

SPRUCE PINE UMC NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 9

September 2020

From the Pastor's Desk



Have you ever had an encounter with someone, and you just knew the person wasn't being "real?" For whatever reason(s), you sensed she or he didn't seem authentic or "real." I think it's safe to say that no one likes a faker. I'd much rather have real friends than imitation ones. Trust within relationships is built when we are "real" with each other and allow others to truly know our life stories. When we allow others into our lives, and not worry about our perceived imperfections, we become a "real" friend that offers room for others' perceived imperfections as well.

I grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, home of what I deem to be the best crab cakes...ever! The reason they are so good is because they contain no fillers – nothing extra to take away from the flavor of the crab cakes. And the main reason they're so good is because they're made with genuine "real" jumbo lump crab meat – not imitation crab meat made from fish! Bleck!

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Real or Imitation?



*"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*

I think people can be like crab cakes. For the most part we're "real" and wonderful, because we don't allow fillers – like agendas, judgments, attitudes – to take away from our inner goodness. But, sometimes, fluff, falsehoods, schemes, and other "fake" things take over our lives and we end up as imitations. Not the real thing God created. Not the real image of God that needs to be reflected in the world.

And right now, more than ever, the world needs "real." Genuine, real, unconditional, beautiful love. Trustworthy friends who will go the distance no matter the difficulties of the shared journey. Faithful encouragers who help raise people's spirits, foster diversity and inclusion, believe in others' dreams, and work towards the good of the family of humanity. In these challenging times, we followers of Jesus – disciples – are those who bring the "real" Good News. The good news that God is up close and personal, is found in the details of life, and chooses to work through people. We truly can make a "real" difference in this world, and I believe the best way to do this is to be our "real" selves – our true and authentic selves who God wonderfully created.

So...who needs us to be "real?" To whom do you feel God is drawing you? Is there someone in your life who needs a real friend? A real listener? A real helper? A real peaceful presence?

To encourage us to be "real" I'm including my recipe for genuine, authentic, real Maryland Crab cakes. If you use real jumbo lump crab meat, you'll understand why these are so good! Here's the recipe:

Ingredients

- 1 pound jumbo lump crabmeat
 - 1 large egg
 - 1/4 cup mayonnaise (please...only Duke's!)
 - 1-1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
 - 1-1/2 tsp Old Bay seasoning
 - 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
 - 1/2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
 - 1-1/4 cups fresh breadcrumbs (or you can use about 14 crushed saltine crackers)
 - 1/4 tsp salt
 - 1 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley
 - 2 Tbsp butter
 - 1 Tbsp olive oil
- Lemon wedges for serving

Preparation

- Drain the crabmeat, if necessary, and pick through it for shells (jumbo lump usually doesn't contain shells, but it's always good to check). Put the crab in a medium mixing bowl and set aside.
- In a small bowl, whisk the egg, mayonnaise, mustard, Old Bay seasoning, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, breadcrumbs (or cracker crumbs), parsley, and 1/4 tsp salt. Gently fold the crab meat into the mixture with a rubber spatula until well combined. Try not to break up too many lumps or turn into a "mash" as a result of overmixing. Your mixture should still be somewhat loose and lumpy. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 to 3 hours.
- Shape the crab mixture into 8 cakes about 1 inch thick.
- For cooking, I suggest broiling in an oven on "Low" broil. Put a thin slice of butter on top of each crab cake and place in the oven for about 10-15 minutes. You want a nice golden-brown color on top. Serve with a lemon wedge if you want, but I prefer homemade tarter sauce. I'll have to give you that recipe later. I can't divulge my secrets all at once!

Hope you enjoy! May they be reminders to us that God has created us to be real change agents in God's wonderful world! Let's be real!

In real-not-imitation service with you... Pastor Rick

Weekly Scriptures
CEB - Common English Bible

September 6, 2020

- ♦ Exodus 12:1-14
- ♦ Psalm 149 or 148
- ♦ Romans 13:8-14
- ♦ Matthew 18:15-20

September 13, 2020

- ♦ Exodus 14:9-31
- ♦ Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
- ♦ Romans 14:1-12
- ♦ Matthew 18:21-25

September 20, 2020

- ♦ Exodus 16:2-15
- ♦ Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78
- ♦ Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
- ♦ Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

September 27, 2020

- ♦ Exodus 17:1-7
- ♦ Psalm 76:1-4, 12-16
- ♦ Philippians 2:1-13
- ♦ Matthew 21:23-32



**YOU
COUNT!**

U.S.
CENSUS
2020

**Take 10
MITCHELL**

10 Minutes Impacts 10 Years

What's At Stake? **\$1800** Per Year Per Person

For every person counted, Mitchell County receives Critical Support for:

- Schools
- Emergency Planning/Services
- Childcare
- Public Transportation
- Health Care
- Food Security
- Roads
- Affordable Housing & More

The Census determines funding for 10 years.

Responding Is Safe, Easy & Important

The 2020 Census will not ask your citizenship status, religious affiliation, social security number, financial information or donations.

Take the Census Online:
MY2020CENSUS.GOV

Toll Free:
844-330-2020

For Spanish:
844-468-2020



This message brought to you by SEARCH
in partnership with the Dogwood Health Trust

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity we have helped 11 families and individuals with projects totaling \$1,729.62 in July 2020.

September Calendar

1st - SPUMC Bookclub - Rose Garden - 10 am

6th - "On-Lawn Worship" 11 am Sundays (13, 20, & 27)

14th - Online Ad Council Meeting - 7 pm

September Birthdays

2- Quincy Sparks	16 - Brooks Barber
3 - Mary Wray	16 - Jeffrey Bayuik
4 - Tim Drum II	16 - Martha Long
5 - Jyl Duffy	16 - Bill Sparks
6 - Richie Ritter	18 - Gary Curtis
8 - Angie White	20 - Matt Miller
9 - Ken Lentz	24 - Emree Hoilman
9 - Kathy Miller	26 - Bryan Thayer
10 - Diane Sheeley	28 - Laura Curtis Hodges
12 - Diane Walker	28 - Tyler Dunn
29 - Brandt Thayer	

September Anniversaries

1 - Marvin & Diane Walker	26 - George & Glenna Tasedan
22 - Paul & Sherry Sherman	28 - Ray & Joyce Alvarez

Thanks to:

- All who make the "On-Lawn" worship successful.
- Everyone who has been observing Social Distancing, and checking in on Church members who may need help.
- Pastor Rick & Suzanne, Bruce Ikard, 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 **41** items in August, 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.
- Shaquille from Carbonite who rescued the office files!!!
- Paul Kind for the office computer upgrade!!!

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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 - 59

July 2020 - 44

August 2020 - 41

Total - 464

SERMONS AND BULLETINS ON
THE INTERNET!

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