**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

7300 Spout Hill Road, Sykesville, MD 21784 410-795-6152



**![chrch7c[1]]()October 23, 2022 - 10:30 am**

**WELCOME VISITORS!**

We're glad you are here! Cards at the ends of each pew are for you to fill out and drop in the Offering Plate. Please let us know you are visiting, and join us for refreshments and fellowship following the service. The Sanctuary has an induction loop system to assist the hearing impaired. The system will also work on the telephone setting of hearing aids.

Springfield Presbyterian Church is rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, and called to loving relationships through vibrant worship and service. Valuing all people, we are committed to developing disciples and fostering stewardship.

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD**

(**\*** those who are able are invited to stand)

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** (Greeting)

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Leader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim:

**People: Christ is the Light of the world and the center of our lives.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: If you come into this place with the hope of growing deeper,

**People: With the hope of connecting and with the hope of glimpsing God,**

Leader: If all of those things take place, and your spirit is moved, and you know God is near, and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith, and the service comes to an end, and it’s time to leave, we may ask ourselves:

**People: “Where do we go from here?”**

Leader: Then I would say to you, “Out into the world to love and to share and to learn, but come back soon, because this is the beginning. This is only the beginning.”

**People: So we come on in, we fill our cup, we promise to be present and proclaim God is here.**

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

**\* HYMN** *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* GTG #396

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses’ sister aided him.
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears?
Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound!
Pray, O pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we’ll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: One of the things I love about the prayer of confession is it allows us to claim that we are works in progress, and there is beauty in that. You don’t have to be perfect here. You don’t have to have it all figured out here. You don’t have to have a five-step plan for what’s next here. You just have to show up with your messy, beautiful self, and be honest. So friends, let us be honest. Let us pray the prayer of confession together…

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we are naturals when it comes to stalling out. We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall. We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there, destined to never dig deeper or climb higher. Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter. Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountaintop. Forgive us for taking**

**the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection. Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here. With hope and honesty we pray, Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *Hear My Prayer, O God*  Tune #782

Hear my prayer, O God, and listen to my plea;

Faithful, righteous One, give ear and answer me.

 Judge me not, I pray; no merit dare I claim;

 Knowing my own faults, I trust in your just Name.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Family of faith, we are works in progress, but we are designed, created, and claimed by God. No matter what you have done or left undone this week, today is a fresh start. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**People: God is with me on the mountaintop and God is with me on the plateau. I am loved, claimed, and forgiven. Thanks be to God! Alleluia and amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer*

 Bless your Maker, all you creatures, ever under God’s control,

 All throughout God’s vast dominion; bless the Lord of all, my soul!

**\* THE PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

 (You may greet those around you.)

**\* RESPONSE** *Here I Am, Lord*

 Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

 I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, we know that you are always speaking – through strangers and friends, through sunrise and sunset, through random acts of kindness and feelings that stir hope awake in us. We know that you speak through dreams and prayer, through a still, small voice and bursts of overwhelming joy. We know that you are always speaking, but we also know that we are inclined to miss it. Settle our spirits now to hear your word fully. We want to be part of the conversation. Gratefully we pray, amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Ruth 1:1-15*

1In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. 2The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. 3But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, 5both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband. 6Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. 7So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. 8But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.’ Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. 10They said to her, ‘No, we will return with you to your people.’ 11But Naomi said, ‘Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, 13would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.’ 14Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. 15So she said, ‘See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.’

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Ruth 1:16-22*

16But Ruth said, ‘Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!’ 18When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

19So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, ‘Is this Naomi?’ 20She said to them, ‘Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.
21I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?’ 22So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Where Do We Go From Here – Week 1* Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN***For All the Faithful Women* GTG#324

For all the faithful women who served in days of old,

To you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.

They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.

To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly while Pharoah’s vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;

For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,

Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi’s God till death.

We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan

While Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.

We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb

And found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.

Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.

O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,

That, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND OUR LORD’S PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY** *Hymn of Devotion* by Mary McDonald

SONG OF THANKS *Great God of Every Blessing* Tune #694

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,

 You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.

 How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:

 Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Help Us Accept Each Other* GTG #754

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you leave this place, may God grant us,

**People: The curiosity to counter assumptions,**

Leader: The vulnerability to befriend,

**People: The bravery to speak your truth,**

Leader: The wisdom to listen,

**People: The strength to ask for help,**

Leader: The resiliency to choose love, even when it’s hard,

**People: And the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside us.**

Leader: In the name of our Great God, who is Love itself, may you go in peace.

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday, October 30, 2022 Lectionary**

Acts 10

**Assisting in Worship: We appreciate those who serve:**

 Today 10/23 Next Week 10/30

Sunday Opener Barbara Cornell Beth Oates

Ushers/Greeters Don Vasbinder Steve & Donna

 Cynthia Smith Mazer

Lay Leader Barbara Cornell Bob Steppling

**Happy Birthday!** October 27 – Amy Vasbinder

**Happy Anniversary!** October 24 – Patty & Phil Salmon

**Announcements**

**All Saints’ Day:** As a community of faith, we will have the opportunity to celebrate and remember the saints that came before us; in particular, the ones who have touched our lives. During worship on **October 30**, there will be a time for reflection and naming those who have passed on.

**Noisy Offering**: The final Noisy Offering of the year will be received on

**October 30**. The money collected will be sent to HAPPY THON, a local Christmas event for underserved children and families in the Sykesville area. So, bring your change and let’s make some noise and a difference!

**Giving Thanks Potluck**: November is a month of giving thanks. We may gather with family and friends around a Thanksgiving table at the end of the month, but we have another opportunity as well. On **November 6**, Springfield will celebrate our annual “Giving Thanks Potluck Lunch” after worship. We invite you to sign up and bring your favorite dish to share, pitch in with rolls, or chips, or just bring yourselves and your family. Signing up will show us how many tables to set up and what gaps we need to fill, but please come anyway. November 6 is also Stewardship Sunday, another opportunity to give thanks through giving. And don't forget to change your clocks back--you'll have an extra hour to prepare for the lunch!

**Mask Update:** Since COVID-19 is still with us, the Session has decided that masking and social distancing is encouraged but is optional. Though it is not a mandate, we seek to love one another by keeping each other as safe as possible. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

**Christian Education:** Our Time and Talents survey shows folks are interested in an adult bible study program, and Alex McClung is interested in leading a study group. We imagine meeting 2x/month before church, but content, format, and timing are all TBD. Please contact Alex with your suggestions, interests, and best times: akmcclungiii@gmail.com.

**Pastor-Parish Committee:** The Pastor-Parish Committee invites you to share your concerns, suggestions, and gratitude. We have a form in the Narthex and a lock-box that we will open weekly and we ask that you share your name and be specific. We look forward to reading your comments so that we can continue to grow into the body of Christ.

**Springfield Membership:** Are you interested in finding out more about our faith community and becoming a member? We would love to answer any questions you have. Please contact Pastor Becca at springfieldpastor@gmail.com for more information.

**Congregational Care / Mission & Outreach (CoCaMO):** Do you know of a member or friend of our church family who is ill, needs prayers, would like call, a visit or a card, or might benefit from meal train? If so, please contact the Church Office (410-795-6152), Cathy Marsh (410-549-6916) or Diana Steppling (862-266-2242).

**Prayers & Thanksgivings**

**~** Continued prayers for Sue Holmes’ mom, Betty Martlew, who fell and broke her hip and is recovering.

***Today:***

**Sunday October 23**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Tuesday October 26**

6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice ?

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday October 30 – All Saints’ Day**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

 12:00 noon Worship Committee Meeting

 **Wednesday November 2**

6:15 – 7:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 – 8:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

 **Saturday November 5**

9:00 – 11:00 am Clean Up

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

**Springfield Presbyterian Church**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

**Website:** [*www.springfield-church.org*](http://www.springfield-church.org)**Church Office**: 410-795-6152

**Like us on Facebook:** www.facebook.com/SpringfieldPresbyterianChurch

**Pastor:** Rev. Becca Price

**Email:** springfieldpastor@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session:** Sharon Pappas

**Minister of Music:** Linda Caviglia

**Accompanist/Organist:** Aaron Thacker

**Youth Group Coordinator:** Dylan Vasbinder

**Administrative Assistant:**Donna Mazer**e-mail:***spc.office@verizon.net*