

**SCHOENBRUNN COMMUNITY MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
***We are Christ called, Christ centered, Christ sent...loving all.***

2200 EAST HIGH AVE, NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH 44663  
(Phone) 330.339.1940 (Website) scmchurch.org

**Pentecost**  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Ministers	All of Us!
Pastor	Rev. Ben Lippert
Director of Music/Organist	Angie Miller
Elder of the Month	Linda Northrop
Trustee of the Month	Letticia Wright
Media Technician	Denny Drumm
Media Production	Paula Drumm

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\*\*\*\*\*Watchword for the week: *"There is a different kind of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord."* **1 Corinthians 12:4-5**

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WORDS OF WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY HYMN

\*PASSING THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK

PRELUDE

\*HYMN "ON PENTECOST THEY GATHERED" MBW#378

\* LITURGY "PENTECOST" MBW#95

SCRIPTURE LESSON

ACTS 2:1-21

LUKE 10:1-11

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY	"PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW"	MBW# 817
	<i>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!</i>	

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**HOLY SPIRIT,**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE MIRACULOUS GIFT OF COMMUNITY YOU HAVE GIVEN TO US. HELP US TO LISTEN AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER AS YOU TAUGHT US TO DO. AMEN.**

Children's Lesson

Joyful Noise "Mission trip to Steubenville"

*HYMN	"In the Bulb There is a Flower"	MBW#797
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Message	"Faith Like a Sunflower"	Alicia Cox
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*HYMN	"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"	MBW#617
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\*CHIME

\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Please stand, as able.*

*† Reprinted with permission from "Moravian Daily Texts 2020" © 2019*

*†† Lyrics from: <https://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/nlb/special-occassions/special-epiphany-a-b-c.html>*

### **Prayers of the People**

**Church and World:** For all families and churches of Tuscarawas County; for the ministries of our Eastern District and Northern Province; for the shared work of the worldwide Moravian Unity; for all who risk their lives for the gospel; for refugees and victims of natural disasters and violence around the world and for those who work to provide shelter, healing, and peace. We think especially of the people of Ukraine.

**Military and Families:** Carter Baker, Adam Porter, Bret Penik, Kyle Springer, Nathan Zinser, Anna Sandoval, Ben Miller.

**Healing, Comfort and Peace:** Linda Bennington, Michael and Khloe Brown, Steven Brown, Violet, Rev. Steve Patrick, William Veigle, Bristol Wallace, Jim Karcher, Ralph Yarl, Janet West, Ian Swinderman, Doug Sopher, Jim Karcher, Joan Beorn, Missy Martin, Chris Chaney, Karen Chaney, Doris Gardner, Georgia Sweaney, Dixie Lewis, Clint Svancara, Rev. Steve Patrick, Tyler Cox, Callie Reynolds, Eric Fondriest, Steve Pasquinelli, Tammy Bennett, COVID-19 Victims.

**Families Bereaved:** Corey Beitzel, Edna Yoder, Ted West, Larry Burns, Orianna Eichner, Aimee Pasquinelli, Jim Menapace, Mary Baker.

**Homebound Members and Friends:** Lynne Capretta (Northwood Inn), Janet West (Hennis).

To add prayers please contact Prayer Chain: 330-440-4705 or [pastor@scmchurch.org](mailto:pastor@scmchurch.org).

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## Worship Script 052823

Bells

Welcome and Announcements (Linda)

Right Wave of Fellowship, Watchword, prelude, announcing hymn (Linda)

Liturgy Pentecost ()

Scripture (Linda)

Prayer (Linda)

Gracious God,

On this day of Pentecost we give thank for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We give thanks that the diversity of the Spirit reaches all people and all languages. Help us all to be reenergized by the Holy Spirit that lives and reigns today.

We pray for those who are grieving, sick, struggling, or hurting. May God's mercy overflow for all of his children in need.

This Memorial Day we give thanks to all the members of our military who laid down their lives for our freedom. John 15:13 said, "There is no greater love than this; that a person would lay down his life for the sake of his friends."

We give thanks for all the blessings we are given. Amen.

Offering (Linda)

We offer God our tithes, offerings, and gifts. We thank you for your gifts and anyone who would like to make an in-person donation is invited to place their gift in the offering plate on the usher's table. Please rise, as we pray together the offertory.

Lead Offertory Prayer (Linda)

Children's Chat (Paula)

Joyful Noise (Paula)

At the conclusion of the Children's chat we will take a joyful noise for the ecumenical mission trip to Steubenville being led by Pastor John Kelly from Gnadenhutten United Methodist Church during June. We are happy to support our friends in ministry

Announce Hymn (Paula)

Message/ Announce Closing Hymn/ Benediction (Alicia)

Thank you all! You got this!



# Faith Like A Sunflower



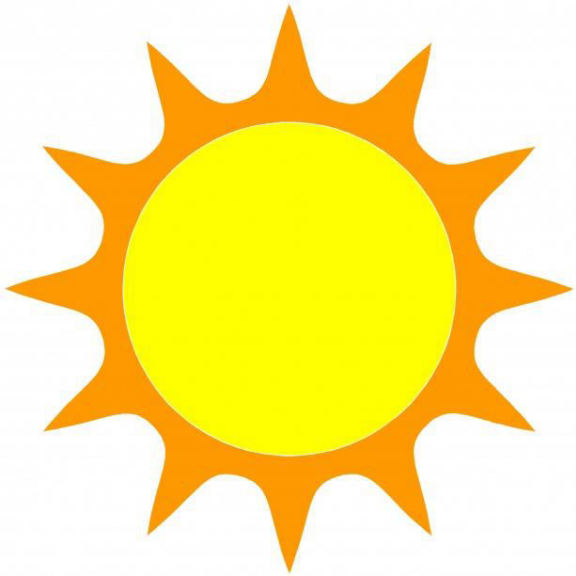


Photo Credit: Amber Ruscin



IN  
UNITY.





# THE SUN



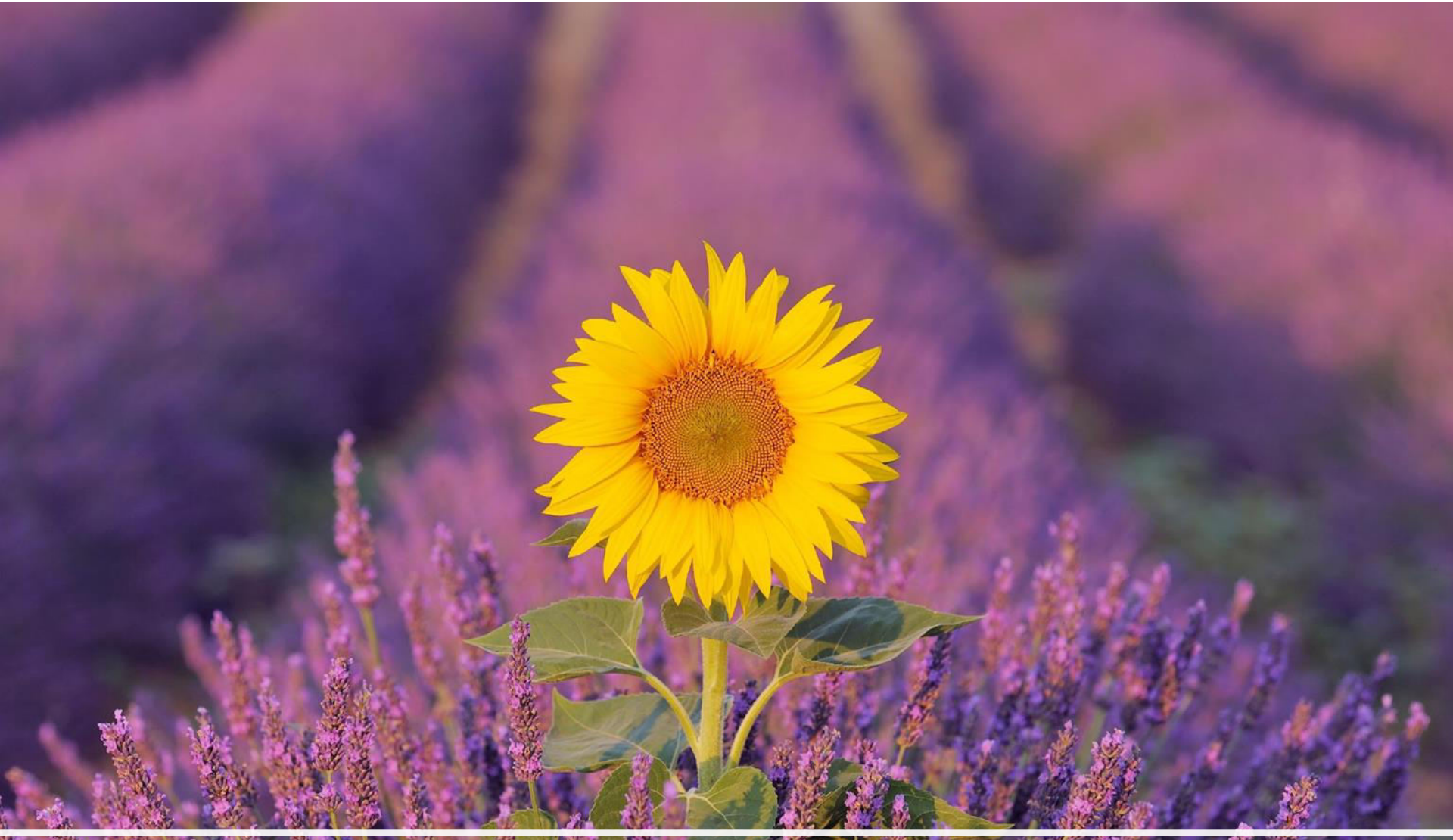






PURPOSE





**BE A SUNFLOWER!**

## **FAITH LIKE A SUNFLOWER**

### **SLIDE (Faith Like A Sunflower- Flame/Sunflowers)**

A common association with Pentecost is flames, however, something else came to mind- sunflowers. What is the reason, you may ask? The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus for the purpose of filling and equipping believers to gather in the harvest of the Spirit. It occurred to me that sunflowers are similar to that. When was the last time you saw a sunflower standing alone? Rarely. Similarly to Christians, sunflowers provide unity to each other.

### **IN UNITY (SLIDE OF SUNFLOWER FIELD)**

How many times have you stared at a sunflower field in awe? Certainly, I have. As a matter of fact, Tyler and I got our engagement pictures done in one. Have you ever noticed how uniform those sunflower fields are? It reminds me of how we in the church are united. We are all



here today to learn and grow in God's word and the love we have for him. Philippians 4:1 says " Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm ( just like a sunflower- haha just kidding, it doesn't mention this part) in the Lord in the way, dear friends! "

So, what is Paul saying here? Remember to stay strong and keep growing, even when things get tough. Are you wondering how you can grow? You can grow by participating in the church through many volunteer opportunities. Such as Volunteering at Food on the Fly, a Card Party, you name it. There are so many opportunities in the church. It could also be attending Sunday school. You might be thinking what makes me feel united in this church? We are just like one big family. We don't always get along but, we all have one common thing: the love of

Jesus. But what makes you feel united? Is it a Sunday greeting you receive from a close friend every week? Or is it listening to God's word through song? Maybe you don't feel that way at all. It is possible that you are struggling to find that unity. You may not feel united, you may be struggling with God right now and that is okay. We have times when we are trying to figure stuff out and the path God wants us to take. This can be hard but sometimes we need to look at the sunny side of life.

### **THE SUN (SLIDE- Sun looking down on Sunflower) -**

What does the sunflower need to grow? Shout it out here! The sun. The sun reminds me of how much we need God. Let me repeat that. The sun reminds me of how much we need God. It is natural to turn to God to seek and find goodness when we are trying to understand how he creates nature.

Sunflowers face in the direction of the sun, in many different directions. One may be facing up, and another down, while a few others might be all over the place (does that sound like anyone you know in La La land?)

Remember, when we walk this path together, there will always be a light shining down on us from above. We may be different, but we need each other to grow.

**SLIDE- (WILD SUNFLOWER)** The sunflowers still look for the sun but, most of the time not at the same time. You notice this, especially in the wild. It looks like the real deal, but watch its pattern of living, and you'll see the difference. The same is true for Christians. Paul said, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" which is from 1 Corinthians 11:1. If we keep this goal in mind, the world will amaze us. Paul's Key message of this passage is that our intent, and



the effects of our actions on others, are more important than the physical things involved.

**PURPOSE- (SLIDE- Single Sunflower)**

In a sunflower, you can use every part of the sunflower for something. You can use the roots by cooking them, roasting them or by frying them. You can use the sunflower's sprouts and stalks and eat them just like celery. The leaves are like spinach so you can make a salad. Sunflower seeds which all of us are pretty familiar with we can eat those. You can even use a sunflower head as a scrubbing tool to use to clean. All of this to say, every part of a sunflower can be used in some way.

Just like a sunflower, I want to be a good person as well. I want God to use me. I know, I'm not the greatest. I want to live the purpose God wants me to be. What is that exactly? I know, he might not want me to follow in the

same direction as my sister-in-law. That is okay. We need to focus more on the positives in life but also learn from the not-so-great things in life. Colossians 3:17 says, "Let everything you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. " What is Paul saying? Paul's advice on sins to avoid by listing positive traits Christians should strive to emulate. Amongst these are compassion, humility, patience, and forgiveness. More important than any other is love, which not only inspires the other traits but which binds Christians together as a single family, under Christ. Paul then opens the idea of following Christ to include every aspect of our lives: whatever we think or do, as believers, ought to be compatible with the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe Paul was also encouraging us to make use of our spiritual gifts. We have explored our spiritual gifts in the past. In a spiritual gifts assessment I took years ago, my top areas were administration, helping, and service. It is sometimes difficult for me to love my spiritual gifts because I do not like making mistakes. In spite of that, I am much more successful with them now than I was when I first discovered them. While we may share some similar spiritual gifts, God would not give a gift if it wasn't good. I encourage you to stretch yourself and act like a sunflower, standing tall and exploring your spiritual gifts. I know Ben and God would both love to see you all grow in God's love.

## SLIDE

Most beautiful of all, sunflowers truly embody and live out the name given to them. How amazing it would be to fully live out the life and name God has given to us. We need to



remember to **Stand tall, be positive in our life, be happy, and be A SUNFLOWER!** Now, EVERYONE STAND UP so, we can show ourselves in unity with each other just like a sunflower!

Thank you for having me today. I would like to end with a prayer.

Let us pray...

Lord, Guide us in ways to grow in our faith. Guide us, if we need direction or strength when we need it most. Help us follow your way, and not our own. Remind us to stand up, be positive, be happy and be like a sunflower. Let us keep our face toward You. Amen.