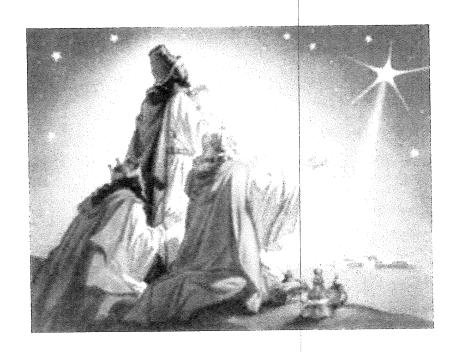
St. Paul's United Church of Christ Zion United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

St. Paul's UCC: 610-621-5770 -- office@spruce.org -- www.spruce.org

Zion UCC: 610-659-2775 -- mestme@aol.com -- www.1Zion.org

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



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

t f t

Sunday, January 9, 2022 Baptism of Christ Sunday Epiphany Sunday

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).

Nurserv

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

Junior Worship

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

Restrooms

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

Changing Tables

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

Water Fountains

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

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

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

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Prayer and Care

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

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

More Information....

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

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

(Symbols used in this bulletin: *= if able please stand; I = Red Hymnal Page; <math>I = Red Hymnal Page)





Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel
Facebook Live (St. Paul's) at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.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 1-301-715-8592) - Live Only

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610+621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

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

Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.

They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP [®] (Silently Before Worship Begins)

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"We Three Kings"

☐ Blue # 288

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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®

Leader: Arise, shine; for the light of Christ has come.

The glory of God has shown around us.

People: The Word became flesh to dwell with humankind.

The radiance of God has shown around us.

Leader: Lift up your eyes to see all around you.

Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

People: God's ways are being reveled to us today.

We joyfully sing God's praises in our daily lives.

SUNG CALL

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Words: Issac Watts; Music: Arr. From G.F. Handel by Lowell Mason; Reproduced with permission under One License #A-728042 & #A-714101

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)

The Epiphany season celebrates God's inclusiveness. The mystery of Jesus Christ is revealed, not to an elite few, but to the whole world. Yet we continue to build barriers to protect our own interests and keep other at a distance. If loyalty to God calls for accepting and embracing all God's children in love, we have much to confess.

*CONFESSION OF SIN [®] (Unison)

God of light, we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretension and exclusion. How often we choose to associate with people who are like us and then look down on others who differ from us. It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own. We judge the poor and join their oppressors, while you call us to identify with those in need, that all may prosper together. We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of your grace, while you welcome, as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore. Save us from our earthbound judgments, that we may look up and be guided by the star that draws all people to yourself. Awed by your forgiving presence, we fall down to worship you. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kvrie"

\$Red #518

Leader (spoken): People (sung):

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

Leader (spoken): People (sung):

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

Leader (spoken): People (sung):

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Assurance of Pardon ® (Leader)

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God has redeemed us, claimed us, called us by name. We are precious in God's sight. Surely our God will strengthen us to face times of difficulty. There are no safe hiding places in life, only the assurance of a relationship with a God whom we can trust in life and death. Our God forgives and empowers. God blesses us with a peace that is more powerful than any outward circumstance. The assurances of God are eternal. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us offer our praise to the Lord. **People: May Jesus Christ be praised.**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Glo----ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo----ria, in excelsis Deo!

Music by Edward Shippen Barnes Reproduced with permission under One License #A-728042 & #A-714101

{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

New Testament Epiphany Gospel:

Matthew 2:1-12 (RSV)

¹Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ²"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

6'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who will govern my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; ⁸and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; ¹¹and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN "The First Noel" vs. 1,2,3

□ Blue # 265

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper. Used with Permission One License #A-728042 OldTestament Lesson:

Isaiah 43:1-7

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

NEW TESTAMENT BAPTISM OF CHRIST GOSPEL:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

LITURGICAL DANCE

"What the World Needs Now is Love"

Rebecca Boone

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.

praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

{Those who are able, please rise}

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) Apostles' Creed
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven, 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.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time

and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of wanderers, you sent the magi from afar to witness the mystery and majesty of your birth. Send us into the world with your will in our hearts and

on our lips. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: You created heaven and earth. Through your Spirit send your all-

encompassing love over the cosmos. Bless the stars that guide our way

and the night sky that invites the earth into slumber. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: You sent the magi to follow the star into an uncertain future. May all leaders

and peoples seek your face, especially when paths are not clear, conflicts

rage, tyrants oppress, and fear abounds.

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: You sent your Spirit to dwell with Paul in prison. Send your Spirit to those

who are imprisoned and enslaved. Give courage and wisdom for building

roads that lead to justice and freedom. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: You sent the holy family to seek safety in a new land. Protect all who make

similar journeys. Send your guiding Spirit to asylum seekers, refugees, and

all who journey toward safety. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Your glory is shown to the saints. We give thanks for those whose earthly

journey has ended and now dwell with you forever. Give us signs of your

continual presence until that say when we arise in you. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers

to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Let's Worship and Adore Him"

We lift our prayers up to Him, We lift our prayers up to Him, We lift our prayers up to Him, Christ our Lord.

☐ Blue # 247

Music: Wade's Cantus Diversi; arranged: Tom Fettke; Text: Benjamin D. Motz Used with Permission One License #A-728042

OPPORTUNITIES OF OFFERING TIME AND TALENT

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

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: What treasures will we offer today to honor Christ?

People: We are stewards of God's grace, entrusted with the unsearchable riches of Christ, channels through which the wisdom of God is offered

to the world.

Leader: What costly offerings will be given with joy and worshipful devotion?

People: Our prosperity gives us the marvelous opportunity to share. We will seek to give our first and our best to our Lord God throughout the

year.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Codine 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 St. Paul's UCC secure Online Giving option on our website at spruce.org. St. Paul's UCC Click Here
or Zion UCC's online giving at www.1Zion.org - Zion UCC Click Here
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

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "What Child is This"

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him; The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. This, this is Christ the King; Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Words: William C. Dix

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER ® (Leader)

O Lord, for the joy of giving, we offer the products of our labor for the ministry of this church, in outreach to the world. With concern for those who are poor, oppressed, and needy, we rededicate ourselves as helpers and advocates. Out of devotion to Christ, we commit our best, that the church may bear witness among the principalities and powers of this world. Help us all, O God, to be faithful stewards today, this year, and throughout our lives. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

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 ®

Leader: God sends us on our way, a bold and confident people.

Look up, and be guided by the star of joy.

People: What we have received, we pass on with joy.

We offer to all the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Leader: God's purpose in Christ are to be lived out by us.

We are called to invite others to share in God's grace.

People: We will witness to all we have heard and seen.

By God's power, we will minister to others.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

\$Red #558

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*Sending Hymn "The First Noel"

vs 4,5,6

☐ Blue # 265

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

POSTLUDE

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ALL are invited

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

FFFF

The Altar Flowers are Sponsored by

The Bulletins are Sponsored by

F F F F

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

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Gathered By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the Book of Worship of the United Church Life and Leadership.

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The Pay Dr. Renigmin Motz

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest Password (for both): iamheretoserve

Link to Website's Upcoming Events

About Today

Church Season: Epiphany - Season of the manifestation of God incarnate to the world. In Greek "phan" is "shine" or "manifest," and "epi" is "upon." The season of Epiphany continues from January 6 until Ash Wednesday.

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

White – symbolizing the purity of Christ as we are washed in the baptismal waters and the blood of 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.

This Sunday, January 9 -- Lectionary Reading for Baptism of Christ and Epiphany Sundays Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 29; Isaiah 60:1-6; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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.

Psalm 29

This OT song of praise is attributed to King David, sung in honor of God's power and glory as revealed in a great thunderstorm.

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgment regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

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, January 16 -- Lectionary Readings
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 35:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Poitstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

January 9, 2022

Message from Kentucky Regarding Disaster Support Items

On behalf of the UCC I have been on the daily Kentucky Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster calls. They asked that I report that they are overwhelmed with donation items and do not have the ability to accommodate any additional items.

Again — They have asked that we communicate with our networks — please do not send more items. They are pleading that we do all we can to stop the donations of items that are pouring in with no place to be stored. All the local donation sites are overflowing. This has now become the second disaster. They suggest selling the items locally and sending funds to help, if possible. Spread the word that — Cash is BEST.

Donations to help support the UCC's work in supporting disaster recovery can be sent to PSEC. Indicate "Kentucky tornados disaster" in the memo line of a check or use the "Special Support" section of the online donation page.



Connect, Reconnect, Staying Connected

w/ Rev. Cean James

January 22nd—VIA ZOOM

Register at: https://psecconnect0122.eventbrite.com

January 29th—IN PERSON @ First UCC, Schuylkill Haven

** If covid continues to uptick, this event may be cancelled Register at: https://psecconnect0129.eventbrite.com



For

Disaster

Relief

The Susquehanna Area Mission Council CHALLENGES ALL

Pennsylvania Southeast and Penn Northeast Conference churches to invite EVERY member to donate just \$5 to your Conference office earmarked for Disaster Relief beginning January 16th & ending February 13th *All monies will remain in their respective conferences specifically for Disaster Relief Services and a celebratory virtual worship will be Live Streamed on February 27th.

*Currently there are several ongoing Disaster Relief projects in each conference and grants are being sought to aid in recovery efforts *Our Goal is raise \$5,000 dollars that could be used to match a possible grant opportunity

*With natural disasters occurring on a more frequent basis these monies are needed now more than ever.

LET YOUR DOLLARS BLESS THOSE IN NEED

TEXT: John H. Hopkins, Jr.

MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr.

288 We Three Kings

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Magi from the east came. Matthew 2:1 E⁴ Em E⁴ Em B⁷ B+ B⁷ Em B7 B+ B7 Em 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we tra-verse a - far-Beth-le-hem's plain; Gold | I bring to crown Him a - gain, 2. Born a King on 3. Frank-in-cense to of - fer have I; In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh. 4. Myrrh is mine: its bit - ter per-fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom-5. Glo-rious now be-hold Him a-rise, King and God and Sac -EmD G G Am Am² Am B 7 EmField and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain-Fol - low - ing yon - der King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er 0 - ver us all to reign. Prayer and prais-ing, all men rais - ing, Wor-ship Him, God on high. Sor-r'wing, sigh-ing, bleed - ing, dy -Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. ing, le - lu - ia, al - le - lu ia! Earth to heav'n re-plies. Refrain $^{\rm D}$ D^7 G Am G Am G of won-der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright, star _Em D G G G Am G D West - ward lead - ing, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to thy per-fect light.

KINGS OF ORIENT

8.8.4.4.6. with Refrain

The First Noel 265

