

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
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

+ † +

Sunday, February 18, 2024
1st Sunday in Lent

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 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. The third toilet stall in each of our four restrooms has a high toilet and handrails.

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 2nd 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....

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



www.sprucc.org

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on **Our YouTube Channel**
Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.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



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 ⑩ (Unison)

Lord, may your abundant mercy flow over us. We rejoice in this new day. We don't know what it holds for us. But you know! Soften our hearts that we may abide by your will. Shall we use the minutes of this day for this or for that? Only you know the blest agenda. Help us to flow with the plan. In your merciful way we trust. Amen.

This service was prepared by Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

PIANO PRELUDE

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"God Has Spoken by the Prophets"

W&R #667

One License - #A-728042

*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 ⑩ (from Psalm 25)

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

People: Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: My God, I put my trust in you.

People: Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

People: Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness.

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 ⑩ (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ⑩ (Unison)

Faithful and merciful God, hear our plea for your mercy to cover our sins. Hear our plea for you to remove our sins endlessly. Fill that freed space in our souls with joy and gladness. In gratefulness we thank you for that specific blessing. In your son's name we ask this. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Search Me O God"

W&R #385

*Hopkins & Orr
Public Domain*

**Stanza 1: Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
cleans me from every sin and set me free.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

People of God, oh that we could be invited to build an ark because we please God! Imagine the ridicule as people come to see and make fun of us! Imagine the ridicule as we use the name of God in every other sentence. Overkill? Imagine the gladness of seeing the merciful promise of the rainbow.

*LENTEN VERSES (adapted from Psalm 25)

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

People: **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness!**

*LENTEN SUNG RESPONSE

"Awesome God"

Rich Mullins

**Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God! Our God is an awesome 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

The Old Testament Reading: [Genesis 9:8-17](#)

The New Testament Letter: [1 Peter 3:18-22](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: [Mark 1:9-15](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Come Away From Rush and Hurry"

*W&R #655
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MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"This is the Day"

Les Garrett

**This is the day, this is the day.
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made.**

SERMON

"How Abundant is God's Mercy?"

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 (Unison) United Church of Christ Statement of Faith ①**
(Section One about God)

**All: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through
prophets and apostles.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

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"

♪ *Red #501*

George Whelpton; Public Domain

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;

Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: Could we ever give enough in thankfulness for God's mercy?

People: How much do we notice God's mercy?

Leader: Maybe we should look and celebrate every instance of God's mercy.

People: Does God keep count?

Leader: Maybe the word should be "abundant." God gives mercy abundantly.

People: May God grant us the attitude of "abundance."

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 [Online Giving](#) option on our website at sprucc.org (Click Here), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Doxology"

♪ *Red #551*

George Bourgeois; Public Domain

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.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)

Merciful God of abundance, we bring our gifts before you for your blessing. Show us how to apply these gifts for the good of people, for the good of our congregation, for the good of the kingdom. In the name of the one who gave his life for our forgiveness. **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 ⑩

Leader: As we are forgiven, let us forgive our friends on the inside of the church door and our friends on the outside of the church door.

People: What does the door have to do with forgiveness?

Leader: Sometimes we think we can leave God inside the door.

People: Oh, right. Let's take our forgiveness to work and to school and inside the door of our homes.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

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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

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 worshipping 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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 - ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
 - ② *Led By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1996). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 - ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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 - ⑦ 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
 - ⑧ 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.
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Staff & Leadership

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz - PastorMotz@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Mary Etta Mest - mestme@aol.com - 610-659-2775 (C)

Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

Office Secretary: Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

Consistory President: George McLain

Consistory Vice President: Kirk Aulenbach

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

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 B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

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, February 18, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

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.

The First Letter of Peter

This NT Epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Peter, who's name means "rock." Jesus appointed Simon Peter to lead the church after his ascension. Peter was a fisherman at the time Jesus called him to be a disciple. This letter is believed to be written pseudonymously in Rome around 70-90 A.D. This letter particularly addresses social tensions being felt within the Greco-Roman culture that are being attributed to the spread of the Christian faith.

The Gospel According to Mark

Mark's Gospel is the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, written between 65-75 A.D. Papias, a church leader in the 2nd century, reported that this Gospel's author is Mark, a follower of Peter who wrote this Gospel after Peter's death.

Next Sunday, February 25, 2024, Lectionary Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 *or* Mark 9:2-9

667 God Has Spoken by the Prophets

G G₇ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D

1 God has spo - ken by the proph - ets, spo - ken the un - chang - ing Word,
 2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
 3 God is speak - ing by the Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain;

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Cmaj9 $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the right - eous Lord!
 bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;
 in the age - long Word de - clar - ing God's own mes - sage, now as then.

D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{B}{D\#}$ B7 Em A D

'Mid the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor hold - ing fast:
 spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God of God, ere time was born;
 Through the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith yet stand - ing fast:

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Cmaj9 $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

God e - ter - nal reigns for - ev - er, God the first and God the last.
 Light of light, to earth de - scend - ing, Christ, as God in hu - man form.
 God a - bides, the Word un - chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

WORDS: George W. Briggs (1875-1959)
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Words © 1953, Ren. 1981 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

HYMN TO JOY
 8.7.8.7.D.

Come Away from Rush and Hurry 655

Unison F Bb Bb/C Gm7/C F

1 Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;
 2 In the pas - tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our soul.
 3 Come, then, chil - dren, with your bur - dens—life's con - fu - sions, fears and pain.

F Bb Bb/C Gm7/C F

from our vain am - bi - tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
 From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
 Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king - dom's reign.

Am7 Dm Am7 Dm Am/C Bb2 Bb

Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de - mands and fren - zied pace;
 At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
 Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—he a - lone will sat - is - fy.

C7/G F Fmaj7 Bb Bb/C Gm7/C F

come to join the peo - ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's face.
 With the oil of God's a - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
 All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.

WORDS: Marva J. Dawn (1948-)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)Words © 1999 Marva J. Dawn
Music Arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing CompanyBEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D.

Blessed Assurance

426

D G/D D A/E

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a fore - taste of
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of rap - ture now
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav - ior am

E7 A D G/D D

glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
 burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a - bove,
 hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,

D G Em/G D/A A7 D Refrain

born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry,
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

G D G D/F# A/E E A A7

this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my

D G/D D D7 Em/G D/A A7 D

sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908)

ASSURANCE
 9.10.9.9.Ref.