

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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December 10th, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

Jeremy I. Troxler, Pastor
Glenna Tasedan - Children's Church

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. AS WE WORSHIP TODAY YOU WILL NOTICE THE COLOR PURPLE IN THE SANCTUARY WHICH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN SEASON OF ADVENT. THE WORD "ADVENT" MEANS "COMING," AND ADVENT IS A SEASON OF FOUR SUNDAYS IN WHICH WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO CELEBRATE THE "COMING" OF CHRIST TO US ON CHRISTMAS, AND WHEN WE LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE TO CHRIST'S FINAL "COMING" IN VICTORY. TO HELP US TO PREPARE, THROUGHOUT THIS ADVENT ARE SHARING IN A SERMON SERIES CALLED "WHAT JESUS WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS"

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

AARON BUCHANAN

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, GIFTS, AND PRAYERS

^Song of Praise

"The King of Glory"

TFWS 2091

^Prayer of Confession

Let us pray together:

Our heavenly Father,

as once again we prepare for Christmas,

help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer.

Help us to reflect upon the wonder of your love,

and to allow the story of the Savior's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds.

So may our joy be deeper,

our worship more real,

and our lives worthier

of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Time for silent prayer and reflection)

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that He sent His only Son,
give you grace to prepare for and receive eternal life.

May God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemed and as Judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you to bear the fruits of holiness.

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.”)

Decoration of the Chrismon Tree

*(All are invited to come forward, to take a Chrismon, and to place it on the tree.
After we are finished, we will join in the following prayer:)*

**Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son,
who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light.
May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ,
that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory “Joseph’s Song” RANDY HEMBREE - TENOR

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

Children’s Message / Lighting of the Second Advent Candle BRUCE IKARD

Sung Response “Light the Advent Candle” v. 2 TFWS 2090

Children’s Change Offering SINGLE MOTHER CHRISTMAS PROJECT

(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.)

Call to Prayer “Wait for the Lord” WORSHIP & SONG 3049

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD

Anthem “Waiting” CHANCEL CHOIR

^ **Scripture Reading** Luke 10:38-42 NT 68

Proclamation of the Word “What Jesus Wants for Christmas:
Our Attention” REV. JEREMY TROXLER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

^ **Sending Hymn** “God Almighty, We Are Waiting” WORSHIP & SONG 3047

^ **Benediction**

^ **Choral Response** “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” CHANCEL CHOIR

^ **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. Contact our nursery coordinator Glenna Tasedan at 336-908-8075.

DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUMMIT AND HILLTOPPERS STUDENT MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY TODAY!** -from 5:00pm - 7:00pm at the home of DeLee and Michelle Scott at 210 Mullin Road (1st driveway on the right past Pine Grove UMC.) All kids (Hilltoppers) and all 6th-12th graders (Summit) are invited to join us and if possible to bring an inexpensive wrapped gift for a fun gift exchange.
- **DECEMBER CATERED MEAL** - Our traditional Christmas season Catered meal will be in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 pm. Donations to defray the cost of the meal will be gratefully accepted. The meal will be catered by Sue Lanier. Please let us know if you are attending by Sunday, December 11th.
- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY IN LEDGER- THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 9AM-1PM.** It will be chilly but we will be working inside under roof. Contact Pastor Jeremy or Marvin Walker at 766-5379 for more information.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT – DECEMBER 24TH @ 7:30PM** – Please invite you friends and neighbors to join us for this meaningful celebration of the birth of Christ.
- **THE HICKEY MEMORIAL CLASS** - has donated 50.00 to the Community Assistance fund in Honor of Audrey Davenport's Birthday in January!

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP** - meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.
- **LEFT BEHIND IN THE HIGH COUNTRY - SUPPORT GROUP FOR SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS** - Meets at 6:30pm 1st & 3rd Thursdays every month in the Oak Room, Sloop Medical Offices Building, Cannon Hospital, Linville, NC. Contact Bob at 321-243-1640 or Jane at 828-504-0155.
- **SONS OF THE SON & BRIDGE OF HOPE HOMELESS MINISTRY** - Winter is coming. We need: coats, gloves, hats, socks, blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, food, toiletries and your prayers. 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.
- **BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION** are collected to help Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Please continue to save the box tops. Thanks to each of you for your participation. This is an on-going project so keep placing your donations in our Red Bird Mission box on the table in the Welcome Center. - Marie Brown
- **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
12/17	Mike Murphy	Glenna Tasedan	Jack Riley / Ima Conroy	Grace Buchanan / Margaret Troxler
12/24	Chelsea Thayer	Mike Murphy	Wayne & Rachel Hoilman	As Needed / Becky Nance on call
12/31	Randy Hembree	Kathey Hollifield	Bert & Diane Sheeley	Rachelle Shock / Brandy Miller
1/7	Tim Drum	Sharon Drum	Joe & Lorraine Campbell *	Meredith & Emree Hoilman
1/14	Bruce Ikard	Kathey Hollifield*	Glen & Jane DeVos *	Chelsea Thayer / Quincy Sparks

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; for those seeking employment; for all teachers and educators; Those who suffer from racism; Survivors of sexual abuse or harassment
 - **SUSTAINING PRAYERS:** Our homebound members (Ruth Buchanan, *Shirley McManus, Barbara Henline*); Brian Center, Smoky Mountain, and Mitchell House Residents; Staff, and Families (*Mabel Whiton, Audrey Davenport, Anna Baird, Bea White, June Wilson*); M-Y Parish Food Bank, Bridge of Hope Homeless Ministries; Lamplighters Children, Families and Staff; for those in addiction, for recovery & sobriety in 2017; *Bretta Walker; Charles Hale*; All expectant mothers and unborn children; victims of child abuse; *Beth Wyatt & Reg Bezzola*; Blue Ridge Regional Hospital; Laura Curtis Hodges; *Chelsea & Bryan Thayer (new baby Stokes)*; Jason & Anna Wilson (new baby Jesse Ray); Joy Chissolm; Anna Katherine Chambers; un-named struggling teenager; Joe Joyner; Barbara Miller (Phil White's Mom)
 - **FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** the family of Ben Bonner; the family of Chris McClintick; the family of Connie Thatcher; the family of Nancy Moody; the family of Debbie Woolbright; the family of Caleb Dotts
 - **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** *Bruce Ikard*; Judy Broadway (hip); *Melanie Murphy*; Betty Pafford (open heart surgery); Reg Buchanan (kidney transplant)
 - **FOR THOSE WITH CANCER:** Nora Murray (*Neil Brown's* sister); Shirley Hise; *Jim Smith (radiation)*; Ava Hollifield (cancer surgery); Judy Rinard; Marty Kind (Paul Kind's father); Maggie Snyder (breast cancer); Parks Griffith (brain cancer); Diane Meatyard; Tom Wilson (tumor); Susan Wilson; Bob Owens (esophagus); Jane Glass (Ann Denny's sister in law - bone cancer)
 - **FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY:** *Sandra Woodard*; David Hoepfner (vision); Wayne Hoilman; Mike Snyder (Parkinson's); Lecil Pittman; Sam (kidney stones); Margret Jenkins (Sandra Woodard's mother - hospitalized, pneumonia); Martha Wiseman (Ann Denny's sister - blood pressure)
 - **FOR VICTIMS OF INJUSTICE OR TRAGEDY:** Refugees from ISIS; Persecuted Christians in the Middle East; Wayne & Rachel Hoilman (Home fire); Victims of Hurricane Harvey, Irma & Maria; Wildfires in Southern California
 - **FOR AREA CHURCHES:** 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)
 - **FOR THOSE TRAVELING, ON MISSION, OR IN THE MILITARY:** Dallas Martin (Marines); Tucker McElrath; Lindsey Potter (Army National Guard); 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						ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK
11 - Sarah Haney	12 - Lorraine Campbell	13 - Tracy Deyton	14 - Virginia Wearn	15 - Maria Walker	16 - Trip Binford, Melissa Martin	16 - Scott & Mary Wray
PRESENCE:		December 3rd, 2017			11:00 - 134	
GIFTS	December 3rd, 2017	General Fund - \$5,548.00			Weekly budget need: \$4,310.22	
		Year to Date - \$210,929.29			YTD Budget Need: \$206,900.15	
		Children's Offering - \$86.36			Single Mother Christmas Project	
		Community Asst. Honorarium - \$50.00				
		Community Assistance - \$212.00			Shepherd's Staff Food Donations - 8	

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

Lector: Aaron Buchanan Greeters: Bill & Judy Sears Children's Time: Bruce Ikard
 Head Usher: Vernon Coulter Nursery: Katie Willett / Tracy Deyton Offertory: Randy Hembree

WITNESS: ONE OF THE THINGS ON JESUS' CHRISTMAS LIST IS OUR GENEROSITY. HERE IS A PRAYER FROM UNITED METHODIST PASTOR ADAM HAMILTON'S BOOK "ENOUGH" THAT WE CAN ALL PRAY DURING ADVENT TO MAKE US BETTER WITNESSES TO CHRIST'S WAY OF GIVING: "GRACIOUS LORD, HELP ME TO BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT I HAVE, TO REMEMBER THAT I DON'T NEED MOST OF WHAT I WANT, AND THAT JOY IS FOUND IN SIMPLICITY AND GENEROSITY. AMEN"

****Next Week's Scripture - December 17th, 2017****

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28