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February 28th, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

Kathey Hollifield, Music Director
Bruce Ikard, Worship Technician

Kathy Miller, Organist
Rick Schilling, Pastor

ONLINE WORSHIP EDITION

Prelude

“He Shall Feed His Flock”

Kathy Miller

Greeting / Call to Worship

Beverly Greene

Out of the depths of our struggles, we cry to you, O Lord.
Out of the depths of fracture and failure, we cry to you, O Lord.
Out of the depths of our pain and hurt, we cry to you, O Lord.
We have come to worship you and offer our praise and thanksgiving.

Opening Hymn

“The God of Abraham Praise”

UMH 116

Opening Prayer / Blessing of Peace

Beverly Greene

Let us pray to our God who can do the impossible...

Most holy God, give us the courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus, that through his grace we may accept the cost of faithful discipleship and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ. Amen.

Children’s Message

Chelsea Thayer

Scripture Reading

Genesis 18:1-15

CEB 17-18

Proclamation of the Word

“God’s Story: Suspension of Disbelief”

Rev. Rick Schilling

Special Music

“As the Deer”

Mike Murphy / Kathy Miller

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn

“Be Still My Soul”

UMH 534

Benediction / Benediction Music

“As We Part for the Towns and Cities”

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.

MARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES! - We are resuming in person worship services on Sunday, March 7, and will offer both 9:00 and 11:00 services. Children's church will be available during the 11:00 service, and will take place in the Fellowship Hall. We will have restrooms available, as well. In addition, Sunday school classes are invited to meet, but please check with your class leader to make sure you are meeting.

If attending, please adhere to the church's health guidelines by wearing a face covering at all times, getting your temperature checked prior to entering the sanctuary, and sitting in "open" pews only (and please sit 6 feet away from others in your pew).

We will not sing during the worship services, but hopefully we will again soon. And, we will not distribute pew Bibles, hymnals, or bulletins for a while. We will not "officially" collect the offerings through a "passing of the plate," but the offering plates (regular and Children's Change Offering) will be in the narthex. Communion celebrations will be with individually packaged elements.

We look forward to see you on Sunday, March 7!

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS ARE HERE - Small and large print editions are available in the church office during office hours.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE – is available three ways. 1. Go to www.sprucepineumc.org, then click on *Online Worship Service*. You can then load it from there on Sunday mornings. 2. Those of you on Facebook can look up Spruce Pine United Methodist Church (or Rick Schilling) and follow the link. 3. The email you get with the bulletin each week has a link to click on as well to get the service.

SUNDAY MORNING DEVOTION – Due to the return of in-person Worship, we are discontinuing Sunday Morning online Devotions.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SPRUCE PINE UMC - SPUMC has been invited to participate in Transformation Journey – a three-year process that helps healthy churches plan for future ministry. This could be a wonderful opportunity for us to pray, dream, and ponder what we believe God is calling us to do. In light of the pandemic, this is an amazing chance for us to build upon our strengths so that we can continue to reach our community in effective manners.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND - Our Church has been most generous to our fund for helping needy people with energy bills, food and housing. The needs are increasing just now, please consider supporting this fund, people are in crisis. Our church is known as a Congregation who cares, we know you will do your part.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTACT PERSON –Danna Gibson is the contact person for the 1st quarter of 2021 and may be called when someone needs food, transportation, etc. Her contact number is (828) 467-5544.

SONS OF THE SON & BRIDGE OF HOPE HOMELESS MINISTRY - Needs: 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.

CHANGE OFFERING – Until the children can return safely, the change offering container will be at the entrance of the Sanctuary. Change can be brought by the church during office hours. This month your

change offerings go to Shepherd's Staff Food Pantry. In March the offering goes to M-Y Meds Medication Ministry.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE: (for when we fully return)

(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
3/7/21	Matt Miller	Sharon Drum	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>
3/14/21	Grant Sparks	Kathey Hollifield	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>
3/21/21	Tracy Deyton	Ginny Downs	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>
3/28/21	Aaron Buchanan	Beverly Greene	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>	<i>Pending Regular Return</i>

REGULAR MEETINGS ** denotes currently meeting – others on hiatus

GROUP	DAYS	ROOM	CONTACT
Blue Ridge Bridge Club	Mondays, 10 am	Fellowship Hall	Nancy Ball
SPUMC Book Club	1 st Tuesday, 10 am	Rose Garden Outside	Margarett McGraw
Weight Watchers	Tuesdays, 5 pm	Fellowship Hall	
UMW Nightingale Circle	2 nd Monday - 7 pm	Welcome Center	Sharon Drum
Choir Practice	Wednesdays - 7:00 pm	Sanctuary	Kathey Hollifield
** RAPP **	Last Tuesday - Noon	Fellowship Hall	

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.

THANKS, PRAISES & CELEBRATIONS – Chloe Cook – Gold Honor Roll and Harris top grades for Math and Social Studies; Brad Hodges – new job; *Amanda Ikard*, John & Jasper – (New baby Asher); Blake Thayer – A honor roll, Oliver Sparks – B honor roll

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 & Mitchell House Residents; Staff, and Families; June Wilson; David Hoepfner; for those in addiction: for recovery and sobriety in 2020; *Sandra Woodard*; *Tim Hollifield*; Muffy Dayton; Wayne Lemzoni; Jacquelyn Taylor; Rick Aldridge; Faye Vickers family; Marcus Wood; Susan Hoeg, Virginia, Charlie & William; those with mental health issues; Hannah Blanton; Mike Lewis; Ron & Linda Cromarty; Dori Ann; Lynda Briggs; Bob & Glenn (*Glenna's cousins*); Myra Haberneck Strube; Ann Butler & family; Sam & Jenell Young; for DSS; Andy Grindstaff; Art Hoover & family; Bob Cook, Aticus Grindstaff; Jaden Pernell (friend of the Sparks'); Kenneth Huskins; Doris Deyton (*Sam's mother* – health); Robert Kissel (stress); Shane Heath (isolated & lonely); Anonymous DSS employee (stress); Hal Harrison; James Thomas; *Lucy Murphy*; Saylor family; Jessie Wray; John Stafford (safety) & Ashley Stafford (John's wife - expecting); *Lisa & Stan Cook*; Becky Dainotto and family (health issues and deaths in family)

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: the family of Satyra Askeland; the family of Jack Lail (*Eva Jobin's Uncle*); The family of Jean Johnson, the family of Gary Locklear and his brother both passed with COVID-19, the family of Louvella Arrowood, the family of John Johnson; *the family of Beth Wyatt*; the family of Jo Thomas (*Jan Hamilton's mother*); the family of Bruce Trivett; the family of Hilda Robinson; the family of Carol Woodard; the family of Doris Hardin (*Eva Jobin's Aunt*); the family of Phillip Dahlgreen; *the family of Barbara Day*; the family of Janice Young (Sam's sister in law); the family of Jesse Baker; the family of Charles Lee Gunter; the family of Louie Smith (*Lila Baskin's brother*); the family of David Wilson; the family of Harry McCall; the family of John Lacey (Susan Curtis' friend); the family of Chris Calloway (*Jessica Hoyle's cousin*, Susie Calloway Stout's Son); the family of Vernon Payne (relative of *Eva Jobin*); the family of Cathie Vance Beam; the family of Ray Garland (Niki Jones' father); the family of Thomas Bell; the family of Chris Fontanez; the family of Jean Owensby; *the family of Roy McFee*; *the family of Tony Woodby on the passing of his Mother*; *the family of Stuart Davis (Don & Bobbi Abele's nephew)*; the family of Ernest Canipe (Richard's father)

FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY: Wayne Hoilman; Ozzie Hernandez; Mary Woodfrey (hip); Patti Morgan; Dean (Judy's cousin, heart & kidney transplant); Heather Walker (back in hospital); Heather's Mom (hospital); Bud Myers (hospital); Mary Ruth Webb (waiting on kidney transplant); Catherine Andre (hip replacement); Carolyn Sproles; Paul Long (Margaret Troxler's dad – hospital);

Jerry Douglass (*Maria's dad*); *Diane Sheeley (recovery)*; Jeff (Diane Truesdell's son-in-law, surgery); Larry (transplant list); Carter Hoyle (hospital in Asheville); *Barbara Henline (recovery)*; Linda Seaman - Becky Dainotto's sister (surgery); Nelson Hall (Melanie's brother – knee replacement); Shelby Sparks (friend of Mary Robinson, awaiting test results); *Ron Allen (health)*; Ed Saunders (Amputation below the knee); Carolyn Sproles (fall/surgery); Tommy Phillips, *Starli McDowell's dad* (4 weeks of IV antibiotics from brain surgery) ; Tim Drum – (Cardioversion March 3); *Danna Gibson – (Surgery March 8th)*; *Martha Long- (surgery March 10th)*

FOR THOSE WITH CANCER: Judy Rinard (fall – temporarily in nursing home); Joyce Woody; Holly (brain tumor); Chase Ambrose; Ava Hollifield; Janet Ward Slaughter; Gloria Smith (lung); Eliza Bray (4 yr. old) and family; Marcia Murphy; Danny Gortney; Gary Graham; Erin (brain cancer); Todd Fleenor; Gloria (*Susan Curtis'* friend – chemo/kidney failure); Lawrence Glenn; Raymond Mayberry; Randall McKinney (prostate); Carolyn Dotts; Jeff Kaplan (leukemia); Shirl Phillips (melanoma); Diane Meatyard; Kenneth Huskins (cancer has returned); Lee - Susan Davis' brother (prostate); Patch Hailey, age 2; Keziah Nance's birthday buddy (neuroblastoma); Wayne Ledford & Billy Ledford; Caleb Watson (8 year old with cancer); *Norma Smith's sister in law*; Mike (friend of *Bruce Ikard* – chemotherapy); Tessie Miller – Leukemia; Johnny Pendley – (Multiple Myeloma)

FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY: Wanda McClellan (lupus); Mary Kay Thompkins (MS); Sandra Glenn; *Danna Gibson; Dwight Willet's father (meniscus)*; Doris (*Eva's aunt*); Jeanette Dellinger; Benny (health); Louise Weeks (rehab); Mr. Long – (nearing end of life); Keith Renfro (accident); Ann Butler; Josh (Melanie's friend – muscular dystrophy); Barbara (heart attack); Bruce Hobson (Vertigo); Brooke (kidney infection); Mary (Jane Greenwood's sister in Missouri) health concerns; Erin Haberneck Halpainy (health); Don Johnson (Ann Marie) (Don is in ICU w/pneumonia-covid); Helen & Joey Brooks (fall); Frances Lail (*Eva Jobin's Aunt*, COVID); Everette & Sena Gouge (Rhonda's parents); *Gary Baskin (health)*; *John Campbell (heart)*; *Frank Baskin (Kidney stones)*; *Tim & Kathey Hollifield (recovery)*; *Jim Sockwell (beginning dialysis)*;

FOR SURVIVORS OF INJUSTICE, DISASTER, OR TRAGEDY: Survivors of sexual abuse/harassment; Survivors of child abuse; Separated children & families; Victims of human trafficking; people of Venezuela; solutions to gun violence; for those suffering due to the coronavirus health crisis; for workers and business owners who are hurting now; local couple who lost everything in a fire

FOR AREA CHURCHES & MINISTRIES: 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; Peter Constantian

FOR THOSE TRAVELING, ON MISSION, OR IN THE MILITARY: Tucker McElrath; Lindsey Potter (Army National Guard); Josh Swindler (Navy); Karen (Istanbul); Ben Potter (Army); Jason House – Marine deployed (*Barbara Henline's Grandson*); Jeff Kaplan (*Tim Hollifield's brother in law*, Budapest Hungary with leukemia)

We want to join with you in prayer for your concerns and needs. Simply contact Pastor Rick 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				
3/3 – Susan Basini	3/3 – Cassidy Broome	3/3 – Gideon Broome	3/3 – Kenton Broome	3/4 - Nicole Struble
PRESENCE:		Week of February 21, 2021		Online Services Only
GIFTS	Week of 2/21/21	General Fund - \$2,879.00		Weekly budget need - \$5,319.00
		Year to Date - \$33,977.43		YTD Budget Need – \$42,552.00
		Community Assistance - \$250.00		Shepherd's Staff Food Donations - 28

WITNESS: NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS WORLD, GOD FULFILLS THE PROMISES OF NEW LIFE, FULL LIFE, AND RESURRECTED LIFE. IN THIS TROUBLING TIME, HOLD ON TO GOD'S PROMISES. LET THEM GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS. AND, IN CREATIVE AND UNEXPECTED WAYS, LET US SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH THIS TROUBLED WORLD – THAT NO MATTER WHAT, DEATH DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD! CHRIST IS RISEN! AND WE ARE STILL EASTER PEOPLE!

****Next Week's Scriptures – March 7, 2021****

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22