St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551 610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org Worship 10:15am

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



your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.



James 3:13, NRSV



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, September 19, 2021 17th 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

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

O God, you watch over us, and show us the way to prosper in life, not so much in things as in relationships that contribute to our wholeness and well-being. Thank you for meeting us here and helping us to deal with our selfish ambition, disorder, and conflicts. We submit ourselves to you for instruction. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with you, voicing our doubts as well as our faith, our hypocrisy along with all that is deeply genuine. Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful meditation. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise} {Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All Are Welcome" vs 1 & 2

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*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 ²

Leader: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

Happy are those who find delight in God's law.

People: God is always nearer than our next breath.

We gather to become more aware of that presence.

Leader: Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous.

They seek to grow in wisdom and understanding.

People: There is always more to discover than we know.

God is our teacher and helper and judge.

Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen on St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel Later

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 CONFESSION [®] (Leader)

We are called to resist evil and to purify our hearts. Often our need for such cleansing is not apparent to us. We are hard pressed to find anything bad that we need to confess, and we take real delight in the good we have done. Yet the peaceful community God seeks, the serving church that embodies Christ, the spirit-filled company we are meant to be, are not yet realized. Our Prayer of Confession is for the whole people of God, including ourselves.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ² (Unison)

Forgive us, God, for our complacent attitudes and self-serving comforts. We do not relish the thought of sacrificing for some larger good we cannot see, for people with whom we find it difficult to identify. We compare ourselves favorably against many who seem less attuned to your purposes than we, forgetting that our true standard is Christ Jesus. We ake you to take from us all the bitterness, envy, and anger that stands in the way of your reign. May all we ask of you be for the common good of all your children. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Prayer for Mercy "Kyrie" ▶ Red #518

Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):

People (sung):
Leader (spoken):
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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*ASSURANCE OF PARDON [®] (Leader)

God, who tries our hearts and minds, judges righteously, hears our prayers, and forgives and upholds us. In our daily meditation, God meets us, and in our encounters with one another, God's presence is revealed in unexpected ways to those who are alert and receptive. Nourished by the streams of living water which our God provides, we will prosper in the work God gives us to do. **Amen.**

*Call to Praise:[®]

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the world.

People: We give praise to God whose Spirit fills our lives.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*Sung Praise "Be Thou My Vision" vs 4

♬Blue #562

High King of heaven, my victory won, May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Eleanor H. Hull Reproduced with permission One License #A-728042

{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: Wisdom of Solomon 1:1, 6-8, 11-16; 2:1-15, 16b, 16d, 20-24; 3:1

Leader: Let us join together in praising God through the words found in the Wisdom of

Solomon....

Leader: Love righteousness

People: think of the Lord in goodness and seek him with sincerity of heart;

Leader: Wisdom is a kindly spirit.

People: but will not free blasphemers from the guilt of their words;

Leader: because God is witness of their inmost feelings,

People: and a true observer of their hearts, and a hearer of their tongues.

Leader: Because the spirit of the Lord has filled the world,

People: and that which holds all things together knows what is said, therefore those who utter unrighteous things will not escape notice,

People: and justice, when it punishes, will not pass them by.

Leader: Beware then of useless grumbling,
People: and keep your tongue from slander;
because no secret word is without result,
and a lying mouth destroys the soul.
Leader: Do not invite death by the error of your life,

People: or bring on destruction by the works of your hands;

Leader: because God did not make death,

People: and he does not delight in the death of the living.

Leader: For he created all things so that they might exist;

People: the generative forces of the world are wholesome,

Leader: and there is no destructive poison in them, **People:** and the dominion of Hades is not on earth.

Leader: For righteousness is immortal.

People: But the ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death;

Leader: considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him,

People: because they are fit to belong to his company. Leader: For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,

People: "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes

to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades."

Leader: They also reasoned unsoundly of the one to come,

People: "Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us

and opposes our actions;

Leader: the righteous man reproaches us for sins against the law,

People: and accuses us of sins against our training.
Leader: He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.
Leader: He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;
People: the very sight of him is a burden to us,

Leader: because his manner of life is unlike that of others,

People: and his ways are strange.
Leader: He avoids our ways as unclean;
People: and boasts that God is his father.

Leader: Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for,

People: according to what he says, he will be protected."

Leader: Thus they unsoundly reasoned,

People: but they were led astray,

Leader: for their wickedness blinded them,

People: and they did not know the secret purposes of God,

Leader: nor hoped for the wages of holiness,

People: nor discerned the prize for blameless souls;

Leader: for God created us for incorruption,

People: and made us in the image of his own eternity,
Leader: but through the devil's envy death entered the world,
and those who belong to his company experience it.
But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,

People: and no torment will ever touch them.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: <u>James 3:13 - 4:10</u> Gospel Lesson: <u>Mark 9:30-37</u>

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

"Be Thou My Vision" vs 1 & 2

♬Blue #562

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN

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) St. Paul's Mission Statement
We are called by the Spirit
to live and share the love of God
through joyful service
and fellowship in Christ.

{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)

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all Leader:

in need.

{A time of silent prayer}

Leader: God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for

you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your

sake. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for

this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts

to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire Leader:

leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or

country. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find

appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us

your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and

our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for Leader:

all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through

Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

SUNG RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" ♪Red # 501

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer. O Lord:

Hear our prayer, O Lord,

And grant us Thy peace. Amen.

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OFFERTORY INVITATION ®

Leader: As we celebrate Ketchup Sunday,

People: we recognize that we are not always as faithful as we should be in responding

to God's call to give of our first and best through His church, and to encourage

each other in faithful stewardship.

Leader: We are called to give in proportion to what we have been given.

People: All that we have and all that we are is from God, entrusted for a short time to our

stewardship.

Leader: As we bring forth our offerings to God and lay them upon His altar,

People: We bring forth our intentions and our promises to grow in our stewardship, as

faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

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

OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise} {Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Be Thou My Vision"

vs 3

\$Blue #562

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

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*Offertory Prayer ² (Leader)

Generous God, we who have spent much on our own pleasures are pleased to share that others may obtain the necessities of body and spirit. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. May there be a harvest of righteousness among us, shown in the peaceful handling of disputes, in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and giver. **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 200

Leader: Go forth, seeking the wisdom of God.

Live each day putting your trust in God.

People: We seek the wisdom God imparts.

We put our trust in the God who loves us.

Leader: The rhythms of prayer and service enrich our lives.

A gentle spirit and good fruits are the result.

People: We seek to do well the tasks set before us.

We commit ourselves to daily prayer, regular study of scripture, weekly

worship, and continual service in Christ's name.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558

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*SENDING HYMN

"All Are Welcome" vs 4 & 5

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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.}

ឋቱቱ Worship Participants ቱቱቱ Thank you to all who have made this worship experience possible.

	Today	
	September 19 th	September 26 th
Usher Captain	Georgianna H.	Sue H.
Usher Co-Captain	Nevin K.	Barb O.
Usher/Greeter	-	-
Usher/Greeter	-	-
Acolyte	-	Geri G.
Welcome	Brian K.	Jon H.
Layreader/Lector #1	Brian K.	Jon H.
Layreader/Lector #2	-	-
Children's Message	Elsa W.	Geri G.
Cantor	-	-
AV Tech	Kirk A.	Kirk A.

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- [®] Taught By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1998). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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- [®] Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- [®] The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- 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

† 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:	Medical Concerns & Healing:	Mourning:
Terry B.	Amy M.	Family & Friends of Sandra B.
Sam B.	Diane M.	Family & Friends of Robert G. Jr.
Lori & Ryan B.	George M.	Family & Friends of R. Lynn H.
Deb D.	Starr M.	Family & Friends of Joyce R.
Rich D.	Gary N.	Family & Friends of Jason R.
Jacob E.	Terry O.	Family & Friends of Sharon R.
Jaden G.	Paul P.	Family & Friends of Ron S
Ann H.	Fred R.	Family & Friends of Sarah S.
Leigh H.	Julie R.	
Richard H.	Jim S.	Social Concerns:
Rev. David K.	Rob & Jodi S.	Those impacted by COVID-19
Jim & Donna K.	Spencer Family	Those working on a vaccine for
Janice L.	Martha W.	COVID-19
Ella L.		
Edmund L.		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 office@sprucc.org.

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



ਹੋਰੇ General Announcements ਹੋਰੇ ਹੈ

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.

Sunday School Materials

Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials are available for downloading. Click on this link for Sunday school for youth.

Devotional Music

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

Following Worship Service

After worship, there will be a fellowship time outside (if the weather permits) and in the Miller Fellowship Hall with Zion UCC.

Sunday School

Sunday school for adults and youth will resume on Sunday, October 3 at 9:00am.

Weekly Morning Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00am, Zion UCC offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. The study goes from 9:00-9:45am. All are invited! The same Zoom numbers are used each week.

To join the Zoom meeting use the following:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452124156?pwd=RzI3dTI4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09

Meeting ID: 874 5212 4156

Passcode: 783249

For people joining with telephone, choose one of these numbers:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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, September 19, 2021, Lectionary Reading for 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31 *and* Psalm 1; Wisdom of Solomon 1:16 - 2:1, 12-22 *or* Jeremiah 11:18-20 *and* Psalm 54; James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Proverbs

The final version of the Book of Proverbs (OT) was edited in the 6th century B.C. and later. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon are traditionally attributed to King Solomon, who ruled from about 967-927 B.C. Although perhaps some of these sayings originated with Solomon, Proverbs is a collection of mostly two-line sayings of the sages (a social class of those who served as counselors, teachers, and bureaucrats).

Psalm 1

This OT song, gives praise to God's law, and proclaims the blessings of following God's law.

Jeremiah

The book of Jeremiah (OT) is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

James

This NT Epistle (letter) is commonly attributed to James, the brother of Jesus, who was a leader in the Christian church from 36AD until his martyrdom in 62AD. This letter is written not to one particular church in a particular area but a number of Christian churches in general. James addresses a number of topics in his letter including: being faithful in times of trial, that real faithfulness involves putting words into practice, the importance of helping the poor and not seeking earthly riches, speaking appropriately, choosing God's wisdom over Earthly wisdom, and the importance of actively being in a Christian community of faith in support of one another.

The Gospel According to Mark

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2nd century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

Next Sunday, September 26, 2021, Lectionary Reading for 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124; Numbers 11:4-6,10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13 -20; Mark 9:38-50

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST





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WALKING WITH GOD

562 Be Thou My Vision

Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. Philippians 3:7



MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; arranged by David Allen

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COMMUNITY IN CHRIST





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