

SPRUCE PINE UMC NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 7

July 2020

From the Pastor's Desk



SUMMER



I've always liked summertime. When I was young, summer was the time of no school, sleeping in later than usual, and playing outside all day until it got dark. As I grew up, summertime meant spending time at the beach – on the coast of Maryland. Summer also is the season for some of my favorite fruits and vegetables. I love sweet corn, watermelon, peaches, fresh tomatoes, and ice cream! Yes, ice cream is a vegetable...though only in summer. . Whatever summer means to you and your family, I hope you will be able to enjoy some time outside, some of your favorite “vegetables,” and maybe even take a trip to a beach. Whatever you do, stay safe and healthy, and remember the 3 W's: wear a face covering, wait 6 feet apart, and wash your hands thoroughly and often.

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*“The mission of
Spruce Pine United
Methodist Church is
to be a
beacon on a hill
spreading the Good
News of Jesus Christ
through:
Worship, Fellowship,
Education, Nurturing
and Service”*



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK *Continued from pg. 1*

Yes, we're still talking about COVID-19 in July. Amazing, isn't it? But the reality is that it is still among us and this summer will look different because of it. And that's okay. It's okay because God is still God, still loves us, still feels our joys, pains, and frustrations, and still believes in our ability to love this world in a higher, better, third way. This whole year has been a challenging one on many levels, and maybe you're feeling a bit discouraged. Maybe summer is exactly what you need. In between the rain drops of the summer storms, get outside and take in the beauty of God's creation. Let it fill you with peace. For you creative ones, let this season speak to your soul and bring you renewed passion and inspiration. For all of us, take some time to seek God in prayer and meditation. Listen for the voice of the Holy. Read your Bible. Read a novel. Catch up with a friend you haven't spoken with for way too long. Take a day and binge watch a series on Netflix. You get the idea. God meets us where we are and restores our souls in so many ways. Like I said, maybe summer is exactly what you need for a reconnection with God and others.

Speaking of reconnection, we are planning to re-engage with in-person worship services this summer through outdoor services. These will be weather-permitting, and we will also continue to follow state, local, and CDC guidelines for health and safety. We're hoping to have our first outdoor worship service Sunday, July 5 at 11:00 a.m., and we'll be directly in front of the sanctuary near the four trees. To keep us all safe and healthy, we're asking everyone to adhere to the following guidelines:

Please bring your own chair(s) or blanket(s) as we will not be using the cloth-covered chairs from the church.

Please observe 6-foot spacing between you and others (except those in the same family).

The church will remain closed during the extension of Phase 2, which means that there will be no access to restrooms on Sundays.

Please wear face coverings (except for the those under 11 years old). If you forget your face covering, we will have disposable ones available for you. We will also have hand sanitizer available.

As far as singing, we ask you to consider singing "gently" in your mask, or hum, or use the time to center yourself in quiet. Enjoy the music. Let God speak to your spirit.

Bring your own Bible. Yes, we Methodists actually can bring our own Bibles to church.

If we have to cancel a service due to weather, we will notify the church via email and our Facebook page on Sunday morning by 9:00 a.m.

Our outdoor worship services will look a little different. We'll try to keep them short, with less music, no "official" children's time, and no "passing the plate" type of offering collection – although we will have a receptacle for you to drop off your tithes and offerings. In addition, on Sunday, July 5, we will participate in Communion with individually packaged Communion elements. Further, we will continue to offer the online worship service in its current format along with the in-person services.

We recognize that these are unusual times, calling for us to adjust our "normal." God understands as well. After all, God makes adjustments all the time, and most of those adjustments surprise us. So, let's continue to seek God's grace, wisdom, and compassion in the midst of the changes, modifications, and sacrifices. Let's also continue to "Do No Harm" and keep our community safe and healthy. And, let's not forget that it's summertime. Enjoy the season. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

In summertime, "vegetable" eating, hopeful service with you... Pastor Rick

Weekly Scriptures CEB - Common English Bible

July 5, 2020

- ♦ Genesis 24:34 - 38, 42-49, 58-67
- ♦ Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72
- ♦ Romans 7:15-25a
- ♦ Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12, 2020

- ♦ Genesis 25:19-34
- ♦ Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25
- ♦ Romans 8:1-11
- ♦ Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19, 2020

- ♦ Genesis 28:10-19a
- ♦ Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
- ♦ Romans 8:12-25
- ♦ Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26, 2020

- ♦ Genesis 29:15-28
- ♦ Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
- ♦ Romans 8:26-39
- ♦ Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

UNITED METHODIST MEMES

For all our UM friends who have been blessed and cursed by zoom meetings :-)



ONLINE COMMUNION FOR JULY 5th

Don't forget that this Sunday, July 5th is Communion Sunday. We will celebrate Holy Communion during the online service. Please make sure to participate with whatever "elements" you have available: bread, crackers, Goldfish crackers for the kiddos, or even cinnamon rolls. And use whatever juice you prefer: apple, grape, orange, milk, and yes, even coffee. It's not so much about the type of elements we use as the attitude of gratitude we have while remembering Jesus' sacrifice for us. See you online!

July Calendar

4th - Independence Day

5th - Outside Worship - Time TBA

7th - SPUMC Bookclub - Rose Garden

July Birthdays

1st - Georgie Mae Buchanan	19th - Marcus Wood
4th - Tim Hollifield	21st - Ben Potter
6th - Susann King	26th - Vandaly Jeffers
10th - Bruce Ikard	27th - Devon Potter
10th - Tony Woodby	27th - Phil White
11th - Marvin Walker	28th - Beth Bell
12th - Jane Greenwood	28th - Bill Dailey
13th - Faye Rowland	28th - Tim Drum
14th - Ursula Chandler	28th - Hal Harrison
17th - Chris Nash	28th - Brad Hodges
17th - Noah Byrd	29th - Dottie Myers
19th - Diane Struble	30th - Margaret Troxler

July Anniversaries

4th - Bryan & Lisa Royer	24th - Jeremy & Margaret Troxler
24th - John Campbell & Ginny Downs	30th - Aaron & Grace Buchanan

Thanks to:

- Everyone who has been observing Social Distancing, and checking in on Church members who may need help.
- Pastor Rick & Suzanne, Church members, musicians and others helping with the online Worship.
- To everyone who continues to financially support the church during our time of physical separation.
- All who remember the less fortunate and contribute to the Community Assistance Fund.
- Everyone who gives to the Shepherd's Staff, who allowed us to contribute 55 items in June, all who help at the M-Y Parish Food Bank.
- Members who take meals to the sick and shut ins, those who give rides to church and to the doctor for people who can't do it themselves.
- All who serve: lectors, greeters, children's time & nursery.
- Everyone working in quiet, behind the scenes ways each week.

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Visit us on the web at
www.sprucepineumc.org

Shepherd's Staff

Food Donated over the years to
Shepherd's Staff:

2014 - 1202
2015 - 1078
2016 - 1030
2017 - 1062
2018 - 1213
2019 - 1526

January 2020 - 72

February 2020 - 103

March 2020 - 123

April 2020 - 14

May 2020 - 8

June 2020 - 55

Total - 375

**SERMONS AND BULLETINS ON
THE INTERNET!**

**NOW! - Listen to sermons and
read the bulletin at:
www.sprucepineumc.org**