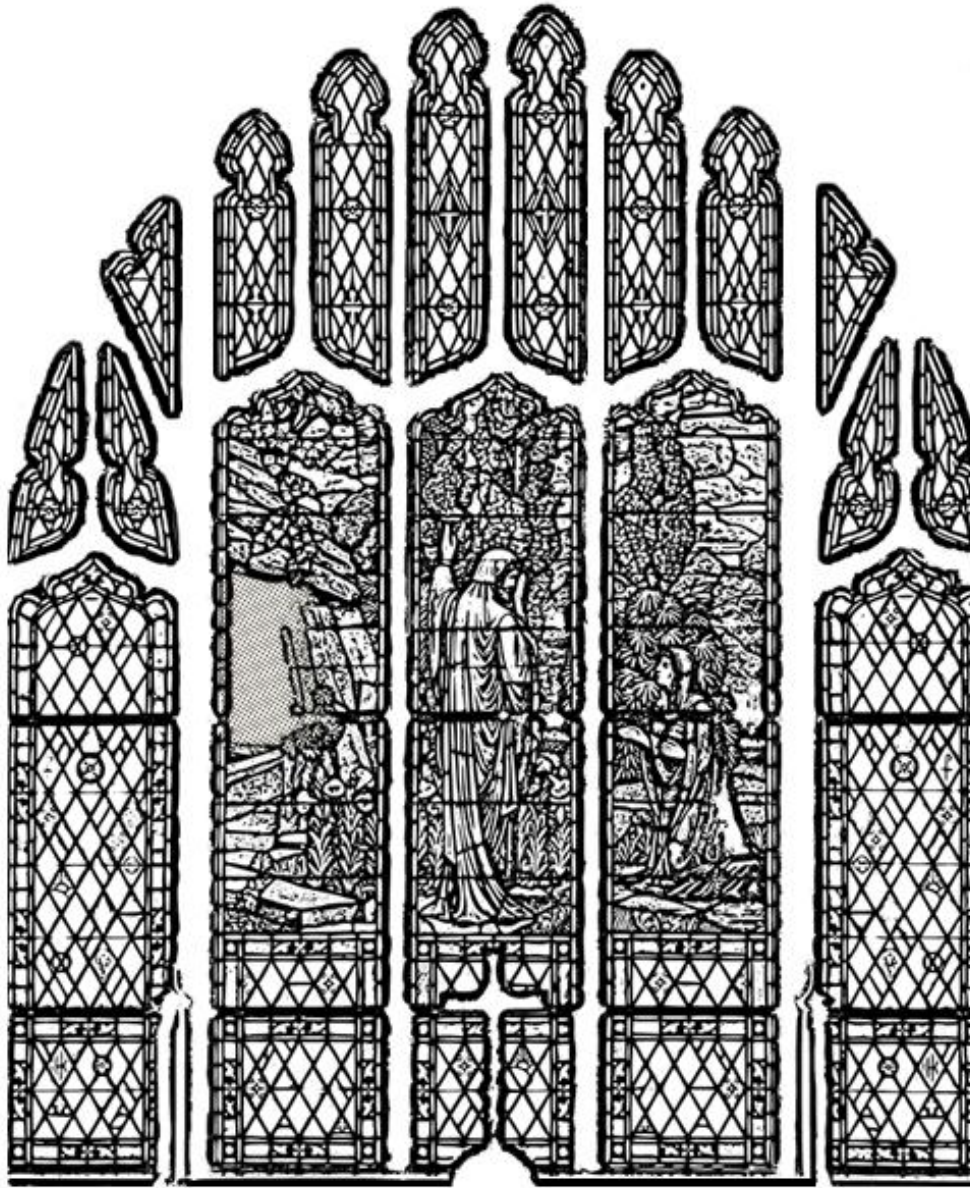


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

The Fourteenth 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 30, 2026 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Christian life requires self-denial. In today's Gospel lection, Jesus says two things, "Deny yourself" and "Bear your cross." We could think of the first of these statements as a call to passive self-denial, and the second as a call to active self-denial. Unless we practice a life of denial in which God and others are given precedence over ourselves, we cannot be a disciple.

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

The Prelude Sonata No. 2 *from Six Fugues for the Organ* Sir William Herschel (1738-1822)

***Opening Hymn** **"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"** **UMH 158**

*** The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ Like a whisper that lures us to safety,

℞ **Strong as a shout that bids us to come,**

∞ Gentle as a prayer that eases our worry,

℞ **Like a clear bell that rings out our name,**

∞ Your Word comes to us, Loving God.

℞ **It calls us, comforts us and urges us to depart from evil and do good,
to seek peace and pursue it.**

∞ Talking God, open our hearts to hear you

℞ **And free our voices to praise you.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Pour your Light, Holy Spirit of God, into our hearts and minds. Help us to know more clearly and grasp more fully the Good News of Jesus. And help us then to know how to share it. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who with You and the Father, are One God. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response** **"Take Up Thy Cross"** **UMH 415**

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. 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"A Charge to Keep I Have"

UMH 413

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

MT. 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

"Said No One Ever"

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

Sonata No. 8 *from 24 Sonatas for Organ*

W. Herschel

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

UMH 400

***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

Sonata No. 6 *from 24 Sonatas for Organ*

W. Herschel

Prayer Concerns

*The family and loved ones of **Bette Lou Reichard**, who recently passed away*

Rev. Steve Morse, experiencing health issues.

Jane Spicher, 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 **Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal**. (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

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by
Courtney & Eric Schmidt
to the Glory of God and in honor of
their parents:
David & Debbie, and Ira & Penny

*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.*

