

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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December 31st, 2017

First Sunday after Christmas

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. TODAY WE CONTINUE OUR CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS, WHICH IS NOT JUST ONE DAY BUT A SEASON OF REJOICING, A TIME WHEN WE PRAISE GOD THAT THE SON HAS BEEN BORN AMONG US IN THE PERSON OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR AND OUR LORD. AS WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, TODAY WE CONCLUDE OUR SERMON SERIES CALLED "WHAT JESUS WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS"

GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

RANDY HEMBREE

Prelude

"I Saw Three Ships"

ENGLISH CAROL

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 "He Is Born" UMH 228

^Responsive Reading Psalm 148 UMH 861

^ 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 "Joy to the World" UMH 246

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory "Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow" SHARON DRUM

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

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

Children's Message/Lighting of the Advent and Christmas Candles

KATHEY HOLLIFIELD

Sung Response

"Light the Advent Candle" v. 5

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

"Lead Me, Lord"

UMH 437

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem

"Go Tell It On the Mountain"

CHANCEL CHOIR

^Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

NT 55/56

Proclamation of the Word

"What Jesus Wants for Christmas:
Patience, Praise, Peace"

REV. JEREMY TROXLER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

^Sending Hymn

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH 240

^Benediction

^Choral Response

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

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.

JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SPUMC BOOK CLUB** - Will meet on Tuesday, January 2 at 10:00 am in the Church Parlor.
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** - Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 5:00 pm in the FaithLink Classroom.
- **WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL** - Wednesday, January 17 at 6 pm. Menu and sponsoring group to be announced.
- **CHRISTMAS CARDS** - Please pick them up from the table in the welcome center.

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.

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!*
- *In Memory of Barbara H. Gouge, a gift to the general fund from Eddie Gouge.*

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
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
1/21	Marvin Walker	Glenna Tasedan	Phil White / Frank Baskin	To Be Announced
1/28	Jack Riley	Greg Hoilman	Carolyn & Jack Burleson	To Be Announced

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; the family of Margret Jenkins (*Sandra Woodard's Mother*) the family of Russell Carroll; the family of Parks Griffith; the family of Bud Atkins
 - **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** *Bruce Ikard*; Judy Broadway (hip); *Melanie Murphy*; Reg Buchanan (kidney transplant); John and Jo Lacey; Charles Sproles
 - **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); 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
 - **FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY:** *Sandra Woodard*; David Hoepfner (vision); Wayne Hoilman; Mike Snyder (Parkinson's); Lecil Pittman; Sam (kidney stones); John Campbell (fall and concussion); Dale Parsley (heart infection); Michela Murphy (shingles); Bill Dailey
 - **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			
1 st - Audrey Davenport		1 st - Juliana Walker	
		3 rd - Reg Bezzolz	
PRESENCE:		December 24 th , 2017	
GIFTS		11:00 - 111	
December 24 th , 2017		General Fund - \$8,297.00	
		Weekly budget need - \$4,310.22	
		Year to Date - \$227,442.51	
		YTD Budget Need - \$219,830.81	
		Children's Offering - \$68.28	
		Single Mother Christmas Project	
		Community Assistance - \$650.00	
		Shepherd's Staff Food Donations - 37	

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

Lector: Randy Hembree Greeters: Bert & Diane Sheeley Children's Time: Kathie Hollifield
 Head Usher: Vernon Coulter Nursery: Rachelle Shock / Brandy Miller Offertory: Sharon Drum

WITNESS: "THE FEAST DAY OF YOUR BIRTH RESEMBLES YOU, LORD, BECAUSE IT BRINGS JOY TO ALL HUMANITY. OLD PEOPLE AND INFANTS ALIKE CELEBRATE YOUR DAY. YOUR DAY IS CELEBRATED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. KINGS AND EMPERORS MAY PASS AWAY, AND THE FESTIVALS TO COMMEMORATE THEM SOON LAPSE. BUT YOUR FESTIVAL WILL BE REMEMBERED TO THE END OF TIME. YOUR DAY IS A MEANS AND A PLEDGE OF PEACE. AT YOUR BIRTH HEAVEN AND EARTH WERE RECONCILED. YOU FORGAVE OUR SINS AND WIPED AWAY OUR GUILT. YOU GAVE US SO MANY GIFTS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY: A TREASURE CHEST OF SPIRITUAL MEDICINES FOR THE SICK; SPIRITUAL LIGHT FOR THOSE WHO ARE BLIND; THE CUP OF SALVATION FOR THE THIRSTY; THE BREAD OF LIFE FOR THE HUNGRY. IN THE WINTER WHEN THE TREES ARE BARE, YOU GIVE US THE MOST SUCCULENT SPIRITUAL FRUIT. IN THE FROST WHEN THE EARTH IS BARREN, YOU BRING NEW HOPE TO OUR SOULS. WE PRAISE YOU AND REJOICE IN YOUR BIRTH, O CHRIST." -FROM A PRAYER BY EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN, 306-373 A.D."

****Next Week's Scripture - January 7th, 2018****

Epiphany - Isaiah 60:1 - 6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
 Baptism of the Lord - Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11