



METROPOLITAN  
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH



**BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE**

**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

**6<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:** You who are thirsty but do not have the money, come and drink,  
**People:** That the word of the Lord might accomplish its purpose.  
**Leader:** You who are hungry but do not have the price, come and eat,  
**People:** That the word of the Lord might accomplish its purpose.  
**Leader:** You who labor but do not get your reward, come and consider,  
**People:** That the word of the Lord might accomplish its purpose.  
**Leader:** You who scatter seed but do not reap the harvest, come and plant,  
**People:** That the word of the Lord might accomplish its purpose.  
**ALL:** Let us drink the water of life and eat the bread of heaven.  
Let us sow our seed in good soil, that others might reap the fruit of our labor.

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**OPENING HYMN**

*“Bringing in the Sheaves”*

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,  
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve,  
Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping –  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

**CHORUS:** Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,  
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;  
By and by the harvest and the labor ended –  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,  
Tho the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;  
When our weeping's over He will bid us welcome—  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

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## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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*Preston Pittman*

### 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

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*Billye Sanders*

### 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 programs, serving over 700 people living with HIV/AIDS, and other at-risk persons;
- 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, including Girl Scouts, recovery/support groups, and 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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### 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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### CELEBRATION IN SONG

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

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### PROCLAMATION

### THE WORD

*Matthew 13:1-23*

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### CHORAL RESPONSE

Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,  
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

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### PREPARATORY PERIOD

#### **OUR CALLING**

*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.*



## 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**

The 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.

Teach me Thy grace in the daily work by which I earn my keep and the keep of those dependent upon me. There are duties demanded of me that irk and irritate, dulling the cutting edge of joy in labor. There is the fatigue that burrows deep into the citadel of my sense of well-being, rendering me brittle, sharp in speech, and short in patience. There is the pride, the arrogance that comes when I turn my eyes from the high level of my intent and look coldly at the lesser deeds of some who walk the way with me. There is the tendency to wrap myself in garments of my own compassion ending in the muck of self-pity and unhealthy moodiness. Teach me Thy grace in the daily work by which I earn my keep and the keep of those dependent upon me. **Teach me Thy grace.** *--Howard Thurman*

#### **CORE VALUES**

Our core values define the framework within which we live out the ideals of **Our Calling** based upon the word of God as reflected in Jesus Christ.

Loving, Giving, Serving, Inclusive, Reconciling, Fellowship, Liberating	<b>INCLUSIVE:</b> <i>Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting</i>
<b>LOVING:</b> <i>Worshiping, Comforting, Caring</i>	<b>RECONCILING:</b> <i>Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming</i>
<b>GIVING:</b> <i>Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering</i>	<b>FELLOWSHIP:</b> <i>Celebrating, Belonging, Participating</i>
<b>SERVING:</b> <i>Helping, Ministering, Providing</i>	<b>LIBERATING:</b> <i>Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating</i>

## **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

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

*Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 280779, Nashville, TN 37228

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

***Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, 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***



# **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

## **BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE**

**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017**

### **SIXTH 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.*

## **WORD POWER**

Word Power is the title of one of the books that I remember my aunt Cornelia giving me when I was in the eighth grade. The premise of the book was that words were the avenue by which you could transform the world, and turn your dreams into reality. From the very first moment that education was an opportunity for those who had been left out of the circle of social inclusion as a result of having come to these American shores in chains, education was thought of as being the avenue to freedom. The power of the spoken word within our faith tradition has its origin in the story of creation, where God brings all things into existence by speaking. The entire text is driven by the power of what "God said..." In this week's gospel reading (*Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*), Jesus uses the Parable of the Sower to remind us of the importance of spreading the word. When Jesus spoke, he spread the word freely, clearly and boldly, without any limitation or reservation. Jesus knew that the byproduct of his message would always produce that which assured the world of abundance. For us today, we have often come to think of that abundance in narrow, materialistic terms, but God wants us to know that the ultimate abundance desired is the abundance of peace, joy, freedom, wisdom, justice, service, and love. As children of God, we have to spread the word with the assurance in our heads and hearts that our efforts will bear fruit in a manner that reflects the true meaning of WORD POWER.

*(Reprinted from Sunday, July 13, 2008)*

*--Senior Servant*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 5; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Classes for Adults and Children

**Ecclesiastical Council Meeting ~ Sunday, July 16, 2017** immediately following worship

**Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series ~** Join us Saturdays, 9:00–11:00 a.m.,  
when we meet at the First Response Center, 1219 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Nashville 37208.

**Opportunity Now: Mayor Barry's Youth Employment Initiative**

*Visit:* <https://app-opportunitynow.workbay.net>

**Thank you for Supporting Metropolitan while you shop!**

Between March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the 22 families who have Kroger Plus cards registered to earn Community Rewards for Metropolitan earned \$159.68 for the First Response Center.

**Dale P. Andrews Memorial Service ~ Saturday, August 12, 2017, 2:00 p.m.**

Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University

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

Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.; The Voices of Metropolitan will appear August 12<sup>th</sup>

Centering Prayer, Sundays 8:30-8:50 a.m.; Wednesdays 6:40-7:00 p.m.

### ~ Giving Summary ~

Date	Offering – Budgeted	Offering – Actual	Offering (Un)Realized	Summary (Un)Realized
January, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$30,036.04	\$1,186.04	\$1,186.04
February, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$21,275.38	(\$1,804.62)	(\$618.58)
March, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$23,941.21	\$861.21	\$242.63
April, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$30,211.19	\$1,361.19	\$1,683.84
May, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$16,143.51	(\$6,936.49)	(\$5,252.65)
June, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$23,178.35	\$98.35	(\$5,154.30)
July 2, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 6,350.40	\$580.40	
July 9, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 6,405.68	\$635.68	
July, 2017	\$11,080.00	\$12,756.08	\$1,676.08	
2017 Year to Date	\$161,460.00	\$157,521.78		(\$3,938.22)

### ~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

July 26	Circle 6	August 16	Circle 2
August 2	Circle 7	August 23, 2017	Circle 3
August 9	Circle 1	August 30, 2017	Circle 4

### ~ Bible Readings ~

**Read... Pray... Sacrifice... ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ July 17 - 23, 2017**

*Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

### ~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

<b>Leon McKinley Corder</b>	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
<b>Evelyn Martin</b>	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
<b>Connie Ryans</b>	1703 Pecan Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-310-7855
<b>Emmilye Wilson-Walton</b>	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375