**May 21, 2023**

**Ascension Sunday**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

**Rev. Randy M. Brubaker, Pastor**

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[**https://www.youtube.com/@crescentvilleunitedmethodi7688**](https://www.youtube.com/%40crescentvilleunitedmethodi7688)

*Jesus had left the disciples once, when He was crucified dead on the cross. And after a miraculous resurrection, He came back to be with them again. And yet, again, He would leave them to be, once more, with God. But He would not leave them alone. He promised to send “what My Father promised.” All they needed to do was to* ***stay together****. And they did. And because they did, there is reason to rejoice; there is reason to worship. For God’s Spirit came to them as they were “together in one place.” May the same be true for us. – Pastor Randy*

***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***Ascension Sunday***  **May 21, 2023**

**Welcome**

 Chorus of Welcome *“The Family of God”*

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God—I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; for I’m part of the family, the family of God.

 **\*Call to Worship** *Ephesians 1*

 *……This power working in us is the same as the mighty strength which God used when he raised Christ*

 *from death and seated him at his right side in the heavenly world. Christ rules there above all heavenly rulers, authorities, powers, and lords; he has a title superior to all titles of authority in this world and in the next. God put all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the church as supreme Lord over all things.*

 *The church is Christ's body, the completion of him who himself completes all things everywhere.*

 **\*Opening Hymn** *“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”* # 312

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia! To His throne beyond the skies, Alleluia!

Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia! Enters now the highest heaven, Alleluia!

There for Him high triumph waits, Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!

He has conquered death and sin, Alleluia! Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!

Highest heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia! Yet He loves the earth He leaves, Alleluia!

Though returning to His throne, Alleluia! Still He calls the world his own, Alleluia!

See! He lifts His hands above, Alleluia! See! He shows the wounds of love, Alleluia!

Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluia! Blessings on His church below, Alleluia!

 **Opening Prayer**

**God of power and wisdom and might, who seeks always our good:**

**Hear us that, as we know our Savior is seated with You in majesty,**

**so may we also know that He abides with us to the end of the world.**

**This we ask through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Joys & Concerns………………….……..*Gathered Prayer…………………………The Lord’s Prayer***

*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 trespasses and debts as we forgive our debtors and those who trespass**against us. And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Gifts and Offerings

 Offertory *“The Giving Song”*

 **Doxology** *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”* # 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The Offertory Prayer**

**\*Hymn** *“Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus”* [VS. 1, 3-4] # 325

 Hail, Thou once despised Jesus! Hail, Thou Galilean King! Thou didst suffer to release us;
 Thou didst free salvation bring. Hail, Thou universal Savior, who hast borne our sin and shame!
 By Thy merits we find favor; life is given through Thy name.

 Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there forever to abide; all the heavenly hosts adore Thee,
 seated at Thy Father's side. There for sinners Thou art pleading; there Thou dost our place prepare;
 Thou for saints art interceding till in glory they appear.

 Worship, honor, power, and blessing Christ is worthy to receive; loudest praises, without ceasing,
 right it is for us to give. Help, ye bright angelic spirits, bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
 help to sing of Jesus' merits, help to chant Emmanuel's praise!

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Luke 24:44-53*

 Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—

 that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms

 must be fulfilled.” **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. **46**He said to them,

 “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47**and a change

 of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations,

 beginning from Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things. **49**Look, I’m sending to you

 what my Father promised, but you are to ***stay*** in the city until you have been furnished

 with heavenly power.” **50**He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands

 and blessed them. **51**As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.

**52**They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy.

**53**And they were ***continuously*** in the temple ***praising God***.

 **Sermon** *“…Stay…Continuously…Praising God”*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles’ Creed*

 I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

 And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

 the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

 and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

 from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;

 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*****Hymn** *“Jesus Shall Reign”* [VS. 1-3] # 157

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Jesus endless prayer be made, and endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.

**\*Benediction**

***Quiet Meditation, Reflection, and Prayer***

**\*Choral Benediction**  *“Jesus Shall Reign”* [VS. 5] # 157

Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

PENTECOST marks the beginning of the Church.

In honor of this joyous occasion, it is popular tradition to wear red to Church to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit in our community and our unity in Christ. Hopefully, our church will be blazing in red. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Reading the bible helps us recognize false teaching. As we grow in our knowledge of God’s Word, we realize when someone is teaching something that is not true according to Scripture

**May 28, 2023 - Day of Pentecost**

John 7:37-39 - Acts 2:1-21 - Psalm 104:24-34, 35b - 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

**Sunday, June 4th** – Our current confirmation class will be confirmed during worship. We will have a potluck luncheon after worship.

**Sunday, June 25th** – This will be Pastor Randy’s last Sunday as our Pastor. After worship a Retirement Party for Pastor Randy will be held at The Philadelphia Protestant Home. More details to follow later.

**Sunday July 9th – Friday July 14th** - **MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP** “The Go Tour”

 Performances Friday July 14th and Sunday July 16th

**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy, *please call the church and leave a message. (215) 745-7115.*** When we pray for others according to the Word of God, we entrust them to the Spirit who will fight for them. The Spirit is likened to a sword! He is powerful and able to protect, defend, and accomplish anything in God’s will on behalf of those we “keep alert” for.

**Prayer Requests from May 14, 2023**

Marina asks for prayers for safety for her children

Cocoa's eye has recovered well, her foot is in a brace

Diana has an infection in her foot. She is thankful to be a Mother.

Sue Snyder asks for prayers for all children and youth.

Dende is grateful her shoulder is recovering well.

Dende also asks for prayer for children as they are being tramatized by current

 violent events.

Jean Bernard asks for prayers for his family & Haiti

Martha Korto is half way through her radiation treatments, prayers for a

 complete healing from cancer.

Pastor Brendan Van Groger and his wife had a baby this week.

Prayers for safe travel for Pastors Randy & Cindy

Prayers for the United Methodist church and for Annual Conference this week.

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Patsy Coyne Scott Meyer

Sana Aman Rev. Khan Bob Patterson

Eva Baumgartel Martha & Wondor Korto Sylvia Spotts

Zilpha & James Browne Marva Christian Stefanescu

Dorothy Buzzard Kayla Mc Manus Suzzanne Turner

Caroline (Rose Burghaze daughter) Betty Sauerwald & Family

 Pastor Brendan Van Gorder

Prayers for the Ukraine and Russia - for world peace.

Prayers for our city and end to violence .

Prayers for peace and stability in Sierra Leone.

Please praise and pray for our youth – they are the future of our Church!

**WHO’S WHO IN THE PEW – NEW DIRECTORY**

**If you would like to update your photo on the church wall or in the directory, Jim Creevey will be taking pictures after worship**

**during the next few weeks.**

**Our last directory is from 2019. If your contact information**

**has changed, please fill out a new directory information form.**

 **Please see Sue Creevey for a form.**

**SWING ON OVER**

 RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

 TO HONOR AND THANK

PASTOR REV. RANDY BRUBAKER

 FOR HIS YEARS IN MINISTRY.

**Date:** JUNE 25, 2023

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Place:** Philadelphia Protestant Home Social Hall

6401 Martins Mill Road Philadelphia, PA 19111

 MVP

Theme: **BASEBALL**

Plan to have a fun time!

You are invited to wear baseball apparel.

Lunch will be Ball Park foods –

hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.

Tickets $ 15.00

Children under 6 years of age $10.00

 Please contact Sue Snyder 215-771-4442

 to purchase a ticket.

**Hall has a limited number of seats**

**PLEASE PURCHASE TICKET BY JUNE 11TH.**

If you wish to donate towards a monetary gift

for Pastor Randy, you can include your gift when purchasing your ticket or send it separately to Crescentville UMC.

You can also contribute on the day of the party.

Please make any checks for tickets or gift payable

to Crescentville UMC