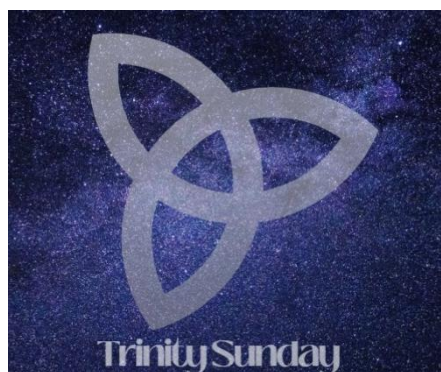


**First United
Methodist
Church
of Fort Lupton
306 Park Ave.,
Fort Lupton, CO
80621
303-857-2257**



5.31.26

Email - office@fumc-fortlupton.org

Website - www.fumc-fortlupton.org

Message

"Trinity Sunday"

Pastor Anna Viehland

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted.

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

NO HASSLE GIVING

Have your donations automatically come out of your bank account.

Contact Church Office or Church Treasurer for information



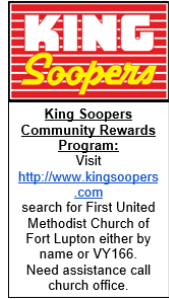
Safeway cards -available downstairs after worship



<https://fumc-fortlupton.org/donations/donate-to-the-church/>



DONATE TO THE CHURCH ONLINE.



What's Happening

Wednesdays

9:30 am

Wednesday Bible Study

Don't forget to sign up for VBS!



Jan. 1 - April 30, 2026 Financial Update	
Income	\$ 70,380.37
Expenses	\$ 68,578.19
Revenue/(Loss)	\$ 1,802.18
*Income includes \$9000 interest from Endowment	

Growing in God's Garden



2026 Vacation Bible School
First United Methodist Church Ft. Lupton
306 Park Avenue
June 1-4
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Activities will include:
Singing
Bible Stories
Crafts
Games
Snacks

We accept children who have completed preschool – 5th grade.
Pre-registration is appreciated but not required. For registration forms or more information you may contact Barb at 303-870-2173 (leave message please) or at the church at 303-857-2257.
The registration form can also be found on our website:
www.fumc-fortlupton.org.

Click - Get Involved, then click Children & Youth.

GOING AWAY PARTY

We're gathering to celebrate and wish

Anna, Daniel & Desmond
the best on their new journey ahead!

Sunday
June 7th | 2:00 PM

Let's make this farewell unforgettable, your presence will make it extra special!

JOIN US AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FORT LUPTON, 306 PARK AVE.

“Pentecost”

Pastor Anna Viehland

The Mandalorian is a television series set in the Star Wars universe. It begins five years after the events of Return of the Jedi--the third film in the original trilogy. It follows a lone bounty hunter who protects a gifted (and absolutely adorable) child named Grogu from the evil Empire’s remaining forces. Our hero is a Mandalorian, a member of a warrior clan bound by a strict code of honor. This code requires Mandalorians to swear to a creed and abide by various rules and customs. Most notably, Mandalorians must never touch their distinctive helmets in front of any living being. This leads them to retreat into solitude in order to do normal activities like eating or personal grooming. You might think that with such a rigid code full of inconvenient and seemingly arbitrary rules that the Mandalorians would be short on new recruits. But in the series, their numbers are strong. How does a group that demands so much from members not only stay in existence, but continue to thrive?

Scholar of religion and YouTuber Dr. Andrew Mark Henry sought to answer this question. In doing so, he uncovered a surprising truth not only about the Star Wars universe but about our modern religious landscape. In a recent installment of the YouTube series Religion for Breakfast, Henry explores why strict religions, such as the Amish or Orthodox Jews, *retain* members more effectively than more permissive faiths, like, say...mainline Protestantism. This may seem counterintuitive--just as we may ask why a warrior would choose the Mandalorian creed, we may ask why anyone would willingly abide by a faith with practices that alienate them from others, require great personal sacrifice, and generally sound like a pain in the neck.

But Henry, as well as a robust body of empirical evidence, argue that when a religion makes it harder for adherents to truly belong, those religions often grow and the children raised in the faith are more likely to stay faithful into adulthood. There are many potential reasons for this phenomenon but most of them boil down to the fact that followers of strict religious traditions visibly walk the walk. Their faith has a clear, deep, and meaningful impact on their life, and they are willing to sacrifice because of that faith. Children see their parents fasting, avoiding certain foods and activities, attending worship services, praying multiple times a day, and serving others regularly. When those parents explicitly connect these actions to their faith, young people learn that faith is something real and important. Sociologists call these behaviors Credibility Enhancing Displays, or “CREDS” for short.

So why am I talking about Star Wars, YouTube, and sociology on Pentecost (other than the fact that I’m a massive nerd)? Well, sometimes preaching on liturgical holidays feels a bit daunting. I struggle every year to come up with some novel insight that I haven’t already offered at some point in the last nine Pentecosts in which I’ve served as a pastor. Most of us know the story. Jesus has just ascended into heaven leaving the people of God once more and this time, he’s not coming back until the end of days. Before he left, however, he promised not to leave his friends as orphans. He told them he would send a “paraclete,” a Greek word that translates to

“advocate” or “helper.”

So the disciples huddle together in an upper room in Jerusalem. And they wait. Suddenly, a violent wind charges through the house bringing with it tongues of fire that rest above the head of each

disciple. It is a dramatic and even frightening scene but the paraclete--- the Holy Spirit--enters the disciples before they have a chance to panic. They are given the miraculous ability to speak in different languages. The followers of Jesus burst out onto the streets, a chaotic, babbling mess of humanity. There are people from “all the nations under Heaven” in Jerusalem for Shavuot, a Jewish festival. Each of these pilgrims hears the disciples speaking in their own tongue. St Peter begins to preach to the crowd, urging them to repent and believe.

While the tongues of fire are certainly the most memorable part of the story, I can't help but wonder if the real miracle of Pentecost is what happens afterwards. The verses immediately following today's scripture reading tell us that after St Peter finishes his sermon 3000 people come to faith in Christ. All who believe join together and share all things in common. They sell their possessions and distribute the proceeds to all according to need. They pray and worship daily in the temple, break bread together, praise and thank God for their blessings, and serve others. Then, Acts 2:47 tells us, “the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

See, the Holy Spirit does not just move these converts to repent and believe in the gospel.

It inspires and guides the early Church to act. I wonder how many of those who joined the

Church on the day of Pentecost would have stuck around if the Apostles had followed up by just “going with the flow” of Greco-Roman society and conformed to the world around them. They may have escaped the persecutions to come, but as it turns out, those persecutions only seemed to fuel the newborn Church's fire. The fact that the Church called its members to such radical ways of living--giving all they had to the poor, meeting daily for prayer and meals, and keeping the faith through intense opposition--was precisely what helped them grow.

One could argue that our modern Church today is struggling because we claim the fires of Pentecost but people don't see them lit within our lives. Folks on the outside looking in see two polar opposite expressions of our faith, neither of which offer anything particularly compelling. On one side, we have a liberal Christianity that makes few direct demands and seeks to avoid offense. On the other hand, there is a “conservative” Christianity too busy fighting culture wars to look at the log in its own eye. Children see parents who claim that Christ is Lord, but who cross the street to avoid an unhoused person, shove the Bible into their partisan talking points, and treat worship of God as an optional extracurricular activity alongside soccer practice and Scouts. These same children come away with an image of God as a nice man, a divine Santa Claus that showers blessings on those who conform to society's expectations, who we can satisfy by sitting in Church a few Sundays a month and by trying not to cuss.

Pentecost calls us to something more and better. The same Spirit that descended on the disciples long ago still moves among us and still calls us to repent and believe the gospel. What we've lost sight of is the fact that this gospel--when truly lived-- is costly. When St Peter stood up to preach on that first Pentecost, he didn't give a motivational speech on how to live your best life now. He preached the raw and unyielding truth of Christ crucified. Those 3000 converts didn't say a quick prayer and go on with business as usual. They sold their possessions, gave to anyone who had need, and devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to one another. Faith cost them financial security. It cost

them their reputations in their communities. It cost them relationships. And it would cost many of them their lives. But the Early Church still spread like wildfire because people saw them walking the walk and decided that faith in Christ was worth the cost.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means dying to our comfort and convenience. We must die to our concern for appearances, for our reputation. We must die to our tribalism, our games of “us vs them.” We must die to our greed and our worship of stuff. We must put down the Bible we’ve gotten so used to thumping and take up our crosses instead. The good news is that God sent us a comforter, advocate, and guide in the Holy Spirit to help us make this possible. With God’s help, we can choose to prioritize our faith over our comfort, our wallet, and our egos. Think about how you are using your resources--your time, talent, and treasure--and consider where you might be holding onto them with a clenched fist rather than giving them freely to the building of God’s kingdom. Pray about where in your life you might be pursuing convenience instead of God’s will. And in a world that demands conformity, ask God for the courage to be misunderstood, disliked, and persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

This is a tall order, but I believe that the Church can still follow the Spirit of Pentecost, running wild and untamed as a wild goose. May we have a faith that is credible. May we see the way the Spirit leads. May we find ways to live out a costly faith. May our lives reflect the faith we claim. May we live a faith that shines the light of God brightly into the dark places of the world, and tells everyone we meet that Christ is worth the cost.

Carol’s Corner

By Carol McDermott

It’s such a busy time of the year with end of school activities, graduations... moving from Elementary to Middle School then on to High School. It’s hard to keep it all straight. The weather has been its usual winter, no spring, no winter, no summer. Poor weather forecasters – they get blamed for it all. We had a fine day on Sunday, opened the windows in the sanctuary to let the fresh air in – it was wonderful. Nonnie Hunziker had the Children’s sermon and, using the theme of the sermon scripture, where on the Day of Pentecost the disciples, who were mostly fishermen with no formal religious training in the temple were suddenly given the gift of speaking in the languages of the people who were in Jerusalem from many different countries. They heard the gospel being preached in their own languages and could understand the great love of God, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and how it was a gift for each of them. She had a recording of a verse of scripture in two different languages and the kids were supposed to discern what country’s language was being spoken. It was a lot harder than it seemed and really showed how powerful and miraculous the disciples’ abilities were when they spoke to the crowds. The choir sang a song from the patriotic musical “Let Freedom Ring”. It was a powerful and beautiful song.

Pics to Enjoy!

Bringing in the Light of Christ



Nonnie playing the game, "Different Tongues" with the youth.



Was that French or Spanish?

Choir giving us a sample of their Memorial presentation



Memorial Day Presentation at Hillside Cemetery with the Community Choir







