

SPRUCE PINE UMC NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 8

August 2020

From the Pastor's Desk PSALMS, UPDATES & CORN FRITTERS



Here we are in the middle of our summer season. What summertime, fun things have you done? Have you taken a vacation (hopefully a safe and socially-distanced one)? Have you worked in a garden? Have you had fresh ice cream? Enjoyed some summer fruits and vegetables? Taken some time for yourself? Read a good book or watched a compelling movie? Hopefully, you've been able to soak in some sun and the breathtaking summertime mountain views. If you've not been able to do much this summer, don't worry, there are still about seven or eight weeks of summer left.

Maybe you're thinking: How can I enjoy summer in the midst of the world's chaos? With COVID still here and people divided over so much, how can I enjoy anything at the moment? I've got my hands full! If this is you, I hear you. Most of us have felt (or still feel) this way over the past few months. If this is you, I want to encourage you to read and study the book of Psalms.

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*"The mission of
Spruce Pine United
Methodist Church is
to be a
beacon on a hill
spreading the Good
News of Jesus Christ
through:
Worship, Fellowship,
Education, Nurturing
and Service"*



Picture courtesy of Tim Drum.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK *Continued from pg. 1*

The psalms touch upon nearly every human emotion, including fear, frustration, anger (at God and people), worry, doubt, joy, contentment, and hopefulness to name a few.

Right now, many of us are experiencing a wide gamut of emotions, and the Psalms remind us that we are emotional creatures. God gave us our emotions as a way to enhance our human experience. Emotions allow us to process through difficult times, celebrate with others, and get in touch with ourselves and the Holy. And the psalms are an in-depth look at how our human emotions affect our lives. In the psalms we read about people venting, praying, worshipping, celebrating, mocking, and dreaming. Where else can we find the paradoxical beauty of highs and lows in the same thought? Psalms 42 and 43 (CEB) state: "Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God! Because I will again give him thanks, my saving presence and my God." And the psalmist doesn't just say this once, but three times! Fear and confidence, worry and hopefulness, pain and joy...all at the same time.

Maybe this is what you're experiencing now. You're not alone. Maybe you feel like you're losing hope, but then in an instance, hope rises up within your soul. Or, maybe you feel joyous and grateful, but then without warning, your spirits sink, and you don't know why. Listen to your emotions; they might be trying to send you a message from God. Don't ignore your emotions, because they are a gift from God that keep us connected to God and each other. The psalms are a great reminder that all of us have ups and downs. All of us need a helping hand. None of us are meant to do life alone.

And speaking of not doing life alone, here are some August updates to keep you in the know:

We have had 4 outdoor worship services thus far, and all is going well. We've been blessed with good weather, cool breezes, and no rain yet. Thanks to all who are attending and for wearing face coverings, bringing something to sit on, and sitting 6-feet apart. We will continue to offer these services, weather permitting. We will also continue to offer our online services for those who are more comfortable worshipping at a safer distance.

SPUMC has been nominated by our Bishop to participate in a 3-year Transformation Journey. This is an incredible opportunity for a healthy church to go from good to great. Susan Curtis (Administrative Council Chairperson), Bruce Ikard (Lay Leader and Worship Tech), and Pastor Rick will be attending an introductory Zoom meeting on August 15. We will get you information about this incredible opportunity so that we can start discussions about goals, visions, exploration, and the future direction of SPUMC.

We continue to be a great resource for our neighbors through our Community Assistance Fund. Thank you all for being so generous and continuing to support the Fund so that we can help keep people housed, help with utilities, fix cars needed for employment, and so many other needs. Our Fund is in good shape at the moment because of your kindheartedness!

Lastly, if you've not been able to do anything "summery" yet, here's something simple you can do. I'm the cook of the household (Suzanne is the baker, and an excellent one!), and I wanted to share with you an easy, fun, summertime recipe for corn fritters. They are good as a side dish or as the main course, because these fritters are fantastic! They're also great for breakfast!

1 can whole kernel corn (or several cups of fresh sweet corn off the cob)
2 eggs
Salt & pepper to taste
1/2 cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 cup shredded cheese (I personally like to use a good mixture of cheeses)
1 pat butter
2 tbsp oil
1/4 cup chopped parsley

DIRECTIONS:

Drain corn and discard liquid. Put eggs, salt, and pepper in a bowl and beat. Add flour and baking powder, whisk until smooth. Add corn, cheese, and parsley. Stir. Put butter and oil in a frying pan, heat until bubbly over medium heat. Drop corn mixture in spoonfuls into a frying pan. When golden turn and cook another side. Drain on absorbent paper and serve

Hope you enjoy!

In "missing you, praying for you, hoping to get together with you soon" service with you... Pastor Rick

Weekly Scriptures **CEB - Common English Bible**

August 2, 2020

- ♦ Genesis 32:22-31
- ♦ Psalm 17:1-7, 15
- ♦ Romans 9:1-5
- ♦ Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2020

- ♦ Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
- ♦ Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
- ♦ Romans 10:5-15
- ♦ Matthew 14:22-23

August 16, 2020

- ♦ Genesis 45:1-15
- ♦ Psalm 133
- ♦ Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
- ♦ Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

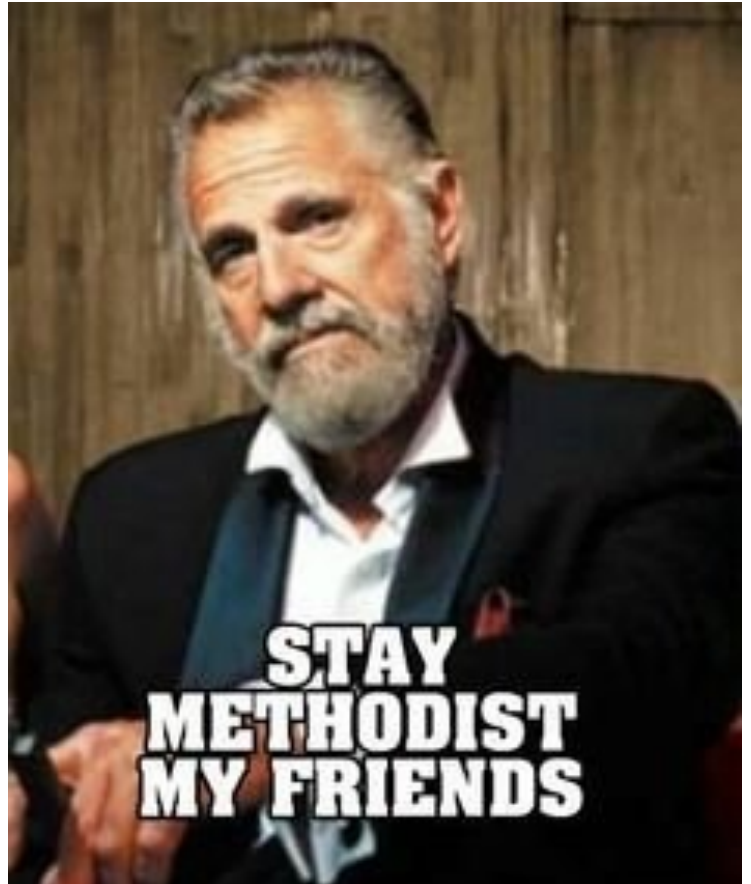
August 23, 2020

- ♦ Exodus 1:8 - 2:10
- ♦ Psalm 124
- ♦ Romans 12:1-8
- ♦ Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2020

- ♦ Exodus 3:1-15
- ♦ Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
- ♦ Romans 12:9-21
- ♦ Matthew 16:21-28

UNITED METHODIST MEMES



ONLINE COMMUNION FOR AUGUST 2nd

Don't forget that this Sunday, August 2nd is Communion Sunday. We will celebrate Holy Communion during the online service as well as the "On-Lawn" service. For Online: Please make sure to participate with whatever "elements" you have available: bread, crackers, Goldfish crackers for the kiddos, or even cinnamon rolls. And use whatever juice you prefer: apple, grape, orange, milk, and yes, even coffee. It's not so much about the type of elements we use as the attitude of gratitude we have while remembering Jesus' sacrifice for us. See you online!

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity we have helped 9 families and individuals with projects totaling \$2,430.12 in July 2020.

August Calendar

2nd - "On-Lawn Worship" 11 am Sundays (9, 16, 23, & 30)

4th - SPUMC Bookclub - Rose Garden - 10 am

August Birthdays

2 - David Hamlyn	12 - Ken Carroll	26 - Connie Harrison
3 - Gail Misicka	14 - James (Bo) Glenn	26 - Kimberly Ledford
4 - Gloria Hoeppner	14 - Bill Haberneck	26 - Jennifer Newton
4 - Josh Newton	16 - Sylvia Beaver	27 - Jack Riley
5 - Chloe Cook	18 - Marcia Dunn	28 - Weston Stout
5 - George Tasedan	18 - Ken Phillips	31 - Neil Brown
6 - Deidre Nipper	22 - Frank Baskin	31 - Jennifer Kind
9 - Jon Jirka	22 - Wendy Beaver	

August Anniversaries

3rd - Stan & Lisa Cook	20th - Eddie & Beth Bell
8th - Randy & Louise Hembree	24th - Tony & Marina Woodby
9th - Jamie & Sherry Bell	25th - Jim & Sheilah Sockwell
11th - Glenn & Becky Nance	

Thanks to:

- All who make the "On-Lawn" worship successful.
- Everyone who has been observing Social Distancing, and checking in on Church members who may need help.
- Pastor Rick & Suzanne, Church members, musicians and others helping with the online Worship.
- To everyone who continues to financially support the church during our time of physical separation.
- All who remember the less fortunate and contribute to the Community Assistance Fund.
- Everyone who gives to the Shepherd's Staff, who allowed us to contribute 55 items in June, all who help at the M-Y Parish Food Bank.
- Members who take meals to the sick and shut ins, those who give rides to church and to the doctor for people who can't do it themselves.
- All who serve: lectors, greeters, children's time & nursery.
- Everyone working in quiet, behind the scenes ways each week.

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Visit us on the web at
www.sprucepineumc.org

Shepherd's Staff

Food Donated over the years to
Shepherd's Staff:

2014 - 1202
2015 - 1078
2016 - 1030
2017 - 1062
2018 - 1213
2019 - 1526

January 2020 - 72

February 2020 - 103

March 2020 - 123

April 2020 - 14

May 2020 - 8

June 2020 - 59

July 2020 - 44

Total - 423

SERMONS AND BULLETINS ON
THE INTERNET!

NOW! - Listen to sermons and
read the bulletin at:
www.sprucepineumc.org