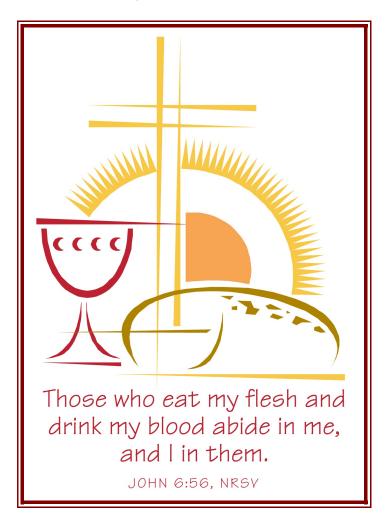
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 -- office@spruce.org -- www.spruce.org Worship 9:30am

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



Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ Online Streaming Worship Service

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.

+++

Sunday, August 15, 2021 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

arr. Franklin Ritter

▶Red #69

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP⁽²⁾

God of steadfast love, your works delight our hearts and expand our thoughts. Your grace and mercy draw us together to praise you and to celebrate your wonderful deeds. Dwell among us today, and reign within the lives of each one gathered here, helping us to grow in discernment and understanding. Grant us wisdom and courage that we may walk in your ways and keep your commandments. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"God of the Glorious Sunshine" vs 1 & 3 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper. Used with Permission 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[®]

People:	The works of God are all around us.
Loudon.	Let us join our voices in giving thanks.
Leader:	God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

- Those who share in God's work lack for nothing. Leader: We are called to faithfulness, as God is faithful.
- We are people of the covenant, gathered to please God.
- **People:** The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Holv and awesome is God's name.

Virtual Worship Service

Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen on St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel Later Online: Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/ - 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 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

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 CONFESSION² (Leader)

It is not easy to face our sin or to admit that we are less than we pretend to be. We find it easier to raise protective barriers than to break down our defenses and allow God to change us. Share now in the power of honest confession. Let us pray...

*CONFESSION OF SIN[®] (Unison)

Great God, we confess that we have walked in our own way, wasting our days in trivial pursuits and destroying the precious gifts you have entrusted to us. We have grasped for bread that does not satisfy and turned away from living water that brings life. Our worst enemies are within us. Deliver us, we pray, from your indignation and anger as we seek new ways to relate to you and one another. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Assurance of Pardon² (Leader)

God hears our cries and weeps with us. God wills the best for us in all circumstances and works with us to overcome the unbearable. As we walk with Christ, God promises to abide with us and raise us up. Let us live no longer in our distress and loneliness, but accept the gifts of God. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE *

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise to our Triune God. **People: We sing in praise of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

*PRAISE RESPONSE	"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation	vs 4	<i>▶Red</i> #324
Laud and hone	or to the Father, Laud and honor to the S	Son,	
Laud and hone	or to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One	,	
One in might,	and One in glory, While unending ages r	un!	
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{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 Reading:
 Proverbs 9:1-6

 Second Reading:
 Ephesians 5:15-20

 Gospel Reading:
 John 6:51-58

 Psalter:
 Psalm 34

Hymn

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me"

vs 1 & 2 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper. Used with Permission One License #A-728042

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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) The Apostle's Creed I believe in God. the Father Almightv. Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Marv. suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and buried; he descended to the dead: on the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven. 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)

Leader: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: You have revealed your love for people overlooked and cast aside, sending your son to be born among the humble and poor. Send your church to proclaim good news to those who feel abandoned, despised, or rejected and make our congregations places of genuine welcome and hospitality. God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: All creation longs for healing and restoration. Thwart the destruction of plant and animal habitats and amplify the voices of those who advocate for wise stewardship of the earth's resources. God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We remember your promise to our ancestors and look to you for justice. Expose pride, greed, and exploitation wherever it is found and raise up humble leaders who act on behalf of those who are poor, oppressed, or in other need. God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Your Spirit lives in our hearts and makes us heirs of salvation. Rescue us from shame and dishonor. Lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and have mercy on those who turn to you for help. God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Mary's song of praise and amazement echoes through this assembly. Attend to those in this congregation expecting a child and console those struggling to conceive. Come to the aid of those enduring a difficult pregnancy and those who have experienced a miscarriage. God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We give thanks for the saints who have found refuge in you, O God. As you have delivered them from all their afflictions, so save us from all our earthly troubles until that day when we sing your praise together in heaven. God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

SUNG PRAISE "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation " vs 3 Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants What they ask of Thee to gain, What they gain from Thee forever With the blessed to retain, And hereafter in Thy glory Evermore with Thee to reign.

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OFFERTORY INVITATION⁽²⁾

Leader: As we make melody to God with our hearts and voices,
People: let our hands also be employed in service.
Leader: May our riches be employed for the common benefit of all God's children.
People: We here offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor that God may bless and multiply the good to be accomplished through them and us.

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 our secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org**. <u>Click Here</u> Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

OFFERTORY

"Come Just As You Are" Soloist - Terry Pastor

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray. Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray. Take them, bless them, use them, grow them. Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

\$ NCH #283

by Joseph Sabolik

Online Giving

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER ² (Leader)

Your generosity, O God, is beyond our deserving. You grant health to our bodies and minds. You surround us with vast resources and with people who love us. You allow us to make decisions about the use of our time and possessions and relationships. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received. Help us to use all our gifts as you intend. **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.

way.

*COMMISSION²

Leader:	Look carefully where you walk
	and make wise use of your time.
People:	We rejoice in the gift of God's spirit
	as we go out to walk life's pathways.
Leader:	The Living God sends us forth to serve,
	assuring us that we will find life.
People:	Day by day we will feed on God's word and moment by moment follow in Christ's

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION ^①

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

***THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

▶ Red #558 Used with Permission One License #A-728042

*SENDING HYMN

"Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

vs 1, 5 & 6 *▶*Red #7 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper. Used with Permission One License #A-728042

{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.}

* * * *

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[®] Taught By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

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e scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

Reprinted with permission from Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ. (2013).

⁶ Ecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 ⁶ 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.
 ⁹ Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

[®] The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

^e Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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* The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umcdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of The Love Feast), moravianmusic.org, moravian.org, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz. Resources are edited and adapted for use in this worship service.

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

የት Worship Participants የትት

Thank you to all who have made this worship experience possible.

	<u>Today</u> August 15 th	Next Sunday August 22 nd
Greeter/Usher	Robin H.	Terry P.
Greeter/Usher	Jon H.	Mike P.
Greeter/Usher	-	-
Acolyte	Geri G.	Geri G.
Welcome	Geri G.	Elsa W.
Layreader/Lector #1	Rev. Knox	Elsa W.
Layreader/Lector #2	-	-
Children's Message	Geri G.	Elsa W.
Cantor	Terry P.	Brian K.
AV Tech	Kirk A.	Kirk A.

† Prayer List †

Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week. "Pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." ~ James 5:16b

Medical Concerns & Healing: Terry B. Sam B. Norman B. Lori & Ryan B. Rich D. Jacob E. Jaden G. Ann H. Leigh H. Rev. David K. Jim & Donna K. Janice L. Ella L. Edmund L.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Amy M. Diane M. George M. Starr M. Gary N. Terry O. Paul P. Fred R. Julie R. Sharon R. Jim S. Rob & Jodi S. Spencer Family Martha W. Ash & Annie W.

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Sandra B. Family & Friends of Joyce R. Family & Friends of Jason R. Family & Friends of Ron S Family & Friends of Sarah S.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19 Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

Celebration: Birth of Jenkins Ellis H.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you. All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.

Names are generally left on the list for about four weeks. Please let us know if you would like a name to remain longer or shorter. If you would like someone's name added to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 610-621-5770 or <u>office@sprucc.org.</u>

Visitation Care Team

Our Visitation Care Team (VCT) is composed of lay members who have been trained for visitation. If you are in need of prayer, a visit, or just a listening ear, they are here to be of support to you. To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need email the VCT at CareTeam@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our "Visitation Care Ministries" page at www.sprucc.org under the "ministries" tab.

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



Link to Website's Upcoming Events

ትትት General Announcements ትትት

Welcome!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us. May you find the worship and message meaningful and satisfying to your soul. May your week be blessed.

Guest Preacher Today

Today our guest preacher for the worship service will be the Rev. Leah Knox. Rev. Knox is part of the staff at Phoebe Berks. She is charged with addressing the spiritual needs of the residents and staff of Phoebe through pastoral care and counseling. In addition, she has specific responsibilities for spiritual assessments, conducting various religious activities including daily devotion, Bible studies, weekly Chapel services and special services, serving as liaison with local clergy, and providing supportive assistance to students and volunteers working in the pastoral services department. Today, Rev. Knox will be preaching from Psalm 34. We want to thank her for sharing with us today.

Sunday School Materials

Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading over the summer. Click on this link for <u>Sunday school for youth</u>.

Devotional Music

Devotional music for all ages, courtesy of Pastor Bob, is available on our website. Click on this link for Devotional Music.

Neighborhood Mission Work

We are planning a stay-near-home Mission trip with Zion UCC (Womelsdorf) on Saturday, September 18. We are still looking for local projects to consider and people to help on that day. **Please let us know ASAP so that the projects and the availability of help may be firmed up.** Please contact the church office either by calling or emailing. Information and a form may be found on our website. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 18, with a rain date of Saturday, September 25. We will be meeting at the church at 1:00pm.

Annual Car Show - Yesterday

Thank you to everyone who helped out at St. Paul's Annual Car Show. We are very happy to be able to offer this event to the community. However, it wouldn't be possible without all the good help that we received. THANK YOU!!

Concert Series

Bethany Children's Home has their 6th Annual Summer Concert Series with the following shows:

August 27 - Stephanie Grace at 7:00pm

September 10 - Jeff Krick Jr.: Elvis Tribute at 7:00pm

September 25 - Ringgold Band at 1:00pm

All shows are rain or shine. Suggested donation is \$5/car. Concessions and food trucks will be available. Proceeds benefit Bethany's mission. No weapons, pets, tobacco or alcohol. Lawn seating only. Bring your favorite chair or blanket!

Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship

This service is being offered to those who do not have internet access. You may call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, cell phone, or even with a rotary phone). You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or you can call the church office, and we can add you to the call list. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. There is no charge to you for this service. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, please let them know of this feature.

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 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).

This Sunday, August 15, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

The Book of First Kings

During the Middle Ages, the Book of Kings was divided into two parts. The first book provides a history of the Israelite people and their theological struggles from the death of King David (970 B.C.), through the reign of King Solomon, to the division of Israel into the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah, to the death of King Ahab, to the rule of his son Ahaziah (850 B.C.).

Psalm 111

In this OT song, we give praise and thanksgiving to God for the wonderful deeds of God for humankind. It is also meant to teach people about the deeds of God. In its original Hebrew, it has an alphabetic acrostic form, which means that every other verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet.

Psalm 34

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

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The Epistle (letter) to the Gentile church in Ephesus is attributed to the Apostle Paul, written in the first century A.D. This is an open letter to many churches in response for the life-changing radical transformation in our personal and social life as we become a part of Christ's family. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

The Gospel According to John

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

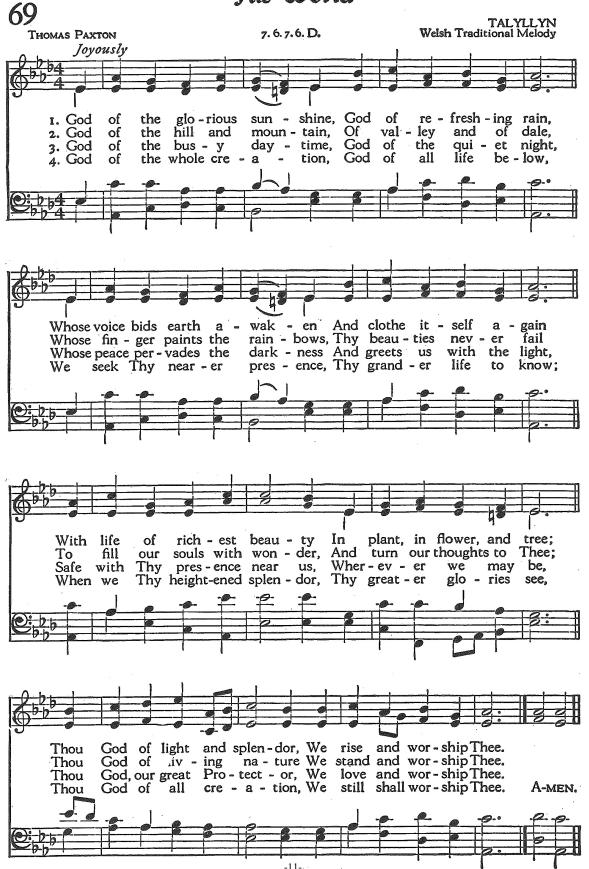
Next Sunday, August 22, 2021, Lectionary Reading for Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

"God of the Glorious Sunshine"

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His World





"Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

