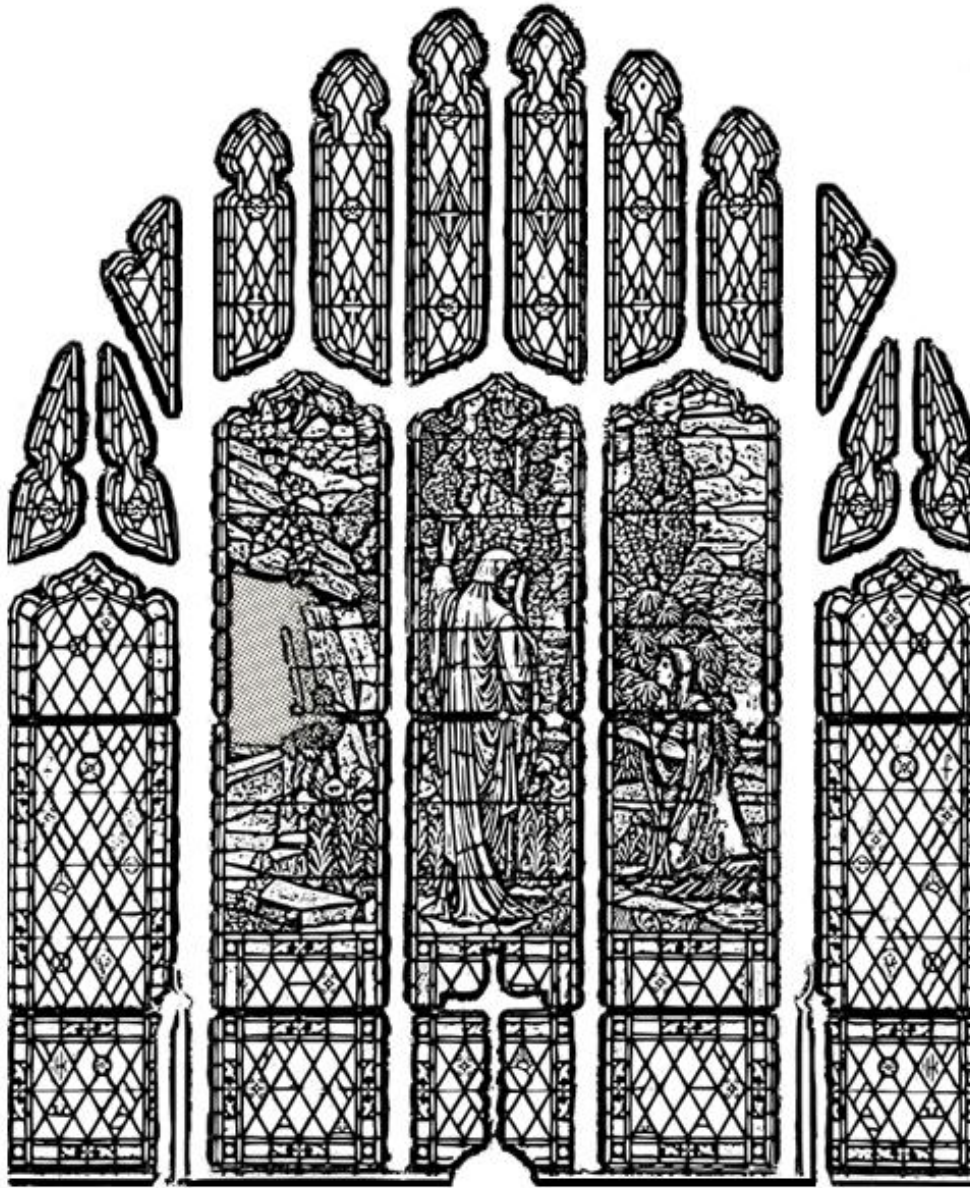


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, August 16, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Twelfth 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 16, 2026 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

"So the question is not 'Am I going to be a part of a community of faith?' but 'How am I going to live in this community of faith?'" (from Eugene Peterson's A Long Obedience in the Same Direction.)

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

The Prelude

"Morning Has Broken"

offered by the MLUMC Summer Band

*Opening Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

UMH 577

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

℣ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

℣ Family of God, we gather today to unite our voices and our lives in praise to God!

℞ **How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!**

℣ We gather to celebrate how God binds us together to live, work, play, and rest as the Body of Christ!

℞ **How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!**

℣ We gather to remember how God has worked through us to share Christ's love with one another and our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

℞ **How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!**

℣ Family of God, today we come as diverse and unique members of the Body of Christ to learn and grow not in uniformity but in unity to love God, self, neighbor, and all creation.

℞ **How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

Maker of Our Days, you created each of us unique beings with differing strengths and weaknesses. Help us not only to use our strengths to assist others but also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our weaknesses.

*Silent Prayer

*Response

"How Firm a Foundation"

UMH 529

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. 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

UMH 357

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans

ROM. 11:1-2A, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

“Better Together”

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.

R. 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) “I am the Church”

UMH 558

The Anthem (10:45 am) *Holy Holy Holy and God of Our Fathers*

*offered by the
MLUMC Summer Band
Brass Players*

*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"**

UMH 569

*The Dismissal

¶. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

Prayer Concerns

Jane Spicher, recovering from eye surgery on Friday.

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 **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.*** (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 TREMBLAY (8:30AM) AND STACEY ROSLECK (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE MLUMC SUMMER BAND

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

MR. DAVID SEITZ, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

*The altar flowers this morning given
to the Glory of God and in celebration of Adam Smith
on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the publication of
"The Wealth of Nations".*

*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.*

