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@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.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

+†+

Sunday, March 20, 2022 Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome

May God's loving presence be very real to you, and may you receive strength and guidance today That will enable you to handle life's challenges.

Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul. (Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table).

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. 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;* S = Red Hymnal Page; $T = Blue Hymnal Page}$







Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: Live Stream at spruce.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on <u>St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel</u> <u>Facebook Live</u> (St. Paul's) at <u>https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/</u> - Live or Watch & Listen Later <u>Phone Stream</u> at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later <u>Zoom</u>: 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@spruce.org

ARR. FOR ORGAN BY ROBERT J. HUGHES 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

"Open My Eyes"

arr. for organ by Robert J. Hughes

{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)*

Gracious God, we come before you seeking what money cannot buy. Only you can provide nourishment for our souls. There is no other source of meaning in our mixedup world. We can find no fountain of strength or sustenance apart from you. Surely you can be found where two or three are gathered together. As a community of faith, we call on you, believing that you are nearer than our next breath, more available to us than we can think, more caring than we ever dare to imagine. Uphold us now that we may worship on wings of joy. Amen.

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "As the Deer" all verses

Cel # 548 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

*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: Welcome, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. Delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.
- People: Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land. We seek God's power and glory in the sanctuary.
- Leader: God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship. We are called to be faithful witnesses and leaders.
- People: We have come to meditate on the living God. We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.

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)

God's gifts are available to all, yet some do not use them for the common good. God is faithful, extending love to everyone, yet many of us create idols to occupy our time and attention. We are blessed far beyond our deserving, yet we grumble and complain. How desperately we need to turn around and find new direction! Let us begin by confessing our sins.

*Confession of Sin 🧕 (Unison)

Loving God, we have been tempted to go our own way without reference to eternal truths. We seek our own gratification rather than the well-being of all your children. We compare ourselves to others and find their failures but seldom discover our own shortcomings. We seek to build our lives by our own limited design rather than by your larger purposes. We engage in immorality in the name of freedom and become enslaved by our selfish ambitions. The ground on which we stand is crumbling under our feet. O God, forgive us and grant us a firmer foundation. 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	"Kyrie"
Leader (spoken):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (sung):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
Leader (spoken):	Christ, have mercy upon us.
People (sung):	Christ, have mercy upon us.
Leader (spoken):	Lord, have mercy upon us.
People (sung):	Lord, have mercy upon us.

\$Red #518

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ② (Leader)

God grants us strength to overcome temptation and offers us a second chance to produce the fruits of repentance. Receive these gifts from God who is faithful, in covenant with us and all people. Open yourselves to the continued guidance of the Holy One, for God's steadfast love is better than life. God's mercy is abundant; God's provision for us is extravagant. God's ways are higher than our own. Praise God with joyful lips. **Amen.**

(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: Isaiah 55:1-9 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Leader: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 13:1-9

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing} "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" all ver

all verses NCH #23 One License #A-728042 Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL SONG 1. "Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the morning, Praise Him at the noontime. Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him when the sun goes down." 2. "Love Him". 3. "Serve Him". 4. "Thank Him".

SERMON

ΗγмΝ

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 Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

- People: And also with you.
- Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, elders, conference and association leaders, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils and consistories, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: For those who call upon you for mercy; for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing. Merciful God.

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: For the advocacy efforts of our congregations: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy and peace over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God.

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

- Leader: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray...
- People: Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION @

Leader: Why do we use our money for things that do not satisfy? People: Why do we invest our time in activities without meaning or purpose? Leader: God offers us a way of life that satisfies.

People: What we cannot buy, God freely gives us.

{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person. A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.

Whether worshiping in person or online, the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church is through St. Paul's UCC secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org**. <u>St. Paul's UCC Click Here</u> or Zion UCC's online giving at <u>www.1Zion.org</u> - <u>Zion UCC Click Here</u> Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551 or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.

CHOIR OFFERTORY "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" text by Charles Wesley; music by John Purifov

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *"We Give Thee but Thine Own"* Red #258

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We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (Leader) @

- Leader: O God, all that we present to you now, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of your Word to those who have not heard. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. Most of all, we give because passing on your gifts in generous response is necessary to life.
- ALL: Amen.

We Are Sent Out

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

*COMMISSION **2**

- Leader: Call on God in the midst of each day's tasks; meditate on God's presence through the night. **People: God is our help in all times and places;**
- we will call on God's name wherever we are.
- Leader: God sends us out as witnesses to good news. May our lips praise God as long as we live.
- People: Praise God, whose waters quench our thirst. Thank God for the bread of life that feeds our souls.
- ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" *SENDING HYMN

all verses

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SRed #558

ANNOUNCEMENTS

{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

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

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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

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Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

[®] The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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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: Lent -40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross.

The root word of "Lent" means to "lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection – moving form darkness to light.

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

Purple/Violet –the color of royalty (royal purple); symbolizes the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his sacrifice on the cross for us; the color of penance which we will be offering this Lent for his sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.

Black – the color of mourning, for the passion, sacrifice, and death of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, used for the beginning (Ash Wednesday) and ending (Good Friday) of this season of penance.

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

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, March 20 -- Lectionary Reading for Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9

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 judgement regarding the 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.

Psalm 63

This OT song was written by David when he was in the Wilderness of Judah. It expresses his (and our) yearning to be close to God, "my soul thirsts for you God."

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 53-54 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is in response to issues within the Corinthian Church, in particular fractions caused by one-upmanship and privatization of faith. Paul encourages humility, unity within diversity, and witnessing to God's grace. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascas after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, March 27 -- Lectionary Reading for 4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
11			



March 20, 2022

Short term Disaster Response Virtual Coordinator needed

Do you have 4-5 extra hours a week to organize (virtually) disaster rebuild volunteers? Are you interested in working with people helping people? Do you want to help people whose lives have been dramatically changed because of natural disasters?

Southeast PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Eastwick United and many other supporting groups need your help. We are rebuilding the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia which was so badly damaged after Tropical Storm Isaias right at the beginning of the pandemic. We have registered about 45 homes needing repair, have installed air handler systems in 22 homes and have housing for volunteers at the Salt and Light Church in Philly. We have had 50+ teams (over 160 volunteers) come to Eastwick. We have welcomed church groups, college groups, disaster recovery groups as well as unaffiliated folks.

You would work from home, attend two Zoom team meetings a week and communicate with current and prospective rebuild volunteer groups. You would recruit volunteers, manage volunteer mission groups (from afar), as well as create monthly records, forms and literature.

You would be replacing our current Volunteer Coordinator who is retiring April 1. She is available to train you and assist as necessary. There is a small stipend with this position. Please get in touch for more info: Judy Moore at 802-299-8290 or IsaiasRecoveryVolunteers@gmail.com

Holy Joe's Café Seeing Assistance

Holy Joe's Café is seeing an urgent increase in the need forcoffee and support for U.S. military chaplains in response to the Russia–Ukraine conflict. Holy Joe's Café has supported U.S. military chaplains since its origin at a UCC church in Wallingford, CT in 2006. PSEC Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Worley's Iraq deployed unit,3/14th Marines, was among some of the first recipients of Holy Joe's coffee in 2007. The organization provides coffeeto military chaplains to help them make connections with active-duty military personnel. The simple act of providing coffee to people in their units gives chaplains a meaningfulway to comfort anxious troops and initiate conversation to share concerns and offer guidance that help keep them metally and spiritually healthy.

The duties of military chaplain are broad and go beyond both facilitating and providing for religious practices. Chaplains pray with units and provide them with a way to share their concerns about the home front or their deployed situation. Chaplains report to leadership on troop morale and weigh in onethical and moral questions regarding the use of force and the law of armed conflict. The armed forces acknowledge moral leadership as critical support for troops and one of the most important keys to the prevention of moral injury. Military chaplains are also the only officers granted the right of full confidentiality with those who seek their council. "As an ordained UCC minister and an Air Force chaplain the ministry we do amongst our troops is a critical one. We help to spiritually ground their deepest fears, anxieties, and hopes with compassionateaccompaniment," said United Church of Christ Air Force Chaplain Ryan Tyler-Byers.

Tom Jastermsky, Founder and Executive Director of Holy Joe's, says that with the rapid deployment of troops to Europe in response to the Russia–Ukraine conflict, the need to get coffee supplies to these deployed troops is urgent. Holy Joe's regularly provides coffee to hundreds of chaplains at bases around the world, but changes in deployment require logistical plans to move coffee where it is needed.

"It's not enough," said Jastermsky speaking about the current supplies and shipping schedules. "Thechaplains have their hands totally full."

UCC churches have a long history of supporting Holy Joe's. More information on how to assist with thisministry can be found on the Holy Joe's Café website holyjoes.org

Tom Jastermsky can be reached at t.jastermsky@holyjoes.org or 203-859-0031.







Text: Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D. Dutch melody Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

