

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.*



Jesus is the Good Shepherd

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

† † †

**Sunday, April 21, 2024
4th Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday**

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. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

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 [®] (Unison)

Good Shepherd, we meet in your name, confident that we are known and loved by you. Here we draw close to one another and to you, expecting to be empowered by fresh insights to live as your people. We want to care for one another in life-giving ways. We seek to reach out to those who deny you or suspect us. Help us grow in love that is genuine in its caring and self-sacrifice. We embrace the wholeness you offer and dare to risk acceptance of a healing role for ourselves and this faith community. Equip us for service beyond this hour of meeting. Amen.

HANDBELL PRELUDE

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

arranged by Kevin McChesney

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

*♩ Blue #101
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 [®]

Leader: The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures.
We are refreshed beside still waters.

**People: We have been given everything we have.
God offers us everything we need.**

Leader: When we walk through shadowed valleys, God is with us.
We are comforted and reassured.

**People: God leads us in the right paths.
Our cups are filled to overflowing.**

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 [®] (Leader)

All of us have taken vows of loyalty to Jesus Christ. We have made promises in words that have not been lived out in truth. We have too easily pushed aside God's commands in favor of our own desires. We are more interested in pleasing ourselves than in pleasing God. Let us return to the one who is our Origin to re-attune ourselves to God's intent for us.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

Good Shepherd, we have wandered down the strange pathways of our world. We have ventured into dead-end streets that looked more inviting than the narrow ways marked out by the signposts of your love. We have trusted other voices and turned away from your truth. We have accepted your gifts without acknowledgment. We have failed to use our overflowing cups to fill the cups of sisters and brothers who need what we could offer. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to your fold. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON [®] (Leader)

Hear the good news. By the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are restored to wholeness. God's love will abide with us as long as we share it with others. Our souls will be fed when we focus on feeding others. We will be empowered by prayer and generosity. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our risen saviour.

People: **We praise God's holy name.**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Alleluia"

You're my shepherd, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia

You're my shepherd, alleluia; I will praise you, alleluia

Music: Jerry Sinclair; Text: Jerry Sinclair & Benjamin Motz

{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

Psalter: Psalm 23 (KJV) (Unison)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

New Testament Letter: [1 John 3:16-24](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Gospel (Good News): [John 10:11-18](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

♪ *Blue #694*
Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship, or on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time for the additional option of "Junior Worship"}

CHILDREN'S SONG

"Jesus Loves Me"

NCH #327
William B. Bradbury

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SERMON

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) "Apostles' Creed"**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead;
on the third day he rose again,
ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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 ^③

Leader: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

{silent prayer}

Leader: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love. We pray in the name of Jesus, 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.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear our Prayer, O Lord"

♪ *Red #501*
George Whelpton

**Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: Bring your good deeds as an offering to God.

People: Present to the Good Shepherd our firm commitment to care for others in the spirit of Christ.

Leader: We cannot simply dedicate our money, hiring others to carry out the mission of the church on our behalf.

People: We, ourselves, are called to give leadership and comfort. The giving that God expects includes our time and talents as well as treasure.

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}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Love Unmeasured, Love of God"

*Words by Susan Boersma;
Music by Lloyd Larson*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Alleluia"

**You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia,
You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia!**

Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ② *(Leader)*

O God, how can we express our thanks, for the one who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and we want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **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** ②

Leader: We are invited to make God's house our home.
We are sent out into God's world to serve.

**People: God leads us by still waters and restores our souls.
God knows us better than we know ourselves.**

Leader: God's love in Jesus Christ has blessed us.
We have received the gift of God's own Spirit.

**People: Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life.
And, we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

♪ *Blue #688*
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 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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 - ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 - ② *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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 - ⑦ *Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources*. (2017). Margate, NJ.
 - 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.
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 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
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Staff & Leadership

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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary (Interim): Terry Pastor

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

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

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

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 B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

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 are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, April 21, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

Psalm 23

In this OT song written by King David, we express our trust in the LORD to lead us through even in the darkest times of our lives, and we proclaim our faith that we will dwell with God and all the saints in light in a life everlasting.

The First Letter of John

This epistle (letter) is a homily attributed to the apostle John, as is the Gospel of John. Of the core 12, John is believed to be the "beloved disciple" (John 19:26). This epistle is believed to be written in Ephesus around 100 A.D.

The Gospel According to John

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

Next Sunday, April 28, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

All People That on Earth Do Dwell 101

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Psalm 100:1

G D Em Bm Em D G

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
 2. The Lord, ye know, is God in - deed; With - out our
 3. O en - ter then His gates with praise; Ap - proach with
 4. For why? The Lord our God is good; His mer - cy
 5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom

1 2 3 4

D Em C G D Em D F# G D G/B C D7/A

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; His praise forth
 aid He did us make. We are His flock; He doth us
 joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His name al -
 is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm - ly
 heav'n and earth a - dore, From earth and from the an - gel

5 6 7 8

G D F# G Em7 Em6 D Am G/B G/C D D7 G C G

tell. Come ye be - fore Him and re - jice.
 feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
 ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
 stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.
 host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more. A - men.

9 10 11 12 13 14

TEXT: William Kethe and *Scottish Psalter*, 1565; based on Psalm 100
 MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; attributed to Louis Bourgeois

OLD HUNDREDTH
 L. M.

694 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. Psalm 23:1

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system covers measures 1 through 7, and the second system covers measures 8 through 14. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line and below the bass line. The lyrics are printed between the two systems of music.

1. The Lord's my Shep - herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
 2. My soul He doth re - store a - gain; And me to walk doth make
 3. Yea, tho' I walk thro' death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
 4. My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence of my foes;
 5. Good-ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly fol - low me;

In pas - tures green; He lead - eth me The qui - et wat - ers by.
 With - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
 For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
 My head Thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
 And in God's house for - ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

*Optional segue to "Lead Me, Lord."
 No transition is needed.*

TEXT: Scottish Psalter, 1650; William Whittingham and others; based on Psalm 23
 MUSIC: Jessie S. Irvine; arranged by David Grant

CRIMOND
 C.M.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 688

He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. John 10:3

D A G D A7 D A D A7 A9 F#m A7 D

> 1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten-der care;
 > 2. We are Thine, do Thou be - friend us, Be the Guard-ian of our way;
 3. Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, Poor and sin-ful tho' we be;
 > 4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do Thy will;

D A G D A7 D A D A7 A9 F#m A7 D

In Thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre-pare:
 Keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray:
 Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, Grace to cleanse and pow'r to free:
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With Thy love our be-ings fill:

D G G#4 G D A A9 F#m A7 D

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

D G G#4 G D D4 D A7 D

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Optional segue to "Lead Me, Lord." No transition is needed, but tempo will be faster. ♩ = ca. 120

TEXT: *Hymns for the Young*, 1836; attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury

BRADBURY
 8.7.8.7.D.