

# Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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Spruce Pine, NC 28777

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December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day

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Jeremy I. Troxler, Pastor

Kathey Hollifield, Music Director  
Kathy Miller, Organist

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**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. TODAY WE CONTINUE OUR CELEBRATION OF THE GREAT FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS. FOR CHRISTIANS, CHRISTMAS IS NOT JUST A ONE DAY EVENT BUT A SEASON OF REJOICING, A TIME WHEN WE PRAISE GOD THAT THE SON HAS BEEN BORN AMONG US IN THE PERSON OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR AND OUR LORD. THE WORDS OF THE OLD HYMN EXPRESS OUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS TIME BEST: "JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME! LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING; LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM, AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING!"

## GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome and Announcements**

JACK RILEY

**Prelude**

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

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**

*"Joy to the World"*

UMH 246

**^Prayer of Confession**

On this day of celebration,  
let us come before God confessing our sins with sincere hearts,  
so that we may not deceive ourselves, but may know the truth of our forgiveness.  
Let us pray together.

**Almighty God,**  
**we confess that our hearts have not been open**  
**to all that you have shown us in the nativity of your Son.**  
**You sent Christ to be born as a helpless Child,**  
**and yet we have not attended to the suffering of children.**  
**you chose humble Mary to be the mother of our Lord Jesus,**  
**and yet we have not attended to the struggles of women.**  
**The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem,**

and yet we have not attended to the cry of the homeless.  
you announced your birth to lowly shepherds,  
yet we ignore those who tend our farms and fields.  
Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful compassion,  
that we may know Christ in serving others.  
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*(Time for silent prayer and confession)*

Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**

^ **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.”)*

^ **Hymn of Praise**

**Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**    **“Some Children See Him”**    BRENDA SPARKS

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

**Children’s Message / Lighting of the Christ Candle**    SHARON DRUM

**Sung Response**    **“Light the Advent Candle” v. 5**    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**    **“Away in a Manger” vs. 3**    UMH 217

**Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer**

## **PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD**

**Choral Anthem**    **“Carol of the Cradle”**    CHANCEL CHOIR

^ **Scripture Reading**    **Luke 2:41-52**    NT 56

**Proclamation of the Word**    **“It Wasn’t His Child”**    BRUCE IKARD - LAY LEADER

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH**

^ **Sending Hymn**    **“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”**    UMH 251

^ **Benediction**

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

^ **Postlude**

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^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

- Pastor Jeremy and his family are away this Sunday celebrating Christmas with their families back in Brown Summit/Greensboro. We thank God for our congregation's Lay Leader, Bruce Ikard, for bringing the message today, and for all who are leading worship.
- **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** Summit (for 6th-12th graders) and Hilltoppers (for K-5th graders) will resume its usual Sunday afternoon schedule in the New Year

## 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
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
1/20	Marvin Walker	TBA	Phil White / Frank Baskin	Tracy Deyton	Jessica Hoyle

## 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 Vernelson
  - **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 Whetstone
  - **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
12/30 - Millie Hudson	1/1 - Audrey Davenport	1/1 - Juliana Walker	1/3 - Reg Bezzola	1/1/2019 - Paul & Julia Kind
<b>PRESENCE:</b>		<b>December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018</b>		<b>11:00 - 201, 12/24/18 - 138</b>
<b>GIFTS</b>	<b>December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018</b>	General Fund - \$6,069.00		Weekly budget need - \$4,397.00
		Year to Date - \$227,016.62		YTD Budget Need - \$221,944.00
		Children's Offering - \$117.25		Community Assistance
		Community Assistance - \$2,950.00		Shepherd's Staff Donations - 46

*We gratefully acknowledge a gift to the General Fund from Mary Elizabeth Arrowood, in Memory of Bill, Suzy, & Allen Arrowood.*

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

Lector: Jack Riley      Greeters: Bert & Diane Sheeley      Children's Time: Sharon Drum  
Head Usher: Vern Coulter      Nursery: Tracy Deyton      Preschool: Emree Hoilman      Offertory: Brenda Sparks

**WITNESS:** "WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS STILLED, WHEN THE STAR IN THE SKY IS GONE, WHEN THE KINGS AND PRINCES ARE HOME, WHEN THE SHEPHERDS ARE BACK WITH THEIR FLOCKS, THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS: TO FIND THE LOST, TO HEAL THE BROKEN, TO FEED THE HUNGRY, TO RELEASE THE PRISONER, TO REBUILD THE NATIONS, TO BRING PEACE AMONG THE PEOPLE, TO MAKE MUSIC IN THE HEART." -FROM "THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS" BY HOWARD THURMAN

**\*\*Next Week's Scripture - January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019\*\***

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12