

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*

+ † +

Sunday, July 16, 2023
7th Sunday after Pentecost

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** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on **Our YouTube Channel**
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

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[®] (Unison)

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

HANDBELL PRELUDE

*"Little David Play on Your Harp"
"Steal Away to Jesus"*

arranged by Cota

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"This is My Father's World"

*♪ Red #65
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 65*

Leader: Praise is due to God, who answers prayers.

Whose deeds overwhelm us, and who forgives our transgressions.

People: By awesome deeds God answers us with deliverance.

God is our hope and salvation.

Leader: Come and give worship to the one who makes the gateways of the morning
and the evening shout for joy.

**People: We come to worship the one who enriches the earth and provides for the
people.**

**With all the pastures, hills, meadows, and valleys we join together in
shouting and singing for joy.**

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 have gathered to find release from the cares of life which sap our energy and depress our spirits. We have come seeking deeper roots for our faith and the ability to survive and thrive amid life's thorny pathways. We open all the hidden places of our lives to the light of God's forgiving love, that we might be cleansed, healed, and set free from sin. God knows our need for this time of confession.

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

All-knowing God, we know you understand us more deeply than we understand ourselves. You know how much the cares of this life weigh us down. Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted. We take so much for granted, failing to value the wonder of life all around us, the gift of family and friends, the amazing reality of your Spirit dwelling in us. We want to be like good soil, receiving the seed of your word with understanding that nourishes roots of trust and joy. Free us from all that keeps us from bearing fruit for you. 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[®] (Leader)

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we have the opportunity to grow in understanding and in the joy of serving others in Christ's name. The Spirit of life sets us free from our narrow concerns to celebrate the good within and around us. Life is transformed by our new attitude of gratitude. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: O Lord, open our lips
People: **And our mouths shall show forth your praise.**

***SUNG PRAISE**

"Rain Down"

W&R # 444
James Cortez, arr. by John Carter
One License #A-728042

**Rain down, rain down,
rain down. your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.**

**Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.**

{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

Old Testament from the Torah ("The Law" one of the Five Books of Moses):

[Genesis 25:19-34](#)

New Testament Letter: [Romans 8:1-11](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel ("Good News" of Jesus Christ): [Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"If You're Happy and You Know It"

Public Domain

**Vs. 1 If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands
If you're happy and you know it
Then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands**

Vs. 2 If you're happy and you know it, shout "AMEN"

Vs. 3 If you're happy and you know it, do them both

SERMON

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) "Apostles' 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 was 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.**

{Please be seated for the Healing Rite}

ORDER FOR HEALING

{The Rite of Healing is a time when we as a Christian family of faith gather to be in love, support, and care for one another, as a prayerful community. We seek healing and wholeness in body, mind, spirit, and relationship. Our prayers may be for ourselves, someone we know, or someone we heard about in the news media, for we desire healing and wholeness for all in our world. We trust in God's will and wisdom in answering our prayers.

"Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." (James 5:17).}

Leader: Christ promises to reach out to all people with healing grace and, through the Holy Spirit, endows the church with many gifts to become instruments of healing to all who hurt in body, in mind, in spirit, and in relationships. Upon this promise and commission, the church is entrusted with the ministry of laying on of hands, that through this sign those who suffer may be in touch with the power that brings wholeness.

PRAYER FOR ANOINTING

{A prayer offered over the oil used for anointing during the rite of healing}.

Leader: O God, as the apostles anointed many who were sick and you healed them, so may your Holy Spirit come on us and on this oil, that those who receive this anointing in repentance and faith may be made well in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

INVITATION TO A TIME OF PRAYER

Leader: Let us focus our minds and hearts on the healing love and power of the living Christ.

HEALING PRAYERS (Four Options)

{There is no one way to come to God in prayer. We offer more than one way to participate in prayers of healing in order to better meet the spiritual diversity of those gathered for worship, and our preferences and needs change throughout our spiritual lives. You may participate in more than one of the following}.

ORDER FOR LAYING ON OF HANDS (Option 1)

“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them....” (James 4:14).}

For those preferring this option, we invite you to come forward and sit in the first pew. One of our healing team pairs will pray for persons one at a time (or you may come forward as a couple or as a family). Let them know your name and if you have a particular healing prayer request or would just like a general prayer for healing. The prayer team will then place their hands on you (i.e. head/shoulders/back), pray for you, and then anoint your head with oil. After which you may depart.

If you are not able to come forward, allow an usher to know, as prayer teams are more than happy to come to you.

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER (Option 2)

We invite you to use the ritual of lighting a candle for your prayer. Simply come forward and use one of the match sticks to light a candle for healing and wholeness. If there are multiple persons for whom you are lifting up in prayer, you are certainly welcome to use additional candles for each person. You may wish to softly speak their name as you light the candle. You may also wish to pause and offer a silent prayer to God for them, for yourself, or for whomever you are praying.

KNEELING PRAYER (Option 3)

You are invited to come forward and kneel at the chancel rail to offer prayers of healing for yourself and/or for others.

REMAINING IN YOUR PEW (Option 4)

For those who do not come forward for any of the other three options, we invite you to pray for yourself and/or pray for those who come forward for healing and wholeness in your life and in theirs.

Picture those you bring to Jesus in prayer, with Him, whole not broken. May you know that what God sees in you first is not your illness, your mortal limitation, or your sin; God sees you first as His holy and precious child, created in His image, and He longs for you to be healed and whole - body, mind, spirit, and relationship - through this rite of healing, may you too see yourself through the eyes of the Divine.

HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

NCH #425

One License #A-728042

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 "*Kum Ba Yah*" (*Come By Here*)

African-American Spiritual

**Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!**

**Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ②

Leader: God's Word has been sown among us.

People: We are the soils, receiving seeds of truth.

Leader: The harvest depends on our accepting the Word, letting it take root, and getting rid of the weeds.

People: What we offer God is a small return on God's investment in us.

Leader: We give the first and best of all that God has given us.

People: Let us give with joy.

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://www.sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) ([Click Here](#)), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

ORGAN OFFERTORY

"The Healing Hand of God"

an original piece by Franklin Ritter

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“O Bless the Gifts”

♩ Blue #817

Text: Samuel Longfellow; Music: Twila Paris

**O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Your hand.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** ^② *(Leader)*

O God, accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's mission. You have given us life and guidance for living. You have made us partakers of your own Spirit. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word. May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundant harvest for your kingdom. **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: Hear the parable of the sower.
Learn from the teachings of Jesus.

**People: Let us sow our lives in the faith of Christ,
And not on the barren path, on rocks, or amongst thorns.**

Leader: Nurture your discipleship that you have depth of root.
Nourish your life in the spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith.

**People: We go out to share the Good News of Christ with our world.
We seek to bear abundant good fruit for our Lord.**

ALL: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♩ Red #558

Public Domain

***SENDING HYMN**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

♩ Red #61

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

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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 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑧ 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: 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 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, July 16, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34 *and* Psalm 119:105-112 *or* Isaiah 55:10-13 *and* Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Genesis

The book of Genesis (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). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

Psalm 65

This is an OT hymn of praise, offered to God, for God has redeemed the people and sustains our lives here on earth. It is believed that the occasion of Israel experiencing a good harvest (or repeated good harvests) was the inspiration for the singing of this hymn.

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 Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

Next Sunday, July 23, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a *and* Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 *or* Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 *or* Isaiah 44:6-8 *and* Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

His World

MALTBY D. BABCOCK, 1901

S. M. D.

TERRA PATRIS
Melody by FRANKLIN L. SHEPPARD, 1915
Arr. EDWARD SHIPPEN BARNES, 1926*In moderate time and graceful rhythm*

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-tening ears,
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, The birds their car-ols raise,
3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for-get

All na-ture sings, and round me rings The mu-sic of the spheres.
The morn-ing light, the lil-y white, De-clare their Mak-er's praise.
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world: He shines in all that's fair; In the
This is my Fa-ther's world: The bat-tle is not done; Je-

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ery-where.
sus who died shall be sat-is-fied, And earth and heaven be one. A-MEN.

Music arrangement by Edward Shippen Barnes. Used by permission.

Words from "Thoughts for Every-Day Living." Copyright, 1901, by Charles Scribner's Sons.

For the Fruit of All Creation

425

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in 1970, it became popular in many countries and can be found set to various tunes.

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
Welsh traditional melody
 Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, Dublin, 1784
 Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906
 For another harmonization, see 82

God the Father

His Eternity and Majesty

YIGDAL (LEONI)

DANIEL BEN JUDAH, 14th century
Revised version of *The Yigdal*

6. 6. 8. 4. D.

Hebrew Melody

Majestically

1. The God of Abra - ham praise, All prais - ed be His Name,
2. His spir - it flow - eth free, High sur - ging where it will:
3. He hath e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;

Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same!
In proph-et's word He spoke of old— He speak - eth still.
His love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.

The one e - ter - nal God, Ere aught that now ap - pears;
Es - tab - lished is His law, And change-less it shall stand,
Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be His Name,

The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same! A-MEN.