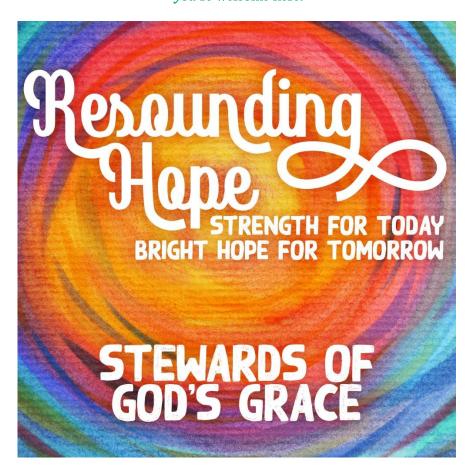
United Church of Christ 301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

> 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

+†+

October 23, 2022 Twentieth 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 an additional option, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

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; $J = Red Hymnal Page; J = Blue Hymnal Page}$







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

{If you have not already done so, please sign and pass the pew welcome pad to the person next to you.}

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP^(Unison)

To you, O God, shall our vows be performed. To you we sing our praises and utter our prayers. Come among us to renew your covenant and offer your signs. Pour out your Spirit on your people gathered here, that we may dream and prophesy and follow the vision you set before us. Amen.

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Take My Gifts"

Colin Gibson

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All My Hope on God is Founded"

Inded" NCH #408 One License #A-728042 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: This is God's house, a holy temple.

We are in the midst of God's dwelling place.

People: Our voices rise in praise of God's awesome deeds. Mountains and seas bow down before the Lord our Maker.

Leader: Happy are those whom God has chosen to be here. Blessed are all whom God has forgiven and named.

People: God's presence is felt to the ends of the earth. All creation is God's dwelling place.

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)

No good thing will God withhold from those who walk uprightly. Let us, therefore, acknowledge our wickedness and leave it behind us that we may set our hope in God and walk with confidence into God's new day. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN 200 (Unison)

O God of our salvation, how easily we have forgotten you. We imagine that our prosperity is of our own design. We wander into paths of selfrighteousness and self-congratulation. We compare ourselves with those whose sins are public knowledge and consider ourselves better than they. O God, rescue us from the evil inside us that alienates us from others and from you. Unbind us from the anxiety that keeps us from being extravagantly generous to you, to our neighbor, to your church; help us to grow in faith and faithfulness. We humble ourselves before you, seeking forgiveness. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY	"Kyrie"	Red #518
Leader (spoken):	Lord, have mercy upon us.	Public Domain
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.	

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ② (Leader)

God justifies those who confess their guilt and forgives their transgressions. The God of our salvation delivers us in awesome ways. Those who put their trust in God and center their hope in Jesus Christ are blessed by an outpouring of the Spirit. God equips us to fight the good fight, to finish the race, to keep the faith. Be glad and rejoice in the LORD. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE ®

Leader: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

People: O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you and sing you our praise.

*SUNG PRAISE "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee, Filled with messages from Thee. Blue #597 Public Domain

(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: <u>Sirach 35:12-17</u> Second Lesson: <u>2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18</u> Leader: This is the word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: <u>Luke 18:9-14</u>

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

MINI-MESSAGE

{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship, or 0-8 year olds may go downstairs to nursery, or on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time for the additional option of "Junior Worship")

CHILDREN'S SONG "PRAISE HIM"

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.

Serve him, serve him, serve him in the morning, serve him at the noontime. Serve him, serve him, serve him when the sun goes down.

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 Christ.

"God You Give" vs. 1.2.3 CONSECRATING STEWARDS HYMN God you give good gifts to me, Thus I live so gratefully. You enrich all of my days, Now I come to sing your praise. Now I come to sing your praise.

Praise for life and friends and food, Praise for giving all that's good. Praise for Jesus Christ your son, Praise for loving ev'ryone. Praise for loving ev'ryone.

Now I come to give myself, Give my time and give my wealth. Give my gifts as generously As, O God, you give to me. As, O God you give to me.

Tune: Hendon; Words: Earl D. Miller Reproduced with permission under the Consecrating Stewards program

CONSECRATION OF STEWARDS

The rite of consecration of stewards is one in which we, as members of the Body of Christ and as members of this one household of faith, pray for God's guidance and seek God's blessing in our use of the gifts that God has so graciously given us. During this service we consecrate (bless) our hands for service to God. It is on this day that we make our Faith Promises to God before the altar of God for the upcoming year, prayerfully committing the first fruits of our labors. In doing so, we renew our vows to faithfully support the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ through his local church.

A LITANY OF GIFTS

Leader:	People of God, celebrate the gifts that enrich our lives!
People:	Breath and food, caring people and gentle words, music and colors.
Leader:	Celebrate God who is the giver.
People:	We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.
Leader:	Many of God's gifts surprise us:
People:	Like the hug of a child, words of encouragement, bright colored blooms
	from gray buds.
Leader:	Many of God's gifts fulfill us:
People:	New vocational opportunities, courage to stand up for justice, words that
	say "I love you."
Leader:	Many of God's gifts change us:
People:	Hope when despair rules, forgiveness when sin burdens, "Yes" when we
	expected "No."
Leader:	Now let our common words thank God.
People:	O God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for reaching out to
	us, touching and caring, loving and giving.
Leader:	And let our lives thank God,
People:	Help us, O God, more and more to become giving people, reaching out to
	those who lack, touching the lonely ones, caring for those who are troubled,
	living with all in joy and hope and peace, giving gifts of time and self and
	wealth.
Leader:	In our giving we grow in God's image.
People:	For God is a giver.

Tune 17 Blue #597

Leader:We become more like the people God made us to be.People:For God created us for good.Leader:In our giving, we become caring stewards for God.People:Today, O God, consecrate our living and our giving.ALL:Amen and Amen!

CONSECRATING STEWARDS HYMN "G May my life and all I give Help this world to richly live. May all greed for things decrease That your people live in peace.

> As a steward help me live. Help me care and help me give. Help me share your gifts with all. Help me answer to your call. Help me answer to your call.

That your people live in peace.

You are calling and I hear. In your presence, I come near, Come with gifts that they may be Consecrate, God to thee Consecrated God to thee.

> Tune: Hendon; Words: Earl D. Miller Reproduced with permission under the Consecrating Stewards program

Tune J Blue #597

BLESSING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Leader: Our Lord and our God, may your blessing come upon us and this water. May you consecrate our hands, as we seek to use them according to your will, as stewards of your church and as stewards of all creation.

"God You Give" vs. 4,5,6

People: May your Holy Spirit come upon us, bless us, and work through us, that our hands may reveal your love and grace, through our generosity of time, talent, and treasure.

ALL: Amen.

ACT OF CONSECRATION

All of the congregation is invited to come forward for the consecrating of the stewards. Visitors are welcome, as well.

> You may bring your "Faith Promise to God" card forward at this time, and place it before God's altar, by putting the card in the basket.

Our Pastor and Guest Steward will be anointing hands with Baptismal Water. Children and Youth of St. Paul's UCC who bring forward a card may receive a special gift.

Visiting Children may come forward to receive a gift as well without needing a card.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray...

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.

I Blue #597

"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" SUNG Take my will and make it Thine – It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart – it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne, It shall be Thy royal throne.

{Ushers assemble at rear of sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION 2000

Leader: The threshing floors are full of grain.

People: the vats overflow with wine and oil,

Leader: the technology of our day puts the world at our fingertips on a touchscreen.

People: The choices are so abundant and the possibilities for good and evil so extensive.

Leader: Will we use the vast resources God puts at our disposal for our own selfsecurity and pleasure, or use them for God's Kingdom and the greater good?

People: As the church, we seek to exercise wise stewardship to proclaim the Kingdom of God, giving generously of our first fruits to God through His church in faithful response to His grace.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

{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 **spruce.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}

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Take My Gifts"

Shirley Erena Murray/Colin Gibson

{Those who are able, please rise}

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"

Tune: Hendon (Blue #597) Public Domain Words: Earl D. Miller

Tune 🎜 Blue #597

Reproduced with permission under the Consecrating Stewards program

Take my silver and my gold Not a mite would I withhold: Take my intellect and use Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER 2

- Leader: Gracious God, you have dealt wondrously with us. We have gathered in your temple to praise you and to join in efforts to share faith with one another and with the world. Through our offerings of time, talent, and treasure, we wish to extend the witness made here into our neighborhoods, and, in ever-widening circles, to the ends of the earth. Bless and multiply these gifts, we pray.
- 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: Be glad and rejoice in God's wondrous works! Praise God whose spirit blesses and empowers us! **People: God forgives our transgressions and answers our prayers.**
 - God delivers us from pretense and false pride.
- Leader: Return to your homes justified, praising God. Return to your world, proclaiming good news for all to hear.
- People: All who trust in God are strengthened and blessed; to God be the glory forever and ever.
- ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

*SENDING HYMN

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

Public Domain *Red* #253

Red #558

Public Domain Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.

{During the hymn, today's Greeters & Ushers may return to the rear of the sanctuary, to help greet after worship.}

{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

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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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- [®] 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
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- Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- ¹⁰ 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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www.1Zion.org

www.SPRUCC.org Consistory President: Sheri Rowe Consistory Vice President: Elsa Wertz Consistory Secretary: Treasurer: Terry Pastor Acting Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor

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Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest **Password** (for both): iamheretoserve Website's Link to 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. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church.

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, October 23, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Sirach 35:12-17 Psalm 84:1-7 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14
--

Sirach

Sirach is attributed to Jesus Son of Eleazar son of Sirach of Jerusalem (known as Ben Sira) and written around 180 B.C. Ben Sira was a traveling teacher for the "house of instruction". By demonstrating the wisdom of Judaism, this book addresses the questioning (which was leading to decline) as to whether or not the ancient Jewish traditions could match the new teachings of Greek thought and philosophy. This was widely used as a handbook of wisdom and faith.

The Pharisees omitted this book from the Jewish canon, but some rabbis considered it to be a sacred writing. Although, copies of the Greek translation survived, fragments of the Hebrew version were only discovered in the 1960s. Sirach is considered to be a deuteroncanonical (after-canon or second-canon) text by the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, and an apocryphal (secret, hidden, or non-canonical) book by most Protestant churches. The 18 deuteroncanonical/apocryphal books are deemed as important writings, but they are not universally viewed as "sacred", and are often not held in the same high authoritative regard as the more widely accepted 66 canonized books.

Psalm 84

This OT song proclaims the joy of worshiping in God's temple. It is set to the melody of "The Gittith of the Korahites." The Korahites were singers and one of the four divisions of the priestly Levite tribe of Israel.

The Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

This epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Paul and is dated around the 60's A.D. Timothy is a minister appointed by Paul. Paul writes from prison to encourage Timothy and the rest of the church to endure suffering for the Gospel. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He 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, October 30, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:120-181	Psalm 32:1-7	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Luke 19:1-10
11			

408

All My Hope on God Is Founded

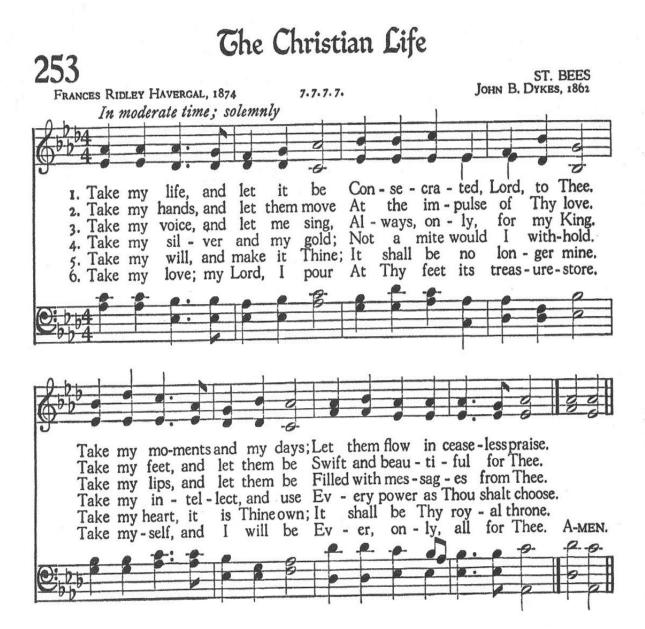
Joachim Neander, c. 1680 Paraphr. by Robert Bridges, 1899; alt.

Ps. 62:5-8; 1 Tim. 6:17



British composer Herbert Howells studied with Charles V. Stanford at the Royal College of Music in London and later taught there. The tune was composed for an English school and was named for Howells' son who died in childhood. Tune: MICHAEL 8.7.8.7.3.3.7. Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977

Music Copyright © 1930, renewed 1977 by Novello Music





October 23, 2022

The Insurance Board Offers the Following Webcast:

Trending Business Concerns for Ministries: What Churches Need to Know

United Church of Christ Featuring: Heather E. Kimmel, General Counsel of the Wednesday, October 26, 2022 @ 2pm EST

the difference between an employee and an independent contractor is liability to churches as well as unfairness to employees. Understanding contractors when they are legally employees may result in financial Misclassification of workers, including ministers, as independent key to reducing this risk.

financial risks associated with a third party's use of the church property church's mission as well as offset some of the costs of operating your Allowing community groups to utilize your facility may further your church. Good stewards of church assets will consider the legal and when establishing or revising the church's facilities use policy.

Use this link to register:

https://www.insuranceboard.org/trending-business-concerns-forministries-what-churches-need-to-know/



Buckets for Florida

Several years ago, Zion Blue Mountain UCC volunteered to be a drop off point for clean-up buckets. They also responded to disaster events in northern Berks County and in Schuylkill County. In

therapies integrating body, mind and spirit for pets and their human an educational center providing alternative, holistic Mission Central in Mechanicsburg for deployment to Florida. Pastor Stump recruited the help of The Wellness Center for Pets & Their People, which is and Zion Blue Mountain were able to respond to our request for help to send clean-up buckets to Salvation Army. As a result, Pastor Jason Stump the process they forged a partnership with the companions.



partner with community organizations to achieve a common good, both in our communities and in a wider response. In all, 45 clean-up buckets Pastor Stump and Zion Blue Mountain provide a model of how to

were provided to Mission Center for transport to Florida. The value of

The remaining challenge for us is:

these buckets is \$3,375.

Please keep putting them together. For information on how to do that go We need to replace the buckets that were sent to Mission Central (and the ones we are projecting to send to either Mission Central and CWS) to https://psec.org/resources/drop-off-

buckets-kits/. Remember a \$250 minilocations-for-church-world-servicegrant is available from the national setting of the UCC.

time from the Souderton/Perkasie We would like to move another 60-70 buckets and 50 hygiene kits. This



help to take them from their storage areas at our churches and load area. However, we need help to (a) provide transportation and (b) the van or truck.

If you can help, please contact our Disaster Coordinator, Karl Jones, at kjones275@comcast.net.