

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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December 17th, 2017

Third 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

MICHAEL MURPHY

Prelude

"Noel Suisse"

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

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

"Come, O Redeemer, Come"

WORSHIP & SONG 3046

^Responsive Reading

"Canticle of Zechariah"

UMH 208

(A song of praise from Luke 1: 68-79, sung by John the Baptizer's father at his birth)

^ 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/bleed them with the words, "The Peace of Christ be with you.")

^Hymn of Praise

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

UMH 221

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory

"I Wonder as I Wander"

MICHAEL MURPHY - TUBA

Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 95

Children’s Message / Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

GLENNA TASEDAN

Sung Response

“Light the Advent Candle” v. 3

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.)

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD

^Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-18

NT 56-57

Proclamation of the Word *“What Jesus Wants for Christmas:
Our Repentance”*

REV. JEREMY TROXLER

Choral Cantata Presentation

“Angels Suite”

CHANCEL CHOIR

“The Heavens Declare Joy”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

^Sending Hymn

“Down by the Jordan”

WORSHIP & SONG 3045

^Benediction

^Choral Response

“Until Jesus Comes”

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

- **THERE WILL BE NO SUMMIT AND HILLTOPPERS STUDENT MINISTRY TODAY.** Several of our partner churches are holding special Christmas programs tonight.
- **UMW CHRISTMAS PARTY** - will be held this Monday, December 18th at 6 pm at Lila Baskin’s house. Bring a finger food and a Christmas tree ornament (\$10.00 or less) for our dirty Santa game.

- **SINGLE MOM'S CHRISTMAS PROJECT** - We are looking for volunteers to help prepare and or deliver special Christmas baskets to several single mothers in our community this week. Can you help? If so, please sign up in the Welcome Center and let us know when you might be available.
- **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 for Christmas and her 101st Birthday in January!
- **NO FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING IN DECEMBER** - meetings will resume in January, 2018.

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
12/24	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; the family of Marty Kind
- **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); Chip Smith (colon 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); John Campbell (fall and concussion)
- **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 - Dayton 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			ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK		
17 - Jamison Bell	20 - Beverly Hale	22- Ray Alvarez, Lloyd Glenn, Blake Thayer	18 - Brad & Laura Hodges	19 - Ed & Donna Martin	22 - Phil & Angie White
PRESENCE:		December 10th, 2017		11:00 - 90	
GIFTS	December 10th, 2017	General Fund - \$3,906.00		Weekly budget need - \$4,310.22	
		Year to Date - \$214,835.29		YTD Budget Need - \$211,210.37	
		Children's Offering - \$43.47		Single Mother Christmas Project	
		Single Mother Christmas Project - \$2,750.00			
		Community Assistance - \$104.00		Shepherd's Staff Food Donations - 15	

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

Lector: Michael Murphy Greeters: Jack Riley / Ima Conroy Children's Time: Glenna Tasedan
 Head Usher: Vernon Coulter Nursery: Grace Buchanan / Margaret Troxler Offertory: Michael Murphy

WITNESS: TODAY JOHN THE BAPTIZER CALLS ON US NOT ONLY TO REPENT, BUT TO "BEAR FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE." WHAT HE MEANS IS THAT OUR REPENTANCE SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE CHANGES WE MAKE IN OUR LIVES: FOR INSTANCE, WE SHOULD BE MORE GENEROUS AND FAIR TO OTHERS. WHAT IS ONE CHANGE GOD IS CALLING YOU TO MAKE IN YOUR LIFE? WHAT IS ONE WAY GOD IS CALLING YOU TO "BEAR FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE" THIS ADVENT?

Next Week's Scripture - December 24th, 2017

Morning Service - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:47-55, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38
 Evening Service - Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20
 Christmas Day - Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14