

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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April 7th, 2019

5th 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. TODAY WE CONTINUE IN A LENTEN SERMON SERIES CALLED "JESUS VS. RELIGION," IN WHICH WE ARE STUDYING JESUS' CONFLICTS WITH THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF HIS DAY.

GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

MEREDITH HOILMAN

Prelude

"Near the Cross"

ARR. RITTER

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

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

UMH 89

^Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

Let us pray together:

Renewing God,

trusting in your infinite grace,

we confess that we need your healing and your forgiveness.

For all that is broken in our minds and bodies,

we ask your healing.

For all that is wrong in our choices and our relationships,

we ask your forgiveness.

For all that works against life and blessing in our hearts, and in the world,

we open ourselves to your transforming grace.

Heal us, forgive us, and make us new.

(Time for silent prayer and confession)

Amen. Hear now the good news:

Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again for us while we were yet sinners.

He is with us always: that proves God's love for us.
In the name of 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.”)

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory **“Watch the Lamb”** GREG HOILMAN

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

Children’s Message TRACY CARROLL

Children’s Change Offering SPRING MISSION TRIP

(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** **Luke 15:1-10** NT 74

Proclamation of the Word **“Jesus vs. Religion: The Finder”** REV. JEREMY TROXLER

Choral Anthem **“What Wondrous Love is This”** CHANCEL CHOIR
WITH MIKE MURPHY

HOLY COMMUNION AND SENDING FORTH

^ **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:

“There is a Fountain Filled With Blood” - UMH 622

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” - UMH 626

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” - UMH 629

Prayers of the People

^ **Sending Hymn** **“The Voice of God is Calling”** UMH 436

^ **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.

APRIL 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.
- **UMW MEETING** - Monday, April 8 at 6:00 pm in the Welcome Center.
- **NO FINANCE MEETING THIS MONTH** - We will resume regular meetings in May.
- **MINISTRY TEAMS MEETING - NEXT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH AT 6PM** - The members of our four Ministry Teams (Worship, Fellowship, Nurture, and Mission) will be meeting together to carry our ministries forward in these areas. All are welcome to come and join a team and offer their gifts and ideas. Pizza will be available at 5:30pm for those who have not had time to eat supper beforehand.
- **LENTEN DEVOTIONS - THURSDAY AT 6:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY** - (Because of the Ministry Teams meeting this week, we will be holding the devotions time on Thursday instead of Wednesday.) To help us in our Lenten observances, Pastor Jeremy will be leading a brief time of Bible Study and prayer. All are welcome.
- **WEDDING** - Randal Greene and Beverly Hale are to be married at Spruce Pine Methodist Church Saturday April 13 2019 at 2:00pm. No invitations are to be sent. Friends and family are welcome. There will be a reception following the ceremony hosted by the Nightingale circle. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend. The couple is registered at Belk and Target.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT** - for our children on Sunday, April 14th. Please bring your Easter basket & come for an Easter Story @ 10:00 followed by the egg hunt at 10:30.
- **APRIL WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL - NEXT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH AT 6:00 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.** All are welcome.
- **"WERE YOU THERE?": MAKE PLANS TO WORSHIP WITH US AND WALK WITH JESUS DURING THIS HOLY WEEK:** Holy Week is a sacred time when we remember what Jesus experienced for us in the last week of his human life: his entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), his Last Supper with his disciples and betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane (Maundy Thursday), his death on the Cross (Good Friday), and his joyous resurrection (Easter Sunday). Bring a friend and please join us during Holy Week for the year's most powerful experiences of worship:

MAUNDY THURSDAY (<i>w/ Holy Communion</i>)	Thursday, April 18th, 7:00pm
GOOD FRIDAY	Friday, April 19th, 7:00pm
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE (<i>the Orchard at Altapass</i>)	Sunday, April 21st, 7:00am
EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE	Sunday, April 21st, 11:00am

(*w/ refreshments, flowering of cross and church photo beginning at 10:15am*)

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CONTACT PERSON** - Jan Hamilton is the contact person for the 2nd quarter and may be calling if someone is in need of food, transportation, etc. Her phone number is 828-385-2201.
- **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
4/14	Dwight Willett	Bruce Ikard	Susan Basini / Clara Ahlquist	Rachelle Shock	Tracy Deyton
4/21	Tim Drum	Greg Hoilman	Lloyd & Nelle Glenn	Chelsea Thayer	Kim Ledford
4/28	Bruce Ikard	Kathay Hollifield	Josh & Jennifer Newton	Becky Nance	Meredith Hoilman
5/5	Marvin Walker	Sharon Drum	Framton & Danna Gibson	TBA	TBA

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 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 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 Coffman; Rosemary Allen (*Stan Cook's sister*); Barbara Butts (*Ann Denny's daughter*); Tess Coulter (*Jack Burleson's mom - Hospice*); Corey & Kathryn Hoilman & new baby Avery; Nathan Hoilman

- **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 Henry Street; family of Bea White; Paul Sherman & family (death of father); the family of John Ahlquist; the family of Kathryn Riddle
- **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; *Neil Brown (surgery)*; Tom Wilson (recovering from surgery); Wayne Hoilman (lung transplant); Ann Winfield (heart surgery); *Wanda Henline*
- **FOR THOSE WITH CANCER:** Judy Rinard; Diane Meatyard; 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; Dick Hautala; Darren Ward; Mike Burke (brain tumor); Peggy Grantham (bladder); Eliza Bray (4 yr. old) and family; Lisa McKinney; Cheryl Oglesby; Marcia Murphy
- **FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY:** 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); Coy Hollifield; Sam Blevins (lungs); Carol Woodward
- **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.

BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK			
4/10 - Zachary Bennett			
PRESENCE:		March 31 st , 2019	11:00 - 145
GIFTS	March 31 st , 2019	General Fund - \$6,362.00	Weekly budget need - \$4,583.00
		Online Giving for March - \$891.00	YTD Budget Need - \$59,579.00
		Year to Date - \$70,752.00	Summit Mission Trip - \$895.00
		Children's Offering - \$107.49 - M-Y Meds.	Lamplighters - \$10.75
		Community Assistance - \$240.00	Neighbors Feeding Neighbors - \$200.00
		Shepherd's Staff - \$25.00	Shepherd's Staff Donations - 23

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

Lector: Meredith Hoilman Greeters: Nancy Ball / Jan Hamilton Children's Time: Tracy Carroll
Head Usher: Vern Coulter Nursery: Sherry Sherman Preschool: Brandy Miller Offertory: Greg Hoilman

WITNESS: THE BURDEN OF GOD'S HEART IS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE GOTTEN "LOST" IN LIFE, OR WHO EVEN FEEL "LOST" FROM GOD: GOD LONGS FOR THEM TO KNOW THE JOY OF BEING "HOME" WITHIN GOD'S EMBRACE. AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, OUR LIVES ARE MEANT TO BE LOVING GUIDEPOSTS OR HOPEFUL DIRECTIONAL SIGNS TO HELP POINT OTHERS TOWARDS THE WAY HOME: NOT BECAUSE WE ARE PROUD OF HAVING FOUND THE WAY OURSELVES, BUT BECAUSE GOD HAS GRACIOUSLY FOUND US IN MOMENTS WHEN WE HAVE BEEN LOST. THINK OF SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO FEELS "LOST" RIGHT NOW. TAKE TIME IN WORSHIP OR AT HOME TODAY TO PRAY FOR THEM.

****Next Week's Scripture - April 14th, 2019****

Liturgy of the Palms - Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Passion - Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14 - 23:56