

# SPRUCE PINE UMC NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 11

November 2020

## From the Pastor's Desk



## All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, and November Sermon Topics



November 1 is All Saints Day, an often-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. It's not nearly as well-known as the day before, All Hallows' Eve, better known as Halloween. But, All Saints Day is a significant day in the life of the Church. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was particularly fond of All Saints Day. And, no, he wasn't from New Orleans. It was a day and a celebration he wrote about in his journal: "I always find this a comfortable day" and "a day that I peculiarly love." Wesley deemed it good to thank God for those of the faith who have gone before us. And that's what we in the United Methodist Church do; we thank God for those who persevered, impacted, taught, and passed down faith from one generation to the next. We don't view "sainthood" in the same light as our Catholic sisters and brothers, but we do believe we should honor and recall those who've gone before us. That's what All Saints Day is all about, Charlie Brown.

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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"*



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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

Another holiday that comes in November, which is much more well-known, is Thanksgiving. It is a time when we typically gather with family and friends around a table full of food, a house full of conversation and noise, and TVs full of football games. This year, however, many Thanksgiving celebrations will look much different because of COVID. While the gatherings might be smaller in number, or might happen via digital platforms like Face Time or Zoom, or might be delayed until a later date, I want to encourage all of us to not forsake gratitude. All of us, no matter what we face, have so much to be thankful for. We have been patiently, intentionally, and uniquely crafted in the image of our loving God. We're also made *from* our God, which means we have God's character traits inside of us. And we have been made to share life with each other – another blessing. Yes, sharing life looks different during a pandemic, but we still are meant to share our joys and concerns, victories and setbacks, insights and experiences. Right now, more than ever, we need to think way outside the box as far as how we connect with one another. And, we need to never take for granted each other's presence. It is such an amazing gift... of which I am so thankful.

So, to stay connected, I want to let you know what we'll be discussing this month in the sermons. We will be going through the Lectionary (the collection of Scripture texts that cover the majority of the Bible in a 3-year period) in November, and this is a particularly rich section of texts. Remember, the Christian calendar year comes to an end on Christ the King Sunday, which this year is on November 22. That means that, yes, the season of Advent begins on November 29. Don't worry, I won't start singing Christmas carols yet! So, as we come to the end of another Christian calendar year, here's what we'll be talking about in church:

November 1 (All Saint's Day):

Sermon Title: *Will You Dig a Hole with Me?*

Scripture: Ruth 1.1-18 CEB

Theme: Leaving a legacy. What do you want your life to say about you after you're gone? We are a part of something bigger than ourselves.

November 8:

Sermon Title: *Just Showing Up*

Scripture: Matthew 25.1-13 CEB

Theme: Sometimes just showing up doesn't get the job done. God wants us to be fully present so that we can make lasting differences in our world.

November 15:

Sermon Title: *Return on Investment*

Scripture: Matthew 25.14-30 CEB

Theme: What happens in our lives when we let fear guide our decisions?

November 22 (Christ the King Sunday):

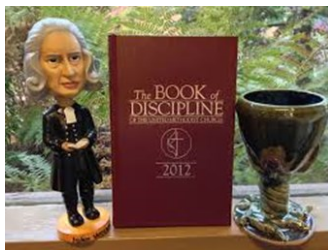
Sermon Title: *Seeing Jesus*

Scripture: Matthew 25.31-40 CEB

Theme: Do we recognize Jesus in the face of those we encounter throughout life? What motivates us to "do good," as Wesley would say?

Here's to a happy November!

In reminiscent and thankful service with you...Pastor Rick



### Polity & Doctrine 101

There are several conferences that take place within the world of Methodism. Five that you may have heard of but may not be sure what they entail are: Church Conference, Charge Conference, Annual Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, and General Conference. Over the next few months, we'll provide a brief introduction to each, starting with Church and Charge Conferences.

Church Conference is pretty much what it sounds like. It is when our church, SPUMC, votes on issues that require a congregational vote, per The Book of Discipline. These are relatively rare, but are necessary when a churchwide vote is needed for things like capital campaigns for building projects, major direction changes in the life of a church, and approval of those within a local church who wish to pursue ordained ministry. If the vote is approved by a majority at a church conference, the next move is to have Charge Conference vote.

Charge Conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church, in our case SPUMC, and is composed of the Administrative Council, all of whom must be members of the church. It traditionally meets once per year in the Fall, although it can meet more often, and is led by the District Superintendent. In this annual meeting, members review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the Administrative Council.

Next month, we'll unpack Jurisdictional Conference and its roles and responsibilities within our United Methodist structure.

### **Weekly Scriptures** **November 1, 2020**

- ♦ Joshua 3:7-17
- ♦ Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
- ♦ 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
- ♦ Matthew 23:1-12

### **All Saints Day**

- ♦ Revelation 7:9-17
- ♦ Psalm 34:1-10, 22
- ♦ 1 John 3:1-3
- ♦ Matthew 5:1-12

### **November 8, 2020**

- ♦ Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
- ♦ Psalm 78:1-7
- ♦ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- ♦ Matthew 25:14-30

### **November 15, 2020**

- ♦ Judges 4:1-7
- ♦ Psalm 123 or 76
- ♦ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- ♦ Matthew 25:14-30

### **November 22, 2020**

- ♦ Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24
- ♦ Psalm 100
- ♦ Ephesians 1:15-23
- ♦ Matthew 25:31-46

### **Thanksgiving Day**

- ♦ Deuteronomy 8:7-18
- ♦ Psalm 65
- ♦ 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- ♦ Luke 17:11-19

### **November 29, 2020**

- ♦ Isaiah 64:1-9
- ♦ Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- ♦ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- ♦ Mark 13:24-37

### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE UPDATE**

Thanks to your generosity we have helped 10 families and individuals with projects totaling \$2,243.45 in October 2020.

### **UNITED METHODIST MEMES**



### **TIME CHANGE NOVEMBER 1, 2:00 AM**



### **Did You Know?**

To help us stay better connected and "in the know," we've decided to include the monthly newsletter a "Did You Know" section. It will include important business, things you may be interested in, as well as fun facts.

And, away we go....

The 2021 budget of \$275,156 has been finalized and approved by our Administrative Council.

Rev. Mary John Dye became the first female pastor in Mitchell County in 1989, and how lucky are we that she served as our Pastor at SPUMC!

John Wesley wrote an easy to read medical book titled, *Primitive Physick*. It included home remedies and encompassed 32 editions, making it an All-Time Best Seller in England.

## November Calendar

1st - All Saints Day & Time Change (Summit at 4:30 pm)  
3rd - SPUMC Bookclub - Rose Garden - 10 am  
8th - Summit - 4:30 pm  
11th - Veteran's Day  
12th - Finance Committee - 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall  
15th - Summit - 4:30 pm  
15th - Local Missions Week Begins  
22nd - Summit - 4:30 pm  
23rd - Online Ad Council Meeting - 7 pm  
26th - Thanksgiving  
29th - 1st Sunday of Advent

## November Birthdays

1 - Skylar Stewart	16 - Stephanie Edwards
1 - Sandra Woodard	16 - Eva Jobin
3 - Dwight Willett	17 - Peter King
3 - Sam Young	17 - Deb Stanbery
4 - Carolyn Riley	18 - Ima Conroy
6 - Larry Bohannon - Goldman	18 - Suzanne Schiling
6 - Sam Wood	19 - Rae Carr
7 - Louise Hembree	19 - Rob Nance
8 - Framton Gibson	20 - Brimleigh Buchanan
10 - Carolyn Burleson	21 - Todd Dunn
11 - Ann Denny	21 - Jacob Edwards
13 - Greg Hoilman	22 - Amber Henline
15 - Jack Chandler	24 - Marina Woodby
20 - Ernie Wells, Jr.	27 - Sandy Singleton
	30 - Woodrow Buchanan

## November Anniversaries

2 - Matt & Brandy Miller	17 - Peter & Suzanne King
4 - Greg & Deb Stanbery	24 - Jack & Carolyn Riley

## Thanks to:

- All who have helped with our return to indoor worship!
- Everyone who helped to make Trunk or Treat a success!
- Everyone who has been observing Social Distancing, and checking in on Church members who may need help.
- Pastor Rick & Suzanne, Bruce Ikard, 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 **94** items in October, 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 those 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.

## *Contact Us*

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.sprucepineumc.org](http://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

August 2020 - 39

September 2020 - 19

October 2020 - 94

Total - 575

SERMONS AND BULLETINS ON  
THE INTERNET!

NOW! - Listen to sermons and  
read the bulletin at: [https://  
www.sprucepineumc.org/  
NewSite](https://www.sprucepineumc.org/NewSite)