**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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A close-up of a camel

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**September 22, 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 come to praise our God.

**People: Together, we will reflect on the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah together.**

Leader: As we remember Abraham’s faithfulness to God and to his son,

**People: We remember our own call to faithful living.**

Leader: As we hear about promises kept,

**People: We acknowledge the promises God has made with us and our participation in covenant life.**

Leader: As we see Rebekah and Isaac make a commitment to one another,

**People: We are reminded of the many commitments of our life, and observe where God continues to call.**

Leader: We remember that all of God’s Scripture teaches us important lessons,

**People: Lessons that are anything but ordinary.**

Leader: So, let us come together, in prayer and praise,

**People: Let us worship our extraordinary God.**

**\*HYMN** *O Day of Rest and Gladness* GTG #393

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,

O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;

On you, the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,

Sing “Holy, holy, holy” to the great God triune.

On you, at earth’s creation the light first had its birth;

On you, for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;

On you, our Lord victorious sent Spirit forth from heaven.

And thus on you, most glorious, a triple light was given.

On you, God’s people, meeting, the Holy Scripture hear,

Christ’s living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.

New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,

We reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *[Hebrews 4:14-16]*

Leader: Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect He was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *Out of the Depths* GTG #424(v. 3)

In you alone, O God, we hope, and not in our own merit.

We rest our fears in your good word; uphold our fainting spirit.

Your promised mercy is my fort, my comfort, and my strong support;

I wait for it with patience.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** *[Isaiah 43:1, 19]*

Leader: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

**People: God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Alleluia and amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *God, How Can We Forgive*

GTG #445 (v. 2)

When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,

How can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?

The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.

A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

**\* 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**

Generous God, open our hearts and our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 24:1-33* OT page 18

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. 2Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all that he had, ‘Put your hand under my thigh 3and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, 4but will go to my country and to my kindred and get a wife for my son Isaac.’ 5The servant said to him, ‘Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this

land; must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?’ 6Abraham said to him, ‘See to it that you do not take my son back there. 7The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and swore to me, “To your offspring I will give this land”, he will send his angel before you; you shall take a wife for my son from there. 8But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.’ 9So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter. 10Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and departed, taking all kinds of choice gifts from his master; and he set out and went to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor. 11He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water; it was towards evening, the time when women go out to draw water. 12And he said, ‘O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. 13I am standing here by the spring of water, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. 14Let the girl to whom I shall say, “Please offer your jar that I may drink”, and who shall say, “Drink, and I will water your camels”—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.’

15Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder. 16The girl was very fair to look upon, a virgin whom no man had known. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. 17Then the servant ran to meet her and said, ‘Please let me sip a little water from your jar.’ 18‘Drink, my lord,’ she said, and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. 19When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, ‘I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.’ 20So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. 21The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful. 22When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold nose-ring weighing a half-shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, 23and said, ‘Tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?’ 24She said to him, ‘I am the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.’ 25She added,

‘We have plenty of straw and fodder and a place to spend the night.’ 26The man bowed his head and worshipped the Lord 27and said, ‘Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness towards my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the way to the house of my master’s kin.’ 28Then the girl ran and told her mother’s household about these things. 29Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran out to the man, to the spring. 30As soon as he had seen the nose-ring, and the bracelets on his sister’s arms, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, ‘Thus the man spoke to me’, he went to the man; and there he was, standing by the camels at the spring. 31He said, ‘Come in, O blessed of the Lord. Why do you stand outside when I have prepared the house and a place for the camels?’ 32So the man came into the house; and Laban unloaded the camels, and gave him straw and fodder for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. 33Then food was set before him to eat; but he said, ‘I will not eat until I have told my errand.’ He said, ‘Speak on.’

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 24:34-67*OT page 19

34So he said, ‘I am Abraham’s servant. 35The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. 36And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. 37My master made me swear, saying, “You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; 38but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.” 39I said to my master, “Perhaps the woman will not follow me.” 40But he said to me, “The Lord, before whom I walk, will send his angel with you and make your way successful. You shall get a wife for my son from my kindred, from my father’s house. 41Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my kindred; even if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.” 42 ‘I came today to the spring, and said, “O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! 43I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ 44and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will

draw for your camels also’—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.” 45 ‘Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, “Please let me drink.” 46She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, “Drink, and I will also water your camels.” So I drank, and she also watered the camels. 47Then I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?” She said, “The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.” So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. 48Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. 49Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.’ 50Then Laban and Bethuel answered, ‘The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak to you anything bad or good. 51Look, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has spoken.’ 52When Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the Lord. 53And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. 54Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they rose in the morning, he said, ‘Send me back to my master.’ 55Her brother and her mother said, ‘Let the girl remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go.’ 56But he said to them, ‘Do not delay me, since the Lord has made my journey successful; let me go, that I may go to my master.’ 57They said, ‘We will call the girl, and ask her.’ 58And they called Rebekah, and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ She said, ‘I will.’ 59So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. 60And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,  
‘May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.’ 61Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. 62Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. 63Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. 64And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, 65and said to the servant, ‘Who is the man over

there, walking in the field to meet us?’ The servant said, ‘It is my master.’ So she took her veil and covered herself. 66And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *A Companion for the Journey*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* GTG #66

**Refrain:**Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,   
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,  
Till I asked my Lord if all was mine. **[Refrain]**

Jordan River, chilly and cold,  
It chills the body but not the soul.  
There is but one train upon this track.  
It runs to heaven and then right back. **[Refrain]**

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY

**\*** SONG OF THANKS  *A Grateful Heart* GTG #652 (v. 1)

A grateful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my offering.

Among the saints I lift my voice: in you, O God, I will rejoice.

**\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *O God, Who Gives Us Life* GTG #53

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
Who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,  
To plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:  
When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,   
Refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,  
Your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,  
As on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader:We go from this place,

**People: Renewed by our tie to the covenant,**

Leader: With love and grace,

**People: We will greet all as God’s beloved,**

Leader: And continue our commitment,

**People: To be God’s loving disciples in this world. Alleluia and amen.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday September 29, 2024 Lectionary**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

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

Today 9/22 Next Week 9/29

Sunday Opener: Bob Rogers Barbara Cornell

Ushers/Greeters: Steve and Donna Mazer Bob Rogers

Leah Halvorson

Lay Leader: Barbara Cornell Bob Steppling

Fellowship Host:

**Happy Birthday!** September 25 – Julie Ballard

**Announcements**

**Women’s Group:** Our Spring Survey found strong interest in starting a Women's Group. This group can take on many different forms, such as Bible study, prayer, fellowship, trips, etc. These kinds of groups can strengthen our relationships and are an exciting opportunity. Please come and **join us after worship on October 6 in the Sanctuary to find out more!**

**Blessing of the Pets:** We will gather in the church parking lot for a Blessing of the Pets on **October 6** at 1 pm. If it is raining, the blessing will move to **October 13.** If you cannot bring your pet to the parking lot, please let Pastor Becca know, and she will arrange an at-home blessing for your pet.

***Today:***

**Sunday September 22**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

12:00 noon RGEF Meeting (Library)

***This Week:***

**Wednesday September 25**

6:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Saturday September 28**

7:00 pm Family Game Night (Fellowship Room)

***Next Week:***

**Sunday September 29 – Noisy Offering**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

**Tuesday October 1**

7:00 pm ESCAPE Lunch Packing (Manse)

**Wednesday October 2**

6:15 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:30 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

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**Clerk of Session:** Sharon Pappas

**Minister of Music/Accompanist:** Aaron Thacker

**Bell Choir Director:** Daria Dodonova

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