

# Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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Rick Schilling, 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.

## GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Sharon Drum

Prelude

Instrumental Ensemble

Entry of the Light of Christ

*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 AND PRAYERS

^Song of Praise

"Make Way"

Worship & Song 3044

^Greeting

May the love of our coming Lord be with you all...  
...and also with you!

^Opening Prayer

With God's love in our hearts, let us pray together...

**O God, in this time of worship, may we be open to your promises, your love, and your transformation. May we vision and dream. May we be surprised. May we receive the life you give us. May we encounter Emmanuel—God with us. And may we never be the same. 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.")*

Children's Time/Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Tracy Deyton

## Sung Response

## *“Light of Light”*

“Voices cry out from a world in grief: prayers of those who seek relief.  
End their darkness, hear their call for peace on earth, good will for all.”

## Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.

**God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.**

Advent is a time to look for the best in others.

**God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.**

Advent is a time to share with those in need.

**God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.**

Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.

**God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.**

## Candle Lighting and Reading

*Today we light three candles – the candle of hope, of peace, and the candle of joy. This third candle reminds us that because of our Lord, we have reasons to be truly joyful. The world around us is filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life.*

## Sung Response

## *“Light of Light”*

“Voices cry out from a world in grief: prayers of those who seek relief.  
End their darkness, hear their call for peace on earth, good will for all.”

## Children’s Change Offering

## Community Assistance

## Prayers of the People

# PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD

## ^Scripture Reading

*Matthew 1:18-23 (CEB)*

CEB 1170

## Choral Cantata

**“The Heart of Christmas” – Pepper Choplin**

Chancel Choir

**Narrator: Bruce Ikard      Soloist: Melanie Murphy**

- **Advent Procession in Blue**
  - **With Open Hearts**
  - **So Let it Be**
- **Joseph, Strong and Faithful Man**
  - **From the Heart of God**
  - **Joy on the Mountain**

## Proclamation of the Word

**“Waiting for the God of...Closeness”**

Rev. Rick Schilling

# RESPONSE TO THE WORD & SENDING FORTH

## Offering our Gifts and Praises to God

### Offertory

**“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”**

Celia Tainter Ringers

### Doxology

**“Praise God, from Whom All Bounteous Blessings Flow”**

Tune UMH 211

“Praise God from whom all bounteous blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures dwelling here below.  
Praise Him above all heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! His praises now we sing  
And ask His blessings on these gifts we bring.”

## ^Sending Hymn

**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 7**

UMH 211

## 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

- **SUMMIT AND HILLTOPPERS** - Summit & Hilltoppers meet each Sunday - 5:30-7:30 at Spruce Pine UMC.
- **NEW SERMON SERIES** - Beginning January 12, we will discuss some of the tough questions of life - the "Why" questions. We'll ask: Why do bad things happen if God is good? Why doesn't God answer my prayers? Why am I here (What is my purpose in life)? Why does God leave things up to us? Invite those you know who are questioning or curious. Come and ask the tough questions with us.
- **CHURCH WIDE BREAKFAST** on Sunday, December 29. We at SPUMC will gather at 9:30 on Sunday, Dec 29 for a church-wide breakfast. This is a potluck, so bring your favorite breakfast dish to share. There will also be the "staples" of breakfast. If you can help cook, please contact the church office or Pastor Rick.
- **SERMONS ON VIDEO!** - We have started to video record the sermons, as of December 1. The current videos are online at the SPUMC website [www.sprucepineumc.org](http://www.sprucepineumc.org). Simply click on the tab (at the top of the screen under our logo) marked "Sermons" to view the sermons. This is still a work in progress, so thank you for bearing with technical issues, like audio and/or video troubles. We are excited for the progress, as we continue to connect with all our worshippers and members - locally and beyond!
- **COMBINED ADVENT SERVICES** - 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 5<sup>th</sup>. Let's commit to worshipping together during this most holy time of year, as we wait for the coming of Christ.
- **UPCOMING EVENTS** - Caroling at Brian Center and Mitchell House, meet here at 5 pm on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **LECTORS AND PERSONS DOING CHILDREN'S TIME** - Check your email and let the church office know if you wish to continue in your current role. See office manager Tim Drum if you have any questions.
- **OFFICE HOURS** - The Church office will be closed on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of December for the Christmas Holiday, and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 for New Year's Day.

## ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CONTACT PERSON** - Mary Robinson is the contact person for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and may be calling if someone is in need of food, transportation, etc. Her phone numbers are 765-6301 (H) and 385-0473 (C).
- **CD'S AVAILABLE IN THE WELCOME CENTER** - by Grant Sparks. Proceeds will benefit the Lamplighters.
- **SONS OF THE SON & BRIDGE OF HOPE HOMELESS MINISTRY** - Needs: coats, gloves, hats, socks, blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, food, toiletries and your prayers. Thank you & God Bless, Phil White
- **LEFT BEHIND IN THE HIGH COUNTRY - SUPPORT GROUP FOR SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS** - Meets at 6:30 pm the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday every month in the Oak Room, Sloop Medical Offices Building, Cannon Hospital, Linville, NC. Contact Sandy at 828-467-5379 or Jane at 828-504-0155.

- **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.

| REGULAR MEETINGS       |                                |                 |                         |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| GROUP                  | DAYS                           | ROOM            | CONTACT                 |
| Blue Ridge Bridge Club | Mondays, 10 am                 | Fellowship Hall | Nancy Ball              |
| SPUMC Book Club        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 10 am | Parlor          | Margarett McGraw        |
| Weight Watchers        | Tuesdays, 5 pm                 | Fellowship Hall |                         |
| UMW Nightingale Circle | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday - 7 pm  | Welcome Center  | Sharon Drum             |
| Choir Practice         | Wednesdays - 7:00 pm           | Sanctuary       | Kathey Hollifield       |
| Al-Anon                | Thursdays - 7:00 pm            | Youth Room      | 467-1193 & 704-609-5379 |

| 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     |
| 12/29  | Jack Riley    | Kathey Hollifield | Mary Robinson / Donnie Peters | TBA            | TBA           |
| 1/5/20   | Tim Drum      | Sharon Drum       | Joe & Lorraine Campbell       | TBA            | TBA           |
| 1/12   | Bruce Ikard   | Kathey Hollifield | Glen & Jane Devos             | Katie Willett  | Kim Ledford   |
| 1/19   | Marvin Walker | Ginny Downs       | Phil White / Frank Baskin     | Sherry Sherman | Brandi Miller |
| 1/26   | Jack Riley    | Beverly Greene    | Jack & Carolyn Burleson       | Chelsea Thayer | Tracy Deyton  |

## OUR COMMUNITY COVENANT - PRAYER LIST CAN BE FOUND IN BULLETIN INSERT

| BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK                              |                                  |   |                                    | ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK             |   |                                    |
|--|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 22- Ray Alvarez,<br>Lloyd Glenn,<br>Blake Thayer | 23 – Doug<br>Williams            | 24 – Jennifer<br>Barnett                    | 26 – Stan<br>Cook, Amanda<br>Ikard | 22 – Phil &<br>Angie White          | 26 – Michael &<br>Mariae<br>Tountasakis | 27 – Tim &<br>Kathey<br>Hollifield |
| PRESENCE:  |                                  | December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019            |                                    | 11:00 – 130                         |   |                                    |
| GIFTS  | December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | General Fund - \$9,620.00                   |                                    | Weekly budget need - \$4,583.00     |   |                                    |
|  |                                  | Year to Date - \$220,555.73                 |                                    | YTD Budget Need – \$206,235.00      |   |                                    |
|  |                                  | Children's Offering - \$80.06 – Comm. Asst. |                                    | Directed Donations - \$274.00       |   |                                    |
|  |                                  | Lamplighters - \$120.00                     |                                    |                                     |   |                                    |
|  |                                  | Community Assistance - \$185.00             |                                    | Shepherd's Staff Food Donations -28 |   |                                    |

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

Lector: Sharon Drum      Greeters: Bert & Diane Sheeley      Children's Time: Tracy Deyton  
Head Usher: Vernon Coulter      Nursery: Becky Nance      Preschool: Maddi Landon      Offertory: Celia Tainter Ringers

**WITNESS:** MANY PEOPLE WAIT ALL YEAR LONG FOR ANSWERS TO THEIR PRAYERS. THEY NEED STABILITY, LESS CHAOS, MORE LOVE, PATIENCE, AND KINDNESS IN THEIR LIVES. GOD COMES TO US IN MANY, UNEXPECTED WAYS AND REMINDS US THAT GOD IS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL. AND GOD WANTS US TO WITNESS TO OUR WORLD THROUGH OUR UP CLOSE AND PERSONALNESS, TOO. LET US GRACIOUSLY OFFER GOD'S HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE – NOT JUST DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIME, BUT ALL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

**\*\*Next Week's Scripture – December 29, 2019\*\***

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