

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



*Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

† † †

**Pentecost Sunday
Sunday, May 28, 2023
10:15am**

Welcome

*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.*



Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.
The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.
(*Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table*).

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

Water fountains are located on both the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: *= if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♪# = Blue Hymnal Page}*

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](https://www.sprucc.org) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you.}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ⑩ (Unison)

Holy Spirit, come upon us as on the actual day of Pentecost. With little flames bouncing around in the air and on people's heads and shoulders, we would be in awe of your fanciful presence. And that wind! Did it whistle? Did it do damage? Surely, it caught everyone's attention. Strange - flames that did not start fire and wind that did not cause damage! Help us to catch your Holy Spirit as we move into this worship in your name and the name of God the Father and of God the Son! Amen.

PRELUDE

"Spirit of God; O Breath of Life"

two hymns arranged for piano by Cindy Berry

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Spirit of the Living God"

♫ Blue #389

Public Domain

*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 *adapted from Psalm 104*

Leader: May the glory of the Lord endure forever.

People: O Lord, rejoice in all your works.

Leader: You look at the earth and it trembles.

People: You touch the mountains and they smoke.

Leader: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

People: I will praise my God while I have my being. Amen.

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 ⑩ (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ⑩ (Unison)

Please, O Lord God, have mercy on us. Our expectation of your love for us is too small. If we just let go of our efforts at control, your mighty works and your small acts can come into our lives and bring blessing. Not only blessing, Lord, but true solutions, awesome comfort, and magnificent joy! Lord of Spirit, Lord of Creation, Lord of Forgiveness, accept our submission to your plans for us. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

*♩ Red #518
Public Domain*

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*): Christ, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

People, we are creations of God like the creatures of nature; the free-flying birds, the mighty animals of the ocean, the tiny bugs and worms. God has our best interests at heart. May we pay attention. May we draw close. May we submit our wills and our plans in exchange for contentment of mind, body, and soul. Please stay tuned for the sermon.

*CALL TO PRAISE ⑩

Leader: We praise you God for the your Holy Spirit, made known to a large crowd with little flames and a mighty wind and made known to us 2,000 some years later by your great acts and your soft, gentle comfort.

People: Hallelujah! Amen!

*SUNG PRAISE

"Alleluia"

Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair

**He's ascended, alleluia, he's ascended, alleluia;
He's ascended, alleluia, he's ascended, alleluia!**

{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 2:1-8](#)

Second Lesson: [1 Corinthians 12:3b-13](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: [John 20:19-23](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

*NCH #270
One License #A728042*

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SKIT

"What a Blanket Can Do"

SERMON

"The Holy Breath: Holding Forgiveness in Our Hands"

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*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)** *UCC Statement of Faith
Section Two and Three: Jesus and the Holy Spirit*

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, 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.**

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

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

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 PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

*♪ Red #501
George Whelpton, Public Domain*

**Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace.
Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: Inspire us to respond well to God's graciousness.

People: Holy Spirit be our guide.

Leader: Our God is generous with provisions.

People: Holy Spirit be our guide.

Leader: Help us to be good stewards of God's provisions.

People: Holy Spirit, be our guide.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure [Online Giving](https://sprucc.org) option on our website at sprucc.org (Click Here), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Pacem - A Song of Peace"

Words and music by Andy Becker

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair

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

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)

Holy and gracious God, these offerings come from our heart; both the Strengthen the Church offering and our regular tithes and other special offerings. You are generous to us. Therefore our response is to be generous as we think of "others" as much as we think of ourselves; to think of local as well as world-wide. Your church, O God, stretches around the world and returns with blessings. When the church is filled "enough" with the Holy Spirit, love can gain a significant foothold. Imagine church boards and business boards and political boards and non-profit organization boards all operating on love! Oh God, will it ever be so? Thank you for helping us to make it happen! In the name of Jesus, we pray.

All: 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 ⑩

Leader: The world is hungering for the Holy Spirit.

People: Help us to notice and care.

Leader: The world is hungering for a Savior.

People: Help us to notice and care.

Leader: The world is hungry for food and water and medical care.

People: Help us to help.

Leader: The world is hungry for love and peace.

People: Help us to pass it on.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"O God of Love, O God of Peace"

NCH #571
Public Domain

*{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.}*

POSTLUDE

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

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



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 worshiping 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 Service Resource Credits

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 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑦ 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
 - ⑧ Reprinted with permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑫ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

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Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

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

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and the darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

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 A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

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 28, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 *or* John 7:37-39

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.

Numbers

The book of Numbers (OT) is the fourth book in the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT, or Torah, or one of the five most central books in Judaism). The title of the book in Greek is *Arithmoi*, referring to the many census "numbers" found in chapters 1 and 2. The book's title in Hebrew is *Bemidbar*, which means "in the wilderness", as this book begins with the Israelite nation in the wilderness of Sinai after fleeing Egyptian slavery, spans the 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness - struggling with a lack of faith, and ends as they are about to enter the land of Canaan.

Psalm 104

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

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 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 in response to issues within the Corinthian church, in particular factions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God's grace. 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 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, June 4, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1- 2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

389 Spirit of the Living God

Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Galatians 5:16

F Bb6 D/A Gm F/C C7 F

1. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the
 2. Soul of heav - en, heart of God, wash o - ver me. Soul of heav - en,
 3. Ho - ly pres - ence, love di - vine, cast out my fear. Ho - ly pres - ence,

1 2 3 4 5

Bb6 D/A Gm F/C Bb/C C7 F Bb F G/F

liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,
 heart of God, wash o - ver me. Cleanse me, teach me, hold me,
 love di - vine, cast out my fear. Shield me, free me, call me,

6 7 8 9 10 11

C/E Dm7 C F Bb6 D/A Gm F/C Bb/C C7 F

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.
 reach me. Soul of heav - en, heart of God, wash o - ver me.
 lead me. Ho - ly pres - ence, love di - vine, cast out my fear.

12 13 14 15 16

Optional segue to "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart." No transition is necessary.

Irregular meter
 IVERSON

MUSIC: Daniel Iverson

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, stanza 1; Lowell Alexander, stanzas 2, 3

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BY HIS SPIRIT - A Worship Sequence

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Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

270

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Isa. 38:14; Rom. 8:26; 12:4-5; John 15:1-5

1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:

Carl P. Daw, Jr., wrote this text for The Hymnal 1982 (Episcopal), and expressly for the tune Bridegroom. Born and educated in England, composer Peter Cutts has served as music director for churches in Massachusetts and on the faculty of Andover Newton Theological School.

Tune: BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6.
 Peter Cutts, 1969

O God of Love, O God of Peace

Isa. 2:2-4

Henry W. Baker, 1861; alt.

1 O God of love, O God of peace, make wars through-out the
2 Re - mem-ber, God, your works of old, the won - ders that our
3 Whom shall we trust, O God, but you? For you are con - stant,

world to cease; The wrath of hu - man wrong re - strain:
peo - ple told; Heal ev - ery mal - ice, harm, and pain:
strong, and true. None ev - er called on you in vain:

Give peace, O God, give peace a - gain!

Both words and music of this hymn were composed by Henry W. Baker. A priest of the Church of England, Baker was the first committee chair for Hymns Ancient and Modern, which sold sixty million copies in fifty years.

Tune: HESPERUS L.M.
(QUEBEC)
Henry W. Baker, 1854