



First Presbyterian Church of New Philadelphia
217 E. High Ave, New Philadelphia, OH 44663
330-343-7114
www.newphilapc.org



Rev. Joseph Svancara, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service
May 24, 2026

*All who are able, please stand.

Announcements & Prayer Concerns

The church office will be closed Monday (May 25) in observance of Memorial Day.

Finance Committee will meet this Tuesday (May 26) at 7pm.

Bible Study will be this Wednesday (May 27) at 10am.

AA will meet this Wednesday (May 27) at 8pm.

Our Sunday Morning Study Group will be meeting next Sunday (May 31) at 9:15am.

Opening Prayer

LORD, our Creator, you have blessed the world with the gift of your Spirit, to empower the Church for your work and remind the Church who we are in your sight. Bless us with the knowledge that you do not provide your Spirit to the worthy but entrust it to all to live as you alone desire. **Amen.**

Prelude *The Dove of Peace* Arr. George Blake

***Call to Worship (Psalm 104:24-35)**

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth and the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!

Hymn #130 *Let Every Christian Pray

Let every Christian pray,
This day and every day,
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Was not the church we love
commissioned from above?
Come Holy Spirit, come!

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

Only the Spirit's power
Can fit us for this hour:
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Instruct, inspire, unite,
And help us see Your light:
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

***Prayer of Confession**

Though we claim to know the Spirit, and proclaim him in our hearts, our actions remain untamed to that divine guidance:

LORD, our Creator, your Spirit leads all into truth and righteousness, confronting all in their sin. But we often refuse to entertain this vision and put aside what is

most important to know. Aid us in accepting our mistakes and shortcomings, the gaps in our knowledge and imagination, and where your people have fallen short in being the Israel needed for the sake of all. Amen.

***Silent Confessions and Prayers**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

The yielding to your voice right now is a sign that the Spirit is within us, and truth is not far out of our reach.

May the voice of your Spirit, of the living Christ, continue to guide and reveal how we must stand as a healing to the world amid our own healing.

Hymn #579 *Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

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 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.**

Reading of the Scriptures

All Scripture lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary. Prescribed lessons are underlined, with pastoral inserts to preserve the integrity of the passage.

Hear the Word of the Lord:

Numbers 11:16-30

11 ¹⁶ So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. ¹⁷ I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. ¹⁸ And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall

eat meat; for you have wailed in the hearing of the Lord, saying, 'If only we had meat to eat! Surely it was better for us in Egypt.' Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. ¹⁹ You shall eat not only one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, ²⁰ but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you—because you have rejected the Lord who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, 'Why did we ever leave Egypt?' " ²¹ But Moses said, "The people I am with number six hundred thousand on foot; and you say, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month!' ²² Are there enough flocks and herds to slaughter for them? Are there enough fish in the sea to catch for them?" ²³ The Lord said to Moses, "Is the Lord's power limited? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not." ²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵ Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. ²⁶ Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" ³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Acts 2:1-42

2 ¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, 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.' ²² You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹ Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool." ' ³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

John 7:37-39

7 ³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living

water.’ ” ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *Pentecost Sunday*

Pentecost for Christians is the celebration of the Church, the gifting of the Holy Spirit by the LORD to craft and unite the believers in Jesus Christ together. Many consider it to be the ‘birth’ of the Church in this world since the Holy Spirit gives the Church its power and ability to work. I consider this to be a very simple understanding of the Church, and one which allows misunderstanding and misinformation to slip in. There is a theological idea called ‘replacement theory’, also known as *supersessionism*, that the Church has replaced Israel as the LORD’s agent of change and mission within the world. Almost like the Church has become a ‘Plan B’ because of the mistakes and shortcomings Israel had during its history. But that theory makes it seem like the LORD is susceptible to failure, cannot anticipate the sins of humanity and the people, and needed to cobble together an afterthought. But it is in Pentecost that the Church and Israel come together to reveal a deep understanding of the LORD’s people, that the Church is simply another step within Israel’s history of opening itself to the world. Of being that agent of change, a nation of priests and prophets, of those who see need and bestow wisdom and understanding for people to understand and live prosperous lives. And to remind all of the LORD’s people, regardless of which denomination or tradition they dwell within, that it is the Creator Spirit who founds and reminds the people of their divine-sanctioned task.

We see many holidays and celebrations coming together this day; *Pentecost* (Gk. “the fiftieth of the day) also called by the Jews *Shavuot* (Hb. “weeks’) which commemorates the gifting of the law by the LORD to Moses on Mt. Sinai and the annual wheat harvest, and *Sukkot* (Hb. “booths”) remembering the wilderness wanderings of Israel after the Exodus and the autumn harvest. That is when Jesus in John 7 talks about “rivers of living water” erupting the heart of those who trust in him. All of these holidays talk about the provision of the LORD to his people; about how the LORD gives the harvest to sustain his people physically and the law to sustain them spiritually. How that provision crafts a people who can demonstrate the way of life meant for the rest of the world, to unite all creation together again from when it drifted apart. That is why the believers can speak in other languages at the Pentecost event, a sign of unity and gathering from when human means and efforts separated people. When human arrogance and ego made each people group see others as the enemy. But now the common Spirit makes them see each other as kin and see the history of Israel find competition because of what Jesus Christ shows.

Within that understanding of founding, purpose, provision, and unity is also the responsibility of the LORD’s people. Chosen not because there was something superior or better about than the rest of the world, but the potential to be different

based on a rekindled desire for truth. In Numbers 11, during an episode of wilderness crossing for Israel, they were grumbling again because they wanted meat instead of bread. The LORD promised quail to sustain them, enough that it would come out of their nostrils and they would grow sick of it! Not the shame the people but remind them of who allowed them to stay together and see this journey of understanding through.

The wilderness was a time in which Israel was relearning what it meant to serve the LORD, and unlearn the bad habits acquired under the thumb of the Egyptians. It was during that time Moses learned, from his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, that the people needed to take their freedom into their own hands. Moses could not do all the leadership himself and needed to appoint elders to aid in the task, and to also own their responsibility as part of the people. Those elders were then allowed to receive a portion of the LORD's spirit to be able to lead wisely, to show that leadership and teaching do not happen because of one's own ability but by the LORD recognizing there is something to benefit the whole from that one. Which is why Moses does not stop the two men in the camp from prophesying, it was a sign that the LORD was moving in the hearts of the willing to strengthen and lead the people where they needed to be.

For the Church right now, for the Israel still moving and operating where we are, we are reminded our position is part of a long line of servants, prophets, priests, kings, deacons, apostles, and others called to make divine life known to those in need. It takes place in so many ways and forms but always under the guidance of the Spirit and the unity of the faith community. Each of us are responsible for looking after each other, teaching and instructing each other, offering correction and encouragement, and know our voice is a small part of the whole which establishes and continues the divine mission. The LORD's Spirit has always been available to the people, shown in such a way it could not be ignored, but has been set aside by some and hindered their participation. Pentecost shows how we recognize, pick up, and purposefully make room for the Spirit in our lives to truly live as we ought. It expresses a potential for willingness in each of our lives to receive what is good, to recognize what is not a benefit, and conduct ourselves in a manner which we express the goodness of the LORD to those who do not know or misunderstand. This is the age of the Spirit for the Church, the time to see where we might be taken and challenged in what we can do. To continue the divine wind of chance seen since the start of creation, bring order and mercy into chaos, and trust that the LORD will enable a people who can express and live what is best for the good of all.

Prayers of the People

Let us remember in prayer:

Mary Ellen Beans, Fritz Chambers, Michelle Chamberlain, Mary Jane Dougherty, Don Eberheart Jr., Allison Folly, Kay France, Jamie Frank, Judy Hass, Alice & Errol Jacobs, Victoria Kasten, Amber Loftis, Will Long, Tom Netting, Ruth Patrick, Bob Pierre, Mark Preusser, Stefani Seth, Dane & Cindy Smith, Derrick & Mandy Smith, Dean & Heidi

Unzicker, Simone Villarruel, Holly Waldenmyer, The Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County & The Homeless of Tuscarawas County.

LORD, our Creator, we gather as your people to celebrate the gift of your Church. You have gathered a people from the farthest winds of creation to instruct, bless, and bestow the work of healing and restoring your creation. But this is a responsibility we are not to obsess over or have ego about since we are not here by our own power or ability. Your Church is not a divine 'second chance for your will to be done, rather it is the fulfillment of all your promises from ancient past to modernity. You have crafted your Israel to be a light to the nations and a wisdom to the peoples of the world, and today that nation is opened and enlarged by the work of Jesus Christ. Your Spirit has been at work for so long for our benefit and we celebrate how it now rests with us to guarantee our purpose and your desire for us.

In all situations and circumstances your Spirit speaks and assures our spirit. He lets us know what we can do to allow that small portion of creation to know your love and mercy. So for all concerns of our lives, all celebrations we experience, we call upon that voice which unites all things together for our good...*Reading of the Prayer List...*LORD, in your loving mercy, hear our prayers.

Moment of Silence

Precious Spirit, assurance of the living LORD in our lives, may our hearts and beings be a temple, a home, by which you may live and work. May our efforts be the worship which allows you to be known by all. And in this renewed season of the Spirit, allow the promises of your prayer to take on renewed life and meaning for all we do:

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.

Offering our Gifts

In response to the Spirit making us one may what we give signify what we see our works and efforts are worthy to building.

Offertory *Chorale* Arr. R Wilson

Hymn #592 *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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

LORD, our Creator, your Spirit has blessed us all with the ability to move, know, and work toward your greatest goal. May all we give, and receive as your people, signal what can happen when we open that ever-flowing well of our hearts to others. **Amen.**

Hymn #128 *On Pentecost They Gathered

On Pentecost they gathered
Quite early in the day,
A band of Christ's disciples,
To worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing,
Filled all the swirling air,
And tongues of fire a glowing
Inspired each person there.

The people all around them
Were startled and amazed
To understand their language,
As Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message,
What great good news was here?
That Christ once dead, is risen
To vanquish all our fear.

God pours the Holy Spirit
On all who would believe,
On women, men, and children
Who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit,
Bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming,
Responds in every hour.

O Spirit, sent from heaven
On that day long ago,
Rekindle faith among us
In all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen
And tongues aflame with praise,
So folk of every nation
Glad songs of joy shall raise.

***Benediction**

Hear now, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind; you will love your neighbor as yourself.

With the gospel of Jesus Christ guiding you, go into the world to live this sole purpose.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Postlude *Grand Chorus* Arr. F W Zachau**

Be blessed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ wherever you may go!

All hymn lyrics and prayers are reproduced and printed with permission from The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs (Westminster John Knox Press, 1990), and original writing of Rev. Joseph Svancara.

All Scripture lessons are reproduced and printed with permission from the New Revised Standard Bible (NRSV).

All worship messages, devotions, and church news are available on the First Presbyterian Church website (www.newphilapc.org).