

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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December 23rd, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

Jeremy I. Troxler, Pastor

Kathey Hollifield, Music Director

Kathy Miller, Organist

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! THE WORD "WORSHIP" COMES FROM THE OLD ENGLISH WORD FOR "WORTHY." WHEN WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD, WE ARE DECLARING THAT GOD ALONE IS "WORTHY" OF OUR LIVES AND OUR PRAISE. AS WE WORSHIP TODAY YOU WILL NOTICE THE COLOR PURPLE IN THE SANCTUARY WHICH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN SEASON OF ADVENT. THE WORD "ADVENT" MEANS "COMING," AND ADVENT IS A SEASON OF FOUR SUNDAYS IN WHICH WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO CELEBRATE THE "COMING" OF CHRIST TO US ON CHRISTMAS, AND WHEN WE LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE TO CHRIST'S FINAL "COMING" IN VICTORY.

GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

SHARON DRUM

Prelude

"Celebration Medley"

MICHAEL MURPHY - TROMBONE

PLEASE USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS YOUR WHOLE SELF - MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT -
ON WORSHIPPING GOD, THE FATHER, AND THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

OFFERING OUR PRAISE, GIFTS, AND PRAYERS

^Song of Praise

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

UMH 221

^Prayer of Confession

Happy are those whose help is the Lord.
Let us seek God's help as we confess our sins.
We pray together:

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.
Though we know your gospel,
we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to work for the justice and righteousness you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.

**As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

(Time for silent prayer and confession)

Hear now the good news:
through Christ God forgives all our sins
and promises to bring us to everlasting life.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

^ **Sharing of the Peace of Christ** “The peace of Christ be with you” **“And also with you.”**
(Through the gift of Jesus Christ, we have been granted forgiveness and peace with God and with one another. As a sign and celebration of the peace we have been given, we invite you to turn to your neighbors, extend your hand, and greet/bless them with the words, “The Peace of Christ be with you.”)

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory **“Jesu Bambino”** GLENNA TASEDAN

Doxology **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”** UMH 95

Children’s Message / Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle CHELSEA THAYER

Sung Response **“Light the Advent Candle” v. 4** TFWS 2090

Children’s Change Offering COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND
(Following the children’s change offering, parents of small children may choose to escort their little ones to our church nursery: our nursery volunteers will meet you in the welcome center just outside the sanctuary.)

Call to Prayer **“Wait For the Lord”** WORSHIP & SONG 3049

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD

Choral Anthem **“Here’s a Pretty Little Baby”** CHANCEL CHOIR
SHARON DRUM & MICHAEL MURPHY, SOLOISTS

^ **Responsive Scripture Reading”** **Canticle of Mary (“The Magnificat”)** UMH 199
(A song of praise from Luke 1: 46-55 spoken by Mary, the mother of Jesus)

^ **Scripture Reading** **Luke 7:18-23** NT 62

Proclamation of the Word **“How You’ll Know the One”** REV. JEREMY TROXLER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

^ **Sending Hymn** **“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”** TFWS 2100

^ **Benediction**

^ **Choral Response** **“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”** CHANCEL CHOIR

^ **Postlude**

^IF ABLE, PLEASE STAND

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **IF YOU’RE NEW HERE . . . WELCOME!** We’re glad you could join us, whether you’re new to the community, new to our church, or if you might be new to this whole “church” thing altogether. We hope you won’t be nervous: it doesn’t matter who you are, what you’ve done, what you’re wearing, what you believe, or what you don’t believe – you are welcome here. You are among friends, and we hope you feel at home in this place of grace.
- **A SPECIAL WELCOME TO CHILDREN!** Parents, we are so grateful that you and your children are here to worship with us! We believe that children have much to teach us about how to receive the Kingdom of God, so please don’t worry

about your kids being a distraction in worship: the sounds that children make are music to our ears, and we are genuinely grateful that they are in our midst.

- **CHURCH NURSERY** - If it is helpful, you are welcome to leave your child with the caring and trained volunteers in our church nursery, which is located in our Sunday School hallway; or, if you prefer, you can make use of the “family room” which we set up each Sunday in the blue-carpeted foyer at the back of the sanctuary: that way your child can play and roam freely while you can relax and listen in to the service.

DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TROXLERS** - *"Thank you all for your kind cards and expressions of love this Christmas: we, as always, are overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness you show to your pastor and his family. Since we can't exchange gifts with all of you, we are making a donation in honor of the entire SPUMC congregation to the Casa Del Migrante in Tijuana, Mexico (which assists vulnerable migrants with services such as shelter, food, clothing, and support), and also to the family of Samuel Oliver-Bruno, a United Methodist who was deported last month after living in sanctuary in his church. We wish you all a joyful celebration of our Savior's birth! Grace and Peace, Jeremy, Margaret, Ada, and Della."*
- **THERE WILL BE NO SUMMIT AND HILLTOPPERS STUDENT MINISTRY TODAY OR NEXT SUNDAY.** Summit (for 6th-12th graders) and Hilltoppers (for K-5th graders) will resume its usual Sunday afternoon schedule in the New Year
- **JOIN OUR CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING THIS EVENING** - please meet in the fellowship hall promptly at 5 pm ☺.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT – DECEMBER 24TH @ 7:30PM** – Please invite you friends and neighbors to join us for this meaningful celebration of the birth of Christ.
- **PASTOR JEREMY AND HIS FAMILY WILL BE AWAY VISITING FAMILY IN THE GREENSBORO AREA THIS WEEK, AND OUR CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.**

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE WILL SOON START ON NEXT YEAR'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP LIST** - See Tim Drum if you want to come aboard as a Lector or as a Children's time person, or if you want to drop off the list.
- **COULD YOU HELP WITH OCCASIONALLY OFFERING A RIDE TO SOMEONE TO CHURCH OR TO A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT?** If so, please let Pastor Jeremy or our Office Manager Tim know. Thank you!
- **CONTACT PERSON** - Beverly Hale is the contact person for the 4th quarter and may be calling if someone is in need of food, transportation, etc. Her phone number is 704-502-6015.
- **BRIDGE OF HOPE / SONS OF THE SON** - wants you to be part of our Ministry by Praying for us: Needs: coats, gloves, hats, socks, blankets, food and toiletries etc. Thank you & God Bless, Phil White
- **WE INVITE EACH FAMILY TO BRING AT LEAST ONE CAN OF FOOD EACH WEEK** for the Shepherd's Staff food assistance ministry. There is a box in the Welcome Center...let's fill it each week! Please check the “Best Used Before” date on the items you donate and make sure it is more than 30 days before expiration. Thank you.
- **PLEASE FILL OUT THE PEW REGISTRATION PADS** by the windows at the end of each pew. **Pass them to the inside** and the ushers will pick them up after they receive the offering.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE:

(If you are unable to serve on the date scheduled, please exchange dates with someone and let the church office know.)

DATE	LECTOR	CHILDREN'S TIME	GREETERS	NURSERY	PRESCHOOL
12/30	Jack Riley	Sharon Drum	Bert & Diane Sheeley	Tracy Deyton	Emree Hoilman
1/6	Tim Drum	Kathey Hollifield	Joe & Lorraine Campbell	Meredith Hoilman	Emree Hoilman
1/13	Bruce Ikard	Sharon Drum	Glen & Jane Devos	Chelsea Thayer	Quincy Sparks

OUR COMMUNITY COVENANT

When a person becomes a professing member of the body of Christ at Spruce Pine United Methodist Church, he or she covenants to participate faithfully in the ministries of the congregation and in life in the world by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness.

- **GENERAL PRAYERS:** For all who do not know the love of God in Christ Jesus the Lord; for the well-being of our community; for local, state, national, and world leaders
- **SUSTAINING PRAYERS:** Our homebound members (*Shirley McManus*); Brian Center, Smoky Mountain, and Mitchell House Residents; Staff, and Families (*Mabel Whiton, Audrey Davenport, Bea White; Ramona Gragg; Ruth Buchanan; Beth Wyatt & Reg Bezzola; Jo Thomas; June Wilson; John Ahlquist; David Hoepfner; Bretta Walker; Charles Hale;* All expectant mothers and unborn children (*Carolyn Boles; Laura Curtis Hodges;* for those in addiction: for recovery and sobriety in 2018; *Sandra & Louis Woodard; Maggie Snyder* (caregiver); Troubled Teenager; Lynda Briggs; Edwin; Jan

- Hamilton's family, Weston Stout; Jordan, Meredith & Keziah Nance; Rosemary; Jane Greenwood; Heather Boone; Irene Poteat & Cody; Leigha Basini & baby; Rachel Jones; *Tim Hollifield*; Guy Hoilman (dementia); Patricia Douglas; Jack Byrd; Laura Richmond; Amanda Hasty; Larry & Julia Deyton; Jean Willis; Becket Peterson, Barbara McCloud; Adam (homeless)
- **FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** family of Paula Scifres; family of Seth McKinney; family of Natasha Hullett; family of Joy Chism; family of Bill Stewart; family of Bob Downs; family of Zachary Solomon; family of Worm Wilson; the family of *Jim Smith*; the family of Connie Sedberry; the family of Sam Singleton; family of Chris Pallick; those who have suffered miscarriage; the family of Judy Virnelson
 - **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** Luke Sherman (liver); Joyce LaFar (heart oblation); *Tracy Carroll* (recovery from knee surgery); Ima Jean Metcalf; Jerry Morgan (*Quincy's* dad - back); Stanley Urbina (shoulder surgery); Atlas Benton (back); Ann Stuck (back); *Diane Struble* (back); James Ouzts (knee replacement); Wally Thompson (knee); Jan Hamilton (neck surgery); Amanda Drum; Angela Pitman; *Ann Denny*; *Leroy Ledford*; Allan Douglas; Don Baucom (heart attack)
 - **FOR THOSE WITH CANCER:** Nora Murray (*Neil Brown's* sister); Judy Rinard; Diane Meatyard; Tom Wilson (tumor); Chip Smith (colon); Joyce Woody; Carol Batton (breast cancer); Laurie Norman (esophageal); Holly (brain tumor); Randy Chambers (cancer treatment); Jada Daniels (lung); Larry Metcalf (liver); Chase Ambrose; Ava Hollifield; Shirley Hise; Hal Harrison; Janet Ward Slaughter; Gloria Smith (lung); Brian Baker: Rev. Brenda McDaniel; Claire Spence; Becky Hoilman; Unnamed Person; Bill Hayes; Dan Whetstine
 - **FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY:** Wayne Hoilman; Mike Snyder (Parkinson's); Aubree (encephalitis); Wanda McClellan (lupus); Dan LaFar (shingles); Mary Kay Thompkins (MS); Warren Lewis; Heather Blackburn; Sandra Glenn; Tonya Hall Wilson; Nelda Johnson; Carolyn Riley; Cary Pitman (infection); Pete Floess (Diabetes & MS); Sam Goins (stroke)
 - **FOR SURVIVORS OF INJUSTICE, DISASTER, OR TRAGEDY:** Survivors of sexual abuse or harassment; Survivors of child abuse; WNC Flooding Survivors; Separated children & families; Victims of human trafficking; California wildfires; Survivors & responders to Hurricanes Florence & Michael; Victims & Survivors of Tree of Life Synagogue; wildfire victims; Samuel Oliver Bruno family; Rachel & Ruth Thacker (home burned)
 - **FOR AREA CHURCHES & MINISTRIES:** The Toe Valley UMC Charge (Mt. Zion - Pine Grove); Bakersville UMC, Red Hill - Deyton Bend UMC; The Newdale UMC Charge (Celo-Martin's Chapel-Windham); SPUMC (Pastor, Staff & Members); M-Y Parish Food Bank; Lamplighters Children, Families and Staff; Shepherd's Staff
 - **FOR THOSE TRAVELING, ON MISSION, OR IN THE MILITARY:** Dallas Martin (Marines); Tucker McElrath; Lindsey Potter (Army National Guard); Ben Potter (Army); those on Mission Trips; Students starting college
- We want to join with you in prayer for your concerns and needs. Simply contact Pastor Troxler or the church office and tell us about your prayer concern. Please submit names to the church office by Thursday morning to be included on the weekly list.*

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK		ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK	
24 - Jennifer Barnett		27 - Tim & Kathey Hollifield	
26 - Amanda Ikard			
PRESENCE:		December 16 th , 2018	
GIFTS		11:00 - 138	
December 16 th , 2018		General Fund - \$6,565.00	
		Weekly budget need - \$4,397.00	
		Year to Date - \$220,947.62	
		YTD Budget Need - \$217,547.00	
		Children's Offering - \$158.82	
		Community Assistance	
		Community Assistance - \$4,477.00	
		Shepherd's Staff Donations - 60	

We gratefully acknowledge a gift to the Community Assistance Fund from Susan Curtis, in Honor of Kathey Hollifield, Diane Walker, and Melanie Murphy.

SERVICE: Thanks to those who are serving in special ways throughout the past week and today ...

Lector: Sharon Drum Greeters: Glen & Jane DeVos Children's Time: Ginny Downs
Head Usher: Vern Coulter Nursery: Katie Willett Preschool: Dwight Willett Offertory: Glenna Tasedan

WITNESS: "IT IS NO USE SAYING THAT WE ARE BORN TWO THOUSAND YEARS TOO LATE TO GIVE ROOM TO CHRIST. CHRIST IS ALWAYS WITH US, ALWAYS ASKING FOR ROOM IN OUR HEARTS. BUT NOW IT IS WITH THE VOICE OF OUR CONTEMPORARIES THAT HE SPEAKS, WITH THE EYES OF STORE CLERKS, FACTORY WORKERS, AND CHILDREN THAT HE GAZES; WITH THE HANDS OF OFFICE WORKERS, SLUM DWELLERS, AND SUBURBAN HOUSEWIVES THAT HE GIVES. IT IS WITH THE FEET OF SOLDIERS AND TRAMPS THAT HE WALKS, AND WITH THE HEART OF ANYONE IN NEED THAT HE LONGS FOR SHELTER. AND GIVING SHELTER OR FOOD OR LOVE TO ANYONE WHO ASKS FOR IT, OR NEEDS IT, IS GIVING IT TO CHRIST." -FROM "ROOM FOR CHRIST" BY DOROTHY DAY IN WATCH FOR THE LIGHT: READINGS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS.

****Next Week's Scripture - December 30th, 2018****

1 Samuel 20:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52