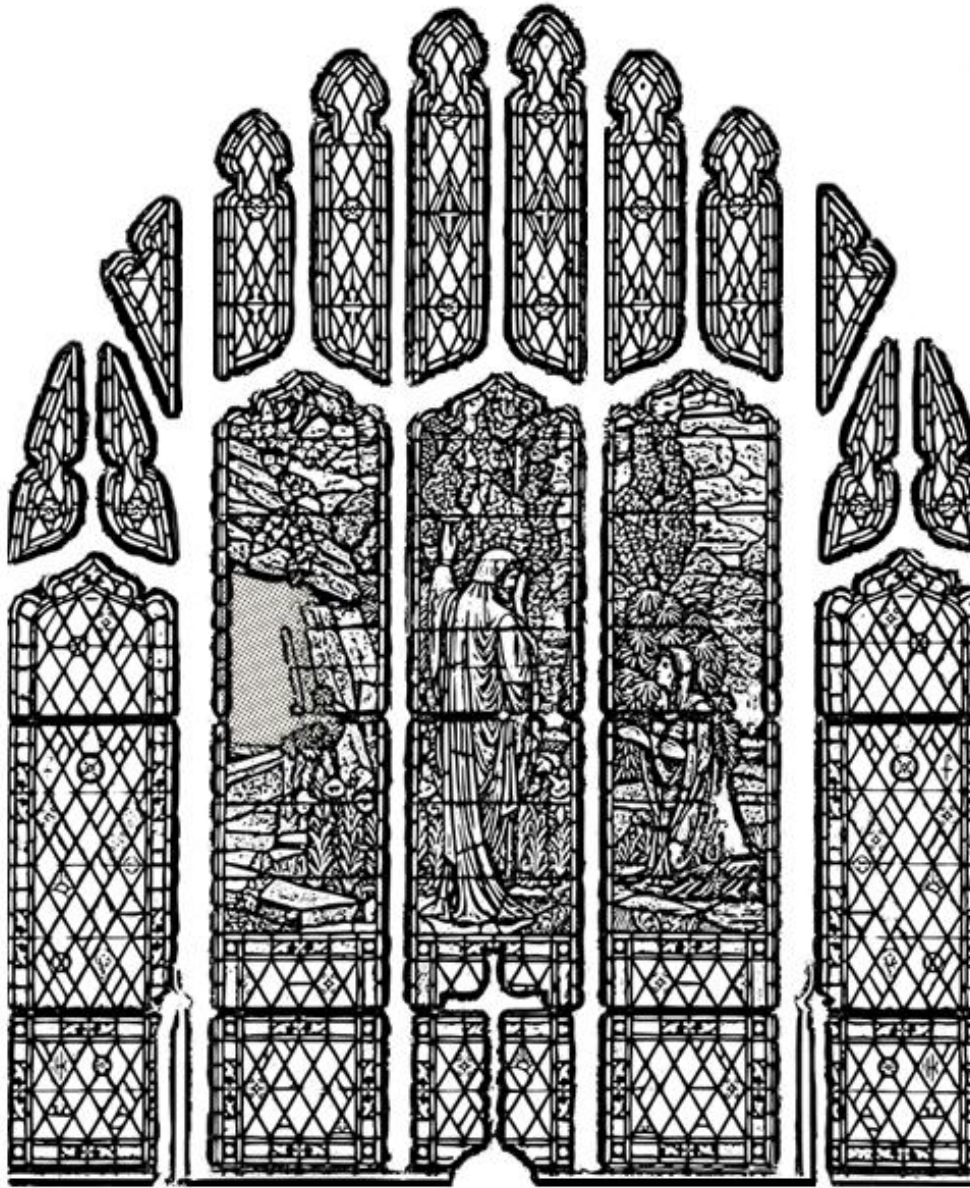


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, September 6, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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



Sunday, September 6, 2026 – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
<i>Rooted & Reaching Sermon Series: As we prepare to cast a fresh vision for the future of our church, we begin this time of spiritual preparation by remembering expressions of God's grace to us in the past.</i>

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

The Prelude

***Opening Hymn**

“We Are the Church”

UMH 558

***The Greeting & Call to Worship**

℣ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

℣ The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

℞ **God's mercies never come to an end;**

℣ They are new every morning;

℞ **Great is your faithfulness.**

℣ In every season, through every trial,

℞ **We worship the One who never leaves us.**

℣ Let us bring our whole selves to worship —

℞ **Trusting in the steadfast love of the Lord.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Faithful God, from the rising of the sun to its setting, you have never failed us.

In every season, you have been our shelter, our strength, and our song.

Today, we pause to remember your goodness —

the prayers you have answered,

the doors you have opened,

and the peace you have given when storms surrounded us.

As we gather, fill our hearts with gratitude,

our lips with praise,

and our lives with trust in your unfailing love.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

UMH 549

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 Deuteronomy

DT. 8:2-10

Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. The clothes on your back did not wear out, and your feet did not swell these forty years. Know, then, in your heart that, as a parent disciplines a child, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

“Take Time to Be Holy”

UMH 395

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

LK. 22:14-20

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

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

"Remembering God's Grace"

Rev. Strandburg

***The Sign of Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) "Just a closer walk with thee"

The Anthem (10:45 am)

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

See inserted on following page

arr. Richard Walters

Ms. Bethany Mingle, soloist



Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for



Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly



thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***The Great Thanksgiving**

This morning's communion setting, Setting E, is found at UMH 24.

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ Lift up your hearts.

℞ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

∞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℞ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory:

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord:

Hosanna in the highest!

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen!

Giving of the Bread & Cup

Prayer following Communion

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

You have graciously accepted us as living members

of your son our savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage to love and serve You

with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***The Dismissal**

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

***The Benediction & Recessional**

The Postlude

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

Prayer Concerns

Joyce Campbell, sister of Nancy Marshall, struggling with ongoing health issues.

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

The family and loved ones of **Janet Olsen**, whose life was celebrated at our church this week.

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**

For our **UMC Friends and Partners in Ministry in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia**,
facing anxieties resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war.

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
Benin, Ivory Coast, and Togo. *(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. STECKER (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (10:45AM), LECTORS

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given by
The Clarke Family
to the Glory of God and in joyous celebration of
Martha's Eightieth Birthday.*

*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.*

