

# Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

11090 South Highway 226

Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Church: (828) 765-7446

Pastor: (828) 467-8743 cell

Parsonage: (828) 765-2723

Web: [www.sprucepineumc.org](http://www.sprucepineumc.org)

Email: [sprucepineumc@gmail.com](mailto:sprucepineumc@gmail.com) (office)

[spumcpastor@bellsouth.net](mailto:spumcpastor@bellsouth.net) (Pastor)

Facebook: Spruce Pine United Methodist Church



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January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

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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 IS EPIPHANY OF THE LORD SUNDAY. EPIPHANY IS AN ANCIENT CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL (IT MAY BE OLDER THAN CHRISTMAS) WHICH CELEBRATES THE "APPEARING" OR "REVELATION" ("EPIPHANY") THE SON OF GOD IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. EPIPHANY IS A KIND OF EXTENDED NATIVITY CELEBRATION OF THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS — IT OFTEN INCLUDES THE READING OF THE STORY OF THE MAGI'S VISIT TO THE INFANT JESUS. TODAY WE ALSO BEGIN A NEW SERMON SERIES FOR THE NEW YEAR, TITLED "CALLED".

## GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

TIM DRUM

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

*"We Three Kings"*

UMH 254

^Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

The love and grace of God in Christ lead us to confess our sins,  
to admit all those ways that our lives have proved unworthy of such a gift.  
I invite you to a time of silent prayer and confession.

*(time for silent prayer and confession)*

Let us pray together:

**We would bring unto you, O Lord and Master,  
the sins and mistakes of the year that has gone.**

**We turn from them to the promise of a year that is new and clean.**

**We thank you for the splendor of the unstained future.**

**We thank you for the opportunity to do what we have failed to do.**

**We are grateful for the gift of new beginnings, for the hope of the unturned page.**

Oh God, we would dedicate ourselves to a more unselfish and loving spirit;  
to the love of the church and its mission;  
to the choosing and holding of genuine friends;  
to your will;  
and to the establishment of your Kingdom in this your world.  
Hold us steady when these purposes prove difficult to hold onto.  
Grant us the grace of your presence along the way.  
And bless us all for Christ's sake.  
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**                      **"Greensleeves"**                      VERNON COULTER & BAND  
**Doxology**                      **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**                      UMH 95

**Children's Message / Lighting of the Christ Candle**                      KATHEY HOLLIFIELD  
**Children's Change Offering**                      MITCHELL COUNTY SAFEPLACE  
*(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.)*

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

^ **Scripture Reading**                      **Matthew 2:1-12**                      NT 1-2  
**Proclamation of the Word**                      **CALLED: "Called to a Journey"**                      REV. JEREMY TROXLER  
**Choral Anthem**                      **"Follow That Star"**                      CHANCEL CHOIR

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

^ **Great Thanksgiving / The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

*The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the following hymns during Holy Communion:*  
"Once in Royal David's City" - UMH 250  
"Love Came Down at Christmas" - UMH 242  
"That Boy-Child of Mary" - UMH 241

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

^ **Sending Hymn**                      **"When Christmas Morn is Dawning"**                      UMH 232  
^ **Benediction**  
^ **Choral Response**                      **"Sing We Now of Christmas"**                      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.

## JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUMMIT STUDENT MINISTRIES AND HILLTOPPERS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TODAY!** -at 5:30pm at SPUMC. All K-5th kids (Hilltoppers) and all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (Summit) are invited to enjoy a meal, fun activities, and time to grow in faith together.
- **IS GOD CALLING YOU TO EXPLORE BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST AT SPUMC?** Pastor Jeremy is putting together a new members class this month. If you are interested in exploring this step of commitment, please let him know after worship or contact him at 828-467-8743 or [spumcpastor@bellsouth.net](mailto:spumcpastor@bellsouth.net).

## ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **LAST CALL FOR THIS 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** - Janet Ouzts is the contact person for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and may be calling if someone is in need of food, transportation, etc. Her phone number is 828-467-1025.
- **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
1/13	Bruce Ikard	Sharon Drum	Glen & Jane Devos	Chelsea Thayer	Quincy Sparks
1/20	Marvin Walker	TBA	Phil White / Frank Baskin	Tracy Deyton	Jessica Hoyle
1/27	Jack Riley	Beverly Hale	Carolyn & Jack Burleson	Grace Buchanan	Brandy Miller

## 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; Jan Hamilton's family, Weston Stout; Jordan, Meredith & Keziah Nance; Rosemary; Jane Greenwood; Heather Boone; Irene Poteat & Cody; Rachel Jones; *Tim Hollifield*; Guy Hoilman (dementia); Jack Byrd; Laura Richmond; Amanda Hasty; Larry & Julia Deyton; Jean Willis; Becket Peterson, Barbara McCloud; Adam (homeless); Olivia Silver

- **FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** family of Natasha Hullett; family of Joy Chism; family of Bill Stewart; family of Bob Downs; the family of *Jim Smith*; the family of Connie Sedberry; the family of Sam Singleton; those who have suffered miscarriage; the family of Lila Hollifield
- **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** Luke Sherman (liver); Joyce LaFar (heart oblation); Ima Jean Metcalf; Jerry Morgan (*Quincy's* dad - back); Atlas Benton (back); Ann Stuck (back); *Diane Struble* (back); Amanda Drum; Angela Pitman; *Ann Denny*; 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; Rhonda Newman; Dick Hautala
- **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; Cary Pitman (infection); Pete Floess (Diabetes & MS); Sam Goins (stroke); Danna Gibson
- **FOR SURVIVORS OF INJUSTICE, DISASTER, OR TRAGEDY:** Survivors of sexual abuse or harassment; Survivors of child abuse; Separated children & families; Victims of human trafficking; Survivors & responders to Hurricanes Florence & Michael; Samuel Oliver Bruno family
- **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

*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.*

BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK		ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK	
7 <sup>th</sup> - Jane Lewis		10 <sup>th</sup> - Theresa Conley	
7 <sup>th</sup> - Framton & Danna Gibson			
PRESENCE:		December 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	
GIFTS	December 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2018		11:00 - 90
		General Fund - \$4,123.15	Weekly budget need - \$4,397.00
		Year to Date - \$231,139.77	YTD Budget Need - \$226,341.00
		Children's Offering - \$57.08	Community Assistance
		Mitchell - Yancey Parish Food Bank - \$500.00	
		Community Assistance - \$1,555.00	Shepherd's Staff Donations - 15

*We gratefully acknowledge a gift to the Community Assistance Fund from the Hickey Memorial Class in Honor of Audrey Davenport's 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday!*

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

Lector: Tim Drum      Greeters: Joe & Lorraine Campbell      Children's Time: Kathey Hollifield  
Head Usher: Vern Coulter      Nursery: Meredith Hoilman      Preschool: Emree Hoilman      Offertory: Vernon Coulter

**WITNESS:** AN EPIPHANY PRAYER ON THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI: "GOD OF GOLD, WE SEEK YOUR GLORY: THE RICHNESS THAT TRANSFORMS OUR DRABNESS INTO COLOR, AND BRIGHTENS OUR DULLNESS WITH VIBRANT LIGHT; YOUR WONDER AND JOY AT THE HEART OF ALL LIFE. GOD OF INCENSE, WE OFFER YOU OUR PRAYER: OUR SPOKEN AND UNSPEAKABLE LONGINGS, OUR QUESTIONING TOWARDS TRUTH, OUR SEARCH FOR YOUR MYSTERY DEEP WITHIN. GOD OF MYRRH, WE CRY OUT TO YOU IN OUR SUFFERING: THE PAIN OF ALL OUR REJECTIONS AND BEREAVEMENTS, OUR BAFFLED DESPAIR AT UNDESERVED SUFFERING, OUR RAGE AT CONTINUING INJUSTICE. WE OFFER OURSELVES TO YOU, GOD-WITH-US, IN OUR RICHES, IN OUR LONGING, IN OUR ANGER AND LOSS." (FROM A PRAYER BY JAN BERRY)

**\*\*Next Week's Scripture - January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019\*\***

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22