

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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December 9th, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

Jeremy I. Troxler, Pastor

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.

GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

BRUCE IKARD

Prelude

"Advent Noel"

CHARLES CHAUVET

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

"Like a Child"

TFWS 2092

^Prayer of Confession

Let us pray together:

Refining God,

**you have sent us prophets and messengers,
but we have not listened.**

**You have pleaded with us to return to you,
but we have refused.**

**We have not determined what is best,
or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our nation.**

**Forgive us, we pray,
and renew your covenant with us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

(time for silent prayer and confession)

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
when we sincerely repent, God forgives us and helps us to begin anew.
The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.
Grateful for Christ's promise of joy and peace,
let us trust in his mercy, and share his peace with each other.

^ **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.")

Decoration of the Chrismon Tree

*(All are invited to come forward, to take a Chrismon, and to place it on the tree.
After we are finished, we will join in the following prayer:)*

**Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son,
who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light.
May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ,
that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** **TIM & SHARON DRUM**
Doxology **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"** **UMH 95**

Children's Message / Lighting of the Second Advent Candle **TRACY CARROLL**
Sung Response **"Light the Advent Candle" v. 2** **TFWS 2090**
Children's Change Offering **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE**
(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 **"Wait For the Lord"** **WORSHIP & SONG 3049**

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem **"The Cold Night is Quiet"** **CHANCEL CHOIR**
^ **Scripture Reading** **Malachi 3:1-4 / Luke 3:1-6** **OT 842 / NT 56**
Proclamation of the Word **"What they Say About John"** **REV. JEREMY TROXLER**
Special Music **"A Litany for Advent"** **CHANCEL CHOIR LADIES**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

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

DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUMMIT STUDENT MINISTRIES AND HILLTOPPERS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TODAY!** -at 5:30pm at SPUMC. All kids (Hilltoppers) and all 6th-12th graders (Summit) are invited to enjoy a meal, fun activities, and time to grow in faith together.
- **CHRISTMAS PLAY ANNOUNCEMENT** - The children and youth will continue rehearsing for their Christmas production (Sunday, Dec. 16th) this Sunday. Youth group rehearsal will be during morning Sunday school time. Children will rehearse during Hilltoppers on Sunday nights. If your child/teen wishes to participate please make sure they are present for rehearsals the next few weeks.
- **ADVENT DEVOTION AND PRAYER CIRCLE - THIS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT 5:45PM AT THE CHURCH** - All are welcome to join us in this meditative time dedicated to helping us prepare for the meaning of Christmas.
- **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP** - This purpose of this brief meeting will be to consider a proposal by the Trustees for replacing the HVAC unit in our sanctuary.
- **CHURCH CHRISTMAS MEAL - NEXT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19th AT 6PM** - All are welcome. Donations encouraged but not required. The food will be catered by Sue Lanier.
- **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.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE WILL SOON START ON NEXT YEAR'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP LIST** - See Tim Drum if you want to come aboard as a Lector or as a Children's time person, or if you want to drop off the list.
- **COULD YOU HELP WITH OCCASIONALLY OFFERING A RIDE TO SOMEONE TO CHURCH OR TO A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT?** If so, please let Pastor Jeremy or our Office Manager Tim know. Thank you!
- **CONTACT PERSON** - Beverly Hale is the contact person for the 4th quarter and may be calling if someone is in need of food, transportation, etc. Her phone number is 704-502-6015.
- **BRIDGE OF HOPE / SONS OF THE SON** - wants you to be part of our Ministry by Praying for us: Needs: coats, gloves, hats, socks, blankets, food and toiletries etc. 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.
- **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	PRESCHOOL
12/16	Marvin Walker	Bruce Ikard	Jack Riley / Ima Conroy	Becky Nance	Brandy Miller
12/23	Sharon Drum	Ginny Downs	John Campbell / Ginny Downs	Katie Willett	Dwight Willett
12/30	Jack Riley	Sharon Drum	Bert & Diane Sheeley	Tracy Deyton	Emree Hoilman

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

- **SUSTAINING PRAYERS:** Our homebound members (*Shirley McManus*); Brian Center, Smoky Mountain, and Mitchell House Residents; Staff, and Families (*Mabel Whiton, Audrey Davenport, Bea White; Ramona Gragg; Ruth Buchanan; Beth Wyatt & Reg Bezzola; Jo Thomas; June Wilson; John Ahlquist; David Hoepfner; Bretta Walker; Charles Hale*; All expectant mothers and unborn children (*Carolyn Boles*); *Laura Curtis Hodges*; for those in addiction: for recovery and sobriety in 2018; *Sandra & Louis Woodard*; Maggie Snyder (caregiver); Troubled Teenager; Lynda Briggs; Edwin; Jan Hamilton's family, Weston Stout; Jordan, Meredith & Keziah Nance; Rosemary; Jane Greenwood; Heather Boone; Irene Poteat & Cody; Leigha Basini & baby; Rachel Jones; *Tim Hollifield*; Guy Hoilman (dementia); Patricia Douglas; Jack Byrd; Laura Richmond; Amanda Hasty; Larry & Julia Deyton; Jean Willis
 - **FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** family of Paula Scifres; family of Seth McKinney; family of Natasha Hullett; family of Joy Chism; family of Bill Stewart; family of Bob Downs; family of Zachary Solomon; family of Worm Wilson; the family of *Jim Smith*; the family of Connie Sedberry; the family of Sam Singleton; family of Chris Pallick
 - **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** Luke Sherman (liver); Joyce LaFar (heart oblation); *Tracy Carroll* (recovery from knee surgery); Ima Jean Metcalf; Jerry Morgan (*Quincy's* dad - back); Stanley Urbina (shoulder surgery); Atlas Benton (back); Ann Stuck (back); *Diane Struble (back)*; James Ouzts (knee replacement); Wally Thompson (knee); Jan Hamilton (neck surgery); Amanda Drum; Angela Pitman; *Ann Denny; Leroy Ledford*; Allan Douglas
 - **FOR THOSE WITH CANCER:** Nora Murray (*Neil Brown's* sister); Judy Rinard; Diane Meatyard; Tom Wilson (tumor); Chip Smith (colon); Joyce Woody; Carol Batton (breast cancer); Laurie Norman (esophageal); Holly (brain tumor); Randy Chambers (cancer treatment); Jada Daniels (lung); Larry Metcalf (liver); Chase Ambrose; Ava Hollifield; Shirley Hise; Hal Harrison; Janet Ward Slaughter; Gloria Smith (lung); Brian Baker: Rev. Brenda McDaniel; Claire Spence; Becky Hoilman; Unnamed Person; Bill Hayes
 - **FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY:** Wayne Hoilman; Mike Snyder (Parkinson's); Aubree (encephalitis); Wanda McClellan (lupus); Dan LaFar (shingles); Mary Kay Thompkins (MS); Warren Lewis; Heather Blackburn; Sandra Glenn; Tonya Hall Wilson; Nelda Johnson; Carolyn Riley
 - **FOR SURVIVORS OF INJUSTICE, DISASTER, OR TRAGEDY:** Survivors of sexual abuse or harassment; Survivors of child abuse; WNC Flooding Survivors; Separated children & families; Victims of human trafficking; California wildfires; Survivors & responders to Hurricanes Florence & Michael; Victims & Survivors of Tree of Life Synagogue; wildfire victims; Samuel Oliver Bruno family; Rachel & Ruth Thacker (home burned)
 - **FOR AREA CHURCHES & MINISTRIES:** 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); SPUMC (Pastor, Staff & Members); M-Y Parish Food Bank; Lamplighters Children, Families and Staff; Shepherd's Staff
 - **FOR THOSE TRAVELING, ON MISSION, OR IN THE MILITARY:** Dallas Martin (Marines); Tucker McElrath; Lindsey Potter (Army National Guard); Ben Potter (Army); those on Mission Trips; Students starting college
- 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

11 - Sarah Haney		12 - Lorraine Campbell		13 - Tracy Deyton		14 - Waylon Stout		14 - Virginia Wearn		15 - Maria Walker	
PRESENCE:				December 2 nd , 2018						11:00 - 130	
GIFTS	December 2 nd , 2018			General Fund - \$4,780.00						Weekly budget need - \$4,397.00	
				Year to Date - \$213,757.62						YTD Budget Need - \$208,753.00	
				Children’s Offering - \$69.01 - Community Assistance						Community Asst. Art Sale - 175.00	
				Community Assistance - \$240.00							
				Centro Latino - \$100.00						Shepherd’s Staff Donations - 30	

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

Lector: Bruce Ikard Greeters: Glen & Jane DeVos Children's Time: Tracy Carroll

Head Usher: Vern Coulter Nursery: Rachelle Shock Preschool: Meredith Hoilman Offertory: Tim & Sharon Drum

WITNESS: JOHN THE BAPTIZER IS DESCRIBED AS ONE WHO PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS, A "VOICE" OR "MICROPHONE" FOR CHRIST. HOW DO YOUR WORDS PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS IN THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND YOU? HOW CAN YOU OFFER YOUR VOICE AS A "MICROPHONE" FOR CHRIST, AND FOR OTHER PEOPLE WHOSE VOICES ARE NOT ALWAYS HEARD?

Next Week's Scripture - December 16th, 2018

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18