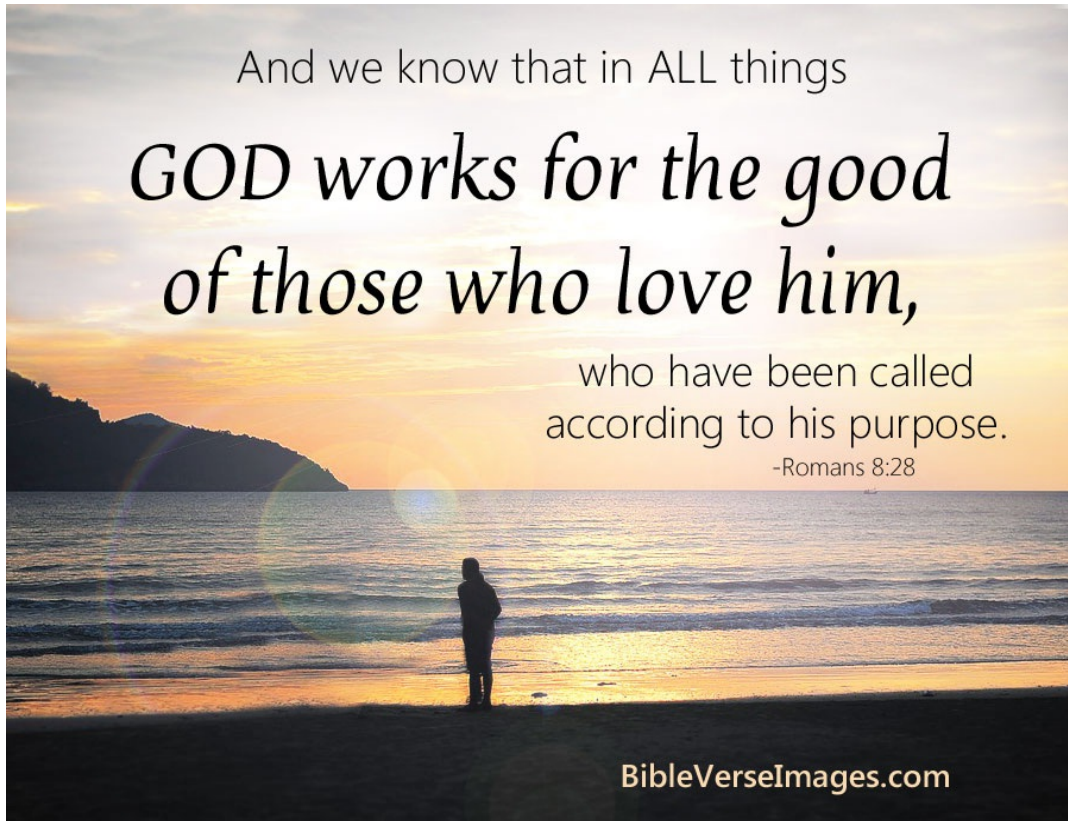


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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 30, 2023
9th 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 ⑩ (Unison)

Father God Almighty, full of wisdom, thank you for sharing your wisdom as you see a need. Help us to be receptive to your wisdom and apply it to our individual lives and to the life of our congregation, United Church of Christ of Robesonia. In the name of the Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"He Hideth My Soul"

*by William J. Kirkpatrick;
arranged for piano by Victor Labenske*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

W&R #48

One License #A-728042

*INVOCATION

Leader: We worship 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 119*

Leader: Your decrees are wonderful;

People: Therefore I obey them with all my heart.

Leader: When your word is opened it gives light;

People: It gives understanding to the simple.

Leader: Turn to me and be gracious to me,

People: As you always do to those who love your name.

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)

Holy God, we long for the ability to obey your commandments. Your commandments are wise beyond measure. They work. When we follow your commandments and your wisdom, things fall into place and everyone is a winner. Order our footsteps in your word; let no sin have dominion over us. Thank you, gracious one. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

♪ Red #226

*John Greenleaf Whittier, Frederick C. Maker
Public Domain*

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

People, God the Father has mercy upon us. God the Son has mercy upon us. God the Holy Spirit has mercy upon us. Even when we sin, God's mercy and love is stronger than the sin. Let us accept this mercy and love with open hearts and minds.

*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

The Old Testament Reading: [1 Kings 3:5-12](#)
The New Testament Letter: [Romans 8: 26-39](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

W&R #502
public domain

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

"Knowledge and Wisdom Versus Love"

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)* *United Church of Christ Statement of Faith* ①
(Section One about God)

**All: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through
prophets and apostles.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

{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 *"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 ⑩

Leader: Be our vision, O Lord.

People: Yes, we look to you for vision and wisdom.

Leader: You are ever with us;

People: and we are ever with you.

Leader: Inspire us now

People: as we respond to your provision.

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}.

PIANO OFFERTORY *"Meditation on How Great Thou Art (Then Sings My Soul)"*

arranged for piano by John Carter

{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 ⑩ (Leader)**

Abundantly generous God, we ask you to bless these gifts which you have provided for us and now we return them to you. We acknowledge that, on our own, we could not sustain ourselves. It is your rain and your sun and your wisdom and your graciousness that serves us. In return, we are your servants as modeled by the servant, Jesus!

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: We have asked for God's wisdom.

People: We have received God's wisdom.

Leader: We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;

People: the moon shines full at his command and all the stars obey.

Leader: We look down at the flowers and the little creatures.

People: We look skyward to thank the creator.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

W&R #31
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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 - 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

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

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 30, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28 *and* Psalm 105:1-11, 45b *or* Psalm 128 *or* 1 Kings 3:5-12 *and* Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Book of First Kings

During the Middle Ages, the Book of Kings was divided into two parts. The first book provides a history of the Israelite people and their theological struggles from the death of King David (970 B.C.), through the reign of King Solomon, to the division of Israel into the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah, to the death of King Ahab, to the rule of his son Ahaziah (850 B.C.).

Psalm 119

This is an OT wisdom song. This song gives praise to God's law and the teaching of it. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet. With 176 verses, it is also the longest psalm.

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, August 6, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 *and* Psalm 17:1-7, 15 *or* Isaiah 55:1-5 *and* Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

48 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G Em $\frac{G}{B}$ D

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

G C Am D Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Be Thou My Vision

502

Eb
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Ab
Bb
Ab
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Cm
Bb
Eb

1 Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word,
 3 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Bb
 $\frac{F7}{C}$
 $\frac{Bb}{D}$
Eb
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Ab
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Cm
Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Ab
 $\frac{Ab}{C}$
 $\frac{Ab}{Eb}$
Eb
 $\frac{Gm7}{D}$
Cm7
Cm
Gm7
Ab
Bb

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Eb
 $\frac{Bb}{D}$
Cm
 $\frac{Eb}{Bb}$
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
 $\frac{Fm}{Ab}$
Ab
Fm7
Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931); versed Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935)
 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)
 Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

SLANE
 10.10.10.10.

31 I Sing the Almighty Power of God

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Db Eb Ab

1 I sing the al-might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes your glo - ries known;

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db Fm Ebsus Eb Ab

that spread the flow-ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y skies.
 he formed the crea-tures with his word and then pro-nounced them good.
 and clouds a - rise and tem-pests blow by or - der from your throne;

Ab $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ Ab Db Eb Ab $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ Ab Db Eb

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how your won-ders are dis-played wher - e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor-rows life from you is ev - er in your care,

N.C. $\frac{A\flat}{C}$ Fm Eb Ab Db Fm Ebsus Eb Ab

the moon shines full at his com-mand and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery - where that I may be, you, God, are pres-ent there.