



STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, May 20, 2018

DAY OF 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.

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: Long, Lord!

People: For so long, O Lord!

ALL: Long have we groaned with the universe!

Leader: Our eyes have shed the tears of the rain,

People: Our hearts have pitched the complaints of the thunder,

ALL: With only an inch of understanding, with only a minute of patience!

Leader: We have trusted for a step and doubted for a mile; we have hoped for a day and despaired for an age.

People: We have swapped your mountain for slippery slopes; we have traded forty days for an instant of pleasure.

ALL: For so long, O Lord!

Leader: But now your Spirit comes, to guide us into truth.

People: Your Spirit is pouring out; out it pours upon all flesh: It looks on the waters, and the world trembles; it touches the mountains, and their summits smoke!

ALL: Your Spirit rushes forth to baptize with fire!

Leader: Now we shall prophesy of things unseen and hope for things unheard. Our young shall have visions of heaven on earth, and our old shall dream dreams of things that will be:

People: Where once rain cried, a rainbow shall bend; where once thunder moaned, the songbird shall warble.

ALL: The Spirit explodes and floods the earth! O groanings, give birth to a cry of freedom! O lamentations, to ecstasy!

OPENING HYMN

“STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD”

1. Standing on the promises of Christ, my King, Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God.

***CHORUS: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.***

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail, When the howling storms doubt and fear
assail, By the living word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God.
 3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, Standing on the promises of God.
 4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall, Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all, Standing on the promises of God.
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WELCOME

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 (telephone, internet, heat, water), 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 others at-risk;
- 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 Metropolitan Praise Dancers, 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!**

CELEBRATION IN SONG

The Voices of Metropolitan
Reginald Green, Minister of Music

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.

PROCLAMATION

THE WORD

Acts 2:1-21

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

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 WATERING OF OUR ROOTS

Surrounded by all of the memories and the dreams and the hopes and the desires of so great a host of witnesses, we still ourselves in the presence of God, gathering together all of the things that are needful for our peace. The mood of thanksgiving overwhelms us when we remember how good and great is our fortune, even as we are mindful of the ways that are hard and difficult for so many whose names are known to us and whose pictures are vividly in our minds. It is so great a privilege to experience the watering of one's roots at a time of such dryness in the world.

Thus, O God, we expose ourselves to Thy spirit, daring not at all to make even the simplest request of Thee. We let ourselves down in Thy grace and Thy holiness, waiting for the movement of Thy spirit.

-- 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: *Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting*

LOVING: *Worshipping, Comforting, Caring*

RECONCILING: *Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming*

GIVING: *Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering*

FELLOWSHIP: *Celebrating, Belonging, Participating*

SERVING: *Helping, Ministering, Providing*

LIBERATING: *Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating*

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

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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. Donna Whitney, Rev. Terry Terrell, Rev. Regina McCrary, Rev. Neely Williams, Rev. Stephanie Thompson, Rev. Cherie Booker, Rev. Christopher Goodwin*



STRETCHING OUR FAITH
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, May 20, 2018 ~ DAY OF 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.

LIGHTNING BUGS

LIGHTNING BUGS, or fireflies, as they are referred to by many, have always represented mystery and intrigue for me. After-dark summer expeditions in search of LIGHTNING BUGS were a much-anticipated part of my childhood experience. My friends and I would spend hours trying to fill our glass jars (with ventilated lids, of course) with as many of these beautiful examples of bioluminescence as we could. At that stage in our lives we had no appreciation for the torturous, ultimately fatal consequences of our actions. All we were concerned with was marveling at the light show these little captive creatures provided for us. Then – twenty-two years ago – LIGHTNING BUGS took on new meaning for me, one evening when I was standing and looking out over the meadow below the Metropolitan Meeting House, agonizing over some complex issues that were before us as a congregation. Suddenly, in the midst of that moment, I realized how the LIGHTNING BUGS, while going through their spring mating ritual, were creating a presence that very powerfully demonstrated how the light is capable of wonderfully dispelling the darkness. In our gospel reading next week (*John 3:1-17*), Nicodemus comes searching for Jesus at night struggling with a profound question born out of the darkness that was closing in on his life. At which point Jesus, who John identifies as “the true light,” speaks to him in words that capture the total essence of our faith in one statement (*John 3:16*). Over the centuries, these words have continued to address our concerns in our times of darkness. I know it, because it happened for me just the other day, when once again I was standing in the same spot I was standing in twenty-two years ago, and the Lord reminded me of this great truth as he revealed his presence through the LIGHTNING BUGS.

(Reprinted from Sunday, June 7, 2009)

--Senior Servant

~ 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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$22,347.27	(\$732.73)	(\$4,410.00)
March, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$18,651.38	(\$4,428.62)	(\$8,834.62)
April, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$31,119.22	\$2,269.22	(\$6,565.40)
May 6, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$6,452.49	\$682.49	
May 13, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$4,011.72	(\$1,758.28)	
May, 2018	\$11,080.00	\$10,464.21	(\$615.79)	
2018 Year to Date	\$109,630.00	\$101,988.81		(\$7,641.19)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series ~ *Please join us on Saturday mornings, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the First Response Center, 1219 9th Ave N, Nashville 37208*

METRO Scholars Data Collection Forms are on the table in the vestibule.

Return **COMPLETED** forms *by Sunday June 3rd*. Also, Graduating High School Seniors, the Roberta Sherrill White Scholarship applications are on the board there. *Deadline June 3rd*.

Ecclesiastical Council Meeting Sunday, May 20th, following worship

Vacation Bible School 2018 ~ 24/7: Jesus Makes a Way Every Day!

Monday–Friday June 4-8th, 5:30-8:00 p.m. & Saturday, June 9th, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Preregistration for classes is required! Weeknights, dinner 5:30-6:15, & classes for **ALL** ages 6:15-8:00 p.m.; Saturday cookout 5-6p & Finale Presentations 6-7p

Register online at: http://www.micwhosoever.org/_forms/view/36191

METRO Scholars Sunday Sunday, June 10th, during worship

Fathers' Day Sunday, June 17th, during worship

Homecoming Weekend Friday - Sunday, July 13th – 15th, Join us each date!

One-Night Revival Friday, July 13th 7:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Meeting House

A Day in the Park Saturday, July 14th 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Edwin Warner Park, area 10

Homecoming Worship Sunday, July 15th 9:30 a.m. at the Metropolitan Meeting House

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 your Kroger Plus card in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**.
- When shopping online, shop through **Smile.Amazon.com**.

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

BIBLE READINGS *Read... Pray... Sacrifice...* **May 21 - 27, 2018**

First Sunday after Pentecost ~ Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

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

Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m. // **Centering Prayer**, Sunday 8:30-8:50 a.m.; Wednesday 6:40-7:00 p.m.

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
John Cross	3441 White Pine Drive; Nashville, TN 37214	Send prayers and cards, only, please.
Christopher Davis	202 Emmitt Avenue; Madison, TN 37115	615-939-9454
Jay Lane	243 Yelton Court; Nashville, TN 37211	615-474-4239
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Connie Ryans	1703 Pecan Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-310-7855
Nelson Wade	301 Millwood Drive; Nashville, TN 37217	615-95711149

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

May 30	Circle 6	June 20	Circle 2
June 6	Circle 7	June 27	Circle 3
June 13	Circle 1	July 4	<i>No Midweek Fellowship</i>