

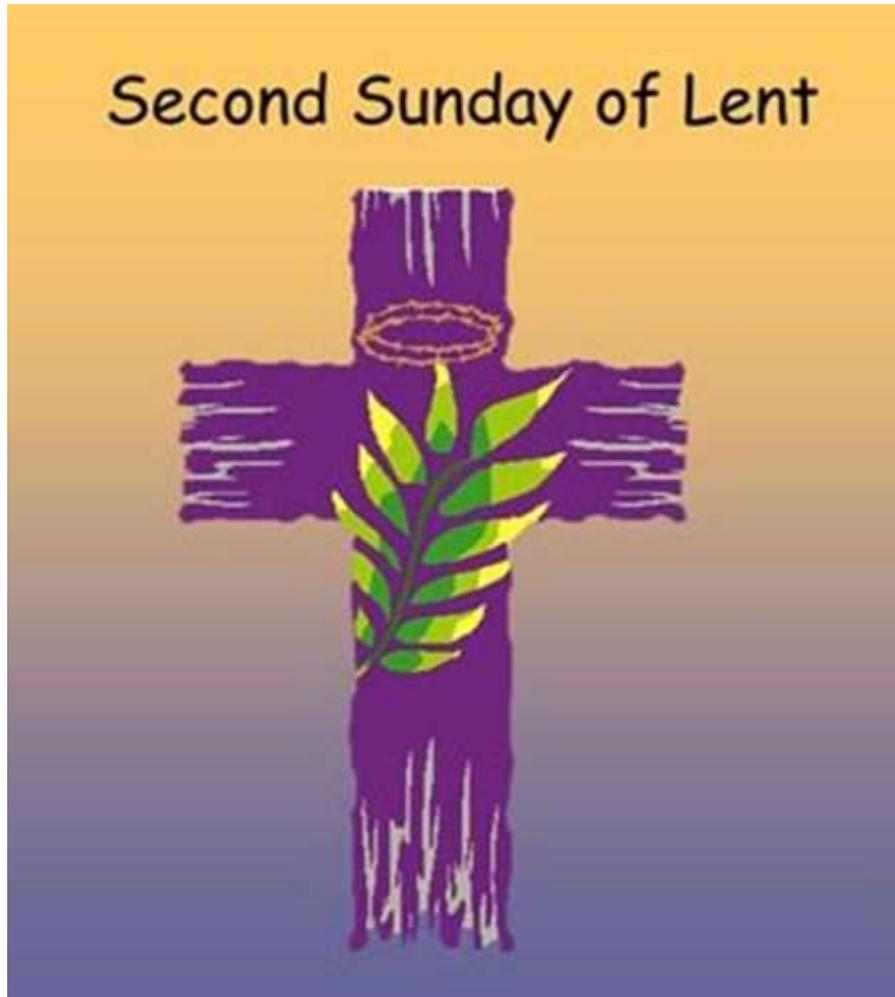
**MARCH 5, 2023**  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

***Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church***

Pastor Russel contact information:

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Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'Ah, Holy Jesus' Hekmut Walcha

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS (PSALM 121)

Look to the mountains and know this truth: God, our help, is stronger, larger, and mightier than the mightiest mountain. God's help is stronger than any trouble this world can throw our way.

CENTERING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Jesus, Remember Me' No. 488 (Sing 3 X)

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Welcome this day to the second step in our Lenten journey.

**People: We come with great hope and expectation as we walk the way of Christ.**

Pastor: Today's journey will demand much of us.

**People: Lord, make us ready to offer ourselves to you.**

Pastor: Come, let us begin again the wondrous excursion.

**People: Let us place our lives in God's abiding love. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the cross. We come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives. We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. Grant us healing and openness to your spirit that we may be better servants of your Word, your Will, and your Way. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

INTROIT 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' No. 140, V. 1

CHILDREN'S MOEMENTS

HYMN 'Jesus Calls Us' Mifflin Avenue Ensemble

### CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: O Lord, open our eyes, our ears, our minds and our hearts;

**People: that we might behold wondrous things out of your word.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"*

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Genesis 12:1-4a

PSALTER

'Psalm 121'

No. 844, Response #2

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: 'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus' No. 349  
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
look full in his wonderful face,  
and the things of earth will grow strangely  
dim in the light of his glory and grace.

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Lord be with you,  
**People: And also with you.**  
Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. John  
**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ John 3:1-17

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

The Gospel of the living Christ.  
**Glory to You, oh Lord**

\*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

**CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION**

SERMON 'Blessed' Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

**CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before our merciful God and beg for God's pardon on this Lenten journey.

GENERAL CONFESSION

**God of blessings, we count ourselves blessed when life is good and goes our way. We confess, O God of abundant blessings, that when life turns difficult, when we face hardships, illness, and death, we feel you have turned your back on us and we cry out like Jesus, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?". Forgive us O Lord for those times when we fail to see the blessings you shower upon us, forgive us the times when we feel you have abandoned us and have grown silent. Forgive us when we feel you no longer love us. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through him. Through the saving love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and blessed!

HYMN OF ASURANCE 'To God Be the Glory' No. 98, V. 1

\*SHARING THE PEACE

God's blessings are all around us, in all the families of the earth. As human beings created in God's own image, we carry that divine blessing in our DNA! Knowing that, turn now to offer one another signs of peace and reconciliation.

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Through this invitation to share our gifts, we acknowledge that God has blessed us abundantly, and that we are to be a blessing to the world. In the very act of giving, in every act of bestowing blessings on another, we find that we are blessed yet again. I encourage you now to enter fully into this amazing cycle of blessing.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY 'If thou but suffer God to guide thee' Helmut Walcha

\*DOXOLOGY Sung to No. 95

**'Praise God through-out these forty days.  
Praise Christ our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen'**

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH THE HOLY EUCHARIST

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: May God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. When our ancestors were slaves in Egypt, strangers in the land, you saw our suffering, heard our cries, and came to deliver us— bringing us out of captivity into a land flowing with milk and honey.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

### SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Tested for forty days in the wilderness, Jesus taught us to seek nourishment in your word, to worship and serve you alone, and to commit our lives to your providence and protection.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Bless, O God, these gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us the presence of your love and grace. Bless all of us gathered here, that we may become your very image, blessed to bless your good earth. Blow through our gathering with the power of your Holy Spirit. Make us one with you, one with each other, and one in ministry to your world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this Holy Communion —oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

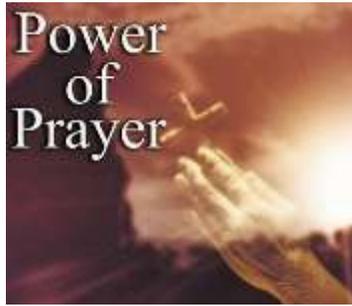
### \*BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, lift up your eyes to the Lord! The One who sent Jesus Christ, as salvation for all the world, will never desert you. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time on, and forevermore. Go now in peace, with God's blessing and go to be a blessing to all you meet.



|                       |                                 |                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| *BENEDICTION RESPONSE | 'Be Still, My Soul'             | No 534, V. 1      |
| *RECESSIONAL HYMN     | 'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross' | No. 301, V. 1     |
| *POSTLUDE             | 'Grave (Sonata I)'              | Felix Mendelssohn |

***WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD***



Seth (Robert Morris's son) - accident  
Donna (Carolyn's friend) - brain tumors  
Wally (Carolyn's friend) - lung cancer  
People of Turkey & Syria  
People of East Palestine, Ohio  
President Carter—in hospice  
Jim White (Ginnie's son) - recovery from rotator cuff surgery  
Steven Akers—health concerns  
Peter Luley (Mifflin organist) - recovery from cataract surgery  
Pastor Janet Hellner-Burris—health concerns  
Janice Melonic (Carolyn's friend) - diagnosed with cancer  
Holly Davis  
Dorothy Hawkins  
Fawn Sherwin – health concerns  
Jim (Mary K's friend) - cancer treatments  
Kristin (Sue's friend) - diagnosed with thyroid cancer  
Liz Swartz (Carolyn's friend) - prayers needed  
Debbie Valera – recouping from surgery  
Barbara Thaw –continued prayers  
Judy Spencer Baker - continued prayers  
Aubrie (Ginnie's granddaughter) – diagnosed with breast cancer  
Irene Chenot (Barbara's friend's mom) - cancer  
Joe (Ginnie & Sue's cousin) - diagnosed with myeloma cancer  
Gary (Ginnie's son) - continued good health  
Pastor Russel W. Shuluga  
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi  
Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian — Pittsburgh District Superintendent  
Prayers that the violence will stop  
Those affected by COVID  
Peacemakers  
People of Ukraine & Afghanistan  
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church  
People who are traveling  
United Methodist Church

# MIFFLIN AVENUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **BIBLE STUDY - Zoom ADAM HAMILTON LUKE**

### **JESUS AND THE OUTSIDERS, OUTCASTS, AND OUTLAWS**

|           |          |            |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| Session 1 | March 1  | Luke 1 & 2 |
| Session 2 | March 8  | Luke 7-10  |
| Session 3 | March 15 | Luke 15-16 |
| Session 4 | March 22 | Luke 17-19 |
| Session 5 | March 29 | Luke 20-24 |

Mifflin Avenue zoom login information:

<https://zoom.us/j/4127312511?pwd=M091MnJ6WjhmbDloTWcxbmFmTFFlQT09>

ID 412 731 2511  
PASSWORD 123456

Use Your Phone (312) 626-6799

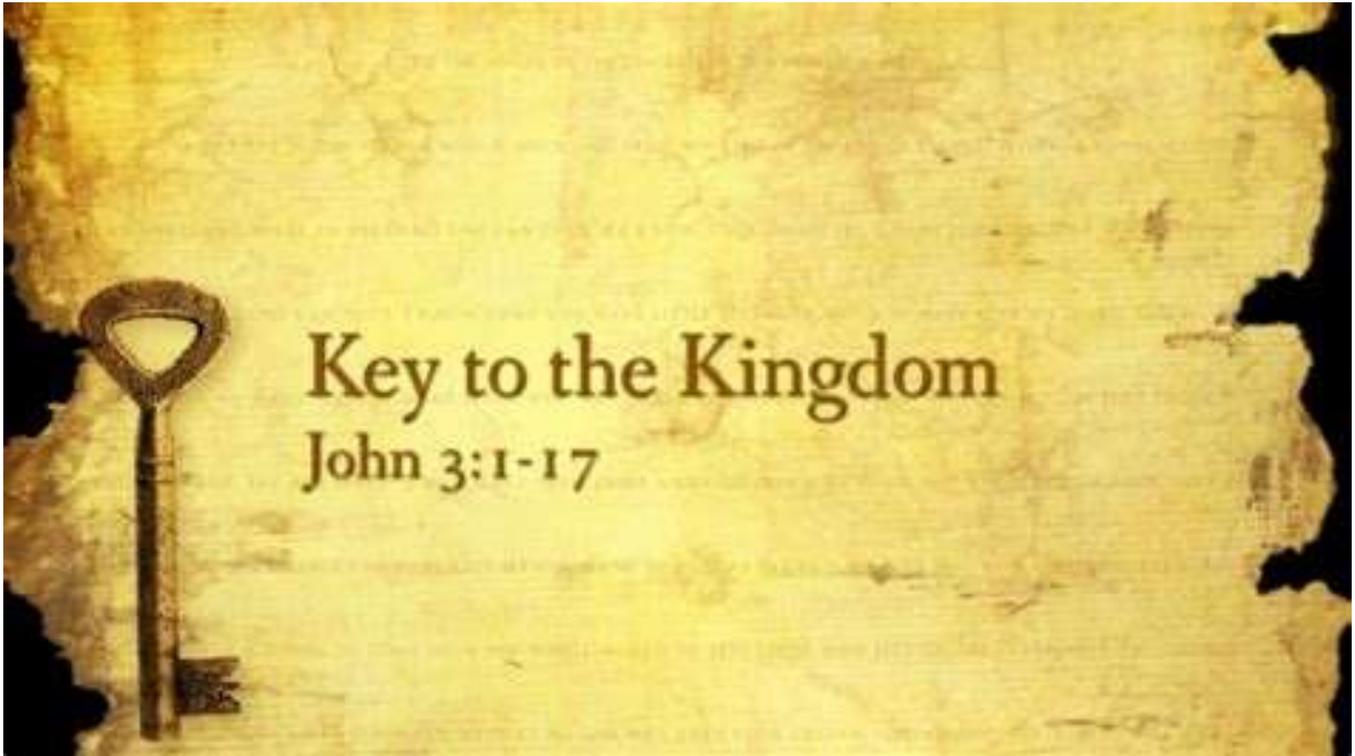
### **UMCOR IN TURKEY AND SYRIA**

We see the devastation and human toll the earthquake has brought to Turkey and Syria. If you are moved to be of help, know that UMCOR, working with their international partners, was on the ground there, immediately rendering aid in the form of tents, blankets, heaters, warm clothes, ready-to-eat meals, and first aid kits. All aid organizations are struggling to keep up as this tragedy unfolds. Know that UMCOR will continue to be there during these difficult times. Donations to this effort can be made through the church or directly online. Please make your check payable to MAUMC and mark UMCOR-Turkey in your check memo line or on your envelope, and they will be properly directed to this cause. Another local connection is Brother's Brother Foundation, headquartered here in Pittsburgh. They provide medical supplies that have been donated by numerous area hospitals to relief efforts around the globe. Shipments are already on their way to the affected areas.

### **UMCOR IN OUR OWN BACKYARD**

We have all seen the reports of the recent chemical disaster unfolding in Ohio and Pennsylvania due to the train derailment. The Mission Barn in New Castle was able to send health kits and cleaning buckets to our friends in need as they weather the effects of what has happened in East Palestine, Ohio, which is a half mile from the Pennsylvania border. When we assemble our kits, we never know how close or far away they will go. We are glad to know we can have a small part in lightening the worries of our neighbors, especially the farmers whose livelihoods are threatened in the wake of this environmental nightmare. Let's keep them in our prayers. If you would like to make a donation, make your check payable to MAUMC and write Mission Barn in memo of your check or on envelope. Please in Sunday/s offering plate or mail to church.

Second Sunday of



**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
**905 Mifflin Avenue**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15221**