# The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online

+ + +

Sunday, November 19, 2023 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Harvest Home

# 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 welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

#### **Junior Worship**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Water fountains are located on both 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 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 United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

#### More Information...

www.sprucc.org

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; ♬# = Blue Hymnal Page}

#### Virtual Worship Service

Online: <u>Live Stream</u> at <u>spruce.org</u> - Live or Watch & Listen Later on <u>Our YouTube Channel</u>

Facebook Live at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/">https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/</a> - 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



Free WiFi

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP 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.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

**WELCOME & 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)

Fill us, gracious God, with a sense of your abiding presence. Awaken our spirits to realities unseen. Turn us from the dullness of our fear-filled grasping for security, and help us to live with trust in you. Expand among us such mutual regard and encouragement as will build up community and lead all of us to live in the light. May faith and love dominate all our relationships as we enter into the joy of serving in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE "We Gather Together" arranged for piano by John Carter

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*Processional Hymn "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" ∄Blue #797

One License #A-728042

### \*INVOCATION

Leader: We worship in the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the

Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen** 

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP ®

Leader: Lift up your eyes, seeking to know your God.

Attune your spirit to the One in whom we dwell.

People: God's love surrounds us here today.

God calls us to be children of light.

Leader: Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance.

Doing good adds to our sense of worth and dignity.

People: We are here to build up one another.

We want to invest the talents God gives us.

# 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 <sup>®</sup> (Leader)

Sometimes we are objects of scorn and contempt, but sometimes we are the ones at ease, filled with pride and thinking ourselves better than others. We cling to a false sense of peace and security amid injustice and oppression. The day of the Lord can surprise us like a thief in the night, and judgment is sure. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another, and then let us seek repentance—to truly change our hearts and minds and actions—in preparing ourselves for the day of the Lord. Let us pray....

# \*Confession of Sin <sup>®</sup> (Unison)

All-knowing God, we are reluctant to face your judgment. We know we have not fully invested the talents you have entrusted to us. We hide them and hoard them, retreating into a false sense of security. We live in the nighttime of self-protection rather than in the light of full participation in loving, faithful service. We seek to escape your wrath by shrinking from life rather than investing ourselves in the tasks to which you call us. Have mercy on us, O God. We want to be children of the day—your day. Help us! Amen.

# \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

\*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"God of Pity, God of Grace" vs. 1 & 5

*▶* Red #223

Morris/Filitz: Public Domain

God of pity, God of grace, When we humbly seek Thy face, Bend from heaven, Thy dwelling place, Hear, forgive and save.

And what e'er our cry may be, When we lift our hearts to Thee, From our burden set us free: Heal, forgive, and save.

# \*Assurance of Pardon <sup>2</sup> (Leader)

God has not destined us for wrath but for obtaining salvation through Jesus Christ, who offers us life in all its fullness. Continue, then to build up one another with encouragement and hope. Look to God each day for mercy and assurance, and be alert to hear God's commands. Live as children of light. **Amen.** 

\*SUNG PRAISE

"Come. Let us Praise the Lord"

vs.3

W&R #9

Timothy Dudley-Smith/John Darwall One License #A-728042

In worship bow the knee, our glorious God confess; the great Creator, he, the Lord of Righteousness.

He reigns unseen: his flock he feeds and gently leads in pastures green.

{please be seated}

# The Sacrament of Holy Baptism <sup>®</sup>

Newly Baptized Child:
Judson Drew Henning

Parents:

Jordan Thomas Henning & Laura Marie Henning

Sponsors:

Justin Robert Henning

Christopher Michael Ellis

INVITATION

{Child, Parents, Sponsors, & Elder are invited to come forward to the Baptismal font}

WELCOME

**A**DDRESS

**QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES** 

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

{Those who are able please rise}

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift

of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they

live and grow in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

# \*Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in

the triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His Son?

**People:** I believe in Jesus Christ, His Son. Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

{Please be seated}

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Christ be with you. **People: And also with you.** 

Pastor: Let us pray...

ACT OF BAPTISM AND NAMING OF CHILD

{Those Who Are Able, Please Rise}

\*GLORIA PATRI

☐ Blue #813 Henry Greatorex One License #A-728042

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

\*Presentation of Child

\*HYMN

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

**μ NCH #351** One License #A-728042

\*PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

\*LIGHTING OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ. **People: Thanks be to God.** 

{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

Old Testament prophecy from the prophet Zephaniah: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

New Testament letter from Apostle Paul to the church in Thessalonica: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News): Matthew 25:14-30

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

W&R #344

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus no turning back, no turning back.

#### **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.

## CALL TO PRAYER

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

Leader: Let us pray.

## HARVEST HOME PRAYER

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 here 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 we 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.

Taize/Berthier One License #A-728042

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.

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

# OFFERTORY INVITATION <sup>2</sup>

Leader: The Lord asks us for an accounting of what we have done with the wealth

entrusted to us.

People: All that we have and all that we are belongs to God.

Leader: The climax of worship is an accounting of our stewardship. **People: What are we doing with our time, talent, and treasure?** 

Leader: It is not only what we offer to God through the church today, but what we offer

to God every day that is under judgement here.

People: May the Lord find us, as one who gives with thankfulness.

#### RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org** (<u>Click Here</u>), or you may mail your offering to <u>United Church of Christ of Robesonia</u>; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"I'm Going on a Journey"

Text by Kenneth Larkin; Music by Edward Bonnemere

{Those who are able, please rise}

\*Offertory Response

"For the Life That You Have Given"

W&R #684 Daw/Leavitt One License #A-728042

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own: here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

# \*Offertory Prayer \*\* (Leader)

O Lord, there is no escape from your judgment, but neither can we flee beyond your limitless love. We offer an accounting of our stewardship in and beyond the offering of this day. Reshape our lives for joyous, responsive participation in work that builds up the body of Christ. Use what we offer here to bring encouragement and hope to many who have lost a sense of meaning for their lives Bless us and 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: As another week unfolds, continue to look up.

Dare to invest yourself for the sake of others.

People: God will go with us to uplift our spirits.

We will pass on to others the encouragement God gives.

Leader: Live as children of the day, children of the light.

Keep awake, sober, and full of faith and love.

People: We go out now to serve others.

May God bless our worship and our service.

ALL: Amen.

\*BENEDICTION

\*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

▶ Red #558 Public Domain

\*SENDING HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

▶ Red #72 One License #A-728042

{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**

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest

Password (for both): iamheretoserve

# 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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United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.

- @ Gathered By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- @ Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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② 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
- ® Reprinted with Permission from Lecturn Resource. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- 9 Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

10 The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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# ~~~~~ Staff & Leadership

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Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz Consistory Vice President: George McLain Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

# **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 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).

# This Sunday, November 19, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7 and Psalm 123 or Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

# Zephaniah

This OT book is a revelation to the minor prophet Zephaniah, whose name means "God hides," "God shelters," "God protects," or "God treasures." Zephaniah is the great-grandson of king Hezekiah and perhaps a disciple of the major prophet Isaiah. Zephaniah is prophesying during the reign of Josiah (640-609 B.C.), and was a contemporary of the major prophet Jeremiah. Zephaniah tells of the coming judgement of God over the whole world (including Jerusalem), because of corruption and idolatry; however, following this judgement will be rejoicing in God's salvation.

#### The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

This epistle (letter) is the oldest book in the NT. It was written by the Apostle Paul in Corinth around 51 A.D. 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. Timothy, Paul, and Silvanus founded this church. Timothy went back to Thessalonica and reported to Paul that the people there were anxious because Paul had not returned, and in response Paul wrote this pastoral letter. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

#### The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

# Next Sunday, November 26, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100 or Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

# 797 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

You crown the year with Your bounty. Psalm 65:11



# I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry



John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D. John Ylvisaker, 1985



