**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**August 25, 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 the summer settles down,

**People: We recognize the changing of time.**

Leader: Our kids are back to school,

**People: Our teachers and staff are back at the helm,**

Leader: Our parents prepare for the bus drop-off and pick-up,

**People: The rhythm of our lives changes once again.**

Leader: So, we come to this place to gather,

**People: To thank God for the changing of the seasons,**

Leader: To see that God is present and active in all of the cycles of life,

**People: To witness to what God is doing here in this place.**

Leader: So let us gather, with prayer, praise, and joyfulness,

**People: To worship our living God, Emmanuel, God-with-us.**

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN** *Come! Live in the Light!* GTG #749

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord.

We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

**Refrain:**

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more. **[Refrain]**

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. **[Refrain]**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: As the school year begins, a new pace of life starts. It is great to have structure, but sometimes those patterns keep us from being curious. This morning, as we think about a new academic year, let us be courageous in our curiosity and ask God to forgive those times where we have let our cynicism and apathy win. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous and Loving God, you are our Creator, and as the Maker of all things, you are the master of curiosity and creativity. You call us to live in the mysteries of faith, yet we can become cynics. Forgive us, O God, for not leaning into the unknown. Challenge us, O God, to question our perceptions as we set our minds on holy things. Renew us, O God, in our understanding, so we may courageously embrace curiosity as we grow day-by-day in being more faithful disciples. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**RESPONSE** *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* GTG #438(v. 2)

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law’s demands.

Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,

All for sin could not atone. Thou must save, and thou alone.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: The God who has created us and calls us beloved has heard our plea for forgiveness. Know that God’s mercy always intervenes, and we are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God for a forgiveness beyond measure. Alleluia and amen!**

**\* MUSICAL RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *There’s a Wideness* *in God’s Mercy*

GTG #435 (v. 2)

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word,

And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

**\* 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**

Creator God, renew in us an enthusiasm to hear your Word afresh. Hold the distractions at bay, as we seek to focus on what you are calling us to today. Grant us curiosity, imagination, and energy, as we hear your Word with eyes and hearts wide open. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Proverbs 1:1-7* OT page 551

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: 2 For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, 3 for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; 4 to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young— 5 let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill, 6 to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.
7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Isaiah 55:8-12* OT page 644

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. 12 For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *The Skeptic and the Cynic* Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People* GTG #453

Open your ears, O faithful people; open your ears and hear God’s word.

Open your hearts, O royal priesthood; God has come to you.

**Refrain:**

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, now let them hear;

They who would learn the way of wisdom, let them hear God’s word. **[Refrain]**

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

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

 OFFERTORY

**\*** SONG OF THANKS  *Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness* GTG #657 (v. 1)

Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude.

With the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.

God unites the scattered people, gathers those who wandered far,

Heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar.

Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude.

With the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.

 **\*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\* HYMN** *Now Go in Joy* GTG #745 (sing three times)

Now go in joy to spread the Word till all people have heard:

God embraces all!

Follow, then, the disciples’ call: tend your neighbors with loving care in daily work and prayer.

God’s own grace empower your spirit. Amen.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: We go from this place with curiosity,

**People: Courageously questioning and wondering together.**

Leader: We go from this place with assurance,

**People: That God is with us and is already working through us.**

Leader: And we go from this place embracing mystery,

**People: Praising our God whose mysteries are beyond our understanding.**

Leader: We go from this place in joy,

**People: Renewed to be disciples, awake and alert to God’s call in our world. Amen.**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday September 1, 2024 Lectionary**

S. of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

 Today 8/25 Next Week 9/1

Sunday Opener: Barbara Cornell Beth Oates

Ushers/Greeters: Steve & Donna Mazer Leah Halvorson

 Cynthia Smith

Lay Leader: Alex McClung Tim Oates

Fellowship Host: Rebekah Schermer

**Happy Birthday!** August 27 – Connie Gibbons

 August 28 – Bob Rogers

 August 31 – Bridget Doyle

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

**Announcements**

**Sykesville Middle School list of needed supplies:**

* **Backpacks- Durable enough to hold the weight of a middle school student’s belongings and a water bottle.** You may purchase a backpack, or you can a make a monetary donation, of any amount, and the CoCaMO committee will do the shopping. Envelopes (labeled **BACKPACK**) are available in the Narthex and can be placed in the collection basket or the collection plate during worship.
* **Wired Ear Buds**
* **Toiletries – Hair ties, Brushes, Deodorant (travel sizes are best).**
* **Soft Pencil Pouches**
* **Dividers-**for ring binders

**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.

**Thank You Buppert’s!** Our friends at Buppert’s partner with us each spring for a plant sale. They donate to Springfield 10% of our purchases for a month. This year their $100 gift will go to fund our volunteer work at The Community Table (formerly Feed My Sheep). Many thanks for Buppert’s generous support of our community!

**Tomato Season!** You may have noticed a lot of tomatoes, and maybe other excess produce, on a table as we enjoy Fellowship. Feel free to take what you like! Or you can think of it as a Mission Marketplace with any donations going to help fund local missions. Thank you for your support!

***Today:***

 **Sunday August 25**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

 **Wednesday August 28**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

 **Thursday August 29**

7:00 pm Session Meeting (Manse)

**Saturday August 31**

7:00 pm Family Game Night (Fellowship Room)

***Next Week:***

**Sunday September 1**

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*