

SPRUCE PINE UMC NEWSLETTER

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December 2019



Waiting for the God of....



We are about to step into a glorious time of year! Advent is the season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus the Messiah. We wait for Christ's birth...and his return. It is a time of intentional soul-searching as well as remembering God's many promises to humankind. God truly showed up in a big way just when we needed Him!

But, how many people were prepared for God's arrival? Though many people held out hope that God would answer prayers for deliverance, lots of people missed God – they didn't recognize His presence among them. God's visit came in an unexpected way. Sadly, many people today still miss God's presence and do not recognize God in our midst. That's why we need to tell people about the "God of..." all year long.

"The mission of Spruce Pine United Methodist Church is to be a beacon on a hill spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through: Worship, Fellowship, Education, Nurturing and Service"

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. LUKE 2:4-5



Have a Blessed Advent!

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Merry Christmas!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK *Continued from pg. 1*

This year, as we prepare for the Messiah's arrival, we'll be "Waiting for the God of..." For six weeks prior to Advent, we got to better know God in our "God of..." series. We learned that God wants us to truly know God, because the better we know God, the better we know ourselves. Remember – we are made *from/out* of God with the same Godly qualities: peace, hope, joy, and love. Now that we know how God reveals Himself to us as the "I Am," during Advent, we wait for the God of...The Unexpected, Deliverance, New Life, and Closeness. On Christmas Eve, in our beautiful candlelight service, we will note how a miracle birth changes everything!

And as 2019 comes to a close, I would like to express my thankfulness for being a part of this wonderful, SPUMC family. I am humbled and honored by your encouragement, support, and love. Suzanne and I wish you a hopeful, peaceful, joyful, and love-filled Advent, and a Christ-filled Christmas this year. We love you!

In anticipation and preparation with you...Pastor Rick

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE HOLIDAY SALE

Are you looking for unique, hand-made gifts made by local artists for birthdays or Christmas giving?

Would you like to support the SPUMC Community Assistance Fund at the same time?

Would you like to have that shopping done by early December?

The sale will run for 2 consecutive Sundays: December 1st and December 8th. It will be set up in the Welcome Center after the Early Service (10am) and after the 11am service. It will feature hand-built and wheel-thrown pottery, Christmas ornaments, paintings, jewelry, and many other creative items DONATED by SPUMC family artists.

ADVENT STUDY

Pastor Rick will be leading an Advent Devotional based on Matt Rawle's book, *The Redemption of Scrooge*. We will discover how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens' Christmas classic. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future, this Advent devotional will reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith. Time is 6:15 p.m., and the location is still to be determined (based on how many sign up). Dates are Tuesday, Dec 3, Tuesday, Dec 10, Tuesday, Dec 17, and Monday, Dec 23. If interested, please sign up ASAP so we can plan accordingly.

UNDERGROUND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday 12/7 at 8:30 am. Meet at the Bakersville Fire Department. It is a little over an hours drive to the cave. We will be underground for 3 1/2 hours. Participants must be at least 9 years old, able to hike 3 miles and climb over boulders. It is dark and 56 degrees in the cave. You will get wet and muddy. Be sure to bring a complete change of clothes with you for after the adventure. Appalachian Underground will provide all safety gear. Cost is \$10/person. Please visit our website for detailed information. www.tennesseeecaving.com Call or text Mel with questions 828-260-1714. We look forward to sharing this unique and fun place with you all.

SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD TO:

A RECOVERING AMERICAN SOLDIER
C/O WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
6500 GEORGIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20307-5001

Weekly Scriptures

CEB - Common English Bible

December 1, 2019

- ♦ Isaiah 2:1-5
- ♦ Psalm 122
- ♦ Romans 13:11-14
- ♦ Matthew 3:1-12
- ♦ Luke 2:8-14 - (CEB)

December 8, 2019

- ♦ Isaiah 11:1-10
- ♦ Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
- ♦ Romans 15:4-13
- ♦ Matthew 3:1-12
- ♦ Luke 4:16-21 (CEB)

December 15, 2019

- ♦ Isaiah 35:1-10
- ♦ Luke 1:46b-55
- ♦ James 5:7-10
- ♦ Matthew 11:2-11

December 22, 2019

- ♦ Isaiah 7:10-16
- ♦ Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- ♦ Romans 1:1-7
- ♦ Matthew 1:18-25

December 29, 2019

- ♦ Isaiah 63:7-9
- ♦ Psalm 148
- ♦ Hebrews 2:10-18
- ♦ Matthew 2:13-23

UNITED METHODIST MEMES



COMBINED SERVICES DURING ADVENT

We will bring together our 9:00 and 11:00 services for the month of December to observe Advent and celebrate Christmas. We will resume the 9:00 service starting January 5th, Let's commit to worshipping together during this most holy time of year, as we wait for the coming of Christ.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS

Should be returned to the church for pickup on or before December 6th.

SHOP WITH A COP

Contact the office to help Mitchell County Children through Shop with a Cop this season. Make checks payable to Spruce Pine Police Department or Mitchell County Sheriff's Department by December 8th.

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS

WATCH NIGHT

December 24, 2019

- ♦ Isaiah 9:2-7
- ♦ Psalm 96
- ♦ Titus 2:11-14
- ♦ Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2019

- ♦ Isaiah 52:7-10
- ♦ Psalm 98
- ♦ Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
- ♦ John 1:1-14

December 31, 2019

- ♦ Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
- ♦ Psalm 8
- ♦ Revelation 21:1-6a
- ♦ Matthew 25:31-46

December Calendar

1st - Administrative Council Meeting - 12:30 pm
1st - Compassionate Friends Service - 3:00 PM
3rd - SPUMC Book Club - 10:00 am - Parlor
12th - Finance Committee Meeting - 5 pm - FaithLink Classroom
16th - Church Wide Meal - 6 pm Fellowship Hall - Catered (sign up please)
22nd - Christmas Cantata
24th - Christmas Eve Service
28th - Christmas Day
31st - New Year's Eve

December Birthdays

1st - Joe Campbell	12th - Lorraine Campbell	22nd - Ray Alvarez
1st - Sam Deyton	13th - Tracy Deyton	22nd - Lloyd Glenn
2nd - Larry Hutchinson	14th - Ginnie Wearn	22nd - Blake Thayer
2nd - Andrew Shock	14th - Waylon Stout	24th - Jennifer Barnett
3rd - Jim Dunn	15th - Maria Walker	26th - Stan Cook
3rd - Beth Wyatt	16th - Trip Binford	26th - Amanda Ikard
7th - Lucy Murphy	16th - Melissa Martin	30th - Lisa Cook
8th - Lisa Royer	17th - Jameson Bell	30th - Millie Hudson
11th - Sarah Haney	20th - Beverly Greene	

December Anniversaries

16th - Scott & Mary Wray	22nd - Phil & Angie White
18th - Brad & Laura Hodges	26th - Michael & Mariea Tountasakis
19th - Ed & Donna Martin	27th - Tim & Kathey Hollifield

Thanks to:

- All who decorated the church and grounds, float and trees for Christmas.
- Everyone who participated in the Mission Trip to Alabama!
- The leaders, volunteers and students of Lamplighters!
- All who came to the Community Thanksgiving Service3
- Everyone who helped in any way with Thanksgiving at SPUMC.
- Everyone who participated in Michaela Buchanan's Baby Shower in November!
- All who remember the less fortunate and contribute to the Community Assistance Fund each week.
- Everyone who gives to the Shepherd's Staff, who allowed us to contribute 93 items in September, all who help at the M-Y Parish Food Bank.
- Members who take meals to the sick and shut ins, those who give rides to church and to the doctor for people who can't do it themselves.
- All who serve: lectors, greeters, children's time & nursery.
- Everyone working in quiet, behind the scenes ways each week.

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at
www.sprucepineumc.org

Shepherd's Staff

Food Donated over the years to
Shepherd's Staff:

2014 - 1202

2015 - 1078

2016 - 1030

2017 - 1062

2018 - 1213

January 2019 - 99

February 2019 - 141

March 2019 - 181

April 2019 - 67

May 2019 - 128

June 2019 - 161

July 2019 - 153

August 2019 - 92

September 2019 - 177

October 2019 - 110

November 2019 - 93

Total - 1402

SERMONS ON THE INTERNET

Soon - Listen and read at:
www.sprucepineumc.org