

United Church of Christ of Robesonia  
Hosts the  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Season of Lent  
for the  
Conrad Weiser Ministerium



Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 12:00pm

# *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.

## **Nursery**

Persons of all ages (including children) are very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds for our 10:15am Sunday worship services. Members and visitors alike are welcome. *There is NO supervised nursery for the mid-week afternoon worship services. If a parent/guardian would like to use the nursery today, we do have a TV monitor in the room, where you can see and hear the worship service.*

## **Restrooms & Water Fountain**

Restrooms and water fountains are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

## **Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes**

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am

## **Sunday Worship**

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am

## **Youth Group**

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

## **Young Children & Family Ministries**

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

## **Prayer and Care**

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please fill out a pew card, check the appropriate box, and simply place it in the offering plate; or contact 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 the United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church and ministries, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church

## **More Information....**

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the tables in the narthex hallway, including our monthly newsletter *The Herald*.

You can also visit us on the web at: **[www.SPRUCC.org](http://www.SPRUCC.org)**.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: \*= if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♪## = Blue Hymnal Page}*



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

## A TIME OF GATHERING

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### PRELUDE

*{Those who are able, please rise for singing of the hymn}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

*♩ Red #461  
Public Domain*

### \*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 <sup>①</sup>

Leader: O God of the morning and of the evening hours,  
let your Spirit come on us here gathered.

**People: This is the holy place where we, your people, call on you in faith,  
joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise to your holy name.**

**ALL: Amen.**

### \*RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Leader: Almighty God, who sees that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:

**ALL: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may  
be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all  
evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul.**

Leader: Almighty Saviour, who at noonday called your servant Saint Paul to be an apostle  
to the Gentiles:

**ALL: We pray you to illumine the world with the radiance of your glory, that all  
nations may come and worship you.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

**ALL: to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions,  
to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.**

*From “The Book of Common Prayer” of the Episcopal Church  
for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Lent & noontime prayers*

*{Please be seated}*

### COLLECT *(Leader)*

*from Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience  
to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you; eyes to behold you; ears to listen  
for your word; a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE**

**Gospel:** [John 10:11-15](#)

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 23 (KJV)**

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

**ALL:** **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**

**he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul:**

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil:**

**for thou art with me;**

**thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:**

**thou anointest my head with oil;**

**my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

**HOMILY**

*"I Am, the Good Shepherd"*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING<sup>®</sup> (Leader)**

Almighty God, Fountain of all goodness and truth, receive our thanks for the revelation of your grace, which is able to make us wise unto everlasting life; and mercifully grant, we beseech you, that the words which we have heard this day may through your blessing be so grafted in our hearts that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of your Name. Bless the gifts which we offer you this day for the work of your Church. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us when we pray to say....

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**\*PRAYER BEFORE THE MEAL** ①

Leader: Jesus of the wedding feast, of breakfast by the lake, of the Upper Room,  
bless this food that has been prepared for all our friends in Christ  
for this time of faith and fellowship,  
and bless the hands that have prepared it.

Be with us now and at all our meals give us appetite and joy in eating together.

**ALL: Blessed be God for daily bread. Amen.**

**\*COMMISSION**

Leader: Saint Louise was guided by Saint Frances de Sales, and devoted her life to helping  
Saint Vincent de Paul serve the needs of the poor.  
She often taught:

**ALL: "Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor, honor them, as you would  
honor Christ Himself."**

Leader: Led by Christ, and as inspired by her words, calling, and ministry, let us pray....

**ALL: We lift up to O Lord, the mission, ministries, and programs of our churches  
and community that help the needy, and the people who do the work. Multiply  
the donations of time, talent, and treasure. Teach me how to think generously.  
Give me a heart that desires to care for the poor as if I were serving Jesus  
directly, and help me to see Jesus in each person that I meet, especially those  
most different from me and those in the greatest need. Amen.**

*adapted from catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers,  
which was a previous adaptation from various websites*

**\*BENEDICTION** ① *(Leader)*

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus, the great  
shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good  
that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus  
Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN**

♪ *Red #558*  
*Public Domain*

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"*

♪ *Blue #694*  
*Public Domain*

**POSTLUDE**

*{You may place your offering in the basket at the rear of the sanctuary following worship.  
Today's offering will go to support the ministries of the Conrad Weiser Ministerium}.*



*{Please join us in the downstairs Fellowship Hall for a light lunch following the worship service}.*



## 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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  - ⑪ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
  - ⑫ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
  - ⑬ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
  - ⑭ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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**Password (for both):** iamheretosome



## **Saint Louise de Marillac**

*Feast Day - March 15*

Patron Saint of Social workers,  
disappointing children, loss of parents,  
people rejected by religious orders, sick people, widows

Born near Meux, France, Louise lost her mother when she was still a child, her beloved father when she was but 15. Her desire to become a nun was discouraged by her confessor, and a marriage was arranged. One son was born of this union. But Louise soon found herself nursing her beloved husband through a long illness that finally led to his death.

Louise was fortunate to have a wise and sympathetic counselor, Francis de Sales, and then his friend, the bishop of Belley, France. Both of these men were available to her only periodically. But from an interior illumination she understood that she was to undertake a great work under the guidance of another person she had not yet met. This was the holy priest Monsieur Vincent, later to be known as Saint Vincent de Paul.

At first, he was reluctant to be her confessor, busy as he was with his “Confraternities of Charity.” Members were aristocratic ladies of charity who were helping him nurse the poor and look after neglected children, a real need of the day. But the ladies were busy with many of their own concerns and duties. His work needed many more helpers, especially ones who were peasants themselves and therefore, close to the poor and able to win their hearts. He also needed someone who could teach them and organize them.

Only over a long period of time, as Vincent de Paul became more acquainted with Louise, did he come to realize that she was the answer to his prayers. She was intelligent, self-effacing, and had physical strength and endurance that belied her continuing feeble health. The missions he sent her on eventually led to four simple young women joining her. Her rented home in Paris became the training center for those accepted for the service of the sick and poor. Growth was rapid and soon there was the need for a so-called “rule of life,” which Louise herself, under the guidance of Vincent, drew up for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Monsieur Vincent had always been slow and prudent in his dealings with Louise and the new group. He said that he had never had any idea of starting a new community, that it was God who did everything. “Your convent,” he said, “will be the house of the sick; your cell, a hired room; your chapel, the parish church; your cloister, the streets of the city or the wards of the hospital.” Their dress was to be that of the peasant women. It was not until years later that Vincent de Paul would finally permit four of the women to take annual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. It was still more years before the company would be formally approved by Rome and placed under the direction of Vincent’s own congregation of priests.

Many of the young women were illiterate. Still it was with reluctance that the new community undertook the care of neglected children. Louise was busy helping wherever needed despite her poor health. She traveled throughout France, establishing her community members in hospitals, orphanages and other institutions. At her death on March 15, 1660, the congregation had more than 40 houses in France. Six months later Vincent de Paul followed her in death.

Louise de Marillac was canonized in 1934 and declared patroness of social workers in 1960.

~ *saintsfeastfamily.com*

## About Today

**Church Season: Lent** - 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

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

**Purple** - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

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 A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

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).

### Wednesday, March 15 -- Lectionary Readings Mid Week Lenten Service:

John 10:11-15; Psalm 23

#### **The Gospel According to John**

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

#### **Psalm 23**

In this OT song written by King David, we express our trust in the LORD to lead us through even in the darkest times of our lives, and we proclaim our faith that we will dwell with God and all the saints in light in a life everlasting.

### This Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>- Lectionary Reading for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41