

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.*

*... the whole body, joined and
knit together ...*



*as each part is working properly,
promotes the body's growth in
building itself up in love.*

EPHESIANS 4:16, 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, August 1, 2021
Tenth 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

“Amazing Grace”

arr. by Cindy Berry

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 ^②

Loving God, we hear you calling us to a life of humility, gentleness, and patience. Keep your call before us in this hour that we may recognize and celebrate our oneness in Jesus Christ. May your Spirit unite us in the bond of peace. Speak to us of the Savior, who bore humanity's shame that we might learn to bear with one another in love. Draw us to a common faith, in spite of our differences. Lead us into new depths of trust beyond our knowing, and along new pathways of service outdistancing our fears. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“The Church's One Foundation”

vs 1 & 2

♩ Red #322

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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 ^②

Leader: Draw near to God, who has heard your complaining.
You have received manna in the wilderness and have been offered the bread of life.

People: **Whoever comes to Jesus will not be hungry.
Whoever trusts in Christ will never be thirsty.**

Leader: Open yourselves to God's steadfast love.
Be honest before the Holy One who knows all you do.

People: **We have received manna in the wilderness.
We have been offered and are here to receive the bread of life.**

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

The Church

322

SAMUEL J. STONE, 1866

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

AURELIA
SAMUEL S. WESLEY, 1864

In moderate time, with breadth and dignity

1. The Church's one Foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God the Three in One,

She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word:
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;
And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won:

From heaven He came and sought her To be His ho - ly Bride;
One ho - ly Name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with Thee. 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[®] (Leader)

We who are tossed about in a sea of competing images and priorities are summoned before God to be drawn back to a life centered by faith. In humble confession, let us call upon God's mercy and forgiveness.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

O God, our transgressions are many. We have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have wandered far from your truth. You alone know the extent of our guilt. You are justified to pass judgment and sentence us. We are crushed by the wrong we have allowed and the good we have avoided. We plead for mercy. Wash us thoroughly and cleanse us deep within. Put a new and right spirit in us and restore to us the joy of your salvation. Help us to lead lives worthy of your call to us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON[®] (Leader)

By God's grace, we are forgiven. In Christ, we are drawn together and entrusted with gifts for the good of all. We are knit into one body for mutual support, encouragement, and growth. Some of us are apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers. All of us have a part in building up the body of Christ and equipping the saints for the work of ministry. Give thanks for this opportunity! **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 *"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation "* vs 4 } Red #324
**Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory, While unending ages run!**

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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: [2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a](#)
Second Lesson: [Ephesians 4:1-16](#)
Gospel Lesson: [John 6:24-35](#)

HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" vs 1 & 2

♪ Red #80

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTOR BOB'S MESSAGE "Music in the Church: Where did it come from? Why do we do it?"

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}

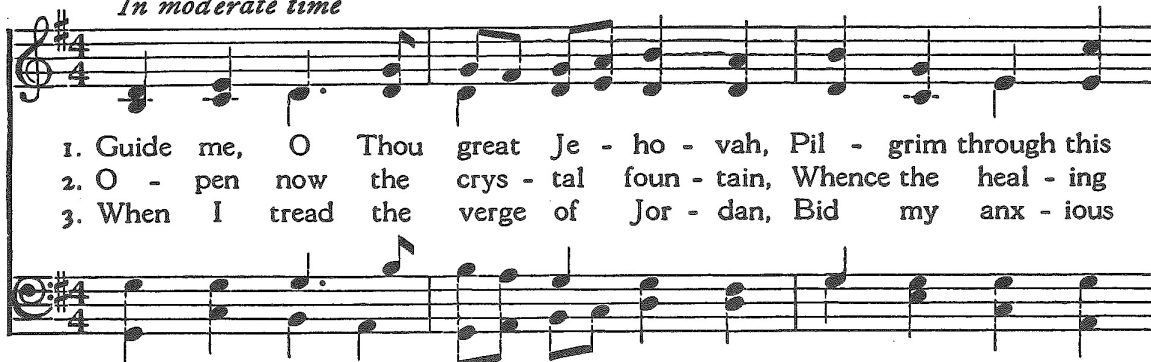
God the Father

80

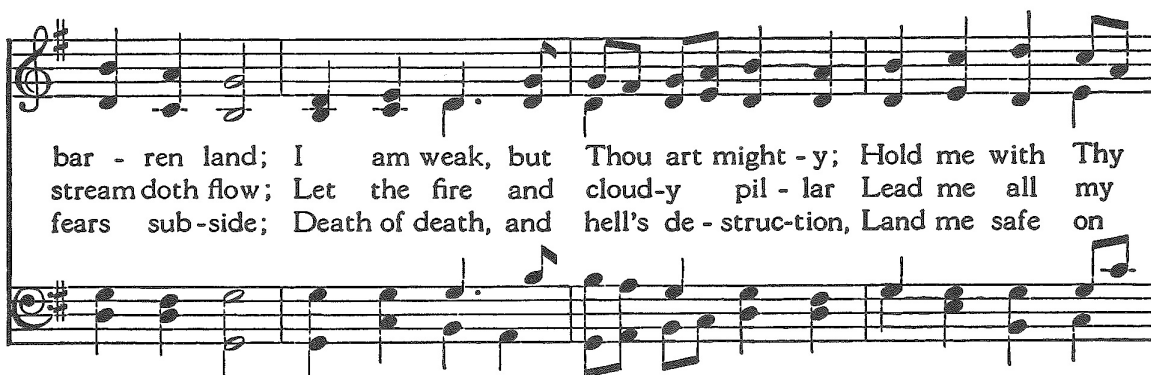
WILLIAM WILLIAMS (Welsh), 1745
Stanza 1 tr. PETER WILLIAMS, 1771
Stanzas 2, 3 tr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, c. 1772

CWM RHONDDA
Welsh Hymn Melody
JOHN HUGHES, 1907

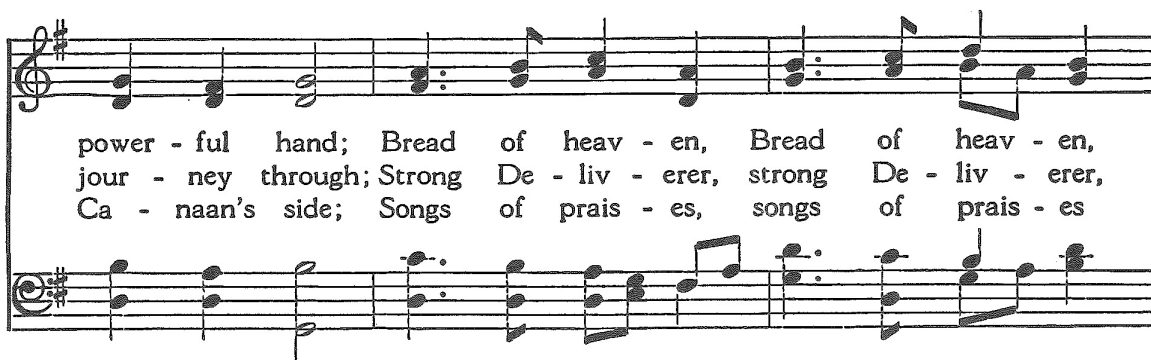
In moderate time



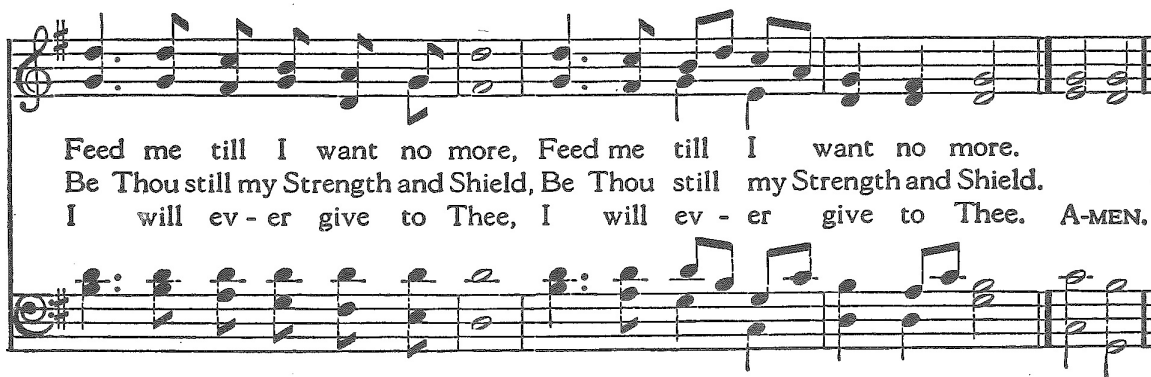
1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me all my
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me safe on



power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee. A-MEN.

Music used by permission of Mrs. John Hughes.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray....

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE* (Leader)

Leader: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rain forests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

SUNG PRAISE

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation "

vs 3

♪ Red #324

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants What they ask of Thee to gain,

What they gain from Thee forever With the blessed to retain,

And hereafter in Thy glory Evermore with Thee to reign.

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OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: As we have been fed,
People: we are sent to others.

Leader: Whatever their need,
People: we know the source of food to nourish them.

Leader: God supplies the resources we have to give.

People: Let us participate in God’s redeeming activity through our offerings of self and substance.

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](http://sprucc.org) 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}.*

OFFERTORY

“As the Deer”
Soloist - Alberta Miller

by Martin Nystrom

{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)*

O God, we dedicate our tithes and offerings, not alone for the good they can accomplish and the mission they will support, but also because giving helps us to gain perspective on what really matters. We would stop working only for food that perishes, seeking for all the food that endures for eternal life. May our lives and all we give perform the works of God. Build us up in love for one another and for all your children everywhere. **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: Christ, the bread of life, sends you out to feed others.
Whoever comes to Christ will not be hungry or thirsty.

People: We will share our lives with brothers and sisters.
We seek to offer them the bread from heaven.

Leader: Join the saints in building up the body of Christ.
Seek to equip others for the work of ministry.

People: We find unity in our relationship with God.
We seek to grow toward the full stature of Christ.

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION** ①

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**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" all 4 verses

♪ Red #280
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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.}

280

JOHN FAWCETT, 1782

S.M.

BOYLSTON
LOWELL MASON, 1832

In moderate time

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love:
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin, we shall be free;

The fel - low-ship of kin-dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims, are one, Our com-forts and our cares.
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 And per - fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty. A-MEN.



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.

¹ 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.

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

³ Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

⁶ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

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

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

⁹ 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

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

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

¹² The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

¹³ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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* The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), moravianmusic.org, moravian.org, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz.

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

††† Worship Participants †††

Thank you to all who have made this worship experience possible.

	<u>Today</u> August 1 st	<u>Next Sunday - Knoebel's</u> August 8 th
Greeter/Usher	Georgi H.	-
Greeter/Usher	Marianne M.	-
Greeter/Usher	-	-
Acolyte	Geri G.	-
Welcome	Jon H.	-
Layreader/Lector #1	Jon H.	-
Layreader/Lector #2	-	-
Children's Message	Elsa W.	-
Cantor	Brian K.	-
AV Tech	Kirk A.	-

† 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.
Norman B.
Lori & Ryan B.
Rich D.
Jacob E.
Jaden G.
Ann H.
Leigh H.
Rev. David K.
Jim & Donna K.
Janice L.
Ella L.
Edmund L.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

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

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Sandra B.
Family & Friends of Joyce R.
Family & Friends of Jason R.
Family & Friends of Ron S.
Family & Friends of Sarah S.

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.*

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.

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



Link to Website's
Upcoming Events

††† 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.

Guest Speaker Today

Today our guest speaker for the worship service will be Pastor Bob Masenheimer. Pastor Bob will be giving us a lesson in the role that music has played in the church. Thank you Pastor Bob for sharing with us today.

Sunday School Materials

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](#).

Neighborhood Mission Work

We are planning a stay-near-home Mission trip with Zion UCC (Womelsdorf) on Saturday, September 18. We are looking for local projects to consider - ways in which we can assist people in our local area. If you have a project request or suggestion, please contact the church office. We also need people to help on that day. **Please respond by Sunday, August 1st (today) so that the projects and the availability of help may be firmed up.** More information will be on our website, in the August newsletter, and in a special mailing. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 18, with a rain date of Saturday, September 25.

Come Worship at Knoebel's Amusement Park - August 8

All are welcome to come to Knoebel's Amusement Park next Sunday, August 8, for worship. We will begin gathering at Pavilion Tent #4 at around 10:00am. At 10:30am worship will begin. The rides and water park will open at 11:00am. The pavilion will be available to us for the whole day. Please bring a lunch or you may purchase food at the park. There is NO park admission fee. There is NO parking fee. You need only to pay for ride tickets (for whatever rides you may wish). Invite your family and friends.

If you are not able to join us at Knoebel's park, worship will take place at St. Paul's at 9:30am. It will be virtual only.

Annual Car Show - Saturday, August 14

Please join us for St. Paul's Annual Car Show to be held rain or shine on Saturday, August 14 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. If you can help that day, please contact Rob Seifrit or the church office. If you would like to register a car you may print out the [registration form](#) (click the link) and send it to Rob, or contact the church office for a print out of the form. The cost is \$10/car to register.

Picnic in the Grove

St. John's (Hain's) UCC will have another picnic in the grove on Saturday, August 14, beginning at 4:00pm. They will have burgers, hotdogs, chicken BBQ sandwiches, soups, french fries, beverages, desserts & ice cream for purchase. The *Let's Dance Orchestra* will be on hand to perform their swinging tunes from 5:00-7:30pm. Good food, good music, please come and enjoy! Questions? Go to their website at www.stjhains.org.

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.

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, August 1, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a *and* Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 *and* Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

The Second Book of Samuel

This OT book, bears the name of the prophet Samuel. This book takes place during the rule of the second king of Israel, David (ruling from 1000-961 B.C.). Two important themes within this book are that of the a nation's relationship with God and good rule of people; and secondly, the complexity of individual relationships with God. Samuel was the prophet anointed King David. In Hebrew, the word prophet literally means "spokesperson." A prophet is one who acts as an intermediary, called by God to speak to God's people, usually to bring those people back in line with God's will.

Psalm 51

This OT song was composed by King David when the prophet Nathan confronted him with his sin in Bathsheba. This is a prayer for help, offered by one who is deeply aware of their sin and guilt, knowing the need for God's forgiveness.

Exodus

The book of Exodus (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT or Torah or one of the five most central books in Judaism), and is named for the exodus (leaving/escape) of the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery through the divine saving providence of God and the leadership of Moses and his brother Aaron.

Psalm 78

This OT song recounts the story of God's care of Israel and tells of the people's response of continuing sin and faithlessness.

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The Epistle (letter) to the Gentile church in Ephesus is attributed to the Apostle Paul, written in the first century A.D. This is an open letter to many churches in response for the life-changing radical transformation in our personal and social life as we become a part of Christ's family. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

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, August 8, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 *and* Psalm 130; 1 Kings 19:4-8 *and* Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2; John 6:35, 41-51