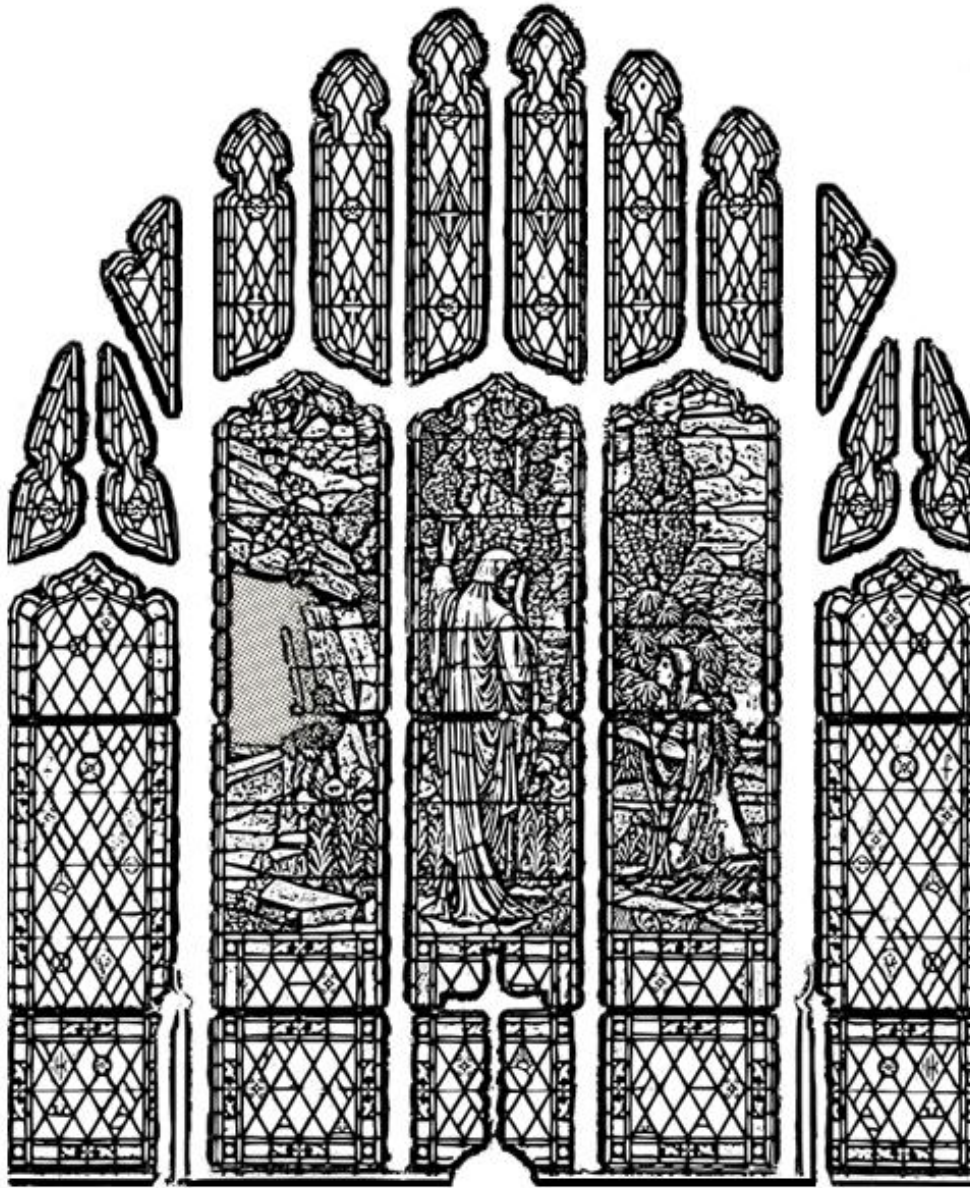


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, August 9, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

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



Sunday, August 9, 2026 – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Peter showed both faith and skepticism in Matthew's account of Jesus walking on water. We want an easy route to shore when we're navigating troubled water, but the miracle we need might be learning how to sail with Jesus by our side.

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

The Prelude

***Opening Hymn**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

UMH 110

*** The Greeting & Call to Worship**

✠ The Lord be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

✠ Children of God, some of us come today with songs of joy, rejoicing at all God has done for us.

✠ **We come to remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.**

✠ Some of us come today with songs of mourning in our hearts, feeling the weight of loss, isolation, and loneliness.

✠ **We come to remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.**

✠ Some of us come today with songs of worry and distress, overwhelmed by the troubles and the sufferings of the world.

✠ **We come to remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.**

✠ In our joy, our sorrow, our isolation, and our worry, God is faithful!

✠ **We come to sing God's praises, for in all things, God's steadfast love and faithfulness never fail. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**Liberating God, we seek your journey. With parted waters, set us free.
With cloud and fire, guide us. With gushing waters, quench our thirst.
With food from heaven, feed us. Draw us out with joy and singing,
that we might know your ways. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

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 Epistle to the Romans

ROM. 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down)"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

MT. 14:22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

"Matthew the Meticulous"

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.*

Mission & Outreach Moment

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am)

"Trust and Obey"

UMH 467

The Anthem (10:45 am)

Here I am, Lord

Michael Everhart, soloist

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn**

"Standing on the Promises"

UMH 374

***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

Prayer Concerns

*The family and loved ones of **Marianne Siersdorfer**, who recently passed away*

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

Paul Watson, son of Barbara Watson, recovering from a recent surgical procedure.

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 **Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea**. (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

KATHY KARNS (8:30AM) AND DERICK FLORIAN (10:45AM), LECTORS

MR. MICHAEL EVERHART, SOLOIST

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Mary Garber
to the Glory of God and
in loving memory of
Mike Staab
and his 40 plus years of service to our church*

*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.*

