

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*

+ † +

Sunday, June 25, 2023
4th Sunday after Pentecost

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 ⑩ (Unison)

**Holy and vibrant God, on this joyous hymn-sing day, we praise you for music.
May we sing with our hearts and voices. May we delight in the liturgical dance
with our young people. In the name of Jesus, the Son, we pray. Amen.**

PRELUDE A Liturgical Dance to the song "*Down in the River to Pray*" *Traditional*
Choreography and Direction by Becky Boone
Dancing by Ava Ostimchuk, Lily Ostimchuk, Kamryn Ulrich, Preslie Ulrich

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "*Like a River Glorious*" *W&R #435*
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** *adapted from Psalm 149 (Contemporary English Version)*

Leader: Shout praises to the Lord!

People: Sing him a new song of praise when his loyal people meet.

Leader: Praise his name by dancing and playing music on harps and tambourines.

People: The Lord is pleased with his people.

Leader: And he gives victory to those who are humble.

People: All of you faithful people, praise our glorious Lord!

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)

Joy-filled God, take away our sins. Replace them with your joy. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

Praise the Lord! We are forgiven! Thank you, God!

*SUNG PRAISE

"Lord of the Dance" verses 1,3,5

*W&R #118
One License #A-728042*

{please be seated}

LITURGICAL DANCE

"Thanks a Lot"

Raffi

Choreography and Direction by Becky Boone
Dancing by Ava Ostimchuk, Lily Ostimchuk, Kamryn Ulrich, Preslie Ulrich

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: [Exodus 15:19-21](#)

God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape. But the Egyptians were right behind the Israelites. God closed the Red Sea just in front of the Egyptians and they drowned, horses and people.

Hear now the reading from the fifteenth chapter of Exodus verses 19 through 21.

The Lord will reign forever and ever. When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Gospel Lesson: [Luke 15:1-10](#)

There is great joy in finding one lost sheep, one lost coin and even one lost sinner.

Hear now the reading from the fifteenth chapter of Luke, verses 1 through 10.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org>

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SONGS

*"If You're Happy"**Traditional*

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
 If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
 If you're happy and you know it, Then you're face will surely show it.
 If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

*"Praise Him, Praise Him"**Anonymous*

Praise Him, praise Him, All you little children;
 God is love, God is love.
 Praise Him, praise Him, All you little children;
 God is love, God is love.

*"Zacchaeus"**Traditional*

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, A wee little man was he.
 He climbed up in a sycamore tree, For the Lord he wanted to see.
 And as the Savior passed that way, He looked up in the tree;
 And He said: "Zacchaeus, you come down!
 For I'm going to your house today, For I'm going to your house today."

*"Praise Him"**Traditional*

Praise Him, praise Him,
 Praise Him in the morning, Praise Him at the noontime.
 Praise Him, praise Him, Praise Him when the sun goes down.

CALL-OUT HYMNS FROM THE RED BOOK *only verse 1 - 5 hymns*

CALL-OUT HYMNS FROM THE BLUE HYMNAL *only verse 1 - 5 hymns*

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.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God, in your mercy,

People: **hear 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

Traditional; Public Domain

Score

Down to the River to Pray

The musical score is written for four vocal parts: Vocals, Vox. (first), Vox. (second), and Vox. (third). It is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score includes a Refrain section starting at measure 1, a Fine section at measure 10, and a Coda section at measure 13. The lyrics are: "As I went down to the riv-er to pray, stud-y-ing a-bout that good old way and who shall wear the star-ry crown. Good Lord, show me the way. O broth-ers let's go down, let's go down, O sis-ters etc. etc. O peo-ple etc. etc. come on down. O broth-ers, let's go down, down to the riv-er to pray. O sis-ters etc. etc. O peo-ple etc. etc." The score includes various musical notations such as clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: Lord of the Dance, may our hearts be so excited

People: that we want to give and give and give.

Leader: Wait, we may regret this later.

People: Yes, caution may be a good idea.

Leader: Then again, what did Jesus say?

People: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6.21)

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](https://sprucc.org) 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}.

OFFERTORY SOLO

“Rain Down”

by Jaime Cortez; arranged by John Carter

Soloist: Terry Pastor

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

*♩ Red #506
Public Domain*

We give Thee but Thine own, What-e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)**

Holy God, our treasure is with you now. Therefore, our hearts are with you also. Bless our gifts and may you direct their use in your kingdom on earth.

People: 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: Holy God, our treasure is with you now. Therefore, our hearts are with you also.
Bless our gifts and may you direct their use in your kingdom on earth.

People: May we respond with praise.

Leader: Lord, your word has been received into our brains.

People: May you channel these words from our minds into our hearts.

Leader: Lord, make our hands and feet come alive.

People: Yes, Lord, keep us singing and dancing for your glory!

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

W&R #614
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

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
 - ⑥ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑦ 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
 - ⑧ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑫ *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

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Pentecost -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

Green - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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, June 25, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21 *and* Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 *or* Jeremiah 20:7-13 *and* Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Exodus

The book of Exodus (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT or Torah or one of the five most central books in Judaism), and is named for the exodus (leaving/escape) of the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery through the divine saving providence of God and the leadership of Moses and his brother Aaron.

Psalm 100

This is OT hymn of praise gives thanks for the goodness of God.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

This epistle (letter) is addressed "to all God's beloved in Rome." It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Paul as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the church). Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul, a highly educated man, wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

Next Sunday, July 2, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14 *and* Psalm 13 *or* Jeremiah 28:5-9 *and* Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42