



**STRETCHING OUR FAITH**  
**METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

**Sunday, August 12, 2018**

**Twelfth 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:** Look at our feet, Lord. Lives have been crushed to the ground, and we have trampled upon them. They have been spilt like water upon the ground, and we have stepped over them.
- People:** The Spirit sees, and hard the Spirit grieves; from side to side she rocks in torment.
- Leader:** Look at our eyes, Lord. Lives have been banished to the shadows, and we have looked away from them. They have stretched out their hands from the shadows, and we have brushed past them.
- People:** The Spirit sees, and hard the Spirit grieves; from side to side she rocks in torment.
- Leader:** Shall we lock our door upon the outcast?
- People:** Let us open the door *before* they knock, that the Spirit might find her consolation!
- Leader:** Shall we hammer our nail into their tree?
- People:** Let us tear down the cross *before* they plead, that the Spirit might rejoice.
- Leader:** When they hunger for bread, let us not throw them a stone,
- People:** But offer our bodies, that all might have life.
- Leader:** When they thirst for water, let us not pour out vinegar,
- People:** But offer ourselves, that all might have breath.
- ALL:** O Sorrow, where is your victory? O Grief, where is your sting? For our feet are light on their missions of mercy, and our eyes are fast on the purposes of love.
-

---

**OPENING HYMN***“Come, Ye Disconsolate”*

---

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish  
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel;  
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish:  
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,  
Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!  
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
“Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure.”

Here see the Bread of Life, see waters flowing  
Forth from the throne of God, pure from above;  
Come to the feast of love – come ever knowing  
Earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.

---

**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*

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

---

**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!**

---

**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.

---



## 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.

*"God is..."*

The second thing that man's faith teaches him about God is that God is near. One of the sayings of Jesus discovered among the papyri at Oxyrhynchus is this: "Jesus saith: 'Whosoever they may be, they are not without God: and where there is one alone, even then I am with him. Raise the stone, and there thou shalt find Me; cleave the wood, and I am there.'" Isaiah gives a vivid picture of Jehovah, a vision which came to him during the year of the death of King Uzziah. He saw the Lord on a great white throne, high and lifted up, and His Glory filled all the temple. Jesus erected a pyramid out of the funded insights of all the prophets, scaled its heights and brought God down out of the clouds, and found Him to be an intimate part of the warp and woof of human experience and human struggle.

(From "Concerning Disciplines of the Spirit," in *For The Inward Journey*, p.117)

**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>Worshipping, 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

**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, August 12, 2018**

**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.*

**LIFE EXPERIENCE CREDIT**

Developing curricula for those we now refer to as non-traditional students was a fairly new endeavor early in my professional life, when I was a part of the team that gave birth to the State University of New York at Old Westbury. We were young academic radicals full of creative energy and determined to change the paradigm of higher education. One of the great challenges we faced early on was how to provide the opportunity of college to persons who were at places in their lives where the demands of work and family did not lend itself to pursuing a three- to five-year course of study. As we conducted focus groups and talked with people whom we wanted to serve, one thing became crystal clear: the level of intellect we witnessed in the people with whom we were talking needed to be affirmed in a manner which gave them credit for their life experience. Thus we established a department, for which I was responsible, entitled the office of Life Experience Credit.

It's amazing for me to realize how God has been applying this method of looking at us as human beings since the beginning of time. God realizes in all of us, as he did in Nicodemus (John 3:1-17), that experiential learning and ordinary observation are the best teachers. LIFE EXPERIENCE CREDIT counts big with God as it helps us to BELIEVE.

*(Reprinted from August 9, 2015)*

*– Senior Servant*

**~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~**

August 22	Circle 3	September 12	Circle 6
August 29	Circle 4	September 19	Circle 7
September 5	Circle 5	September 26	Circle 1

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP:** Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 2; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

**Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series** ~ resumption date To Be Determined

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

## *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Prayer Breakfast*

*featuring* Rev. Lisa Hammonds, St. John AME Church, Nashville, TN

Saturday, September 22, 2018 ~ 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**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...*    **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**    **August 13 - 19, 2018**

*1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14*    *Psalms 111*    *Ephesians 5:15-20*    *John 6:51-58*

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>Jay Lane</b>		615-474-4239
<b>Alexis Marks</b>	2303 Barclay Drive; Nashville, TN 37206	615-438-7891
<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)	(\$10,815.28)
July, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$21,500.93	(\$7,349.07)	(\$18,164.35)
August 5, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$22,044.52</u>	<u>\$16,274.52</u>	
August, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$22,044.52	\$16,274.52	
2018 Year to Date	\$178,870.00	\$176,980.17		(\$1,889.83)