



May 24, 2026

St. John's United Church of Christ

As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.

**Called by God
Sharing with the World**

May 24, 2026
Pentecost Sunday

Meditation

“If we don’t teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.”

Anonymous

Chimes

Prelude *Come, Christians Join to Sing*, arranged by Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

✝ **Opening Hymn #1** *God Is Here!* (verses 1 & 2)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech ,
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✝ **Call to Worship** (Congregation reads **bold** print)

The Spirit blows life through us all.

We gather in the renewing life the Spirit gives to us.

Let us then worship with great joy and celebrate the new life among us.

We bring praise and song, joy and laughter before God! Let the world hear our praises!

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Dear God, as we celebrate the coming of your Spirit on this Pentecost Sunday, we come to you in a spirit of repentance. We confess that life's busyness, our worries and cares, and our own self-centered needs hold us back from realizing our potential as your faithful disciples. Forgive us, O Lord. We open ourselves anew today to the work of your Holy Spirit in us.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Our Lord is full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in mercy. We are forgiven. **We give thanks and praise to God's name!**

Bible Readings

Proverbs 3:1-12

Sophie Strokelitus

Acts 2:1-8, 12-21

Stefan Spolski

Proverbs 3:1-12

My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments;
²for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you.

³Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴So you will find favor and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. ⁸It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body.

⁹Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce;
¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

¹¹My child, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,
¹²for the LORD reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Acts 2:1-8, 12-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Choir Anthem

Spirit Come Down

The Sacred Rite of Confirmation for Sophie Strokelitus and Stefan Spolski

✠ The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he 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. *(from the UCC Book of Worship)*
(The congregation may be seated)

Prayer for the Confirmands

Let us pray together: Almighty God, who in baptism received your servants Sophie and Stefan into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

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.

Charge to the Confirmands

Pastor Jeff

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory *Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow*

†Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

†Communion Hymn # 132 *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart,
Free it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
And make me love you as I ought to love.

† Invitation to the Table

✠ Communion Prayer

Pastor Jeff

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy God, creator of heaven and earth. In the fulfillment of Christ's promise, you poured out the Holy Spirit upon the chosen disciples and filled the church with power. We thank you for sending your Spirit to us today to kindle faith and lead us into all truth, working in the church to make us faithful disciples and empowering us to proclaim the living Christ to every nation. And so we join our voices with all creation to praise you in song:

✠ Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Blessing of the Elements

Pastor Jeff

Prayers of the People

The gifts of God for the people of God. Prepare your hearts for all things are ready.

Partaking of the Elements

Take and eat; representing the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, renewing our connection to the living Christ. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory through Christ our Lord, Amen.

✠Closing Hymn #149 *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian (Verses 1-3)*

God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind sped flame and hovering dove,
Beath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead your people, fresh anointing of your grace,
Send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.

Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, Love crucified,
Teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride,
In your tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care;
Grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.

Great Creator, life bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall,
Fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
As you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts
Oversee its life steadfastly yet not overlook its faults.

✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Let Every Christian Pray



**The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of
God, in honor and appreciation of our
Friends at St. John's UCC, Orwigsburg, PA,
from everyone at Forget Me Not Florist.**