

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Worship 10:30am

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



Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Online Streaming Worship Service

*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.*

†††

Sunday, April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Humor Sunday

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

PRELUDE

*“Two Resurrection Hymns:
Christ is Risen, Hallelujah!/Christ the Lord is Risen Today”*
Handbell Choir

R. Mallory

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP^③

God of all our beginnings, may this day and every day begin with our praise to you. We sing praises to you, O God, for you have been gracious to us amid the storms of life. We do battle with many enemies within and among us, but you give us confidence and courage to face them. Out of the whirlwind, you answer when we call. We have gathered to listen for the voice we sometimes cannot hear in the daily clamor of our lives. Help us to discard the excess baggage and unnecessary armor that keeps us from the fullness of life you intend for us. Let every breath become a witness to your Spirit, dwelling within and among us. Open our hearts to receive your saving gifts. Loosen our tongues to proclaim your unsurpassed greatness. May the noise of our celebration help your people to sense your powerful presence and to claim the joy of serving you, in Christ's name. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Rejoice, the Lord is King” vs. 1,3

♩ Blue #370

*Reprinted on following page.
Tune: Hendon; Words: Earl D. Miller
Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

*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^②

Leader: With profound happiness, we welcome one another.
How good it is to approach the courts of our God!

People: **Happy are those who live in the house of the Lord!
Singing our praise to God fills us with joy.**

Leader: Here we welcome both friend and stranger.
All peoples of the earth are God's children.

People: **We greet one another by name in Jesus' name.
We will be ambassadors for God wherever we go.**

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) Later
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later
[Zoom](https://www.sprucc.org): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only
If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

370 Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Philippians 4:4

C G/B C Am CM7/G F C G7/D C G

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King; Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2. Je - sus, the Sav - ior, reigns, The God of truth and love.
 3. His king - dom can - not fail; He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
 4. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come

G C Am Am7 D D/C G/B C G/D D D7 G C

5 Re - joice, give thanks and sing And tri - umph ev - er - more. Lift
 6 When He had purged our stains, He took His seat a - bove. Lift
 7 The keys of death and hell Are to our Je - sus giv'n. Lift
 8 And take His ser - vants up To their e - ter - nal home. Lift

F G7/D C G/B C F/A C/G F E Am Dm/F C/G G G7 C

9 up your heart; Lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
 10 up your heart; Lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
 11 up your heart; Lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
 12 up your heart; Lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!
 13
 14

TEXT: Charles Wesley
 MUSIC: John Darwall

DARWALL
 6.6.6.6.8.8.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

"This is the Day"

Unison

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features a unison vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the".

Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be".

glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the".

Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it.

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it."

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

The fifth and final system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made."

WORDS and MUSIC: Les Garrett (1944-); para. Psalm 118:24
Words and Music © 1967 Scripture In Song (a div. of Integrity Music)

Used with Permission One License #A-728042

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

(adapted from 1 John 1:9-10)

Leader: If we say that we have no sin,

People: we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Leader: If we say that we have not sinned,

People: We make the Lord a liar, and his word is not in us.

Leader: But, if we confess our sins,

People: The Lord, who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leader: Let us confess our sins before the Lord....

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those, O God, who confess their sins. Restore, O God, those you are penitent, according to your promises declared unto humankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(adapted from 1 John 1:1-2:2)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen, what we have looked at and touched, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. These things are written, so that you may not sin. But we are assured that if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. These things are written so that we might leave the darkness and walk in the light of God, and so that our joy may be complete. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE[®]

Leader: The True Light has come into the world and has given us life.

People: Let us sing praise to the One who forgives us and leads us out of darkness.

*SUNG PRAISE

"Spirit of the Living God"

♩ Blue #389

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Text & Music: Daniel Iverson
Used with Permission One License #A-728042

{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: [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

Second Lesson: [1 John 1:1-2:2](#)

Gospel Lesson: [John 20:19-31](#)

Hymn

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

♩ Red #191

Test: Edwin Hatch; Music: Robert Jackson
Used with Permission One License #A-728042

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

191

The Holy Spirit

EDWIN HATCH, 1886

S. M.

TRENTHAM
ROBERT JACKSON, 1894

Rather slowly

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine,
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die,

That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.
Un - til with Thee I will one will, To do and to en - dure.
Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.
But live with Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty. A-MEN.

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)* *The Apostle's 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 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.**

[†]The word "catholic" means "the universal church" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not refer here to the particular denomination of the Roman Catholic Church, but rather the whole Christian church of all denominations, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

PASTORAL PRAYER *(Leader)* *"A Prayer for Those in Extremity"* *↳ Red pg12 (adapted)*

Most merciful God, who are a refuge in every time of trouble, let the prayers of those who, in tribulation or any sort of extremity, cry unto you, reach your merciful ears, and grant them relief according to their needs, giving them patience under their sufferings, healing of all their afflictions, strength to endure and persevere, comfort where there is fear, new and renewed life by the breath of your life-giving Holy Spirit, and eternal life through your son, in the world yet to come.

We especially lift up in prayer those on our prayer list....

From our homes, we now name and uplift in prayer to you others on our hearts and minds.....

{Leader pauses for you to speak names in prayer}

We pray all this in the name of the one who endured all the suffering and sorrow of humanity, and even death itself, to give us new, renewed, and eternal life, your Son, our Saviour, Jesus the Christ, 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 *“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”*
**Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Bring healing where there’s need.
Answer our prayers and comfort all,
To you our prayers we sing.**

♪ Red #191

Test: Edwin Hatch & Benjamin Motz; Music: Robert Jackson
Used with Permission One License #A-728042

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: God has lifted us up from the gates of death.
People: We will praise God with all we have to give.
Leader: Christ walks with us through difficult days and sleepless nights.
People: We give thanks for the church that proclaims this good news.
Leader: The Holy Spirit meets us in our weakness with a love that will not let us go.
People: All this we want to share with the world.
Leader: These moments of giving represent the commitment of our lives to God.
People: We respond to God’s call with thanksgiving as fully committed disciples.

VIRTUAL CHOIR *“There’s No Business Like God’s Business”*

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 our secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at [sprucc.org](#). [Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul’s UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

{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**

*Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair
Reproduced with permission under license #3069293 CCLI*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ② *(Leader)*

Loving God, we offer to you our common stewardship. We want to be faithful in meeting one another’s needs and in serving the world in Christ’s name. The gifts we bring today will not mark an end to our giving. We sense that you are sending us, as Jesus was sent, to share light with the world. Thus, we dedicate our time and effort as a further offering. May life and faith be extended to many through us. **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: You were walking in darkness.
The Lord God, through Jesus the Christ, has revealed the light.
**People: The Lord God has breathed life into us.
We go now to share our new and renewed life with others.**
Leader: See people dry and hurting in their barren times.
Prophesy to God’s people, that there might be life.
**People: We will witness and testify to all God’s people, that they may live.
We will welcome all to the joy and life of knowing Jesus Christ.**
ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

Red #558

Used with Permission 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}.

***SENDING HYMN**

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

NCH #286

Music/Words: James K. Manley

Used with Permission One License #A-728042

HYMNS OF THE SPIRIT

286

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly
Refrain

James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G D

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

Last time, end

D G A G

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

**Reduced-size notes may be played with organ pedals in lieu of or in combination with the other notes.*

HYMNS OF THE SPIRIT

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D to Refrain A7

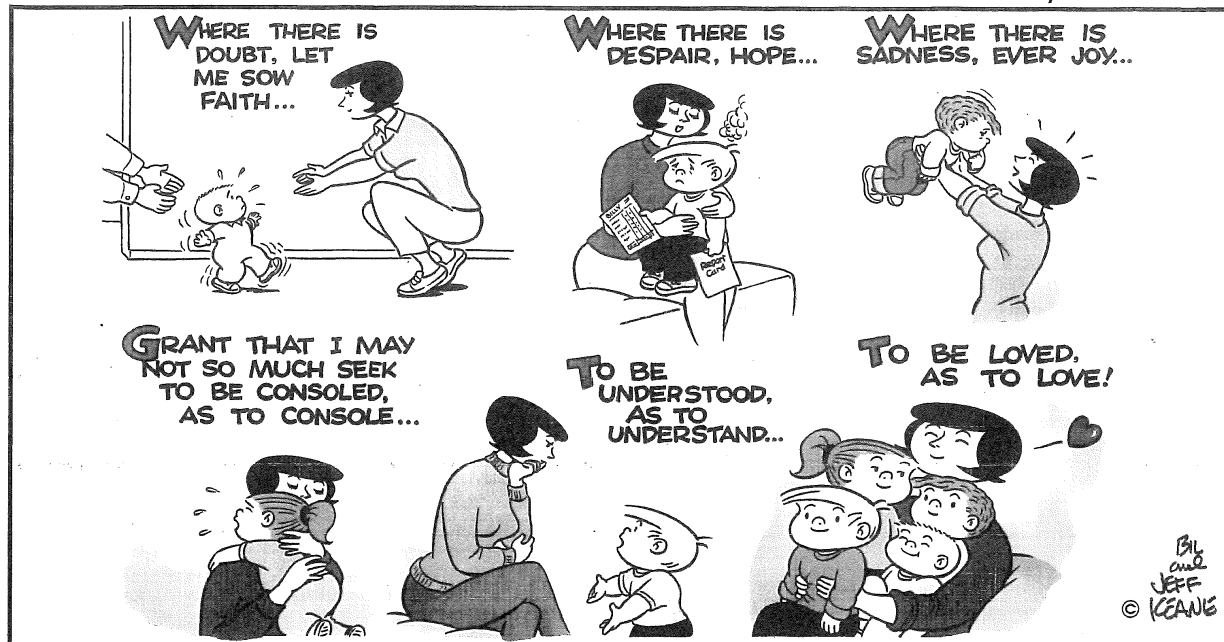
bers and rise on your wings."
 ets to o - pen their eyes.
 ple on the rush of the wind.
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

This popular hymn by songwriter James K. Manley grew out of a sabbatical leave at the School of Theology at Claremont, California. It was first sung at Waikeola Congregational Church in Honolulu, after which Manley added the fourth stanza at the suggestion of a church member.

Tune: SPIRIT Irr.
 James K. Manley, 1978
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Bil & Jeff Keane
Reprinted with permission



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.

- Ⓢ 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.
- Ⓢ *Taught By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- Ⓢ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2019). Augsburg Fortress.
- Ⓢ 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.
- Ⓢ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*
- Ⓢ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
- Ⓢ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
- Ⓢ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
- Ⓢ 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.
- Ⓢ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- Ⓢ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

One License is our Church Copyright License# A-728042., which is a subscription service giving us copyright permission to print the words and music found in the bulletin and to live stream music on the internet during the Worship Service.

Resources are edited and adapted for use in this worship service.



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



† Prayer List †

*Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week.
“Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.
The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” ~ James 5:16b*

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Alex
Sam B.
Lori & Ryan B.
Rich D.
Jacob E.
Jaden G.
Lenna H.
Ann H.
Rev. David K.
Jim & Donna K.
Janice L.
Robin L.
Ella L.
Diane M.
George M.
Starr M.
Terry O.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Paul P.
Fred R.
Julie R.
Jim S.
Rob & Jodi S.
Mildred U.
Martha W.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Barb B.
Family & Friends of Elaine R.
Family & Friends of Rev. Bill W.
Family & Friends of Marilyn W.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19
Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

*Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you.
All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.*

*Names are generally left on the list for about four weeks.
Please let us know if you would like a name to remain longer or shorter.
If you would like someone's name added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office at 610-621-5770 or office@sprucc.org.*

††† General Announcements †††

Welcome!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us virtually. May you find the worship and message meaningful and satisfying to your soul. May your week be blessed.

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning Zion UCC of Womelsdorf offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. You may use any version of the Bible. The study goes from 9:00 to 9:45am most of the time. They would be happy to have you join them! Zoom login information may be found on our website.

Parsonage Cleanup

On Saturday, April 17 at 8:00am, the parsonage will be cleaned up in preparation for the next tenants. The former tenants left the parsonage in good condition, but some light cleaning still needs to be done. Please come prepared with a mask, gloves, rags and a bucket. The more the merrier and the faster the work will be accomplished.

Reservoir Hike

On Saturday, April 24, the Youth Group, friends and family members, will be meeting at 1:00pm at the Robeson Reservoir to walk the trails there. Mike Pastor will be our guide. The weather at that time should be warmer, making for a pleasant day to take a hike. Bring water and snacks for yourself. **ALL are invited.** Please join us.

In-Person Worship

On April 25, Good Shepherd Sunday, we will return to a hybrid worship service. Worship will be offered both virtually and as an outside in-person worship in the church parking lot at 10:30am.

In-Person Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, May 2, 2021, the church will be returning to in-person Sunday school for children and adults. Classes will begin at 9:00am and finish at 10:00am.

Although currently we are still not meeting in-person, the youth can continue to learn about God's Word through the information available on our website. We have Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials that are available for downloading. Click on this link for Sunday school for youth.

We also have devotional music for all ages on our website, courtesy of Pastor Bob. Click on this link for Devotional Music.

For our Sunday school COVID-19 Safety Precautions click on the following link:

<http://www.sprucc.org/news-a-events.html#COVID19Precautions>

To have a copy of the precautions mailed to you, please call 610-621-5770.

Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship

This service is being offered to those who do not have internet access. You may call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, cell phone, or even with a rotary phone). You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or you can call the church office, and we can add you to the call list. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. There is no charge to you for this service. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, please let them know of this feature, especially as they cannot log onto the website and find out about this themselves.

Visitation Care Team

Our Visitation Care Team (VCT) is composed of lay members who have been trained for visitation. If you are in need of prayer, a visit, or just a listening ear, they are here to be of support to you. To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need email the VCT at CareTeam@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our "Visitation Care Ministries" page at www.sprucc.org under the "ministries" tab.

For the week of April 11 the Primary VCT is Jon Henning, the Secondary VCT is Phleane Kissling.

For the week of April 18 the Primary VCT is Robin Henning, the Secondary VCT is Elsa Wertz.



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events

About Today

Church Season: Easter - Easter is the 50 days from the Saturday of Holy Week to Pentecost. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most joyful season of the church year. The first Sunday of Easter, Resurrection Sunday, is the highest and holiest day of the Christian Church.

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

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

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).

This Sunday, April 11, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1 - 2:2; John 20:19-31

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 133

This OT song proclaims the blessedness of humanity living together in unity and harmony. Psalms 120-134 are a part of the collection known as "A Song of Ascents." These 15 OT songs were most likely sung by people on religious pilgrimages.

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 18, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48