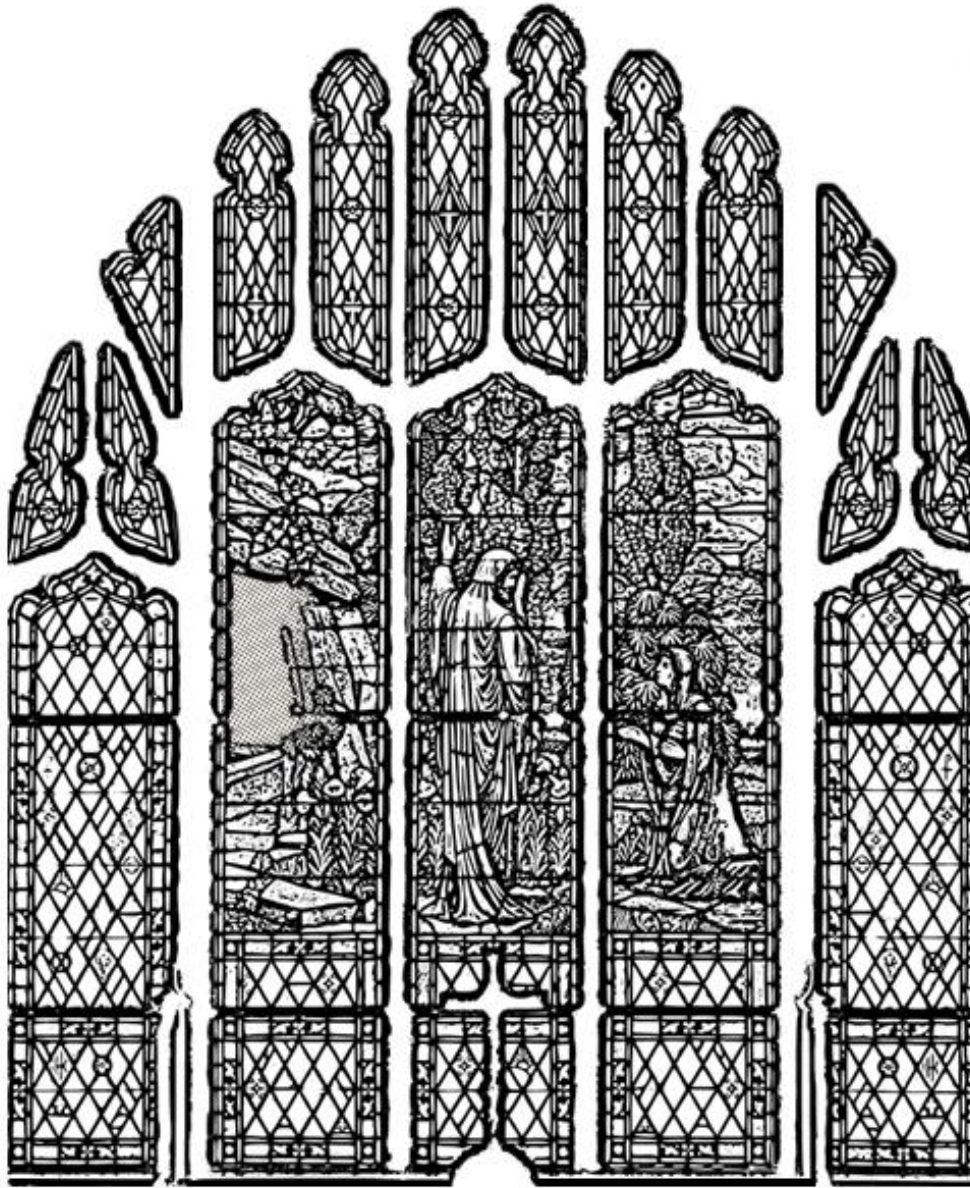


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, May 24, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Day of Pentecost

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

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



Sunday, May 24, 2026 – Pentecost

Pentecost wasn't just a first-century event. It continues today, filling our souls through God-shaped holes. But there are other gateways God uses to enter our lives. The story of Pentecost tells us that the Spirit of God is not limited by human barriers.

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

The Prelude

A Prelude for Pentecost

Harvey B. Gaul (1881-1945)

The Introit (10:45)

Canticle of the Spirit

David Poole

*Darkness in the beginning brooded over earth and heaven,
I too was silent waiting, hovering, listening over the water.
Then from the mouth of God rumbled the Word like rolling thunder;
I, in a blaze of sunrise, bounded dancing into creation.*

*Mountains and deserts I traveled, speaking God's word through signs and prophets:
Moses, Saul and the elders, Gideon, Joshua, Samuel, David.
Came I a whirlwind rushing, sweeping Elijah up to heaven;
Set I the bones to rattling, rising, marching on in the Spirit.*

*When to Jordan I journeyed, Jesus was rising from the river,
John to the sky was pointing, followed by eyes of thousands gathered.
I from the clouds descended, spiraling down a dove from heaven,
Echoed the voice of thunder: "This is my son, to whom you must listen."*

*On Pentecost were gathered in one house the twelve disciples;
Parthians, Meeds, and Elamites also, people of every tribe and nation.
Heard they the rafters groaning, creaking as in a mighty earthquake;
Bursting the doors, a rushing wind swept in and wrapped them round;
Leaped I as tongues of fire over their heads and all around them;
Breathed I my flame within them, sending my spirit on in creation.*

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

*Opening Hymn

"Come down, O Love Divine"

UMH 475

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ Holy God, spare the earth,

℞ **but put a fire in our bones;**

∞ so our words are alive with hope,
℞ **our hearts aflame with love,**
∞ our deeds ablaze with compassion.
℞ **Holy God, spare us the winds of destruction,**
∞ but set loose your Spirit:
℞ **that carries us along the paths of justice.**
∞ Holy God,
℞ **be fire in our bones, wind at our back, a dove of peace.**
Be a Spirit of love, a song reborn, a life renewed.

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**Holy Spirit, you carry our prayers to the heart of God.
You place our feet on the path of peace. You stir our desire for the eternal
Presence. You open the way to deep truth. Like wind upon the water, like
tongues of living fire, come, Holy Spirit, abide with us. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Holy Spirit, come, confirm us”

UMH 331

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 Acts of the Apostles

ACTS 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire"

UMH 651

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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 God-Shaped Hole"

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.*

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) “Spirit of Faith, come down” UMH 332

The Anthem (10:45 am) *O Clap Your Hands* Ralph Vaughan Williams

O clap your hands, all ye people: shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

For the Lord most high is terrible: he is a great King over all the earth.

God is gone up with a shout: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God: sing praises unto our King.

For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises, everyone that hath understanding.

God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

Sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

Ps. 47:1,2; 5-8 (KJV)

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

***The Sending Hymn "Hail thee, festival day!" UMH 324**

***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

Festal Improvisation

Prayer Concerns

Fred Leasure, *who will undergo surgery this Wednesday, May 27.*

Gayle Radnich, *who received a recent diagnosis of a health condition.*

Chris Dooley, *relative of Louanne Baily, and his family, as he undergoes treatment for cancer.*

David Barber, *son of Gloria Barber, suffering from cancer and recovering from a recent stroke.*

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 the **Indian Ocean Islands (Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles).** (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

AGNES ALEXANDER AND DILLON SCHMIDT, ACOLYTES

BRENDAN DEMICH, CROSS BEARER

JOETA D'ESTE (8:30AM) AND STACEY ROSLECK (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given
to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for
all who have given their lives in service to their country.*

*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.*

