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.



Holy Humor Sunday Second Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:15am

In-Person & Streaming Online

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. For safety, during the COVID pandemic we temporarily ceased having nursery; we will resume having supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds on Sunday, September 11, 2022. In the meantime, parents who would like dto do so, are welcome to watch their own children in the nursery, where a closed-circuit TV is located, so that you can still see and hear the worship service.

Junior Worship

For safety, during the pandemic we temporarily ceased offering Junior Worship during the pandemic. We will resume Junior Worship on Sunday, September 11, 2022. The option for Junior Worship will be offered downstairs, on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the children's sermon, for elementary age children to learn 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; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♬# = Blue Hymnal Page}









Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

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

Facebook Live (St. Paul's) at https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/ - Live or Watch & Listen Later

Facebook Live (Zion) at https://www.facebook.com/pg/Zion-United-Church-of-Christ-Womelsdorf-733032070041250 - 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.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" - arr. for piano by Robert Thygerson

{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) Come to us as a light from heaven, Sovereign God. Pierce the shadows of doubt and despair, anger and scorn, that we allow to rule in our lives. Turn us from ways that deny your rule among us. Awaken us from dull routines to worship that is alive with awe and wonder, spontaneity, and joy. Surprise us with a presence we cannot avoid, a summons we dare not evade, a mission we may not escape. We are gathered by the love of Christ, that we may feed others as we have been fed. Amen.



{Those who are able, please rise}

*Processional Hymn

"An Easter Carol"

By Pastor Paul Lintern of Mansfield, OH

- Joy to the World, the Lord's alive, Awake, rejoice and sing! It's just as He had said, He's risen from the dead, Salvation now He brings, Salvation now He brings, Salvation, salvation now He brings.
- Joy to the World, the empty tomb proclaims a victory. vs2 Of light compelling, a great dispelling Of darkness in the world, of darkness in the world, Of darkness, of darkness in the world.
- vs3 Joy to the World, Our Savior reigns. Let Heaven and earth proclaim The glories of His righteousness, the sign of perfect gentleness, And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,

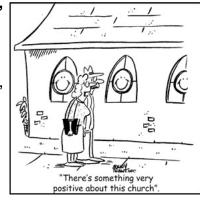
And wonders, and wonders of His love.

*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 ^①

Leader: Sing praises to God, O you saints of God.

Give thanks to God's holy name.

People: Praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.

Praise God who hears our cries and answers our

prayers.

***SUNG INVITATION**

"This is the Day"





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)

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our

sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in throught, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.



*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*Assurance of Pardon ®

Leader: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are

forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

ALL: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CALL TO PRAISE ®

Leader: He is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Through our baptism, we rise with Christ!

People: We give praise for the Good News of God's forgiveness, grace, & love!



{please be seated}

ACTIVE NEWS

HILARIOUS NEWS



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 History: Acts 5:27-32



Old Testament Song: Psalm 150

Leader: Let us praise God with the Psalm....

{The 1st time, the organist will play through the response without singing - that we may hear the tune; the 2nd time, the choir will sing the response - that we may hear the words; & the 3rd time, the congregation & choir will sing the response together}.

{Sung Refrain}:

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love; Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.

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Leader: Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

People: praise him in his mighty firmament!

Leader: Praise him for his mighty deeds;

People: praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

{Sung Refrain}:

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love;

Leader: Praise him with trumpet sound; **People: praise him with lute and harp!**

Leader: Praise him with tambourine and dance; **People: praise him with strings and pipe!**Leader: Praise him with clanging cymbals;

People: praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Leader: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

ALL: Praise the Lord!

{Sung Refrain}:

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 20:19-31

Leader: This is the Good News. **People: Thanks be to God.**





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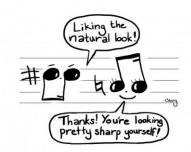
CHILDREN'S SERMON

ACTIVE NEWS

Music

Love Him, love Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love; Love Him, love Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.

Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love; Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.



HILARIOUS NEWS

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

{Those who are able, please rise}

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

{Adapted from: 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20}

Leader: This is the good news

which we have received, in which we stand,

and by which we are saved:

ALL: Christ died for our sins,

was buried,

was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe Jesus is the Christ,
the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together,
in whom the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell
by the power of the Spirit.
Christ is the head of the body, the church

Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.

{please be seated}



ACTIVE NEWS

HILARIOUS NEWS

CALL TO PRAYER

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

Leader: Let us pray....

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

For thine is the kingdom and the power,

and the glory forever. Amen.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us

INVITATION ²

Leader: As the apostles filled Jerusalem with their teaching

about Jesus, we are called to bring good news to

People: Our witness is in word and deed, in time and

treasure.

Leader: Give thanks in all things, for God is good.

People: With our gifts we express thanks for God's

steadfast love which endures forever.



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 St. Paul's UCC secure Online Giving option on our website at spruce.org - St. Paul's 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}.

text by Rev. Robert Masenheimer {Sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves the Little Children"}

This is Holy Humor Sunday. People all around the world Are rejoicing with delight, We are in God's Holy Light; This is better than the stuff in cyber-world!

Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world. Jesus says they're his delight They are precious in his sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Let us raise our voices proudly. We have faith in God above. SHE sustains us by HER might, We are in HIS holy light; We shall always be accepting of HIS love.

Jesus holds the little children. All the children of the world. Shy and quiet, glad and bright, They are treasures in his sight. Jesus blesses all the children of the world.

This is Holy Humor Sunday: We are joyful people here. When we meet together, we Can affirm our faith with glee. We can face the future days without a fear.

We are proud to be God's people; We represent all shades and hues. When we work together here We can witness without fear We can confidently show and share Good News.



"He's here to hit the high notes."



*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia!

*Offertory Prayer [®] (Leader)

Gracious God, for the breath of life, for eyes to see, for insight to believe, for courage to witness, we give thanks. The signs of your presence are everywhere. Your glory and dominion are forever and ever. May this offering witness to your grace and peace. Grant your Spirit as a transforming power among us that inspires and enables our service. **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 600

Leader: Thomas believed in the resurrection of Christ,

because he touched the hands and sides of Jesus.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

People: It is through our personal witness that people come to believe in Christ.

We will therefore invite our neighbors to know Jesus through His

Body-this His Church.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558

*SENDING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

♬ Blue #90

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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

FELLOWSHIP & REFRESHMENTS

{All are invited to join in refreshments in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.}





Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



WORDS: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.

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

[®] Gathered By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.

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The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

[®] The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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Financial Secretary: Janice Conner

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





April 24, 2022

High Five for Disaster Relief Exceeds Goal

The Susquehanna Area Mission Council extends deep thanks to all who participated in the High Five for Disaster Relief campaign. We began this project with a goal of \$5,000 for the two eastern Pennsylvania conferences. We collected a grand total of \$9,191.49, nearly doubling our goal, with \$3,711.96 donated to the campaign (or directly to current projects) by the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

Some of the PSEC funds have already been spent. They have provided seed funding for a car for a family in Berks County that lost its vehicle in Hurricane Ida. This family's children need to be transported regularly to Philadelphia for medical treatment, so a car is a life-giving necessity. Other PSEC funds have helped resolve life safety issues in a home in the Eastwick project of Philadelphia.

The PNEC funds are standing by to meet similar needs in that Conference. Previous funding there has assisted with storm-related damage to homes as well as provided heat and hot water for homes following Tropical Storm Isaias.

Because of the generosity of our churches, we are positioned to meet both current and future needs in both Conferences, allowing us to reach out in the love of Christ to those who are suffering.

Thank you again.

From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Turn It Off

Most of us are closely watching the invasion of Ukraine over the past weeks with horror and disbelief. We see the images of people suffering, children killed, whole towns leveled. We also hear and see the chaos and polarization in our world, our country and sometimes our own families and churches. It would be wonderful to just turn it all off and walk away. But we can't.

How do you deal with all the stress, feelings of helplessness, sense of despair? Do you turn to the love and comfort of a God who has promised never to desert you? Or do you turn to a substance that can numb the pain, fear and despair? What do you do if you have never been taught about Jesus who suffered himself and so understands our human pain? What if you have never been inside a church? What if you never had a loving church community that supports you and accepts you no matter where you are on life's journey?

We need to do a better job of reaching out to those who need the church. We need to be the answer to the question, "Where can I turn?" Please see the resources on the PSEC Addiction and Recovery work group's webpage and plan to attend the workshop on May 11 Changing the Way Church Views Addiction. (Go to PSEC.org and click the calendar under Events & News and click on May 11th for more information.)

Churches!! Share your Classified Ads and Local Church Events

Churches, are you aware there is a section of the PSEC website (psec.org) that is for Churches to place classified ads and promote their church activities?

Bring more people to your advents, by sharing them!

Classified ads can be listed at https://psec.org/submit-classified-ad/

Local church events can be advertised at: https://psec.org/submit-an-event/

About Today

Church Season: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 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 from darkness to light.

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

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected 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 are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

Lectionary for Today - 2nd Sunday of Easter - Holy Humor Sunday, April 24, 2022:

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

Psalm 150

This OT hymn of praise calls upon all creation to glorify God - every person, every creature, and every instrument that can make music.

The Revelation to John (Apocalypse)

This is the last book in the NT, which is a prophetic book written by a person named "John" who was probably born into the Jewish faith in Palestine and moved to Asia Minor between 66-73A.D. This is probably not the same John who wrote the Gospel of John or the Letters of John. This book is believed to be written between 64 - 96 A.D. Some scholars believe that this book developed over a period of time, with 1:4-11 and 4:1-22:5 being written around 64 A.D., and the rest of the book being written sometime between 81-96 A.D. The genre of this book is "apocalypse" (revelation). Biblically, an apocalypse is usually a first-person narrative (generally written under a pen name of a noted Biblical character) where the author retells a vision about the future, heaven, or both.



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).

Lectionary for Next Sunday - 3rd Sunday of Easter - Sunday, May 1, 2022:

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19