

May 31 2020 -Pentecost SUNDAY Worship @ Home Guide

Woodstock Presbyterian Church, 142 E. Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664

*You are encouraged to use this as a guide for worship at home,
or as a bulletin during our online worship.*

Please scroll down to see Announcements and Prayer Requests.

*There will be two links on www.woodstockpresbyterianchurch.com to get to worship –
one is a direct link to the recording, available at any time.*

*The other is a public FaceBook Premiere, which will be active at 11:00am Sunday –
you will be able to chat with others who are worshipping at that time.*

*The FaceBook page also keeps the video for you to return to at any time.
(Night owls, this is your chance to worship when you want!)*

*Due to our love of neighbor we gather in Spirit, trusting in our ever-present God,
who conquered death so that we would live in love. +Pastor Kate*

+Prayer Requests:

- Janet Matthews, friend of Barbara Simons, surgery/cancer
- Jade Bowman, family of Jessica Jones, cancer
- Shannon Wollman, friend of Lori Staley
- Joyce & Ken, friends of Pastor Kate, premature twins

Announcements For TODAY SUNDAY, May 31:

+ THANKS! To all who contributed to today's worship service – because of your efforts, we ARE "gathered together in one place"!




+Pentecost Offering:


Nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The Session of Woodstock PC has set aside this portion of our Offering to an ecumenical after school Bible-based program in Woodstock. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



A FOUNDATION OF FAITH established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

- WAYS TO GIVE —**
-  Through your congregation
 -  Text **YOUNG** to 56512 to learn more or donate
 -  Give online at pcusa.org/pentecost

 **Presbyterian Church (USA) Presbyterian Mission**

The Pentecost Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) play an important role in defining what it means to be a congregational church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning and witness, and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



+ BIRTHDAY PARTY TODAY (SUNDAY)!!



Topic: Sunday Zoom Fellowship – Birthday Party Edition!

Time: **May 31, 2020 12:30 PM**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72062564142?pwd=a0dyQS9oMUorUzhJNHhLUjFsOFZ1dz09>

Meeting ID: 720 6256 4142

Password: Woodstock

For NEXT SUNDAY, June 7:

+June 7th's worship service will include **COMMUNION** – please have your elements ready.

+The Session of Woodstock Presbyterian Church has called a **Congregational Meeting** for **Sunday June 7th, 2020 12:30pm** for the purposes of electing of Pastor Nominating Committee. With a prayerful attempt to reflect the needs and makeup of the congregation, the Nominating Committee of the congregation puts forth this slate:

Margaret Nelson,
Ernie Grisdale,
Malinda Johnston,
Vicky Germroth,
and Gary Yew

Questions can be addressed to Elder Cindy Wilkins, chair of the Nominating Committee.

Due to the Pandemic social distancing constraints and the session's commitment to the safety of our community, the congregation will meet via Zoom video conference. An option for audio only will be available. The Session requests that any nominations "from the floor" be previously approved by the nominee and submitted to Clerk Heather Ashley prior to 11:00am the day of the meeting.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE AS MANY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AS POSSIBLE PARTICIPATE. IF YOU NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER ASHLEY OR Pastor Kate.

I rejoice with the congregation that you have arrived at this milestone in the transitional process! I join with you all in prayer for the discernment moving forward. Although I will not be directly involved in the PNC's work, I am still here for you if you have questions about the process in general.

+Rev. Kate Rascoe, Transitional Pastor

LINK NEEDED FOR ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE:

WPC Congregational Meeting & Fellowship Jun 7, 2020 12:30 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84656262281?pwd=ZVVlNFJYSENWNm1ORHNJMopvT1goUT09>

Meeting ID: 846 5626 2281

Password: Woodstock

PHONE-IN, AUDIO-ONLY OPTIONS:

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 846 5626 2281

Password: 770568

Pentecost Sunday Worship

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN – Jessica Jones

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

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.*

SCRIPTURE READING **Acts 2:1-21**

¹When 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? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes ¹¹Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” 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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

MESSAGE –

Once in a while, a friend steals the words on my heart and shares them with the world. My friend Lander did so this week, beautifully. He had this reflection published in his local paper and shared on social media, and I now share with you. +Pastor Kate

Breathe Into Us A New Spirit

Pentecost is coming. We’ll celebrate the presence of the Spirit of God on Sunday. Pneuma is the Greek word for Spirit. It also refers to breath or breathe. The breath of God passed over the waters as God brought creation into being. The Hebrew word for breath is ruach, which gets translated as pneuma. God gave breath to the human beings that were created from the dust of the earth.

As I write this, word has come that another Black man suffocated at the hands of a police officer, as the man lying on the ground in handcuffs called out to the officer that he could not breathe. He pled for his life. He called out for breath. He may have been involved in wrongdoing. He may not have cooperated with the officer before the recording began. But his breath was extinguished from him before being taken to jail, before having representation, before appearing before a judge. His breath was taken away. Surely, we would gasp, and surely God weeps yet again.

At Pentecost, 50 days after Passover and our celebration of Easter, the breath of God blew through the house where the disciples were gathered, and tongues like fire were over the heads of the disciples as they spoke in the native languages of people gathered from every part of the known world for this Jewish festival.

Pentecost was a big festival representing the first harvest of the year. It was a time to give thanks for the blessings God gave. Luke tells us in the Book of Acts about the disciples speaking the languages of all of the people gathered there. That distinguishes this occasion from glossolalia, or speaking in tongues, which requires someone to interpret the meaning of otherwise undiscernible

speech. This is spoken so that people understood what was being said just like people would speak it back home, in the old country. It was spoken in all of the languages of the people present, and it was spoken even in the languages of some tribes that had been extinguished generations before.

This act of pneuma, the breath of God, the Spirit of God speaking through the disciples was a great equalizer. It showed God's concern for all of the world, for everyone in the world, and even those who had already passed from the world, those who no longer breathed.

The breath of God is a symbol of diversity, of God's concern for every person in whom God has breathed the breath of life. Pneuma, breath, spirit has a sacredness about it. It is the sacredness of life.

There are others who struggle for breath, for life, as they fight the challenge of this virus we face. To be concerned about breath, about breathing, about life, about offering protection to others, about protecting those closest to us, as well as those whom we do not know is not about criticism or social correctness. It is about saving what God has given to each of us, the sacredness of breath.

Breathe, O Spirit of God, breathe new life into us. Breathe in such a way that we will come to understand the sacredness and the value of every life. Breathe in such a way that we will alight with a fiery determination to protect one another, will find within ourselves the resources to care for the most vulnerable, and have us come to know that none of us are to breathe easily until we all may breathe freely. O Breath of Life, breathe into us the breath of justice, the Spirit of mercy, the presence of lovingkindness so that we dare not take the breath of another through our lack of physical distancing or precautions for safety, or because we have taken offense at another, or deep seated prejudices that lead to excessive action.

May we know a new day like the day Peter spoke on Pentecost, as he looked back to the prophet Joel, expecting God's Spirit to breathe a new word into us that would have our sons and daughters see new visions of purpose, our old ones to dream new dreams of caring, and those who had been enslaved to speak such prophetic words that we would be brought to a new day of equality. Breathe, O Spirit of God, breathe this new life into us.

Lander L. Bethel, Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage**

**to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen**

OFFERING –

*The Church and the world need generosity now more than ever.
Out of gratitude for all that we have received,
let us lend ourselves to the glory of God and the love of neighbor.
Woodstock Presbyterian Church remains dedicated
to supporting our local, national, and worldwide ministries,
as well as keeping our full staff employed.
Every prayer and penny count. Checks can be mailed to the church.*

PRAYERS

Lord of all, we are unable to gather in one place. We grieve our inability to sit beside one another, sing together and pass the peace in person. Even as we lament what is lost when we cannot be in the same physical space, we rejoice that nothing separates us from the love of Jesus Christ and there is no barrier that can prevent the Holy Spirit's coming to us. United in Christ, bound by the Spirit, our community is real and strong, no matter where we are.

Confident in your promise to never leave us alone, to hear us when we knock and give to us when we ask, we are bold to pray for those on our hearts and minds. Send the Spirit's winds of your comfort to surround those who mourn. Stay close to those unable to be near to those they love. Grant rest to the weary and give hope to those on the brink of despair. Kindle the Spirit's flame of reconciliation between those long estranged and peoples who call each other enemies. Bring healing to the sick and relief to those who suffer. Unleash the Spirit's power to bring justice to the oppressed. Possess us with your Spirit so that we cannot abide the

exploitation of the weak or the neglect of the vulnerable. Let your Spirit loose in your church so that we can be bearers of your love in the world.

On this day of Pentecost when multiple languages resound through the universe and all kinds of people proclaim your mighty deeds, open the eyes of our hearts to take in all the glorious sounds, relish the beautiful sights, and rejoice in the precious diversity of creation. Your works and your words are too wonderful for us and yet you enlist us to participate in your divine endeavor of salvation. We are astounded, perplexed and bewildered, but eager through the gift of the Spirit to serve you with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Come, Holy Spirit, engulf this frightening season with the live-giving, mercy-granting, joy-completing, justice-rolling deeds of our God. Open our mouths so that our lips may proclaim God's praise. Direct our actions so the world will know we are Christ's followers by our love. Make us one so we can be ambassadors of reconciliation. Show us your vision and empower us to make your divine dreams our earthly reality.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We lift our prayers with our siblings in Christ around the globe, praying as Christ taught:

**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;
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**

HYMN #66 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain:

***Every time I feel the spirit
Movin' in my heart I will pray
Every time I feel the spirit
Movin' in my heart I will pray***

Up on the mountains my Lord spoke
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke
Looked all around me, it looked so fine
I asked the Lord could it be mine

The Jordan river is chilly and cold.
It chills the body but not the soul.
There aint but one train upon this track.
It runs to heaven and then right back.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Postlude – Scarlatti, Sonata in G Major

Special Thanks to:

Katie Grant, piano

Lori Staley, liturgist

Laura Haney, message about YAV

Jessica Jones, Children's Moment

Hymns from Glory to God.

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Prayers of the People written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution