



I will
put my
spirit
within
you,
and you
shall live...

Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2577 Wickham Drive

Muskegon, Michigan 49441-3182

Phone (231) 759-1275

www.fpcmuskegon.org

*The Service for the Lord's Day
The Day of Pentecost
May 20, 2018*

Boldface type indicates a spoken response.
The asterisk (*) is an invitation to stand if able.

PRELUDE *Come to the Water* Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENTECOST READING Acts 2:1-21

CALL TO WORSHIP

Imagine the waiting! Jesus told them they'd receive power, but then he vanished from their sight. What did it mean?

Today everyone wants power: Power over our lives, power in relationships, economic power, political power.

But all of these forms of power are self-serving; and Jesus never promises us self-serving power.

Whatever that power was to be, they had to wait: One day and two, six days and seven. What was promised to them? Would they recognize it when it came?

What were they to do with it when they received it? Two weeks and then three...

It's a little like coming to worship and waiting for God to act; but we're not sure how. However, when they gathered for Pentecost, there was no doubt whatsoever that God had come into their midst. The Holy Spirit came upon them like a mighty wind and settled on them like tongues of fire.

They were empowered to live in fellowship with one another. They were empowered to spread the good news to all the world, that salvation is in Jesus Christ.

Then come to worship today with a sense of curiosity and openness of spirit to see how you might be empowered to accomplish God's will.

*OPENING HYMN #255 *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts,
confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

Ps. 51:10

Merciful God, the gift of Jesus' life in us is visible in the way we witness to the fruitfulness of that gift. We know that the fruit of the Spirit consists of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Yet, so often we put conditions on our love—and joy and peace are difficult to discern when our words and actions deny their presence.



Spir-it of the liv-ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

By desiring instant results to most things these days,
we confess that we forget what it's like to be patient.

We find ourselves neglecting the needs of others because we run out of time and energy. When we persistently make self-centered rather than Christ-centered decisions, our understanding of your goodness and faithfulness is weakened and our discipleship lacks credibility.



Spir-it of the liv-ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

In this aggressive world, it's easy to believe one can't get anywhere by exercising a spirit of gentleness or even self-control. Gracious and merciful God, grant us your forgiveness and your love so that we may truly care for one another. Refresh and renew us with the Holy Spirit so that we are fruitful and vital disciples of Jesus Christ.



Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. —



Spir-it of the liv-ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Those who are in Christ are a new creation:

everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God with whom we have been reconciled through Christ. *2 Cor. 5:17-18*

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #289** *On Pentecost They Gathered* (verse 3)

***SHARING OUR GIFT OF PEACE FROM CHRIST**

HYMN #286 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Joyful Ringers

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH Roxanne Deibel

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Pentecost Offering* Hanna Scofield

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ezekiel 37:1-14 [p. 806]

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS John 15:26, 16:13-15 [p. 110 NT]
Romans 8:22-27 [p. 158 NT]

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE *The Groans of Hope* Pastor Jim Rausch

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING *Registration of Attendance*

OFFERTORY *Carry the Light* Chancel Choir

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #616 *Our God Is an Awesome God* (sung twice)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of mercy, we give you thanks for all that your bounty creates. Bless what we offer and bless those who will be shown deeds of power through them; in Jesus' name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #462 *I Love to Tell the Story*

*GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO

*POSTLUDE

† † †

Questions for Reflection

In this coming week consider how many ways and through which persons you are shown a new path for your life. Watch for startling nudges or sudden epiphanies; listen for sighs that signal letting go of something pressing so that you can hear the Spirit's guidance. What have you learned? How can you give thanks?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of newness and delight, you greet your world again with light and life.
I awoken to your presence behind, before, beneath, above, and within me.
I thank you for another day and ask only that you keep me so firmly in your care that I can move gracefully through all I have to do.
Guard my family, my friends, and all my brothers and sisters in faith.
Let me be a peacemaker today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good and Holy One, you have led me through this day of many encounters to the time when I may close my eyes and dream.
I thank you for the people you have sent my way today, for the work I have had to do, for the food, shelter, and safety you have given.
I pray that people everywhere may have all necessary comfort and nourishment and that I may lie down in peace,
resting in the trust that you are watching over all creation.
I pray this in the name of the One who made Earth, called the children to come, and blows through our days with wisdom. Amen.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Lay Liturgist – Greg Boughton; Greeters –The Scofield Family; Ushers – Don & Pam Correll, Jeanette Reckell & Shawn Perry; After Worship Hospitality – Ron & Mary Rop; Offering Counters – Bob & Cheryl Hartman

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome Guests! We're so glad you joined our church family in worship today. Please join us following the worship service in the chapel for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

The sanctuary flowers this morning have been provided by Kristi Clark and Patricia Ganson.

The ***Men's Breakfast*** at the Cherokee Restaurant will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd at 8 a.m. Heidi Sunderhaft-Christensen and Kendyl White will present information on activities at No More Sidelines, a nonprofit organization that provides special needs children in Michigan the ability to meet other kids in a safe and nurturing environment.

Ladies... you and your friends are invited to the "Around-the-Town Dinner" at Lake House Waterfront Grille on Thursday, May 24th – 6 p.m. Sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by Sunday, May 20th.

Youth, please join Mrs. Pam and Mrs. Jess in the youth room for YAC Time today.

The Youth Group Kayak Trip will be rescheduled. Please share your thoughts on another date.

Today, the Younger Youth are having their last event of the school year at Putters Creek from 1-3 pm. We will golf and have ice cream afterward. If you are planning to attend, meet here at the church at 12:45 p.m.

The ***Pentecost Offering*** is one of four annual church-wide special offerings of the PC(USA). The offering provides for children at risk, youth and young adults. Forty percent of the offering is kept locally and the rest is invested by the General Assembly in faith-focused ministries for youth programs in this country and around the world. This year the local portion of the offering is designated to Pathfinders. Offering envelopes can be found in the pew racks. The offering will be received through the month of June.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FPC

05/20/18 Sunday	8:30 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 1:00 pm	Joyful Ringers Choir Warm-up Worship Hospitality YAC Time YY Mini-Golf
05/21/18 Monday	9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
05/22/18 Tuesday	7:15 pm	Gentle Yoga
05/23/18 Wednesday	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
05/24/18 Thursday	6:00 pm	Ladies "Around-the-Town" Dinner
05/25/18 Friday	9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
05/27/18 Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Hospitality