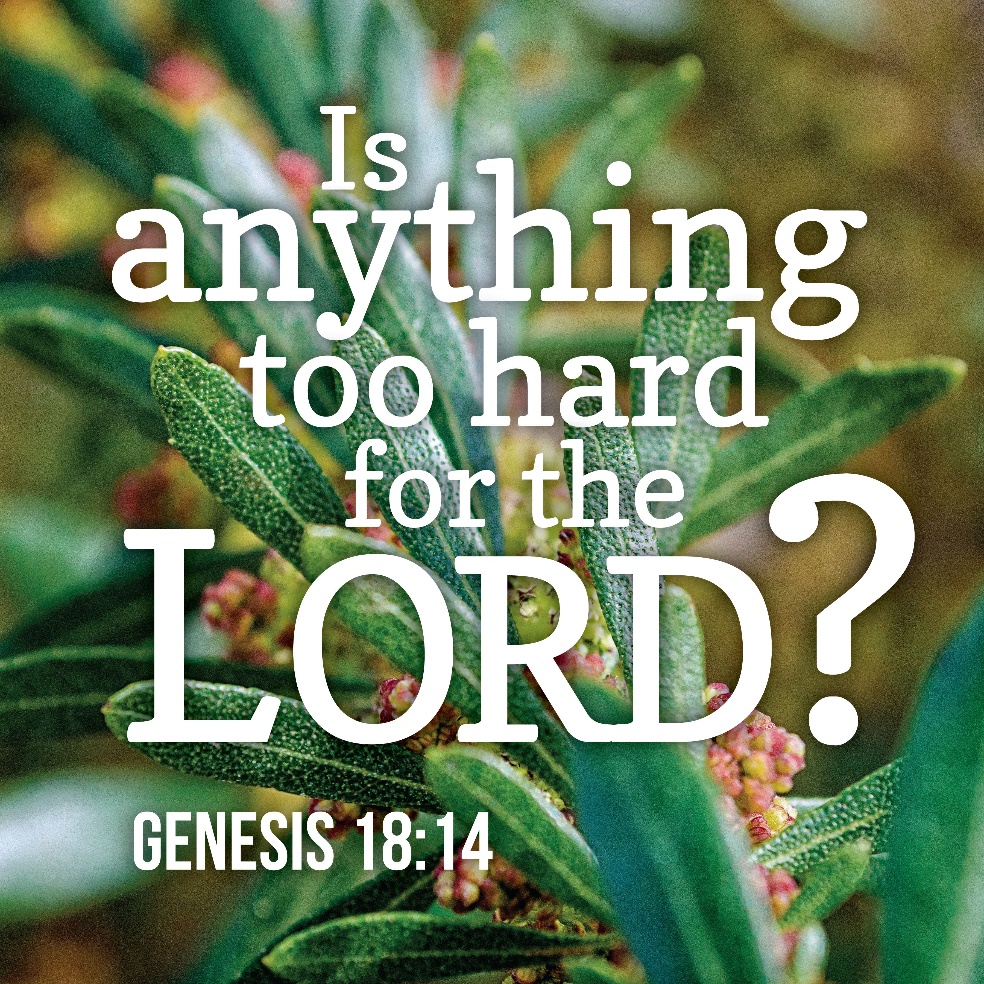
**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**September 1, 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: As we gather in this sanctuary, we remember what has brought us each here,

**People: The love of God who loved us first.**

Leader: The desire to praise and thank God who is at work within us and among us.

**People: The longings on our hearts, those concerns that can run too deep for words.**

Leader: Those joys that our souls cannot contain but must be shared.

**People: Our voices raised in song, as individuals and a collective in praise.**

Leader: The need to be strengthened here before we go into our week.

**People: The knowledge that what we do here matters.**

Leader: There are many ways that God calls us all here to this sanctuary,

**People: So, as a gathered people, let us join in prayer, song, and the Word proclaimed.**

**ALL: Let us worship our God!**

**\*HYMN** *Standing on the Promises* GTG #838

Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

**Refrain:**  
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing, I’m standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
Bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,  
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: As we think about our Call to Worship, we recognize that there are many reasons we find ourselves in these pews today. Yet, before we do anything else, we need to speak our truth. We need to name the ways that we have sinned before God and before one another. Like the waters of Baptism, we need to submerge ourselves in the shadow side of our soul, in full honesty. And just like those waters, we take our first deep breath of fresh air as God forgives us. Trusting in the promise of God, the promise of these baptismal waters, let us come together to speak our hearts. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Holy Name. 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**

Leader: The mercy of our Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

**People: We are forgiven, forgiven indeed! Thanks be to our God whose mercy and love are unending. 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 minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Let these words convict and confound us, encourage and inspire us, and move us beyond the walls of this sanctuary to be your disciples in new and powerful ways. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 18:1-15* OT page 13

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. 3He said, ‘My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’ So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’ 6And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, ‘Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’ 7Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. 9They said to him, ‘Where is your wife Sarah?’ And he said, ‘There, in the tent.’ 10Then one said, ‘I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.’ And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. 11Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 12So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?’ 13The Lord said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?” 14Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.’ 15But Sarah denied, saying, ‘I did not laugh’; for she was afraid. He said, ‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 21:1-7* OT page 16

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. 2Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. 3Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. 4And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6Now Sarah said, ‘God has brought laughter

for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.’ 7And she said, ‘Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.’

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *A Promise for the Generations*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN**  *When at This Table* GTG #537

When at this table I receive a blessing,  
The broken bread, the wine of life for me,  
Then let me share the peace with you, my neighbor,  
And let the Spirit set our spirits free.

If at this table I have need of healing,  
Unbidden grief, relationship gone wrong,  
Then let me know the hands of God enfolding,  
And let lament become believing song.

If at this table I forget the hungry,  
The dispossessed and warfare’s spreading stain,  
Then let this bread become the bread of judgment,  
This wine the sharp awareness of that pain.

If at this table I make dedication  
To give my life in serving what is good,  
Then let my center be where God invites me,  
And show the words of Jesus understood.

What faith I have, I bring to join this table,  
What hope I hold, in Christ is taught and true;  
With brothers, sisters, I will share the blessing,  
The feast where God is making all things new.

**THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

## **INVITATION**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

[The Pastor continues… “…who forever sing to the glory of your name.”]

**IN PRAISE OF GOD** Tune #552

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

[The Pastor continues… “…proclaim the one crucified and risen.”]

**IN PRAISE OF CHRIST** Tune #553

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

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

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE MEAL**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

**Dear God, take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of the earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

**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** *The God of Abraham Praise* GTG #49

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,  
The Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!  
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,  
We bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.  
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,  
Deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,  
A land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.  
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,  
And trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;  
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:  
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader:May we proclaim that our lives are anything but ordinary,

**People: For our God is alive and awake within each one of us.**

Leader: Trusting in the promises that are beyond our understanding,

**People: We share these promises, this great love, everywhere we go,**

Leader: From the sanctuary this morning, to our schools, workplaces, and every place we find ourselves,

**People: We will be a living embodiment of God’s grace, promise, and love. Amen.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday September 8, 2024 Lectionary**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17;

Mark 7:24-37

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

Today 9/1 Next Week 9/8

Sunday Opener: Beth Oates Ron Holmes

Ushers/Greeters: Leah Halvorson Sharon Pappas

Cynthia Smith Bob Rogers

Lay Leader: Tim Oates Don Vasbinder

Fellowship Host:

Communion Servers: Bob Rogers, Linda Black, Barbara Nickell

**Happy Anniversary!** September 1 – Charles and Debbie Sperling

September 5 – Stephanie and John Bunting

September 7 – Max and Margaret Carroll

September 7 – Becky and Mike Spicer

**Announcements**

**Rain or Shine Picnic:** Outside or inside, wet or dry, come to our picnic! **September 8**, right after worship, bring a friend or two. We will supply fried chicken and chips. Bring a favorite side dish, rolls, or dessert if you like. Sign up on the sheet at Fellowship to let us know how many to expect. We plan to set up Saturday 9/7 at 1pm if you'd like to help.

**A Note from Sykesville Middle School: “**Our staff is excited to share all these wonderful items with the children! We greatly appreciate your kindness to our students and our community. We look forward to kicking off the new school year!”

***Today:***

**Sunday September 1**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

**Wednesday September 4**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

***Next Week:***

**Sunday September 8**

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Rain or Shine Picnic

**Monday September 9**

7:00 pm HeadHuggers (Manse)

**Tuesday September 10**

7:00 pm CoCaMO (Manse)

**Wednesday September 11**

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

**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*](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net)