

FAITH MATTERS

May 2023



Pastor Scott's Musings



“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
Acts 2:1-4.

This month we will celebrate Pentecost. This is a day with a long history as it signified the end of the Jewish Festival of Weeks, one of the three primary festivals in the Jewish calendar. The word is from the Greek and was used because it occurred fifty days after the

Passover. It marked the end of the harvest, and as such, was a celebration of God’s bounty and beneficence.

It is in the New Testament that the day takes on new significance. The disciples had stayed in Jerusalem after the appearances of Jesus following the Resurrection. On this day of celebration, God sent His Holy Spirit upon them, and they began telling the Good News of the Gospel therein uniting in Christ’s work to establish the church. Pentecost became the birthday of the church and still celebrated the bounty and beneficence of God through the grace poured out in His Son, Jesus.

The disciples had spent time waiting for this day to come. They had been promised that the Holy Spirit would come to comfort and guide them. He gave them the power of utterance (the ability to speak out).

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Pastor Scott's Musings

CONT.

They could boldly present the Gospel. If you have not done so, read the rest of Acts chapter two. You will see how boldly they preached.

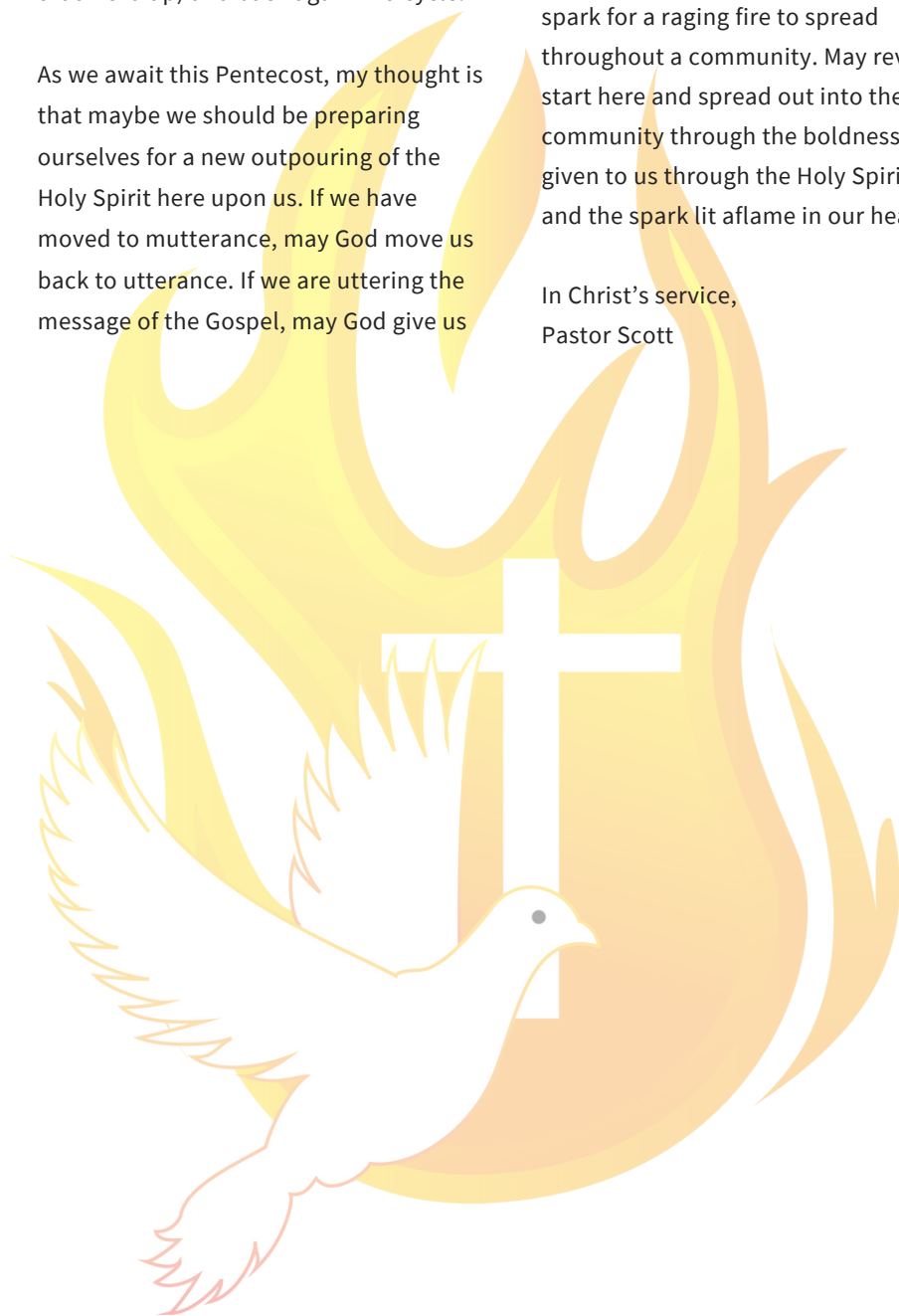
Over time, the church has had to deal with the muddling of the message that we are to proclaim. We have moved from utterance to mutterance (yes, I made that word up) and back again in a cycle.

As we await this Pentecost, my thought is that maybe we should be preparing ourselves for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit here upon us. If we have moved to mutterance, may God move us back to utterance. If we are uttering the message of the Gospel, may God give us

boldness. If we open ourselves to the outpouring and work of the Spirit, we will see God move in mighty ways that we cannot yet imagine.

So, as we sing happy birthday to the church this month. Let us get prepared for what it is the Lord may do through us. Revival starts within our hearts, but it only takes a little spark for a raging fire to spread throughout a community. May revival start here and spread out into the community through the boldness given to us through the Holy Spirit and the spark lit aflame in our hearts.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Scott



But the Helper,
the Holy Spirit,
whom the
Father will send
in my name, he
will teach you
all things and
bring to your
remembrance all
that I have said
to you.

JOHN 14:26



BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 - Sandra Arent
- 5/4 - Kimberly Nichol
- 5/9 - Heather Demotte
- 5/14 - Aleena Grandstrand
- 5/16 - Nick Rollison
- 5/17 - Bob Dilly
- 5/17 - Rich Zipko
- 5/18 - Scarlett Perry
- 5/18 - Joan Rohaly
- 5/20 - Bryce Grandstrand
- 5/20 - Izzy Heather
- 5/25 - Ian McDowell



ANNIVERSARY

- 5/27 - T.J. & Jolie Welling





May 7, 2023 (Communion)

Sermon Title: Take The Risk

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:1-9

Focal Verse: "And I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it.'" v. 5.

Synopsis: You must put yourself in the position of being ready for God's purposes in your life. This requires risk. It requires vulnerability. There is nothing special required; just surrender.

May 14, 2023

Sermon Title: Inspect Your Mission Field

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11-16

Focal Verse: "And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work." v. 16.

Synopsis: Too often we are so busy with our own agendas that we fail to listen to the needs of others. We end up doing ministry for rather than with others, sometimes doing exactly the opposite of what they need. Nehemiah walked before he talked and then found that after he talked others were ready to walk with him. So can we.

Special Notes: Mother's Day

May 21, 2023

Sermon Title: Gain Commitment

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:17-18

Focal Verse: "And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for the good work." v. 18.

Synopsis: A broken heart, persistent prayer, giving it your all, taking the risk, and having a clear survey of the situation allows us to then be able to show true passion and connection with the community. This will make it possible to get the commitment of others to move toward the goals that God has set before us.

May 28, 2023 (Pentecost Sunday)

Sermon Title: Get To Work

Scripture: Nehemiah 3

Focal Verse: "Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built." vv. 1-2.

Synopsis: Any community work requires that there be strong organization. People need to know what their assignments are and what is expected of them. Additionally, people need to learn how to stay in their lane while supporting the common good. In other words, do you know how to use your specific gifts for the edification of the body?

Special Notes: Memorial Day Weekend



*When the Spirit
of truth comes,
he will guide
you into all the
truth, for he will
not speak on his
own authority,
but whatever he
hears he will
speak, and he
will declare to
you the things
that are to come.
He will glorify
me, for he will
take what is
mine and
declare it to you.*

JOHN 16:13-14





This world can be cold and bitter
 Feels like we're in the dead of winter
 Waiting on something better
 But am I really gonna hide forever?
 Over and over again
 I hear Your voice in my head
 Let Your light shine, let Your light shine
 for all to see

Start a fire in my soul
 Fan the flame and make it grow
 So there's no doubt or denying
 Let it burn so brightly
 That everyone around can see
 That it's You, that it's You that we need
 Start a fire in me

You only need a spark to start a whole
 blaze
 It only takes a little faith
 Let it start right here in this city
 So these old walls will never be the
 same
 Over and over again
 I hear Your voice in my head
 They need to know
 I need to go
 Spirit won't You fall on my heart now

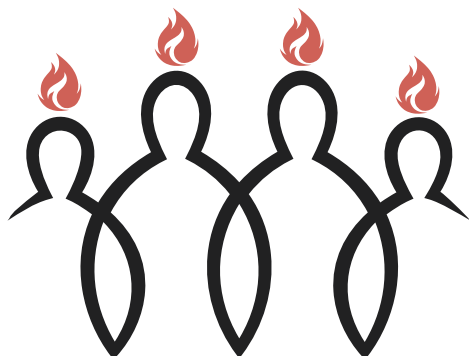
Start a fire in my soul
 Fan the flame and make it grow
 So there's no doubt or denying
 Let it burn so brightly
 That everyone around can see
 That it's You, that it's You that we need
 Start a fire in me

You are the fire, You are the flame
 You are the light on the darkest day
 We have the hope, we bear Your name
 We carry the news that You have come
 to save
 Only You can save

Start a fire in my soul
 Fan the flame and make it grow
 So there's no doubt or denying
 Let it burn so brightly
 That everyone around can see
 That it's You, that it's You that we need
 Start a fire in me

You are the fire, You are the flame
 You are the light on the darkest day
 Start a fire in me

[Click Here To Listen](#)



*“Peace be with you.
 As the Father has
 sent me, even so I
 am sending you.”
 And when he had
 said this, he
 breathed on them
 and said to them,
 “Receive the Holy
 Spirit.”*

JOHN 20:21-22



Spring Shindig
 May 19th
 6:00PM



Please note the Spring Shindig has been **RESCHEDULED** for May 19th due to bad weather.

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested[a] on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 ACTS 2:2-4

The senior lunch **will be held on June 14** rather than June 7.



Music & Worship News



A reminder for those who are interested in participating in our Sunday morning worship services as Liturgists, please speak to Colleen Dille so that she can add you to the schedule. Currently looking to fill dates in July and August.

Anyone wishing to have a favorite hymn sung, sing a solo, duet etc. or play an instrument for special music during the summer months while the Adult Choir is on vacation, please speak with Dennis, our organist/choir director to make arrangements.

Want to recognize a family member or loved one for a birthday, anniversary or in honor or memory of on a specific date with a flower arrangement on Sunday mornings? Speak with Grace Mitchell for details on doing so.

Ushers & Greeters



May 7 - TBD

May 14 - TBD

May 21 - TBD

May 28 - TBD



Children's Message

May 7 - Tammy Varner

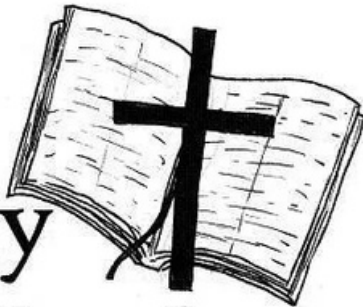
May 14 - Colleen Dille

May 21 - Pam Koppes

May 28 - Harriet Dilly



Liturgy of the Word



May 7 - Brian Daetwyler

May 14 - Kaylynn Varner

May 21 - Stacey Pegram

May 28 - Sarah Drake



MAY 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00 PM DEACONS 7:00 PM PNC SANDRA ARENT	2 6:30 PM PW MEETING	3 4:30 PM CHOIR 7:00 PM NA	4 5:00 PM MUSIC & WORSHIP KIMBERLY NICHOL	5 7:00 PM NA	6 8:30 AM LEADERFEST @ COVENANT
7 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WORSHIP 5:30 PM FROG YG	8	9 10:00 AM GARDEN CLUB BOARD 6:00 PM PRESBYTERY MTG. @ FIRST HEATHER DEMOTTE	10 4:30 PM CHOIR 7:00 PM NA	11 5:45 PM TRUSTEES 6:30 PM SESSION	12 6:00 PM FROG SLEEP OVER 7:00 PM NA	13 12:00 - 4:00 PM HALL IN USE
14 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WORSHIP ALEENA GRANDSTRAND	15	16 OFFICE CLOSED NICK ROLLISON	17 4:30 PM CHOIR 7:00 PM NA BOB DILLY RICH ZIPKO	18 SCARLETT PERRY JOAN ROHALY	19 6:00 PM SPRING SCHINDIG 7:00 PM NA	20 BRYCE GRANDSTRAND IZZY HEATHER
21 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WORSHIP 11:30 AM CHRISTIAN ED.	22 6:00 PM MISSION & FELLOWSHIP	23 10:00 AM GARDEN CLUB	24 4:30 PM CHOIR 7:00 PM NA	25 IAN MCDOWELL	26 7:00 PM NA	27 T.J. & JOLIE WELLING
28 10:30 AM WORSHIP	29 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY Remember and Honor	30	31 7:00 PM NA			

