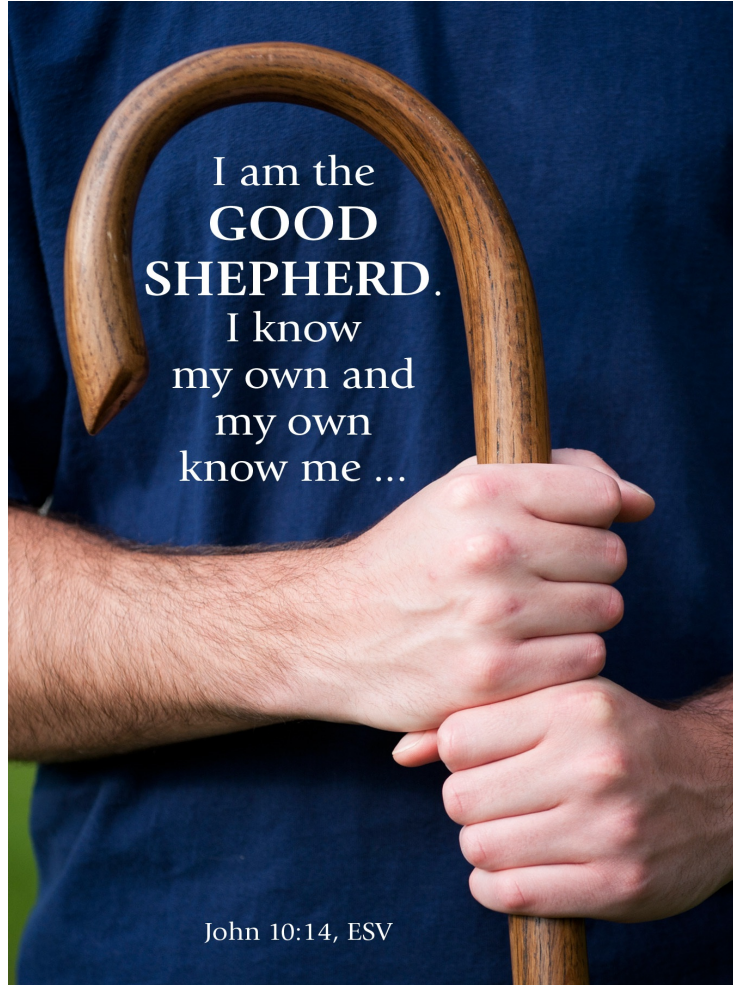


## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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 25, 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Good Shepherd Sunday**

{You may wish to wear your mask for the entire worship service.  
Only remove your mask while social distancing and while you are in the seating area assigned to your household.  
However, even when in your designated area,  
please remember to wear a mask, scarf, or similar face covering, which covers your mouth and nose whenever singing}

## 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

#### 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 <sup>2</sup>

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 time of worship. Amen.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**      “All Creatures of Our God and King”      (if indoors vs 1 & 5)      ♪ Red #15  
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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 WORSHIP <sup>2</sup>

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.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

**\*SUNG PRAISE**      “This Is the Day”      (based on Psalm 118:24)      ♪ Blue #209

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Text & Music: Les Garrett  
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### 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/UCStPaulsUCC) 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.zoom.us/j/104401368) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later  
[Zoom](https://www.zoom.us/j/104401368): 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](mailto:Office@sprucc.org)

---

8. 8. 4. 4. 8. 8. with Alleluias

DESCANT with stanzas 3 and 5

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

UNISON

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
2. Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven a - long,
3. Thou flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for thy Lord to hear,
4. Dear moth-er earth, who day by day Un - fold-est bless-ings on our way,
5. And all ye men of ten-der heart, For - giv - ing oth - ers, take your part,

lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - - -

HARMONY UNISON

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold - en beam,  
O praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice,  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and bright,  
O praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
O sing ye, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son,

- - - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

HARMONY

Thou	sil - ver moon with sil - ver gleam,	O	praise Him,	O
Ye	lights of eve - ning, find a voice,	O	praise Him,	O
That	giv - est man both warmth and light,	O	praise Him,	O
Let	them His glo - ry al - so show,	O	praise Him,	O
And	praise the Spir - it, Three in One,	O	praise Him,	O

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - MEN.

UNISON

praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - MEN.

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Words from Curwen Edition No. 6333, copyright by J. Curwen and Sons, Ltd.

## 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<sup>®</sup> (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<sup>®</sup> (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<sup>®</sup> (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.**

*{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

### \*SUNG PRAISE

*"Alleluia"*

*♩ Blue #189*

**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  
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# 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 \(KJV\)](#)  
**New Testament Lesson:** [1 John 3:16-24](#)  
**Gospel Lesson:** [John 10:11-18](#)

*{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

**HYMN**

"My Shepherd Is the Living God"

(if indoors vs 1 & 2)

*Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

247

## My Shepherd Is the Living God

*Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30*

*Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems. Each system includes a treble and bass staff with guitar chords indicated above the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.  
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.  
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

*Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnwriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.*

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.  
 Southern Harmony, 1835  
 Harm. Erik Routley, 1976  
 Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza above becomes two stanzas.)

## 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.*

### \*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,<sup>†</sup>  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

<sup>†</sup>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.

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Leader: Let us pray....

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE<sup>®</sup>

Leader: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*{A time of silent prayer}*

Leader: Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: In the hope of new life in Christ, O Lord, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray....

### 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.**

*{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

### SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

*"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"*

♪ Red #191

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Bring healing where there's need.  
Answer our prayers and comfort all,  
To you our prayers we sing.**

*Text: Edwin Hatch & Benjamin Motz; Music: Robert Jackson  
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### OFFERTORY INVITATION <sup>2</sup>

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

**People: We 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

*{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 worshipping in person or online,  
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church  
is through our secure [Online Giving](https://sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](https://sprucc.org). [Click Here](#)  
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

*{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*"Alleluia"*

♪ Blue #189

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

*Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair  
Used with Permission One License #A-728042*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** <sup>2</sup> (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** <sup>2</sup>

**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**

*{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}*

**\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ **Red #558**  
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**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"** (if indoors vs 1 & 2)      ♪ **Red #461**  
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*{Please remember to wear your masks while departing}*



## 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> *Taught By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

<sup>3</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2019). Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

<sup>6</sup> scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

<sup>7</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).

<sup>8</sup> *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

<sup>9</sup> 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

<sup>10</sup> Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

<sup>11</sup> Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

<sup>12</sup> The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

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



From *Hymns for the Young*, 1836  
Ascribed to DOROTHY A. THRUPP

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

BRADBURY  
WILLIAM B. BRADBURY, 1859  
Reharmonized

*In moderate time; with simplicity*

1. Sav-iour, 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. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do Thy will;

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.  
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - iour, With Thy love our bos-oms fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear Thy chil - dren when they pray;  
Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear Thy chil - dren when they pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still. A-MEN.



## 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](mailto:office@sprucc.org).*

### **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](mailto:CareTeam@sprucc.org). For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at [www.sprucc.org](http://www.sprucc.org) under the "ministries" tab.

For the week of April 25 the Primary VCT is Kirk Aulenbach, the Secondary VCT is Terry Pastor.

For the week of May 2 the Primary VCT is Beth Miller, the Secondary VCT is Sheri Rowe.

## ††† General Announcements †††

### Welcome!

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

### Good Shepherd Sunday

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and our return to a hybrid worship service (both in-person and virtual). Hopefully the weather is good and you are reading this while seated outside in the church parking lot. If not, worship will take place indoors, or you may be watching/listening virtually via Live Streaming, Phone Streaming, Facebook Live, or Zoom. No matter what, we are glad that you are with us.

### Post-Quarantine Church Book Study: April 18 - May 23

Tonight from 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom, continues the 6-week study series of the book, *The Post-Quarantine Church* by Thom S. Rainer. This is a combined study with Zion UCC of Womelsdorf. If you would like to participate in the book discussion, please join tonight using the following Zoom log in information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452124156?pwd=RzI3dTI4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5212 4156

Passcode: 783249

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

### 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. We would be happy to have you join us! Zoom login information may be found on our [website](#).

### Celebration of Life Service for Rev. George Miller

This coming Saturday, May 1, at 2:00pm will be Rev. Miller's Celebration of Life Service. Visitation will begin at 12:00noon and go until the time of service. Since space will be limited, people who are not staying for the service but want to visit with the family are being asked to come between 12:00 and 1:00pm, and those who want to attend the service are being asked to come between 1:00 and 2:00pm. **We want everyone to be able to visit.** The Miller Fellowship Hall and the Social Hall will be used for overflow, with the service being live streamed to both of those rooms. You will also be able to watch the live stream from the safety and comfort of your home.

For everyone's safety and comfort, all visitors should wear a mask and practice social distancing.

### In-Person Sunday School

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

As always, the youth may continue to learn about God's Word through the information available on our website. Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

Devotional music for all ages, courtesy of Pastor Bob, is also available on our website. Click on this link for [Devotional Music](#).

For our Sunday school COVID precautions click on this link: [COVID-19 Safety Precautions](#).

### 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.

## 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 25, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Fourth 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, May 2, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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



Link to Website's  
Upcoming Events