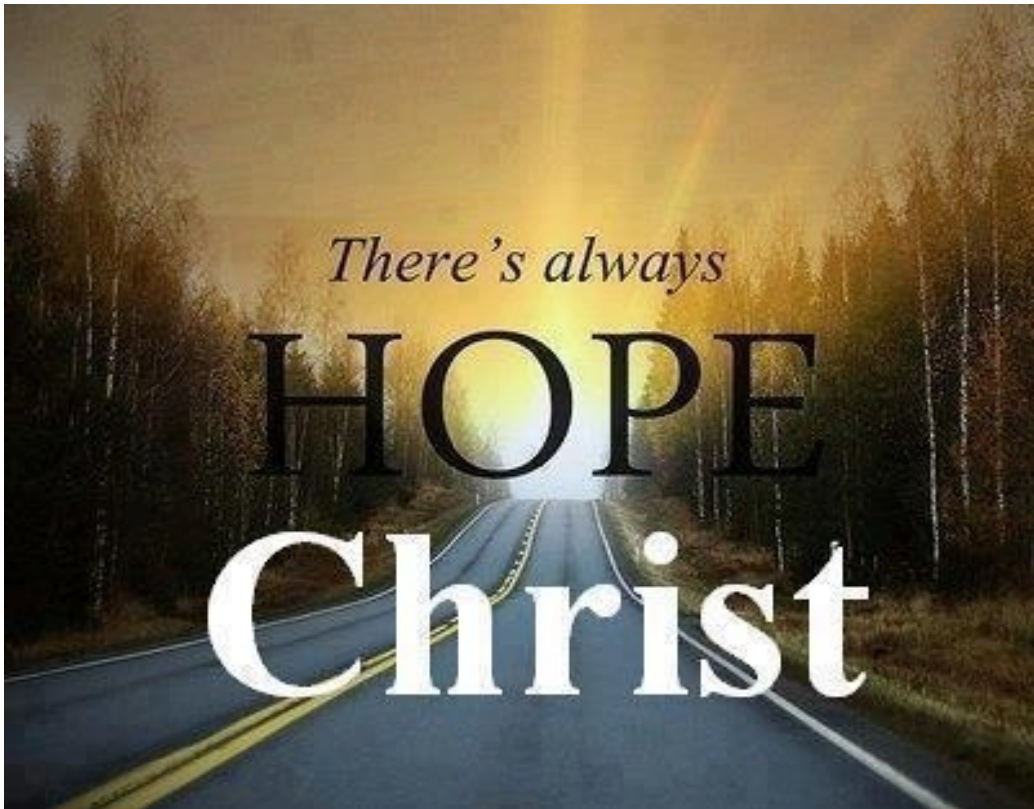


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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 23, 2023
8th 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)

Lord God, our rock, our lighthouse, let us see right from wrong, let us see goodness from evil. Jesus Christ, our rock, help us to stand firm on you. All other ground is sinking sand. You are our hope and stay. In your name we pray. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

*by William Bradbury;
piano arrangement by Lura Foster*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

*W&R #405
Public Domain*

*INVOCATION

Leader: We worship 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 86*

Leader: Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth.

People: I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart.

Leader: I will glorify your name forevermore.

People: For great is your love toward me, you have delivered me from the pit of death.

Leader: You, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,

People: slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

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 Jesus, we are so distracted by the culture of society - the people who are in the news, in the movies, on TV, in our neighborhood bars or more elite gathering places, in social media, politics! We are standing on sand and not on you as our rock. Help us to find good models to be more like you, Lord Jesus. Help us to be good models. Jesus, help us to find solid ground and stay on it.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"The Solid Rock"

*W&R #405
Public Domain*

**My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but holy lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

Let us thank God for the foundation God provides. This foundation is not just hard. This solid foundation is softened by the abundance of God's love for us.

*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: [Isaiah 44:6-8](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Romans 8:12-25](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"

WOV #673
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

"Balancing Despair with Hope"

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 ① ⑩**

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

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: Jesus lifted me

People: Jesus lifted me.

Leader: We give in thanksgiving.

People: We give in thanksgiving for God's love and mercy.

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}.

VOCAL OFFERTORY

"Amazing Grace"
Soloist - Terry Pastor

*traditional melody
arr. by J. Jefferson Cleveland*

{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)**

Bless each penny and each dollar of this offering and may it be used as you would have us use it, God of generosity. We pray in the name of Jesus, the one whose wisdom about money we follow. **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 avoiding sand, especially quick sand!

People: Wise idea.

Leader: Let us find firm ground.

People: Let us carry the rock, that is Jesus, with us.

Leader: That is a heavy load.

People: Our God will lift us as if we are being carried on the eagle's wings.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"On Eagle's Wings"

W&R #438
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.

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 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑧ 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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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, July 23, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a *and* Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 *or* Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 *or* Isaiah 44:6-8 *and* Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 86

This OT song is a prayer of lament, asking God for help against one's enemies. This hymn is attributed to King David, who ruled Israel from 1000-961 B.C.

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 30, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28 *and* Psalm 105:1-11, 45b *or* Psalm 128 *or* 1 Kings 3:5-12 *and* Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 405

F F/C C F Bb Gm/Bb

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood, sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

F/C C F F/C C F

right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found: dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

Bb Gm/Bb F/C C F *Refrain* C7/G F/A F Bb

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand: all
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

F F/A C C/Bb F/A F Bb F Csus C7 F

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

WORDS: Edward Mote (1797-1874)
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

SOLID ROCK
 L.M.Ref.

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

673

G C D D A⁷ D

1 I'm so glad, I'm so glad,
 2 Satan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me. Satan had me bound,
 3 When I was in trouble, When I was in trouble,

G G G⁷ C G⁷ C

Je-sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad,
 Satan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me,
 When I was in trouble,

A G B⁷ Em A⁷ G D⁷ G

sing-ing glo-ry, hal-le-lu-jah! Je-sus lift-ed me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: African American spiritual; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995
 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

JESUS LIFTED ME
 irregular

On Eagle's Wings

438

Unison G D F# G

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a - bide in his
 (2) snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, 7 and fa-mine will
 3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, nor the ar - row that

D F# F Dm

shad-ow for life, say to the Lord, "My ref - uge, my
 bring you no fear, un - der his wings your ref - uge, his
 flies by day; though thou - sands fall a - bout you, 7

F Gm Asus A Refrain D

Rock in whom I trust."
 faith - ful - ness your shield. And he will raise you up on
 near you it shall not come.

Em A7 D D7 F#

ea - gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

G A Bm F#m Em7 A Dsus D D.C.

sun and hold you in the palm of his hand. 2 The
 Fine