

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.*



*Divided tongues, as
of fire, appeared
among them, and
a tongue rested
on each of them.*

ACTS 2:3, NRSV

*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, May 23, 2021

**Pentecost
Confirmation 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

*“O God Beyond All Praising”
Handbell Choir*

arr. by Diane McAninch

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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[®]

Amazing God, how manifold are your works! The earth is full of life you have created, in forms too numerous to count. You have linked us, your people, to the earth and to all living things. We are interdependent. We can survive only if we have reverence for life. Come among us now to make your ways known. Help us to dream dreams and see visions of your intentions for this world and for your church. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry”

all verses

NCH #351

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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[®]

Leader: The day of Pentecost has come, and we are together.
Will the works of God be known among us today?

People: **There are stirrings deep within that give us hope.
There is a Spirit linking us to one another.**

Leader: The fires of love dispel life's shadows.
God's Spirit come to give us new life..

People: **Surely God is in this place!
May the glory of God be known among us today! Amen.**

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](#) Later
[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
[Zoom](#): 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

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.
 John Ylvisaker, 1985

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)

Like the first disciples, we have much to learn about sin and righteousness and judgment. Almost without conscious awareness, we slip into the valley of dry bones, devoid of meaning and hope, unable even to pray. But together we can join our voices, asking that our spirits will awaken to new possibilities.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

Mighty God, when your face is hidden from us, we forget that there is more to life than the daily pursuits that occupy our attention. We are weak because we have not tapped the resources you place within us. We are engaged only by what we can see and touch and hear. Our frantic self-centeredness dries up our bones and we lose hope. Call us out of the graves in which we have chosen to live, the deep ruts that keep us from knowing the fullness of life you reveal when we welcome your Spirit. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

In hope we are saved. The Spirit helps us in our weakness, intercedes for us, and guides us into all truth. God seeks to restore us to the fullness of life, to offer us hope, to assure us of our worth and value. Feel the flames of God's love resting on us, empowering us to love and serve in Christ's name. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE[®]

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise to our Triune God.

People: **We sing in praise of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

*PRAISE RESPONSE

NCH #283

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.

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{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: [Acts 2:1-21](#)
Second Lesson: [Romans 8:22-27](#)
Gospel Lesson: [John 15:26-27; 16:4-15](#)

HYMN

"Spirit of the Living God"

vs 1 **NCH #283**
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CHILDREN'S SERMON

Spirit of the Living God 283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

Acts 11:15; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:25

F Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

F Gm D Gm F Bb/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Bb F G7 C

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

F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Presbyterian minister Daniel Iverson was inspired to write this chorus one evening while attending revival services led by the George T. Stephens Evangelistic Party in Orlando, Florida, in 1926. It became widely popular at similar meetings before it was published several years later.

Tune: IVERSON 7.5.7.5.8.7.5.
Daniel Iverson, 1926

Rite of Confirmation ^{①⑩}

*The Rite of Confirmation is the affirmation of the Sacrament of Baptism.
When an adult takes the baptismal vows for a young child,
the child is given the opportunity to confirm those vows
when they become of age.
Confirmation is the process by which youth and young adults
become
full members of the Christian Church,
publically profess their belief in Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and
express their desire to be a disciple of Christ*

{All rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Unison)**

UCC Statement of Faith: The Revision of 1981: A Doxology

**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.

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

***MISSION STATEMENT OF St. Paul's UCC (Unison)**

We are called by the Spirit
to live and share the love of God
through joyful service
and fellowship in Christ.

{Congregation please be seated}

{Candidate please remain standing}

INVITATION (*Leader*)

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. This person has found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study he has been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm his baptism and to claim in our presence his covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. He is here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

SENTENCES (*Leader*)

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

Pastor: *Michael Meehan*, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidate: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidate: *I promise, with the help of God.*

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate: *I promise, with the help of God.*

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATE (*Pastor and Candidate*)

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Let us pray for the faith of our confirmand.

{A period of silent prayer for the confirmation candidate.}

Pastor: Let us pray together . . .

All: Almighty God, who in baptism received this your servant into the church, forgave his sins, and promised him eternal life, increase in him the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen him for his ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to 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.

MEDITATIONS ON SCRIPTURE

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

Pastor: *Michael Meehan*, the God of mercies multiply grace and peace in you, enable you truly and faithfully to keep your vows, defend you in every time of danger, preserve you to the end, and finally bring you to rest with all the saints in glory everlasting.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

Pastor: We rejoice, O merciful God, with this person in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that he has been moved to affirm his baptism. Help him to live not for himself but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep him steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

ADDRESS (*Pastor*)

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

{Consistory President, please come forward}

{Members please rise}

*SHARING IN THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP

Leader: You have vowed to share regularly in the worship of God.

Candidate: I offer my name in the Pew Welcome Pad to symbolize my ongoing regular attendance in worship.

Lay Leader: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: We reaffirm our vows to sharing regularly in the communal worship of God.

EVANGELISM

Leader: You have vowed to witness to the word of Jesus Christ.

Candidate: I offer the names of those I have invited to symbolize my ongoing efforts to invite others into the Body of Christ.

Lay Leader: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: We reaffirm our vows to evangelize the Good News of the grace of God by both our words and our deeds.

MISSION & SERVICE

Leader: You have vowed to witness to the work of Jesus Christ and to enlist in the work of this local church as it serves this community.

Candidate: I offer my Time and Talent sheet as a symbol of my willingness and desire to participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ as His Body.

Lay Leader: On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.

Members: We reaffirm our vows to personally participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ and in service through His church.

STEWARDSHIP

- Leader:** You have vowed to further Christ's mission throughout the world and to be a faithful member of the church.
- Candidate:** **I offer my "Faith Promise to God Cards" and my weekly envelopes to symbolize my willingness and desire to be a good steward and to give the first and best of my resources to God through His church.**
- Deacons:* *On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.*
- Members:** **We reaffirm our vows to give our first and best to God and to financially support the local and worldwide mission of the United Church of Christ.**

CONTINUAL FAITH FORMATION

- Leader:** You have vowed to grow in the Christian faith.
- Candidate:** **I offer my name in the Sunday School attendance pad to symbolize my continual participation in ongoing Christian formation.**
- Lay Leader:* *On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.*
- Members:** **We reaffirm our vows to intentionally join together to study scripture, to learn and grow in our Christian faith, and to continue our formation as faithful disciples of Christ.**

FAMILY OF FAITH

- Leader:** The church is a body of people, not a building. It is something that we become when we gather, not a place to which we go on Sundays.
- Candidate:** **I offer the work of my hands, to symbolize my love, support, and care of the members of this church, and my commitment to care for the place where the church gathers to worship.**
- Lay Leader:* *On behalf of your church, I accept this sign.*
- Members:** **We do not go to church, but become the church when we gather together. We reaffirm our vows to regularly gather with you as a family of faith, and reaffirm that you can depend upon us to be here weekly when you arrive, in order to continually give you our love, support, and care, and to be here that together we may be the church.**

{Congregation please rise}

***WELCOME**

- Pastor:** Let us, the members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.
- People:** **We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

***GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE**

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

***PRAYER** *(Leader)*

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us these believers that we may work together in serving the needs of others.

Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

ALL: Amen.

{Congregation & Candidate, please be seated}

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.*

OFFERTORY INVITATION ^②

Leader: The face of the ground is continually renewed each year so we can reap its bounty.

People: Likewise, our spirits are renewed.

Leader: God has given us food in due season, opening a kind and loving hand to fill us with good things.

People: Our offerings are but a small expression of thanks.

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

NCH #283

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

Take them, bless them, use them, grow them.

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

*Text: Benjamin Motz
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*OFFERTORY PRAYER ^② (Leader)

Amazing God, how manifold are your works! When there are dry-bones times in our lives, we can look to you for new breath and hope and renewal of life. Your Spirit comes, and we are lifted up and linked to one another. We bring our offerings as an expression of thanksgiving for all your gifts. May your glory be proclaimed in all we give and all we do, when we are together and when we scatter to do your will in other places. **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: God's Spirit is being poured out on this church.
We carry it with us into our everyday world.

**People: With joy and amazement we scatter to serve.
God's love is changing us and granting new life.**

Leader: The Spirit will help us in our weakness.
We will be guided in all truth.

**People: Each day we will practice what we are learning.
Throughout our days we will continue in prayer.**

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ **Red #558**

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***SENDING HYMN**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

vs 1, 3, 4

♪ **Red #271**

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{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God’s light and love back into the world.}



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Ⓢ *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

Ⓢ *Occasional Services: A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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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


The Christian Life

JOHN E. BODE, 1868


7. 6. 7. 6. D.

ANGEL'S STORY
ARTHUR H. MANN, 1893*In moderate time*




1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;
2. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
3. O let me hear Thee speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still,
4. O Je - sus, Thou hast prom - ised To all who fol - low Thee





Be Thou for - ev - er near me, My Mas - ter and my Friend:
I see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt - ingsounds I hear;
A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur - murs of self - will!
That where Thou art in glo - ry There shall Thy serv - ant be;

I shall not fear the bat - tle If Thou art by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;
O speak to re - as - sure me, To has - ten or con - trol!
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;

Nor wan - der from the path - way If Thou wilt be my Guide.
But, Je - sus, draw Thou near - er, And shield my soul from sin.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, Thou Guard - ian of my soul!
O give me grace to fol - low My Mas - ter and my Friend! A - MEN.





† 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:

Sam B.
Lori & Ryan B.
Rich D.
Jacob E.
Jaden G.
Ann H.
Leigh H.
Rev. David K.
Jim & Donna K.
Janice L.
Ella L.
Amy M.
Diane M.
George M.
Starr M.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Terry O.
Paul P.
Fred R.
Julie R.
Jim S.
Rob & Jodi S.
Martha W.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Barb B.
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@spruce.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@spruce.org. For more information, go to our “[Visitation Care Ministries](#)” page at www.spruce.org under the “ministries” tab.

For the week of May 23 the Primary VCT is Elsa Wertz, the Secondary VCT is Robin Henning.
For the week of May 30 the Primary VCT is Sheri Rowe, the Secondary VCT is Kirk Aulenbach.

††† 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.

Confirmation Sunday

Today is Confirmation Sunday. Today is also Pentecost. Pentecost is a day of celebration. It is a celebration of a new beginning for all whether it is for the celebration of the new church, a celebration for renewal of spirit within oneself and/or a celebration of the Holy Spirit giving God’s wisdom to the disciples. Today we celebrate in the Rite of Confirmation, and welcome our newest and youngest member to our congregation, Michael Meehan!

Handbell Anthem

Today’s handbell anthem, “*O God Beyond All Praising*” is based on the hymn of the same name. The tune is from the section “*Jupiter*” of the classic seven-movement orchestral suite, *The Planets*, by the English composer Gustav Holst. The music and performance is given in memory of Shirley M. Labe, a member of the senior choir and the handbell choir, by Miriam and Rod Borkert.

In-Person Sunday School

Today was the last day for in-person Sunday school. Sunday school will resume on September 12.

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](#).

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

Tonight will be the last meeting for this 6-week study series of the book, *The Post-Quarantine Church* by Thom S. Rainer. The meeting will be via Zoom and go from 6:30-8:00pm. Below is the Zoom log in information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452124156?pwd=RzI3dTl4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09>

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](#).

Soup & Such - May 27

This Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm, we will offer drive-thru Soup & Such. Anyone is welcome to come and pick up a meal. If you would like to help, please come at 3:30pm on Thursday, or contact Steve Miller at 717-933-5097.

Youth Group Meeting

The Youth Group will meet this Thursday, May 27, at 6:00pm at the church. We will walk as a group over to the Memorial Remembrance Ceremony which will begin at 6:30pm.

Memorial Remembrance

A brief memorial remembrance ceremony will be held at Robesonia's *Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park* on Thursday, May 27 at 6:30pm. The ceremony will honor the men and women of our community that gave their lives for our country while serving in our armed forces to protect us and the freedoms that we value. All are encouraged to attend to show respect and gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice that these heroes made. Children are welcome and especially invited. The guest speaker will be Steve Mannino of the Berks County Department of Veterans Services.

Summer Schedule

On May 30 we will switch to our summer schedule. The worship service will begin at 9:30am. An outdoor hymn sing in the parking lot is planned. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be indoors. There will be no Zoom, but we will have Live Streaming, Phone Steaming, and Facebook Live.

Community Blood Drive - June 12

The next Community Blood Drive will take place at St. Paul's Church on Saturday, June 12 from 8:00am to 1:00pm. For more information contact Terry Pastor at 610-693-5024. To schedule an appointment to donate, call 1-800-223-6667 or schedule online at www.giveapint.org.

Community Vacation Bible School (VBS)

In-person VBS will take place from Monday, June 14 to Thursday, June 17, from 6:00-8:00pm at St. Daniel's Lutheran Church. The theme is "*Christmas in June*". VBS is open to children 3 years old and up to and including Grade 6. This event is sponsored by St. Daniel's, St. Paul's and Zion churches. Online registration is required. Go to the church's website, www.sprucc.org, to register.

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: 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):

Red - symbolizing the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit

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, May 23, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21;
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

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.

Ezekiel

The book of Ezekiel (OT), is attributed to the priest and prophet Ezekiel, who was born of the priestly family of Zadokite, married, then widowed, and prophesied from 593 to 571 B.C. Ezekiel proclaimed that the Israelites were defeated and exiled by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C. as a just punishment from God for their idolatrous behavior (i.e. not putting God first in their lives); they need to repent (change direction heart and mind towards God), for only God can breathe life back into their dry bones. A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 104

This OT song gives praise to God, the creator of heaven and earth.

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 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 30, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 *and* Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events