May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday
Virtual Sunday Celebration • 10:30 AM

Rev. Paul Werner, Pastor
Bruce Ensinger, Director of Music Ministry

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“On Pentecost, God takes a group of haphazard, diverse believers and unites us with the precious gift of spirit-language.”

David N. Mosser

“Divided tongues like fire!? Violent, howling wind!? It is one thing to receive a promise, quite another to be thrust into the midst of its fulfillment.”

Audrey West

“One of the lessons of Pentecost is that when ‘God happens,’ it will be something astonishing, like Pentecost itself. If we want to see some genuine ‘Acts of God’ in our midst, we need to be prepared for some amazement, some confusion.”

Alan Brehm

“Can you think of a time in your experience when language separated people from one another? Can you think of a time when that division was overcome?”

Janet H. Hunt
CENTERING MUSIC

GATHERING WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of our hearts,
God of blood and fire and smoke,
you have invoked our presence here this morning,
wherever we are at this very moment,
with your great gift of the Holy Spirit.
May this virtual service of celebration of worship and praise
be worthy of your challenge to us.
May we turn the Spirit’s reign in our hearts to fire in our lives.
May we glow red with power and love.
May we wear our fiery hearts on our sleeves
for all to see and feel and sense! Amen.

SONG

>Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

NCH 286
SCRIPTURE


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

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But 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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of our God’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of our God shall be saved.’”
SONG

*Pentecost Had Come*
by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Tune: ARGENTINA

MESSAGE

“So, It’s Pentecost”

Rev. Paul

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER / PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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.

*Feel free to pray with the traditional words or use Our Father and Mother or Our Creator, etc.

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you;
May God make God’s face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
May God lift up God’s countenance upon you, and give you peace.
(Numbers 6:24-26)

CLOSING MUSIC

*If you are in need of pastoral care, please call Rev. Fred Rhines at the church office (941-922-7595, extension 100).*

*Rev. Paul Werner continues to co-lead worship services with Bruce Ensinger, our Director of Music Ministry, at our Virtual Sunday Celebrations until we transition to an interim minister.*
Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly
Refrain

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the

Bm    E7    Asus7    A7
wilder-ness, call-ing and free,

D    G    A    Dsus4    D
Spirit, spirit of restless-ness, stir me from

Bm    G    A7    D    G    D
placid-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

D    G    A    G

1 You moved on the wa- ters, you called to the
2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the
3 You sang in a stable; you cried from a
4 You call from to-morrow, you break an-cient
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the sand,
and you goaded your people with a
then you whispered in silence when the schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the 

valleys of sleep; And over the eons you
law and a land; When they were confounded by their
whole world was still; And down in the city you
captives dream dreams; Our women see visions, our 

called to each thing, “Awake from your slumber;
then you spoke through your prophets
when you blew through your peoples
With bold new decisions

And rise on your wings.”

To open their eyes.

On the rush of the wind.

Your people arise.
Pentecost Had Come

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

ARGENTINA

1. Pentecost had come and in that time of grace,
   Jesus' friends were gathered in a meeting place.

2. All around the city joy was in the air;
   People gathered in the streets from everywhere.

3. Peter told the crowd to turn and be baptized;
   Thousands heard the words he spoke and changed their lives.

4. Suddenly the Spirit came in wind and flame,
   Soon they heard some preaching and the news was good!

5. Daily they sold what they owned to help the poor;
   There, in every language, they all understood.

6. Sending men and women out in Jesus' name.
   Day by day the church was growing more and more.

7. Spirit, come upon us, too!
   Give us gifts to share for you.

8. Spirit, move through every land
   Till all know and understand:

9. Spirit, change the way we live.
   Teach us how to gladly give

10. We live in a world in need;
    Send us where you daily lead!

11. Jesus died and rose—It's true!
    Now we have new life in you.

12. Guide us, as we seek to be
    Faithful in our ministry.
Welcome to St. Andrew United Church of Christ!
The United Church of Christ is a mainline Protestant denomination that has one million members in over 5,500 congregations. Formed in 1957 as a merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches, the UCC traces its roots back to the Protestant Reformation and also incorporates modern Christian traditions.

- We believe that faith is a matter of heart and mind.
- We believe that taking the Bible seriously does not mean taking it literally.
- We believe that God embraces all people equally.
- We believe that we are called to be nothing less than global citizens.
- We believe that the social expression of love is justice.
- We believe that every generation is called to discover new faith traditions.
- We believe that God continues to speak through the actions and words of persons today, just as in times of old.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here.

Our Core Values
- We are a Just Peace church. We promote peace with justice (a just peace) as an expression of God’s love, and we support peaceful opposition to intolerance, injustice, discrimination, violence, and war.
- We are an Open and Affirming church. We covenant to affirm and welcome visitors, members, and staff of all sexual orientations and gender identities, just as we extend the same loving affirmation and welcome to people of every age, faith, race, ethnicity, sex, nationality, marital status, and physical or mental ability.

ST. ANDREW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Rev. Paul Werner, Pastor
Bruce Ensinger, Director of Music Ministry
Brianne Tuinstra, Church Administrator
Bob Stewart, Sexton

Have you remembered St. Andrew UCC in your will?