

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“What Does This Mean?”

Based on Acts 2:1-12

“What does this mean?”

~Acts 2:12

We can only imagine the chaos of the moment. The writer of Acts described it as best he could, with voices heard, strong winds, and tongues of fire. Suffice it to say, something unusual happened amid the everyday noise of everyday life.

It has been my experience, that when things are really noisy, messy, complicated, convoluted and, mixed up, God is very busy at work.

A quiet church is too quiet. A church carrying on in regular, predictable fashion, week after week after week, is ho-hum.

But a church that is noisy, busy, planning, doubling down, compromising, figuring out how to be two places at the same time, or serve two needs at the same time, even a church in conflict, is a place where God is very busy doing something.

We see a noisy, busy, conflicted church as a problem.

God sees a noisy, busy, conflicted church as an opportunity.

We see the problem. because people like me were trained to lead and manage congregations so that the church would be seen as a calm refuge, a place of harmony, or quiet reflection. And don't get me wrong:

- We need our space to be a refuge for the hurting soul
- We need our space to teach and show how to work cooperatively.
- We need to provide a quiet space for people to connect with their Creator.

But we also need the noise, the wind, the fire...

- We need a place that is being creative, constructive, and collaborative.
- We need a place where we don't all have to agree on the details, but are on the same page about where we want to go.

- We need a church that believes, in the chaos, God is leading them somewhere, even though at present, that somewhere is unknown.

At Pentecost, men and women had gathered together. There were believers there, each with their own idea of what was going to become of the church and what steps should be taken next.

- They were talking politely at each other.
- They were eating at opposite ends of the table.
- They were staying in their own corners, looking shifty eyed at each other.

And then something happened.

And the tone in the room changed.

Wind. Fire. Spirit.

- Instead of talking at each other, they started talking with each other.
- Instead of eating at opposite ends of the table, they brought the

food closer and began to eat as friends.

- Instead of looking at each other with suspicion, they listened to each other with curiosity, and began to make a plan.

They came to realize, that they wanted the same things.

- They all had a common purpose: to glorify God and spread the Good News.
- They each had a different idea about how to accomplish the task.
- They each had a desire to share the Gospel to a different place

But together, they could accomplish much for the one God they loved and shared. God, it would seem, could be big enough to be revealed to different people in different ways, but still to His glory.

It is a lesson we are still trying to learn today.

- Faith in God does not only have to be our way or the Presbyterian way.
- Sharing the Gospel does not only have to happen in a Sanctuary at 10AM on a Sunday morning.
- Being a faithful disciple may or may not include using church words or anything that

looks or sounds remotely churchy.

- I recognize the level of business, and noise, and activity here at Knox that has been increasing in the last few years, and I say to myself, "God is very busy here."

- I recognize the level of chaos, and fear and frustration out there in the world that has been increasing in the last few years and I say to myself, "Hmmm, God must be very busy here as well."

I expect that many were frightened that first day of Pentecost.

- Frighted at what it all meant,
- Frightened of the future.
- Frightened at all the uncertainty.

But...

- Pentecost was a vision for the future taking hold.
- Pentecost was about God's plan taking steps forward.
- Pentecost was not about fear, but about possibilities.

Let us come to the table today, recognizing the blessings we are receiving

because of our noise and our business.

Let us recognize the Pentecostal Spirit within these walls and beyond.

Let us recognize, God is with us this day.

Amen.