

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, July 9, 2023
6th 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)

**Spirit of God, be with us, guide us, protect us, and draw us closer to yourself.
Remove the dimness of our souls. Make our hearts your altar, open for your
wisdom and power and love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

PIANO PRELUDE

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

*by Robert Lowry;
arranged for piano by Robert Thygerson*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

*W&R #132
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 ⑩ *adapted from Psalm 145*

Leader: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Leader: All your works shall praise you, O Lord,
People: and your faithful ones shall bless you,
Leader: You, Lord, are faithful in all your words,
People: and loving in all your works.

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)

Holy and loving God, in you hands, we yearn to be the persons you created us to be. Help us to know your will and live it. May we be open to your breath upon our spirits, lifting our sins which are forgiven as we confess. Have mercy upon us, dear Lord. 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 (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Leader (*spoken*): Christ, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

Let us not doubt God with his power and love, his wisdom and strength. God is for us. Who can be against us? God's compassion is great for each of his creations. Let us be open and let the forgiveness and the blessings rain down into our souls.

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

People: **And our mouths shall show forth your praise.**

***SUNG PRAISE**

“Rain Down”

W&R # 444
James Cortez, arr. by John Carter
One License #A-728042

**Rain down, rain down,
rain down. your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.**

**Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.**

{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

The Old Testament Reading: [Zechariah 9:9-12](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Romans 7:15-25a](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“As The Deer”

W&R #471
One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG *"If You're Happy and You Know It"*

Public Domain

Vs. 1 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 your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands

Vs. 2 If you're happy and you know it, shout "AMEN"

Vs. 3 If you're happy and you know it, do them both

SERMON *"Loving God Above All Else"*

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}

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [Ⓢ] *(Unison)* adapted from the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is - both seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. 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

Including prayers for two saints who have been received into the arms of Jesus:

Jean Beidler, former St. Paul's member and close friend of Alberta, Steve & Beth Miller and for **Jean Hoover**, former member of Zion and beloved aunt of Kim Trout.

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 *"Kum Ba Yah" (Come By Here)*

African-American Spiritual

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!

O Lord, kum ba yah!

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: The Lord is coming.

People: We are ready.

Leader: How are we ready?

People: Ready with our time, our energy, our talents, our gifts.

Leader: Is my soul ready? Are your souls ready?

People: Our souls are ready. Is your soul ready?

Leader: Yes, my soul is ready. We are ready together.

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](http://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}.

VOCAL OFFERTORY

“Sing a New Song”
Soloist: Brian Keppley

by Daniel L. Schutte

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“O Bless the Gifts”

♩ *Blue #817*

Text: Samuel Longfellow; Music: Twila Paris

**O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Your hand.**

*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: Let us go forth with smiles on our faces and peace in our hearts.

People: May it be

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♩ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

W&R #589
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 worshiping 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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 - 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).
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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, July 9, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 *and* Psalm 45:10-17 *or* Song of Solomon 2:8-13 *or* Zechariah 9:9-12 *and* Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Psalm 145

This OT song attributed to David, gives praise for the greatness and goodness of God. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet.

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 16, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34 *and* Psalm 119:105-112 *or* Isaiah 55:10-13 *and* Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

THE HOLY SPIRIT

132 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

B \flat F7/A B \flat E \flat B \flat /D Cm7 F7 B \flat

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart,
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Did you not bid us love you, God and King,
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

Gm A A7/C# Dm G7/D F/C Gm/C C7 F

free it from sin, through all its puls - es move.
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 love you with all our heart and strength and mind?
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

F F7 E \flat /F F7 E \flat /F F7 E \flat /F F7

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies,
 I see your cross— there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

B \flat F7/C B \flat /D E \flat (#2) E \flat B \flat /F E \flat /G B \flat /F F7 B \flat

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek you and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

As the Deer

Unison D A C# Bm Dsus A D A

1 As the deer pants for the wa - ter, so my
 2 I want you more than gold or sil - ver, on - ly
 3 You're my friend and you are my broth - er, e - ven

G A7sus A7 D G A A7 D A C#

soul longs af - ter you; you a - lone are my
 you can sat - is - fy; you a - lone are the
 though you are a king; I love you more than

Bm Dsus A D G Asus A7 D

heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.
 real joy-giv - er and the ap - ple of my eye.
 an - y oth - er, so much more than an - y - thing!

Refrain Bm Bm A G D F# G Bm F#

You a - lone are my strength and shield; to you a - lone may my

Em F#sus F# D A C#

spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

Bm Dsus A D G A7sus A7 D

heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

589 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

D G Em E A Bm7 A7 D Bm7 E9 C#m E7 A
 D G G#

1 O Mas-ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, win-ning word of love;
 3 Teach me thy pa-tience—still with thee in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the fu-ture's broad-ening way,

A Em A D G D A7 D A7 Bm A7 D Em A D
 G G G F# F# E C# G

tell me thy se - cret: help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 teach me the way-ward feet to stay, and guide them in the home-ward way.
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that tri-umphs o - ver wrong;
 in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with thee, O Mas-ter, let me live.

WORDS: Washington Gladden (1836-1918)
 MUSIC: H. Percy Smith (1825-1898)

MARYTON
 L.M.