St. Paul's United Church of Christ Zion United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551 St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

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



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

† † †

Sunday, February 20, 2022 7th Sunday after Epiphany

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 very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. Due to the COVID pandemic, for the safety of children, we are currently not offering a nursery during worship. Normally, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

For the safety of children, we are not offering Junior Worship during the pandemic. Normally, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs, on the $1^{st} \& 2^{nd}$ Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons.

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

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

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

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

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 St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

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; $I = Red Hymnal Page; \square = Blue Hymnal Page}$







Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on <u>St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel</u> Facebook Live (St. Paul's) at <u>https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/</u> - Live or Watch & Listen Later Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later Zoom: Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-301-715-8592) - Live Only If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office @spruce.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.

Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed. They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Softly and Tenderly"

Will Thompson, arr. For piano by Dale Wood

GREETING AND WELCOME

{To center your hearts and minds, you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently during or before the Prelude}

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ⁽²⁾ (Silently Before Worship Begins)

Loving God, you bring light to our days and hope to our hearts. We draw near to you as survivors of another week, grateful for your care. You have provided for us, preserved our lives, and invited us once more to this time of prayer. Now we would be still before you, leaving behind our distress and anger, entrusting our weaknesses to your empowering spirit. Raise us up to embrace your way of love. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "Your Ways Are Not Our Own"

all verses NCH 170 Used with Permission One License #A-714101 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP²

Leader: Come near to one another and to our God.

Be still before the one who fulfills our hearts' desires.

- People: We believe God is here and will be known by us. Our faith nourishes us as we rest in God's care.
- Leader: Wait patiently, for God will be revealed to us. God is our refuge and our trust.

People: God raises us up and sends us out to serve. Surly God is here and will help us wherever we go.

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 ⁽²⁾ (Leader)

Are we envious because the wicked seem to prosper while righteous people struggle? Are we impatient with those whose ways disappoint us? Do we judge others by standards we ourselves cannot keep? Jesus invites us to examine ourselves, that we may be freed from the oppression of our own attitudes.

*Confession of Sin⁽²⁾ (Unison)

Loving God, we have sinned against you. We have judged and condemned those whose actions offend us. We hesitate to forgive our enemies or make allowances for the behavior of those less fortunate than ourselves. We confess that we do not pray regularly for our friends, much less for our enemies. Our giving is motivated by self-interest as much as by thankfulness and compassion. We admit our failures and ask once more for pardon and renewal, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PRAYER FOR MERCY Leader (spoken): Lor People (sung): Lor Leader (spoken): Ch People (sung): Ch Leader (spoken): Lor People (sung): Lor

"Kyrie" Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

\$Red #518

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON $^{(2)}$ (Leader)

God is merciful and calls on us to offer mercy to those who have wronged us. God forgives and bids us to forgive others. God's love is always available to us, and we are to pass it on. God provides for us; and out of that bounty, we minister to our sisters and brothers. Let us live as people who recognize and appreciate God's gifts. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: The Lord has been made manifest to us. **People: Illumined by the Spirit, we sing to the Lord our praise.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" 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!

{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: <u>Genesis 45:3-15</u> Second Lesson: <u>1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50</u> Leader: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 6:27-38

Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" all verses

Cel #426

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & SONG

- "Praise Him, praise Him, Praise Him in the morning, Praise Him at the noontime. Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him when the sun goes down."
 "Love Him" 2 "Some Him" 4 "Thank Him"
- 2. "Love Him". 3. "Serve Him". 4. "Thank Him".

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.

Creator of neaven 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, dead, and buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven,

5 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.

> [†]The word "catholic" means "*the universal church*" and was the word used in the original version of the Creed. It does not refer here to the particular denomination of the Roman Catholic Church, but rather the whole Christian church of all denominations, the body of Christ, as a universal fellowship.

> > {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: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue violence. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes, and show love to those who are lonely or grieving. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We praise you fr the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom. As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray...

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

OPPORTUNITIES OF OFFERING TIME AND TALENT

Prayer Needs, Joys, Opportunities for Study and Service, and other Announcements

OFFERTORY INVITATION⁽²⁾

Leader: We are abundantly blessed.

- People: In comparison to most of the world's people, we are greatly prosperous with vast opportunities.
- Leader: Our prosperity and opportunities give us joyous reason to be generous.
- People: We can go beyond the expected tithes and offerings required of our spiritual ancestors.
- Leader: We are privileged to offer mercy and help that can transform the lives of others.
- People: Let us give with delight, for the sake of our fellow humankind and God's glory.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS



{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person. A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.

Whether worshiping in person or online,

the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church

is through St. Paul's UCC secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org**. <u>St. Paul's UCC Click Here</u> or Zion UCC's online giving at www.1Zion.org - Zion UCC Click Here

or Zion UCC's online giving at <u>www.1Zion.org</u> - <u>Zion UCC Click Here</u> Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551

or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.

OFFERTORY/ANTHEM "Psalm 42 As the Hart Longs for Flowing Streams" Hal Hopson

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

"I Surrender All" *OFFERTORY RESPONSE

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow, Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me Jesus, take me now. I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ⁽²⁾ (Leader)

O God, receive our joy, along with our gifts. We reach out with this offering to do good in and through your church. May these offerings through our ministries help to bring healing, especially where there has been injustice, anger, jealousy, and strife. Through our shared life in this community of faith, create in us the image of one who dwells in heaven. Let us share with the whole world the blessings we receive from your hand. 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.

*COMMISSION²

Leader:	Love your enemies and do good. Judge not, lest you wish to be judged.						
People:	As we want people to treat us, we commit We want to forgive, as God forgives us.	ourselves to tr	eat them.				
Leader:	God will raise you up to new life. Be still before God and wait patiently each da	v.					
People: God is our refuge and our salvation. We recommit our ways to God as disciples of Christ.							
ALL:	Amen.						
*BENEDICTION							
*THREE FO	Please remember to wear a mask whenever	r singing}	<i>\$Red</i> #558				
*Sending I	HYMN "Giver of Life, Where'er They Be"	all verses	NCH # 603				

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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

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited to share in a time of Refreshments and Fellowship in the downstairs Miller Fellowship Hall

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.
- 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.
- ⁹Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- [®]The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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

Link to Website's Upcoming Events



WWW.PSEC.ORG OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA



February 20, 2022

PSEC SPRING ANNUAL MEETING West Chester University SAVE THESE DATES June 2-4, 2022

for a time of soulful recovery and revival amid the exhaustion created by year's Annual Spring Conference meeting. We intent to meet in person "Living the Jesus Life—Contemplatives in Action" is the theme of this

(ministering to the needs of our communities) unite us for a weekend of Spiritual practices (prayer, meditation, scripture study) and active living the pandemic and the new realities to which we've had to adapt. living together the Jesus life.

Trauma Training—Saturday, February 26th

tailed descriptions below). One in the morning and one in the afterexcellent trainings in one day, on how to deal with trauma (see de-PSEC, in partnership with Lakeside Global Institute, offer two noon, both via zoom.

The cost for both is \$30.00.

Registration is limited to 100 individuals.

Register at: https://psectrauma.eventbrite.com

An Overview of Trauma-Informed Care TRAUMA 101 9:00-11:00 am

Basic Skills of Trauma-Informed Care TRAUMA 102 12:00-2:00 pm

Thank You!

From Our Interim Associate Conference Minister for Search & Call

infected our bodies and society left no part of the world untouched. I had no When I arrived on February 22, 2020, I had no idea what was ahead. I was idea we would experience a major shift. What seemed familiar continued to responding to a new call in a new ministry. AND THEN...the pandemics that be God's everlasting presence and love through it all.

moment in time. While we are not together, I offer these words with the Farewell and recognize the end with a shared liturgy that speaks to a When a pastor ends an authorized ministry, we share a Service of deepest gratitude of my heart ...

grateful for the moments when my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, me these last 2 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown "I thank the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of I carry with me all that I have learned here." I am truly grateful.

sense of humor, a love for the church and I believe he is indeed called to this ob in their discernment for you to call Rev. McLemore. He has a wonderful I have enjoyed my time with Rev. Kevin McLemore. Your new Associate Conference Minister is such a gift! The Search Committee did a wonderful ministry.

have doubted the suggestion, they did it anyway. They let down their nets in most meaningful words in this portion of the text, is when Jesus told Simon, professionals who fish for a living, to move their nets. The place where they This past Sunday, the Gospel of Luke was the story of Jesus telling those were placing those nets just weren't bringing in the fish. While they may a new place and in risking a new thing, a miracle happened. For me, the "Do not be afraid!"

God's movement into a new season. Remember, this journey is a spiritual transitions into the future are not full of fear but of great anticipation of As you all move into this next chapter together, move forward with gratitude, love, courage, justice, peace and joy. When we are grateful, practice every day.

I am grateful and am celebrating with you. The Gospel is calling us into our new seasons! Thanks be to God!

Rev. Dr. Susan Minasian Blessings and Peace, Susan

About Today

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world.

In Greek "phan" is "shine" or "manifest," and "epi" is "upon." The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

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

Green – symbolizing the season of mission – the incarnate Christ has been made manifest to us on Epiphany and we are to go into the world and share his Good News.

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 C**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Luke.

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 Christians consider the most central books of the Bible.

This Sunday, February 20 -- Lectionary Reading for Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-15	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38

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 37

This OT song, says to trust in the Lord and wait patiently for him to act. This psalm vividly contrasts the wicked person with the righteous.

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 fractions 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 Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, February 27 -- Lectionary Reading for 8th Sunday after Epiphany

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Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36
EXOUUS 54.29-55	1 Sallii 99	2 Communans 5.12-4.2	LUKE 9.20-30

All Verses

Your Ways Are Not Our Own

Lavon Bayler, 1988, rev. 1993 Luke 6:17-38; Rom. 12:9-21 1 Your ways are not our own, 0 gra-cious God most high, 2 Christ teach-es us bless the ones who curse and harm, to 3 Yet. we can - not buse in ex cuse a an - y form. 4 How shall we show your love, par - don be lieve? your to 5 For - give-ness is ceiv-ing, our re giv - ing, too. joy, we would fol - low Yet in your paths and on your love re - ly. То turn the oth - er cheek when struck, at - tack-ers to dis - arm. For chil - dren all are of your care, and love must be our norm. You bid us share as we are blessed and give as re - ceive. we Keep us from judg-ments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

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MUSIC: Johann G. Naegeli; arranged by Lowell Mason

S.M.

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Giver of Life, Where'er They Be

Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1888; alt.



Frederick Hosmer wrote this hymn for Easter services at the Church of Unity in Cleveland, Ohio, where he served as minister for many years. Hosmer wrote more than fifty hymns. Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT 8.8.8. with alleluias Melchior Vulpius, 1609