The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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

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November 13, 2022 23rd 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; S# = Red Hymnal Page; <math>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 ⁽²⁾ (Unison)

God of hosts, our strength and our salvation, there are no words large enough to praise you. No response by us can match the love you have shown us. Gather us now in your warm embrace, that our faith may be renewed and our work empowered to the honor and glory of your holy name. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE

"We Gather Together"

arranged for piano by John Carter

{Those who are able, please rise}

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*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
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"Come Ye Thankful People, Come" Blue #797 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: If the seas join in praise, how much more should we. If hills are alive with song, let us, too, awake to sing.
- People: Make a joyful noise to God, all people of the earth! Break forth into joyous song!
- Leader: Be glad! Rejoice in all that God is creating. Welcome the new heaven and earth God has planned.
- People: We worship God with great joy and delight. We welcome God's healing touch in our midst.

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)

We come to renew our relationship with God, knowing we are often let astray by our busyness, our greed, and our hope for gain without effort. Sometimes arrogant, often putting our trust in things, we neglect the spiritual dimension of our lives. Let us confess the emptiness we often feel before God and before one another. Let us pray...

*Confession of Sin ② (Unison)

O Lord and our God, we confess that at times we have been idle in our faith. At times we have been busybodies, and at times we have felt too weary to live as faithfully as we should. We have not shown our love for you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not sufficiently stirred our sisters and brothers in Christ to fully live out their Christian discipleship, nor have we adequately warned and encouraged them when we have witnessed their idleness in faith. Forgive us. Strengthen our faith O Lord; increase our ability to strengthen the faith of others. Lead us more fully in the steadfast ways of Christ, and grant us your grace. 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[®] (Leader)

Those who revere God's name will find healing when they come to God in heartfelt prayer. Those who model themselves after the saints will grow in love and trust. Be glad and rejoice in what God is creating among us. God grants forgiveness along with wisdom and strength to face life's challenges. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE 10

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.

"Doxology"

Blue #815 Public Domain

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, you heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(Please be seated)

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

Proclamation of Scripture

First Lesson: Isaiah 65:17-25

Second Lesson: <u>2 Thessalonians 3:6-15</u> Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 23:33-43

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

Hymn

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

Red #281 Public Domain

BLESSING OF THE BIBLES ^⑤

Leader: Let us pray...

May the words in these new Bibles lead these children to you, O Lord, our loving God who speaks a Word of grace and healing to us. May these stories be companions for their journey and a light for their path. Open their hearts, bless their reading and guide their loving as faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus, whose story these Bibles tell. **Amen.**

BIBLE PRESENTATION ^③

Leader: Receive this Bible.

Hear God's word with us. Learn and tell its stories. Discover its mysteries. Honor its commandments. Rejoice in its good news.

People: We will journey with you, in the reading, hearing, sharing, and living of God's holy word.

Leader: May God's life-giving word inspire you and make you wise.

ALL: Amen.

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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.

{Those who are able, please rise}

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ adapt.

We acknowledge as the sole Head of our Church,

Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior.

We acknowledge as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession.

We look to the Word of God in the Scriptures,

and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit,

to prosper our creative and redemptive work together as the Church in the world.

We claim as our own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds

and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers.

We affirm the responsibility of the Church in each generation

to make this faith its own in reality of worship,

in honesty of thought and expression,

and in purity of heart before God.

In accordance with the teaching of our Lord

and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians,

we recognize two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.** Leader: Let us pray....

VETERANS DAY PRAYER (1) adpt from Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15; Psalm 16:11 Leader: Almighty God, You know every veteran by name.

- ALL: You know their deeds, their hard work, and their perseverance. You know their needs, material, emotional, relational, and spiritual. Please draw each one closer to you and grant them all the peace that passes understanding, the peace of Christ to rule in their hearts, and joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand forevermore.
- Leader: We lift up those with physical wounds and emotional scars who have served in our military.
- ALL: Strengthen them to seek help from friends, counselors, doctors, and therapists. Give grace and patience to those who care for them. Give wisdom to those who are treating them. We pray for healing and peace.
- Leader: Let us remember those families who are still grieving today.
- ALL: Comfort them and let them know we do not forget their loved one's sacrifice.
- Leader: We pray for those missing in action.
- ALL: And we lift up in prayer their loved ones enduring the unknown.
- Leader: O God, we give you thanks for these people who have given of themselves for our freedoms.
- ALL: We give thanks that we are able to serve and worship You in freedom. May we not take our veterans for granted. We pray for the day of peace for all of humanity, a world where there is no war and no need for other children to become veterans of conflict. Amen.

HARVEST HOME PRAYER (1)

- Leader: The first harvest has lost some impact in our world today.
- People: For many of us, fresh fruits and vegetables are available year-round now.
- Leader: Many of us don't witness or participate in harvesting the first crops.
- People: The grains we know come in bread bags, donut shapes and cereal boxes.
- Leader: Most people are more familiar with grocery shopping than farming.
- People: Yet we continue to desire to offer our "first fruits" to honor God.
- Leader: All that we have and all that we are,
- People: we have received from the goodness of God.
- Leader: We honor God by giving of ourselves unto others.
- People: We give of the first and best that we have in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Leader: Gracious God, we give you thanks for the bounty that we have received, and for the ability to share what we have received with others. We give you thanks for gifts we present her today on this Sunday of Harvest Home. We pray that you might bless these gifts, bless the givers, and bless the receivers.
- People: We pray for the day that sharing by all will be scarcity for none.
- Leader: We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, the first born, the first fruit of the resurrection from the dead, who taught us when we pray to say....

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.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" I* Red #501 Hear our praver. O Lord: Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen. {Ushers assemble at rear of sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION 20

Leader: We are called by the Spirit

- People: to live and share in the love of God through joyful service and fellowship in Christ.
- Leader: We have the opportunity to give thanks to God.
- People: We now give thanks through our offering of ourselves and our possessions to the work God calls us to do.
- Leader: We cannot repay God for our lives, our minds, the beauty of earth and sky, the abundance of resources that we enjoy.

People: But we can respond with acts of gratitude and kindness, with generosity and thanksgiving.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

"The Lord of Harvest" CHORAL ANTHEM

by Austin Lovelace

{Those who are able, please rise}

OFFERTORY RESPONSE	"We Give Thee But Thine Own"	<i></i>

Public Domain

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone -A trust, O Lord, from Thee. 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 <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 2

We rejoice, O God, in the new world you are creating around us and within us. We give thanks for the joy we find in the church as we draw water from the wells of salvation. It is our intention to share the joy, to proclaim your Word among all nations, to work enthusiastically for a world where your love reigns. To these ends, we dedicate our offerings. **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: Life in God's kingdom is a gift freely given to us. It is also a way of relating that we are to share.

People: We wasn't others to come to know God through us. We want to live in ways that make God's love known.

Leader: God will give you the words and wisdom you need. By your endurance, you will gain your souls.

People: Praise God with trumpet, lyre, and horn. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

*SENDING HYMN

"God Will Take Care of You"

Red #558 Public Domain

Blue #692 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

e e e F

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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Financial Secretary: Janice Conner

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 life God brings, especially through our mission work.

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, November 13, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 Luke 21:5-19

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah's call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God's judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God's Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 98

This is an OT song of joy and victory. Because God is victorious over evil, all those who follow him will be victorious with him when he judges the earth.

The Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Although this NT epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Paul, many Biblical scholars believe it to be pseudonymous, due to differences in writing styles between 1st and 2nd Thessalonians. If by Paul, it was written shortly after 51 A.D. It is written to the church in Thessalonica, which is the Roman capital of the Macedonian province, a port city on the northern shore of the Aegean Sea. The Thessalonica church was founded by Timothy, Paul, and Silvanus.

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, November 20, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for Christ the King Sunday

 Luke 1:68-79
 Psalm 46
 Colossians 1:11-20
 Luke 23:33-43

SPECIAL TIMES AND SEASONS



12

MUSIC George I Flyer

FAITH & HOPE

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 405



MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

SOLID ROCK L.M.Ref.



692 God Will Take Care of You

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him. Nahum 1:7



14

GOD CARES C.M. with Refrain