

BUCKINGHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Piedmonte, Pastor
Music Director – Gregory Fraser
Guest Organist – Anne Hastings

** Congregation please stand as you feel comfortable*

September 12, 2021

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – We are all aware of the increase in COVID cases in Worcester County and the rapid spread of the Delta Variant across our nation. In light of this and our church's responsibility to the health and safety of all our members and guests, we ask everyone's cooperation with following the guidelines listed in the bulletin insert **for the month of September**. We thank everyone for their cooperation – now and in the days to come as Session continues to discern the best way forward. For now, let us pray every day for the end to this pandemic, and let us remember that we are all a part of God's family – in this together.

SEPTEMBER MISSION MOMENT: Clothing for Nurse Angie's Closet at Buckingham Elementary

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 1)

Leader: Happy are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord;

All: on his law they meditate day and night.

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.

All: Their leaves do not wither; in all that they do, they prosper. Praise be to God!

OPENING PRAYER:

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Gracious God, show us how to love our neighbors as ourselves and teach us to delight in your law so that we will know the way of gratitude and thanksgiving. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (PH #281)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God, from whom our help comes.

All: O God, you have been faithful, yet we have not loved you with our whole hearts. You showed us how to love our fellow human beings, yet we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Turn us back to you, O God, that we may follow your commandments; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved, the Lord is loving, merciful, and just. Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another, that we might walk in peace and love.

All: Thank you God! Amen.

RESPONSE: GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE: Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with all of you. **All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace with each other in community.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Let us pray:

All: O Lord, you are our God. By the power of your Holy Spirit, teach us through your Word to follow after you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Mark 12:28-34

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "Central Command!"

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

*HYMN: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill with Your Love" (PH #367)

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Brief Statement of Faith Section (Section 3)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYERS FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS (Please be seated)

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

(Response – Leader: God, in your mercy; **All: hear our prayer**)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY / DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!" (PH #144)

*BENEDICTION / RESPONSE: : "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, September 12 2021

16th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am	CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Kortright Chapel Kid's Church School
11:00am	TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary

THIS WEEK: September 13-18, 2021

Monday, Sept 13	Share & Care 6:30pm
Tuesday, Sept 14	Men's Breakfast @ Rayne's Reef 8:30am; Session Mtg. 6pm
Wednesday, Sept 15	Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm; High School Youth 5:30-6:30pm
Thursday, Sept 16	Bible Study w/Pastor Mark 6pm; Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
Friday, Sept 17	Pastor hrs. 10am – Noon
Saturday, Sept 18	Drive Up or Delivery Dinner 4-5:30pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tuesday, Sept 21	Trustee Meeting 6:30pm
Sunday, Oct 3	World Communion Sunday (Peace & Global Witness Offering)
Wednesday Oct 6	Deacon Meeting 1:30pm
Fri Nov 5 - 19	Church Secretary on Vacation

- **COVID SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 2021** – (1) Masks are required for everyone when walking throughout the building at any time (2) Masks are required when gathering or working in groups indoors (e.g. kitchen, Bible study, meetings, children's time, office visits, etc.) (3) Masks are optional for outdoor activities (4) **In worship – Masks are highly recommended** for all regardless of vaccination status; however, masks may be removed once seated in worship, as long as social distancing of 6 feet is maintained between individuals and groups. Masks must be worn when singing (5) **It is okay to touch bulletins, Bibles and hymnals**, as long as hand sanitizer is used often (6) We will maintain touchless passing of the peace, offertory, and communion services.
- **THINKIN' ABOUT BECOMING A DEACON?** Have you ever thought about becoming a Deacon or had questions about what this special ministry is all about? If so, our Deacons invite you to join them along with Pastor Mark for informational sessions on **Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1 at 1:30pm**. Sessions will be interactive and conversational. Questions? Contact Carol Neal or Pastor Mark.
- **Saturday, September 18th** – Drive up or Delivery Dinner 4-5:30pm. Chicken Parmesan w/pasta, Veggies, & Dessert. Call or text Cindi Pruitt by 9/16 at 443-880-5502
- **SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES** – Stevenson UMC is organizing a bus trip to Lancaster to attend the stage production of **Queen Esther. Saturday, November 6th**. Cost is \$100.00 per person & includes bus, lunch, & show! Questions, call Jill Gray 410-713-9139 or Kathy Davis 443-346-6761 or Pat Oltman 443-614-2518. Checks to be made out to Stevenson Women and can be mailed to: Stevenson Women 123 N. Main St., Berlin, MD 21811

Stewardship: Sunday, September 5, 2021

Weekly Giving: \$2,205.00;

Deacons: \$157.00; Memorials: \$\$75.00; VBS Support Stevenson \$284.00

Weekly Attendance: 36

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