

SPUMC NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 11

November 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: Giving Thanks



Although it's barely starting to feel like fall (we still haven't turned on the heat in the parsonage yet), November is upon us. And that means it's almost time for my favorite holiday – Thanksgiving. November also brings All Saints Day, which is November 1, although SPUMC will recognize it on Sunday, November 7. This is the day we remember and honor those loved ones who have passed away... have gone on to the church triumphant. I think it's fitting that both of these special days are in the same month, because I am quite thankful for those in my life who have come before me and have impacted my life.

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Weekly Scriptures

November 1, 2021

All Saints Day

- ♦ Isaiah 25:6-9
- ♦ Psalm 24
- ♦ Revelation 21:1-6a
- ♦ John 11:32-44

November 7, 2021

All Saints Sunday

- ♦ Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
- ♦ Psalm 127 or 42
- ♦ Hebrews 9:24-28
- ♦ Mark 12:38-44

November 14, 2021

- ♦ 1 Samuel 1:4-20
- ♦ 1 Samuel 2:4-10 or Psalm 113
- ♦ Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25
- ♦ Mark 13:1-8

November 21, 2021

Christ the King Sunday

- ♦ 2 Samuel 23:1-7
- ♦ Psalm 132:1-12
- ♦ Revelation 1:4b-8
- ♦ John 18:33-37

November 25, 2021

Thanksgiving Day

- ♦ Joel 2:21-27
- ♦ Psalm 126
- ♦ 1 Timothy 2:1-7
- ♦ Matthew 6:25-33

November 28, 2021

- ♦ Jeremiah 33:14-16
- ♦ Psalm 25:1-10
- ♦ 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- ♦ Luke 21:25-36

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

I think about, and am exceedingly grateful for, all the family and friends whose kind words and deeds have taken root in my heart and have become fruit in my spirit and life. These people are true examples of God's up close and personal presence and transformative love. Though I might not have recognized their kindness and/or selflessness in the moment, I can now see how they have influenced my life – how they have softened my heart, expanded my worldview, and guided me towards God's truth. During this time of giving thanks, I once again say, "thank you" to all these wonderful people. Your love has changed my life, and still continues to mold me. To you, I raise a glass and will have an extra helping of cranberry jelly.

And speaking of cranberry jelly (and turkey, and stuffing, and so on), as I mentioned, Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It brings back many great childhood memories of certain foods that were only partaken of during this time of year, and spending time with family – both immediate and extended. We had the traditional turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing; and, given that my family has roots in Germany and Russia, we also had non-traditional American-thanksgiving food. This included sauerkraut, a Russian sweet cake (whose name I still can't pronounce), and a German spice cookie known as pfeffernusse (meaning pepper-nut). This cookie gets its flavor from nutmeg and other yummy spices and is coated in powdered sugar. As much as I love these foods, I recognize they really point back to the people who made them, and the people with whom I shared them.

And speaking of people I share life with, I am truly thankful for all of you at SPUMC. I am grateful and honored that you share your lives with Suzanne and me, and I want to say, "thank you" to all of you. Thank you for welcoming us and taking care of us. Although we might not see eye to eye on everything, thank you for your kindness and patience. Thank you for your friendship, guidance, and love. You continue to shape our lives, and are wonderful examples of God's love in action. So, to all of you, I raise a glass and will have an extra cookie or two. My heart is full and happy because of your graciousness.

In grateful, loving, and cookie-eating service with you... Pastor Rick

Thank you for all the Pastor Appreciation Month gifts! I sincerely am grateful for the numerous pumpkin-spiced goodies, gift cards, and time spent with coffee and conversation. Y'all know how to make a pastor feel appreciated!

Pastor Rick



Methodism 101: Spiritual Formation – Grace (Part 3)

As we discussed in the last two issues of the newsletter, Methodism breaks down grace into three separate, but equally powerful, forms. The first is **prevenient** grace – God’s active presence in our lives before we ever sense the Divine at work in our lives. Next is **justifying** grace – where we align ourselves with God, accepting God and the gracious gift of new life freely given to us. Third is **sanctifying** grace. This is the grace that moves beyond forgiveness and acceptance of our identity as beloved children of God. Sanctification is the lifelong process by which Christ followers are made holy and whole.

To take this a little deeper, Wesley affirmed that God’s grace seeks nothing less than a new creation in the likeness of Jesus Christ, and that sanctification moves us towards “holiness of heart and life.” In fact, in one of his sermons, he noted, “Christian perfection does not imply Christians are exempt from ignorance, making mistakes, infirmities or being tempted.” Instead, he affirmed perfection as another term for holiness (or maturity).

Sanctification, then, is the continuing process of being made perfect (holy and mature) in love. So, if we go back to the house analogy, if prevenient grace is the porch of the house and justifying grace is the doorway, sanctifying grace represents all the rooms in the expansive dwelling of God’s presence. They are never-ending, as we spend a lifetime seeking God’s higher better ways for our lives so that we can help write better stories in people’s lives.

UNITED METHODIST MEMES



Did You Know?

- The first Christians were Jewish folks who came to believe Jesus was the Messiah (deliverer). Their evangelism (telling the good news) to others is the reason everyone can know Jesus as our Messiah.
- In the United States, as noted in a 2019 Pew estimate, 65% of adults identify as Christians. In the entire world, 31.2% identify themselves as Christian.
- Wesley believed you could not be a Christ follower on your own. Meaning, we only grow in our faith within community. Additionally, he noted that we need to be involved in social holiness, stating, “The gospel of Christ knows no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness.” This means we are to put our faith into action within our worshipping family and outside the walls of our church – within the community.

TIME CHANGES BACK TO EASTERN STANDARD TIME ON NOVEMBER 7, 2021



November Calendar

1st - All Saints Day
2nd - SPUMC Book Club - 10 am
7th - Time Change Back to Standard time
8th - UMW Nightingale Circle Thanksgiving Meal - 11:30 am - The Chalet
11th - Veteran's Day
11th - Finance Committee - 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall
25th - Thanksgiving Day
28th - First Sunday of Advent

November Birthdays

1 - Skylar Stewart	11 - Ann Denny	19 - Rae Carr
1 - Sandra Woodard	11 - J'Leyn Hoilman	19 - Rob Nance
3 - Dwight Willett	13 - Greg Hoilman	20 - Brimleigh Buchanan
3 - Sam Young	15 - Jack Chandler	21 - Todd Dunn
4 - Carolyn Riley	16 - Stephanie Edwards	21 - Jacob Edwards
6 - Larry Bohannon	16 - Eva Jobin	22 - Amber Henline
6 - Sam Wood	17 - Peter King	24 - Mariana Woodby
7 - Louise Hembree	17 - Greg Stanbery	27 - Sandy Singleton
8 - Framton Gibson	18 - Ima Conroy	28 - Woodrow Buchanan
10 - Carolyn Burleson	18 - Suzanne Schilling	

November Anniversaries

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

Thanks to:

- All who have worked to make Trunk or Treat a Success!
- Everyone working with Lamplighters!
- Summit students and leaders!
- Jack Riley for repairing the Little Free Library on the property.
- Kathey Hollifield for having music with the children each Sunday.
- All who have helped with the restart of in person worship and with the continuation of online Worship!
- Everyone who contributed to the Cross & Key Ministry Special Offering.
- All who remember the less fortunate and contribute to the Community Assistance Fund.
- All who have contributed to the AV Fund.
- Everyone who gives to the Shepherd's Staff, who allowed us to contribute 234 items in October 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, Greeters, etc.
- All working on Church facility renovations!
- 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
March 2021 - 218
April 2021 - 225
May 2021 - 269
June 2021 - 335
July 2021 - 397
August 2021 - 494
September 2021 - 157
October 2021 - 258
Total - 2540

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity we have helped 14 families and individuals with projects totaling than \$2,382.72 in October 2021.

Since 2013, we have helped families and individuals with \$198,155.31 through community assistance.