



STRETCHING OUR FAITH
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, September 16, 2018
Seventeenth 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:** The Holy Spirit, we were promised, will bring to our remembrance all that Jesus said and did.
- People:** Let us take seriously the faith for which he paid dearly.
- Leader:** When we report others' opinions of him, we are asked for ours;
- People:** Let us take seriously the faith for which he paid dearly.
- Leader:** After we hail him as the Christ, we rebuke him for expecting rejection;
- People:** Let us take seriously the faith for which he paid dearly.
- Leader:** When we gather for worship, we are warned against letting differences divide us;
- People:** Let us take seriously the faith for which he paid dearly.
- Leader:** When we begin to attract the privileged, we are reminded not to neglect the poor;
- People:** Let us take seriously the faith for which he paid dearly.
- Leader:** When we promise to follow him, we are counseled to take up our cross;
- People:** Let us take seriously the faith for which he paid dearly.
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OPENING HYMN

“THE NAME OF JESUS”

1. The name of Jesus is so sweet, I love its music to repeat;
It makes my joys full and complete, the precious name of Jesus.

CHORUS: **“Jesus,” O how sweet the name! “Jesus,” every day the same;
“Jesus,” let all saints proclaim its worthy praise forever.**

2. I love the name of Him whose heart knows all my griefs, and bears a part;
Who bids all anxious fears depart – I love the name of Jesus. CHORUS

3. That name I fondly love to hear, it never fails my heart to cheer;
Its music dries the fallen tear; exalt the name of Jesus. CHORUS

4. No word of man can ever tell how sweet the name I love so well;
Oh, let its praises ever swell, Oh, praise the name of Jesus. 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

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 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 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.

The more hectic the life of the cities, the more greedy and lustful the hearts and minds of people, the more we forget the meaning of the twilights, the radiant and glowing skies and endless landscapes. It is not too late. We and our cities may yet be saved. There is still time to remember that there is twilight, the creative isthmus joining day with night. It is the time of pause when nature changes her guard. It is the lung of time by which the rhythmic respiration of day and night are guaranteed and sustained. All living things would fade and die from too much light or too much darkness, if twilight were not. In the midst of all the madness of the present hour, twilights remain and shall settle down upon the world at the close of the day and usher in the nights in endless succession, despite bombs, rockets, and flying death. This is good to remember... Even though they look down upon the ruin of cities and the fall of man, radiant and glowing skies will still trumpet their glory to the God of Life. Death and destruction cannot permanently obscure their wonder or drown their song. To remember this is to safeguard each day with the margin of strength that invades the soul from the radiant and glowing skies. These declare the glory and the tenderness of God.

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**



STRETCHING OUR FAITH
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Seventeenth 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.

TRANSPARENCY

TRANSPARENCY has become a commonly used point of reference in business and social settings where people are striving to present themselves as being totally open, with nothing to hide. Indeed, we often use this terminology at Metropolitan to express our desire to make sure all of our members and friends have total insight into every aspect of the life of our congregation. This is especially true regarding fiscal matters; we want everybody to know how we handle our money. Meetings are open and financial records are freely shared, as long as personal issues of confidentiality are not compromised. However, in contrast, few of us would want there to be total TRANSPARENCY regarding our innermost thoughts and feelings. When Jesus says to Peter in Mark 8:33b, “you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things,” we get a sense of what it means to experience continual TRANSPARENCY in the presence of an “all-knowing God.” I’m sure all of us would be radically transformed if we were truly mindful of our spiritual TRANSPARENCY.

(Reprinted from September 13, 2009)

– *Senior Servant*

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

September 26	Circle 1	October 17	Circle 4
October 3	Circle 2	October 24	Circle 5
October 10	Circle 3	October 31	Circle 6

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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, September 19, 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 ~ resumption date To Be Determined

3rd Annual Prayer Breakfast

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

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

Registration forms are on the table in the vestibule. Place completed forms in the box.

Ecclesiastical Council Meeting ~ Sunday, September 23rd, following worship

Pink Sunday ~ Sunday, October 28th

Harvest of Blessings ~ Wednesday, October 31st, 5:30 p.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.

BIBLE READINGS

Read... Pray... Sacrifice... **18th Sunday after Pentecost** **September 17 - 23, 2018**

Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

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.
Martha Hill	c/o Bethany Healthcare Center; 421 Ocala Drive; Nashville, TN 37206	
Etoile Jordan	907 Lawrence Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204	615-385-3969
Jay Lane		615-474-4239
Alexis Marks	2303 Barclay Drive; Nashville, TN 37206	615-438-7891
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Anna Nickerson	c/o The Health Center at Richland Place, room 307; 504 Elmington Avenue; Nashville, TN 37205	
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$37,766.18	\$14,686.18	(\$3,478.17)
September 2, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$5,597.00	(\$173.00)	
September 9, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$2,568.00	(\$3,202.00)	
September, 2018	\$11,080.00	\$8,165.00	(\$2,915.00)	
2018 Year to Date	\$207,720.00	\$200,866.83		(\$6,853.17)