842.00)	
August, 2016	\$ 17,310.00	\$ 14,646.52	(\$ 2,653.48)	
2016 Year to Date	\$ 201,950.00	\$ 193,477.86	(\$ 8,472.14)	(\$ 8,472.14)

### BIBLE READING

*Read... Pray... Sacrifice...*

**August 29 – September 4, 2016**

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33*



# METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Sunday, August 28, 2016

## 15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Metropolitan Interdenominational Church is a community of believers inclusive of all and alienating to none, leading the way to spiritual growth by sharing God's love with the world.*

### UNDER INVESTIGATION

UNDER INVESTIGATION is a point of reference that has become a part of everyday life for many people with whom we share life in our communities. The business of perpetual surveillance has become commonplace and we generally just accept it as the order of the day. In every situation where business is being done with the public, it is understood that the cameras are always rolling. Increasingly, the same has come to be true along most of the highways, byways, sidewalks and intersections of life. The “Big Brother” reality has become a part of all of our existences. The technology that allows the dynamic of somebody always watching is fairly new, but the fact of being UNDER INVESTIGATION socially on a continuous basis is nothing new. Jesus was UNDER INVESTIGATION throughout his ministry. Because he was challenging powers, systems, traditions and authorities, as well as healing, changing, empowering and transforming individual lives, he was attracting attention from every angle. Some of those watching him were seeking to be the beneficiaries of his miracle-working power. However, others watching him were intimidated by his threat to their elite positions of superiority, domination and control. In today’s text (*Luke 14:1, 7-14*) Luke says “they were watching him closely.” Thus, the record supports the fact that he was UNDER INVESTIGATION. Just as was the case with Jesus, we “the body of Christ” are UNDER INVESTIGATION today. There are people who are always watching us and we have to be mindful to always “walk humbly with our God.” What do people see when they look at the church? Are we truly inclusive, reconciling and engaged – inclusive of all and alienating to none? Don’t ever forget, we are UNDER INVESTIGATION.

*(Reprinted from Sunday, September 1, 2013)*

**Senior Servant**

### SICK, SHUT IN, and RECOVERING MEMBERS

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers, <i>not visitors</i> , please.
Lynda Hodggers		662-579-5317
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Mary Grace Williams	293 Becklea Drive; Madison, TN 37115	615-868-6810
Suzan Matias-Ballentine	198 Dry Creek Road, Goodlettsville, TN 37072	615-830-3393
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375