

Pentecost

Presented by rev. Kristen Lowe on 5/20/2018

At Crossroads United Methodist Church

Waunakee, WI

Scripture:

John 14: 15-17, 25-26, 29

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

Acts 2:5-21

“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 their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, 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 people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ““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 heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to 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.

On the day of Pentecost, thousands of people speaking many different languages were gathered in Jerusalem. Jesus’ disciples and the gathered crowd witnessed one of the most dramatic signs in scripture. They heard the sound of a violent wind and saw what looked like tongues of flame resting on each person. They all began to speak and through the people were from many cultures and nations, each heard this miracle in his or her own native language! The spirit moved among them and they were given the holy spirit, who helped them to carry out Jesus’ commission... to spread the word and make disciples. God’s power was revealed that day!

The Christian life is rarely so dramatic. In my experience, living a life of faith often means praying when i don’t have adequate words, serving others with acts of compassion that seem to small to make a real difference, struggling to understand the perspective and convictions of others while remaining true to my own, and making peace with my own shortcomings... which are many... understanding that through my weakness, god shows up in mighty ways.

I know God is at work today. But sometimes i crave the dramatic events from acts 2.

Pentecost

However, it's important for us, every day to open our eyes to the moving of the holy spirit, and celebrate, just as the disciples did, that god is alive and at work in and through us! It is our responsibility to take an account of these ruach sightings and give thanks for the work of god in our midst.

- Every day i wake up and i thank god that grace has been given to me, to take this broken sinner, who's made more mistakes than i can count, and allow me to live my calling.
- Our sermons are live on FaceBook!
- Tressie is caring for our office with passion and skill. She is the smiling face of crossroads
- Two children are baptized into the family of god
- Family village receives a foundation grant for \$1,125.00 and is testing a pilot for other churches in the conference.
- Dale Hughes Christian camp ministry receives a WUMF grant of \$2,000
- Our nursery is reopened with parent friendly technology!
- We held our second successful financial peace university as a ministry to our community
- Four of our brothers and sisters in Christ at crossroads are feeling sparked by the holy spirit to explore ministry

We are in the exploration phase of a missional partnership with S.S. Morris community African Methodist Episcopal Church and Frank Allis elementary school.

- The quilted hugs ministry is launched and two loved ones have already received this blessing
- Carly, Bill, and all our music ministries
- Our youth group is mobilized into mission, as Bill and Margo pass the baton of Porchlight, training our young people to help the homeless.
- Youth group assists with special occasion worship design
- Two new members join Crossroads UMC today bringing our total for the year to 6!

When we pay close attention to the world around us, we can sense the spirit working in our midst and connecting us to god and the people of faith around the world. As we celebrate Pentecost, i hope you will join me in looking for all the ways the spirit is moving in your life. Amen