

SPUMC NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2021

Mission Statement

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.

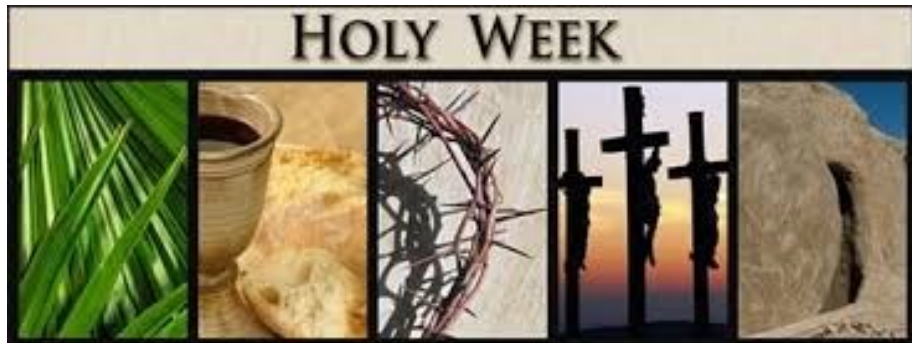
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Sermons and Bulletins:

Watch the sermons and read
the bulletins (and newsletters)
at:

www.sprucepineumc.org



Holy Week Begins on Sunday, March 28

From the Pastor's Desk: Lent: (...continued)



We talk a lot about Lent being a wilderness journey because it reminds us of, and reflects, Jesus' 40-day period of fasting, praying, and temptation in the desert. And, this year, I've been feeling a lot of "wilderness" surrounding my life. Maybe most people also have, because of the disruptions due to COVID during the past year. It feels like we've been trekking through some very uncharted areas. At times, it feels like exile. We've been thrown into a strange land (not by our own doing) and everything is not as it used to be. We've not been able to worship at the church, we haven't been able to safely visit with family and friends, people have lost jobs, and too many people have died during this dismal pilgrimage.

Yet, in the midst of what seems like a year-long Lent, we're being asked to intentionally walk the lonesome valley again. However, even though we're surrounded by the reminders of sacrifice, chaos, and confusion, I also have been feeling God's hopefulness peeking through – like the way new flowers break the hard, cold earth as spring beckons.

Continued on Page 2



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations and Happy (church-membership) Anniversary go out to Nelle and Lloyd Glenn. Nell joined the church on March 1, 1951 and Lloyd joined the church on March 6, 1961. We are so honored to have you as the longest-standing members of the SPUMC family!

Weekly Scriptures

March 7, 2021

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

March 14, 2021

UMCOR Sunday

- ◆ Numbers 21:4-9
- ◆ Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
- ◆ Ephesians 2:1-10
- ◆ John 3:14-21

March 21, 2021

- ◆ Jeremiah 31:31-34
- ◆ Psalm 51:1-12
- ◆ Hebrews 5:5-10
- ◆ John 12:20-33

March 28, 2021

Passion/Palm Sunday

Liturgy for the Palms

- ◆ Mark 11:1-11
- ◆ Psalm 118:1-12, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion

- ◆ Isaiah 50:4-9
- ◆ Psalm 31:9-16
- ◆ Phillipians 2:5-11
- ◆ Mark 14:1 - 15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

March 29, 2021

Monday of Holy Week

- ◆ Isaiah 42:1-9
- ◆ Psalm 36:5-11
- ◆ Hebrews 9:11-15
- ◆ John 12:1-11

March 30, 2021

Tuesday of Holy Week

- ◆ Isaiah 19:1-7
- ◆ Psalm 71:1-14
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31
- ◆ John 12:20-36

March 31, 2021

Wednesday of Holy Week

- ◆ Isaiah 50:4-9a
- ◆ Psalm 70
- ◆ Hebrews 12:1-3
- ◆ John 12:21-32

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

It feels as if God is saying, "Hang in there. New life is on its way." Still, we're not meant to rush through the bleakness of Lent, and we definitely shouldn't skip this portion of our faith walks – even though it seems like we've been "Lenting" for a year.

Given that our faith is a faith of remembrance (and yes... we humans are good at forgetting things), Lent is meant to be a stark reminder. It is a reminder to check our lives for areas that we need to let go of, things we need to pick up, and places where we need God's resurrection power to make things right. During our time in Lent, God works in us to make our faith stronger, bring about new hopes, and give energy to lifeless dreams. And all this takes time. If we rush this process, we could miss God along the way, and we'd miss God blessing our lives. Lent is about time, intentionality, and paying attention.

So now the good news. During this difficult period of our faith walks – when we traverse the wilderness to end up at a cross – we are resuming in-person worship services. Starting Sunday, March 7, we will offer both the 9:00 and 11:00 services (please see the newsletter announcement for more details). It will be wonderful to see each other, even though we'll still be donning our face coverings. We'll be doing things a little differently than we did "pre-COVID," like sitting at least 6 feet apart, not singing in services for a while, and not passing the plate for an offering. But, we will come together as the church family to worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. And, we will come together to lift each other up and share our love. And what big love there is in our church!

So, during this paradoxical Lent of sorrow and hope, let's not get ahead of God, and let's not rush through this intentional season of self-examination and repentance. But... may we truly appreciate our time together in worship – in our church home. Our exile is almost over. Easter is coming.

In somber, yet hopeful mission with you... Pastor Rick

In-person Worship Service

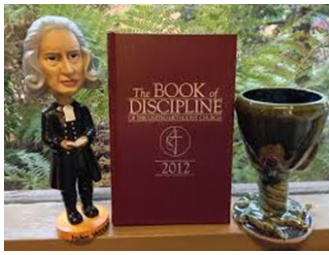
We are resuming in person worship services on Sunday, March 7, and will offer both 9:00 and 11:00 services. Children's church will be available during the 11:00 service, and will take place in the Fellowship Hall. We will have restrooms available, as well. In addition, Sunday school classes are invited 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!

UNITED METHODIST MEMES



Polity & Doctrine 101:

Church Hierarchy... or Lack Thereof

'Tis the Season for dCOM and BOM. What? You are not familiar with these words? Well, allow us to explain. dCOM stands for District Committee on Ordained Ministry. BOM is the acronym for Board of Ordained Ministry. dCOM aids the local church in the process of identifying persons for ordained ministry as deacon or elder or for service as a licensed local pastor or certified lay minister. Once approved by dCOM, candidates meet with the BOM who are responsible for credentialing candidates and clergy, as well as recommending them for licensing (local pastors and lay ministers) and ordination (deacons and elders). The entire process from dCOM to BOM to ordination takes a minimum of 4 years. Whew!

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity we have helped 25 families and individuals with projects totaling \$5,187.69 in February 2021.

Since 2013, we have helped families and individuals with \$179,813.38 through community assistance.



Did You Know?

- United Methodist pastors do not serve a single church or set of churches in the case of two, three, or four point charges. Instead, they are called to serve an entire community and the church(es) they are appointed to happen to be in that community.
- Any guesses on how many times the word "Hallelujah" is sung in the Hallelujah Chorus of The Messiah? Drum roll please.....167. Side bar: Some say 145. But either way, it's a beautifully high number. So, 145 or 167 times singers are lifting their voices to say, "Praise the Lord." We can all rest assured that the rocks are not crying out (Luke 19:40) whenever we hear this stunning piece.
- The flame in the United Methodist logo represents the work of the Holy Spirit in the world. The two parts of the flame represent the predecessor denominations, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren, united at the base symbolizing the 1968 merger.



Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 14th
Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday!

March Calendar

7th - Return to in person Worship!
11th - Finance Committee - 5:30 pm - ZOOM
14th - UMCOR Sunday / Daylight Saving Time Begins!
15th - Administrative Council Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM
20th - Spring Begins!
28th - Passion / Palm Sunday
29th - Holy Week begins

March Birthdays

3 - Susan Basini	13 - Sara Allen	19 - Zeke Deyton
3 - Cassidy Broome	13 - Barbara Henline	20 - Jon Goldman
3 - Gideon Broome	14 - Jim McManus	23 - Bill Prendergast
3 - Kenton Broome	14 - Sara Powell	24 - Sharon Drum
4 - Nicole Struble	15 - Jodi Rhymer	25 - Jeb Bell
7 - Bert Sheeley	16 - Landon Miller	27 - Meredith Hoilman
12 - Tom Jobin	19 - Jake Deyton	30 - Tom Ledford

March Anniversaries

8 - Lloyd & Nelle Glenn 19 - Philip & Michela Buchanan

Thanks to:

- All who have helped with online Worship!
- 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 65 items in February 2021, 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, children's time, etc.
- 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
2020 - 769

January 2021 - 122
February 2021 - 65
Total - 187