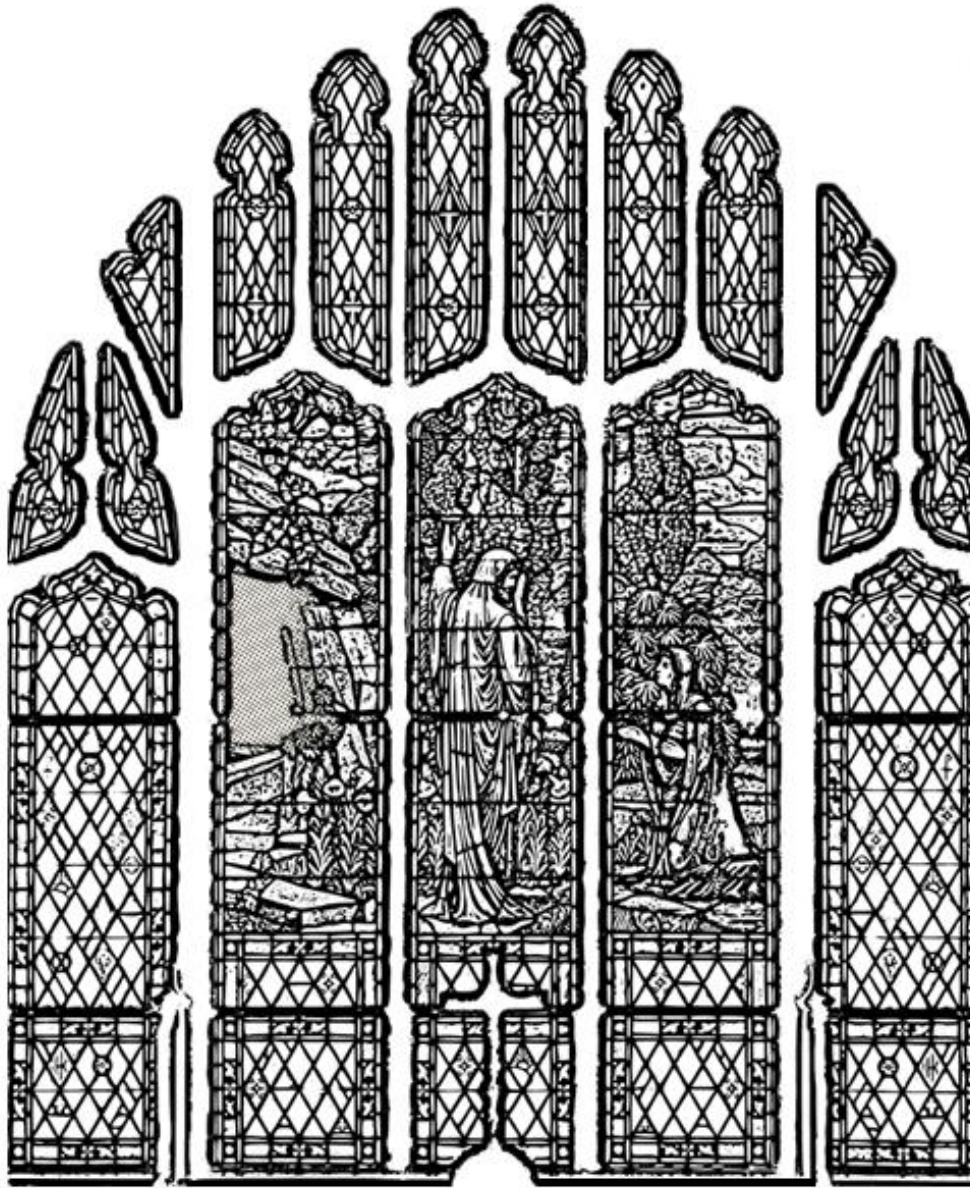


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, July 5, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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



Sunday, July 5, 2026 – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

*The Constitution doesn't promise a perfect union. It promises to form a MORE perfect union.
America is unfinished. Christians are unfinished too.*

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

The Prelude

Prelude on "We Shall Overcome"

Adolphus Hailstork

*Opening Hymn

"I Sing the Almighty Power"

UMH 152

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

℣ The Lord be with you.

℟ **And also with you.**

℣ We gather to worship God with our full, imperfect selves.

℟ **We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.**

℣ We gather as people who don't always know what to do in the face of difficult and complex circumstances.

℟ **We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.**

℣ We gather as people who desire to follow God with our actions but struggle to connect what we want to do with what we actually do.

℟ **We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.**

℣ Whether you come to worship today wondering if there is anything good left in the world or rejoicing in the small moments of goodness that remind you grace is still at work among us, you are welcome here.

℟ **We come to delight in the law of God, whose grace shows us how to live, work, play, and rest as a community of faith woven together by Love. Amen.**

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

God of heaven and earth, we gather in Your presence with thanksgiving and praise for the way in which You have revealed Yourself to us.

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, we have come to know and love You; we have witnessed Your love and mercy in action; we have caught a glimpse of Your heart, and we have received the call to follow you.

**May Your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts to Your presence here,
and to the word that You have for us this morning. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

UMH 462

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 Micah

MICAH 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

UMH 358

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Epistle to the Church in Rome

ROM. 7:15-8:1

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but

not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.
Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin. Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

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

“Free... But Not Yet”

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 would ideally and most appropriately be reserved until the end of the service.*

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn	"My country, tis of thee"	UMH 697
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*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication		UMH 94
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*The Sending Hymn	"Lead Me, Lord"	UMH 473
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***The Dismissal**

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

The Postlude	<i>The Liberty Bell March</i>	J.P. Sousa
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Prayer Concerns

The people of Venezuela, *recovering after the recent earthquake.*

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

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 **Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda.*** (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).

Leaders in Worship this Morning

MR. STECKER (8:30AM) AND LIZZIE DILLER (10:45AM), LECTORS

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

MR DAVID SEITZ, PREACHER & PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Edee and Chuck Hutchinson
to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Eleanor Hutchinson,
their mother, whose 100th birthday
would have been celebrated on June 25th.*

*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.*

