

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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March 10th, 2019

1st Sunday in Lent

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. The color purple in the sanctuary reminds us that we are in the church season called “Lent.” Lent is a period of roughly 40 days (and 6 Sundays) in which we prepare for the mystery and joy of Holy Week and Easter through a time of intentional reflection, repentance, and reconciliation. Christians often observe this season by either giving up something dear to them or by adding a new discipline or routine to their spiritual life, such as giving alms, prayer, or fasting. As you prepare for worship, ask yourself, “How might this season of Lent to be a time of spiritual revival in my life?” Today we begin a Lenten Sermon Series called “Jesus vs. Religion,” in which we will be studying Jesus’ conflicts with the religious leaders of his day.

GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

MATT MILLER

Prelude

“Ah Holy Jesus”

MARY McDONALD

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

“I Will Call Upon the Lord”

TFWS 2002

^Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, we come before You in need of forgiveness and grace.

You call us to trust in You completely, but we do not.

We are timid and fearful as we follow You.

**We justify our wrong actions and hurtful words,
though we know they are not what You require.**

**We struggle to receive the new life Christ offers,
preferring old habits to risky change.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Help us to be born again, from above, into the life of Christ,
trusting in Your mercy,**

believing in Your power to make us new creations,

**and following Your Way:
Through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

You are invited into a time of silent prayer and confession.
(time for silent prayer)

God is for us and not against us:
for that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Glory 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.”)

Welcome of New Members

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory	“How Great Thou Art”	GREG HOILMAN
Doxology	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	UMH 95

Children’s Message	SHARON DRUM
Children’s Change Offering	M-Y MEDS MEDICATION MINISTRY
<i>(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.)</i>	

Call to Prayer	“Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord”	TFWS 2131
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Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD

Choral Anthem	“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”	CHANCEL CHOIR
^ Scripture Reading	Matthew 12:1-14	NT 11
Proclamation of the Word	“Jesus vs. Religion: What the Law is For”	REV. JEREMY TROXLER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

^ Sending Hymn	“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”	UMH 121
^ Benediction		
^ 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.

MARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUMMIT STUDENT MINISTRY & HILLTOPPERS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - TODAY** - at 5:30pm at SPUMC. All kids (Hilltoppers) and all 6th-12th graders (Summit) are invited to enjoy a meal, fun activities, and time to grow in faith together.
- **LENTEN DEVOTIONS - THIS WEDNESDAY MARCH 13TH AT 6:15PM IN THE SANCTUARY** - To help us in our Lenten observances, Pastor Jeremy will be leading a brief time of Bible Study and prayer each Wednesday evening before choir practice. All are welcome.
- **MARCH CHURCH FELLOWSHIP MEAL - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH @ 6:00PM** in the fellowship hall. All are welcome.
- **SUMMIT YOUTH FUNDRAISER/POOR MAN'S LUNCH + SUPPER FOR HONDURAS MISSION TRIP - FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND - 11:30AM-1:00PM, 5:00PM - 7:00PM** - A group of our Youth and Parents will be sharing in a mission trip to work with Children's Homes in Honduras in late June. To raise funds for this trip, the youth will be holding both a Poor Man's Lunch and Supper in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10 each, and lunch deliveries are available. Please be generous in supporting our young people as they follow God's calling.
- **PLANTING TREES AT THE ORCHARD IN MARCH** - We are looking for servants who might be able to help bless our community and God's creation through a workday to dig holes and plant trees at the Orchard at Altapass on Saturday, March 16th and/or Saturday, March 23rd - or perhaps even on some other day. Can you help? If so, please sign up in the Welcome Center.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **A SIGN UP SHEET IS AVAILABLE** on the Welcome Table - Please sign up and fill out the information if you are willing to periodically help members of our Church family. The primary focus is food and transportation requests.
- **CONTACT PERSON** - Janet Ouzts is the contact person for the 1st 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
3/17	Grant Sparks	Ginny Downs	Beth Ziemba / Bill Dailey	Becky Nance	Cindy Stewart
3/24	Tracy Deyton	Beverly Hale	Wayne & Wanda Henline	Katie Willett	Kim Ledford
3/31	Aaron Buchanan	Melanie Murphy	Mary Robinson & Donnie Peters	Quincy Sparks	Meredith Hoilman
4/7	Meredith Hoilman	Tracy Carroll	Nancy Ball / Jan Hamilton	Sherry Sherman	Brandy Miller

REGULAR MEETINGS

GROUP	DAYS	ROOM	CONTACT
Blue Ridge Bridge Club	Mondays, 10 am	Fellowship Hall	Nancy Ball
SPUMC Book Club	1 st Tuesday, 10 am	Parlor	Margarett McGraw
Weight Watchers	Tuesdays, 5 pm	Fellowship Hall	
UMW Nightingale Circle	2 nd Monday - 7 pm	Welcome Center	Sharon Drum
Choir Practice	Wednesdays - 7:00 pm	Sanctuary	Kathey Hollifield
Al-Anon	Every Thursday	Youth Room	467-1193 & 704-609-3360

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, Ramona Gragg*); *Beth Wyatt & Reg Bezzola*; Jo Thomas; June Wilson; David Hoeppner; *Bretta Walker*; *Charles Hale*; All expectant mothers and unborn children (*Carolyn Boles*); *Laura Curtis Hodges*; for those in addiction: for recovery and sobriety in 2019; *Sandra & Louis Woodard*; Maggie Snyder (caregiver); Troubled Teenager; Lynda Briggs; Jan Hamilton's family, Weston Stout; Jane Greenwood; *Tim Hollifield*; Olivia Silver; Amanda Drum; James Davis; J.C. Gage; Crystal Wood; Stan Elkins; Muffy Dayton; Marcia Murphy; Dakota Yelton; Kimberly Oberhammer family; *Beverly Hale*; Mike Bartlett; Dennis Chandler; Rosemary Coffin
 - **FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** those who have suffered miscarriage; family of Ruth Buchanan; the family of Cary Pitman; the family of Zoe Ellis; Gloria Schulman & family; family of Chris Ollis; family of Henry Street; family of Bea White; family of Rick Crisp; Paul Sherman & family (death of father); the family of John Ahlquist
 - **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** Jerry Morgan (*Quincy's dad - back*); Atlas Benton (back); *Ann Denny*; Wayne Whitson (*Ima's brother*); Allan "Jerry" Douglass (corneal transplant surgery); Bishop Sharma Lewis; Madeline McKenzie (Shoulder); *Danna Gibson (Crohn's)* ; David Wilson; Meredith Hoilman (bone marrow donor); Heather Walker (heart transplant); Norma Weathers; *Gloria Hoeppner (tests)*
 - **FOR THOSE WITH CANCER:** Judy Rinard; Diane Meatyard; Tom Wilson (tumor); Joyce Woody; 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; Darren Ward; Mike Burke (brain tumor); Peggy Grantham (bladder); Eliza Bray (4 yr. old) and family
 - **FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY:** Wayne Hoilman; Mike Snyder (Parkinson's); Aubree (encephalitis); Wanda McClellan (lupus); Mary Kay Thompkins (MS); Heather Blackburn; Sandra Glenn; Tonya Hall Wilson; Nelda Johnson; Danna Gibson; Allison Street; Brian Westveer (fall); Sarah Hobart; Amanda Ikard (discs); Martha Wrenn (Crohn's)
 - **FOR SURVIVORS OF INJUSTICE, DISASTER, OR TRAGEDY:** Survivors of sexual abuse or harassment; Survivors of child abuse; Separated children & families; Victims of human trafficking; Samuel Oliver Bruno family; Thacker family (house fire); people of Venezuela
 - **FOR AREA CHURCHES & MINISTRIES:** The Toe Valley UMC Charge (Mt. Zion - Pine Grove); Bakersville UMC, Red Hill - Dayton 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.*

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK					
12 - Tom Jobin	13 - Barbara Henline	14 - Jim McManus	14 - Sara Powell	15 - Jodi Rhymer	16 - Landon Miller
PRESENCE:		March 3 rd , 2019		11:00 - 130	
GIFTS	March 3 rd , 2019	General Fund - \$6,493.00		Weekly budget need - \$4,583.00	
		Year to Date - \$50,033.00		YTD Budget Need - \$41,247.00	
		Children's Offering - \$77.50 - M-Y Meds.		Community Assistance - \$670.00	
		Summit Youth - \$20.00			
		Shepherd's Staff - \$75.00		Shepherd's Staff Donations - 51	

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

Lector: Matt Miller Greeters: Jon & Melanie Jirka Children's Time: Sharon Drum
 Head Usher: Vern Coulter Nursery: Chelsea Thayer Preschool: Tracy Dayton Offertory: Greg Hoilman

WITNESS: FOLLOWING IN THE WAY OF JESUS MEANS NOT ONLY SEEKING TO SAY AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT, BUT ALSO TRYING TO SAY AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE RIGHT REASONS, WITH THE RIGHT MOTIVATIONS. JESUS CRITICIZES RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO MAKE A BIG SHOW OF THEIR FAITH: WHO DO WHAT'S RIGHT, BUT WITH THE WRONG MOTIVATIONS, BECAUSE THEY WANT TO WIN PRAISE FROM OTHERS. BY CONTRAST, JESUS INVITES HIS FOLLOWERS TO SOMETIMES DO THEIR GIVING, AND PRAYING, AND FASTING "IN SECRET," FOR GOD ALONE, AND IN A WAY THAT ONLY GOD KNOWS ABOUT. ONE WAY TO WITNESS TO THE HUMBLE WAY OF JESUS IS TO DO GOOD WITHOUT CARING ABOUT GETTING ANY PUBLIC 'CREDIT' FOR IT. WHAT'S ONE GOOD THING YOU CAN DO FOR CHRIST OR FOR SOMEONE ELSE DURING LENT THAT NOBODY ELSE HAS TO KNOW ABOUT?

****Next Week's Scripture - March 17th, 2019****

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17 - 4:1; Luke 13:31-35