

A guide to Assembly summer worship 2017



WHEN: 9:30-11 am, June 11 to Aug 6

- Sunday school dismissal at approximately 10:15 am
- No Sunday school classes on July 2 (outdoor service) and Aug 6

THEME: Rooted in Love

Through the centuries, the Church has found an anchor in beloved texts of courage, comfort and challenge. During summer worship, we will hear stories of how these “heart texts” have served as roots, in both good times and bad.

The community of faith, when it gathers to worship and pray, also serves as a place to draw strength and sustenance, especially in times of feeling adrift in transition, busyness, or uncertainty. Just as deep roots help a tree to grow and weather storms, the Church serves as a foundation – a place to meet God, to connect with each other, and to be sent into the world.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- Instrumental music and other space for reflection each week
- Encouragement to memorize heart texts
- Children’s worship bulletins
- A designated container to receive Milk and Honey offerings from children
- Summer is the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, so watch for ways “the church is dressed in green” (language from Children and Worship curriculum).

WHY ENCOURAGE MEMORIZATION IN THE AGE OF GOOGLE?

“The best argument for verse memorization may be that it provides us with knowledge of a qualitatively and physiologically different variety: you take the [text] inside you, into your brain chemistry if not your blood, and you know it at a deeper, bodily level than if you simply read it off a screen.”

-Brad Leithauser in “Why We Should Memorize” *The New Yorker*, Jan. 25, 2013

IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

- Memorize (or re-learn) a scripture passage together. Find creative ways to speak, sing, chant, rap, draw, knit, act, or dance it together. YouTube is a source for fun ideas.
- Sing heart songs together before dinner or bedtime.

IDEAS FOR SMALL GROUPS

- Share a heart text and the story of a time when it helped to tether you.
- Discuss how faith – as experienced through text, image, song, or community – has served as connection or stability for you.
- Debate the merits of Bible verse memorization.
- Choose a heart song for the group to sing each time you meet over the summer.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO DIG DEEPER

- The lectionary texts for the summer (Year A, Season After Pentecost or Ordinary Time) can be found at a variety of websites such as <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>
- To find the reference and translation of that snippet of text you can mostly remember check an online concordance such as <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- To recite a heart text on a Sunday morning, contact office@assemblymennonite.org
- To teach a week of summer Sunday school, contact office@assemblymennonite.org

MEMORIZATION IDEAS from the summer lectionary texts

- **Psalm 8:** "O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!..." (June 11)
- **Romans 5:5:** "And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (June 18)
- **Psalm 86:5-7:** "For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you..." (June 25)
- **Psalm 13:** "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?..." (July 2)
- **Matthew 11:28-30:** "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest..." (July 9)
- **Psalm 119:105:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (July 16)
- **Romans 8:1-2:** "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death." (July 16)
- **Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24:** "O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away..." (July 23)
- **Romans 8:26-39:** "... I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (July 30)
- **Psalm 17:6-7:** I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand." (Aug 6)