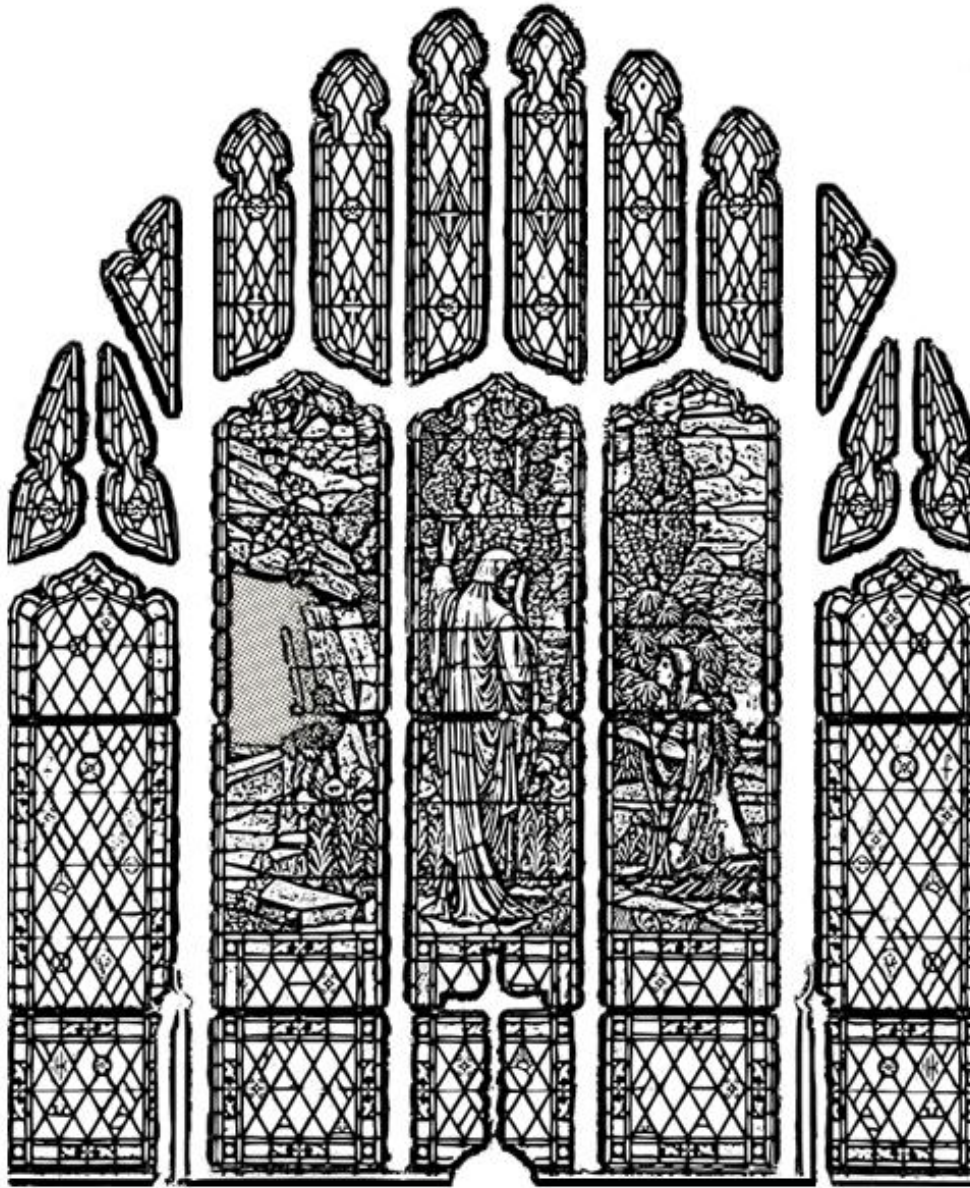


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, February 8, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

3319 WEST LIBERTY AVENUE ... PITTSBURGH, PA 15216 ... 412-531-7131

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ... tstrandburg@mlumc.org



Sunday, February 8, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Olympic athletes represent more than themselves. They represent their flag, culture and values. The light of the Olympic flame illuminating the opening ceremony captures that symbolism. Jesus tells his disciples they are the “light of the world,” and our identity and purpose as Christians calls us to shine that light everywhere we can, for as long as we can.

**Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

Ceremonial Exercises led by Scouts (10:45)

The Prelude

*Opus 101:4 Andante by Charles V.
Stanford*

As the prelude begins, all are humbly asked to conclude any conversation and make use of this moment of quietude to prepare your hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God.

The Introit (10:45)

All rise, in body or spirit, at the sound of the chimes.

***Opening Hymn “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206**

*** The Greeting & Call to Worship**

✠ The Lord be with you.

✠ And also with you.

✠ Christ is calling, inviting, urging and wooing: Come and follow me!

✠ Let us set aside our worry and fear, our busyness and competing agendas to respond to Christ’s call.

✠ Christ offers us the opportunity to walk with him, to come to know his heart more deeply day by day.

✠ Nothing is more precious than opening our hearts to God, who fills us with love.

✠ Christ grants us the privilege of working alongside him in our Father’s business.

✠ There is no higher call and no greater joy than making a difference in the kingdom of God.

✠ Come, let us worship the One who calls us to follow!

✠ We worship in joy, in gratitude, in praise: Jesus Christ is Lord of all!

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

O God, your will is that all your children should grow into fullness of life.

We lift to you the ministry of scouting.

We offer you thanks for camping,

**to teach us that the world is our great home;
for study and work, to build character;
for service, to see our responsibility to those in need;
for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith.
Bless the work of scouting, in this place and around the world,
that, through its efforts, the young may, like our Lord,
increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with you and all people. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"Lead Me Lord"

UMH 473

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

The young disciples (school-age children) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise. Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service. Nursery is available for younger children; please see an usher for directions.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Is. 58:1-9A

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"O Word of God Incarnate"

UMH 598

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Mt. 5:13-20

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

**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.**

The Sermon

"Lit for the Long Run"

Rev. Strandburg

***The Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 882

All are invited to stand, in spirit or in posture, and to face the altar as the affirmation of faith is recited.

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***The Sign of Peace**

℣. The peace of Christ be with you.

℟. And also with you.

*The people are now invited to share signs of peace with their fellow members of Christ's body.
Extended conversation would ideally and most appropriately be reserved until the end of the service.*

Scouting Recognition & Troop Charter Presentation (10:45)

Mission & Outreach Moment

At the Offertory

The Anthem (10:45 am)

Charlotte Houghton

Nocturno for Horn/Piano
opus 7 by Franz Strauss

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn**

"Pass It On"

UMH 572

***The Dismissal**

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

***The Benediction & Recessional**

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

The Postlude

*Opus 101:2 Allegro by Charles V.
Stanford*

Ceremonial Exercises led by Scouts (10:45)

Prayer Concerns

David Barber, son of Gloria Barber, who is suffering from cancer, that he might have peace and relief from pain.

Gary Henry, undergoing cancer treatment.

The Rev'd **Deborah Ackley-Killian**, undergoing cancer treatment.

Norma Buhrman, enduring serious illness.

For those serving their country or community as first responders or in the armed forces, especially:

SPC Russell Dale - CPT Shaun Hay - LTC Azizi Wesmiller - LTC Matthew Wesmiller

2LT Keith Cable - LTC Zachary Allen Finch - CPL Wyatt Hoover

We pray for victims of violence in our nation and around the world.

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Iraq.***

(Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).

Please remember the special concerns of those in our community and throughout our world in your personal prayer life throughout the week. If you wish to solicit prayers from the congregation for any matter (health, travel, special concerns, etc.), please contact the church office to have your concern added to the prayer list.

Leaders in Worship this Morning

SAMANTHA BAKER AND AGNES ALEXANDER, ACOLYTES

BRIAN KAPPELER CROSS BEARER

LIZ DIPETRO (8:30AM) LECTOR

JOSHUA MATTHEW AND JASON HUGHES, TROOP 23 CHAPLAIN'S AIDES

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DR. GRETCHEN FRANZ, ORGANIST

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Chuck Hutchinson and Edee Hutchinson
in memory of*

*F. Robert Hutchinson,
our father who would have celebrated his 100th birthday on
January 28th.*

If you would like to furnish our altars with flowers in memory or celebration; you can use the QR Code or call the church office at 412-531-7131.



Chancel Flower Order Form