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



May 22, 2022 Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:15 a.m.

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).

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 supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, on Sunday, September 11, 2022. In the meantime, parents who would like to 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. We will resume Junior Worship on Sunday, September 11, 2022. The option of Junior Worship is 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 are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

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.

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; $\mathfrak{I}\#=$ Red Hymnal Page; $\mathfrak{I}\#=$ Blue Hymnal Page}







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 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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP®

Maker of all things. Ruler of all peoples of the earth, we bring our prayers of thanksgiving and praise. You have provided the water of life for our baptism. You have fed us with the fruits of the earth and nourished us through your Word. Meet us again in the joyous encounter of worship, lest we forget the source of all we have and all that we are. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Amen.

PRELUDE "Morning Has Broken" (Handbells) arranged by Lloyd Larson

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Shall We Gather at the River"

NCH 597

One License #A-728042

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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: Come to this place of prayer: God is calling us.

Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

People: We have come to hear the Word of God.

We have brought with us all that weighs us down.

Leader: Let voices of praise greet the one who calls us.

Be glad together and sing for joy.

People: Our hearts respond with hope for a new day.

Our voices join in thankful prayers and praise.

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)

All who keep God's Word know God's love and live by it. But obedience is not easy amid all the world's distractions, and the gift of love is not incorporated into our lives without effort. There is a gap between intention and reality, a chasm we create between ourselves and God. That is why we observe a time of confession.

*Confession of Sin @ (Unison)

Almighty God, we have wandered far from your love. We have neglected your Word in the torrent of words that we hear and read every day. Our hearts are troubled amid the conflicts and violence of our world. Sometimes we find it easier to withdraw from everything, to resist change, lest it require more of us. We know you are reaching out to heal us; help us to respond. We know we are surrounded by your love. Let us feel it deep within, that we may reflect that love to all we meet. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*Assurance of Pardon @ (Leader)

Jesus invites us to stand, to feel our own strength, to understand our own power, to sense the changes that love is accomplishing within us and among us. The Holy Spirit has come to teach us all that we need in order to be faithful. We are loving servants of God, who claims us and sends us on a journey of peace. Praise God, who has blessed and forgiven us. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Give praise to our risen Saviour!

People: We give praise to the risen Christ our Lord!

*Sung Praise "Alleluia"

■ Blue #189

Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair

You're my Savior, alleluia; you're my Savior, alleluia; You're my Savior, alleluia; you're my Savior, alleluia!

(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: Acts 16:9-15

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 5:1-9

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

NCH #43

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING "Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"

1. 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.

- 2. Love him...
- 3. Thank him...

SERMON

In Memory of

June 30, 1922 -- April 11, 2022

&

<u>Barbara J. Breininger</u>
May 14, 1936 -- April 25, 2022

Disciples of Christ and Members of the Family of St. Paul's UCC

{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers and show our love, support, and care for these members of our family of St. Paul's United Church of Christ}.

GREETING

Leader:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all.

People: And also with you.

SENTENCES (Leader)

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) {From Paul's letter to the Romans}

We believe that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING (Leader)

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Leader: Let us offer our silent prayers....

(Silent Prayers)

SENTENCES (Leader)

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Unison)

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be counted, awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.

By your Holy Spirit,

lead us in faithfulness all our days.

When we have served you in our generation, may we be gathered with those who have gone before, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of your holy church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a saving hope, in favor with you, our God, and at perfect peace with the world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. Amen.

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.

BLESSING

Leader:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God

Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be among you and remain with you always.

All:

Amen.

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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)

PRAYER RESPONSE "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

W&R #484

- O Lord, hear my prayer,
- O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.
- O Lord, hear my prayer,
- O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

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OFFERTORY INVITATION ®

Leader: What do we have to give?. **People: Only what we have received.**Leader: The earth has yielded its increase.

People: God has blessed us in more ways than we can count.

Leader: Let us offer to God more than support of a church.

People: Let us offer ourselves for the healing of the nations.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Be Still, for the Spirit of the Lord" Words & music by Dave Evans

{Those who are able, please rise}

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*Offertory Response "Alleluia"

□ Blue #189 Music & Text: Jerry Sinclair

You are worthy, alleluia; you are worthy, alleluia; You are worthy, alleluia; you are worthy, alleluia!

(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> 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 Prayer (Leader) o

Gracious God, for the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give you thanks. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and an evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your reign of light may be realized in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. **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 @

Leader: Worshipers of God, we are called into the world.

We cannot stay here; God has work for us to do.

People: God invites us to follow where Jesus leads.

Our presence is needed in unexpected places.

Leader: The peace of God goes with you, today and always;

let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.

People: God is blessing us every day; praise God!

We will carry God's saving power to all nations.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

{Please remember to wear a mask whenever singing}

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

E&R #558 Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN "We Are Marching in the Light of God" (Siyahamba)

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V1 – We are marching....

V2 – We are dancing....

V3 – We are praying....

V4 – We are singing....

{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



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

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

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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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Consistory Secretary: Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Acting Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor

Zion United Church of Christ

PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.1Zion.org

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610-507-7865

Consistory Secretary: Yvonne Rentschler Financial Secretary: Janice Conner

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

Link to Website's Upcoming Events



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 form 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 Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

This Sunday, May 22, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 5:1-9

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 67

This OT song extols God, giving thanks to God for the healing God provides.

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 66-73 A.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

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 and orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, May 29 -- Lectionary Reading for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-40 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-21 John 17:20-26

May 22, 2022

How much do you know about the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and how it can assist your church?

When someone mentions the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, what Or perhaps the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) is simply the Spring Annual or Fall Meetings when we come together to do the work comes to your mind? Is it simply seeing our Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Worley when he comes to visit your church on a Sunday morning? we are called to do

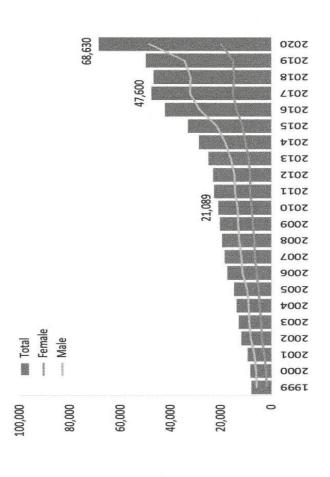
resource that is there to assist your pastor(s) and your church. The best Associations. Within each of these tabs are several sub-tabs that cover a wide variety of topics. There is assistance for your finance teams, for your leaders, and for those looking for social justice opportunities, just Go there and look around The home page has five tabs that run across the top: Are you aware the Conference is so much more than that? It is a About Us—Missions & Ministries—Resources—Events & News place to start, to learn more, is our website....psec.org. to name a few

There is also a section where you can list YOUR church events or post a classified ad. The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference is YOU! It is your church, your Association and the staff at the office that are there to help you. So, go to psec.org and take a look around. The next time someone asks you about the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, you'll be able to share so much more with them.



From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Opioid overdose data

Figure 3. National Overdose Deaths Involving Any Opioid, Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2020



multiple cause-of-death codes: natural and semi-synthetic opioids (T40.2), methadone (T40.3), other synthetic opioids (other than Among deaths with drug overdose as the underlying cause, the any opioid subcategory was determined by the following ICD-10 methadorie) (T40.4), or heroin (T40.1). Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2021. The crisis is real. Please visit the PSEC Addiction & Recovery Task Force's webpage on the PSEC Website, psec.org. Please work to give help and

psec.org, and clicking the Missions & Ministries tab and then the Justice Reach the Addiction & Recovery page of the PSEC website by going to & Witness sub-tab

Shall We Gather at the River

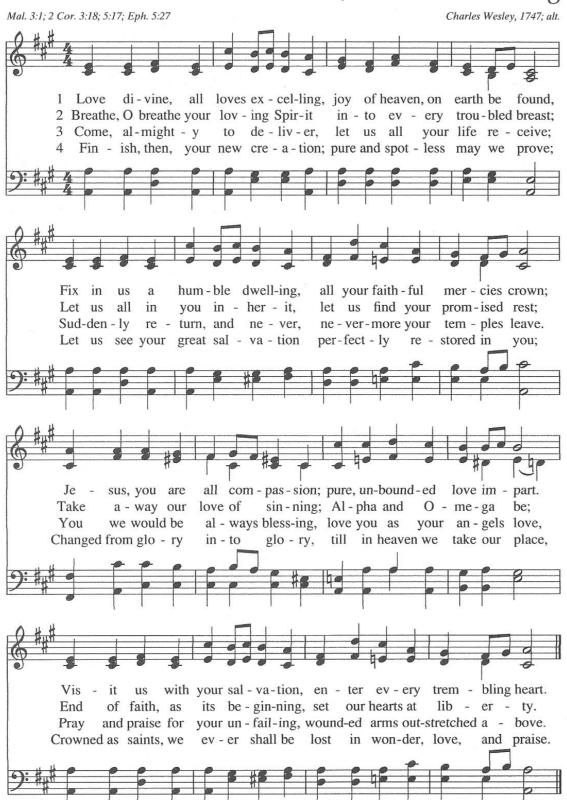
597



Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7. with refrain Robert Lowry, 1864

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495

526

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984



This South African song and fourteen others were first recorded and published in 1980 by the Church of Sweden Mission and the singing group "Fjedur" after a visit they made to South Africa. The subsequent 1984 collection Freedom Is Coming brought the songs to a worldwide audience.

Tune: SIYAHAMBA Irr. South African song