

- ◆ Please make sure your cell phones are turned off during worship so that you can fast from texting and other distractions. Also, please refrain from bringing food and drink into the sanctuary.
- ◆ We hope there are enough bulletins for everyone who comes to worship, but in case we run out, they are accessible online.

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Pastor Nancy  
**PRELUDE**

*Please use this time for silent meditation to center your hearts for worship.*

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP (READ RESPONSIVELY)**

Family of God, on our journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!  
**Because God is with us, we can love boldly.**  
God is with us, and God joins us with one another as the Body of Christ.  
**Because God draws us together, we can serve joyfully.**  
Through God, we work for the flourishing of self, neighbor, and all creation.  
**Because God holds us together, we can lead courageously.**  
Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!  
**We come to worship God by boldly loving, joyfully serving, and courageously leading, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world.**

\* **OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

**Holy One, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below. We thank You for keeping covenant and steadfast love with all who walk with You. Fill our lives with Your glory. Give us the strength and the power to stand strong and act courageously in our lives and in our world. AMEN.**

\* **OPENING HYMN** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* #127 UMH

**INVITATION TOWARD GIVING AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of Grace, You have entrusted us with the joy of community and the calling of witness. As Jesus prayed that we might be one, we bring these gifts as a sign of our shared commitment to Your mission in the world. Let our giving reflect our love and our generosity, embody Christ's presence among us. Use these offerings to strengthen the church, to bless our neighbors, and to glorify Your name. In Christ, we belong to You. In Christ, You are glorified in us. AMEN.

[If you wish to support Milton United Methodist Church with your tithes and gifts, please mail them to MUMC, 1007 Church Street, Milton, WV 25541. If available, you can also give through your bank. If you wish to make a gift today, there are offering plates at the doors of the sanctuary.]

**OFFERTORY**

**GOD SIGHTINGS AND PRAYER TIME**

**ECCHO:** Over the next few months, we'll try to help ECCHO's efforts to supply breakfast and lunch items for school children who would normally have these meals provided if they were in school. Kids need easy-to-prepare items such as individual servings of mac-n-cheese, pudding, applesauce, granola bars, spaghetti rings. Also popular are peanut butter/crackers or cheese nabs, big boxes of breakfast cereal or individual-size boxes, and Pop-Tarts. You may have other ideas, too. The volunteers will be putting together bags that include items like these for children during the Summer months. Thank you!

**GOING DEEPER:** Consider studying one of the texts for the week—Joshua 1:5–9, Isaiah 58:6–10, Psalm 27:1–3, 14, or Ephesians 6:10–18. What do you think God might be saying to you through the text? What is one thing you could do in the week ahead to embody what it means to lead courageously?

*Prayer:* Giver of courage, we confess that we need Your encouragement to be strong and courageous. Equip us with Your strength, encircle us with Your truth, cover us with Your righteousness, and make us ready to share Your gospel of peace. We want to be people of true faith, trusting You to protect us from all forces against You. Open our hearts and minds and shape our wills to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously as we learn to walk more faithfully in Your presence. AMEN.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:** The next meeting of the support group will be on Monday, May 18, at 1:30 PM, and they continue to meet on the first and third Monday of each month.

**COMFORT MINISTRY:** The Comfort Ministry is providing ECCHO with cloth grocery bags. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19, at 10:30 AM.

**PENTECOST:** We will celebrate the birth of the church with a special service on Sunday, May 24. You are invited to wear red.

**FIFTH SUNDAY BRUNCH:** Everyone is invited to attend the Fifth Sunday Brunch and Worship Service on Sunday, May 31. We will meet in the fellowship hall of Bethesda UMC at 10:00 AM for brunch, followed by special music and a message from Pastor Nancy. Sign up to bring something from the list.

**FREE FRIDAYS:** We will serve a free hot dog lunch every Friday in June. Sign up today to help outside, in the kitchen, or to bring needed items.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The secretary's office hours will be flexible for the time being. We appreciate your patience and encourage you to contact us through the church's email, cell (304-955-8924), the pastor's number, or by leaving a message on the church's landline (304-743-6461).

**Calendar for the Week Beginning May 17**

**TODAY: MOTHER'S DAY**  
Sunday Worship ..... 11:00 AM

**MONDAY**  
Grief Support Group ..... 1:30 PM

**TUESDAY**  
Comfort Ministry ..... 10:30 AM  
Exercise Class ..... 7:00 PM

**THURSDAY: DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER**  
T.O.P.S. .... 4:00—5:00 PM  
Exercise Class ..... 7:00 PM

**NEXT SUNDAY: PENTECOST**  
Sunday Worship ..... 11:00 AM

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Fifth Sunday Brunch and Worship at Bethesda UMC, May 31  
Free Fridays Every Friday in June

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK**  
Sunday Worship ..... 42

*Please check the prayer concerns, and let us know of those who need to be added or removed.*

**CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS**  
*Recently added names are in Italics.*

Our elected officials; Sunday school (children, youth, & teachers); military personnel; churches & ministers; missionaries; Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett; DS Lauren Godwin; Pastor Nancy White; 130<sup>th</sup> Unit of WV Air Nat'l Guard; and

Alex S.	Chris W.	Neal M.
Alice	Daniel R.	Patrick
Allison	David R.	Paul B.
<i>Arthur T.</i>	Debbie R.	Paul G.
Avery	Diane B.	Rose
Barbara	Emory H.	Sandy B.
Becky C.	Jenny B.	Stephanie J.
Ben H.	<i>Joan G.</i>	Steven L.
Betty S.	John B.	Terry B.
Bill Q.	John M.	Terry P.
Brenda H.	Lisa H.	Tim C.
Brenda T.	Lorin A.	Tim S.
Carol W.	Mary M.	Tina B.
Cathy W.	Mike B.	Trey B.
Charlene	Mike H.	Wanda S.
Cheryl	Nancy L.	

