**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**June 9, 2024 - 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!** (Greetings and Announcements)

**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: Source of Life, in the beginning,

**People: You made us and called us beloved.**

Leader: When we forget how to love,

**People: You nudge us with Your Spirit.**

Leader: When the powers of the world try to oppress any of us,

**People: You remind us that belovedness stands against injustice.**

Leader: When our siblings in faith condemn us,

**People: You claim us again and again, calling us to focus on you alone.**

Leader: We come to worship you,

**People: Source of Love, Giver of All Goodness, Spirit of Abundance!**

**\*HYMN** *Let Us Build a House* GTG #301

Let us build a house where love can swell and all can safely live,

A place where saints and children tell how hears learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;

Here as one we claim the faithful of Jesus:

All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;

A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;

As we share in Christ the feat that frees us:

All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;

Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard, and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Friends, God has named us beloved, and yet, this can be easy to forget. In a world of scarcity and threats, in a world that is rarely satisfied, the bravest thing we can do is trust that we belong here. So let us now turn to confession to tell the truth of our lives – to trust that God’s love is boundless. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: …seeking forgiveness

**People: We confess, O God, that we have subjected others to the kind of rejection and misunderstanding that you yourself experienced in the form of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: …us with

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, when we have believed what others say about us rather than what you promise. Have mercy upon us O God, when we have caused others to doubt your love.**

Leader: …our comfort

**People: In times of fear and uncertainty, may we find solace in your promises, O God.**

Leader: …hold dear

**People: Help us, O God, to live authentically and boldly as the children you created us to be.**

Leader: …we encounter

**People: May our lives be a reflection of your boundless love and embrace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE***Alchemy of Healing* (v. 2)

Bring grace and bring kindness to all that you sing,

To heal and to honor each fierce tender thing.

Each shame left unspoken may yet shine a light,

A place that seemed broken, that place can give life.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Siblings in Christ, as long as we live on this side of heaven, there may be days when self-doubt and insecurity creep in, or moments when fear and external pressures threaten our courage. There will surely be days when we fail to believe our own belovedness or affirm it in those around us.

**People: We see, even still, that the promises of God are for us. Though the road is long and difficult, nothing can separate us from God’s love – not religious doctrine, not denominational decisions, not a person’s unbelief, not even our own fears.**

Leader: Friends, each day is a new chance to affirm life, to start over, and to love more fiercely. We are being renewed daily. This is our hope.

**People: We are all loved, forgiven, embraced, and cherished. We are God’s beloved. Amen.**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *God Calls You Good*

God calls you good, beloved child. You are a treasure deeply prized.

And you can say to every doubting voice, God calls you good, beloved child. God calls you good, beloved child.

God calls me good, beloved child. I am a treasure deeply prized.

And I can say to every doubting voice, God calls me good, beloved child.

God calls me good, beloved child.

**\* 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**

Loving God and Living Word, help us to be present to your spirit moving among us here as we open ourselves to scripture that both comforts and challenges. Breathe your holy wisdom into human words; imbue us with the boldness to wrestle blessing from this book that some have claimed holds nothing for us but condemnation. As we bring old baggage, and our own fresh, unique insights, open our hearts and minds to your good news, here and now. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Esther 3:1-11; 4:1-17* OT page 424

3 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the officials who were with him. 2And all the king’s servants who were at the king’s gate bowed down and did obeisance to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or do obeisance. 3Then the king’s servants who were at the king’s gate said to Mordecai, ‘Why do you disobey the king’s command?’ 4When they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai’s words would avail; for he had told them that he was a Jew. 5When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or do obeisance to him, Haman was infuriated. 6But he thought it beneath him to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, having been told who Mordecai’s people were, Haman plotted to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. 7In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur—which means ‘the lot’—before Haman for the day and for the month, and the lot fell on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. 8Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, ‘There is a certain people scattered and separated among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king’s laws, so that it is not appropriate for the king to tolerate them. 9If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued for their destruction, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king’s business, so that they may put it into the king’s treasuries.’ 10So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11The king said to Haman, ‘The money is given to you, and the people as well, to do with them as it seems good to you.’

4 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and

bitter cry; 2he went up to the entrance of the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth. 3In every province, wherever the king’s

command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4When Esther’s maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. 5Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. 6Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate, 7and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people. 9Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. 10Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, 11‘All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden sceptre to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.’ 12When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, 13Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, ‘Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.’ 15Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 16‘Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.’ 17Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Mark 3:20-27, 31-35* NT page 35

20and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. 21When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, ‘He has gone out of his mind.’ 22And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ 23And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? 24If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. 27But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. 31Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ 33And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ 34And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! 35Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *For Such a Time as This*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives* (see last page)

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

 OFFERTORY

**\*** SONG OF THANKS  *Love Astounding* (v.2)

Love receiving, love believing, we rejoice with thanks and song,

Faith regaining, hope proclaiming, Love has taught us, we belong.

Safe within Love’s tender keeping, safe from fear’s persistent call.

Love defending, love unending, Love of God enfolding all.

 **\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Sing a New World into Being* (see last page)

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: May the love that binds us together as one family, chosen by God, continue to inspire us to extend grace, compassion, and understanding to all whom we encounter.

**People: May the courage of Esther – who risked everything to advocate for justice – embolden us to use our privileges to uplift those whose belovedness is being threatened.**

Leader: As we go forth, may our particular gifts, personalities, and identities shine brightly within us, ever reflecting God’s image and the belovedness in which we have been shaped.

**People: And may the assurance of God’s unwavering presence accompany us on our journey, reminding us that we are never alone, and that we are deeply loved and cherished just as we are.**

Leader: Go now in the peace of God, the love of Christ, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Alleluia, and Amen.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

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

 Today 6/9 Next Week 6/16

Sunday Opener: Beth Oates Linda Caviglia

Ushers/Greeters: Leah Halvorson Steve & Donna Mazer

 Connie Gibbons

Lay Leader: Linda Caviglia Max Carroll

Fellowship Host: Picnic Linda Caviglia

**Happy Birthday!** June 13 – Noella Izaguirre

**Happy Anniversary!** June 12 – Don & Belle Vasbinder

 June 14 – Tim & Esther Doyle

**Announcements**

**Rain or Shine Picnic: TODAY** after worship, please join us for our rain or shine picnic! Lots of food and fellowship!

**Concert: TODAY** at 3:00 pm, we welcome Dan Eschliman for our final concert in the 2023-2024 concert series. Dan is a Christian musician who works as Wesley-Freedom United Methodist Church’s Minister of Music. He is also a composer and performer of music with a recently released CD called *Welcome.* Refreshments will be served after the concert.

**Sunday June 16, 2024 Lectionary**

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17;

Mark 4:26-34

***Today:***

 **Sunday June 9**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Rain or Shine Picnic

 11:30 am RGEF Meeting (Library)

 3:00 pm Concert (Sanctuary)

***This Week:***

**Tuesday June 11**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting (Manse)

**Thursday June 13**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

***Next Week:***

**Sunday June 16 – Happy Father’s Day!**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am – 3 pm**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church**

 10:30 am Worship (and Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sundays)

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/Accompanist:** Aaron Thacker

**Bell Choir Director:** Daria Dodonova

**Youth Group Coordinator:** Dylan Vasbinder

**Administrative Assistant:**Donna Mazer **Email:***spc.office@verizon.net*