



# Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
[www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

10:15 am WORSHIP  
May 19, 2024  
**Pentecost Sunday**

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## IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends.*

- Maya Angelou

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## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Congregational Introit: *Spirit of the Living God*

No. 322

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 104)

Liturgist: Chip McCoy

Leader: How manifold are your works, O Lord!

**People: In wisdom you have made than all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

Leader: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

**People: I will praise my God while I have my being!**

\*Hymn: *On Pentecost They Gathered*  
(Tune: *The Church's One Foundation*)

No. 128

\*Call to Confession

Leader: Our sister Julian of Norwich spoke these words of faith: *All people who shall be saved, while we are in this world, have in us a marvelous mixture of both well-being and woe. We have in us our risen Lord Jesus. We have in us the misery of the harm of Adam's falling and dying. We are steadfastly protected by Christ, and by the touch of his grace we are raised into sure trust and salvation. And by Adam's fall our perceptions are so shattered in various ways, by sins and by different suffering, that we are so darkened and blinded that we can hardly find any comfort.* In the strong assurance of pardon, let us confess our sin.

\*Unison Prayer of Confession (based on Acts 2)

**Without your power, O God, we are lost. We have done the things we should avoid. What you desire, we have not done. By your purifying fire, transform our lives. Guide us into honesty and compassion. Fill us with your peace so that our dreams and vision may be one with yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

(Silent Confession)

\*Assurance of Pardon (based on Acts 2)

Leader: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. By the power in whom we live and move and have our being, I pronounce to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins, through the holy Trinity, one God, whose mercy is everlasting.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen!**

\*Response: *Let Every Christian Pray* (vs. 2)

**The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth  
To seek and save the lost: God never has withdrawn,  
Since that tremendous dawn, The gifts at Pentecost.**

CCLI #1065469

\*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Speaker: Peace be with you.

**Respond: And also with you.**

Anthem: *Spirit Sing!*

M & J Martin

Spirit, sing through us, Spirit, move in us, Holy Spirit, come!

Spirit, breathe in us, Spirit, live in us, Spirit, make us one. (Holy Spirit, come.)

(Repeat)

Spirit, sing through us, Spirit, move in us, Holy Spirit, come! (Alleluia, come.)

Spirit, breathe in us, Spirit, live in us, Spirit, make us one. (Alleluia)

Spirit, waken us, Spirit, reign in us, Holy Spirit, come!

Spirit, rise in us, Spirit, shine in us, Spirit, make us one.

Alleluia, alleluia, come,

Lord, send Your Spirit. Send down Your gentle Dove.

Lord, send Your Spirit. Teach us Your way of love.

Fill us with glory. Fill us with holy light.

You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Spirit come!

Spirit, sing through us, Spirit, move in us, Holy Spirit, come!

Spirit, breathe in us, Spirit, live in us, Spirit, make us one. (Rejoice!)

(Repeat)

Holy Spirit, come!

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## HEARING GOD'S WORD

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Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

No. 304

Children's Story Time

New Testament Reading: Acts 2:1-21

<sup>1-4</sup> When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

<sup>5-11</sup> There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs! "They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

New Testament Reading: Acts 2:1-21

<sup>12</sup> Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

<sup>13</sup> Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

<sup>14-21</sup> That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says,

"I will pour out my Spirit

on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy,

also your daughters;

Your young men will see visions,

your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes,

I'll pour out my Spirit

On those who serve me, men and women both,

and they'll prophesy.

I'll set wonders in the sky above

and signs on the earth below,

Blood and fire and billowing smoke,

the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

Before the Day of the Lord arrives,

the Day tremendous and marvelous;

And whoever calls out for help

to me, God, will be saved."

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *A Pilgrimage to Japan*

Tori Vernacchio

Hymn: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

No. 316

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**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

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Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.053

Leader: What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?

**People: First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God.  
Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, the Spirit makes me share in Christ and all Christ's benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.**

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

\*Response: *Doxology*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### DEPARTING TO SERVE

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Hymn: *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

No. 315

\*Benediction (from the Northumbria Community)

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you: may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm: may he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you: may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.

\*Response:

**Come, O Spirit, fill Your church, making strong our mission;  
Fill Your daughters and Your sons with a mighty vision,  
Till the great and glorious day when the whole creation  
Sings Your praise as Lord and King, Giver of salvation!**

\*Postlude

*\*If you are able to do so, please stand.*

**A Special Thank You** to Tori Vernacchio for being our guest worship leader today.

**Happy Birthday** to David Heim (24<sup>th</sup>)!

**The Chancel Flowers** were given today by The Tang family in honor of family.

**The Flower Delivery** will be made by Mike Duffner and Carol Noonan.

**Our Greeters** today were Mike Duffner and Carol Noonan.

**Deacon Food Drive Donations for May:** Personal Items

*Special Items Needed for Refugees & Immigrants:* Dried Beans, Lentils, Rice, Flour, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Spices (Salt, Pepper, Garlic Powder, Chili Powder, Turmeric) & Disposable Diapers

**Hospital visits** by Pastor Laura can be scheduled through the church office. If you or someone you know is having surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know so that Pastor Laura can be there to visit and pray with you and your loved ones.

### **PRAYER LIST**

**Prayer Circle** – Diane Van Houtte and Alie Vernacchio

**May** – Chrissie LeJeune (Karin's friend)

**April** - The family of Mitch Cipullo (Mary Abbott's brother-in-law), The family of Jim Young (Nancy Newman's brother), Matthew Fako, Patience Bergfelt, Lisa Ursitz

**Ongoing** - Nancy Brumfield, Eneless Frank, Mya Kelly, Joanna, Becca, our Mission Co-Workers: Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children; Cindy Anna Flor & Nathan who serve at the U.S.-Mexico Border, our sister church, Litchenza CCAP in Malawi, Africa, Pabatso Makhalanyane, Healthcare and all Essential Workers, Jon Weaver (Sarajane's friend), all those who continue to be affected by the fires, storms, hurricanes, excessive heat waves and other natural disasters



# WELCOME TO SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

**CONNECT with us!**

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Address: 900 Country Club Dr. Pgh, PA 15228

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laura E. Strauss

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. William Gracey

Website: [www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shupchurch/>

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sun, May 19 – Guest Leader/Tori Vernacchio

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall  
 9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library  
 10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary  
 10:45 am Children’s Church  
 11:30 am Global Links Presentation – Findley Hall  
 4:00 pm Troop 57074 – Rm. 110  
 5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

### Wed, May 22

10:00 am Days for Girls - Wilson  
 4:00 pm Quilting Group – Findley Hall  
 6:30 pm Sunset Hills Book Club – Findley Hall  
 6:30 pm Tai Chi – Crystal Hall

### Thurs, May 23

7:00 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall

### Fri, May 24

5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

### Mon, May 20

1:00 pm Findley Hall Bible Study

### Tues, May 21

1:00 pm Wilson Hall Bible Study  
 5:30 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall  
 7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall  
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### Sun, May 26

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall  
 9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library  
 10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary  
 10:45 am Children’s Church  
 11:30 am Days for Girls – Wilson Hall  
 5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Pentecost Special Offering:** Today is the last day that we will be collecting for the PC (USA) special offering. Your donation will go toward programs/events that are geared to the youth in the church. There are envelopes available in the pews for your donation. If you are not able to be with us in person, you can use the tithe.ly app. Be sure to write “Pentecost Offering” on the memo line.
- ❖ **Global Links Presentation:** Please join us in Findley Hall after the worship service today to meet Stacey Bodow, Outreach & Engagement Manager for Global Links. She will be giving a presentation in Findley Hall to tell us what the Global Links mission is about. Light refreshments will be served.
- ❖ **Sunset Hills Book Club:** The SHBC will meet in Findley Hall this Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm to watch episodes 3 & 4 of *A Gentleman from Moscow*.