

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S LAPTOP!**

Wow! We are in our twelfth month of our interim journey together! We have shared some profound moments of spiritual awakenings together and I believe the best is yet to come! I'm seeking over the remainder of my time with you to experience more of God's presence in and through each one of us. So come Holy Spirit! I'm ready to experience more of God's presence... now!

It was a joy to welcome seven of our neighbors from the Institute of Islamic and Turkish Studies into our space last month as we shared our MCC NOVA faith stories. All 22 of us were blessed by this connection.

During this month we celebrate Liberating Love/Mother's Day (USA) Sunday, May 12 as well as experience the beginning of the season of Pentecost where the Holy Spirit was received by all. We are looking forward to celebrating Pentecost Sunday, May 19 with strong participation of our Children and Youth Ministries in our Worship Service. They will be wearing RED which is the liturgical color for this celebration of the Christian church.

### **What is Pentecost?**

*"For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called 'the church.' Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday.*



"Pentecost" by Jean Restout II, 1732. Public domain.

### **What does the word "Pentecost" mean?**

*The English word "Pentecost" is a transliteration of the Greek word pentekostos, which means "fifty." It comes from the ancient Christian expression pentekoste hemera, which means "fiftieth day."*

*But Christians did not invent the phrase "fiftieth day." Rather, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday. This holiday was known as the Festival of Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks (Shavuot in Hebrew). This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or "fifty days" from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday (pentekonta hemeras in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture).*

*Shavuot was the second great feast in Israel's yearly cycle of holy days. It was originally a harvest festival (Exod 23:16), but, in time, turned into a day to commemorate the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. This day became especially significant for Christians because, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, during the Jewish celebration of Shavuot/Pentecost, the Holy*

*Spirit was poured out upon his first followers, thus empowering them for their mission and gathering them together as a church.”<sup>1</sup>*

As many of you know, my interim pastor contract has been extended for an additional three months to maintain continuity over the summer as the pastoral search committee continues its process to present a candidate to you for consideration as our next settled pastor. I'm honored to serve with you through August 31 in worship, pastoral care, moderator of the board of directors, personnel director and community outreach.

Thank you again for the privilege to serve as your Interim Pastor.

Blessings,  
Rev. Onetta  
Intentional Interim Pastor

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. Dr. Mark Roberts, <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/>.