
TAKEOUT WORSHIP



STATIONS OF WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024



Takeout Worship

Sunday, September 1, 2024

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Welcome to the Millbrook Cafe!

Ours is "an experiment in faith," and today, we'll participate in a new worship experiment! We have created eight station-centered worship experiences where congregants can participate in meditative and prayerful activities at their own pace. For those who arrive during the eleven o'clock hour, we will have a brief time of welcome and community prayer. For those "on the go," takeout boxes will be provided for home worship. Doughnuts, coffee, and café tables will be available for those who wish to visit. Pop in for a few minutes, or come and stay for a while! Materials are also available in Sunday's worship reminder email, as well on our website.



Menu



Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Announcements

Reflective Song

Community Prayer

Stations of Worship



Stations of Worship

Kaleidoscope

Worship Windows

Labyrinth

Play-Doh

Prayer Chain

Prayer Story

Planted Prayer

High Five

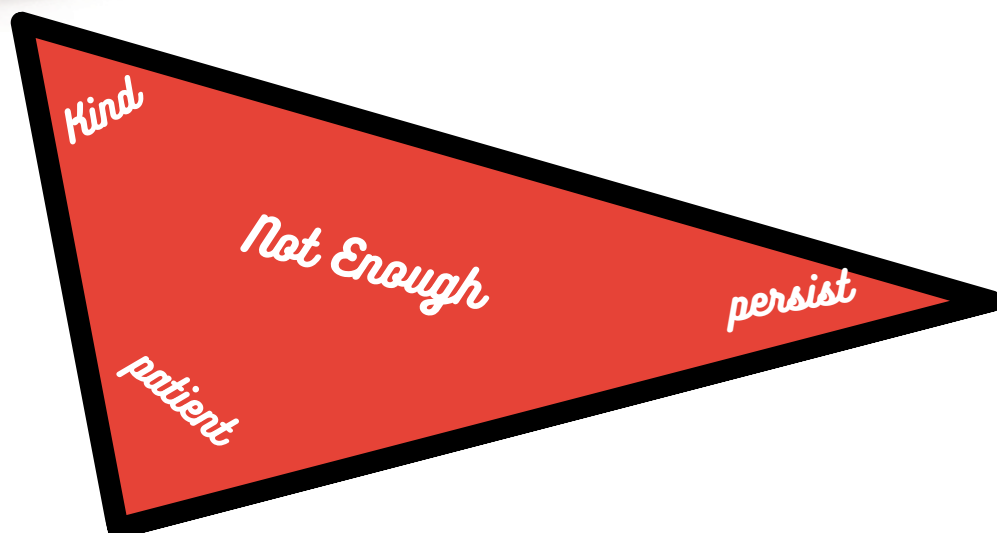
Kaleidoscope

James Webb Young is considered a parent of modern advertising. In his book, *A Technique for Producing Ideas*, he asserts that while information/data about any subject is finite, the patterns of arranging information/data are infinite. Therefore, creating a good idea is rooted in organizing information. He points to the kaleidoscope as a primary example. A finite number of gems or pieces of broken glass, when held in light, can be turned in various ways to generate infinite patterns; patterns that often inspire the world's most creative architectural designs.

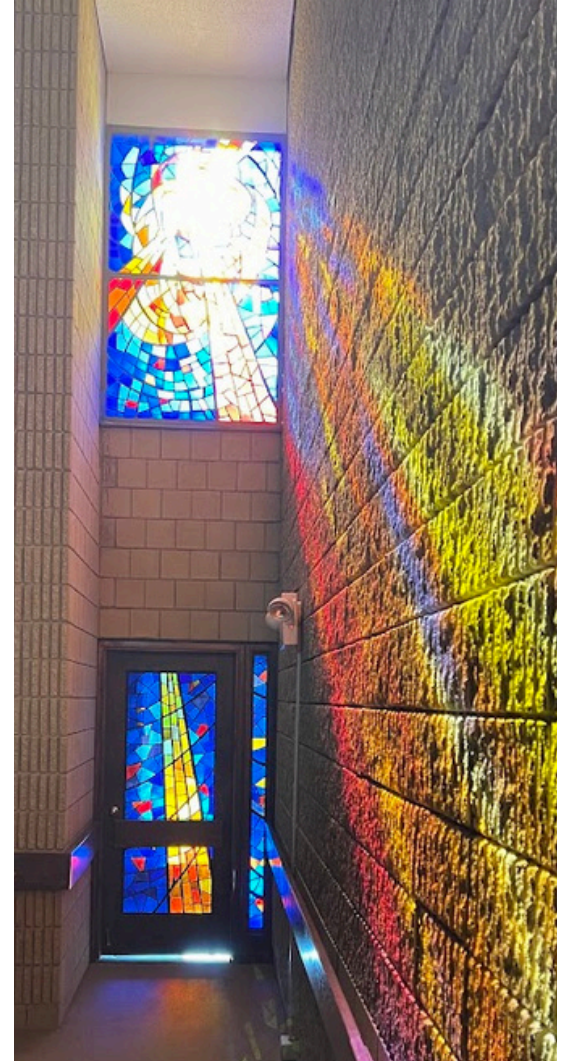
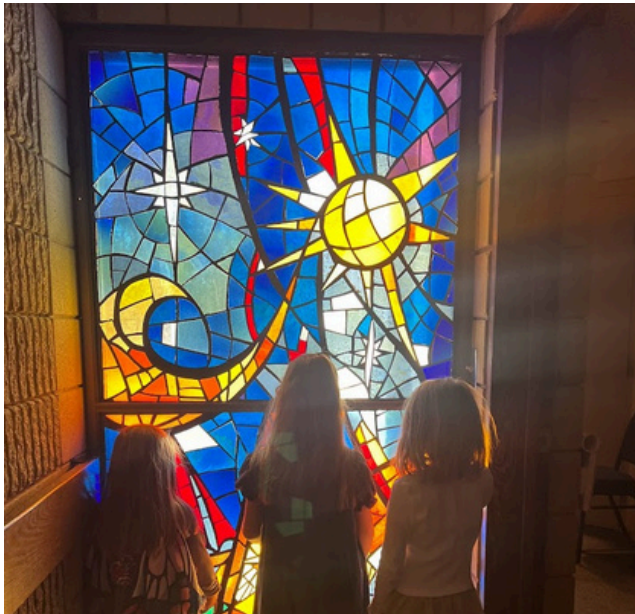
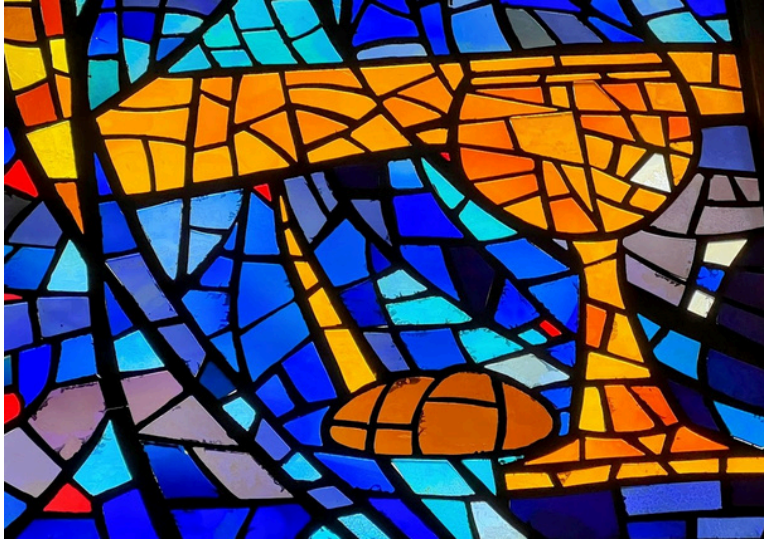
Take a minute, and explore the patterns of a kaleidoscope.

Now think about our world. We tend to believe our resources, indeed our very lives, are finite. Maybe so. But our possibilities are infinite. God has a way of holding all the components of creation in light, and turning them (even the ones with jagged edges!) in ways that bring out their uniqueness. We have enough of the "divine resources" within us. Sometimes, we just need to explore new patterns in the warmth and light of God's love.

Take a shard of paper. In the center, in big letters, write a concern, anxiety, or issue. It can be personal or corporate. In the corners of the shard, in small letters, write down some enduring qualities about yourself, or about a particular community, or even humanity in general. Now hold your shard in the light. And slowly turn it this way and that. How might God turn us in the just the right way for our gifts and gladness to meet the world's need?



Worship Windows



Psalm 100 is a song of thanksgiving for God's marvelous creation. Our "Worship" or stained-glass windows are also a psalm -- in their own way, they tell the story of God's ongoing investment in creation, and they reveal the ever-changing and unfolding seasons of God's presence. Read the verses of this psalm, and gaze for a while at the stories our windows tell this morning. What do you see in God's creation? What are you thankful for?

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into Their presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

They made us, and we are Theirs;
we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter Their gates with thanksgiving,
and Their courts with praise.

Give thanks to Them, bless Their name.

For the Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness to all generations.



Labyrinth

Consider engaging our labyrinth in three ways: 1) Walk the circuit outside 2) use your fingers to trace the pattern or 3) use colored pencils to create your own labyrinth scape.

As you enter this sacred space, consider a burden of any size: small, big, or in between. As you make your way to the center, give thought to how this burden is preventing a sense of wholeness or healing in your life. What makes this burden heavier than it should be? How is this burden distracting you from what's most important?

As you reach the center, ask God for help in how you might lighten this burden.

As you make your way out, take deep breaths and long steps. What can you leave in the center? What new strength might you find in the world? How is God aiding this journey?





MILLBROOK
BAPTIST CHURCH



Play-Doh

God made everybody and everything. With love. With intentionality. With care. With joy. And what a world it is!!!

Take a jar of Play-Doh. Make sure it's a color you like. Think of something with at least a small amount of detail you might want to create: a hand, a star, a hat, a smile, a face, a flamingo, a steeple, etc.

Feel the Play-Doh in your hands. Make a mess. It's okay! Concentrate on your creation. Give it a name. Imagine what it might say to you, or what kind of hobbies it will pursue. What's its personality type? Is it funny? Stoic? Playful? A-Doh-able?

As you finish your creation, consider the clay. You've formed something, animated something, changed something in an intimate way. Guess what? That's exactly how God has formed us! We are fearfully and wonderfully made. What might it mean to pursue conversations with a Creator who longs to be in dialogue with us? What might it mean to open ourselves to the reality of a God who delights in us?

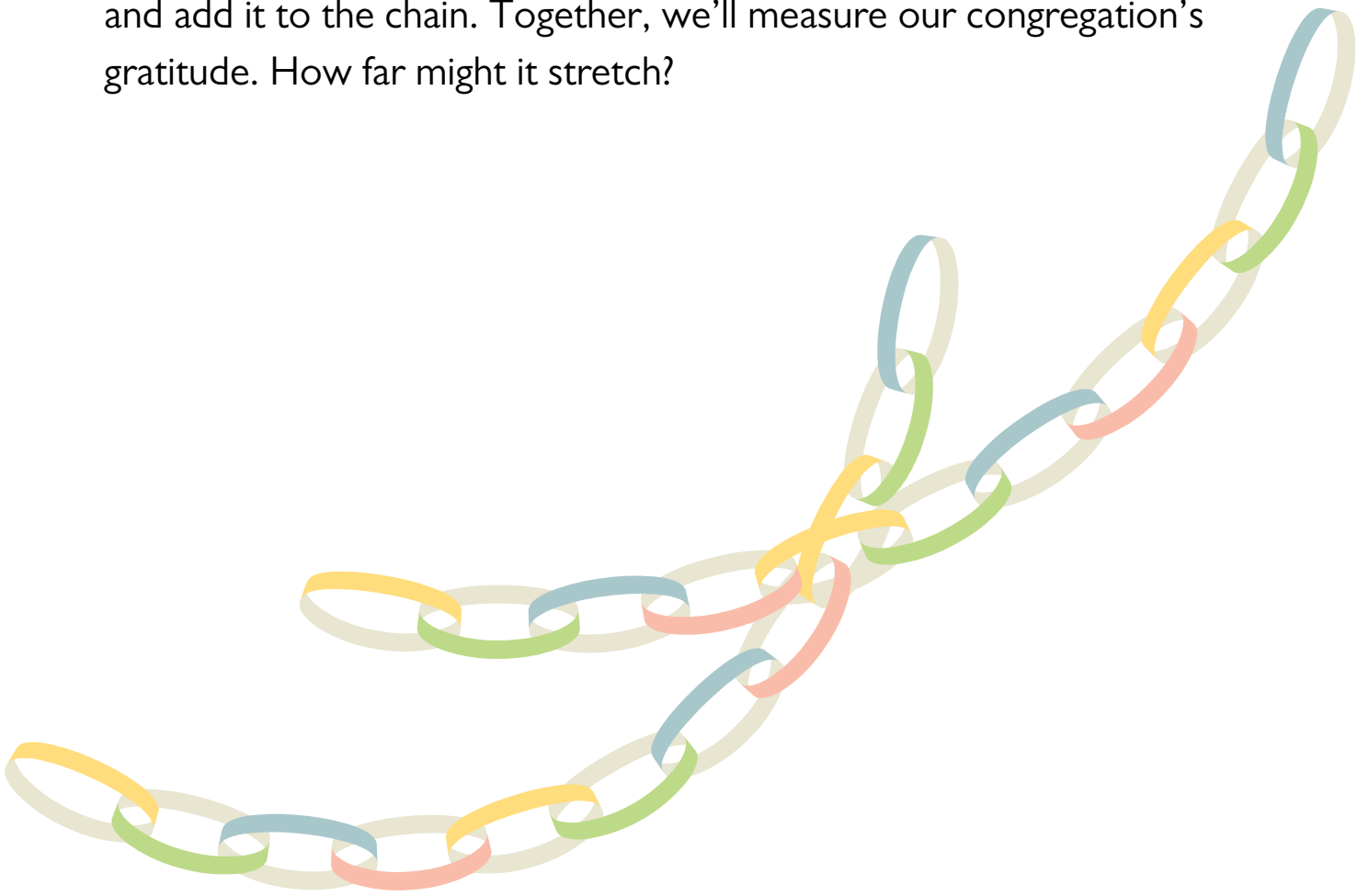


Prayer Chain

Sometimes, we get discouraged by lengthy prayers. It's hard to stay focused. But what if we thought of a different kind of lengthy prayer? What about a prayer of lengths?

Think about one thing that gives you a sense of gratitude? Is there a person, or a place, or a thing that makes your day better? Is there something that makes you happy? Is there something that makes you feel safe? Is there something that gives you a sense of purpose?

Take length of paper. Write out your gratitude. Staple it into a link and add it to the chain. Together, we'll measure our congregation's gratitude. How far might it stretch?



Prayer Story

You've probably heard the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm read aloud hundreds of times. And odds are, you've spoken it aloud, too.

How many times have you slowed down and listened line by line? Is there a particular word or phrase that gives you comfort? Strength? Pause? Challenge?

Read one or both of the attached texts. Consider drawing your own storyboard (4 frames) of the prayer or psalm.

Do you imagine or experience God's presence anew?



Faith
Hope
Love

Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed
be thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Planted Prayer

When we plant a seed, we commit to cultivation and collaboration. We tend the soil; we add water; we pay attention in seasons of change; we hope to participate in growth.

Can we do the same with prayer? Can we imagine the fruit we seek, and work to till it in the coming season?

Use the paper globe to write out your prayer. It only needs to be a simple thought, no more than a phrase or sentence. Once you've got your prayer, repeat it to yourself 10 times so you won't forget it.

Your paper is seeded paper.

If you are participating at Millbrook:

Place the paper globe in the bowl on the table. We'll soak the papers overnight. In the morning, we'll tear them into smaller pieces, and plant them under a thin layer of soil. In a few weeks (or maybe longer!), we'll have a living and communal prayer.

If you are participating at home:

Soak your paper overnight. Tear into smaller pieces. Plant them under a thin layer of soil. Water gently and regularly until seeds sprout.

High Five

Did you know our hands are a perfect source of inspiration for prayer? Consider tracing your hand or use the template below.

1. Thumb -- It's the closest digit. Offer a prayer for the needs of those people closest to you.
2. Index Finger -- This is the one we point with. Offer a prayer for those sources that lead your life in constructive ways: teachers, healthcare providers, mentors, friends, etc.
3. Middle Finger -- Let's be honest...sometimes we use this finger in an unkind way! Pray for someone or something that agitates you. How might your openness and forgiveness be a vehicle for transformation, and theirs for you?
4. Ring finger -- This one's hard to move! You might say it's our weakest finger for strength and dexterity. Offer a prayer for something that is making you feel weak or anxious.
5. Pinky Finger -- It's on the end. It's tiny. Sometimes it feels a little isolated. Pray for those neighbors who are marginalized because of things like size and positioning.
6. Palm -- That's the thing that holds it all together. Write your name -- big letters work just fine! Give thanks for those people, sources, feelings, and things that hold your life together.





Stilleman Girls

Deacons

Careless Drivers

Enough?

**Neighbors
experiencing
Homelessness**

Bob

