

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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December 3rd, 2017

First 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, TODAY WE BEGIN A SERMON SERIES FOR ADVENT CALLED "WHAT JESUS WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS"

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

KATHEY HOLLIFIELD

Prelude

"Advent Star"

SCOTT

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 Thou Long Expected Jesus"

UMH 196

^Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sins to God together, trusting in God's mercy and forgiveness:

Gracious Lord Jesus,

**you come to us with the good news of salvation,
but too often we fail to notice.**

**You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts
and do things our own way.**

We ignore your presence, fail to prepare your way, and turn from the call to follow you.

We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

Forgive us, merciful Lord.

Help us to live so that the world will know that you have come, and will come again.

Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

“I am making all things new,” says the Lord.
This is Christ’s gracious word: “Your sins are forgiven.”

Amen. Thanks be to God.

^ **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.”)

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory **“What Child is This”** VERNON COULTER & HIS BAND

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

Children’s Message / Lighting of the First Advent Candle TRACY CARROLL

Sung Response **“Light the Advent Candle” v. 1** TFWS 2090

Children’s Change Offering TO BE ANNOUNCED
(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.)

Anthem **“A Prelude to Advent”** CHANCEL CHOIR

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD

^ **Scripture Reading** **Luke 12:13-15, 22-34** NT 70-71

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

HOLY COMMUNION

^ **The Great Thanksgiving / The Lord’s Prayer**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

Prayers of the People

^ **Sending Hymn** **“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”** UMH 206

^ **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

- **COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - TODAY @ 3PM AT SPUMC** - A special community service for all who have ever grieved the loss of a child, or are close with someone who has. Please bring a picture/and or memento to be placed on the memorial table during the service. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow.
- **SUMMIT STUDENT MINISTRY AND HILLTOPPERS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TODAY!** - All kids (K-5th grades) and youth (6th-12th grades) are invited to meet at the church from 5:30 - 7:30pm for a time of food, fun, fellowship, and faith.
- **SPUMC BOOK CLUB** - will meet on Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00 am in the church parlor.
- **BABY SHOWER** The women of the church are invited to a shower for Katie Willett on Saturday, December 9th from 4 pm until 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **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.

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
12/10	Aaron Buchanan	Bruce Ikard	Bill & Judy Sears	Katie Willett / Tracy Deyton
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

*Subject to change

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; *Jon & Melanie Jirka*; Angelina Ball; Aubree (infant); un-named struggling teenager; Joe Joyner
- **FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** the family of Ben Bonner; the family of Chris McClintick; the Hamlyn family the family of Mark Callahan; the family of Connie Thatcher; the family of Helen Haberneck; the family of Nancy Moody; the family of Debbie Woolbright
- **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** *Bruce Ikard*; Judy Broadway (hip); *Melanie Murphy; Bretta Walker (surgery)*; Betty Pafford (open heart surgery); Reg Buchanan (kidney transplant), Mary Goins (hip surgery)
- **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)
- **FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY:** *Sandra Woodard*; David Hoepfner (vision); Wayne Hoilman; *Evelyn Hughes (leg)*, Mike Snyder (Parkinson's); Lecil Pittman; Nancy Burleson (broken elbow); Sam (kidney stones)
- **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;
- **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			
12/3 - Jim Dunn	12/3 - Beth Wyatt	12/7 - Lucy Murphy	12/8 - Lisa Leahy Royer
PRESENCE:		November 26th, 2017	11:00 - 105
GIFTS	November 26th, 2017	General Fund - \$6,153.00	Weekly budget need: \$4,310.22
		Year to Date - \$205,381.29	YTD Budget Need: \$202,589.93
		Children's Offering - \$56.40	Centro Latino
		Community Asst. Art Sale - \$1,004.00	
		Community Assistance - \$620.00	Shepherd's Staff Food Donations - 10

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

Lector: Kathy Hollifield Greeters: Tony Woodby / Frank Baskin Children's Time: Tracy Carroll
 Head Usher: Vernon Coulter Nursery: Chelsea Thayer / Quincy Sparks Offertory: Vernon Coulter

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 10th, 2017****

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-6