

September 30, 2018

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 a.m.

**Centering Words**

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear,  
but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who  
does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

*Nelson Mandela*

† Identifies time to stand, as you are able.

PRELUDE

*Prelude for Organ*

James Pethel  
Jennifer Yang

† INTROIT

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*  
*I'm gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!*  
*I'm gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*Sarah A Michal*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome to this house of the Lord.

**People: We thank you for this kind greeting.**

Leader: This is a place of challenge, hope, and courage.

**People: Our hearts and spirits are in need of God's strength.**

Leader: Here you will be nurtured and strengthened.

**People: Praise be to God, who offers to us such a place of growth. Amen.**

*Rev. Dr. Brandon Cho*

† OPENING HYMN

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

No. 57

† OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

*Matt Zeller*

**Lord of mercy and compassion, be with us this day as we hear of the courage of Queen Esther. Remind us that we are also in need of courage, and that we are called to bring the same hope and courage to others. Prepare us for service in His name. Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION (in unison)

*Dr. Cho*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, who freely pardons all who repent and turn to Him, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace. Forgive all our sins, and cleanse us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: With overflowing grace, Christ Jesus came to save us. With steadfast love, our Good Shepherd leads us into eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*Fear Not*  
Chancel Choir

Carl J. Nygard, Jr.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Jack Tironi*

A TIME OF COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

*Dr. Cho*

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Dr. Cho*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

† HYMN

*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

No. 349

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

*Matt Zeller*

**Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 8:1-18

*Matt Zeller*

That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate.

**Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews. Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.**

"If it pleases the king," she said, "and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces. For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?"

**King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have impaled him on the pole he set up.** Now write another decree in the king's name on behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring—for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked."

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; **I will remember your wonders of old.** I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds. **Your way, O Lord, is holy.** What god is so great as our God? You are the God who works wonders; **you have displayed your might among the peoples.**

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**"Miracles Everywhere: Courage"**

*Jack Scharf*

† PASSING THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pass the Friendship Pad
- Festival on the Green—Please visit our booth today.
- Close the Gap Campaign

*Jack Scharf*

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Jack Scharf

*With hearts filled with singing, let us bring forth our gifts and offer our lives to Christ, that God might work miracles of hope through our giving and our living.*

OFFERTORY

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

arr. Robert Powell

† DOXOLOGY

No. 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!*

† DEDICATION OF OFFERING (in unison)

Jack Scharf

**God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world. Amen.**

† CLOSING HYMN

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

Insert

† BENEDICTION

*Dr. Cho*

† POSTLUDE

*Flourish*

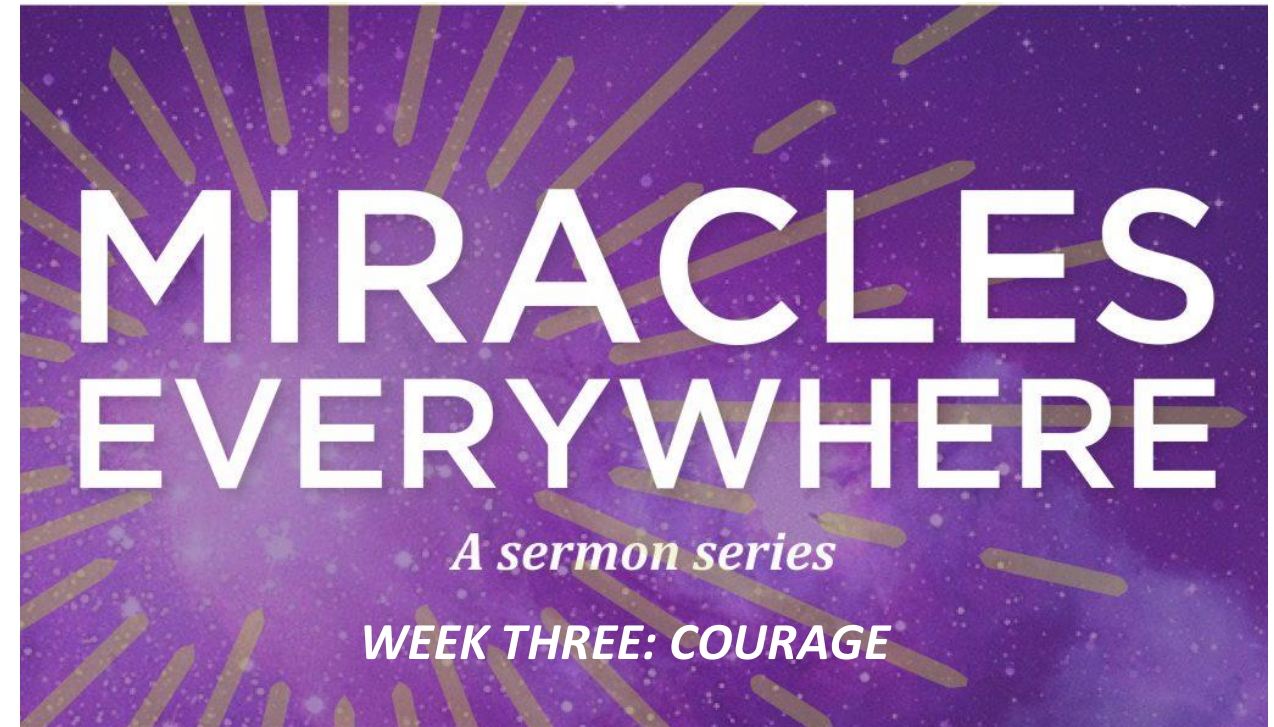
Dale G. Rider

Please feel free to sit and enjoy the postlude or leave the sanctuary to greet the pastor and other church friends at the door. All are welcome to join for a time of fellowship over refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

# WORSHIP CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

10:15 A.M.



### MUMC Church Staff

Senior Pastor . . . . . Rev. Dr. Brandon Cho  
 Associate Pastor . . . . . Pastor Charles Perez  
 Certified Lay Minister/Administrative Director . . . . . Jack Scharf  
 Manager, Finance . . . . . Mike Laba  
 Director of Music Ministries . . . . . Sarah A Michal  
 Youth Ministry Coordinators . . . . . Maria & Vince Cattano  
 Organist . . . . . Jennifer Yang  
 Administrative Assistant/Spire Editor . . . . . Mona L. Lindemann  
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**The United Methodist Church of Morristown**  
**Christ Centered † Spirit Led**

*The mission of our church is to engage all people in knowing, loving,  
and serving God to transform lives, communities, and the world.*