Opening remarks.
- Thank you for welcoming me today; it is an honor and privilege to be here.
- My deepest thanks to Pastor Stu for his encouragement, prayers and assistance preparing me for today.
- Also, thank you to the APNC for all their energy and support, and to everyone who took the time to come see us at the meet & greet events.

Background
- Today is the one day of the year that the Church really focuses on the third person of the Trinity – the Holy Spirit.
- We heard in Acts 2 the story of God’s outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- The Spirit is active throughout Scripture.
- The first appearance of the Spirit occurs in the second verse of Genesis.
  - “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”
- How is the Spirit active in the rest of Scripture?
  - Exodus – Deuteronomy
    - The Spirit empowered many with craftsmanship skills.
  - Judges
    - The Spirit came upon them to empower them to lead & protect the people of Israel.
Still Breathing

- Samuel – Chronicles
  - Came upon the kings who honored God.
- Nehemiah
  - The Spirit instructed the people.
- Psalms
  - Provides comfort.
- Isaiah
  - Brings justice.
- Ezekiel
  - The lifter of heads & reviver of life.
- Prophets
  - Filled them with the words of God.
- The Gospels
  - Comforter, sustainer, & power.
- Acts
  - The wisdom & power of God in the believer.
- Romans
  - The litmus test of the truth of God.
- Corinthians
  - The giver of gifts.
- Ephesians
  - The unifier of the Body.
- Peter
  - Sanctifier
- John’s letters
  - Testimony of God.
- Revelation
Still Breathing

- The voice of God.

❖ Pentecost
  - Things changed on that first Pentecost.
  - Until then, the Spirit of God would move among people and empower them.
  - With Pentecost, the spirit came to dwell within people.
  - We are told that the disciples were gathered together, and the Spirit came upon them with the sound of a rushing wind.
  - I love the play on words.
    - Both the Hebrew and Greek words that are translated as Spirit also mean wind or breath.
  - The imagery should take us back to the creation story.
    - Not only do we hear reminders of God’s Spirit hovering above the waters, we also get a glimpse of God’s breath breathing life into the church in the same way as He breathed life into Adam.

❖ Implications
  - On the day of Pentecost, God breathed new life into His people.
  - Because the Holy Spirit indwells us, He continues to breath new life into us.
    - We see that in the life of the Church of the Covenant today as we not only celebrate the birthday of the Church of Christ, but we also celebrate the new life He is breathing into us as He advances His ministry to the community by uniting us as one in ministry.
Still Breathing

- **Awareness**
  - How can we live in the awareness of the Holy Spirit breathing life into us?
    - First, I want you to take a deep breath.
      - Don’t forget to exhale.
      - God breathed life into you to remind you that His Spirit lives in you and continues to breathe new life into you.
    - Second, notice that they were gathered together when the Spirit came upon them.
      - You can bet that they were sharing what Jesus taught them as well as the events of the last 50 days.
      - We also know from chapter 4 that they continued to gather together in each other’s homes (aka – small groups) in order to study and share the Word’s impact upon their lives.

- **Conclusion**
  - What we find is that the Spirit shows great activity in our lives when we are tuned into Him.
  - I know all of you can tune your radio to hear your favorite music.
  - Let’s make sure we tune our hearts to hear the Holy Spirit.
    - I urge you to gather together with others who will help you grow in your knowledge and understanding of God’s Word.
    - There is no better way to get tuned into God’s Spirit than with one another.
Still Breathing

- Take a deep breath.
  - Do you feel that?
  - God’s Holy Spirit is falling upon you.
  - God is still breathing.

❖ Closing Prayer

➢ Holy Spirit, fall afresh on us. Breathe into us new life, and empower us to live boldly in Jesus Christ as His disciples, growing in grace and joining Him in His ministry, in Jesus’ name. Amen.