

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



*I praise you,
for I am
fearfully and
wonderfully made.
Wonderful are
your works; my
soul knows it
very well.*

Psalm 139:14

***Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online***

+ † +

**March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:15am**



Welcome

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,
and may you receive strength and guidance today
That will enable you to handle life's challenges.*

Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.
(*Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table.*)

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk & Beth Miller if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

Water fountains are located on both the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: * = if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♪# = Blue Hymnal Page}*

Virtual Worship Service

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](#)

Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later

Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later



www.sprucc.org

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org



Free WiFi

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

*Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.
They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you.}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ⑩ (Unison)

Holy and Almighty God, you are the one who has plans for us. You probably designed our personalities. You watch and wait until our gifts and talents are ready for the work you want us to do. As we watch and wait for your calling, help us to notice the gifts and talents of the people around us, May we uplift and encourage each other to lean into the work you have for us so your kingdom on earth will flourish. Amen.

PRELUDE

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

arr. by Victor Labenske

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

♫ *Blue #33*
Public Domain

*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 139 (NRSV)*

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

All: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

Leader: You discern my thoughts from far away.

All: Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Leader: Test me and know my thoughts.

All: See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION ⑩ (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ⑩ (Unison)

Lord, forgive us for our blindness to your will for us. Help us to be pliable enough to be molded to your plans. We trust that you have created us with the skills and talents and personalities to be the persons you want us to be. Help us to be bold and daring; to have courage. Help us to be gentle and loving. Help us not to question too much but to accept the light and claim it for now and for eternal life. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

*♪ Red #518
Public Domain*

Leader (<i>spoken</i>):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (<i>sung</i>):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
Leader (<i>spoken</i>):	Christ, have mercy upon us.
People (<i>sung</i>):	Christ, have mercy upon us.
Leader (<i>spoken</i>):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (<i>sung</i>):	Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

Praise the Lord! We are blessed with the forgiveness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May we feel the lightness, may we take great pleasure and delight in our renewed relationship with God and each other! May we be attuned to insights, actions, and motivations that God directs toward us as God's faithful followers.

{Please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings.
We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God."
Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#)

Second Lesson: [Psalm 139](#) (selected verses)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [John 9:1-11](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Search Me, O God"

*W&R #385
Public Domain*

MINI-MESSAGE

CONGREGATION SINGS

"God Hears My Prayer"

**God, our Father, hears my prayer anytime and anywhere.
He will listen when I pray, hear the loving words I say.**

SERMON

"God's Plan Unfolding"

We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have learned
more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by
re-affirming our faith in God,
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and giving
of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Unison)* *UCC Statement of Faith*
Section Two and Three: Jesus and the Holy Spirit

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE *"O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer"*

*♪ Red #503
Public Domain*

**O Thou who hearest every heartfelt prayer,
With Thy rich grace, Lord, all our hearts prepare;
Thou art our Life, Thou art our Love and Light,
O let this Sabbath hour with Thee be bright.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: May we give in thankfulness for the plans of God.

All: May we give in obedience to the plans of God.

Leader: Which persons in the kingdom need our financial assistance the most?

All: We will open our eyes and God will direct our giving.

Leader: Whether it be to maintain church buildings or maintain lives

All: We will give from our hearts!

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{Today, for the first time since the outbreak of COVID, we will be passing the offering plate in person.
You may also offer your tithe and offering to God
through our secure Online Giving option on our website at sprucc.org (Click Here), or
mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Just As I Am"

text and music by Nancy Price and Don Besig

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Because I Have Been Given Much"

*♪ Red #259
Public Domain*

**Because I have been given much, I, too must give:
Because of Thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live,
I shall divide my gifts from Thee with every brother that I see
Who has the need of help from me.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)

Thank you, Lord Jesus and the Father, for the gifts that are here given for you and your kingdom. May we be blessed by you for the giving of these gifts. Yet, we know that we cannot earn your mercy and grace. They are free gifts from you. May we delight in this exchange! In the name of Jesus, we pray.

ALL: Amen.

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God's love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God's Good News
through our words and actions.*

*COMMISSION ⑩

Leader: The Lord calls us to be a people set apart;

All: To feel with thoughtful mind and think with tender heart.

Leader: The Lord calls us to care for self and neighbor too;

All: To take the risk, and dare to show what love can do.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"You Call Us, Lord"

W&R #583
One License #A-728042

*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}*

POSTLUDE

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest
Password (for both): iamheretoserve



The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshipping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

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 - ⑨ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
 - ⑩ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑪ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑫ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑬ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑭ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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About Today

Church Season: Lent - 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

Purple - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

Sunday, March 19th- Lectionary Reading for 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

The First Book of Samuel

The First Book of Samuel describes the transition of the nation of Israel from their time of being ruled by the judges to that of being ruled by their first king, Saul. The end of First Samuel and the beginning of Second Samuel describe the transition to Israel's second king, David. First Samuel begins with the birth of the prophet Samuel, who is a priest, judge, seer, military leader, and the one who anointed both Saul and David as king. First Samuel covers the time span of about 1100 BC to 1000 BC, and Second Samuel covers the time from about 1000 BC to 960 BC.

Psalm 23

In this OT song written by King David, we express our trust in the Lord to lead us through even in the darkest times of our lives, and we proclaim our faith that we will dwell with God and all the saints in light in a life everlasting.

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The Epistle (letter) to the Gentile church in Ephesus is attributed to the Apostle Paul, written in the first century A.D. This is an open letter to many churches in response for the life-changing radical transformation in our personal and social life as we become a part of Christ's family. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

The Gospel According to John

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

Next Sunday, March 26th- Lectionary Reading for 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

33 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor. 1 Timothy 1:17

Ab D \flat Bbm Eb Fm $\frac{A\flat}{E\flat}$ Eb Eb7 Ab

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est - to both great and small;
 4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

1 2 3 4

Ab D \flat Bbm Eb Fm $\frac{A\flat}{E\flat}$ Eb Eb7 Ab

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes.
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est - the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

5 6 7 8

$\frac{A\flat}{G}$ Eb Fm D \flat Ab $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Eb

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice, like moun - tains, high soar - ing a - bove
 Thy wis - dom so bound - less, Thy mer - cy so free,
 All praise we would ren - der - O help us to see

9 10 11 12

C/E Fm $\frac{Bbm}{D\flat}$ Eb $\frac{E\flat}{D\flat}$ $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ D \flat $\frac{A\flat}{E\flat}$ Eb Eb7 Ab

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious - Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 E - ter - nal Thy good - ness for naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

13 14 15 16

Search Me, O God

G
 $\frac{G}{B}$
 $\frac{D7sus}{A}$
 $\frac{D7}{A}$
Am7
 $\frac{D7}{A}$
G

1 Search me, O God, and know my heart to - day; try me, O
 2 I praise thee, Lord, for cleans - ing me from sin; ful - fill thy
 3 Lord, take my life and make it whol - ly thine; fill my poor

Em
A7
 $\frac{G}{A}$
A7
D
 $\frac{G}{B}$
 $\frac{D7}{A}$
 $\frac{Am}{G}$
 $\frac{D7}{F\#}$

Sav - ior, know my thoughts, I pray. See if there be some wick - ed
 Word and make me pure with - in. Fill me with fire where once I
 heart with thy great love di - vine. Take all my will, my pas - sion,

$\frac{Bm}{D}$
D7
G
Em
 $\frac{Am7}{C}$
C
D7
D9
D7
G

way in me; cleanse me from ev - ery sin and set me free.
 burned with shame; grant my de - sire to mag - ni - fy thy name.
 self, and pride; I now sur - ren - der, Lord—in me a - bide.

WORDS: J. Edwin Orr (1912-1987)
 MUSIC: Edward J. Hopkins (1818-1901)

ELLERS
 10.10.10.10.

You Call Us, Lord

F Dm F A Gm7 Bb C F Bb D Bb F C C7 F

1 You call us, Lord, to be a peo - ple set a - part,
 2 You call us, Lord, to care for self and neigh - bor too,
 3 You call us, Lord, to be good stew - ards of the earth;
 4 You call us, Lord, to serve: to die that we may live,

F Dm Csus C F Bb D Bb F C C7 F

to feel with thought - ful mind and think with ten - der heart.
 to take the risk, and dare to show what love can do.
 to tend it as a place of bless - ed - ness and worth.
 to know we best re - ceive when joy - ful - ly we give.

Refrain

C E F Dm F A Bb F C F A Bb F C C Bb

Thus cho - sen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your

F A C7 G F C C Bb F A C F Bb F C C7 F

un - fail - ing grace to make us e - qual to the task.