

# **STRETCHING OUR FAITH**

## **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

**Sunday, July 29, 2018**

**Tenth 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**

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*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**

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- Leader:** Let us remember all your sheep, O Lord, those of this fold and those not of this fold.
- People:** Lest we forget that you are the Good Shepherd of all.
- Leader:** When they worship you by other names, let us remember that you have not left yourself without witnesses in any place,
- People:** Lest we forget that you are the Good Shepherd of all.
- Leader:** When they define goodness by other standards, let us remember that you turned a lecherous murderer into a righteous king.
- People:** Lest we forget that you are the Good Shepherd of all.
- Leader:** When they perpetrate deeds of utter selfishness, let us remember that the Lord judges the thoughts of *our* hearts as well as the deeds of *their* hands,
- People:** Lest we forget that you are the Good Shepherd of all.
- Leader:** When they express mindless prejudice, let us remember the log in our eyes before condemning the speck in theirs,
- People:** Lest we forget that you are the Good Shepherd of all.
- Leader:** When they commit crimes of wanton violence, let us remember that you alone can separate the goats from the sheep,
- People:** Lest we forget that you are the Good Shepherd of all.
- ALL:** Grant us, O Lord, by whatever name we call you, so to live in your love, that we may be united in your service.
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## OPENING HYMN

***“HE LEADETH ME”***

He leadeth me! O blessed thought! O words with heav’nly comfort fraught!  
Whate’er I do, where’er I be, still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

**CHORUS:** He leadeth me, He leadeth me, by His own hand He leadeth me;  
His faithful foll’wer I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me.

Sometimes ‘mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,  
By waters still, o’er troubled sea, still ‘tis His hand that leadeth me! **CHORUS**

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;  
Content, whatever lot I see, since ‘tis my God that leadeth me. **CHORUS**

And when my task on earth is done, when by Thy grace the vict’ry’s won,  
E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee, since God thru Jordan leadeth me. **CHORUS**

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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!**

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## CONCERNS OF CHURCH AND CITY

*Billye Sanders*

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## OFFERTORY

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

(We are now accepting tithes and offerings by credit and debit card in the sanctuary.)

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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 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, & events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;

**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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## CELEBRATION IN SONG

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

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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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## *John 6:1-21*

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.*

*Rev. Donna Whitney, Pastoral Assistant*

<sup>15</sup>When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. <sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

*John 6:1-21*

[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 miracles in the spirit? What are they? The resolving of inner conflict upon which all the lances of the mind have splintered and fallen helplessly from the hand; the daring of the spirit that puts to rout the evil deed and the decadent unfaith; the experiencing of new purposes which give courage to the weak, hope to the despairing, life to those burdened by sin and failure; the quality of reverence that glows within the mind, illumining it with incentive to bring under the control of Spirit all the boundless fruits of knowledge; the necessity for inner and outer peace as the meaning of all men's striving; the discovery that the "Covenant of Brotherhood" is the witness of the work of the Spirit of God in the life of man and the hymn of praise offered to Him as Thanksgiving and Glory!

(From "Concerning Disciplines of the Spirit," in *For the Inward Journey*, p. 4)

**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**

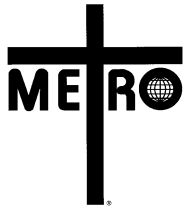
2128 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208; **Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 280779, Nashville, TN 37228

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



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### **THE JESUS FACTOR**

THE JESUS FACTOR represents an aspect of life which is not regularly included in our calculations of what is or is not possible. In today's text, John 6:1-21, when Jesus asked the question, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat," the answer Philip gives does not seem to appreciate who is doing the asking. With all of the great advancements and accomplishments in the world there are still many critical issues that go unaddressed just because of our disregard for THE JESUS FACTOR. In reading the teachings of Jesus we see clear evidence of how his interventions transform the impossible into the possible. Thus, as the body of Christ, we should not stand on the sideline of life and silently accept the world's determination of things being impossible when THE JESUS FACTOR has not been added to the equation. If we apply THE JESUS FACTOR to health care reform there would be no such thing as people having to endure the devastation of sickness without having avenues to wellness. Likewise, THE JESUS FACTOR, with its uncompromising love for all of humankind, could help us to see our way to address the complexities of poverty, violence, education, marriage, gender, sexuality, racism and all of the other issues that seem to be beyond our ability to deal with. There is no limit to the application of THE JESUS FACTOR.

*(Reprinted from July 26, 2015)*

*— Senior Servant*

### **~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~**

August 8	Circle 1	August 29	Circle 4
August 15	Circle 2	September 5	Circle 5
August 22	Circle 3	September 12	Circle 6



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP:** Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 7; **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 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Nashville 37208

**Ecclesiastical Council Meeting** Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, following worship

Thank you for supporting **Metropolitan** through the Kroger Plus program. For the period between 3/1/18 and 5/28/18, Metropolitan received \$191.45 in Community Rewards.

**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.

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

## BIBLE READINGS

*Read... Pray... Sacrifice...*    **11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost    July 30 – August 5, 2018**

*2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a          Psalm 51:1-12          Ephesians 4:1-16          John 6:24-35*

**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 ~**

<b>Leon McKinley Corder</b>	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
<b>John Cross</b>	3441 White Pine Drive; Nashville, TN 37214	Send prayers and cards, only, please.
<b>Christopher Davis</b>	202 Emmitt Avenue; Madison, TN 37115	615-939-9454
<b>Jay Lane</b>		615-474-4239
<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

**~ 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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,879.80	(\$3,002.20)	
July 01, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$5,862.41	\$92.41	
July 08, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$4,083.00	(\$1,687.00)	
July 15, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$6,490.60	\$720.60	
July 24, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$2,802.00</u>	<u>(\$2,968.00)</u>	
July, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,238.01	(\$3,841.99)	
2018 Year to Date	\$167,330.00	\$152,672.73		(\$14,657.27)