

SPUMC NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 8

August 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

Things I Learned on Sabbatical



I am back from sabbatical, and I would like to thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to take some time off. It was much needed and I greatly appreciate your willingness to pick up a few extra chores to make this happen. The time away gave me the chance to rest, visit family, read, write, pray, and discern. And yes, now that I'm back, the to-do list I put aside for a while is screaming at me to complete all its tasks. But before I dive into the deep end of the busyness pool, I want to share with you a few things I learned during my time away.

A few months ago, I had a conversation with a clergy colleague who told me she had recently reevaluated her life because of the pandemic. She informed me that many of the things she deemed important prior to covid now are not. Conversely, she also noted that many things that were low on her list of priorities now receive the most attention. This conversation got me thinking about my life. So, I used the time of sabbatical leave to review the laundry lists in my life and ask a few questions. What and who do I consider important? For those people I consider important, how will I connect with them? What do I need to let go of and/or pick up in order to stay connected with them? If I'm going to be busy (as most of us are), what should I be busy doing?

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Weekly Scriptures

August 7, 2022

- ♦ Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
- ♦ Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
- ♦ Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
- ♦ Luke 12:32-40

August 14, 2022

- ♦ Isaiah 5:1-7
- ♦ Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
- ♦ Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2
- ♦ Luke 12:49-56

August 21, 2022

- ♦ Jeremiah 1:4-10
- ♦ Psalm 71:1-6
- ♦ Hebrews 12:18-49
- ♦ Luke 13:10-17

August 28, 2022

- ♦ 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
- ♦ Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
- ♦ Galatians 5:1, 13-25
- ♦ Luke 9:51-62

THANKS

To all who participated or purchased art from the Christmas in July Event. Proceeds go to help with Care and Fellowship Projects.

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

Time is short. Family matters. Friends brighten our lives. Relationships deserve our time and effort. These are the main themes that kept coming up during my sabbatical. It's not that I didn't know these things, or paid attention to them. But, I realized that sometimes I (and I won't throw us all under the bus by saying "we" here) get caught up in the routine of the laundry list: do, cross off, and repeat tomorrow. Now, there's nothing wrong with our to-do lists. Most of us have them and they keep us on-task. But, for me, laundry lists sometimes become blinders to where I tend to focus only on the list. And we've recently spoken about our human tendency to focus on systems (the things we do) and not on the spirit (the reasons we do things).

This became very evident to me while on sabbatical. Yes, God is concerned about "how" I live my life, by I believe God is more concerned about "why" I live my life. To-do lists tend to focus on the "how" and even the "what" but they don't address the "why." Why do I get up every day? Why do I write a monthly newsletter article? Why do I make sure to eat meals with Suzanne? Why do I write music? Why do I exercise? Why do I do the "extracurricular" Methodist connectional activities? And so on. My "why" is relationship – with God, others, and even myself. And relationships are formed on the foundation of love. Love is my "why." Love is the reason for my to-do list. I'm not merely addressing daily tasks; I am offering evidence of love to the world – God's love and my love.

With all this in mind, I look at my calendar for the rest of 2022. And it is full. Full of tasks to do. But now I also look at my calendar for the rest of 2022 and see lots of opportunities to offer love – to God, to the world, to you all, to my family, to my friends, and to myself. Thank you for loving me and letting me have the time of rest and renewal. I look forward to the remainder of 2022, full of opportunities to share love.

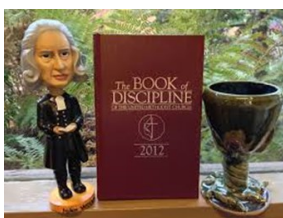
In loving, to-do-list service with you... Pastor Rick

Bible Study – Christianity 101: What's the Least I can Believe and Still Be a Christian?

Pastor Rick will be leading a 10-week Bible study about the basics of our faith. Inspired by retired United Methodist pastor Martin Thielen's study book, each week we'll discuss half-truths, cultural myths, and rumors about our faith that we do not need to believe. In addition, we'll look at 10 points of our faith that we do need to believe. The study will take place on Mondays from August 22 until October 24. Times are 10:00 a.m. (in-person) and 6:00 p.m. (in-person with a Zoom option).

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship meal originally scheduled for August 17 has been postponed until September. The finance Committee is still in charge of the meal. Sorry for the inconvenience.



Methodism 101: The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed, also called Apostolicum, is first mentioned in a letter from the Synod of Milan dated 390 CE, referring to a belief at the time that each of the Twelve Apostles contributed an article to the twelve articles of the creed. However, despite its title, there is no evidence it was actually written by the apostles, and the legend was largely abandoned by scholars by the time of the Renaissance.

The origin of the creed is based in Rome in the 3rd and 4th centuries as a form of early questioning of catechumens (persons receiving instructions to be baptized) by the bishop. The bishop would ask, "Do you believe in God the Father almighty?" along with additional questions related to the major Christian beliefs. Stated affirmatively, these statements became a creed, also known as baptismal creeds.

So, the Apostles' Creed is a variant of an ancient baptismal confession believed to have been created in accordance with Jesus's command in Matthew 28:19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." It reached its final form in southwestern France in the late 6th or early 7th century. Gradually it replaced other baptismal creeds and was acknowledged as the official statement of faith within Anglicanism, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Methodism, Moravianism, Presbyterianism, and Congregational churches. Although some traditions, such as Catholicism, also consider it to be a form of prayer.

A common misunderstanding among evangelicals is the line that states, "I believe in . . . the holy catholic church." In this creed the word *catholic* means "general, universal, concerning the whole" and does not refer exclusively to the Roman Catholic Church. As the Southern Baptist theologian Timothy George explains, "When we say that we 'believe in the holy catholic church,' we are confessing that Jesus Christ himself is the church's one foundation, that all who truly trust in him as Savior and Lord are by God's grace members of this church..." Amen and Amen.

UNITED METHODIST MEMES



Did You Know?

More about the Apostles' Creed:

- The Apostles' Creed held an important place in the early church. It is believed that the creed was originally formulated to refute the claims of Gnosticism (see the next bullet point) and protect the church from early heresies and deviations from orthodox Christian doctrine.
- Gnostics believed in multiple levels of divinity and were more focused on limiting/eliminating ignorance. They placed more emphasis on personal spiritual knowledge than on the orthodox teachings of the Church.
- The Apostles' Creed is shorter than the Nicene Creed (adopted in 381 CE), but still emphasizes the triune nature of God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER FOR SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Shepherd's Staff annual fundraiser, Empty Bowls, will take place on Saturday, August 20 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Spruce Pine First Baptist Church on Tappan Street. Tickets are \$30 and this includes a locally crafted bowl and soup supper.

A Silent auction also will occur, and there are numerous items to bid on. For tickets, please contact Pastor Rick.

August Calendar

2nd - SPUMC Book Club - Parlor - 10 am
7th - Administrative Council - After Church - Fellowship Hall
8th - UMW / United Women in Faith Meeting - 3 pm
11th - Finance Committee Meeting - 5:30 pm - Fellowship Hall
18th - Trustees Meeting - 6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall
20th - Empty Bowls Fundraiser - 5 - 7pm at First Baptist Church

August Birthdays

2- David Hamlyn	12 - Ken Carroll	26 - Connie Harrison
3 - Gail Misicka	12 - Kristen Drum	26 - Kim Ledford
4 - Gloria Hoepfner	14 - James (Bo) Glenn	26 - Jennifer Newton
4 - Josh Newton	14 - Bill Habernack	27 - Jack Riley
5 - Chloe Cook	16 - Sylvia Beaver	28 - Ashley Broome
5 - George Tasedan	18 - Marcia Dunn	28 - Weston Stout
6 - Stokes Thayer	18 - Ken Phillips	31 - Neil Brown
6 - Deidre Wood	22 - Frank Baskin	31 - Jennifer Kind
9 - Jon Jirka	22 - Wendy Beaver	

August Anniversaries

3 - Stan & Lisa Cook	11 - Glenn & Becky Nance
4 - Greg & Meredith Hoilman	20 - Eddie & Beth Bell
8 - Randy & Louise Hembree	24 - Tony & Marina Woodby
9 - Jamie & Sherry Bell	25 - Jim & Sheilah Sockwell
10 - Sam & Tracy Deyton	

Thanks to:

- Everyone who subbed for Pastor Rick during his Sabbatical: Rev. Alan Beaver, Aaron Buchanan, Rev. Tracy Carroll, Matt Hollifield, Bruce Ikard, & Dwight Willett
- Those who did local and regional missions this month!
- Everyone working to restart Lamplighters in the Fall!
- All who keep us updated on the Prayer List.
- All who contribute to the Community Assistance Fund, allowing us to help 10 families in July.
- Everyone who gives to the Shepherd's Staff, who allowed us to contribute 108 items in July 2022.
- All who help at the M-Y Parish Food Bank.
- Those who take meals to the sick & 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.
- Everyone working in quiet, behind the scenes ways each week.

Contact Us

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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 - 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
May 2022 - 119
June 2022 - 116
July 2022 - 142
2022 Total - 906

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE **UPDATE**

Thanks to your generosity we
have helped 11 families and in-
dividuals with projects totaling
\$2,300.97 in July 2022.

Since 2013, we have helped
families and individuals with
projects totaling \$232,790.17
through community assistance.