

# Reaching UP

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Church

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## How significant is Pentecost for Christians?

By [Anugrah Kumar](#), Christian Post Contributor | Originally published on Sunday, May 23, 2021

Churches across the United States and elsewhere are observing Pentecost



Sunday, referred to as the “birthday of the Church.” It’s a day that, for many Christians, is as significant as Christmas and Easter.

On Pentecost Sunday — which comes 50 days after Easter and hence the name “Pentecost,” which is a Greek word for “fifty” — some churches use red color as the theme for decoration to symbolize the fire and joy of the Holy Spirit as they commemorate the coming of the Spirit on the

early followers of Jesus.

Acts 2:1-4 records: “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Many see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus on the first Pentecost as the birth of the Church. Before His ascension, Jesus instructed His disciples not to leave Jerusalem but wait for “the gift my Father promised.” He added that they would receive power and be His witnesses in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the world when the Holy Spirit came on them, according to Acts 1:4, 8. This came true on the day of Pentecost.

What happened on the first Pentecost carries on today. Whoever puts faith in the Gospel of Jesus receives the Holy Spirit, though not necessarily in the same way as it happened in the first century when many visible signs followed.

The Holy Spirit plays an essential role in a Christian’s life.

It is through the Spirit that one can appropriate God’s promises in Jesus by accepting Him as the Lord and Savior. As Peter said on the day of the Pentecost, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

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## How significant is Pentecost for Christians? (continued from Page 1)

And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38, 39)

Further, it is the Holy Spirit — co-equal with God the Father and God the Son, as per the doctrine of Trinity — who keeps Christians as He indwells in them.

Pentecost also underlines the importance of the Church in God’s work. God sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ disciples on an occasion when “they were all together in one place.” And what followed was the building of a community, a model community.

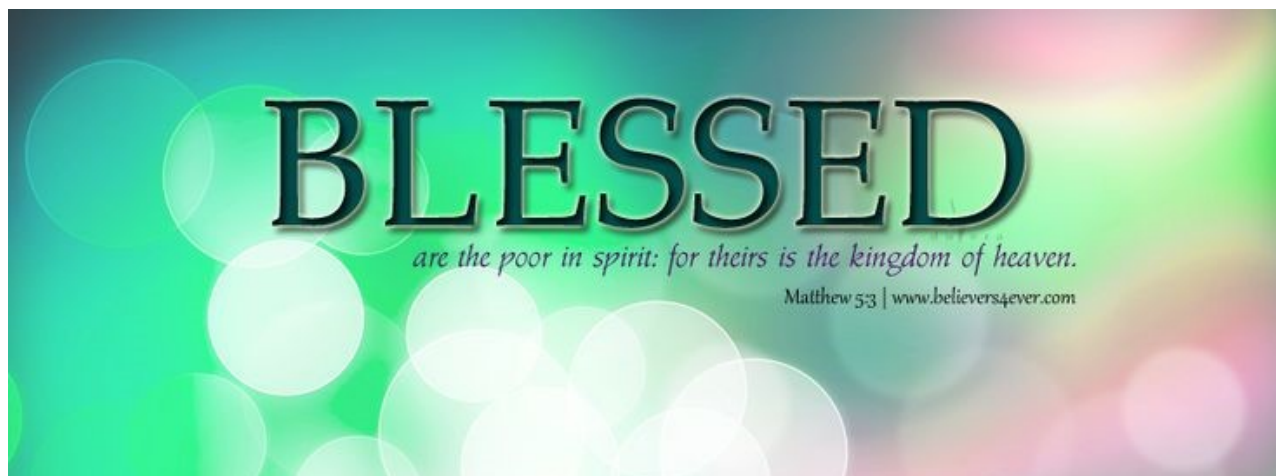
Acts 2:42-47 says: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

What’s more, Pentecost reflected a key mission of the Church. By enabling the disciples to declare God’s wonders in various languages, the Holy Spirit showed that the Church needs to reach out to various cultural, racial, ethnic and linguistic groups rather than become an affinity group. It taught the Church to honor diversity.

Acts 2:5-8 reads: “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?’”

The outpouring of the Spirit was for each of the believers gathered on the first Pentecost, irrespective of their backgrounds.

The birth of the Church, in a historic sense, and the reflection of its centrality in God’s ministry and its mission to reach out to all people groups while honoring local cultures and languages, as well as the in-



## How to Get Involved



### Reaching UP

If you are interested in contributing articles or helping to put together the Reaching UP newsletter, please contact Andy Hill at [andy@andyhill.us](mailto:andy@andyhill.us)

### Treasurer Assistant

If you are interested in helping count and process donations and other treasurer duties, please contact Andy Hill at [andy@andyhill.us](mailto:andy@andyhill.us)

### Zoom Meetings

Contact the church at [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com) to get signed up to receive email invites for Sunday worship, Tuesday Bible study, Thursday prayer meeting, and more!

### Little Red Wagon

The little red wagon is waiting to be filled with canned goods and hygiene products for Monroe County United Ministries. For more information ask one of our Deacons.

### Video and Sound Systems

If you are interested in learning how to operate the sound system or help in taping Sunday worship service please contact Don Root at [rootd@msn.com](mailto:rootd@msn.com).

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jun 3	Julie Hammel	Jun 12	Allen Pease
Jun 4	Souheil & Alejandra Haddad Anniversary	Jun 21	Bill and Stephanie Worden Anniversary
Jun 5	Fadi and Aline Haddad Anniversary	Jun 22	Robert and Julie Hammel Anniversary
Jun 6	Jane Hammel Priest	Jun 23	Sami Haddad
Jun 7	Aida Haddad	Jun 27	Thomas Tadao Like
Jun 7	Pastor John & Sarah Napoli Anniversary	Jun 27	Andy Hill
Jun 8	Phillip Addison	Jun 29	Raja Hanania

### APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

April was a good month, financially. Generous donations brought the April income up to \$14,904. This was \$2,876 above expenses, bringing our year-to-date net income back into positive territory at \$705. Your continued support is needed, as we are approaching the summer months that are typically lean.

It's that time of year again, when we ask those who are able to pay their Per-Capita. Our Per-Capita cost for 2022 is \$46 per member.

Don Root



**Lights! Camera! Action!**  
**Movies with Meaning!**  
**Coming . . .**

Last three Wednesdays in July! 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.  
**FREE!**

Three great films selected by and hosted by members of the UPC Worship Team.  
There will be no showing the first Wednesday of July.

Worship Team members will host their favorite *movie with meaning* with a brief pre-show explanation of why they chose it.

Stephanie Worden will host *Lilies of the Field*.

Souheil Haddad will host *Father Stu*.

Allen Pease will host *A Man Called Peter*.

The Worship Team is working on the schedule and the exact date of each showing will be announced shortly.



**Lilies of the Field . . .**

. . . an Oscar winner, is a 1963 American comedy drama and stars Sidney Poitier and Lilia Skala. The title comes from the Sermon on the Mount in the Bible (Matthew 6:27–33 and its parallel scripture from Luke 12:27–31). It tells the story of an itinerant worker who encounters a group of nuns, who believe he has been sent to them by God to build them a new chapel.

**Father Stu . . .**

. . . is a 2022 biographical drama film written and directed by Rosalind Ross in her directorial debut. The film stars Mark Wahlberg, a boxer-turned-Catholic priest suffering from inclusion body myositis. Mel Gibson also stars. This compelling true story has strong language and graphic violence.

**A Man Called Peter . . .**

. . . is a 1955 American drama film starring Richard Todd. It's based on the life of preacher Peter Marshall, who served as Chaplain of the United States Senate and pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C., before his early death. It is adapted from the 1951 biography written by his widow, Catherine Marshall. The film was a box-office hit and it was nominated for an Oscar. This was the final feature film of the actress Jean Peters.



Movies with Meaning benefits The Worship Team's Guest Artist Program. These are not religious themed movies but every day hits the Team finds meaningful. Admission is free. A donation jar for the Guest Artist Program will be placed in Fellowship Hall.

**Fresh popped popcorn and iced tea will be free.**

If you'd like to provide a movie themed snack to go along please sign up with Allen.



44<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Presbyterian Women's Association  
**Tasting Luncheon**  
401 Shyla Lane,  
Bloomfield, IN 47424  
812-384-8424



June 24, 2022  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Advanced Tickets - \$8.00

Or

\$9.00 at the door



Dine In or  
Carry Out and Delivery  
available



# New MALL in Bloomington!

The Mobility Aids Lending Library (MALL), is an initiative started by a local group of women with physical disabilities (aka “the Wheelie Women”) to serve the greater Bloomington community.

This lending library matches “gently used” mobility devices free of charge to those who cannot afford them or only need them for a short period of time. Library items may include:

- canes
- ankle-foot orthoses (AFOs)
- wheelchairs
- scooters
- crutches
- rollators
- power/electric wheelchairs
- lifts

**Where:** Monroe County Public Library, Room 2B

**When:** last Sunday of the month 1–3 p.m., beginning May 29th

**Donate:** <https://tinyurl.com/MALLbloomingtondonations>

**Have Need Of:** <https://tinyurl.com/MALLbloomingtonneed>



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
Council for Community Accessibility



**Monroe County  
Public Library**  
Read, Learn, Connect & Create

A partnership with the City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility (CCA) and the Monroe County Public Library (MCPL).



I'M NOT AFRAID OF TOMORROW  
BECAUSE I KNOW GOD IS  
ALREADY THERE.

crosscards.com



"I'M GLAD YOU LIKE THIS RIDE, DAD! MOM JUST PUTS  
ME ON THE MERRY-GO-ROUND BY MYSELF."

love is...



...when things start to sizzle!

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