

SPUMC NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 5

May 2022

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: We're Easter People



I often say that we're Easter people and we live with the hope and promise of the resurrection. But what does it really mean to be Easter people? How do we live into the hope and promise of resurrection? For starters, resurrection isn't just about our physical bodies brought back to life after we experience death. This is the promise of eternal life Jesus offers us and it will be a glorious experience to have our physical bodies – but with no infirmities, ailments, and the effects of gravity. And John notes in his Gospel account that Jesus told his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them and that he would come back for us and bring us to the place he's prepared. Again, what a glorious thought that is! But Jesus also said that he leaves us peace while we're in this world – peace that the world doesn't give nor can take away. And I believe part of being Easter people is accepting the gift of Jesus' peace and sharing it abundantly with others. It is a peace that surpasses our understanding, and it guards our hearts and minds.

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Weekly Scriptures

May 1, 2022

- ♦ Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
- ♦ Psalm 30
- ♦ Revelation 5:11-14
- ♦ John 21:1-19

May 8, 2022

- ♦ Acts 9:36-43
- ♦ Psalm 23
- ♦ Revelation 7:9-17
- ♦ John 10:22-30

May 15, 2022

- ♦ Acts 11:1-18
- ♦ Psalm 148
- ♦ Revelation 21:1-6
- ♦ John 13:31-25

May 22, 2022

- ♦ Acts 16:9-15
- ♦ Psalm 67
- ♦ Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5
- ♦ John 14:23-29

May 26, 2022 (Thursday) &

May 29, 2022 (Ascension

Sunday)

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

May 29, 2022

- ♦ Acts 16:16-34
- ♦ Psalm 97
- ♦ Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
- ♦ John 17:20-26

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

Matthew notes Jesus teaching us that blessed are the peacemakers. And peacemaking oftentimes is challenging because it stirs up the status quo and threatens systems of power and oppression. And that usually means it threatens to take away people's profits. As Easter people, who believe in the hope and promise of resurrection, we are called to be peacemakers – to call out all that denies dignity, equity, justice, and safety. In essence, we are called to “kill” that which does not bring about life so that God can bring about new life in its place.

Resurrection is change, transformation, and new life. And this can (and does) happen to us in this life... daily if we allow God to change our hearts and lives. When we let go of a bad habit, something that consumes us, something that limits us, or something that constrains us and others, we allow God to do the work of resurrection. And as we've recently noted, before resurrection can occur, death needs to happen. But... death does not have the final word in God's Story (or ours). The worst thing is the not the final thing. It's not the end of the story. And being Easter people means that we face change and transformation as natural and needed parts of life. Sure, change can be scary. But God is our shepherd who leads us through the valley of the shadow of death into green pastures and still waters. Yet another glorious thought!

So, what changed, transformed, new life does God want to bring about in your individual life? In our collective church life? And in our community and world? What do we need to let go of? What do we need to pick up? Who do we need to listen to? Who's needs are going unmet? What assets do we have that we can share with our neighbors? What gifts and talents do we have that will change people's hearts and lives? What legacy will we leave – indifference or passion and purpose?

Being Easter people is challenging. But anything worthwhile is worth the struggle. Jesus never promised that if we believe in him that we'd live pain-free, trouble-free, or have everything we want. In fact, Jesus never asks us to believe in him. Jesus asks us to follow him. And following Jesus means we, like Jesus, die to self for the sake of a better world. We die for the sake of resurrection. And not just our resurrection, but so that others can experience resurrection, too.

We're Easter people. Resurrection is real. It changes the story. It changes us. May our lives reveal the truth of God's resurrection power for everyone. May we follow Jesus, not just believe in him.

In changed, transformed, and resurrected service with you... Pastor Rick

WE NEED YOUR HELP! - SPRING WORKDAY at SPUMC - MAY 21st at 9:00AM

We really need your help in trying to spruce up the church grounds! Weed removal, bush trimming & general clean up will be the primary areas addressed. If you think of something on the inside we can look at that too. Please bring your own tools. Contact any of the Trustees with questions.

Thank you in advance.
Don Abele - Trustees



UNITED METHODIST MEMES



Methodism 101: Aldersgate

The term “Aldersgate” may sound familiar if you have attended Methodist services on a regular basis, but the significance of the word may be elusive, even to the most seasoned of Methodists. So here it is, in black and white.

Aldersgate Day is celebrated on May 24, or the Sunday closest, to commemorate the day John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, felt his heart “strangely warmed.” Put another way: his intellectual understanding of faith transformed into a more personal experience. This conversion happened in a building on Aldersgate Street in London, England, as he was listening to a Moravian preacher reading Luther’s *Preface of the Romans*.

Wesley wrote in his journal that at about 8:45 p.m. on May 24, 1738 “while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.” That day, Wesley experienced a newly minted confidence in his own salvation.

So, Aldersgate Street was shortened to simply Aldersgate. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Did You Know?

- Keeping with the Aldersgate theme:
- Shirley Murray’s hymn “How Small a Spark Has Lit a Living Fire!” celebrates Wesley’s Aldersgate experience and was written in 1988 for the 250th anniversary of the event.
- Daniel L. Burnett called the conversion experience Wesley’s “Evangelical Conversion,” even though he was already a priest.
- The actual street number of the building was 200 Aldersgate Street.

CARE & FELLOWSHIP TEAM

The Care & Fellowship Team helps the congregation to offer expressions of faithful Christian welcome, love, and mutual care to one another. We explore ways for the members to deepen their relationships and friendships within the church. One of our ministries is of visitation and meal deliveries for homebound members and for those who are sick or grieving. We plan special events and “Wonderful Wednesday” meals which allow folks to have fun, to share their stories, and to know one another better. A few of our other ministries are to organize Sunday Greeters, mail cards, phone calls, Upper Room devotionals and bulletin board. One special ministry is providing candy and activity for “Santa for Seniors” event in our community at Christmas time.

Anyone is welcome to join our Team! Our regular monthly meetings are the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, call Danna Gibson 828-467-5544 or Bobbi Abele 828-374-0004 Team Co-Chairs.

May Calendar

3rd - Book Club - 10 am, Parlor

5th - National Day of Prayer

8th - Mother's Day

10th - UMW / United Women in Faith Meeting - 3 pm

12th - Finance Committee Meeting - 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall

18th - Wonderful Wednesday - Missions - 6 pm - Fellowship Hall

21st - Trustees - Spring Workday - 9am until...

28th - Mountain Brook Property Association - 11 am

29th - Ascension Sunday

30th - Memorial Day

May Birthdays

3 - David Misicka	18 - Shirley McManus	24 - LeeRoy Ledford
6 - Harper Drum	19 - John Dainotto	24 - Cole Martin
7 - Stephen J. McKinney	19 - Nelle Glenn	28 - Mary John Dye
8 - Lila Baskin	20 - Grace Buchanan	23 - Bretta Walker
11 - Gilbert Buchanan	22 - Alan Beaver	30 - Jan Banta
13 - John Wilson	23 - Alice Houser	30 - Peter Constantian
		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 participated in the Mission Trip to Haywood County, NC
- Everyone working with Lamplighters!
- All who keep us updated on the Prayer List.
- All who contribute to the Community Assistance Fund, allowing us to help 6 families in April.
- Everyone who gives to the Shepherd's Staff, who allowed us to contribute 130 items in April 2022.
- 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.

Contact Us

Spruce Pine UMC
11090 Hwy 226 S
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Phone: (828) 765-7446
Pastor Cell: (704) 604-1888
Suzanne: (704) 604-2429

Office email:
sprucepineumc@gmail.com
spumc3@bellsouth.net
Pastor email:
rev.rick.schilling@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.sprucepineumc.org

Shepherd's Staff

**Food Donated over the years to
Shepherd's Staff:**

2014 - 1,202
2015 - 1,078
2016 - 1,030
2017 - 1,062
2018 - 1,213
2019 - 1,526
2020 - 769
2021 - 2,892

January 2022 - 101
February 2022 - 118
March 2022 - 180
April 2022 - 130
2022 Total - 529

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE UPDATE

**Thanks to your generosity we
have helped 7 families and indi-
viduals with projects totaling
\$2,588.08 in April 2022.**

**Since 2013, we have helped
families and individuals with
projects totaling \$226,523.96
through community assistance.**