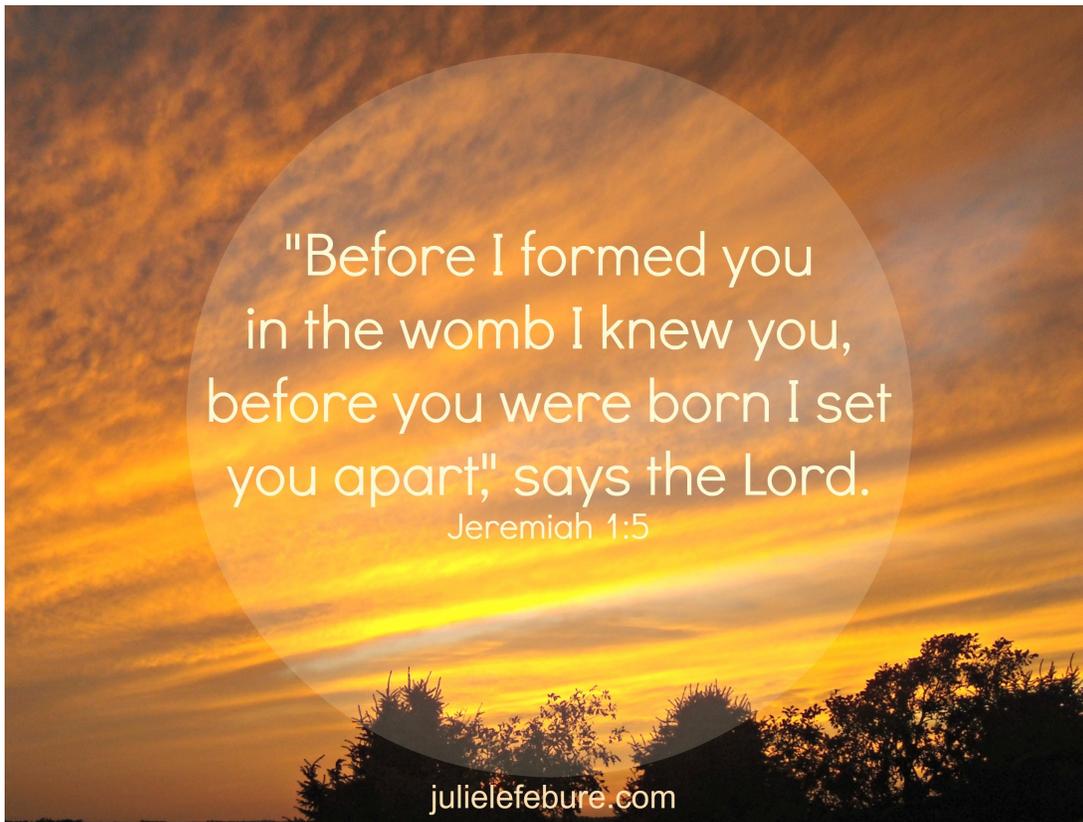


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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, August 27, 2023
13th 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 and 3rd 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)

You, God, have created everything: sea, sky, earth, creatures both gigantic and microscopic and every size in between. We humans think we are the most special creatures. But we are dependent on you and all living creatures. Everything has its purpose in the scheme of things, including plants. May we live and breathe in humbleness, fulfilling our purpose.

PIANO PRELUDE

“Down by the Riverside”

Spiritual arranged for piano by Victor Labenske

{Those who are able, please rise}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“Let All Things Now Living”

W&R #22

One License #A-728042

***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 138*

Leader: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart

People: When I called you answered me.

Leader: You increased my strength within me.

People: You keep me safe, Lord.

Leader: You will make good your purpose for me.

People: You will make good your purpose for me.

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 Creator, have we sought your intended purpose for ourselves? If not, are we lazy? If not, are we afraid? If not, don't we trust you? We confess that we may have been neglectful in hearing your call. Help us to be good students at any age. Help us to recognize our talents and the possibilities that lie before us. Have mercy on us, Holy Creator. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Red #226

*John Greenleaf Whittier, Frederick C. Maker
Public Domain*

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

We present ourselves to our God of Creation with open hearts, minds, and souls, ready to be the persons this creator planned for us to be.

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

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

*SUNG PRAISE

"Come, Let us Praise the Lord"

W&R #9

*Timothy Dudley-Smith; John Darwall
One License #A-728042*

**Come, let us praise the Lord, with joy our God acclaim,
His greatness tell abroad and bless his saving name.
Lift high your songs before his throne to whom alone all praise belongs.**

{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: [Jeremiah 1:4-9](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Romans 12:1-8](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 16:13-20](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

W&R #574

Public Domain

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Please come forward for a blessing. If you have your backpack, please bring it with you.

Loving Father, we ask you to bless each child and young person as they find themselves in a new school year, with old and new friends. Help them to be excited about learning new and wonderful things. May they be comfortable with manageable challenges. May love be given and received. In the name of Jesus who will walk every step with each person, we pray.

Everyone: Amen

Children will please face the congregation.

BLESSING OF ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Please rise where you are.

Loving Father and Jesus, our teacher, bless each of these persons whom you created to be teachers and assistants and caregivers. May each of these people feel your presence and your blessing as they guide and teach. At the end of the day, may they be renewed by the contented sleep you will provide. In the name of Jesus who gives strength and encouragement and workable ideas, we pray.

Everyone: Amen.

Adults, please be seated.

Children and Young People, please stay here for the mini-message.

After the mini-message, please take a pencil box as a gift from our congregation.

We thank everyone who brought some of these school goodies.

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the Morning"

Traditional

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

SERMON

"Created for What Purpose?"

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)**
(Section One about God)

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith ①

**All: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through
prophets and apostles.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

{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

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

W&R #484
One License #A-728042

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
come and listen to me.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: We bring ourselves to you, O Creator God.

People: We want to be the persons you created us to be.

Leader: We bring our offerings to you, O Providing God.

People: This is our stewardship of your provision.

Leader: May our gifts of ourselves and our gifts of stewardship please you, O God.

People: O Creator God, we long to serve you and please you.

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}.

VOCAL OFFERTORY

"Bless the Beasts and the Children"

Words & Music by Barry DeVorzon and Perry Botkin, Jr.

Soloist: Terry Pastor

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought"

W&R #570

*Words: Frank von Christierson
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams
One License #A-728042*

**As saints of old their first-fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first-fruits bring: the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)**

Receiving God, may these gifts bring honor to you and to us. May what we have kept for ourselves bring honor to you and to ourselves. In the name of the one who gave himself completely, we pray.

Congregation: 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: Are we really doing what God created us to do?

People: We will be in prayer with God the Father.

Leader: Are we really being how God intended us to be?

People: We will be walking with God the Son.

Leader: Are we really living in faithfulness to glorify God?

People: We will be living each day with the help of the Holy Spirit.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

W&R #30
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): iamheretosome



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
 - ⑩ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Staff & Leadership

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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, August 27, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 *and* Psalm 124 *or* Isaiah 51:1-6 *and* Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

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 138

This is an OT song giving thanks for God's deliverance, which is attributed to the authorship of King David.

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, September 3, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 *and* Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b *or* Jeremiah 15:15-21 *and* Psalm 26:1-8;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

22 Let All Things Now Living

C
F
C
F
Dm
Gm
Gm
Gm
C
Dm7
C

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 His law he en - forc - es; the stars in their cours - es and

F
F
Bb
Bb
Bb
F
C7
F
C

God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the

F
C
F
Dm
Gm
Gm
Gm
C
Dm7
C

fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

F
F
Bb
Bb
Bb
F
C7
F

guides us and leads to the end of our days. His
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine. We

F A F C7 E F C7 C C7 F C
 ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be - fore us, a
 too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing; with

F C#dim7 Dm C G C C
 pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night, till
 glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise, till

F C E F Dm Gm Gm Gm C Dm7 C E
 shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: to

F F A Bb Bb F C7 F
 for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 574

F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{Gm}{F}$ F

1 I'm gon-na live so (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me (God can

F7 Bb $\frac{Eb}{Bb}$ Bb F $\frac{Bb}{F}$

use me) an - y time (an - y time) and an - y - where. (an - y -

F N.C. F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F A7

where.) I'm gon-na live so (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me

Dm Bb6 $\frac{F}{C}$ Dm7 G7 C7 F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F

an - y time (an - y time) and an - y - where. (an - y - where.)

2 I'm gonna work...

3 I'm gonna pray...

4 I'm gonna sing...

All Things Bright and Beautiful 30

Refrain (Unison)

$\frac{G}{B}$
G
 $\frac{D7}{A}$
G
C
 $\frac{D7}{A}$
 $\frac{G}{B}$
G
 $\frac{C}{E}$
C
D
G
Am7

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

G
 $\frac{G}{F}$
 $\frac{C}{E}$
 $\frac{G}{D}$
C
 $\frac{D7}{A}$
 $\frac{G}{B}$
G
 $\frac{C}{E}$
C
D
G

all things wise and won-der-ful: the Lord God made them all.

N.C.
G
G7
C
Am
D
 $\frac{Am}{D}$
D
 $\frac{D}{C}$
 $\frac{G}{B}$
G

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple-head-ed moun-tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

N.C.
G
 $\frac{D}{F\#}$
Em7
D
C
Am
D
 $\frac{D}{C}$
 $\frac{G}{B}$
C
D
G
Am7

to Refrain

God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den: God made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.