

# **The United Church of Christ of Robesonia**

**301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551**

**610-621-5770 -- [office@sprucc.org](mailto:office@sprucc.org) -- [www.sprucc.org](http://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, May 19, 2024**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

# 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. 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 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....**

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: **Live Stream** at [sprucc.org](http://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](mailto:Office@sprucc.org)



[www.sprucc.org](http://www.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 <sup>Ⓜ</sup> (Unison)

**Amazing God, how manifold are your works! The earth is full of life you have created, in forms too numerous to count. You have linked us, your people, to the earth and to all living things. We are interdependent. We can survive only if we have reverence for life. Come among us now to make your ways known. Help us to dream dreams and see visions of your intentions for this world and for your church. Amen.**

### HANDBELL PRELUDE

*"When Morning Gilds the Skies"*

*arranged by Sandra Eithun*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"Spirit of the Living God"*

*♩ Blue #389*

*Music: Daniel Iverson*

*Text Verse 1 - Daniel Iverson*

*Text Verse 2 & 3 - Lowell Alexander*

### \*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>Ⓜ</sup>

Leader: The day of Pentecost has come, and we are together.  
Will the works of God be known among us today?

**People: There are stirrings deep within that give us hope.  
There is a Spirit linking us to one another.**

Leader: The fires of love dispel life's shadows.  
God's Spirit come to give us new life..

**People: Surely God is in this place!  
May the glory of God be known among us today! Amen.**

## 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)

Like the first disciples, we have much to learn about sin and righteousness and judgment. Almost without conscious awareness, we slip into the valley of dry bones, devoid of meaning and hope, unable even to pray. But together we can join our voices, asking that our spirits will awaken to new possibilities.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN <sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**Mighty God, when your face is hidden from us, we forget that there is more to life than the daily pursuits that occupy our attention. We are weak because we have not tapped the resources you place within us. We are engaged only by what we can see and touch and hear. Our frantic self-centeredness dries up our bones and we lose hope. Call us out of the graves in which we have chosen to live, the deep ruts that keep us from knowing the fullness of life you reveal when we welcome your Spirit. Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON <sup>®</sup> (Leader)

In hope we are saved. The Spirit helps us in our weakness, intercedes for us, and guides us into all truth. God seeks to restore us to the fullness of life, to offer us hope, to assure us of our worth and value. Feel the flames of God's love resting on us, empowering us to love and serve in Christ's name. **Amen.**

### \*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our risen saviour.

People: **We praise God's holy name.**

### \*SUNG PRAISE

*"O For A Thousand Songs to Sing"*

*W&R #96  
Public Domain*

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.**

*{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 Beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ:** [Acts 2:1-21](#)

**The New Testament Letter:** [Romans 8:22-27](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel Reading:** [John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### HYMN

*"On Pentecost They Gathered"*

*NCH #272  
One License #A-728042*

### MINI-MESSAGE

*{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship,  
or on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time  
for the additional option of "Junior Worship"}*

### CHILDREN'S SONG

*"I Have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy"*

*George W. Cooke  
Public Domain*

**I have the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart; down in my heart, down in my heart.  
I have the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.**

### 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: (Unison)** *Adapted from the UCC of Robesonia Vision Statement*

**We seek to live in our discipleship in Christ to Lead All in our community  
to be Actively Connected in a Living Relationship with the Loving God.**

**Amen.**

*{Please be seated}*

In Memory of

*Susan R. Hiestler*

August 6, 1941 -- April 23, 2024

Disciple of Christ

*and*

Member of the Family of the  
United Church of Christ of Robesonia

*{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers  
and show our love, support, and care  
for this member of our family of UCC of Robesonia}.*

### **GREETING**

**Leader:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

### **SENTENCES (Leader)**

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING** (*Leader*)

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Leader: Let us offer our silent prayers....

*{Silent Prayers}*

**SENTENCES** (*Leader*)

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*Unison*)

**O God, whose days are without end  
and whose mercies cannot be counted,  
awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.**

**By your Holy Spirit,  
lead us in faithfulness all our days.**

**When we have served you in our generation,  
may we be gathered with those who have gone before,  
having the testimony of a good conscience,  
in the communion of your holy church,  
in the confidence of a certain faith,  
in the comfort of a saving hope,  
in favor with you, our God,  
and at perfect peace with the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. Amen.**

**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.**

## BLESSING

Leader: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

*The above is reprinted with permission from the Order for Thanksgiving for One Who Has Died and the Order for Committal from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship (1986) United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership*

## SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

*"Hear our Prayer, O Lord"*

♪ Red #501  
George Whelpton

**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 <sup>②</sup>

Leader: The face of the ground is continually renewed each year so we can reap its bounty.

**People: Likewise, our spirits are renewed.**

Leader: God has given us food in due season, opening a kind and loving hand to fill us with good things.

**People: Our offerings are but a small expression of thanks.**

## 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](http://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

*"Go Now in Love and Peace"*

Patrick Leiberger

*{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 <sup>②</sup> (Leader)

Amazing God, how manifold are your works! When there are dry-bones times in our lives, we can look to you for new breath and hope and renewal of life. Your Spirit comes, and we are lifted up and linked to one another. We bring our offerings as an expression of thanksgiving for all your gifts. May your glory be proclaimed in all we give and all we do, when we are together and when we scatter to do your will in other places. **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 <sup>②</sup>

Leader: God's Spirit is being poured out on this church.  
We carry it with us into our everyday world.

**People: With joy and amazement we scatter to serve.  
God's love is changing us and granting new life.**

Leader: The Spirit will help us in our weakness.  
We will be guided in all truth.

**People: Each day we will practice what we are learning.  
Throughout our days we will continue in prayer.**

**ALL: Amen.**

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*  
*Public Domain*

### \*SENDING HYMN

*"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"*

*{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.}*

*NCH #286*  
*One License #A-728042*

### 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 *Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources*. (2017). Margate, NJ.
  - 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.
  - ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
  - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
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## **Staff & Leadership**

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*Music Minister:* The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

*Bell Choir Director:* Miriam Borkert

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*Sextons:* Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

*Treasurer:* Terry Pastor

*Financial Secretary (Interim):* Terry Pastor

*Consistory President:* George McLain

*Consistory Vice President:* Kirk Aulenbach

*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):

**Red** - symbolizing the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit

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). The first four books of the NT are called the "Gospels," which are about the life of Jesus Christ, which Christians consider the most central books of the Bible; the rest of the NT takes place after his ascension into heaven.

### **This Sunday, May 19, 2024, Lectionary Reading for Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21;  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### **The Acts of the Apostles**

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

### **Psalm 104**

This OT song gives praise to God, the creator of heaven and earth.

### **The Letter of Paul to the Romans**

This epistle (letter) is addressed "to all God's beloved in Rome." It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Paul as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the church). 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, a highly educated man, wrote more of the NT than any other person.

### **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).

### **Next Sunday, May 26, 2024, Lectionary Reading for Trinity Sunday - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 6:1-8 *and* Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

# 389 Spirit of the Living God

*Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Galatians 5:16*

F B♭6  $\frac{D}{A}$  Gm  $\frac{F}{C}$  C7 F

1. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the  
 2. Soul of heav - en, heart of God, wash o - ver me. Soul of heav - en,  
 3. Ho - ly pres - ence, love di - vine, cast out my fear. Ho - ly pres - ence,

1 2 3 4 5

B♭6  $\frac{D}{A}$  Gm  $\frac{F}{C}$   $\frac{B♭}{C}$  C7 F B♭ F  $\frac{G}{F}$

liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,  
 heart of God, wash o - ver me. Cleanse me, teach me, hold me,  
 love di - vine, cast out my fear. Shield me, free me, call me,

6 7 8 9 10 11

$\frac{C}{E}$  Dm7 C F B♭6  $\frac{D}{A}$  Gm  $\frac{F}{C}$   $\frac{B♭}{C}$  C7 F

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.  
 reach me. Soul of heav - en, heart of God, wash o - ver me.  
 lead me. Ho - ly pres - ence, love di - vine, cast out my fear.

12 13 14 15 16

*Optional segue to "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart." No transition is necessary.*

MUSIC: Daniel Iverson

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, stanza 1; Lowell Alexander, stanzas 2, 3

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BY HIS SPIRIT - A Worship Sequence

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Irregular meter

IVERSON

## On Pentecost They Gathered

Acts 2:1-24, 32-47

Jane Parker Huber, 1981; rev. 1993

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,  
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed  
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,  
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples to wor - ship, sing, and pray.  
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as God in Christ they praised.  
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.  
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,  
 What un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?  
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.  
 O give us hearts to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.  
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.  
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.  
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

Jane Parker Huber explained that she wrote this text in 1981 "to fill a gap in current hymnody," in that "many of the hymns concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit do not mention Pentecost."

Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D.  
 Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693  
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

# Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*Unison, brightly*  
*Refrain*

*James K. Manley, 1978; alt.*

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G D *Last time, end*

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

D G A G

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the  
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the  
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a  
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

*\*Reduced-size notes may be played with organ pedals in lieu of or in combination with the other notes.*