

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.*



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

+ † +

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
Sunday, April 30, 2023
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 & Geri Gammel 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

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



www.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.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & 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 *(Unison)*

Psalm 23 (King James Version)

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will
dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

PRELUDE

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

traditional folk melody arranged for piano by John Carter

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

♩ Blue #575

One License #A-728042

*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 100 (King James Version)*

Leader: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

People: Serve the Lord with gladness:

Leader: come before his presence with singing.

People: Know ye that the Lord he is God:

Leader: it is he that hath made us,

People: and not we ourselves;

Leader: we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

People: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,

Leader: and into his courts with praise:

People: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Leader: For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;

People: and his truth endureth to all generations.

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** [®] *(Leader)*

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

***CONFESSION OF SIN** [®] *(Unison)*

Mercy, O Lord, we beg for mercy for our commissions and omissions which are not helpful to the people around us or to the systems around us. One little sour note from us in a day can cause a chain reaction until the very last person turns on the dog and the dog howls. Mercy, O Lord, help us to be a bit more like sheep who follow you without more than a little baaa. We know your voice but we fail to be attentive to it. We cannot resist temptations to seek our own rewards like the grass on the other side of the fence. These temptations fail us! Reach for us with your staff. Gather us to your bosom. Straighten our thinking and our willful hearts. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** [®] *(Leader)*

Jesus says, "Oh weak sheep of mine, beloved sheep, let me hold you close, let me call your name. May my voice resonate so deep within you, that you feel the deepest comfort. I will always call you from your dangerous willfulness. I love you so much. I have special plans for you. Follow me."

***CALL TO PRAISE** ⑩

Leader: May we hear the shepherd's voice and rejoice!

People: **Yes, indeed, Lord. We praise your name!**

***SUNG PRAISE**

"Alleluia"

♪Blue #189

Music: Jerry Sinclair; Text: Jerry Sinclair & Benjamin Motz

You're my shepherd, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia

You're my shepherd, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia

{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: [Acts 2:42-47](#)

Second Lesson: [1 Peter 2:19-25](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: [John 10:1-10](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

♪Blue 564
Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

MUSIC

"This is the Day"

Text & Music: Les Garrett

**This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.**

SERMON

"Are We Following the Voices of Strangers?"

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*

{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: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

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

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

*♩Blue #340
Music & Text: Martin Nystrom*

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION [Ⓜ]

Leader: We bring our gifts to the altar.

People: Touch our hearts, Lord.

Leader: We bring our gifts for the work of God's kingdom.

People: Touch our hearts, Lord.

Leader: We bring our gifts because of our love for God's people.

People: Touch our hearts, Lord.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, 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 you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

traditional folk melody arranged for voices by Marie Poole

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

♪Blue #189

Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair

**You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia,
You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia!**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER [Ⓜ] (Leader)

Holy and gracious God, these offerings come from our heart. Thank you for accepting them for the work of your kingdom, especially for your loved ones who do not have enough. May there be a balance in our lifestyles so that everyone has "enough."

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 [®]

Leader: As we go forth . . .

People: May we walk your walk and talk your talk.

Leader: As we go forth . . .

People: May we recognize your voice separate from the voice of strangers.

Leader: As we go forth . . .

People: Help us to sing the wondrous story!

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"

♪ *Red #465*
Public Domain

*{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

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

- ① Reprinted with permission from *The New Century Hymnal* of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the *Book of Worship* of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.
 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ③ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.
 - ④ Reprinted with permission from the *Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States*. and/or *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*. (1985) New York: United Church Press.
 - ⑤ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*
 - ⑥ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
 - ⑦ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
 - ⑧ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - 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).
- One License is our Church Copyright License# A-728042,, which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.
Cartoons are reprinted with permission from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*. (2023).



Staff & Leadership

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz - PastorMotz@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Mary Etta Mest - mestme@aol.com - 610-659-2775 (C)

Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

Office Secretary: Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue; Robesonia, PA 19551

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

www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 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):

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and the darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

This Sunday, April 30, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; Luke 10:1-10

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

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 First Letter of Peter

This NT Epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Peter, who's name means "rock." Jesus appointed Simon Peter to lead the church after his ascension. Peter was a fisherman at the time Jesus called him to be a disciple. This letter is believed to be written pseudonymously in Rome around 70-90 A.D. This letter particularly addresses social tensions being felt within the Greco-Roman culture that are being attributed to the spread of the Christian faith.

The Gospel According to Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, May 7, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 575

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. Deuteronomy 33:27

Ab Bbm/Db Db Ab

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, Lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, Lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Lean-ing on the ev-er-

1 2 3

Ab Eb Ab Bbm/Db Db

last-ing arms. What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms. O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

4 5 6

Ab/Eb Eb7 Ab Refrain

Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,
 Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing on Je-sus,
 Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

7 8 9

Db Ab Ab/C Eb Ab Eb Ab

lean-ing, Safe and se-cure from all a-larms; Lean-ing on
 lean-ing on Je-sus, Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus, Lean-ing on

10 11 12 13

Ab Db Ab/Eb Eb7 Ab

ing, lean-ing, Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

14 15 16

TEXT: Elisha A. Hoffman
 MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter

SHOWALTER
 10.9.10.9. with Refrain

564 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of two systems of music. The first system includes a vocal line and a bass line. The second system also includes a vocal line and a bass line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line and below the bass line. The score includes lyrics for three verses and a refrain. The refrain is marked 'D.C. for Refrain'.

Chord symbols for the first system: Bb, Bb+, Gm/Bb, Bb, Bb/D, Db°7, Cm7, F7, F7sus, F7, F9, Eb/F, Gm/Bb.

Chord symbols for the second system: Bb, Bb7, Ab/Bb, Bb7, Cm/Eb, Eb, E°7, Bb/F, F7, Eb/F, Bb.

Lyrics:

1. I am weak but Thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong.
 2. Thro' this world of toil and snares, If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more;
 Refrain: *Just a clos - er walk with Thee, Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea.*

Lyrics for the second system:

I'll be sat - is - fied as long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
 Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er To Thy king - dom shore, to Thy shore.
 Dai - ly walk - ing close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

TEXT: Anonymous
 MUSIC: Anonymous

CLOSER WALK
 Irregular meter

FRANCIS H. ROWLEY

HYFRYDOL
ROWLAND HUGH PRICHARD, 1811-1887

8. 7. 8. 7. with Refrain

1. I will sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,
2. I was lost, but Je - sus found me, Found the sheep that went a - stray;
3. I was bruised, but Je - sus healed me; Faint was I from many a fall;
4. Days of dark - ness still come o'er me, Sor-row's paths I of - ten tread,

How He left His home in glo - ry For the cross on Cal - va - ry.
Threw His lov - ing arms a - round me, Drew me back in - to His way.
Sight was gone, and fears pos - sessed me, But He freed me from them all.
But the Sav - iour still is with me, By His hand I'm safe - ly led.

REFRAIN

Yes, I'll sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,

Sing it with the saints in glo - ry, Gath-ered by the crys - tal sea.