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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
May 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Pentecost Sunday

WELCOME — Deb Germini Calamari, Deacon

PRELUDE

INTROIT — *Now It's Spring* — Paie Cantiones 1582

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit of God descends like a dove, bringing peace to unite the world in a just and caring community.

The Spirit of God comes like a breath of fresh air, bringing life to renew the people of God.

The Spirit of God spreads like wildfire, bringing spark and energy for witnessing to the love of God.

Spirit of the Living God, come now to us and transform our lives by your invigorating power. Amen.

*HYMN — *Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness* — 229

Spirit, come, dispel our sadness; pierce the clouds of nature's night; come, O Source of joy and gladness, breathe your life and spread your light. From the height that knows no measure, as a gracious shower descend, bringing down the richest treasure we can wish, or God can send.

Let your fire heal our dissensions, let your flame refine our goals, let your peace resolve our tensions, send your dove to soothe our souls. Let your wind flow fresh within us, sweeping clean all hate and strife from our hearts; O come and win us for a more abundant life.

Author of the new creation, come, anoint us with your power. Make our hearts your

habitation; with your grace our spirits shower. Hear, O hear our supplication, blessed Spirit, God of peace! Rest upon this congregation with the fullness of your grace.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal Spirit, you have called us into relationship to fulfill a mission whose meaning we know only in part. Yet, we are ready, Lord; ready to be propelled into the struggle for justice, liberation, and peace. We are ready to use the gifts of faith, prayer, love and hope that you have so freely given us in the service of your beloved. Rekindle the fire of your Spirit in us, God of passion, and send us into the world as sparks that will light the way for all. In your many names we pray, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joel 2.28-32a

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

ANTHEM *America!* M. McDonald

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 2.1-13

SERMON *"Earth, Wind and Fire"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind... divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them..."
(Acts 2.2-3)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *Invocation* C. Courtney

*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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM excerpt from *Little Gidding* from The Four Quartets T.S. Eliot (1888-1965)

*HYMN *Breathe On Me, Breath of God* 220

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Now It's Spring* Paie Cantiones

(*all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 24	**10:00 am** **11:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Meeting** Soup Kitchen	May 28	8:30 am **7:00 pm**	Yoga **Choir Rehearsal**
May 25	5:30 pm	Irish Dance	May 29	**8:15 am**	**Simon's Marketplace**
May 26	8:30 am	Yoga	May 31	**10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at the United Church of Chester, an Open and Affirming Church and a member of the United Church of Christ. **The United Church of Chester is centered in Christ's love, embracing, nurturing, serving all, and committed to justice and peace**.

The Deacon for the month of May is **Deb Germini Calamari.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Peggy Phillips** in celebration of all those who are graduating this year. You were greeted this morning by **Peggy Phillips**. Coffee hour is hosted by **Cheryl Archer** and **Paul Indorf**.

Katie Wilcox Day – Sunday, May 31st

We will celebrate Katie Wilcox Day next Sunday, May 31st. A special donation will be collected for Lady Doak College on that date. Separate envelopes are in the bulletin if you would like to donate. Thank you.

Memorial Day – Donations needed

Donations of sandwiches and cookies are needed to feed the parade participants at Chester Meetinghouse following the Memorial Day Parade. Sandwiches and/or cookies can be dropped off at the Meetinghouse between 8:30 and 9:00 am. Any questions please contact Jane Zanardi at 860.526.9007. Thank you!

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm or by appointment

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 9am-1pm.