United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

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

# +†+

September 18, 2022 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 a.m.

# 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. For safety, during the COVID pandemic we temporarily ceased having supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, on Sunday, September 11, 2022. In the meantime, parents who would like to do so, are welcome to watch their own children in the nursery, where a closed circuit TV is located, so that you can still see and hear the worship service.

#### Junior Worship

For safety, during the pandemic we temporarily ceased offering Junior Worship. We will resume Junior Worship on Sunday, September 11, 2022. The option of Junior Worship is offered downstairs, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn 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;  $J = Red Hymnal Page; J = Blue Hymnal Page}$ 







#### Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on <u>St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel</u> <u>Facebook Live</u> (St. Paul's) at <u>https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/</u> - Live or Watch & Listen Later <u>Phone Stream</u> 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@spruce.org

# 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**

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**<sup>(Unison)</sup>

Gracious God, into this holy temple, we have come. This is not our church but yours. We cannot claim our world; it is a trust from your hand. Our lives, our health, our length of days call forth our stewardship. We are managers, not owners, so we come to you now to give account and seek your further commands. Help us, O God of our salvation. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE		Softly and Tenderly"	arranged for piano by D	arranged for piano by Dale Wood					
	{Those who are able, please rise}								
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN		"Lord Speak to Me	, That I May Speak"	Red #256 Public Domain					
*INVOCATION Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit. ALL: Amen.									
Leader: God welcomes those whose hearts are sick.									
	God's invitation comes to people whose joy is gone.								
People:	People: We bring all our pain and unresolved anger.								
	We come in all our confusion to seek answers.								
Leader: There is balm in Gilead. There is a physician who heals.									
		ist is our mediator, heal							
People: We cry out to God for deliverance from our sin.									

We cry out for relief from our suffering.

# 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)

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and all are not saved." We resist the great physician, for healing requires change and we have not been ready to give up our favorite vices. We have not been eager to do things God's way. Join me as we seek forgiveness.

#### \***CONFESSION OF SIN** ② (Unison)

O God, we have not managed well the wealth of the earth, which is our trust from you. We have modified your commands to suit our own egos and desires. We have wasted resources while hoarding for our own use what is meant for all to enjoy. Our concerns are narrow and our compassion is weak. We are restless and unfulfilled for we have not tried your ways. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us into your new day. Amen.

#### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

\*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY "Lord, Thy Mercy, Now Entreating"

Red #216 Public Domain

Lord, Thy mercy now entreating, Low before Thy throne we fall; Our misdeeds to Thee confessing, On Thy Name we humbly call.

### \*Assurance of Pardon ② (Leader)

Let the confusion and despair of our former ways melt into trust in a God who cares. Let go of dishonesty and false riches to accept the wealth of knowing God and responding in faithfulness. God's gift to us is a quiet and peaceable life, full of dignity and godliness. Such acceptance and inner peace enliven our active care for others and our sharing in the joy of service. **Amen.** 

### \*CALL TO PRAISE 10

Leader: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

People: O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you and sing you our praise.

**\*SUNG PRAISE** *"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"* 

Blue #597 One License #A-728042

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee, Filled with messages from Thee. (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>Amos 8:4-7</u> Second Lesson: <u>1 Timothy 2:1-7</u> Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: <u>Luke 16:1-13</u> Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

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MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG "God Hears My Prayer"

God, our Father, hears my prayer Anytime and anywhere, He will listen when I pray, Hear the loving words I say.

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) from the Constitution and ByLaws – adapted for liturgical use

We affirm, it is the duty of all members, as disciples of Christ, to take an active part in all the functions of the Church possible, for the glory of God,

and for the uplift of mankind.

This includes:

regular attendance at divine worship services; regular participation in study of Holy Scripture; fervent prayer for the welfare of the Church;

a Family Altar and daily devotions in the home:

careful attention to the religious training of youth;

liberal financial and liberal moral support

toward local maintenance

and benevolent undertakings of the church,

including Our Church's Wider Mission;

obedience to the church's established law and authorities;

untiring zeal in bringing the unchurched under the church's influence;

a spirit of Christian Love toward all her members; and

membership and active participation in the organizations of the Church whenever possible.

Amen.

(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: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.* 

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world. Grant our faithful witness of members of the Priesthood of All Believers. God of grace,

### People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace,

### People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion as that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace,

### People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. God of grace,

### People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace,

### People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace,

### People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us when we pray to say...

### 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.

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION** ②

Leader: As managers for God of the world's resources,

People: we share the hurt of those who are poor, sick, and in mourning.

Leader: Our wealth is meant to bring good news to them in Jesus' name.

People: We invest in the church's outreach, that our money may serve God, not trap us in idolatry.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"How Can I Say Thanks, My Tribute"

by Andrae Crouch

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "God You Give"

*Tune I Blue #597 One License #A-728042* 

Now I come to give myself Give my time and give my wealth. Give my gifts as generously As, O God, you give to me. As, O God, you give to me.

> {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> 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 PRAYER (Leader) 2

Loving God, we give because of your generosity to us. We share because this is your will for us. In faithfulness to our call, we seek to manage the resources you provide for the greatest benefit to humankind. May they bring a bit closer an awareness of your intentions for us and your rule among us. We worship and serve you with all we have. **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: God has delivered and blessed us here.

God will assist us every day as we are open to God's help.

People: We will look to God for guidance and direction. We will seek God's truth for every situation.

Leader: Seek to be faithful in all things, great and small. Acknowledge God's ownership of all you possess.

People: We seek to be honest managers and generous stewards. We are grateful servants of a loving God.

ALL: Amen.

\*BENEDICTION

\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

**\*Sending Hymn** *"More Love to Thee"* 

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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

### \*\*\*\*

#### 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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<sup>(2)</sup> Gathered By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

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- <sup>1</sup> 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
- <sup>®</sup> Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

<sup>•</sup>Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

<sup>®</sup> 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 Eve



# 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 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; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

#### This Sunday, September 18, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13

#### Amos

This OT book is a compilation of the prophet Amos' speeches and accounts about the prophet from between about 786-760 B.C. Throughout the book, Amos calls upon people to remember and adhere to the teachings of justice and righteousness found in scripture and their faith traditions, and declares that, due to the social injustice and religious arrogance of the people of Israel, they will be punished by a total military disaster. The prophecy came true in 722 B.C. when Israel fell to the Assyrians.

#### Psalm 113

This is an OT hymn of praise. In this hymn, we bless and praise God for the wonderful things God does, especially for the poor and needy.

#### Timothy

This epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Paul and is dated around the 60's A.D. Timothy is a minister appointed by Paul. Paul writes from prison to encourage Timothy and the rest of the church to endure suffering for the Gospel. 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 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, September 25, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7         Psalm 146         1 Timothy 6:6-19         Luke 16:19-31					
	Amos 6:1a, 4-	7 I	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

	Save the Date	Saturday, October 29, 3:00pm Dinner/Reception following "The Trouble f've Seen"	Dr. Drew G. I. Hart, who will be speaking on "Changing the Way the Church Views Racism." Dr. Drew G. I. Hart is a professor of theology at Messiah College in Pennsylvania. Beyond teaching and writing his experimene includes pastoring for 10 years; working for an afterschool program in a low-income black	All are welcome! collaborating with local faith-rooted organizers and activity, and advocating and addressing societal challenges from a faith perspective. We hope to see you there!!	Ascension UCC, Norristown welcomes Dr. Drew G. I. Hart back to the area on October 29th at 3:00 pm for <i>"Changing the Way the Church</i> <i>Views Bacism"</i> 1. For more information on to the DSFC website	(psec.org), click on the calendar and then the date of October 29th!	" <i>Thank You"</i> From Illinois	The community at St. John United Church of Christ in Freeport, IL lifts	op a character project for the mission particle in the minute Conference United Church of Christ, and throughout the United Church of Christ, who have sent flood relief buckets, supporting donations, and unending prayers for all of Stephenson County affected by last week's flooding.	The family of UCC Conference Disaster Coordinators gives thanks for the faithful response of St. John UCC, Freeport. As they shared in a recent Facebook post: "When trouble comes to our town, the community at St. John UCC is ready to "stand up" and step forward. We	are proud mission partners with Stephenson County COAD and the Northwest Illinois Chapter American Red Cross, aiding in the flooding recovery in Stephenson County."	If you would like more information about this response, please contact CDC Roger Dart at disaster@ilucc.org.
OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA WWW.PSEC.ORG	CHURCH Communitas		Neighbors in Need 2022 "Behold!"	The Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this topic through a faith lens.	Join us by promoting this year's campaign at your church. Explore the promotional toolkit, which contains a four-week bible study, coloring book, three posters, social media banners, and a leader's guide. These materials will assist you in planning and carrying out the 2022 NIN	campaign. Most churches will collect the offering on October 2nd, 2022, as a part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any	time. Items available at uccresources.com.	Available as print materials or download only: Offering Promo Toolkit (Download Only) Print items for vour church:	Offering Envelope Poster: 11" × 17", glossy finish Limit three posters per order. All items are FREE, with FREE shipping and handling.		Behodi	

256CANONBURY FRANCES R. HAVERGAL, 1872 L.M. ROBERT SCHUMANN, 1839 In moderate time may speak In liv - ing ech - oes of Thy tone; may lead The wan-dering and the wa-vering feet; 1. Lord, speak to me, that I lead me, Lord, that I 2. 0 3. 0 may teach The pre-cious things Thou dost im-part; teach me, Lord, that I 4. 0 fill me with Thy full-ness, Lord, Un - til my ver - y heart o'er-flow 5.0 use me, Lord, use e - ven me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where: As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thy err - ing chil - dren lost and lone. O feed me, Lord, that I may feed Thy hun-gering ones with man-na sweet! And wing my words, that they may reach The hid-dendepths of many a heart. In kin-dling thought and glow-ing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show. Un-til Thy bless - ed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glo - ry share. A-MEN. 253 ST. BEES JOHN B. DYKES, 1862 FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL, 1874 7.7.7.7. In moderate time; solemnly -7 -6 to Thee. Con - se - cra - ted, Lord, be life, and let it 1. Take my Thy love. let them move At the im - pulse of 2. Take my hands, and Al - ways, on - ly, for my King. 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Not a mite would I with-hold. sil - ver and my gold; 4. Take my 5. Take my Thine; It shall be no lon - ger mine. will, and make it pour Thy feet its treas - ure - store. I At love; my Lord, 6. Take my Take my mo-ments and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise. Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee. Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes-sag-es from Thee. Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose. Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy roy - al throne. all for Thee. A-MEN. will be I Ev - er, on - ly, Take my-self, and



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