

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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December 24th, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

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

CHELSEA THAYER

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** "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" UMH 216

^ **Responsive Reading** "Canticle of Mary" ("The Magnificat") UMH 199
(A song of praise from Luke 1:46-55, spoken by Mary, the mother of Jesus)

^ **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.")

^ **Hymn of Praise** "In the Bleak Midwinter" UMH 221

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory "Mary, Did You Know?" KATHEY HOLLIFIELD

Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 95

Children's Message / Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle
Sung Response "Light the Advent Candle" v. 4
Children's Music Presentation
Children's Change Offering

MELANIE MURPHY
TFWS 2090

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.)

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem "Angels are Making Their Rounds" CHANCEL CHOIR

^Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38 NT 53/54

Proclamation of the Word "What Jesus Wants for Christmas:
Our Yes" REV. JEREMY TROXLER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

^Sending Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH 213

^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

- **THERE WILL BE NO SUMMIT AND HILLTOPPERS STUDENT MINISTRY TODAY.** Summit (for 6th-12th graders) and Hilltoppers (for K-5th graders) will resume its usual Sunday afternoon schedule after Christmas.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT – TONIGHT @ 7:30PM** – Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this meaningful celebration of the birth of Christ.

- **MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TROXLERS** - "Thank you all for your kind cards and expressions of love this Christmas. Since we can't exchange gifts with all of you, we are making a donation in honor of the entire SPUMC congregation to ZOE, an amazing United Methodist-birtherd ministry that helps empower vulnerable children in seven countries to move beyond charity to self-sufficiency and abundant life. To learn more you can visit www.wearezoe.org. We wish you all a joyful celebration of our Savior's birth! Grace and Peace, Jeremy, Margaret, Ada, and Della."
- **PASTOR JEREMY AND HIS FAMILY WILL BE AWAY VISITING FAMILY IN THE GREENSBORO AREA THIS WEEK.** They will return on Saturday.
- **THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY OF NEXT WEEK** in observance of the Christmas Holidays. The office will reopen on Wednesday & Thursday.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- *In Honor of Audrey Davenport at Christmas and to celebrate her 101st birthday in January, a gift from the Hickey Memorial Class.*
- *In Honor of Kathey Hollifield, Diane Walker and Melanie Murphy - A gift from Susan Curtis to the Single Mother's Fund.*
- *In Honor of the Church Family, a Donation to Hospice of Yancey County from Beth Ziemba. Merry Christmas to the whole Church Family!*

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
12/31	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*; 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
- **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; the family of Betty Pafford
- **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** *Bruce Ikard*; Judy Broadway (hip); *Melanie Murphy*; 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; 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); Barbara Miller; Russell Carroll
- **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); Dale Parsley (heart infection); Michela Murphy (shingles); Ima Conroy (illness)
- **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; Methodist Church in Pakistan
- **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			ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK
24 - Jennifer Barnett	26 - Amanda Ikard	30 - Millie Hudson	27 th - Tim & Kathey Hollifield
PRESENCE:		December 17 th , 2017	11:00 - 117
GIFTS	December 17 th , 2017	General Fund - \$4,266.00	Weekly budget need - \$4,310.22
		Year to Date - \$219,145.51	YTD Budget Need - \$215,520.59
		Children's Offering - \$106.19	Single Mother Christmas Project
		Single Mother Christmas Project - \$109.65	Missions - \$1,000.00
		Community Assistance - \$1,100.00	Shepherd's Staff Food Donations - 47

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

Lector: Chelsea Thayer Greeters: Wayne & Rachel Hoilman Children's Time: Melanie Murphy
 Head Usher: Vernon Coulter Nursery: As Needed / Becky Nance on call Offertory: Kathey Hollifield

WITNESS: "IT IS NO USE SAYING THAT WE ARE BORN TWO THOUSAND YEARS TOO LATE TO GIVE ROOM TO CHRIST. CHRIST IS ALWAYS WITH US, ALWAYS ASKING FOR ROOM IN OUR HEARTS. BUT NOW IT IS WITH THE VOICE OF OUR CONTEMPORARIES THAT HE SPEAKS, WITH THE EYES OF STORE CLERKS, FACTORY WORKERS, AND CHILDREN THAT HE GAZES; WITH THE HANDS OF OFFICE WORKERS, SLUM DWELLERS, AND SUBURBAN HOUSEWIVES THAT HE GIVES. IT IS WITH THE FEET OF SOLDIERS AND TRAMPS THAT HE WALKS, AND WITH THE HEART OF ANYONE IN NEED THAT HE LONGS FOR SHELTER. AND GIVING SHELTER OR FOOD OR LOVE TO ANYONE WHO ASKS FOR IT, OR NEEDS IT, IS GIVING IT TO CHRIST." -FROM "ROOM FOR CHRIST" BY DOROTHY DAY IN WATCH FOR THE LIGHT: READINGS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS.

****Next Week's Scripture - December 31st, 2017****

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40
 Watch Night - Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Psalm 8, Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46