**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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

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**October 13, 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: We gather to worship our God who continues to speak through the Scriptures.

**People: We come to hear Jacob’s story, to see how God reveals himself in a dream and how God continues to reveal himself to us.**

Leader: We proclaim the words that we will hear in Scripture, “Surely the Lord is in this place.”

**People: We recognize that in our life, like Jacob, we may not always be aware of God’s presence.**

Leader: Yet we continue to seek, wonder, and to dream like him.

**People: So, we will climb the ladder that Jacob dreamt of this morning.**

Leader: We come in trust, knowing that God is continuing to watch over us and is speaking to us.

**People: In prayer and praise, in joy and contemplation, we come before God and before one another.**

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN** *Make a Joyful Noise to God!* GTG #54

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!

Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.

Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:

Walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.

Let us lift a thankful voice for God’s mercies, and rejoice!

Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!

By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.

When our life’s sure end shall come, bring us to your heavenly home.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Friends, with the busy world around us, it can be easy to think that we walk this journey alone. We get so lost in our own lives that we cannot see how God is moving in and through us. Like Jacob, sometimes God needs to stop us in the only time we might be at rest – like in a dream. Let’s come together, inviting God into our lives as we live and breathe, in every moment and every step. Let us confess the ways we have not ushered in God’s presence and seek to make amends:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious and Loving God, we come before you, acknowledging the places in our lives where we have felt alone or unaware of your presence, just like Jacob. We confess in humility that we often wander from your path and forget that you are with us in this journey. We forget the sacred moments you invite us into, and we instead choose doubt, fear, and scarcity to overwhelm us. Loving God, forgive us for those times we have taken your promises lightly, for not loving and sharing our time and talents with one another. As we reflect on Jacob’s dream, may we continue to seek redemption and forgiveness as we dream our own dreams that are founded in your divine grace. 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: Friends, hear the good news! Just as God revealed himself to Jacob in his journey, assuring Jacob of God’s promises, God’s grace extends to us as well.

**People: Thanks be to God, for God’s steadfast love and mercy that endures forever. We are forgiven, forgiven indeed! 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 God, as we gather to hear your Word, we ask for your Holy Spirit to illuminate our minds and our hearts. Just as you revealed yourself to Jacob in a dream, reveal yourself to us. Help us to see beyond our common experience and see how your divine Word speaks to us today. Amen.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 28:10-19a*OT page 24

10Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. 11He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13And the Lord stood beside him and said, ‘I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; 14and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

15Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’ 16Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!’ 17And he was afraid, and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’ 18So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. 19He called that place Bethel.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** *Genesis 29:15-28* OT page 25

15Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?’ 16Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. 18Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’ 19Laban said, ‘It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’ 20So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

21Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ 22So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. 23But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. 24(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) 25When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ 26Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. 27Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ 28Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

 **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *The Stairway to Heaven*Rev. Becca Price

**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\* HYMN** *I Love to Tell the Story* GTG #462

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

**Refrain:**
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God’s own holy Word. **[Refrain]**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **[Refrain]**

**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** *Go. My Children, with My Blessing* GTG #547

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you go from this place, remember the story of Jacob and that his story informs our own.

**People: We will remember that God is with us, wherever we go.**

Leader: As you go from this place, may you be emboldened to walk in faith and share God’s love with all who you encounter.

**People: We will remember God’s love is for all and to be shared.**

Leader: As you go from this place, may you not only dream of God’s wonder, but be part of it, as God’s journey for us continues to unfold.

**People: We will remember God’s divine presence in our lives, not only in far off dreams, but in our every breath.**

Leader: Thanks be to God for a love so sacred and divine.

**People: Alleluia and amen!**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday October 20, 2024 Lectionary**

Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

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

 Today 10/13 Next Week 10/20

Sunday Opener: Ron Holmes Linda Caviglia

Ushers/Greeters: Elizabeth Meirowitz Cynthia Smith

 Brenda McClung Volunteer Needed

Lay Leader: Tony Caviglia Mark Kearney

Fellowship Host: Christy Yeager Belle & Don Vasbinder

**Happy Birthday!** October 13 – Ron Holmes

 October 15 – Jessica Lane

 October 17 – Beth Oates

 October 19 – Martha Streaker

**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** and **October 20** 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 13**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

***This Week:***

 **Tuesday October 15**

7:00 pm CoCaMO Meeting (Manse)

**Wednesday October 16**

6:15 – 7:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 – 9:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

***Next Week:***

**Sunday October 20**

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

 **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

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

10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Fellowship

1:00 pm Lunch at Rincon Grill

**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*