



STRETCHING OUR FAITH
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, February 18, 2018 ~ FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
THIRD SUNDAY OF FOUNDERS' MONTH
CHOIR SUNDAY:
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

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: Ruler of heaven and earth:
People: **We exalt you!**
Leader: We come into your presence with singing and thanksgiving,
People: **Because you are Good!**
Leader: You have reached out to us with open arms.
People: **Your love endures forever!**
Leader: Heaven and earth are yours, created by you.
People: **We belong to you!**
Leader: Your beauty and power astound us.
People: **We want to see your glory!**
Leader: For you are above all things and before all things,
People: **In you all things hold together!**
Leader: Everything in the world that distracts and tempts us
People: **Is nothing compared to you!**
Leader: Everything that would keep us from your love,
People: **You have overcome!**
Leader: Everything we need
People: **You have provided!**
Leader: For you are gracious and compassionate
People: **Slow to anger and rich in love.**
Leader: We want to be in your presence always, every minute, every day.
People: **We worship you, and you only.**
ALL: **Amen**

OPENING HYMN

“How Great Thou Art”

Oh Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds, Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout, The universe displayed!

REFRAIN: Then sings my soul, My Savior, God, to Thee; How great thou art, How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Savior, God, to Thee: How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When thru the woods, And forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze,

And when I think of God, His son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin!

When Christ shall come, With shout of acclamation,
And take me home, What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

WELCOME

Lee Mayberry

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!**

CHOIR SUNDAY ~ The Good News

Lisa Marshall

HISTORY OF THE VOICES OF METROPOLITAN

Senior Servant

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!

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.

THE INWARDNESS OF RELIGION

As a person each of us lives a private life; there is a world within where for us the great issues of our lives are determined. It is here that at long last the "yea" and "nay" of our living is defined, declared. It is private. It is cut off from immediate involvement in what surrounds us. It is my world. This does not suggest, nor is it meant to suggest, that it is merely the creation of my own mind, thought, and imagination. True, I am a child not only of nature, of parents, but also I am a child of my nation, which in turn makes me a child of my civilization and the culture whose roots finally mingle with other cultures and civilizations long since passed into history. But there remains a private, personal world which I claim as uniquely my own.

Religious experience is interpreted to mean the conscious and direct exposure of the individual to God. Such an experience seems to the individual to be inclusive of all the meaning of life – there is nothing that is not involved. There is present here what William James refers to as "acquaintance-knowledge" as contrasted to "knowledge about." It is immediate experience and yet experience that is purely immediate is not quite possible. The individual is never an isolated, independent unit; the individual brings to their religious experience certain structural and ideological equipment or tools. This equipment is apt to be very determinative in how they interpret the significance not only of their religious experience but also the significance of experience itself.

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>Worshiping, 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



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Sunday, February 18, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF FOUNDERS' MONTH

CHOIR SUNDAY:
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

*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 TOUCHY-FEELY TYPE PERSON

A TOUCHY-FEELY TYPE PERSON is the phrase often used to describe folks who are quick to embrace, eager to engage, elect to hug, earnestly listen, encourage openness, embody compassion and enthusiastically join hands with others. Truly, one of the great assets to persons involved in the healing arts is the license to touch people in situations where there is the desperate need to be inspired to have hope. Whether it is a part of bed side manner, pastoral presence, nursing care or therapeutic assistance, the reality of the application of a simple touch can sometimes be the factor that opens the door to a transformative moment. In Mark 1 and throughout the accounts of the teachings of Jesus, we see how his willingness to touch "whosoever" is an integral part of his teaching. He defied traditional practices, conventional beliefs and ill-founded prejudices in order to respond to the needs of those whom he encountered on his life's journey. There was never anyone too dirty, sick or sinful for Jesus to deny extending them God's radical loving care. Thus, we are also called to open our hearts, spirits, hands and minds to all people, understanding that to be like the one who we profess to follow requires no less. Clearly, Jesus is A TOUCHY-FEELY TYPE PERSON.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 6: Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series

Please join us Saturdays, 9-11:00 a.m. at the First Response Center, 1219 9th Ave N, Nashville 37208

Saturday, February 24, 2018, 2:30 – 4p.m. ~ Ecclesiastical Council Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 2018 ~ Founders' Day Brunch ~ brunch served after worship

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

Support Metropolitan while you shop:

- Enroll in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** Login to Kroger.com, enroll your Kroger Plus card, select Community Rewards, and select Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC; it's that easy!
- When shopping online, register your support for Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC with **Smile.Amazon** ...and always shop through the Smile.Amazon site.

Opportunity Now: Youth Employment Initiative Visit: <https://app-opportunitynow.workbay.net>

Friday evening Dancercise, 7p.m.

Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday 12–2p.m.

Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.: The Voices of Metropolitan appear January 13th

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
2017 Year End	\$305,710.00	\$294,948.21		(\$10,761.79)
January, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,402.73	(\$3,677.27)	(\$3,677.27)
February 4, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$7,113.75	\$1,343.75	
February 11, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$4,021.12	(\$1,748.88)	
February, 2018	\$11,540.00	\$11,134.87	(\$405.13)	
2018 Year to Date	\$34,620.00	\$30,537.60		(\$4,082.40)

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

February 28	Circle 7	March 21	Circle 3
March 7	Circle 1	March 28	Circle 4
March 14	Circle 2	April 4	Circle 5

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Connie Ryans	1703 Pecan Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-310-7855
Mallanese Wells	4022 Red Rose Court; Nashville, TN 37218	615-838-3723
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375

BIBLE READINGS

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

February 19 - 25, 2018

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-24

Mark 8:31-38