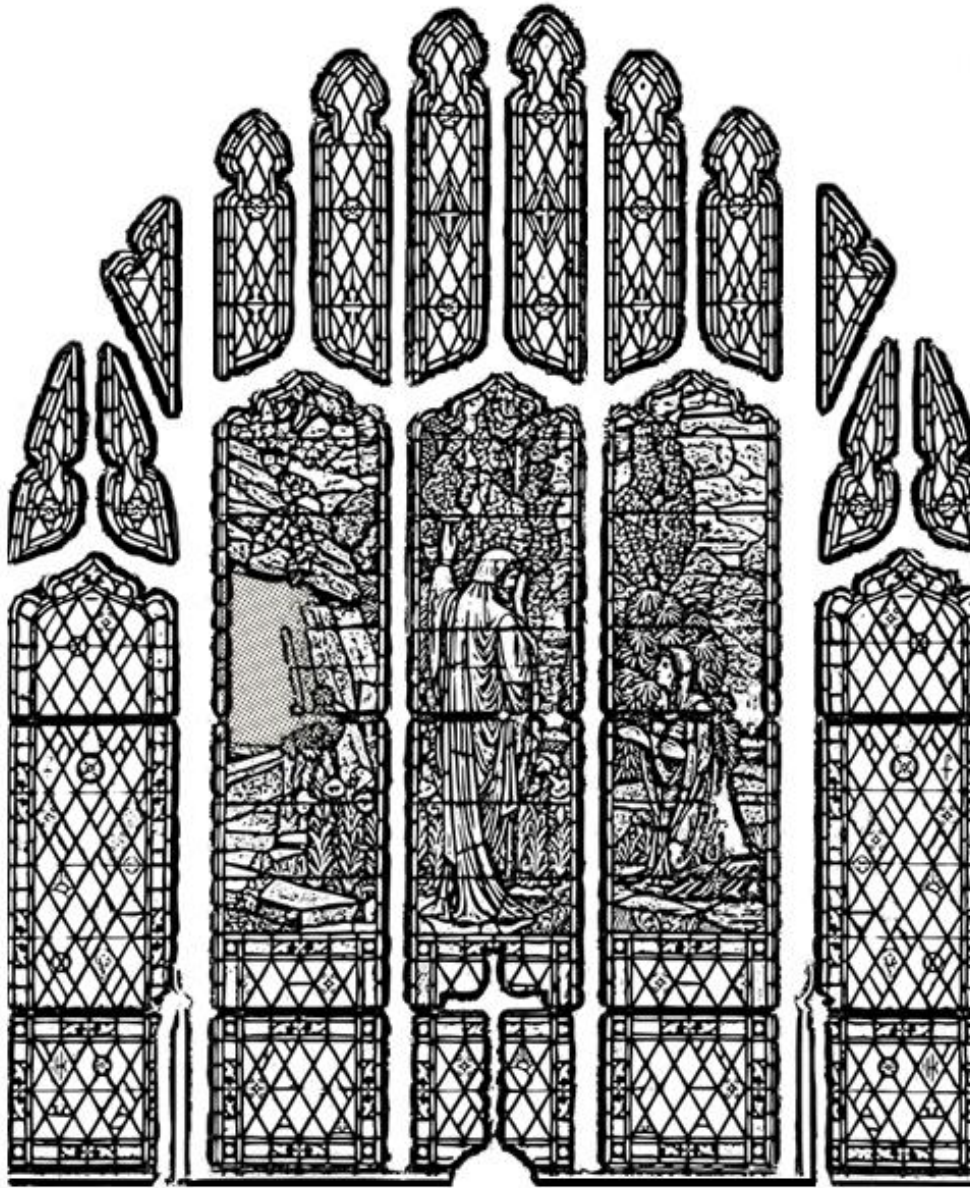


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, July 7, 2024, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

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



Sunday, July 7, 2024 – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

As Pastor Tom departs this morning with the youth on their mission trip to Marion, VA, we are glad to welcome Mrs. Judi Phelps to the pulpit as guest preacher.

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

The Prelude

***The Greeting**

∇. The Lord be with you.

℞. And also with you.

***Call to Worship**

∇. We have been called together as the body of Christ.

℞. **We are one body, though we have many members.**

∇. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, and not the other way around.

℞. **But not all members have the same function; we have different gifts.**

∇. God calls us to use these gifts generously, maturely and cheerfully to build up the body of Christ.

℞. **Together we present ourselves in service to God and each other.**

∇. Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

“Lift High the Cross”

UMH 159

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Loving God,
Who opens our hearts
to the mysteries of faith in
ordinary and extraordinary moments,
come near to us today.
Make known among us
and within us your strength,
that we might experience
your power that uses what
the powers of this world call weakness
to demonstrate your Almighty love
to all creation. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“God, who stretched the spangled heavens”

UMH 150

Commissioning of the Youth Mission Team to Marion, VA (8:30 am)

Said by all, with one voice.

Guiding and loving God, empower these people to be your hands and feet.

Help them to glorify you by serving others.

Send them into the world

to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and warm those who are cold.

By their actions and words, make them witnesses

of your great love and your passion for rescuing your people.

Protect them, teach them, and support them

as they take this next step in their own journey

to becoming the people you want them to be.

Fill them with the Holy Spirit

and enable them to do their tasks faithfully and joyfully.

Bring them safely home

and then let their experience further enrich us,

so that we too will glorify you

by serving our community in the love of Christ.

Response (made by Youth Missioners & Adult Leaders):

Heavenly Father, give us strength, wisdom, and love

to work for you as we serve in Virginia.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pastoral Charge and Dismissal:

Go and do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
giving thanks to God.

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 (3 yr. - 3rd grade) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise.

Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the Epistle to the Colossians

COL. 2:11-15

In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone"

UMH 424

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark

MK. 8:34-38

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 Cross of Christ”

Mrs. Judi Phelps

***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

The Offertory Hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" **UMH 504**

*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication **UMH 94**

*The Sending Hymn "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" **UMH 514**

*The Dismissal

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Benediction

The Postlude *Juniata March* S.H. Koontz,
composed 1912

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

Please remember in prayer:

Convalescing in care facilities

Priscilla Utzig, Providence Point
Carol Fairgrieve, Providence Point
Jo Newman, Friendship Village
Carol Van Sickle,
Bethel Park Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Convalescing at home

Bishop George Bashore
Jean Boyer
Don Langston
Susan Lichtenfels
Dawn Lonsinger
Brenda Vogel

Serving in the military

Jason Boyer
SPC Natalie Brown
PFC William Dilla III
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch
1Lt. Shaun Hay
LCpl. Wyatt Hoover
James Iantelli
1Lt. Jaskiewicz
Sgt. Keith Kimmell
Sgt. Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan

Thomas Orda
David Poncel
Sgt. Steven Reitz
LTC Scott B. Rushe
Pvt. Max Siegert
Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller
LTC Matthew Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski
Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

Leaders in Worship this Morning

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

MRS. JUDI PHELPS, GUEST PREACHER & LITURGIST

The altar flowers this morning given by
Linda Nixon
in in loving memory of her father,
Herbert B. Heinz.

*For information about furnishing altar flowers for future services,
contact Lizzie Diller at 412-860-3614. The cost is \$45 per arrangement.*