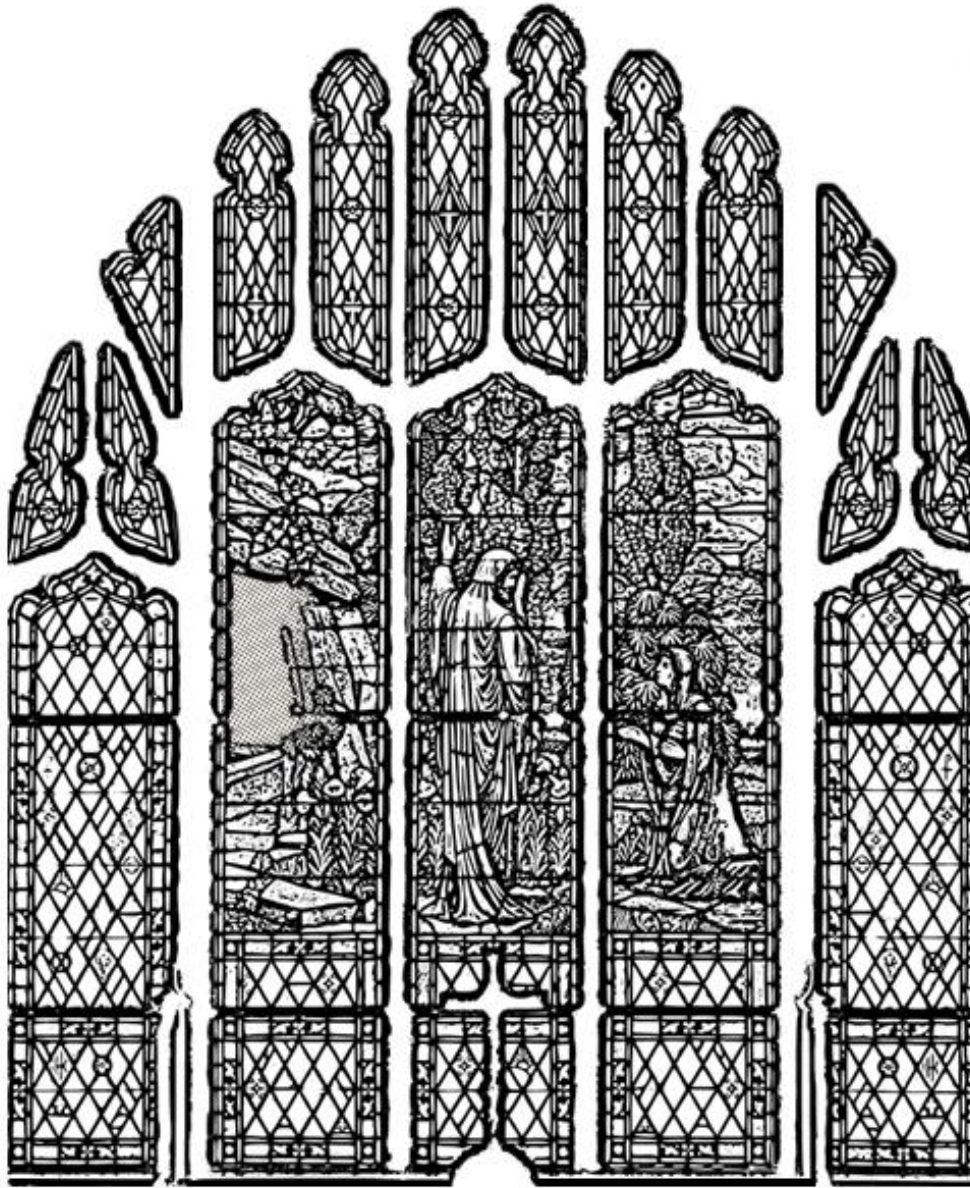


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, April 26, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

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

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



Sunday, April 26, 2026 – Easter IV – Good Shepherd Sunday

There are many shepherds "out there." Who do we follow? What do we follow? Some we can recognize as fake and hollow immediately. But others are more convincing. And we can be tempted by them. But there is only one true Shepherd.

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

The Prelude

*"Sheep may safely graze" ("Schafe können sicher weiden")
from BWV 208*

J.S. Bach,
arr. P. Gouin

As the prelude begins, all are humbly yet fervently implored 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)

SAMANTHRA

No. 146 from
The Shenandoah Harmony

*His voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet is heard through the shadows of death;
The cedars of Lebanon bow at his feet, the air is perfumed with his breath.
His lips as the fountain of righteousness flow that waters the garden of grace;
From which their salvation the Gentiles shall know and bask in the smiles of his face.*

*O! thou in whose presence my soul takes delight, on whom, in affliction, I call;
My comfort by day, and my song in the night, my hope, my salvation, my all—
Where dost thou at noontide resort with thy sheep, to feed on the pastures of love?
Say why in the valley of death should I weep, or alone in the wilderness rove?*

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

*Opening Hymn

"The King of Love my shepherd is" (vv.1-4)

UMH 138

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel,
the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

℞ **We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

∞ We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's
voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

℞ **We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

∞ We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice
to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

℞ We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

℣ Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

℞ We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.

When we face darkness and death, journey beside us.

When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.

When we are fearful, feed us at your table.

May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.

Amen.

***Silent Prayer & Response "The King of Love my shepherd is" (vv.5,6)**

UMH 138

Reception of New Members (10:45 am)

UMH 47

*Devon & Katie Babcock; Bill & Ellen Carpenter;
Kirby Dilworth; Chris & Shana Slaybaugh*

℣. Members of the household of God, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

℞. We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. Amen.

℣. The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

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 Ezekiel

EZEK. 34:11-16

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

"Savior, like a shepherd lead us"

UMH 381

*The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 10: 1-10

Jesus said, "'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not

know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

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

“The One True Shepherd”

Mr. Seitz

***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 is reserved until the service is ended.*

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) **"God will take care of you"** **UMH 130**

The Anthem (10:45 am) "The Lord is my Shepherd" (Ps. 23) Howard Goodall

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication** **UMH 94**

***The Sending Hymn** "Praise to the Lord, the almighty" **UMH 139**

***The Dismissal & Recessional**

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. **Thanks be to God.**

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

The Postlude

Sortie-Improvisation

Prayer Concerns

*The family and loved ones of **Don Langston**, who recently passed from this life..*

Clark Remington, recovering from recent hospitalization.

David Barber, son of Gloria Barber, suffering from cancer.

Gary Henry, 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 **Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia**. (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

KALEB KNABB AND TREY KNABB, ACOLYTES

JJ KNABB, CROSS BEARER

LIZ DIPINETRO (8:30AM), LECTOR

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

MR. DAVID SEITZ, PREACHER

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by
Cheryl Herrington and Erma Henry
with condolences and prayers for the Strandburg family
on the recent passing of Rev. Strandburg's father,
Quay Strandburg.

To provide flowers for a future service of worship,
please call the church office at 412-531-7131,
or use the form linked through the QR code below.

