

May 2026

# THE MUSTARD SEED



## Pentecost and the Church...

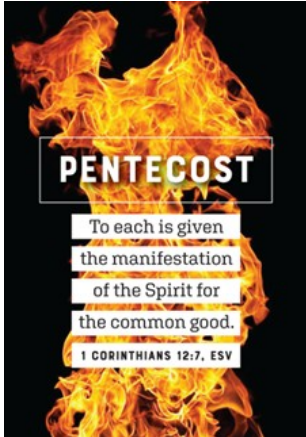
We may not be familiar with the complete history of Pentecost. Pentecost is not just a holiday for the Christian Church, but for the Jewish faith as well. Described in Leviticus 23, also called the Festival of Weeks, it was a time when the first fruits of the grain harvest were brought to the Temple in the form of leavened bread. In Judaism, it was also a day set aside to celebrate and remember the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Exodus, when Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the Torah Law from God.

In the Church, our Christian celebration is a time when we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church and the miraculous tongues of fire that caused those first disciples and apostles to preach in other languages in order to proclaim the Gospel. For us this holy day is 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus. As Passover and Good Friday are intertwined, so too are the giving of the Law and the giving of the Holy Spirit intertwined.

In both cases, the gifts were meant to guide the recipients. The Law guided the Jewish People for years. Through the Law, the Jews were able to discern their path in life and the proper way to conduct the religious life. Through the Holy Spirit, Christians have received guidance and inspiration for years as well. The Holy Spirit inspired the early Christians as they defended their faith to the Romans. The Holy Spirit inspired the Reformers, like Luther and Calvin, to see the faith differently and connect more closely with God. The Holy Spirit came to Campbelltown and helped inspire a faith here that is both ancient and modern.

How might the Holy Spirit fuel us today? It need not show up in tongues of fire or foreign languages to be present in our lives. It only need inspire and push us to new ideas and boundaries in the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit is present for all Christians guiding and prodding us as needed. As we approach Pentecost, may we all be aware of the Holy Spirit in our lives. And may we seek its guidance and wisdom in the growth of our faith and the path of our discipleship.

Peace  
Pastor Matt



2026 UCC Homes 30th Anniversary Helping Hands Event will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at the Hershey Country Club beginning at 11:30 a.m. Event highlights include musical entertainment by award winning group Seasons, 30th Anniversary recognition program, exclusive silent & live auctions, delicious served lunch, cash bar, and the opportunity to meet the Honorary Chairperson, Valerie Pritchett from ABC 27. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Development Office at 717-303-1502. Not able to attend? You can still be part of the excitement and support the mission by participating in the online auction. A preview of auctions items will be available from April 20th to April 26th and online bidding will open on April 27th & close on May 9th at 6:00 p.m. Visit [www.ucc-homes.org](http://www.ucc-homes.org) and click on the purple Helping Hands Auction button under the Ways to Give tab to create a secure bidding account, purchase tickets or make an on-line donation.



**The Book Club will meet May 18** to discuss “Happy Land” by Dolen Perkins-Valdez . The June book is “The Correspondence” by Virginia Evans and they will meet June 29 at 7 p.m. The book for July is “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver.. Any questions contact Carin Kaag [cas207@yahoo.com](mailto:cas207@yahoo.com)

## C.A.R.E. Corner

This month, as we honor mothers, let's also pause to appreciate Mother Nature.



Just as we rely on the love and support of our moms, we depend on the earth for every breath and every drop of water. This short video from the Nature Is Speaking series (featuring Julia Roberts) serves as a powerful reminder: “Nature doesn't need people. People need nature.” [Watch here: [LINK](#) ]

♥ C.A.R.E. today for Mother Nature ♥



\*The Creation Care Team is teaming up with Campbelltown Community Alliance to host a **SPRINGTIME AT THE PARK** on **Saturday, May 9th from 10am-noon** (Rain date, Sunday, May 10th 2-4pm).

\*CCT is also planning a **PLANT SHARE TAILGATE EVENT** on **Saturday, May 16th from 10am-noon** in the church parking lot.



**Upcoming Concerts** The Heritage Choral of Lancaster Spring Concert “Deep Peace” will be held on **Sunday, April 26 at 4 pm.** at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Road, Lancaster, PA; **Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m.** at Grandview Church, 888 Pleasure Road, Lancaster, PA and **Sunday, May 17 at 4 p.m.** at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 3131 Columbia Avenue, Lancaster, PA. A free will offering will be taken. See Louise Adams, who is a member of this group with any questions.

The Lebanon Choral Society presents **Handel’s Messiah Parts II & III, Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 3 p.m.** at Annville Church of the Brethren, 495 E. Maple St., Annville. Adults \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door, Students \$3.00. See Jane Long, who is a member of this group with any questions.

**Palmyra Public Library is hiring! Summer Tutor.** We are looking for a tutor for students in grades 3-8 for 6 weeks of tutoring this summer. 30-minute individual sessions Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. June 30 – August 6. Candidates must have clearances and should send their resume to Chelsea Weibley: [cweibley@lclibs.org](mailto:cweibley@lclibs.org).

**Enjoy a FREE ORCHESTRA CONCERT** including two of Salem's own youth, **Norah Monahan** and **Sarah McNamara!** The PHS Spring Orchestra Concert is at 7pm on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Palmyra Area High School.



***VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED ON 5/17/26*** to help prepare, distribute and clean up at the *free meal for the public which is being served by the Lebanon Rescue Mission*. The meals are once again being served in the dining room. Those interested in carpooling will meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 P.M. We are scheduled to volunteer **from 2:00 P.M. to approximately 6:00 P.M.** In addition, there are items that are needed to make the meal extra special. There are two sign-up sheets on the bell tower bulletin board: one for volunteers for the meal; and a second to donate items. (Special Notes: If you are feeling sick or have a cough, please volunteer another time. Due to safety issues, children must be over the age of eight to volunteer. Volunteers must wear closed toe shoes.)



**Join us for Take Steps in 2026!** Take Steps is the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation's largest, most impactful fundraising event. With events happening across the country, our walks honor the unique journeys of those living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis — and those closest to them. While we lace up our sneakers, we invite you to support our family. Both Ashleigh and Mike continue to live with Crohn's disease. What we have learned firsthand, "in remission" doesn't mean "cured" — and that is why we have to keep taking steps to raise money for research and get us closer to a cure!

We would appreciate it if you would once again support our family as we Take Steps for Crohn's disease & ulcerative colitis. Please mail any donations to Ashleigh Aungst, 13951 Cinnabar Place, Huntersville, NC 28078 by May 9, 2026. Thank you! —Ashleigh, Mike and Susan Aungst.



### **Commencing a Lifetime of Learning**

What would you tell a young man or woman about to graduate? One of the most common messages commencement speakers share is that graduates are indeed commencing. They are only just beginning to learn.

While they may rightly feel proud of finishing school, a few months in the working world often reveal how much they still do not know.

Christians who love God with their minds understand that truth frees us from ignorance and superstition. They also know that the joy of learning brings deep satisfaction and, in time, wisdom. That wisdom helps us evaluate what we have learned and use it well, so that knowledge becomes a tool for growth and faithful living.



Andrea Cooper will graduate from Palmyra Area High School on Thursday, June 4th, 2026. Throughout her high school career, Andrea has been a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Homecoming Court, and has also competed on both the Cross-Country and Track teams. At Salem UCC, Andrea served as acolyte from 2020 – 2024 and was a member of the 2021 Confirmation class. Outside of school, she enjoys traveling with her family to visit and learn about new cultures around the world. Andrea will be attending Penn State University Park this fall, majoring in Architectural Engineering.



Brianna Cooper will graduate from Penn State University Park on Sunday, May 10th, 2026 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Bio-behavioral Health with a minor in Biology. Brianna is currently employed by Penn State Health and is working as a Patient Care Associate for Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill, when she's not attending classes in State College. During her time at Penn State, she also completed internships and job-shadowing experiences at the University Health Center on campus. Brianna plans to continue her education by attending Physician Assistant (PA) school beginning in the summer of 2027.

**Join us after worship Sunday, May 31, in the choir room for light refreshments and to celebrate with our graduates.**

**Salem UCC Council Meeting Agenda**  
**3/10/26**

**Present:** Faith Bicksler, Matt Kaag, Jared Cooper, Michelle Alger, Missy Weidler, Gretchen Monahan, Megan Wheelden, Bill McNamara, Sarah McNamara, Pastor Matt Hoover, Tom Peiffer, Jim Flanagan

Via Zoom: Cindy Umberger

**Meeting Call to Order at 7:04 PM**

**Opening Devotions (Faith)**

**Approval of Agenda by unanimous consent**

**Secretary's report (Bill)** – Approval of February 2026 meeting minutes by unanimous consent

**Treasurer's Report (Tom)**

- Down 1.3% compared to last year at this time
- **General Fund:** paid quarterly insurance, which causes high expenses in the first two months of the year
- Deficit of \$10,500, but Tom transferred funds from Moyer and from the 2025 surplus, resulting in a deficit of \$5,300 for the first two months of 2026
- Funds Report: Markets were up through February, increase of \$5,207 this year across all our funds
- Discussion of restricting the different funds/or creating new funds – do we have too many funds with less than \$500? Discussion tabled for now.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's report– Michelle, Faith second. Motion passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report (Pastor Matt)**

- March 15<sup>th</sup> Kevin Maclemore will be here to meet with search committee and preach during the service
- Electronic version of our Google calendar exists now; if you are the head of a committee Pastor Matt can give you access to committees to update the calendar (send Matt an email)
- Holy week – April 2 Maundy Thursday service, April 3 Good Friday at 7 pm
- Bylaws committee is 99% done
  - Council will see copies before the April meeting

**Old Business:**

- **Update on Horseshoe pike parking lot (Jared)**
  - Discussion continues on potential sale of the parking lot across 322. 0.3 acres (.23 saleable); zoned as commercial residential
  - We have an offer to purchase the property.
  - Jared and Tom will meet with Michael the realtor routinely
- **Discussion of package for search committee New Business:**

- Council gives the search committee guidelines to start from; the candidate can come back with a different proposal
- Motion to use the conference guidelines as the maximum offer per years of experience, with Single Plan A insurance. All other compensation to be per conference guidelines (Matt), second Jim F. Motion passed unanimously
- **New Business**
  - Steam pipe with a slow leak in the downstairs main room. Ron had Delta here to patch it, but still dripping.
  - Estimates to replace the pipe range from \$1,200 to \$2,200.
  - Mowing contractors \$12,750 previous year 2025
    - K.K. Landscape – charge per cut, based on the amount of cuts - \$200 around church and \$585 to do cemetery
    - Last year 24 x 200 = \$4800
    - 12 times for the cemetery:
    - Motion: Sign a contract for \$200 around the church and \$585 to mow the cemetery each time (Jared). Second by Tom. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports :**

- **Building, Grounds, Cemetery (Jared)** – Feb 18, Daniel G started as new janitor and is working out well thus far.
- **Christian Education (Jim)** – Didn't meet – March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting postponed
- **Fellowship (Michelle)** – Having fellowship after church again for St Patty's theme on March 15.
- **Finance Stewardship (Tom)** – Donation reporting system is now antiquated and will be researched; Cindy is resigning as payroll assistant treasurer (Tom will handle).
- **Membership (Bill)** – next meeting March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- **Missions (Matt)** – One Great hour of sharing coming up
- **Creation Care (Cindy)** - Salem officially recognized as a Creation justice church. April 19<sup>th</sup>, picture with the large banner. April 12, next meeting at Campbelltown park to discuss spring events
- **PACC (Tom)** – Meeting 3/10 (Today), still trying to create ways for PACC to continue; Summer tutoring at the library (new form of Phoenix center)
- **Women's Fellowship (Faith)** – March 27 quilt show and lunch at Lebanon Expo
- **Pastoral Relations (Missy)** – no meeting
- **Music and Worship (Faith)** – no meeting
- **Youth Fellowship (Sarah)** –
  - Opportunity to participate in the Climate Hope postcard campaign – Only one was submitted
  - Will help make Easter cards for shut ins
  - Sunday School before church combined with elementary kids on Easter
  - Providing Sip and Chat on Easter

**Open Comment period (off the record)**

**Meeting adjournment by unanimous consent**

**Ended 8:59 PM**

**Closing: Mitzpah Benediction**

**Next Meeting: April 13, 2026 7:00 PM**



Sunday	May 3	Sip & Chat 10 a.m.. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday	May 5	511 R.E.S.T. Group 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday	May 6	Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Sanctuary Being Used 3:30-6:30 by Karen Umberger
Thursday	May 7	Sanctuary Being Used 3:30-6:30 by Karen Umberger
Saturday	May 9	Creation Care Walk Campbelltown Community Park 10 a.m. - Noon
Sunday	May 10	Sip & Chat 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Mother's Day Nature Walk Rain Date
Monday	May 11	Council 7 p.m. Hybrid
Tuesday	May 12	Missions Committee 7 p.m.
Wednesday	May 13	Sanctuary Being Used 3:30-6:30 by Karen Umberger
Thursday	May 14	Sanctuary Being Used 3:30-6:30 by Karen Umberger
Saturday	May 16	Creation Care Plant Exchange Parking Lot
Sunday	May 17	Sip & Chat 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Lebanon Rescue Mission 2 p.m. Meeting at 1:30 to car pool
Monday	May 18	Book Club 7 p.m.
Wednesday	May 20	Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Sanctuary Being Used 3:30-6:30 by Karen Umberger
Thursday	May 21	Sanctuary Being Used 3:30-6:30 by Karen Umberger
Sunday	May 24	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	May 27	Sanctuary Being Used 3:30-6:30 by Karen Umberger
Thursday	May 28	Sanctuary Being Used 3:30-6:30 by Karen Umberger
Sunday	May 31	Sip & Chat 10 am. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Graduation Recognition Sunday

*All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on YouTube*



**May 3, 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

**May 10, 2026**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

**May 17, 2026**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

**May 24, 2026**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
John 20:19-23

**May 31, 2026**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20

**June 7, 2026**  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 12:1-9  
Psalm 33:1-12  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 9:8-12, 18-26

**June 14, 2026**  
**Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35-10:8

**June 21, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 21:8-21  
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

**June 28, 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 22:1-14  
Psalm 13  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42

## **THE MUSTARD SEED**

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- 2 Jennifer Grab
- 2 Janelle Waller
- 5 Barb Gainer
- 6 Sheena Kindt
- 8 Mary Daub
- 9 Amber Jefferson
- 12 Dean Alger
- 13 Joan Campbell
- 13 Brianna Cooper
- 16 Emily Uhler
- 17 Pam McNamara
- 17 Norah Monahan
- 20 Trenton Grab
- 23 Sally Cline
- 23 Grayson Meadath
- 24 Clara Kindt
- 24 Amelia Kindt
- 26 Rebecca Risser
- 29 Cody Broaddus
- 31 Shirley Beck



- 2 Madison Flory
- 6 Katelyn Gingrich
- 9 Ruth Gerhart
- 13 Crystal Aungst
- 13 Jacqueline Boyer
- 13 Richard Patrick
- 14 Sydney Weidler
- 16 Madeline Gingrich
- 18 Charles Doll
- 20 Nathan Longenecker
- 21 Kyle Uhler
- 24 Ruth Anna Basehore
- 24 Caden Weldon
- 26 Brian Weidler
- 30 Christina Cooper

## The Taste of Our Words

I try to watch the words I say,  
And keep them soft and sweet.  
For I don't know from day to day  
Which ones I'll have to eat.



## SALEM COLLECTIONS -

**The Caring Cupboard** is a community food pantry, that has grown into a community necessity, that currently serves over 350 families living primarily in the Palmyra and Annville-Cleona School Districts. Products to be given to the Caring Cupboard may be placed on the designated shelves found at the end of the northwest hallway of Salem Church.

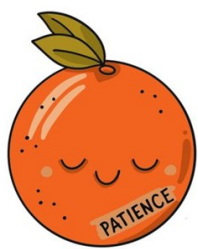
**Pop Tab Collection Program (Matt Waller) Ronald McDonald House.** The collection of aluminum beverage tabs began in 1996. The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company and their proceeds help with daily operating expenses at the Ronald McDonald House. The generous amount from the tabs collected has been very beneficial to the House and the families they serve. They are averaging \$1,000 monthly just from these tiny tabs. You can help raise money by pulling tabs from any aluminum container. Pop Tabs may be placed in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance.

**Redner's Cash Register Receipts (Cindy Steger)** By using the Save-A-Tape card you picked up at Customer Service Desk each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. When you come to Salem Church, place your **entire register/sales receipt (DO NOT CUT!)** in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance. Salem Church will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of tapes submitted, excluding items controlled by the government, such as tax, milk and tobacco products.

**Clothing Recycling** Old clothing and material that are too worn to use can be recycled. If possible, take to an Goodwill (mark the bag Recycling) otherwise put it in the box in the west narthex and we'll take it for you. Thank you!

**Writing Tool Recycling** You can recycle old writing tools – crayons, markers, pens, and pencils. Staples Store will recycle these items as well as many other items (check their website!). Feel free to take to a Staples or place in the "Crayola marker" collection tube on the windowsill in the west narthex. Thank you!

**Battery Recycling** Salem now has a battery recycling collection bin in the West narthex (shaped like a battery!). Place used rechargeable or single-use batteries there and they will be taken to Staples for proper disposal.



### **An A-Plus Answer**

Twelve-year-old Daniel was doing his best to test the patience of his mother, the Rev. Ann Lewis. He pushed back on every request, and the tension in the room kept rising as he refused to cooperate.

Finally, his mother reached her limit. Looking at him firmly, she said, "Daniel, you have tested me to my limits."

Without missing a beat, Daniel grinned and replied, "Yes! And you get an A-plus."