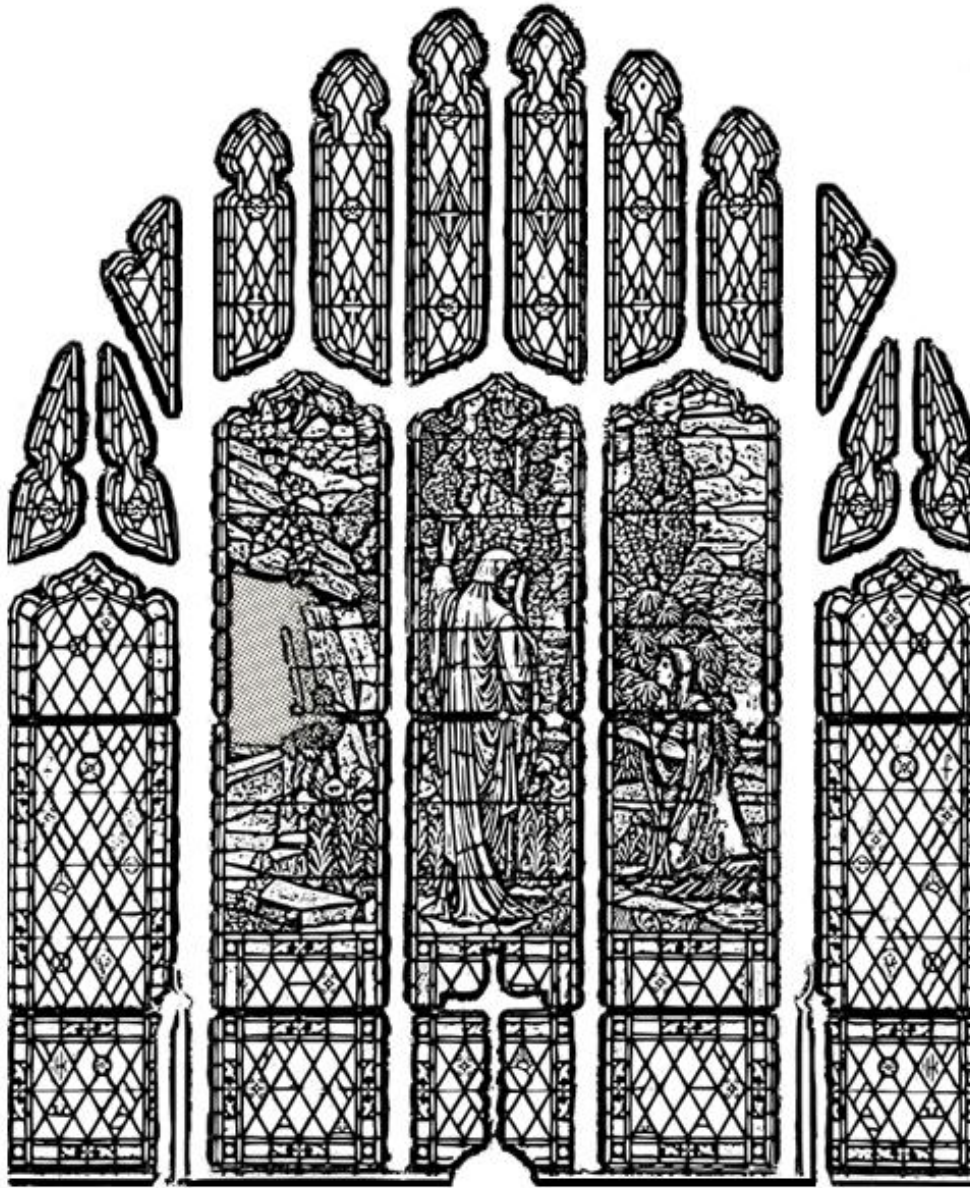


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, July 12, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Seventh 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 12, 2026 – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Summer time is outdoor concert season throughout the land. We have a history of listening to pop songs to jubilantly cheer us on and juice us up, proclaiming freedom and fun in everything we do. But then, why do we choose death over life in our outlook on life? It's time to step into a new song that sets us free.

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

The Prelude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Charles Converse, arr. Mier

As Mr. Stecker is away giving outdoor concerts throughout the land, we welcome MLUMC member Ms. Cori DeLuca as our substitute worship accompanist this morning.

*Opening Hymn

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

UMH 715

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

℣ The Lord be with you.

℟ **And also with you.**

℣ We gather today in the midst of busy lives and nightmare headlines that mirror the disorder of the world around us.

℟ **We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.**

℣ We gather as people inundated with constant information, fast-moving news cycles, and ever-present alerts vying for our attention.

℟ **We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.**

℣ We gather as people seeking to anchor ourselves in the faith as the world around us is blown to and fro by waves of fear, scarcity, and reactivity.

℟ **We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.**

℣ Beloved, come. Come to find rest, grounding, and guidance in the Spirit who dwells in you.

℟ **We come to set our minds on the Spirit who guides us and draws us together toward life, peace, and flourishing. Amen.**

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

You are the Creator of all that lives and breathes. You meet us this morning just as we are—with our joys and our burdens, our hopes and our fears, our faith and our doubts.

Open our hearts to your Holy Spirit. Quiet the many voices that compete for our attention, and help us to hear your voice above them all. Where we have chosen worry instead of trust, resentment instead of forgiveness, or fear instead of hope, lead us again into the abundant life you offer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

UMH 584

Commissioning of the Youth Mission Team to Marion, VA (8:30 am)

Said by all, with one voice:

Guiding and loving God, empower these people to be your hands and feet.
Help them to glorify you by serving others.
Send them into the world
to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and warm those who are cold.
By their actions and words, make them witnesses
of your great love and your passion for rescuing your people.
Protect them, teach them, and support them
as they take this next step in their own journey
to becoming the people you want them to be.
Fill them with the Holy Spirit
and enable them to do their tasks faithfully and joyfully.
Bring them safely home
and then let their experience further enrich us,
so that we too will glorify you
by serving our community in the love of Christ.

Response *(made by Youth Missioners & Adult Leaders):*

Heavenly Father, give us strength, wisdom, and love
to work for you as we serve in Virginia.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Charge and Dismissal:

Go and do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
giving thanks to God.

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 Psalter

Ps. 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word. Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

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

*Hymn

"The Old Rugged Cross"

UMH 504

The Second Lesson

A Reading from Romans

ROM. 8:1-11

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

"Get Plugged in"

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 *"Shall We Gather at the River"* Robert Lowry, arr. Carter
UMH 723

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

***The Sending Hymn** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" UMH 664

***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 *Shalom to You*

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

ROB SPICHER (8:30AM) AND DERICK FLORIAN (10:45AM), LECTORS

MS. CORI DELUCA, WORSHIP ACCOMPANIST

MR. DAVID SEITZ, PREACHER

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Barbara Watson and family
to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Dr. David Watson,
husband and father.*

*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.*



