

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

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

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



*Welcome to our
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

+ † +

**Sunday, August 18, 2024
13th 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 and 3rd Sunday of the month (from September to June), 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. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

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 from the Sunday after Labor Day to the Sunday before Memorial Day.

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



www.sprucc.org

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



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

*{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)*

God of the Trinity, we thank you for wisdom. What is wisdom? Does it come from you? How do we acquire wisdom? By definition, wisdom is the combination of knowledge, experience and good judgment. We believe that all good gifts come from you. Help us to explore the relationship between you and this wisdom. In your Son's name, we pray. Amen.

This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

PIANO PRELUDE

"Softly and Tenderly"

*Will Thompson;
Arranged for piano by Tom Fettke*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

W&R #48

Public Domain

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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 *adapted from Psalm 34*

Leader: Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,

People: for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

Leader: Come, children, and listen to me;

People: I will teach you reverence for the Lord.

Leader: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

People: Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

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)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Let us check our tongues and lips. If you were giving grades for our tongues and lips, what would be the grade? My tongue and lips may be controlled at certain times when my heart is right. But when my heart becomes a bit twisted, how many people have I hurt? Please don't answer that God. Together, we seek your forgiveness. Amen.

*SILENCE

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

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Unison)

Beloved, let us check our tongues and lips. Did God tighten them? Let us check our hearts. Did God increase the flow of love? May it be so! Let us accept the forgiveness that flows from the heart of God!

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!

People: **We praise you, Triune God!**

*SONG OF PRAISE

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

W&R #136

Heber & Dykes

{please be seated}

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Kayla Aulenbach Gordon

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 Hebrew Lesson: [Proverbs 9:1-6](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Ephesians 5:15-20](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: [John 6:51-58](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Awake, O Sleeper"

WOV #745

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Music: Public Domain

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BLESSING OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO BE GIVEN TO THE CONRAD WEISER SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

BLESSING OF ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL Public, Private, Sunday School, and
Vacation Bible School

MINI-MESSAGE *"How the Contents of the School Cases Relate to God"*

{Children may return to their pews}

CHILDREN'S SONG

"I Have the Love of Jesus"

Unknown

I have the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart,
Down in my heart, down in my heart;
I have the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.

SERMON

"Wisdom and Relationship"

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 Two and Three: Jesus and the Holy Spirit)

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

{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: Merciful God,

People: receive our 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.

Do not let us fall 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*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION

*first four lines of words from ♪ Red #258
William Walsham How*

Leader: What does wisdom say about sharing our money?

People: Whatever is left over when we pay the bills?

Leader: Do we have anything left over after we pay the bills?

People: True. Is there a better way to share our paycheck with God's kingdom on earth?

Leader: Some of us find that giving to God, before anything else is paid, proves to be a workable way.

People: Do you mean God blesses us and stretches our money?

Leader: So it is with me. I have heard it works that way for other people; maybe for some of you.

People: Sounds like upside-down wisdom but it is worth a try.

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}.

VOCAL OFFERTORY

"I Am the Bread of Life"

Suzanne Toolan, arr. by Betty Polkingham

Sung by Terry Pastor, Denise Unger, Brian Keppley, Steve Miller, Ray Trone

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Doxology"

♪ Red #551

George Bourgeois; Public Domain

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Great and glorious God, through your Holy Spirit and your upside-down wisdom, we bring these gifts before you. Bless them and stretch them for the good of our congregation and the people near and far.

People: 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 *(Leader)*

Bless our fellowship as we chat with each other and enjoy refreshments. May wisdom escort us to the door and into the world - not the world's wisdom but holy wisdom. May we try to make our corner of the world kinder and more full of the Holy Spirit.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Christ Beside Me"

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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.}*

POSTLUDE

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: UCCRobeson-Guest

Password: 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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 - ❶ United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 - ❷ *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ❸ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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 - ❿ 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
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Staff & Leadership

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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary (Interim): Terry Pastor

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

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 growth of the Christian church, as we go out into the world and share God's Good News with both our words and actions, and invite others into the church of Jesus 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 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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, August 18, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 *and* Psalm 111 *or* Proverbs 9:1-6 *and* Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20;
John 6:51-58

Proverbs

The final version of the Book of Proverbs (OT) was edited in the 6th century B.C. and later. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon are traditionally attributed to King Solomon, who ruled from about 967-927 B.C. Although perhaps some of these sayings originated with Solomon, Proverbs is a collection of mostly two-line sayings of the sages (a social class of those who served as counselors, teachers, and bureaucrats).

Psalm 34

In 1 Samuel 21:10-15, King David feigned madness before King Achish. This is an OT song of thanksgiving to God written by King David for escaping Achish. It instructs the community to know the goodness of God.

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 25, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 *and* Psalm 84 *or* Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 *and* Psalm 34:15-22;
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

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

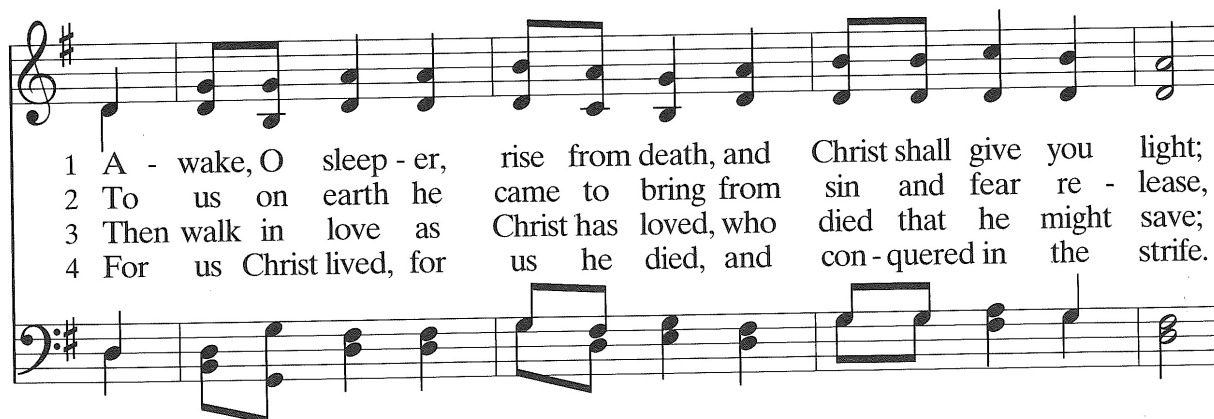
al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh melody; harm. John Roberts (1822-1877)

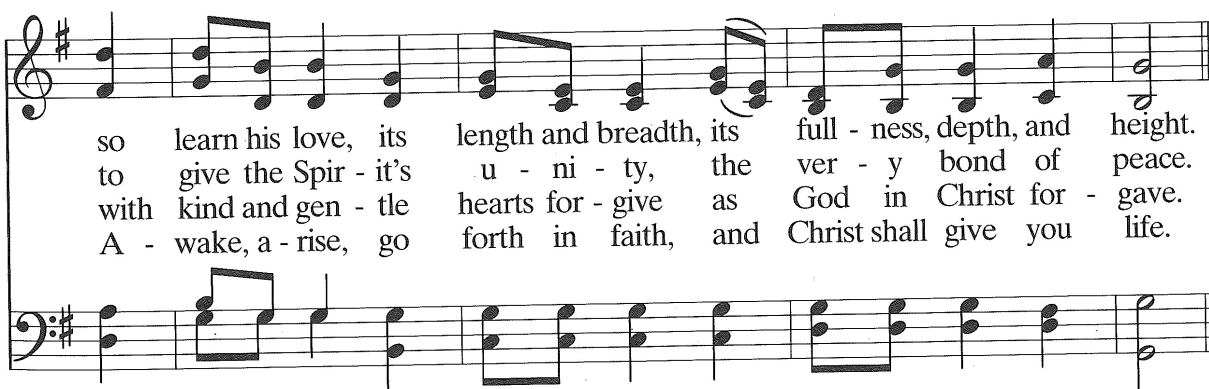
ST. DENIO
 11.11.11.11.

Awake, O Sleeper

745



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
4 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984
Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House

AZMON
CM

Christ Beside Me

Unison C

1 Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me,
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me,
 4 Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me,

Christ be - hind me— King of my heart;
 Christ all a - round me— shield in the strife;
 Christ be on all tongues tell - ing of me;
 Christ be - hind me— King of my heart;

Christ with - in me, Christ be - low me,
 Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my sit - ting,
 Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that see me,
 Christ with - in me, Christ be - low me,

Christ a - bove me— nev - er to part.
 Christ in my ris - ing— light of my life.
 in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.
 Christ a - bove me— nev - er to part.

WORDS: James Quinn, S.J. (1919-); adapt. from St. Patrick's Breastplate
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

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