



**METROPOLITAN
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**



BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, August 27, 2017

PREPARATION

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

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.*

LITANY

Leader: Truly, God's judgments are unsearchable, and God's ways are inscrutable. Yet the Lord said to Abram, "Go to the land that I will show you, and I will bless you."

People: **And the Lord blessed Abram.**

Leader: Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will send you to Pharaoh, and I will be with you."

People: **And the Lord blessed Moses.**

Leader: Then the Lord said to the descendants of Jacob and Rachel, "Now therefore, if you will obey my voice, you shall be my own possession among all peoples."

People: **And the Lord blessed the descendants of Jacob and Rachel.**

Leader: But their descendants did not obey the voice of the Lord, and they went into exile.

People: **Yet the Lord was with them in their captivity.**

Leader: And they escaped from Babylon as a bird from the snare of fowlers.

ALL: **As you had mercy upon the captives, O Lord, have mercy also upon us.**

OPENING HYMN

“Take the Name of Jesus with You”

Take the name of Jesus with you, Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you—Take it, then, wher-e’er you go.

CHORUS: Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heav’n;
Precious name, O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heav’n.

Take the name of Jesus ever, As a shield from ev’ry snare;
If temptations ‘round you gather, Breathe that holy name in prayer.

O the precious name of Jesus! How it thrills our souls with joy,
When His loving arms receive us And his songs our tongues employ!

At the name of Jesus bowing, Falling prostrate at His feet,
King of kings in heav’n we’ll crown Him When our journey is complete.

WELCOME – Visitors standing

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!**

CONCERNS OF CHURCH AND CITY

Billye Sanders

OFFERTORY

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

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/resources to assist in our community’s spiritual growth and development;
- 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!*

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.

CELEBRATION IN SONG

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

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.

A man's conviction that he is God's child automatically tends to shift the basis of his relationship with all his fellows. He recognizes at once that to fear a man, whatever may be that man's power over him, is a basic denial of the integrity of his very life. It lifts that mere man to a place of preeminence that belongs to God and to God alone. He who fears is literally delivered to destruction. To the child of God, a scale of values becomes available by which men are measured and their true significance determined. Even the threat of violence, with the possibility of death that it carries, is recognized for what it is—merely the threat of violence with a death potential. Such a man recognizes that death cannot possibly be the worst thing in the world. There *are* some things that are worse than death. To deny one's own integrity of personality in the presence of the human challenge is one of those things. "Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do," says Jesus.

(From "Jesus and the Disinherited," in *For the Inward Journey*, p. 148)

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	INCLUSIVE: <i>Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting</i>
LOVING: <i>Worshipping, Comforting, Caring</i>	RECONCILING: <i>Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming</i>
GIVING: <i>Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering</i>	FELLOWSHIP: <i>Celebrating, Belonging, Participating</i>
SERVING: <i>Helping, Ministering, Providing</i>	LIBERATING: <i>Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating</i>

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

2128 11th 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

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, AUGUST 21, 2017

TWELFTH 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.

A MOP AND A BUCKET

A MOP AND A BUCKET in hand can serve as a way to gain entrée into almost any space a person might choose to enter. This became clear to me early in my married life, when Billye and I realized that we needed more income than my academic employment provided while she was still in Law School. The only criteria I applied in my search for work was that I didn't want to do anything which required the same kind of mental demands of my day job. After a short search I found a janitorial position with late hours and reasonably difficult work. The office building to which I was assigned housed the operations of a very powerful and influential group of businesspeople. Offices and business suites to which it would have been impossible for me gain access from nine to five were suddenly open to me without question. Even when those who labored in the quarters I cleaned worked late, they would yield to my presence in order to allow me to do my job. Thinking back on this experience makes me appreciate how easily people will allow you to have access to their lives when your only desire is to serve them. In our reading from Matthew 16 this week, Jesus talking about "the keys to the kingdom of heaven" made me consider that perhaps the key to opening the doors to the new world we so desperately long for and need is to be found in service. Jesus calls us to be servants and we must be willing, as he was, to serve all people freely, without bias and judgment. One of the major reasons why people with A MOP AND A BUCKET can go just about anywhere is that they have come to serve and do the things that help others have a better experience in life. After all, Jesus came to clean up our mess, so maybe all of us can better learn to do the work of the kingdom of heaven by applying the theology of the "Son of Man," always carrying A MOP AND A BUCKET.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 4; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Classes for Adults and Children

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series *will resume* **Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017**
Please join us! Saturdays, 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the First Response Center, 1219 9th Ave N, Nashville 37208.

Prayer Breakfast ~ Saturday, September 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Preregistration is required. Please deposit registration forms into the box on the table in the vestibule.

Ecclesiastical Council Meeting ~ Sunday, September 24, 2017 following worship
Opportunity Now: Youth Employment Initiative *Visit:* <https://app-opportunitynow.workbay.net>

Thank you for Supporting Metropolitan while you shop! At Kroger, use your Community Rewards-registered Kroger Plus card; on Amazon, shop through Smile.Amazon.com

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 September 9 th
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, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$26,706.54	(\$2,143.46)	(\$7,297.76)
August 6, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 5,244.25	(\$525.75)	
August 13, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 6,954.00	\$1,184.00	
August 20, 2017	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,175.00</u>	<u>\$405.00</u>	
August, 2017	\$17,310.00	\$18,373.25	\$1,063.25	
2017 Year to Date	\$196,080.00	\$189,845.49		(\$6,234.51)

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

September 6	Circle 5	September 27	Circle 1
September 13	Circle 6	October 4	Circle 2
September 20	Circle 7	October 11	Circle 3

~ Bible Readings ~

<i>Read... Pray... Sacrifice...</i>	August 28 – September 3, 2017
13th Sunday after Pentecost	
<i>Exodus 3:1-15</i>	<i>Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c</i>
<i>Romans 12:9-21</i>	<i>Matthew 16:21-28</i>

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
Alma London	2929 Stanwyck Drive; Nashville, TN 37207	615-2297-2790 <i>Leave a message</i> , please.
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Connie Ryans	1703 Pecan Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-310-7855
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375