

Weekly News from United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
Sunday Worship 10:15am



Sunday, February 12, 2023

††† **Worship Participants & Sponsorships** †††

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

	<u>This Sunday - Feb 12th</u>	<u>Next Sunday - Feb 19th</u>
Usher Captain	Terry P.	Geri G.
Usher Co-Captain	Michael P.	Elsa W.
Usher/Greeter	George M.	Sharon B.
Usher/Greeter	Dottie M.	Karen S.
Usher/Greeter: Downstairs	Cory P.	Cory P.
Acolyte	John E.	Preslie U.
Welcome/Announcements	Dale M.	Jon H.
Layreader	Sheri R.	Linda E.
Cantor	Wanda M.	Sheri R.
Children's Message	Pastor Mary Etta	Geri G.
Nursery	-	-
Junior Worship	-	-
AV Tech	Kirk A.	Kirk A.
G3 Group Helper	Sue H.	Peg & Kim T.
Koffee Klatch	Group A - Sue H.	Group B
St. Paul's Counter	Jon H.	Jon H.
St. Paul's Counter	Carl U.	Carl U.
Bulletin Sponsor	-	-
Altar Flowers Sponsor	-	Sheri & Tim R.

††† **General Announcements** †††

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

Do We Have Your Email Address?

It is extremely helpful to us if we can communicate with you by email! Please consider sharing your email address with us.

Burning of the Palms

Today during Sunday School, palms will be burned to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. Pastor Ben will demonstrate and explain to all who attend, what he is doing and why.

Affirming Membership

On specific Sundays between the months of January to April, we will be affirming membership in our newly unified church. If you did not affirm your membership in January, you will have the opportunity *today* to do so during the worship service. More information may be found in the announcement below.

Membership in Our Newly Unified Church

From January 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023 we will have an "Open Charter." Those joining during that period will be "Charter Members" (Founding Members) of our newly unified church. Membership vows may be affirmed during one of the following worship services:

Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 10:15am
Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30pm
Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 10:15am
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 6:30pm
Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 10:15am

Those who would like to affirm their membership on one of the dates listed above may do so by participating in the worship service by either coming in-person or via Zoom. If you plan to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office and let us know when you will be affirming your vows so that we may watch for your presence and admit you in to the worship service. Please use the following Zoom information:

Meeting ID: 104 401 368 Passcode: 301301

To log in either use the Zoom app; or go to Zoom.com and click "Join A Meeting;" or use the following address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/104401368?pwd=WGs0YnlEYXVGTWl2ZDJCa1NrSkI0UT09;>

or use a telephone by calling: +1 301 715 8592 (Washington DC).

One of Our Favorite Times of the Year!

Today is SOUPERbowl Sunday! Immediately following worship, we will be having a soup luncheon in Miller Fellowship Hall. **EVERYONE is invited!** Join us as we gather to enjoy the variety of crockpot delicacies. Large bowls and small bowls will be available so that you may sample as many or as few items as you wish.

Don't worry about the real Super Bowl. There will be plenty of time to enjoy this meal and still see the Super Bowl later this evening. Game time is set for 6:30pm ET. Please plan to attend. The food is always good and the fellowship is GREAT!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The weekly **Tuesday morning Zoom Bible study is at 9:00am.** It is based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. We hope you will consider joining the study group. Please contact Pastor Mary Etta. She will email you the Zoom numbers used each week.

Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

The Men's Group is planning a Chicken Pot Pie Dinner for **Wednesday, February 15th from 4:00-6:30pm.** It will be a dine-in or take-out meal. Quarts of pot pie will also be available for purchase. If you would like more information or would like to help, please contact Brian Keppley or Steve Miller.

Book of Acts Evening Bible Study

The Bible study of the Book of Acts will be on **Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.** If you have not yet joined this study, please consider doing so. Nothing is needed other than a Bible. You may join in person or by Zoom. Contact Pastor Mary Etta if you plan to join by Zoom; she will supply you with the information that you need.

Singing Choir Rehearsal

The choir will practice on Thursday evening at 6:00pm.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

The handbells will practice on Thursday evening at 7:00pm.

Women's Group Meeting

The 21st Century Christian Women's Group is open to ALL women of the church. They meet once a month on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be on **Monday, February 20th at 7:00pm.** Please join us! Contact Sue Hiester if you have any questions.

Ash Wednesday

This year the Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, **February 22** with our 6:30pm Ash Wednesday worship service. This will be an in person and virtual worship service. Those attending in-person will be given the option of receiving ashes on their forehead, back of the hand, or not at all. Holy Communion was also celebrated. Those joining us via streaming, are invited to have bread and wine or grape juice available as the ministers bless the elements. The service will include a children's message, and the choir will be singing as well.

Soup & Such / Children's Clothing Closet

On the last Thursday of the month from 4:00-6:00pm, we offer a free meal, through our Soup & Such ministry. We also offer free children's clothing (one bag per child) through our Children's Clothing Closet ministry. That last Thursday of the month will soon be here. Our next event is scheduled for **February 23, 2023**.

Please join us. If you would like to help with either the Soup & Such or the Clothing Closet, please contact the church office, or show up at 3:00pm on that last Thursday of the month.

Youth Group

The next Youth Group meeting will be from 6:00 - 7:00pm on **Thursday, February 23**, after Soup & Such. Youth Group is for kids in Grades 5 to 12 (or up to age 21). Meetings are held twice a month on the second and last Thursday. During our monthly meetings we have time for fellowship, prayer, learning, fun, and the youth planning for their own upcoming activities, all with appropriate adult supervision. Attendees need not be members of our church nor affiliated with any church.

Family Movie Night

On Saturday, **February 25 at 4:00pm** we will have a Family Movie Night. All are welcome. There is NO admission fee - it is FREE. Refreshments are FREE.

This month's feature will be *The Croods: A New Age*, also known as "*The Croods 2*." It is rated PG. We will be in the Miller Fellowship Hall. You are invited to sit in the folding chairs, or bring along blankets for the floor or your own folding chairs - whichever will make for a more comfortable movie watching experience for you.

If you are interested in helping provide movie snacks, please contact the church office.

Getting to Know the Pastors - Small Group Gatherings

Pastor Ben and Pastor Mary Etta are scheduling small group gathering times for you to meet with them, for you to get to know them a little better and for them to get to know you a little better, as well as to hear from you your hopes, dreams, ideas, etc for our new church.

Please sign up either by emailing/calling the church office or using the sign up sheet in the hallway. So that this can be a small group experience, we are limiting the number of people for each gathering. As the groups fill up, we will add more dates/times for gathering. Their goal is to meet in small groups with every able-bodied member who lives in the area.

Our next open time slot is **Tuesday, February 28 at 6:30pm**.

Lenten Wednesdays

For the Wednesdays during Lent, we will have a short evening prayer service beginning at 6:30pm. These services will be offered in-person, and via live stream, phone stream and Facebook Live. This year the series being offered is entitled, "*Couples in the Bible*". These services will take place every Wednesday from March 1 to April 5 at 6:30pm..

If you would like to participate in one of the dialogues for the weekly Lenten service, please tell Pastor Mary Etta (mestme@aol.com). The parts are pre-written. One rehearsal is required.

Fund Raising Event

Western Berks Shepherding Ministries is having a fund raising event at Austin's Restaurant & Bar and Coastal Grille on **Wednesday, February 15th and Thursday, February 16th**. When you dine in or take out your meal (alcohol not included), 20% of your food purchase will be given to Western Berks Shepherding Ministries. An invitation card must be presented for your purchase in order to qualify. Invitation cards may be found on the table in upstairs church vestibule area.

Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 11,000 – depending on the source. This is shattering news.

Immediately after the earthquake, the United Church of Christ posted a prayer and short statement in response to this crisis. At this time, the UCC is issuing an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. With your financial support they will be there helping those in need.

If you are able to offer your financial support, please donate through the our church, *United Church of Christ of Robesonia*. Please be sure to note "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response" in the memo section of your check. You may also donate electronically on our church's website. Indicate "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response" in the Note section of the donation page. Your donation will be sent to the UCC and deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response".

Offerings and Donations

Please note that although we are now *United Church of Christ of Robesonia*, until we close out St. Paul's account and open a new account as *United Church of Christ of Robesonia*, checks need to be made out to St. Paul's UCC. We will announce when that process has been completed and checks should be made out to the new *United Church of Christ of Robesonia*.

*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*

† UCC of Robesonia's Prayer List †

Medical Concerns, Healing, Help & God's Assuring Presence:

Tina A.
Jeanette B.
MaryAnne B. (friend of Greer Z.)
Michael B.
Scott B.
Linwood B.
Audra B.
Rich D.
John E.
Eloise
Evie
Jimmy F.
Sharon F.
Doris F.
Erma G.
Dolores H.
Betty H.
Wynn H.
Joni H.
Dolly I.
Sandie K.
Carol K.
Lelyna L.
Caitlin L.
Maggie L.
Ella L.
Peg M.
Leon M.
Rozy M.

Medical Concerns, Healing, Help & God's Assuring Presence:

Bill M.
Pat N.
Michelle N.
Joyce P.
Andrea P.
Claudia S.
Jim S.
Rob S.
Jodi S.
Ray T.
Mildred U.
Wendy W.
Donna & Turk

All Military People Especially:

Sgt. Benjamin (Bibs)
Sr. Airman Sarah (Karen S.)
MA2 Cody (Wanda M.)
PO3 Lucas (Wanda M.)
Cpl Ben (George & Dottie M.)

College People:

Jonah C.
Max G.
Madison H.
Sara M.
Steven M.
Amanda M.
Jack S.

Guidance:

Serving God well together as one
congregation

Thanksgiving:

For All the People who serve
faithfully in Worship and on
Consistories and Committees

Mourning:

Family & friends of Charlie D.
Family & friends of Norma H.
Family & friends of Lawerance S.
Family & friends of Ronnie S.
Family & friends of the young man who
recently took his life

Mourning the Passing of a Pet:

Audra B. & Donna L.: Taschi

Protection & Support:

People of Ukraine
People traveling

Peace:

Peaceful outcome in the Ukraine
For ALL people everywhere

To Cease:

Violence by guns

Cooperation:

Governments working together for the
greater good
Governments working together to help
our environment & climate

*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 or Pastor Mary Etta.*

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest

Password (for both): iamheretoserve



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi



Upcoming Events Link