

STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, June 10, 2018

Third 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.

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:** Yesterday I would have cried for God, but I did not know God's name. The scribes insisted that it could not be written; the sages, not be said.
- People:** But now the world has changed. Cry to God, and call him, "Father!" Cry to God, and call her, "Mother!"
- ALL:** The name shall be revealed by the lips of your heart, and God shall answer.
- Leader:** Yesterday I would have appealed to *you*, but I did not know your names. Your shifting eyes told me to keep my distance; your upraised hands, to stay away.
- People:** But now *we* have changed. Appeal to us, and call us, "Brothers!" Appeal to us, and call us, "Sisters!"
- ALL:** Our names shall be revealed by the lips of your heart, and we shall answer.
- Leader:** Today life has changed, for God is near.
- People:** Life has changed, for we are near one another.
- Leader:** Behold, salvation comes—to me, and to all!
- People:** Behold, liberation is here—for the one and the many!
- Leader:** O God, my father and my friend—
- People:** Our mother and our savior—
- ALL:** The hands of this family are clasped together, and still the circle grows! May love endure for all generations!
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OPENING HYMN

“FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH”

For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love from our birth, Over land and around us lies:

CHORUS: *Christ our God, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the wonder of each hour, Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow’r, Sun and moon and stars of light: **CHORUS.**

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild: **CHORUS.**

For Thy Church that ever-more Lifteth holy hands above,
Off’ring up on ev’ry shore, Her pure sacrifice of love: **CHORUS.**

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

CONGRATULATIONS, METRO SCHOLARS!

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.

Mark 3:20-35

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

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.

THE SENIOR SERVANT

²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— ³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” *Mark 3:20-35*

Mark 3:20-35

[illegible]

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 initial act of standing alone, of establishing a sense of independence of the environment, is one of the prime requisites for participating meaningfully as a person in a collective destiny that involves more and more of the human family. If we were never able to do this, it would be impossible for us to create and carry our environment with us. This unique ability has made it possible for humankind to make a home anywhere on the planet, in widely differing circumstances. Control of the environment, and the increasing degree to which this is possible, depend on the making and use of tools, the utilizing of materials given in the surroundings – none of which could be done if in the first instance the graphic distinction between self and not-self had not been achieved. The discipline is not merely in the fact of the achievement, but through it in making the external world an instrument of the private will and the creative mind. The strength to do this comes as a part of the discipline of growth. This is to experience one of the triumphant aspects of growth 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>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

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Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, Senior Servant

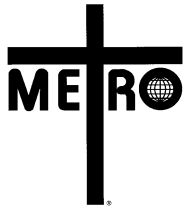
Rev. John Cross, Senior Pastoral Assistant

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



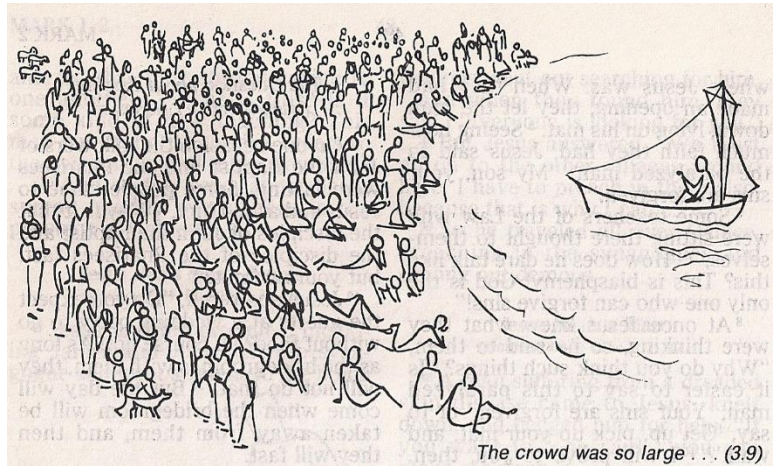
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Metropolitan Interdenominational Church is a community of believers inclusive of all and alienating to none, leading the way to spiritual growth by sharing God's love with the world.

THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

*"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot hear them now.
When the Spirit of truth comes, it will guide you into all the truth..."*

"You can't handle the truth" is a classic line from the popular movie "A Few Good Men." The truth can be challenging, and we are blessed in that Jesus knows us well enough to guide us through the challenges we find ourselves having to address as we strive to make His laws of love real in the world. The wisdom and beauty inherent in His teachings about love captures our hearts and minds quickly, yet the application of His words sometimes forces us to stretch ourselves in ways that we do not easily accomplish.



Just what is Jesus saying to us that we can't hear now? Perhaps He is talking about the way that nationalism has become idolatry. Or maybe He is talking about the need for us to change our lifestyles for the sake of the planet and generations yet unborn. Then again, it could be our inability to get beyond our ill-conceived beliefs that keep us from welcoming "WHOSOEVER" because of race, sexual orientation, class, addiction or past life experience. I am convinced that Jesus is pushing us everyday to represent the presence of truth in our times in a fashion that reflects who He is in all of our actions.

As the Holy Spirit reveals the truth to us, we are obligated to speak it, and do everything we can to live it in the name of our CREATOR, our REDEEMER and our HELPER.

(Reprinted from Sunday, June 7, 2015)

--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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$22,030.32	(\$1,049.68)	(\$7,515.08)
June 3, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$6,600.00</u>	<u>\$830.00</u>	
June, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$6,600.00	\$830.00	
2018 Year to Date	\$126,940.00	\$120,154.92		(\$6,785.08)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Dinner by Circle 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series ~ *suspended until August 4th*

Ecclesiastical Council Meeting Sunday, June 10th, following worship

Fathers' Day Sunday, June 17th, during worship

Homecoming Weekend Friday - Sunday, July 13th – 15th!

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

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

Homecoming Worship Sunday, 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 in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** Login to Kroger.com, enroll your Kroger Plus card, select Community Rewards, then 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.
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Opportunity Now: Youth Employment Initiative Visit: <https://app-opportunitynow.workbay.net>

BIBLE READINGS

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

June 11-17, 2018

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 Psalm 20 or 72 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17 Mark 4:26-34

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
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

June 20	Circle 2	July 11	Circle 4
June 27	Circle 3	July 18	Circle 5
July 4	<i>No Midweek Fellowship</i>	July 26	Circle 6