



PENTECOST XII  
08.16.2026

Foundations

## Announcements

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### Community

- Name Tag Button Signup
- Next week after church: 20's and 30's lunch at Jim's
- August 19 – Back to School Cookout at 6pm
- Picnic & Play – September 2 at 6pm

### Service

- Muffins signup
- Coming this fall: Sandwich night September 16 at 6pm

### Spiritual Practices

- August 23 – Back to School Sunday (bring your backpacks for blessing!)
- Morning prayer – Thursdays at 8am starting September 3
- Giving on Realm – new video here: <https://www.churchonthesquarebaltimore.org/giving>

## Greeting & Orientation – Jim Hamilton

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*Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility.*

— Augustine of Hippo

## Song – Gut it to the Studs – Letitia VanSant – The Band

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Like sand caught in my bedsheets  
it is rubbing raw my chest  
Makes me pace in all these circles,  
wakes me nightly in a sweat  
These darker hours before the dawn  
are where I keep my regrets  
My mind says everything is fine  
but my heart chomps at the bit

Is it wrong to want what I want?  
To find what's right gotta, gut it to the studs

Well what it is I'm not quite sure but something's  
all messed up  
I am knocking down the walls tonight  
gotta gut it to the studs

I know that I must sacrifice  
all the sentimental stuff  
Gotta get the wires a-running right  
'fore the dry wall goes back up

Is it wrong to want what I want?  
To find what's right, gotta gut it to the studs

There are people risking all they have  
in fragile little boats  
But me I lay here in my bed  
reading Wendell Berry quotes  
Well he has something figured out,  
yes he knows how to hope  
And that's a skill that I might need  
in a fragile little boat

Is it wrong to want what I want?  
To find what's right gotta, gut it to the studs

Have we got the gumption to believe  
that we could start anew  
It could be called naivety  
or the foolishness of youth  
But only fools can sleep in homes  
with the cracks a-running through

Yes we must build from the very studs something  
level something true

Is it wrong to want what I want?  
To find what's right gotta, gut it to the studs

Is it wrong to want what I want?  
To find what's right gotta, gut it to the studs

Gotta gut it to the studs  
Gotta gut it to the studs

Welcome - Emily Oliver

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Children's Message - Rachel Cooley Shawler

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God be in my head  
God be in my words

God be in my heart  
God be in my hands  
God be in my whole self

Passing of the Peace

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Reading One – from Deuteronomy 11, NRSVUE

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“You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise up. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

“See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God but turn from the way that I am commanding you today, to follow other gods that you have not known.

Psalm 127: Unless the Lord Builds the House - The Band

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Refrain:

Unless it is the Lord who builds the house,  
The workers workers work in vain  
Unless it is the Lord who keeps the watch  
The watchers wait in vain  
The watchers wait in vain

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.  
Unless the Lord guards the city,  
the guard keeps watch in vain.

Refrain

It is in vain that you rise up early  
and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxious toil,  
for God gives sleep to her beloved.

Refrain

No doubt about it: children are a gift from the Lord;  
the fruit of the womb is a divine reward.

The children born when one is young  
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

The person who fills a quiver full with them is truly happy!  
They won't be ashamed when arguing with their enemies in the gate.

Refrain

**Prayers of the People – Jim Hamilton**

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**Song – It is Well With My Soul - The Band**

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When peace, like a river,  
Attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot,  
Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, with my soul.  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet,  
Though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded  
My helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss  
Of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross,  
And I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day  
When my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound,  
And the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.  
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

## **Reading Two: Matthew 7:24-29 (NRSVUE) – Jim Hamilton**

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“Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

## **Song – I Was Hungry – John Bell - The Band**

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**I was hungry and you fed me  
I was thirsty and you shared  
I, the stranger you embraced  
While others stared**

**I was naked and you clothed me  
I was ill and still you cared  
When imprisoned you insured  
My sanity was spared**

## **Sermon – Dr. Christine Merola**

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## **Celebration and Offering**

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## **Song – Reach Out – Sufjan Stevens – The Band**

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**I have a memory  
Of a time and place where history resigned  
Now my apology  
All the light came in to fulminate my mind**

**Reach out, reach out  
To all the ones who came before you  
Ponder what is right  
You and I, in defiance  
Speak out, speak out  
The conversation may afford you  
Wisdom of the wise  
You and I, in defiance**

**And I come from conscience where there is no conjugation  
I would rather be a flower than the ocean  
And I held myself as something of an innovation  
I would rather be devoured than be broken**

**All my life I tried so hard  
To separate myself from all**

That is and was and will be torn apart  
You were running unafraid  
I know you, but I've changed my way  
You know I take it all to heart

Home is where you've called my name  
I've gone as far as the eye can blame  
You said love may have lost its way

Now my life has been erased  
And what I gave, I gave for you  
And for myself and for the holy name  
You were running unashamed  
And yours is mine and all remains  
As nothing ever stays the same

Reach out, reach out to all the ones who came before  
Reach out, reach out to all the ones who came before  
Reach out, reach out and all at once the pain restores you  
Reach out, reach out and all at once the pain restores you  
All at once the pain restores you

I have a memory of a time and place where history resigned  
Now in my reverie  
For the guiding light that opened up my mind

#### **Eucharist & Post Communion Prayer – Jim Hamilton**

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*All are welcome at the Eucharistic table. If you do not wish to participate, feel free to take this time for meditation or personal reflection.*

#### **Prayer and Blessing – Jim Hamilton**

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#### **Song – Working on a Building - Traditional - The Band**

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Well if I was a sinner, I tell you what I'd do:  
I would quit my sinning and I'd work on a building too.

Chorus:

I'm a-workin' on a building, working on a building,  
I'm working on a building for my Lord, for my Lord.  
It's a Holy Ghost building, it's a Holy Ghost building,  
I'm working on a building for my Lord, for my Lord.

Well if I was a preacher, I tell you what I'd do  
I would keep on preaching and I'd work on a building too.

**Well if I was a singer, tell you what I'd do  
I would keep on singing and I'd work on a building too.**

**Well, if I was a dreamer, tell you what I'd do  
I would keep on dreaming and I'd work on a building too.**

**Dismissal – Jim Hamilton**

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