

SPUMC NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 5

May 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



From the Pastor's Desk: It's Still Easter



Easter isn't just one day; it's a 50-day period known as Eastertide. And as I often ask kids, does this mean we get 50 days of candy? Alas, that's not the case, nor the reason of Eastertide. The season of Eastertide begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the modern Church.

The Easter season is more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a time when new converts learned about the Christian faith and prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of these new Christians.

Continued on Page 2

HAPPY
Mothers Day
♡♡♡

May 9, 2021



Weekly Scriptures

May 2, 2021

- ♦ Acts 8:26-40
- ♦ Psalm 22:25-31
- ♦ 1 John 4:7-21
- ♦ John 15:1-8

May 9, 2021

Mother's Day

- ♦ Acts 10:44-48
- ♦ Psalm 98
- ♦ 1 John 5:1-6
- ♦ John 15:9-17

May 16, 2021

- ♦ Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- ♦ Psalm 1
- ♦ 1 John 5:9-13
- ♦ John 17:6-19

Ascension Sunday

- ♦ Acts 1:1-11
- ♦ Psalm 47
- ♦ Ephesians 1:15-23
- ♦ Luke 24:44-53

May 23, 2021

Day of Pentecost

- ♦ Acts 2:1-21
- ♦ Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- ♦ 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
- ♦ John 7:37-39

May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday

- ♦ Isaiah 6:1-8
- ♦ Psalm 29
- ♦ Romans 8:12-17
- ♦ John 3:1-17

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

Nowadays, the Easter season is still a time for us to celebrate the risen Christ and recall that death doesn't have the final word in our lives. During Eastertide, we are called to remember our baptisms (even if you were a baby and actually don't remember when you were baptized) and how this sacrament incorporates us into God's mighty act of salvation (see The Baptismal Covenant 1 found in the United Methodist Hymnal). As Easter people, we live with the continual hope and promise of the empty tomb, and Eastertide brings this to the forefront of our minds. Many churches utilize the 50-day period to teach basic tenants of our faith and the theology of the sacraments, as well as help people discern their spiritual gifts and callings.

And speaking of teaching the basics of our faith, that's exactly what we're going to do. On Sunday, May 16, we begin a 12-week series on *The Fundamentals* of our faith. The series consists of three, 4-week mini-series, and we'll look at the basics of what we believe, how we practice our faith, and how all of us are called to serve our neighbors. You might be thinking to yourself: Pastor Rick, I already know this stuff, so why are we going to be focusing on this? As we often say, our faith is a faith of remembrance, and it's good for us to read, study, and hear God's Word – again and again. Also, just like us, our faith isn't static. It morphs, grows, and changes. As I look back at my life when I was in my 20s, there were certain beliefs I had that have transformed as I've gotten older and (hopefully) more mature. This is the sanctification part of our life's journey. Sanctification is the process of growing more mature in our faith and relationship with God. It's a lifelong process, and there are times during our lives when we need to be reminded of the basics. We need to remember who and whose we are.

As life is (again, hopefully) getting more and more "normal" – meaning, more like pre-COVID days, I want to remind you of something I noted this time last year when we were still in the thick of the pandemic. In the Gospel of John (Chapter 21), after the resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples, yet they don't recognize him. In this chapter, the disciples go fishing; they try to go back to what they knew – back to life the way it used to be – before the crisis that radically altered their lives. Sound familiar? After their attempts to go about life as it was, they catch no fish. Then, a man they don't recognize tells them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat. This man, who they eventually recognize as Jesus teaches them to adjust to a new normal – to try something different. In essence, Jesus says, yes, you can still do things you used to do, but now... just do a little adjusting. Things have changed. Even Jesus changed. He must have, because lots of people who knew him didn't recognize him after the resurrection.

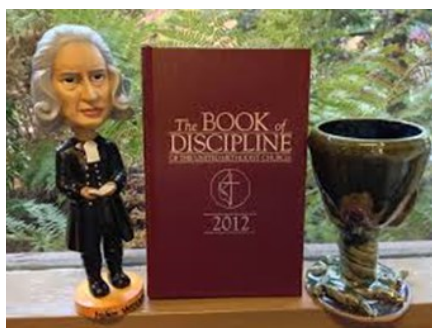
So, we'll look at the fundamentals of our faith so that we can have a clear understanding of where we currently are in our faith journeys (individually and collectively). And we'll look at the fundamentals of our faith because God intends for us to grow and mature – that's how God created us. And we'll look at the fundamentals of our faith because God's Story is too good to only read it or hear it once. I'm looking forward to diving deep into our faith with you. Happy Eastertide!

In fundamental, resurrection-filled service with you... Pastor Rick

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity we have helped 9 families and individuals with projects totaling \$2,516.11 in April 2021.

Since 2013, we have helped families and individuals with \$185,899.04 through community assistance.



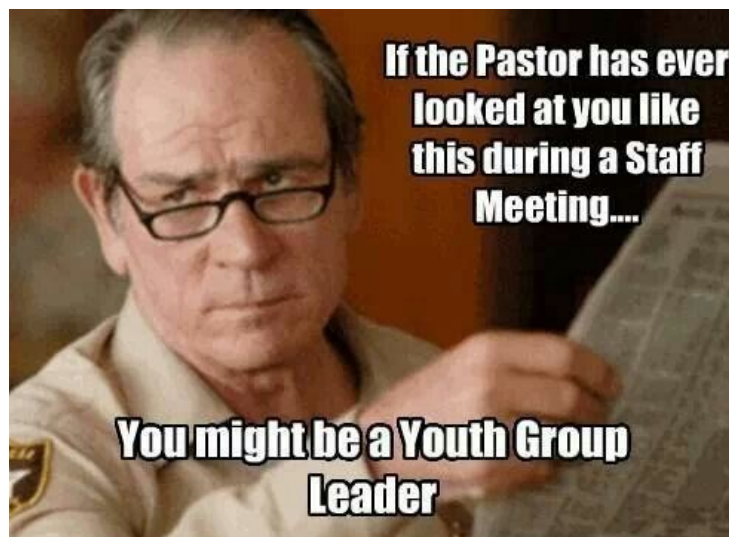
Methodism 101: Take Your Shoes Off and Set a Spell

One of the more interesting aspects of participating in a United Methodist church is the concept of itinerancy – the idea of appointing pastors to different churches every 3-5 years, on average.

Back in the day pastors were referred to as Circuit Riders. Every Sunday, they rode from one church to the next, usually on horseback – Bible in one hand and the reins in the other. So why do this? Here are three concepts to think about:

- Itinerancy provides room for a multiple, prophetic voices within a local church. Pastors are part of the United Methodist method of aiding all lay people to discover their gifts and help empower them to live into the calling of all believers.
- John Wesley once stated, “The world is my parish.” And we still lean into that idea, today. Pastors are sent to a community to share in the life of the community while sharing the Good News. And the church where they are appointed happens to be in that community. So, the community is the driver. And with this world-parish concept, we Methodists place a great emphasis on connecting the church with the community and world.
- The healthiest United Methodist churches are those driven by the laity, with the pastor serving as a spiritual leader and guide. When lay people are engaged in the life of the church, relationships thrive, lives are changed, and the local church grows. And what an awesome win-win that is!

UNITED METHODIST MEMES



Did You Know?

- Pastors are not a member of any single church. They are a member of their Annual Conference, which means they technically attend worship once a year when the Annual Conference convenes, usually in the summer months.
- United Methodist Polity (church government) is modeled after the U.S. Government, designed with checks and balances via Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches.
- John Wesley rode far enough on horseback to circle the Earth ten times – approximately 250,000 miles! He lived into the importance of sharing the Good News through personal relationships. And, he believed he grew closer to God within those relationships. Makes you wonder how much he could have accomplished if he had a car, not a horse!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! On May 9th we celebrate Mother's Day. Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1907, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Her campaign to make Mother's Day a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. She and another peace activist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe had been urging for the creation of a Mother's Day dedicated to peace. 40 years before it became an official holiday, Ward Howe had made her Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870, which called upon mothers of all nationalities to band together to promote the “amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.” Anna Jarvis wanted to honor this and to set aside a day to honor all mothers because she believed a mother is “the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world”.

May Calendar

2nd - Administrative Council Meeting - 12:15 - Fellowship Hall

6th - National Day of Prayer (USA)

9th - Mother's Day

13th - Finance Committee - 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall

16th - Ascension Sunday

23rd - Day of Pentecost

24th - Aldersgate Day

30th - Trinity Sunday

31st - Memorial Day

May Birthdays

3 - David Misicka	19 - Nelle Glenn	24 - Cole Martin
6 - Harper Drum	20 - Grace Buchanan	28 - Mary John Dye
7 - Stephen J. McKinney	22 - Alan Beaver	28 - Judy Rinard
8 - Lila Baskin	23 - Alice Houser	30 - Jan Banta
11 - Gilbert Buchanan	24 - Lee Roy Ledford	30 - Peter Constantian
18 - Shirley McManus		31 - Wayne Henline

May Anniversaries

10 - Josh & Jennifer Newton	22 - Sam & Jenell Young
12 - Tim & Sharon Drum	26 - Ed & Jan Banta
15 - Cole & Melissa Martin	27 - Tim II & Kristen Drum

Thanks to:

- All who have helped with the restart of in person worship and with the continuation of 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.
- 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 218 items in March 2021, (our best monthly food giving of all time) 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.
- All working on Church facility renovations!

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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
March 2021 - 218
April 2021 - 225
Total - 630