



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
Pentecost Sunday
May 24, 2026***

PENTECOST

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Illustrated Ministry

Let us rejoice and call upon God's name.

Holy God, your people have gathered in this space.

God, pour out your Spirit:

**Upon all people, young and old, near and far, friend and stranger -
all neighbors.**

God, pour out your Spirit:

Empower us to speak for justice.

God, pour out your Spirit:

Grant us visions of peace.

God, pour out your Spirit:

Inspire us with dreams for the future.

God, pour out your Spirit:

Renew the face of the earth.

God, pour out your Spirit:

Let us worship and praise!

***HYMN #225**

"On Pentecost They Gathered"

***OPENING PRAYER**

from Illustrated Ministry

Come, Holy Spirit, open our hearts to the beauty and brokenness of this world. As on the day of Pentecost, come to us now in whirlwind, in flame, and in holy cacophony to disrupt life-as-usual. Reveal God's grace to us in unexpected places, in unexpected people, and even in unexpected moments of chaos. For you, O God, hovered as spirit over the restless waters, bringing forth the orders of creation. You, O God, breathed your Spirit into the world, creating goodness and life. By this Spirit, stir up in us new life, holy restlessness, and relentless inspiration to sing your praises into this world as release and as resistance. We offer ourselves to your presence, God of grace, through the love of Christ and the calling of the Spirit. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

from Illustrated Ministry

When Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he breathed his Spirit into them and gave them his peace. May the Spirit and the peace of the risen Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

from Illustrated Ministry

God of wind and fire, you send forth your Spirit and gather all people into your wide embrace. By your Word, inspire us to dismantle barriers that divide us, especially barriers of fear and ignorance. Teach us to listen to one another, to be humble in our learning and growth, and to pursue love and inclusion, following the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-23

ANTHEM

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

setting by Jack Schrader

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Diana Kongkeattikul

Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-21

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Praise God, who fills each cup and plate,
Whose table's wide and love is great.
From broken bread, may all be fed,
And justice rise where fear has spread. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from Illustrated Ministry

God of the Pentecost Spirit, we pray that the gifts and offerings we collect today will honor the movement of your Spirit in our community. May we use these gifts to partner with you in blessing, healing, and restoring your creation. Make the most of our small sacrifices, we pray, and do something good. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

(liturgy on the screen)

We celebrate communion today by passing the plates of bread and cup.

We will hold the elements and consume them together as invited by Pastor Caroline.

***HYMN #229**

"Let Every Christian Pray"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from Illustrated Ministry

We believe in God the Creator: hovering as the creative Spirit before the worlds were made, speaking the cosmos into being, flinging stars across the sky, singing the seas to their limits, drawing up the dry land, greening the earth, animating creatures great and small, and breathing into us the very spirit of life.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the living Word: the teacher, healer, the boundary-crosser, the model of forgiveness and mercy, the caller of disciples, the bringer of peace, the embodiment of humility and service, and the bestower of the Spirit of comfort, advocacy, and truth.

We believe in the Holy Spirit: who disrupts the tired patterns of the world, who crashes through barriers, who seeks out disciples from every corner of the earth, who inspires hearts to do justice and to love kindness, who gathers the Church, and who unites us across all time and space into one body, with the communion of saints, for the eternal glory of God. Amen.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

from Illustrated Ministry

POSTLUDE

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available.

All are welcome at Christ's table. To let the church office know that you communed today, please sign the black attendance pad found in each row. If you are communing from home, please contact the church office to let us know.

Birthdays this week: 05/25 Rev. Stephen Hoffman and Brenna Rosenberry; 05/26 Luke Herbert; 05/29 Sutton Collier and Nathaniel Widmann; 5/30 Hayden Johnson and Dick Rebok; 05/31 Dale Myers, Melinda Orndorff and Amanda Stepler.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Kara Alt
Lector	Barb Wissinger
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	Pentecost © Kelly Latimore, from Kelly Latimore icons

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of Don Rockwell and other friends and family by Carol Rockwell.

On Pentecost They Gathered

225

1. On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 2. The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 3. God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all those who be - lieve,
 4. O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us hearts to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981 (Acts 2:1-12, 22-24)

MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1615

Words © 1981 Westminster John Knox Press

ST. THEODULPH

7.6.7.6 D

Lower key, No. 175

Let Every Christian Pray

1. Let ev - ery Chris - tian pray, this day and ev - ery
 2. The Spir - it brought to birth the Church of Christ on
 3. The Ho - ly Spir - it's power can fit us for this

day, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come! Was
 earth to seek and save the lost: God
 hour: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come! In -

not the church we love com - mis - sioned from a -
 nev - er has with - drawn, since that tre - men - dous
 struct, in - spire, u - nite and make us see the

bove? Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come!
 dawn, the gifts of Pen - te - cost.
 light: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come!

NEWS IN THE PEWS May 24, 2026

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, manager@sjucc1811.org (717) 263-8593 (office)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

TODAY: Pentecost Picnic will be held today after worship (outside or Fellowship Hall)
NO Bible Study on the Letter of James – chapter 5 (**will resume on 5/31**)

Monday, May 25

Church Office is Closed in observance of Memorial Day

1:30 pm **NO Monday Afternoon Book Study** – (Chapter 2) (**will resume on 6/1**)

Tuesday, May 26

10:00 am Summer Singers Practice – Fellowship Hall

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study– Zoom

Wednesday, May 27

6:30 pm Council Meeting – Conference Room 111

Thursday, May 28

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Saturday, May 30

7:00 pm Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus Spring Concert "For All Who Dared" (free) – Sanctuary

Sunday, May 31

NO Children/Youth School Classes

8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116

8:45 am Upper Room Church School Class – Conference Room 111

10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

11:15 am Special Congregational Meeting – Room 116 (endorse Habitat for Humanity proposal)

8:00 pm Bible Study on the Letter of James – chapter 5

Camp Cooks (kitchen helpers) are needed for June 22 – 26. Please, sign-up to help in the kitchen at camp. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome center counter in the front lobby. Volunteers will be helping under the direction of the camp cook, Kirk Johnson. Thank you for supporting St. John's Camp!

Bible and a Beer is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be June 15.

Exploring an Expanded Partnership with Habitat for Humanity Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the congregational conversation/Q&A held after worship on May 17. Additional updates will be shared via e-blast and hard copies will be made available as well. A special congregational meeting will be held Sunday, May 31, to endorse this proposal.

Strengthen the Church Offering This special offering supports the expansion and growth of UCC local congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults. St. John's will receive this offering on May 24 & 31.

Summer Snacks for NETWORK Ministry Collection boxes for non-perishable snacks to share with the kids at NETWORK Ministry are located in the front lobby. A list of suggested items to donate is posted on the bulletin boards and is listed in the June Spirit.

Vacation Bible School Our VBS wish list for Snowball Mountain challenge includes: snow sports equipment; white poly-fill stuffing/batting; Styrofoam balls 3" diameter and larger; white sheets; Styrofoam medication coolers; and a snowflake projector (commonly used outside on houses). A grocery cart to collect these items is in the lobby. Contact Roxanne with questions.

Summer Special Music A sign up is posted on the choir room door for those who would like to help provide special music in worship this summer. This can be singing or playing a musical instrument. Contact Gary Crum to learn more. Thank you for sharing your talents!

Summer Prayer Gatherings Join us at 8:45 on Sunday, June 14 at the Labyrinth and Sunday, July 12 at the Peace Pole. Please bring your own chair. We will also gather at St. John's Camp at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 22. Come and enjoy a time of praying together in nature!

An Evening of Food, Fun, and Fellowship with all three congregations worshipping at St. John's will be held on Saturday, June 13, 4-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share. The sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

Summer Quarter First Fruits in May, June, and July will support the Race Against Poverty (RAP), Maranatha Ministry, and United Way's Stuff the Bus. More information about these organizations is included in the Spirit. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday evenings at **8 pm via Zoom** for a Bible study on the Letter of James. Our session on **May 31** will focus on Chapter 5. Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read Chapter 2 of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" for our discussion on Monday, June 1, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

May/June Upper Room devotionals are currently available at the Welcome Center. We suggest a donation of \$1 for small print/\$2 for large print copies. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.