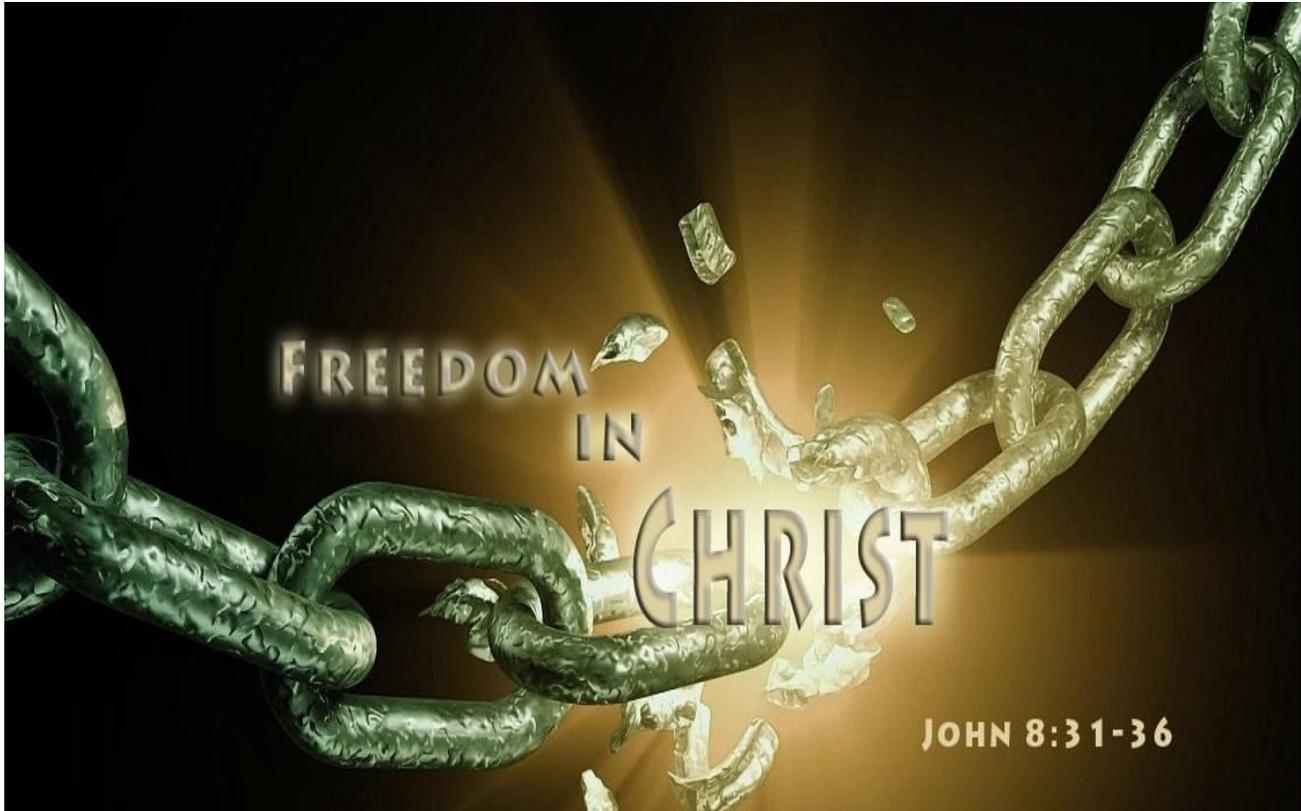


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

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

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



*Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

+ † +

Sunday, October 29, 2023
22nd 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, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

Water fountains are located on both the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

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

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: *= if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♪# = Blue Hymnal Page}*

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](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



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you.}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ⑩ (Unison)

Today, God, we celebrate your Word. You are still speaking. You are still helping us to understand the truth in your word. Thank you for the ancient prophets and the middle-ages prophets and our prophets today. We are your church and we love your word. Amen.

HANDBELL PRELUDE

"My Joyous Praise"

by Howard Starks

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Wonderful Words of Life"

*W&R #668
Public Domain*

*INVOCATION

Leader: We worship in the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Psalm 46*

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

Leader: and though its waters rage and foam,

People: and though the mountains tremble with its tumult

Leader: The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;

People: The Lord speaks, and the earth melts away.

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Leader: "Be still than and know that I am God.

People: I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in all the earth."

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION ⑩ (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ⑩ (Unison)

Forgive us, O merciful Lord! We go astray. We follow our own whims, our own gods, our own church practices. Are these practices according to your will or did we make them up? Help us to stand firmly with your word. May we study your word and test your word. Forgive us for thinking we can buy your forgiveness. In the power of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY "God of Pity, God of Grace" vs. 1 & 5

♪ Red #223
Morris/Filtz
Public Domain

**God of pity, God of grace, When we humbly seek Thy face,
Bend from heaven, Thy dwelling place, Hear, forgive and save.**

**And what e'er our cry may be, When we lift our hearts to Thee,
From our burden set us free: Heal, forgive, and save.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

People of God, our forgiveness is free for the asking. We do not need to buy it, or earn it with good works. By God's grace and God's grace alone do we receive God's mercy. We do our good works in thankfulness for this mercy.

*SUNG PRAISE "Come, Let us Praise the Lord" vs. 1

W&R #9
Timothy Dudley-Smith/John Darwall
One License #A-728042

**Come, let us praise the Lord, with joy our God acclaim,
his greatness tell abroad and bless his saving name.
Lift high your songs before his throne to whom alone all praise belongs.**

{please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings.
We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God."
Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

The Old Testament Reading: [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)
The New Testament Letter: [Romans 3:19-28](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [John 8:31-36](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "God Has Spoken By the Prophets"

W&R #667
One License #A-728042

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" vs. 1

W&R #344
Anonymous; Indian Folk Tune
Public Domain

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus - no turning back, no turning back.

SERMON "I Can't Forgive Myself!"

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: God of grace,

People: hear 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,

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” vs. 1

W&R #484

*Taize/Berthier
One License #A-728042*

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: May we give in thankfulness.

People: We do not give in order to receive mercy.

Leader: May we give in thankfulness.

People: We do not give to win a contest.

Leader: May we give in thankfulness.

People: Our gratitude is great! Thanks be to God!

RETURNING GOD’S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure [Online Giving](https://www.sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) (Click Here), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

“A Mighty Fortress”

by Lani Smith

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“For the Life That You Have Given”

W&R #684

*Daw/Leavitt
One License #A-728042*

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)**

Lord, we are thankful that Martin Luther searched the scripture for truth as he translated the Bible from Latin to German.. He found the truth. It is God's grace that saves us. In the name of the one who died on the cross to pass that grace to us, we pray. **Amen.**

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God's love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God's Good News
through our words and actions.*

*COMMISSION ⑩

Leader: As we go on our journeys near and far,

People: may your mercy shine on the world!

Leader: Let us carry the mercy like a light on our foreheads.

People: May this light transform everyone who is seeking mercy.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Revive Us Again"

W&R #463
Public Domain

*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}*

POSTLUDE

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

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



The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshipping 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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 - ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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 - ⑦ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
 - ⑧ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑧ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Pentecost -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

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

Green - symbolizing the life God brings, especially through our mission work.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

This Sunday, October 29, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 *and* Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 *or* Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 *and* Psalm 1;
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

Deuteronomy

The book of Deuteronomy (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). This book is traditionally attributed to the authorship of Moses. Much of the book is another listing of the laws to the Israelites when they arrived at the eastern edge of the Jordan River before entering the promised land, previously given to them on Mt. Sinai (also known as Mt. Horeb). The word Deuteronomy means "second law-giving", and is dated between 721-535 B.C.

The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

This epistle (letter) is the oldest book in the NT. It was written by the Apostle Paul in Corinth around 51 A.D. to the church in Thessalonica, which is the Roman capital of the Macedonian province, a port city on the northern shore of the Aegean Sea. Timothy, Paul, and Silvanus founded this church. Timothy went back to Thessalonica and reported to Paul that the people there were anxious because Paul had not returned, and in response Paul wrote this pastoral letter. 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 Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

Next Sunday, November 5, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17 *and* Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 *or* Micah 3:5-12 *and* Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13;
Matthew 23:1-12

Wonderful Words of Life

668

F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

1 Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;
 2 Christ, the bless - ed One, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;
 3 Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;

F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life.
 sin - ner, list to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life.
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life.

F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F

Words of life and beau - ty, teach me faith and du - ty:
 All so free - ly giv - en, woo - ing us to heav - en:
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, sanc - ti - fy for - ev - er:

Refrain $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F_2 F $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 $\frac{1}{F}$ $\frac{2}{F}$

Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.
 life.

667 God Has Spoken by the Prophets

1 God has spo - ken by the proph - ets, spo - ken the un - chang - ing Word,
 2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
 3 God is speak - ing by the Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain;

each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the right - eous Lord!
 bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;
 in the age - long Word de - clar - ing God's own mes - sage, now as then.

'Mid the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor hold - ing fast:
 spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God of God, ere time was born;
 Through the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith yet stand - ing fast:

God e - ter - nal reigns for - ev - er, God the first and God the last.
 Light of light, to earth de - scend - ing, Christ, as God in hu - man form.
 God a - bides, the Word un - chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

WORDS: George W. Briggs (1875-1959)
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

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HYMN TO JOY
 8.7.8.7.D.

