



MCC

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF THE BLUE RIDGE

Celebration of Worship 11:00 am April 8, 2018

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

~Albert Einstein

Fall seven times; stand up eight.

~Japanese proverb

It always seems impossible until it's done.

~Nelson Mandela

Welcome to Worship!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Pastoral Search Update

*Mighty to Save
Made New
Sometimes By Step*

Prayers of the People

Offering our Gifts to God

Cornerstone – MCCBR Choir

Offering Response

Pentecost Doxology

Responsive Reading

Adapted from/inspired by "Rise Up" by CM Batie/J. Decilveo

Lord, sometimes the road is long; sometimes the way is tougher than we can bear. Sometimes we're broken down and tired, feeling like we're on a merry-go-round.

Sometimes we just cannot move forward, cannot move at all.

Lord, sometimes we just can't block the arrows and slings of this world anymore. Sometimes, the fighter in us throws in the towel, and we're left feeling exhausted and alone.

Sometimes we can't lift ourselves up.

Lord, sometimes we lose the desire to keep going. But we know You're still there, in the midst of the wilderness, lifting us up and holding us with Your steady hand.

Lord, gently remind us You are here and through You all things are possible.

Lord, sometimes it feels like mountains are all around us, and the wilderness overwhelms us.

Lord, in You we are more than conquerors.

Help us, Almighty Lord, to remember we are strong in You, and that we can move mountains through Your strength.

Lord, we are conquerors. Help us rise up!

Lord, when we feel like we've been knocked down.

Help us rise up!

When the waves crash down and we feel like we can't breathe

Help us rise up!

A thousand times, over and over again, give us strength to get up, to keep going.

Help us rise up!

Loving Lord, You are our hope, You are the One who has called us to come together when times are more difficult than we can bear, when the darkness overcomes, and the road seems too long.

Help us Lord to rise up together! Help us keep going together!

Through You, Lord, we will rise! We will keep going! We will rise up!

A Reading from Luke 2:41-52 & Mark 1:9-13 (*The Message*)

Keep Going

Guest Speaker Kelly Bryant

Celebrating God's Welcome Table

Come to the Table of Grace

Circle of Blessing

As We Go

Coming Up

There is a meeting TODAY after service for those interested in volunteering to help with MCCBR's presence at Pride in the Park.

Deacon Info & Training Session is April 22.

+ + + +

Attendance last service: 49

Financial Update

2018 Ministry Budget: \$87,125.00

Needed per week to meet budget: \$1,675.48

Needed per month to meet budget: \$7,260.42

Giving to support the ministry of our church helps us to honor our commitment in our local community and around the world. You can also give via debit or credit card in our Welcome Center prior to and following worship.

Date	Offering	+/- Budget
April 1	\$897.50	-\$777.98
April 8		
April 15		
April 22		
April 29		

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, founded on October 8, 1968. MCC of the Blue Ridge was founded on December 4, 1986. Together, with over 200 Metropolitan Community Churches around the world, we share these core values:

Inclusion - Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We want to continue to be conduits of faith where everyone is included in the family of God, and where all parts of our being are welcome at God's table.

Community - Offering a safe and open community for people to worship, learn and grow in their faith is our deep desire. We are committed to equipping ourselves and each other to do the work that God has called us to do in the world.

Spiritual Transformation - Providing a message of liberation from the oppressive religious environment of our day or to those experiencing God for the first time is what guides our ministry. We believe that when people are invited to experience God through the life and ministry of Christ, lives will be transformed.

Social Action - Working to talk less and do more, we are committed to resisting the structures that oppress people and standing with those who suffer under the weight of oppressive systems, being guided always by our commitment to Global Human Rights.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Blue Ridge

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