## **United Church of Christ**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

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



September 4, 2022 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 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).

### 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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; \$\frac{\tau}{\tau}\tau = Blue Hymnal Page}\$







Free WiFi

### 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

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 WORSHIP② (Unison)

Gracious God, our helper, we seek the assurance of your presence in this time of worship. Like a skilled potter, O God, you have shaped each one of us as a unique design. You know us better than we know ourselves. You value us more highly than we can imagine. You weep when we are marred or broken through our own misdeeds or the world's cruelty. We gather now to assemble our prayers for one another and all the world's people in a chorus of devotion. Hear us, gracious God. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE "Great is Our God" arr. for piano by Dale Wood

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*Processional Hymn "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

Red #8

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\*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP ②

Leader: God calls us together to listen to His word.

Love God and walk in the way the Lord commands.

People: We will delight in the Word and works of our God.

We will join together in praise and good works.

### 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 ② (Leader)

Come, all who have plugged your ears or averted your eyes when God's commands intrude on your idolatry. God calls individuals and nations to account. God expects our complete devotion and faithful obedience. How will we respond? Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN ② (Unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have become slaves to our own narrow self-interest. We often pay more attention to our possessions than to you. We try to hide from your all-seeing eye, for we are guilty of devotion to false gods. We are attracted to wicked advice and sinful pursuits that direct our Steps away from you. We act without thinking or planning or consulting with you. Prayer becomes an afterthought, instead of primary in our lives. O God, show us the way to a better life. Amen.

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

\*Sung Prayer for Mercy "Lord, Thy Mercy, Now Entreating"

Red #216
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Lord, Thy mercy now entreating, Low before Thy throne we fall; Our misdeeds to Thee confessing, On Thy Name we humbly call.

### \*Assurance of Pardon ② (Leader)

Grace to you and peace from God our Heavenly Father. Refresh your hearts in Jesus Christ our Savior, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Receive the living water God offers to all who come in true repentance and searching faith. The Holy Spirit will never leave us or forsake us. Our helper is ever available and eager to respond to our prayers. Come, there is a place at God's banquet table for you. **Amen.** 

### \*CALL TO PRAISE 100

Leader: Uplift your voices in praise to God.

People: We weekly gather to sing praise to the Lord.

\*Sung Praise "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Red #15

One License #A-728042

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### 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: Genesis 3:1-19

Second Lesson: Philemon 1:1-21
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: <u>Luke 14:25-33</u> Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**HYMN** "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

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### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG "God Hears My Prayer"

God, our Father, hears my prayer Anytime and anywhere, He will listen when I pray, Hear the loving words I say.

**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 aiving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

(Those who are able, please rise)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) "Apostle's 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.

(Please be seated)

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION 2**

Leader: When we perceive all the good we may do for Jesus Christ,

People: we are eager to share.

Leader: Jesus welcomes into discipleship those willing to give up all their

possessions.

People: What we give today is a symbol of our fuller devotion of all we have

and all we are toward the realization of God's reign among us.

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Old Hundredth Doxology"

*Red #551* One License #A-728042

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. {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 sprucc.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}

### \*Labor Day and Offertory Prayer (Leader) \$20

Great giver of life, we give you thanks for all who labor in our world. We especially remember those who are not paid enough to eat sufficiently, to sustain a family or to find shelter.

On the day of rest, which you call Sabbath, we think of those who do not rest because they cannot afford this luxury. We are grateful that your own labors with your people have brought us to a place where we can give you thanks for many fruits of labor.

We are ever mindful that your reign on earth still needs to be brought forth; use us as your instruments of labor to create a world of justice and freedom for all.

Loving God, we have no way to repay you for all we have received from your hands. Yet we want to give our first and best to the work you call us to do through this community of faith. We present our tithes and offerings with renewed commitment and confidence for the spreading of Christ's love throughout your world. To that end, we dedicate our time and abilities along with these first fruits of our labor. **Amen.** 

### Sacrament of Holy Communion o

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)

### \*Invitation (Leader)

This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

### \*COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.** 

Leader: We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in

the Church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith and

times, we praise you with joy and sing...

### "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Seraphic Hymn {Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory,

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Written by Samuel Longfellow, Arr. from Robert A. Schumann Reproduced with permission under license #3069293 CCLI

{Please be seated}

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, here within the sanctuary and within our homes, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united in communion with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

### BREAKING THE BREAD AND RAISING THE CUP

### 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.

### CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are ready.

### BREAKING THE BREAD, RAISING THE CUP, AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{For those who have the pre-filled cups: open the first seal - unleavened bread wafer}

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you. Take and eat.

People: Amen.

{You may eat the bread}

{For those who have the pre-filled cups: open the second seal - the fruit of the vine - grape juice}

Pastor: The Blood of Christ shed for you. Take and drink.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

{You may drink the wine or grape juice}

{Those who are able, please rise}

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise**.

Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table

by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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: God welcomes your partnership in the gospel;

Accept the cross of Christ and carry it.

People: We have considered the cost of discipleship.

We are willing and eager to pay the price.

ALL: Amen.

\*BENEDICTION

\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

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\*Sending Hymn "As Saints of Old Their First-Fruits Brought?"

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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

9

### 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) We experience the greater oneness with God and each other through Communion

(9) 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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<sup>①</sup> Lecturn Resource. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

- 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
- <sup>®</sup> Reprinted with Permission from Lecturn Resource. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

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

<sup>®</sup> The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etia 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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www.SPRUCC.org

Consistory President: Sheri Rowe Consistory Vice President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Secretary: Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Acting Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor

### **Zion United Church of Christ**

PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.1Zion.org

Consistory President: George McLain Consistory Vice President: Cory Putt Consistory Secretary: Yvonne Rentschler Treasurer: George McLain 717-628-1875 or 610-507-7865

Financial Secretary: Janice Conner

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

Link to Website's Upcoming Eve



### **About Today**

**Church Season: Pentecost** –which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. During this season we focus on how we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are called by God to go out into the world and share his Good News through both our deeds and words.

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

**Green** –symbolizing the growth of the Christian church, as we go out into the world and share God's Good News with both our words and actions, and invite others into the church of Jesus 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, September 4, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 3:1-19 Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

### Genesis

The book of Genesis (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT, or Torah, or one of the five most central books in Judaism). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

### Psalm 1

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

### **Philemon**

Paul wrote this letter from Rome in about A.D. 60, when he was under house arrest. Onesimus was a domestic slave who belonged to Philemon, a wealthy man and a member of the church in Colosse. Onesimus had run way from Philemon and made his way to Rome where he met Paul, who apparently led him to Chridst. Paul convinced Onesimus that running from his problems wouldn't solve them, and he persuaded Onesimus to return to his master. Paul wrote this letter to Philemon to ask him to be reconciled to his runaway slave.

### 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, September 11, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

# Communit

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

September 4, 2022

# PSEC Announces Addition of Tech Support Individual

It is with pleasure that we announce that PSEC has hired Rev. Zachary Jackson as an "as needed" Tech Support Person. Zack's responsibilities will be varied but will center around, tech issues for PSEC meetings, tech classes to assist our churches, podcasts and marketing videos to name a few.



We believe most of the Conference knows Zack but for those of you who have not yet had the pleasure, a bit of background on Zack. He was most recently the Pastor at Community Church in Reading and is currently, along with his wife, Rev. Nichole Jackson, in the midst of a new church start, "Open Table UCC" which is beginning in Pottstown. He and Nichole are busy relocating their family (2 sons: Charlie and Theo) to Pottstown.

Read future versions of eNews for information on tech webinars and other information from Zack



PSEC FALL MEETING November 13th @ Salt & Light Community Church Philadelphia This will be a hybrid meeting. You will have the option to fully participate online or attend in person.

Registration will open in September.



First UCC in Quakertown is offering Free Training for Faith Leaders on Thursday, September 22nd. Register per the information on the flyer above!

Adoration and Praise

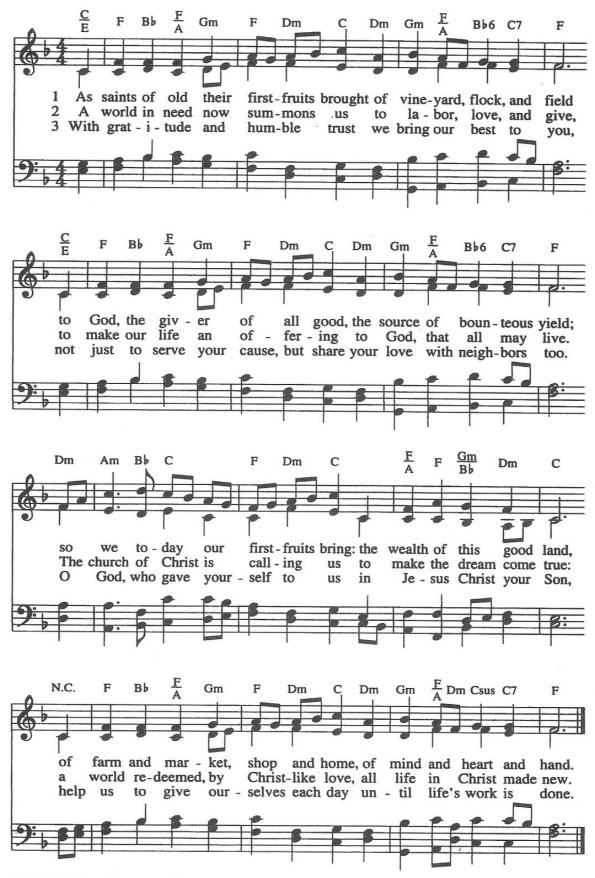


# 591 Have Thine Own Way, Lord

We are the clay, You are the potter. Isaiah 64:8



# As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought 570



WORDS: Frank von Christierson (1900-1996), alt. MUSIC: English melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Words © 1961, Ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

FOREST GREEN 8.6.8.6.D.