

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road,
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Day of Pentecost
May 24, 2026

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Greenbelt Community Church is a community centered around the belief that we are all created in the image of God. We welcome everyone seeking God's presence, in any of the ways that you may identify... by economic class, by race, by national origin, by gender identity/expression, by age, by physical or mental ability... whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you into full participation here. We rejoice that you chose to worship with us, today, as we extend an invitation to live out the extravagant welcome of Christ. Together, we are listening for God's still speaking voice. WELCOME, People of God!

A special welcome to our first-time and returning visitors! Please let us know you were here with us, today: Contact: office@greenbeltucc.org

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Trix Whitehall, Liturgist

***Call To Worship**

ONE: Empowering God, you gave the church the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit.

MANY: Look upon your church today and hear our petitions.

ALL: May it be so.

***Opening Hymn: NCH #64 "Fire of God, Undying Flame"**

***Passing the Peace**

Time with Young Disciples

Anthem: "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit", arranged by R. E. Schram

The Greenbelt Community Church Choir

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21 New Revised Standard Version

Jeff Knutson, Lay Reader

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Unison Prayer

Trix Whitehall, Liturgist

Perplexing, Pentecostal God, you infuse us with your Spirit, urging us to vision and dream. May the gift of your presence find voice in our lives, that our babbling may be transformed into discernment and the flickering of many tongues light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice. Amen.

Pentecost Sermon: "Wait A Minute"

The Rev. Dr. Vertie P. Powers,
Ministry Team
Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ

***Pulpit Hymn: NCH #286 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"**

The Community at Prayer, The Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers

(Joys and Concerns, Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer, choosing to use debts/debtors, or trespasses/trespases, or sins/sinners as familiar to you)

Prayer List, (See Bulletin Announcements)

The Lord's Prayer

(in the words that are familiar to you)

"Holy God, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Realm 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Realm, the power and the glory. Forever".

Amen

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

Jeff Knutson, Lay Reader

Focus Text:

"And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"

Acts 2:8 NRSVUE

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through the offering plates during the worship service; by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving at greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/)

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God, for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. AMEN.

***Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

Trix Whitehall, Liturgist

Grant that, gathered and directed by your Spirit, we may confess Christ as Lord. And combine our manifold gifts with a singular passion to continue the mission of Jesus, in this world, until we join in your eternal praise.

***Closing Hymn: NCH #75 "Lord, Make Me More Holy"**

***Commissioning and Blessing**

The Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers, Guest Preacher

***Choral Response**

***Postlude**