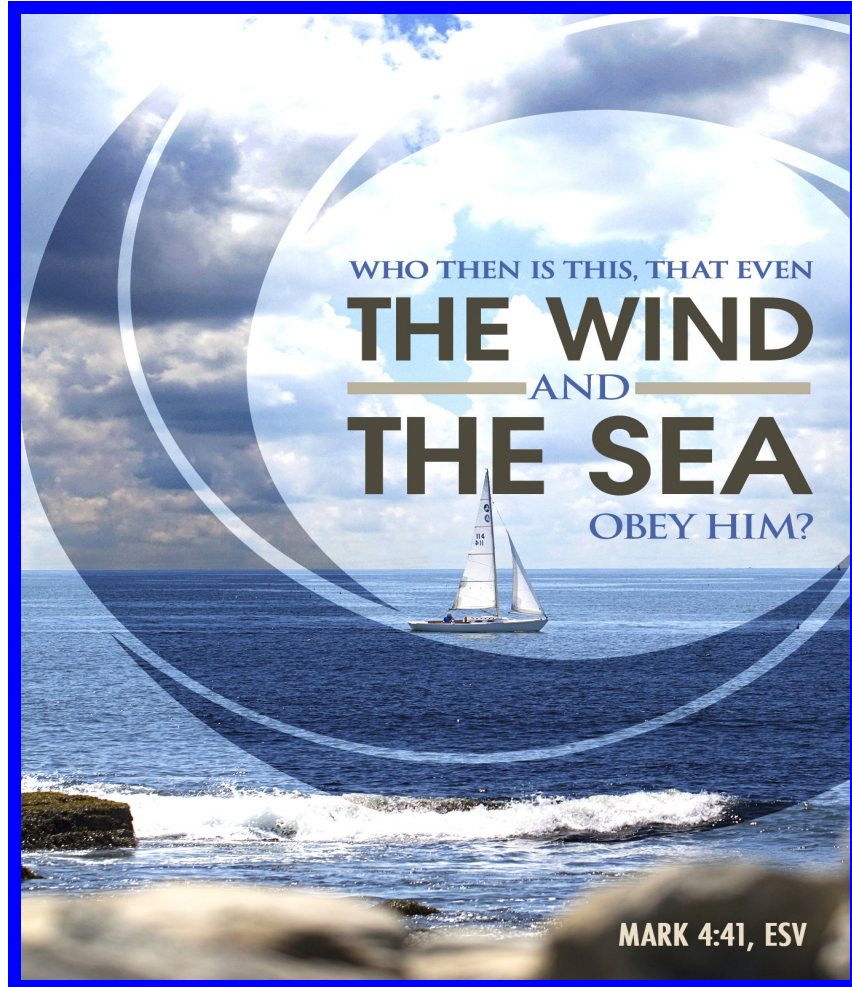


## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551  
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org  
Worship 9:30am

*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, June 20, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

# 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>

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. Amen.

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"Evening and Morning"*

vs 1 & 2

♪ *Red #49*

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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: Gather in awe before God, who laid the foundations of the earth.  
Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

**People: The deeds of God are beyond our knowing.  
Yet we catch glimpses of God's mercy and care.**

Leader: God is ready to listen to us in these moments together.  
See, now is the acceptable time, the day of salvation.

**People: Surely God will meet us here in our faith community!  
How good it is when we sense our unity in Christ!**

---

### Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at [sprucc.org](http://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](mailto:Office@sprucc.org)*

---

## Times of Worship

PAUL GERHARDT, 1666  
Tr. RICHARD MASSIE, 1857

5. 5. 5. 5. 10. 5. 6. 5. 6. 10.

DIE GÜLDNE SONNE

JOHANN G. EBELING, 1666

*With flowing rhythm*

1. Eve - ning and morn - ing, Sun - set and dawn - ing, Wealth, peace, and  
2. Fa - ther, O hear me; Par - don and spare me; Calm all my  
3. Grievs of God's send - ing Soon have an end - ing; Clouds may be

glad - ness, Com - fort in sad - ness, These are Thy works; all the  
ter - rors, Blot out my er - rors, That by Thine eyes they may  
pour - ing, Wind and wave roar - ing, Sun - shine will come when the

glo - ry be Thine! Times with - out num - ber, A - wake or in  
no more be scanned. Or - der my go - ings; Di - rect all my  
tem - pest has past. Joys still in - creas - ing, And peace nev - er

slum - ber, Thou dost ob - serve us, From dan - ger pre - serve us,  
do - ings; As it may please Thee, Re - tain or re - lease me;  
ceas - ing, Foun - tains that dry not, And ros - es that die not,

Caus - ing Thy mer - cy up - on us to shine.  
All I com - mit to Thy Fa - ther - ly hand.  
Bloom - ing in E - den, a - wait me at last. A - MEN.

## 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 faltered before the lions and giants that seem ready to destroy us. Life's storms overwhelm us, and fear takes a deadly toll. Sometimes we are snared in the work of our own hands. We forget the greatest source of help and hope. In these moments together, we lay aside our doubts and fear of judgment to open our lives to God.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN<sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**Help us, God, for we do not have the wisdom to help ourselves. When the good we have known crumbles beneath our feet and we are mired down in hopelessness and self-pity, we need you. When we cannot hide from the evil that is all around us because some of it is also in us, we cry out for your saving mercy. We confess that it is easier to see the problems than the promise. We have been more ready to complain than to accept your help. O God, we open our hearts to you. We want to be healed. Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

God has listened to us. In spite of all we have done or not done, God accepts us. This is a day of salvation, when brokenness is mended, problems are seen in a new light, and fierce winds are stilled. God does not forget the cry of the afflicted. God's affection for us is limited only by our failure to respond. Accept the gift of God's love, for it is everything we need. **Amen.**

*{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: [1 Samuel 17:32-49](#)  
Second Lesson: [2 Corinthians 6:1-13](#)  
Gospel Lesson: [Mark 4:35-41](#)

### HYMN

*"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

vs 1 & 2

♩ Blue 684

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### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON *Strengthen the Church*

# 684 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

*I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand. Isaiah 41:13*

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand. I am  
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near - When my

tired, I am weak, I am worn. Thro' the storm, thro' the night, Lead me  
 life is al - most gone. Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my

on to the light. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.  
 hand lest I fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

Chord symbols: Ab, Ab7, Bbm/Db, Db, Ab, Eb/G, Fm, Bb9, Eb, Bb7/F, Eb7/G, Ab, Eb7/Bb, Ab, Ab7/Eb, Bbm/Db, Db, Db6, D°7, Ab/Eb, Db, Dbm6/F, Ab/Eb, Eb7, Eb7sus, Ab

TEXT: Thomas A. Dorsey

MUSIC: George N. Allen; arranged by Thomas A. Dorsey

PRECIOUS LORD

6.6.9.D.

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## 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,<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.

*{Please be seated}*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray....

### FATHER'S DAY BLESSING<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

Leader: For our fathers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them respect and love,

**People: we pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them,

**People: we pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For men, though without children of their own, who like fathers have nurtured and cared for us,

**People: we pray to the Lord.**

Leader: For fathers, who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to their children and who have not sustained their families,

**People: we pray to the Lord...**

**ALL: God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord, 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 PRAISE**

*"Alleluia"*

♩ *Blue #189*

**You're my Savior, alleluia; you're my Savior, alleluia;  
You're my Savior, alleluia; you're my Savior, alleluia!**

*Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair  
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**OFFERTORY INVITATION** ®

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.**

**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** ® (*Leader*)

Thank you, God, for meeting us in our need. We give that others in even greater need might not be forgotten. We are grateful for the trust you place in us. We give that others might respond to the good news of your love. We are hearing the word Jesus spoke in the midst of a storm: "Peace! Be still!" With fresh calm and confidence, we give ourselves that others might live. Thank you, God, for your steadfast love endures forever. **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: As servants of God, we commend ourselves in every way.  
God has given us the ministry in which we serve.  
People: **We seek to be patient and kind with all people.  
Our speech is truthful and our love genuine.**  
Leader: Let your faith grow and your trust expand.  
Go into the world with confidence and courage.  
People: **We are not afraid, for we know God's presence.  
We are alive to the possibilities before us.**  
ALL: **Amen.**

### \*BENEDICTION <sup>①</sup>

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### \*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ Red #558  
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### \*SENDING HYMN

"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" vs 1, 2 & 3

♪ Red #468  
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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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Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

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<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*. (2020). 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

<sup>⑬</sup> *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



## † 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.  
Deb D.  
Rich D.  
Jacob E.  
Jaden G.  
Ann H.  
Leigh H.  
Rev. David K.  
Jim & Donna K.  
Janice L.  
Ella L.

### **Medical Concerns & Healing:**

Fred R.  
Julie R.  
Jim S.  
Rob & Jodi S.  
Martha W.  
Amy M.  
Diane M.  
George M.  
Starr M.  
Steve M.  
Gary N.  
Terry O.  
Paul P.

### **Mourning:**

Family & Friends of Barb B.  
Family & Friends of Sandra B.  
Family & Friends of Joyce R.  
Family & Friends of Ron S  
Family & Friends of Sarah S.  
Family & Friends of Marilyn W.

### **Social Concerns:**

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

### **Celebration:**

Class of 2021 Graduates

*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](http://www.sprucc.org)" page at [www.sprucc.org](http://www.sprucc.org) under the "ministries" tab.

For the week of June 20 the Primary VCT is Robin Henning, the Secondary VCT is Phleane Kissling.

For the week of June 27 the Primary VCT is Kirk Aulenbach, the Secondary VCT is Elsa Wertz.

## ††† 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.

### Sunday School

Sunday school has ended for the summer months. It will resume on September 12. However, Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading over the summer. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

### Devotional Music

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

### 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](#).

### Next Sunday - June 27

Next Sunday at 9:30am, an outdoor worship service is planned, if the weather is good. After worship we hope you will stay for a food fellowship time. Please bring your own snacks and beverages. However, if the weather does not cooperate, then the service will be indoors as usual. Food fellowship will then need to be delayed until our next outdoor service.

### Community Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS at St. Daniel's Lutheran Church this past week went very well. This community event was sponsored by St. Daniel's Lutheran, Zion UCC, and St. Paul's UCC. There were over 30 children registered. There was plenty of adult help as well as teen help. Next year VBS will be held here at St. Paul's Church.

### Strengthen the Church Offering

Today we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church Offering. This offering furthers the work of local UCC Conference, as well as the National UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. We will be viewing videos supplied by the UCC.

### 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.

**Free WiFi:** StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest  
**Password** (for both): iamheretoserve

## About Today

**Church Season: Pentecost** -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

**Green** - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year 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, June 20, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 *and* Psalm 9:9-20 *or* 1 Samuel 17:57 - 18:5, 18:10-16 *and* Psalm 133; Job 38:1-11 *and* Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

### **The First Book of Samuel**

The First Book of Samuel describes the transition of the nation of Israel from their time of being ruled by the judges to that of being ruled by their first king, Saul. The end of First Samuel and the beginning of Second Samuel describe the transition to Israel's second king, David. First Samuel begins with the birth of the prophet Samuel, who is a priest, judge, seer, military leader, and the one who anointed both Saul and David as king. First Samuel covers the time span of about 1100 BC to 1000 BC, and Second Samuel covers the time from about 1000 BC to 960 BC.

### **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.

### **Job**

The OT book of "Jōb" deals with the struggle of the suffering of the innocent, as well as offers answers to why. The name Job can be translated as "enemy," "the hated one," "the foe", and "where is the divine father?" It was most likely written between the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

### **Psalm 107**

This OT song gives thanks to God for steadfast love, redemption, and rescue from four situations of distress: desert, darkness, illness, and sea.

### **The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 50-56 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is believed to be a compilation of fragments of multiple letters. This letter is in response to Titus' glowing reports and other negative reports Paul has received about this 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 wrote more of the NT than any other person.

### **The Gospel According to Mark**

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

### **Next Sunday, June 27, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 *and* Psalm 130; Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 *or* Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43



Link to Website's  
Upcoming Events



## Keep & Till

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports grants which make a difference in the lives of people across the United Church of Christ. The Keep & Till Congregation in the Central Atlantic Conference honor's rural life and faith by focusing on agrarian rhythms, ecological concerns, and creation care. Keep & Till received a grant to stabilize and improve their community garden during the pandemic.

Pastor Samuel Chamelin explains the impact of the grant: "The quarantine made in-person activities more difficult, but it also helped us to understand the value of gathering together. While Keep & Till elected not to worship in-person in any capacity, we did continue to meet in the garden, masked and socially distanced, to continue our ag work (which is spiritual work also). This exposed us to new friends and neighbors in a way that we did not expect."

The grant literally funded the renewal of the garden. Mulch enriched the soil. A 250-gallon trough increased the water capacity. Organic pest control improved the overall yield of the garden.

But most significantly, people in the neighborhood came out to spend time in the garden. Pastor Samuel saw a renewal in people. "When a tornado destroyed the tool shed, one of those new families stepped forward to offer their old shed, in good shape. We had community members come out to hang with us and assist, and they brought real help to the garden project. Then, they noticed that we had issues with weeds and poison ivy. The family used their flame thrower to eliminate the problems. Later, we discovered that others were mowing some particularly weedy areas. And then, finally, we realized neighbors were helping each other harvest food for their tables. In this way, Keep & Till truly became a member of the community. Though our interactions were not how we might hope them to be, we saw growth in our community, integration with the surrounding neighborhood, and stories of generosity and sharing."



**Gifts to the Strengthen the Church Offering,  
Renew the United Church of Christ.**

Please give to the 2021 Strengthen the Church campaign.