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

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Sunday, August 25, 2024 14th 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....

www.sprucc.org

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 spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on Our YouTube Channe

Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.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



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)

Holy and Gracious God, today we give thanks for the joy of music shared with us by Pastor Bob. We thank you, Creator God, for the gift of music you included when you created the world - the rhythm and the sounds of the ocean, the chirping pattern of birds, the chirping of crickets, the croaking of frogs, the singing of angelic voices, the technology of virtual choirs. We thank you for creating Pastor Bob and his steadfast and loving wife, Sue. Amen.

The hymns and the scripture were chosen by Pastor Bob Masenheimer. Pastor Bob will read the first and second lessons of scripture. Pastor Ben Motz prepared and will present the tribute to Pastor Bob. Otherwise, this service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

VOCAL PRELUDE "Kum Bay Yah" African-American Spiritual

Soloist: Lily Ostimchuk

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Processional Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" \$\int Blue #589\$
One License #A-728042

*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 84

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

People: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;

Leader: my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

People: Even the sparrow finds a home, Leader: and the swallow a nest for herself.

People: where she may lay her young at your altars,

Leader: O Lord of hosts, my King and my God!

People: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise!

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)

Hear us, O Lord. Tune your ear to us as we confess the commissions and omissions that may have badly affected the moments and even lives of persons you created and love. We trust your forgiveness. We ask you to bring something good from these moments of unkindness. Amen.

*SILENCE

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness (Unison)

Beloved, we can believe that we are forgiven by God. Forgiving ourselves may take another request for God's mercy. Let us be alert for preparations by God to bring good from our transgressions.

*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

RAISE "Holy, Holy, Holy" Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! W&R #136 Heber & Dykes

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

{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 Hebrew Lesson: Genesis 45:1-8

The New Testament Letter: 1 John 4:7-19

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

♬ Blue #352
Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

{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

"The Burning Question"

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: 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

Leader: Did you know that spiritual health and mental health are connected to our giving

to God's kingdom on earth?

People: How so?

Leader: God is pleased when we trust God's ways. **People: When we trust, we put worries aside?**

Leader: Yes, our finances work better when we place God at the top of our budget no

matter how small or big our budget is.

People: Yes, we have found that to be true.

Leader: Praise God for your faithfulness!

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 <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org** (<u>Click Here</u>), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" Sung by our Choir

Text: Numbers 6:24-26
Music: Peter C. Lutkin

{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: Bless these gifts, Creator and Sustainer of the world. Guide their use for the good

of the church and for the good of the world.

People: Amen.

{Please be seated}

Order for a Time of Passage and Farewell **

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ROBERT G. MASENHEIMER

Greeting (Leader)

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with a friend, who is not leaving our church family, but who is retiring from a ministry in which he has served our Lord and us so incredibly giftedly, fully, lovingly, creatively, and faithfully well.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*RECOGNITION OF THE END OF A MINISTRY

Leader:

On February 24, 2019, this local church called the Rev. Robert Masenheimer to serve as our Minister of Music. .

Minister of Music:

I thank the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last five and a half years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People:

We receive your thankfulness and offer forgiveness. We express our gratitude for your time among us as our Minister of Music. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will continue to live on through us and through this church, which you have served so faithfully well.

Minister of Music:

I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and this time of retiring are pleasing to God.

People:

We offer you our encouragement in the unfolding of the future God has for you.

Minister of Music:

I offer you encouragement for the continued ministry here, for the relationship with others who will come to serve after me, and for the unfolding of the future God has for you.

*REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION & GIVING AND SHARING SYMBOLS

*Prayer (Leader)

Let us pray.....

O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with the Rev. Robert Masenheimer in worship, in learning, in service. We pray that Pastor Bob and Sue will be aware of your Spirit's guidance in the unfolding future before them, in the name of Jesus our Savior and Lord we pray.

Amen.

*Blessing (Leader)

May you be surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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.

*PRAYER FOR THE LUNCHEON AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW

Leader: Providing God, bless the food and the fellowship we are going to enjoy in honor of Pastor Bob and Sue. Bless them as they have a more relaxed life. Thank you for your sun and rain and all of the hands that planted and nourished and harvested and prepared and will serve the food for the table. In the name of our unseen but real quest, Jesus.

People: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

*Red #558*Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

☐ Blue #429
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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: UCCRobesonia-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

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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- United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
- 2 Led By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- @ Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
- 3 Reprinted with permission from Sundays and Seasons. (2023). Augsburg Fortress.
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- ② Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.
- © 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
- ® 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
- The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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Staff & Leadership

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Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

Office Secretary: Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

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 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

Joshua

Following the death of Moses, Joshua becomes the leader of the Jewish people. The OT book of Joshua tells the story of the Israelites who since having been freed from Egyptian slavery, have been following Moses to the "Promised Land." In Joshua, they make the final part of this journey, crossing the Jordan River into the land of Canaan, the land promised to them by God.

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, September 1, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost

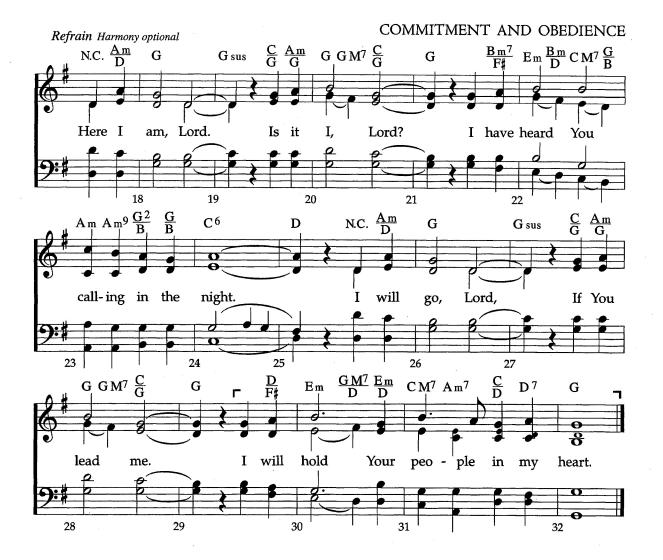
Song of Solomon 2:8-13 *and* Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 *or* Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 *and* Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

589 Here I Am, Lord

"Whom shall I send?" I said, "Here am I. Send me." Isaiah 6:8



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O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus 352

How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Ephesians 3:18



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429 They'll Know We Are Christians

By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

