**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**October 20, 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: This morning, we enter this sanctuary with a unique joy.

**People: We come to celebrate 188 years of ministry in this place.**

Leader: We feel the presence of the saints of the church, whose legacy is still felt among us.

**People: We find ourselves in the pews this morning, longing to be part of this legacy as the hands and feet of Jesus.**

Leader: We look toward the future with hope, seeing that God’s abundant promise for us still resounds.

**People: We feel the past, we are living the present, and we see the joy of the future.**

Leader: As faithful people, we come to praise God for this ministry here in Sykesville.

**People: We come to pray, to humbly hear God’s Word for us today, and rejoice.**

Leader: So let us come, with hearts and minds open,

**People: And worship our living God! Amen!**

**\*HYMN** *How Firm a Foundation* GTG #463

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: As we come to celebrate our church’s legacy, our concerns for the future of the church universal can hold us back from seeing future hope. As we see church membership decline around our nation, we may wonder how many anniversaries are ahead of us. We can become embittered and disheartened, rather than see God’s promises and presence throughout the generations. Let us come together and confess the ways we have become discouraged so that we may fully live into this moment, a moment of celebration and encouragement of the years of joyful ministry to come. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous and Loving God, we confess that we can live in two worlds. We are faithful proclaimers of your Gospel on Sunday, but live in the secular world Monday through Saturday. As we have grown older, we have seen how church has become less of a priority for many. We have been discouraged, disheartened, embittered, angry, frustrated, and perhaps at**

**times, we all but give up our space at the pew. God, we have forgotten how you have been present in our ancestors throughout the ages. Forgive us God, give us new eyes and a more steadfast heart, to creatively and courageously be your people in all we do and say. Renew our faith in the church universal and help us to be your hands and feet every day. Forgive us, O God, we humbly pray. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *O Come Unto the Lord* GTG #416(v. 3)

O come unto the Lord; O come back to the Lord.

No matter how burdened and how beaten you may be,

The Lord will comfort you greatly with hands that touch and heal.

Come unto Christ, who loves you so.

Please come home; please come back home.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: The good news of the Gospel resounds throughout the sanctuary: regardless of our past, our fears, our discouragement and the ways they have informed our actions, God’s extraordinary grace intercedes.

**People: We are forgiven, forgiven indeed! Thanks be to God for God’s amazing love that restores us once again. Alleluia and Amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *Peace of God Be with You* GTG #448

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you.

Sa-laam, sa-laam. Peace of God be with you.

**\* 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**

Gracious and Loving God, as we gather in this sacred space to celebrate the life and history of this church, we are reminded of your steadfast love presence throughout the generations. Open our hearts and minds to the truth of your Word today. Illuminate the stories of the past with new light, that we might see how you have shaped us as a community of faith. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *1 Corinthians 3:9-11 and Ephesians 2:19-22* NT page 157 and NT page 181

9For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building. 10According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. 11For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Hebrews 12:1-2 and Philippians 1:3-6* NT page 212 and NT page 185

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

3I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *The Past Informs the Future*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *We’ve Come This Far by Faith* (sing 3 times)GTG #656

We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord,

Trusting in the holy Word; God’s never failed us yet.

O, can’t turn around, we’ve come this far by faith. We’ve come this far by faith.

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

 OFFERTORY

**\*** SONG OF THANKS  *In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful* GTG #654

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful; in the Lord, I will rejoice.

Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

 **\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *How Great Thou Art* GTG #625

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hands have made,

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:

**Refrain:**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,

How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: **[Refrain]**

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin: **[Refrain]**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” **[Refrain]**

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: We go from this place, encouraged by our past.

**People: We stand inspired by the legacy of our spiritual ancestors.**

Leader: We go from this place, feeling the joy of this present moment,

**People: Trusting that what we do here is important and vital for our faithful community and beyond.**

Leader: We go from this place, committed and inspired,

**People: To actively prepare for our future as a living witness of God’s grace in Sykesville.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday October 27, 2024 Lectionary**

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (9-12); Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

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

 Today 10/20 Next Week 10/27

Sunday Opener: Linda Caviglia Barbara Cornell

Ushers/Greeters: Cynthia Smith Sharon Pappas

 Sharon Pappas Beth Oates

Lay Leader: Mark Kearney Max Carroll

Fellowship Host: Belle & Don Vasbinder Rebekah Schermer

**Happy Birthday!** October 23 – Connie Robinson

 October 26 – Bryan Price

 October 27 – Amy Vasbinder-Garcia

**Announcements**

**Peace and Global Witness:** Poverty, hunger, persecution and the effects of climate change cause much of the conflict today. Conflict drives migration. Our Peace & Global Witness offering collected **TODAY** will go toward working with partners to address the root causes forcing people to leave their homes. PC(USA) is working alongside Calvinist Reformed Church of El Salvador (IRCES), as part of the Central America Migration Mission Network launched in March. They focus on intercultural education, community projects and advocacy that will uphold each person's God-given human rights and promote their sense of rootedness where they live. Your gift goes to:

* Improve economic, social and political conditions in Central America by providing scholarships giving students the tools to remain in their community; and matching U.S. churches with those in Mexico to contribute financial, human and technical resources to 'sibling' churches in Central America.
* Influence public opinion to foster intercultural solidarity and love of the stranger; pushing back against language and policies.
* Improve conditions and access to rights for migrants by advocating at national, state, and local levels.
* Strengthen direct attention to migrants through accompaniment and support programs. IRCES runs a welcome center providing housing and food to returnees and internally displaced persons. Now also working with the Methodist Church of El Salvador and international agencies.

God did not make borders. It is up to each of us to work for peace in any way we can. We are God's hands and feet.

**Hurricane Helene Response:** In the last few days, as we've watched the footage and heard stories from the Southeast, it can be easy to be disheartened by the lives lost and displaced by the storm. As Christians, this critical question always resounds, "How do we help?" Additionally, what can we do that is meaningful and that speaks to the Spirit being alive among us and through us?

I have found a few tangible ways we can respond:

1. Write a check to Springfield Pres, but add to the memo line 'PDA or Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - Helene.'

2. We can also help by donating towards the PCUSA 'Gifts of the Heart' kits. They need clean-up kits. Each kit costs 75 dollars (plus a $3 fee for processing). The kits can be found here: <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/#bucket>. If you want to donate towards a clean-up kit, please write a check to Springfield Pres and add to the memo line, 'Clean Up Kit.'

In the days and months ahead, we will hear of different ways to help our neighbors, and I hope to share more ways to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world. - Pastor Becca

**Chat and Chew:** It’s Rincon time again! What are your afternoon plans on **October 27**? Why not join us for a fun and relaxing lunch opportunity! Fill your

belly with delicious food and your heart with great conversations. The atmosphere and service is great, and separate checks make it so simple. The restaurant is only 5 minutes from church. If you are interested, please sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Room. Rincon Grill, 577 Johnsville Road, Eldersburg on **October 27** at 1:00 pm. Hope to see you there! You’ll be glad you came.

***Today:***

 **Sunday October 20**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

 **Wednesday October 23**

6:16 – 7:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 – 9:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

 **Saturday October 26**

7:00 pm Family Game Night

***Next Week:***

 **Sunday October 27 – All Saints’ Day**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

1:00 pm Lunch at Rincon Grill

**Wednesday October 30**

6:15 – 7:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 – 9:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

**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*