



**IMMANUEL CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

1 Hovey Street • Oxford, MI 48371

www.icucc.org • 248-628-1610

May 24, 2026 • 11:00 a.m.



**Welcome to worship at Immanuel United Church of Christ!
God is Still Speaking,**

Immanuel Open and Affirming Statement:

We welcome and affirm all people in celebrating diversity. We welcome to our faith family people of every race, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability and those who have doubts or questions.

Thank You for taking the time to turn off your cell phone during the worship service.

Prelude

*Bringing in the Light of Christ

(* denotes those who are able may stand.)

Ringin of the Bell

Welcome

Jeff Erno

Choir Anthem "Come, Spirit, Come"

Immanuel Choir

Children Message

Pastor Liz Wilson

***Call to Worship**

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

One: Sing to the Lord!

Many: Let us sing to the Lord as long as we live"

One: God formed all that is: oceans and rivers, hills and mountains.

Many: Praise God who makes!

One: God created all that is: animals and birds, fish and people.

Many: Praise God who creates!

One: When God's hand opens, all are filled.

Many: Praise God who nourishes!

One: Let all that we are praise God.

Many: Praise God, now and forevermore!

Invocation

Jeff Erno

Holy, Spirit, power of God, come and fill us with your strength. May your Spirit touch each of us. Gather us with our different gifts into one community. Give us eyes to see your work. May the winds of the Spirit blow away our fears and fill us with power. Open our hearts, that we may welcome everyone. Amen.

***Hymn: "O, Spirit of the Living God"**

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Words of Assurance

Jeff Erno

We are all baptized into one body. The spirit blesses us all. Rivers of living water flow out from Jesus, blessing each one of us with new life.

O Spirit of the Living God

Henry Hallam Tweedy, 1933; alt.

1 O Spir - it of the liv - ing God, pure Light and Fire Di -
 2 Blow, Wind of God! With wis - dom blow, dis - perse and put to
 3 Teach us to ut - ter liv - ing words of truth which all may
 4 So shall we know the power of Christ, the strength of love to

vine: burn bright - ly in your church once more, its life and
 flight the mists of er - ror, clouds of doubt which hide you
 hear, the lan - guage all can un - der - stand when love speaks
 save, so shall we rise with Christ to life which soars be -

faith re - fine, Fill it with love and joy and power, with
 from our sight. Burn, Wing - ed Fire! In - spire our lips, re -
 loud and clear; Till ev - ery na - tion, age, and race shall
 yond the grave; And earth shall win true ho - li - ness, which

righteous - ness and peace, till Christ shall dwell in
 new in us your call to preach with zeal your
 blend their creeds in one, and all to - geth - er
 makes your chil - dren whole, and draws us on by

hu - man hearts, and sin and sor - row cease.
 great good news: God's love ex - tends to all.
 use their gifts to see your will is done.
 grace to reach cre - a - tion's glo - rious goal!

Henry Hallam Tweedy served Congregational churches in New York and Connecticut from 1898 to 1909 before joining the faculty of Yale University Divinity School.

The Congregation Prays
Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Congregational Response: "Lord hear our prayers." (Response after each Prayer request)
Silent Meditation

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

Pastoral Prayer

Jeff Erno

The Lord's Prayer: (use words most comfortable for you)

Janet Caporale, Liturgist

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 104:24-34
Acts 2:1-21
1 Corinthians 12:4:13

Janet Caporale, Liturgist
Pages 555 & 556 Old Testament
Page 119 New Testament
Page 174 New Testament

Sermon: "The Gifts of the Spirit"

Jeff Erno

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

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Stewardship Message

Announcements

(Be sure to read about up-coming events in the back of the bulletin.)

Offering:

Offertory "A Mighty Wind" by Andrae Crouch

***Doxology:** (The tune is found on page 356 of your red hymnal.)

**PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW...
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW...
PRAISE GOD, ABOVE, YOU HEAVENLY HOST...
CREATOR, CHRIST AND HOLY GHOST...AMEN.**

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Jeff Erno

Holy One, you create all that is. Your breath sustains every living thing. In your creation, we see your love of diversity. In our community, we celebrate the multitude of Spirit-filled gifts. Grateful for your care, we bring these gifts. May they spread your love to all people. Amen.

***Hymn: "There is a Name I Love to Hear"**

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*The Light of Christ goes into the world

*Benediction:

Jeff Erno

One: May the flames of the Spirit rest upon each of you,
Many: We are blessed with gifts of wisdom and compassion

One: May the power of the Spirit support you

Many: Please open our hearts to see God in every person

One: Go forth to proclaim the good news

Many: God welcomes everyone.

ALL: AMEN

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as God in Christ they praised.
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow,

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air.
 What un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us hearts to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

Jane Parker Huber explained that she wrote this text in 1981 "to fill a gap in current hymnody," in that "many of the hymns concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit do not mention Pentecost."

Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D.
 Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

There Is a Name I Love to Hear

(O How I Love Jesus)

Frederick Whitfield, 1855; alt.

1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
 2 It tells my Sav - ior's love for all; Christ died to set us free;
 3 It bids me serve a - mid the wrath God's peo - ple face each day.

It sounds like mu - sic to my ear, the sweet - est name on earth.
 What - ev - er prob - lems may be - fall, we'll live in dig - ni - ty.
 And sheds a - long life's trou - bled path bright sun - shine on my way.

Refrain

O how I love Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus,

O how I love Je - sus, whose love has first found me.

Frederick Whitfield was ordained in the Church of England and served several English parishes. This hymn is a combination of Whitfield's stanzas and a refrain by an unknown author, both set to an existing nineteenth-century tune. The text was published in a leaflet in 1855.

Tune: O HOW I LOVE JESUS C.M. with refrain
 United States, 19th century

Please wait to exit unit after the recessional.

Grace for fellowship hour

Jeff Erno

*Postlude

*We scatter to serve******

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Join together for refreshments in Fellowship

In Worship and Service Today

Sermon: Jeff Erno

Liturgist: Janet Caporale

Children's Message: Pastor Liz Wilson

Choir Director: Ken Martin

Accompanist: Ann McKinley

Our Tech team: Tammy & Ken Martin

Floral Arrangements: A gift created by Amy Wilson

Ministers: All the Immanuel Church faith community

Sunday School: Amy Wilson, Liz Wilson, Susanne Waldrep

Church Officers & Staff

Moderator: Ken Martin

Vice Moderator: TBA

Treasurer: Art Nagasaki

Council Secretary: Susanne Waldrep

Clerk: Susanne Waldrep

Church Secretary: Sue Molczyk

Building & Grounds Team Leader: TBA

Calendar at a Glance

Weekly Events

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship & Fellowship

5:30 p.m. Community Meal every Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Wednesday Free Meals

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Choir practice

6:00 p.m. Thursday Prayer Meeting

4:00 p.m. Mondays "True Colorz" LGBTQ+ Support Group

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost Sunday

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Church office closed

Sunday, June 7

Book Study

Monday, June 8

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, June 21

Father's Day

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of May:

Birthdays

May 6: Rosemary Plummer

May 6: Douglas (Dougie) Stein

May 8: Kathy Stein

May 21: Brian Plummer

May 22: Suzanne Spiker

May 30: JoJo Hussey

- **Please be sure to visit Immanuel's website at www.icucc.org**
- **Please join us for Sunday Service via Virtual Worship. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/oxfordimmanuelucc> You do not have to join facebook, it will ask if you want to join. If not click no and it will still get you to the service.**
- **Treasurer's Note:** Our offerings for May 17 TBA. We need to collect \$1,675 each week to fund our approved budget. **Remember to honor your pledge commitments and tithes, especially when you miss any Sundays!** Art Nagasaki, Treasurer
- **REMINDER to bring in flexible plastic Kroger packaging for recycling. Call Peggy with questions. The sock program has been discontinued.**
- **Please continue to collect and donate your pop can tabs. There's a container in Fellowship Hall. Pop can tabs help support the Ronald McDonald Houses where parents can stay when their child is hospitalized. Tammy will be sending our donation later in May to the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor.**
- **Knitters, crocheters and crafters: If you need yarn for projects, we have a wide variety of colors and types in our craft room downstairs. Just let Tammy or Ken know**

Pentecost

Someone once said that of all the liturgical holidays, Pentecost was the most frustrating to understand and embrace. After all, what are we supposed to do with the Spirit's arrival that led to the birth of the Church?

On Easter we celebrate new life. There are dyed eggs and fragrant lilies. On Christmas we have the birth of hope. There are lots of lights and festively wrapped presents. On Palm Sunday we remember how fickle we can be in our faith, waving palm branches one minute then shouting crucify him the next. But on Pentecost we never really hit the mark as to how to welcome God's Spirit moving among us.

Pentecost, which is the Greek name for the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which is celebrated 50 days after Passover, was the time when many devout Jews were in Jerusalem to celebrate. God used this festival to usher in a new harvest of believers in the Risen Lord. With great show, God sent the Holy Spirit that was likened to a rush of mighty wind. Jesus' followers, who were in Jerusalem, poured out onto the streets speaking in a multitude of languages, ensuring that those out-of-towners from foreign lands could understand the Good News of Christ Risen. Some accused the followers of being drunk, but Peter set the naysayers straight saying they were in fact full of the Spirit. He then echoed the words of the prophet Joel saying that the young will see visions and the old will dream new dreams.

I can see why Pentecost might be a frustrating liturgical holiday to observe. For if Pentecost is all about receiving the Spirit, who then would really dare to gather around a table and share those Holy Spirit visions, dreams and hopes for the Church today?

We all have our own visions of what church should be. There is a running joke within the United Church of Christ that there is no shortage of opinions and because of the abundance of views, it seems sometimes impossible to move forward.

Maybe this year, we should step away from rushing wind Spirit metaphor of Pentecost and try to see it a little differently. St. John Vianney used gardening to explain the work of the Spirit, viewing it as a gardener who cultivates our souls. He also described Pentecost as the moment when "a heart of stone is shattered, and heart of flesh takes its place."

Perhaps a shattering of stone hearts is what we need this year at Pentecost so that fledgling visions and dreams can take root and grow.

Renewing God, You sent the Spirit so long ago to bring Your church to life. May this Pentecost find ourselves renewed by new visions and dreams for how to be Your children. Soften our hearts to new ways of being Your body here in our communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)

