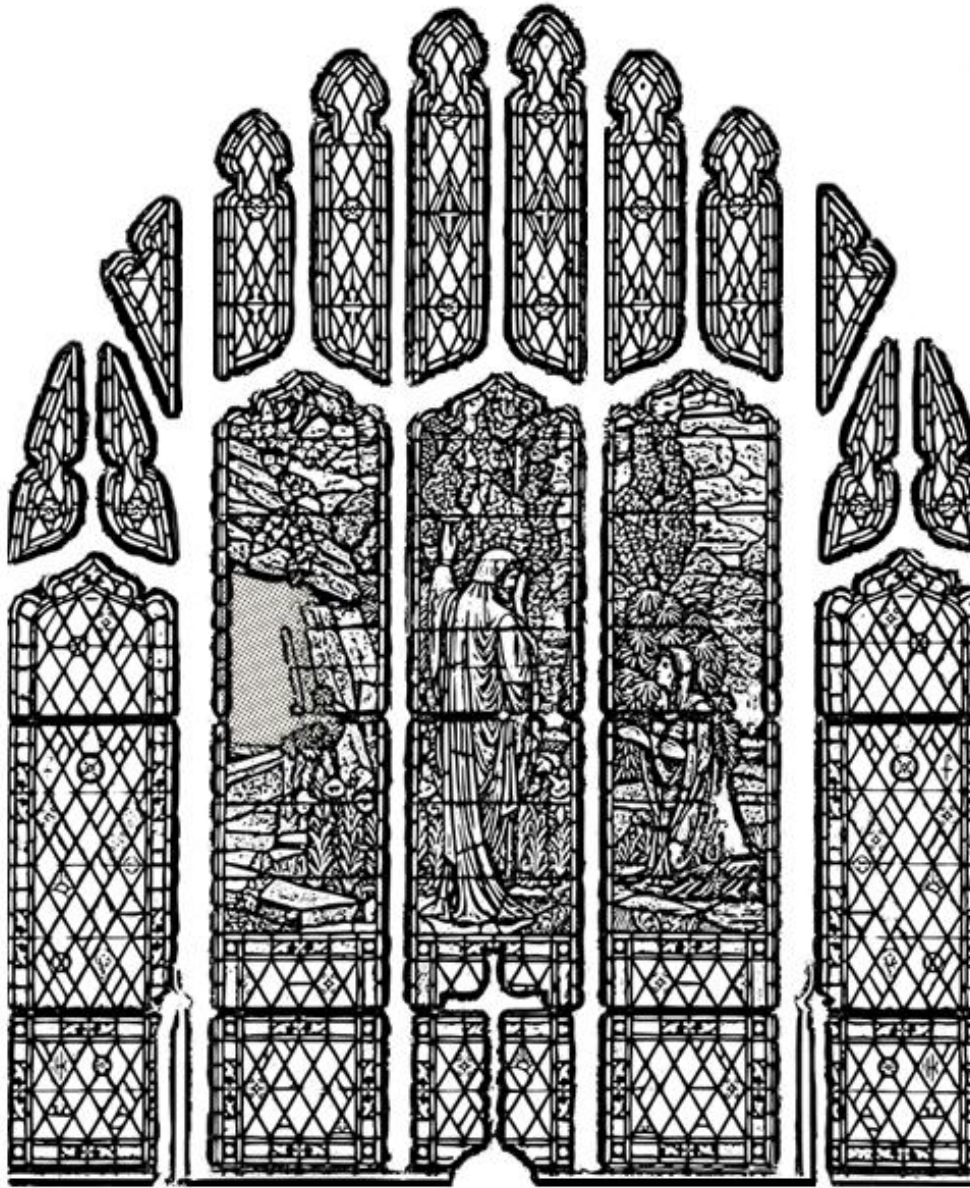


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, September 20, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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



Please note:

*Next week, **Sunday, September 27**, there will be **one service of worship at 9:00am**, followed by a luncheon and our visioning meeting at 10:00am.*

Sunday, September 20, 2026 – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Christ said to his disciples: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Our Methodist history and tradition remind us that "the world is our parish" and all followers of Jesus are called to minister within it. Every member has a role in accomplishing God's world-wide mission.

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

The Prelude

As the prelude begins, all are humbly asked to conclude any conversation and make use of this moment of quietude to prepare your hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God.

The Introit (10:45)

Introit for the 16th Sunday after Trinity

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

ANTIPHON: Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily. For thou, Lord, art good and ready to forgive: and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.
V. Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me: for I am poory and needy.
R. Glory be...

All rise, in body or spirit, at the sound of the chimes.

*Opening Hymn

"And can it be"

UMH 363

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

V The Lord be with you.

R **And also with you.**

V The Lord has called us here today, not to be passive spectators,
but to be active participants in God's holy work.

R **We come to worship the One who equips us and sends us out.**

V For there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services,
but the same Lord.

R **To each of us is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

V You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people.

R **We are called to proclaim the mighty acts of Christ,
who called us out of darkness into marvelous light.**

V Let us worship God together, unified in spirit and ready for service!

R **Let us lift our voices and offer our lives to the Lord!**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have called each of us by name and claimed us as your own. We thank you that ministry is not reserved for a few but is the joyful calling of your entire church. By your Holy Spirit, awaken the unique gifts you have placed within us. Equip us to be your hands and feet in a world that longs for your love. Whether we serve in our workplaces, our schools, our neighborhoods, or our homes, may our lives reflect the grace and justice of Jesus Christ. Bind us together as one body, that we may encourage one another, bear each other's burdens, and boldly proclaim the Good News in both word and deed. Speak to us now in this hour of worship and send us out ready to serve. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

***Silent Prayer & Response**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

UMH 577

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 book of the Prophet Isaiah

Is. 49:1-6

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

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 Gospel according to Matthew

MT. 9:35-38

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

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

"The World is Our Parish"

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.

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Anthem (10:45 am) *He Shall Feed His Flock* from *Messiah*, HWV 56 G.F. Handel (1685-1757)
Ms. Sarah Boice Stecker, soloist

*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and he shall gather the lambs with his arm;
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
Come unto him, all ye that labour, come unto him that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him; for he is meek and lowly of heart:
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

*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 **Bette Lou Reichard**, whose earthly remains were laid to rest yesterday.*

Mark Cerneskie, who is currently hospitalized.

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

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

Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. *(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

TREY KNABB AND KALEB KNABB, ACOLYTES

JJ KNABB, CROSS BEARER

LIZ DIPETRO (8:30AM) AND DERICK FLORIAN (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Bob and Beverly Festor
to the Glory of God and in celebration of
the Fifty-Seventh Anniversary of their wedding,
celebrated September 19th.*

*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.*

