St. Paul's United Church of Christ Zion United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551 St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

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



Welcome to our Combined 10:15am Worship Service In-Person & Streaming Online

* * *

Sunday, January 30, 2022 4th Sunday after Epiphany 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 very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. Due to the COVID pandemic, for the safety of children, we are currently not offering a nursery during worship. Normally, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

For the safety of children, we are not offering Junior Worship during the pandemic. Normally, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs, on the $1^{st} \& 2^{nd}$ Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons.

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

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

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

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

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 St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

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; $S# = Red Hymnal Page; <math>\Box# = Blue Hymnal Page$ }







Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch Facebook Live (St. Paul's) at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/ - Live or Watch & Listen Later Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later Zoom: Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-301-715-8592) - Live Only If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@spruce.org

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

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

{To center your hearts and minds, you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently during or before the Prelude}

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP⁽²⁾ (Silently Before Worship Begins)

God of love, in whose name we have been consecrated for discipleship and service, encounter us in this hour, that we may grow in knowledge and actions. Disturb our certainties so we will be open to new insights. Upset our priorities to make room for faith, hope, and love. Expand our horizons to encompass ideas we have not entertained before. Open our hearts to people we have failed to welcome into our midst. Perfect among us that childlike trust that allows change to transform us in the presence of your love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

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*INVOCATION

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

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP²

Leader: Come, people of God, to the one in whom we trust. Praise God who delivers and rescues us.

- People: God is our rock of refuge, our strong fortress. God saves us amid trials and temptations.
- Leader: Our God gives us tasks to do and strength to do them. God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

People: We have come to embrace the mysteries of our faith. We are here to worship the God who empowers us.

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 CONFESSION² (Leader)

How often we have been ruled by our fears rather than our faith! How often we have trusted in things rather than in God! How seldom do we utter praise to the one who touches our live with great possibilities! Let us seek God's forgiveness, that we may know God's mercy.

*CONFESSION OF SIN⁽²⁾ (Unison)

Merciful God, you know us better than we know ourselves, but we have not believed this. You care about us even when we do not love ourselves, but it has been hard for us to understand that this is true. We see so dimly and hear your Word so faintly that we doubt your truth. We dare not trust the prophets or risk the cost of discipleship. We are afraid to believe, hope, and endure when there is suffering all around us. O God, grant us courage to change, to follow Jesus in spite of ridicule and rejection. Yet keep us from insisting on our own way, which may not be your way. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

Leader (spoken): People (sung): Leader (spoken): People (sung): Leader (spoken): People (sung):

Y "Kyrie"
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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*ASSURANCE OF PARDON $^{(2)}$ (Leader)

God does not condemn us for our imperfection nor abandon us to our fears. The one who designed our being promises to be with us when we are challenged, to deliver us when it seems the whole world is against us, to love us at all times and in all circumstances. We are forgiven, healed, and empowered for our ministry. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: The Lord has been made manifest to us. **People: Illumined by the Spirit, we sing to the Lord our praise.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Take My Life, and Let It Be" Take my voice, and let me sing, Always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from Thee. {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: Jeremiah 1:4-10 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 4:14-30

Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN "O Word of God Incarnate" vs. 1 & 3

☐ Blue #315

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

INSTALLATION OF ZION CONSISTORY

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...

5

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made. O Lord, guide your church in the ways of faith, hope, and love. Cultivate ministries and communities of compassion that bear witness to your enduring presence among us. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach us to live in humility on the earth. Curb arrogance that leads to destruction of natural resources and disregard for future generations. Inspire the work of scientists who urge us to live in harmony with your creation. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: You are the refuge of all who seek hope and freedom. Accompany immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who cross borders to find safety and opportunity. Embolden leaders to draft compassionate policies on behalf of migrants and those who assist them. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Comfort with your love all who are lonely, fearful, or brokenhearted. Sustain the hope of all those who suffer in body or spirit. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Your grace falls upon young and old alike. Bless the gifts of children in our congregations and our communities. Give us humble hearts to follow their leadership. Inspire us with their laughter, their insight, and their curiosity. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We praise you for those who have gone before us and now see you face to face. Abide with us in this mortal life until we rest in your arms of your neverending love. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us when we pray to say...

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne. {please be seated}

OPPORTUNITIES OF OFFERING TIME AND TALENT

Prayer Needs, Joys, Opportunities for Study and Service, and other Announcements

OFFERTORY INVITATION⁽²⁾

Leader: God has called the church to be an agent of change.

- People: With prophetic voice and courageous work, we are to influence the world.
- Leader: Such a task requires our best:
- People: Our continued growth in faith, our commitment to love, our giving of self and substance.
- Leader: The resources we dedicate here
- People: are a symbol of our whole life response.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person. A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.

Whether worshiping in person or online,

the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church is through St. Paul's UCC secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org**. <u>St. Paul's UCC Click Here</u> or Zion UCC's online giving at <u>www.1Zion.org</u> - <u>Zion UCC Click Here</u> Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551 or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.

OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use Every power as Thou shalt choose.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER² (Leader)

O God, with awe and wonder before you, we dare to enlist all our efforts toward the realization of your realm. Where there is injustice, we would champion those oppressed and misunderstood. When some feel rejected, we reach out to accept them in Christ's name. May these offerings preach and teach and heal. **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.

*COMMISSION²

Leader: Go forth with faith to move mountains.

Reach out with love that transforms the world.

People: Love is patient and kind, not jealous or boastful. Love rejoices in all that is right, not in wrong.

- Leader: Let the Scripture be fulfilled by your faithfulness. Let the Word take flesh in all you do.
- People: Love ears, believes, hopes, and endures. We participate in the love of God that never ends.
- ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BENEDICTION *"Take My Life, and Let It Be"* Take my love; my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

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*SENDING HYMN "I Am the Light of the World" all verses

 \Box Blue # 584 the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

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{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

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited

to share in a time of Refreshments and Fellowship in the downstairs Miller Fellowship Hall

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

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- 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

scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
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- ¹ Lecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
- e 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
- [®]Reprinted with Permission from Lecturn Resource. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

⁹Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

⁽¹⁾ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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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) Church Secretary: Janice Conner - 610-781-4825 or 717-933-8910 Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

St. Paul's United Church of Christ 301 West Penn Avenue; Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 *** office@sprucc.org www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Sheri Rowe Consistory Vice President: Elsa Wertz Consistory Secretary: Treasurer: Terry Pastor Acting Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor

Zion United Church of Christ

PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567 www.1Zion.org

Consistory President: George McLain Consistory Vice President: Cory Putt Treasurer: George McLain 717-628-1875 or 610-507-7865 Consistory Secretary: Yvonne Rentschler Financial Secretary: Janice Conner

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

Link to Website's Upcoming Events



About Today

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world.

In Greek "phan" is "shine" or "manifest," and "epi" is "upon." The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

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

Red – symbolizing the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit imparting the spiritual gifts of discipleship.

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 C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible.

This Sunday, January 30 -- Lectionary Reading for Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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Jeremiah

The OT book of Jeremiah is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

Psalm 71

This OT song is a prayer to God for protection and help for all the days of our lives.

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular fractions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God's grace. 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 wrote more of the NT than any other person.

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, February 6 -- Lectionary Reading for 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11

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January 30, 2022

"I can't think of anything that we need right now more than hope! "

Recently I heard a segment on NPR that addressed one of the unseen scars of the pandemic. Long after the physical ramifications of this dark hour are gone, there will still be many emotional, psychological, and spiritual byproducts that remain. One of those comes in the form of the many plans that have been altered due to covid. We have all been excited about the possibility of something that we were looking forward to for a long time, only to have those plans altered and cancelled and our excitement crushed. It could be the graduation that was only virtual, the prom that never happened, the wedding where guests couldn't make it, or even the Christmas service that had to be done only virtually. Because of this, psychologists say that we are becoming afraid to hope, anticipating that our hopes will always be dashed. They call this phenomena hope fatigue. I can't think of anything that we need right now more than hope!

Our recently departed brother, Bishop Desmond Tutu, said that hope is the ability to a glimmer of light, even while traversing through a dark tunnel. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a very dark tunnel, but Paul gave us a formula that I believe is helpful right now; suffering produced endurance. Endurance produces character. Character produces hope and hope never fails. For those of us who have our hope built on "Jesus blood and righteousness," even in the midst of this pandemic I believe the best is yet to come!

Blessings,

Cean

Rev. Cean James,

Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development

Justice seeking is not only for those individuals who are invested in economic, racial and social justice; it is also in large part, the vocation of the church – the body of Christ. The Racial Justice Initiative Team of the PSEC of the UCC would like to share with you these links to both days of the Racial Justice Symposium held in October, 2021. We had the blessing of two great keynote speakers, the Rev. Dr. Drew Hart and the



Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. The wisdom they shared with us was so invaluable we wanted to share it with the whole conference and beyond.

Find the links on the PSEC Website (psec.org) by clicking the Missions & Ministries tab, then the Justice & Witness tab and you'll see the Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative tab, where the links will be the first article on the page.

From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: The

Family

Have you ever wondered what the families in your congregation with children struggling with drug addiction go through? Here is a small window.

Hours of Internet research, multiple outpatient rehabs, countless hours of individual therapy later, and there was still not a complete reversal of behavior...a nightmare indeed! I became quite versed in drug lingo and assorted tricks of the trade (vodka in water bottles, stuffing marijuana in cigars, various 'tools' used for drug prep, etc.) This was an education I didn't sign up for. My son's personality completely changed over time. I was having trouble recognizing the sweet, sensitive boy I once knew and loved. Where did he go? I endured many hours of tears and prayers. Would he come back?

After many months of heartache, fear, financial and emotional drain and familial strife, and many months of family treatment, we began to see a slow and steady improvement. What a joy to see my son return to us: an amazing gift! Printed with permission. For a free guide of resources please go to: https://voiceandvisioninc.org/resource-guide/



Verses 1 & 3



especially for his work among the poor of London's East End. Felix Mendelssohn harmonized this German hymn tune, which appeared with a different text for his oratorio Elijah. Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D. Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847



I Am the Light of the World



This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr. Jim Strathdee, 1969

JUSTICE AND PEACE



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