

St. Vincent United Church of Christ

Pentecost Sunday – May 24, 2026

Happy Memorial Day Weekend

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringling of the Bell
Pastor's Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Let us gather our hearts and minds in the unity of the living Spirit and ask God to bless us.

People: **Come, Holy Spirit, and inspire us – so that we may live Spirit-filled lives of love for all.**

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful with the fire of your love.

People: **May your light instruct our minds in the truth, shape our hearts in your love, and may we always find joy in the consolation of your presence all the days of our lives. Amen.**

Pastor: Let us join our voices together in saying our Affirmation of Faith...

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in God the Father, maker of all things. We believe in his Son Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of life and light. We belong to the Church, God's family everywhere. Amen

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 272 "On Pentecost They Gathered"**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: The Spirit of God descends like a dove upon us bringing peace. It comes like a breath of wind, bringing us new life. It ignites a spark within us, bringing inspiration and energy for the work of God. The Spirit of the Lord comes once again to transform our lives for the better. Let us pray about that ...

Prayer: **God of Spirit and Life, we rejoice in your offer of new life, but our hands and hearts are burdened by doubt. We hesitate to embrace truths that feel larger than us. Have mercy on us, we pray, and fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, so that we might give glory to you in all that we say and do. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Assurance: The Spirit of God is rich in love and mercy and abundant in compassion – breathing new life into us every day. In gratitude, let's sing together our response ...

Sung Response: # 2026, "Halleluja" (praise book)

Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halleluja!, Halleluja!

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Jen Kluge

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Today's reading can be found in the Book of Acts, chapter 2. This reading is a paraphrase of verses 1-21 where we hear the story of

the birth of the Christian Church.

It takes us back to Jerusalem fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. The disciples have been waiting there as Jesus had instructed them - for he promised that something would come to help them carry on his ministry here on earth.

Let us pray: Holy One, bless us now as we hear this story of something that happened on this day long ago – and happens in each of our own hearts as we celebrate your presence this day. Amen.

Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, the disciples were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that came to rest on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

Now, there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard the disciples speaking in his own language.

Utterly amazed, they asked one another – “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongue!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked each other, “What does this mean?” Some of those among them made fun of the situation and said that the disciples must have had too much wine to drink.

Then Peter stood up with the other disciples, raised his voice and addressed the crowd – *“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk; why it is only nine o’clock in the morning! No, this incident is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel when he said - “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below - blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Peter raised his voice again and said – *“People of Israel, listen to this – Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him on the cross.*

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of that fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this – God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, *“Brothers, what shall we do?”* Peter replied, *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

With many other words he warned them, and he pleaded with them, saying, *“Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”* Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching with fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders, miracles, and signs were done by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold their possessions and goods and gave to anyone and everyone who had a need. Every day they continued to meet in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of God's Holy Scripture. May God bless us with understanding, and may we show our understanding in the way we live our lives. Amen.

Now, let's sing our middle hymn, # 292, "Breathe on Me, Breath of God".

Hymn: # 292, "Breathe on Me, breath of God"

Message: "Happy Birthday!"

Sung Response: # 2025, "As the Deer"

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you. You alone are my strength, my shield – to you alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

Sung Response: #2203, "In His Time" (verse 2)

In your time, in your time; you make all things beautiful in your time. Lord, my life to you I bring; may each song I have to sing be to you a lovely thing in your time.

Time of Dedication for Special Offerings

Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the UCC to cooperatively build up our denomination. The funds we contribute go to the conference and wider church will sponsor leadership development, support new church starts, youth ministry, and new programs in existing congregations.

"Food for School Kids" Summer Donations

Operation 143 is a local organization that distributes "easy to open" food items to school kids to help sustain them with breakfast and lunch options through the summer months. Our donations help to feed hungry bodies and minds that belong to the leaders of our future. Thank you for your generosity.

Ursinus Association "Members-in-Discernment" Fund

Our association of churches has established this fund to assist with the cost of psychological testing and counseling for students pursuing seminary education toward ordination as local church pastors. Thank you for your contribution.

Offering Invitation: As God has blessed us, let us be a blessing to others in the form of our morning offering.

Offertory / * Sung Response: # 785, "We Give You"

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is yours alone - we give it gratefully.

*** Prayer of Dedication: Holy One, now bless these gifts to your use in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.**

* **Hymn:** # 594, “O Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies”

* **Benediction:** May God's Holy Spirit ever be in us, around us, and with us to guide us in the ways of Christ throughout our whole lives. Let us go forth to spread the Good News of love and compassion for all people in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Response: # 77, “Lord, Dismiss Us” (vs 1)

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing – fill our hearts with joy and peace. Let us each your love possessing – triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us oh, refresh us – traveling through wilderness.

* **Postlude Music**