

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

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March 24th, 2019

3rd Sunday in Lent

Jeremy I. Troxler, Pastor

Kathey Hollifield, Music Director

Kathy Miller, Organist

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! THE WORD "WORSHIP" COMES FROM THE OLD ENGLISH WORD FOR "WORTHY." WHEN WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD, WE ARE DECLARING THAT GOD ALONE IS "WORTHY" OF OUR LIVES AND OUR PRAISE. THE COLOR PURPLE IN THE SANCTUARY REMINDS US THAT WE ARE IN THE CHURCH SEASON CALLED "LENT." LENT IS A PERIOD OF ROUGHLY 40 DAYS (AND 6 SUNDAYS) IN WHICH WE PREPARE FOR THE MYSTERY AND JOY OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER THROUGH A TIME OF INTENTIONAL REFLECTION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION. TODAY WE CONTINUE IN A LENTEN SERMON SERIES CALLED "JESUS VS. RELIGION," IN WHICH WE WILL BE STUDYING JESUS' CONFLICTS WITH THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF HIS DAY.

GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

TRACY DEYTON

Prelude

"A Lenten Prayer"

GLYN CANNON

PLEASE USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS YOUR WHOLE SELF - MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT -
ON WORSHIPPING GOD, THE FATHER, AND THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

OFFERING OUR PRAISE, GIFTS, AND PRAYERS

^Song of Praise

"There's Something About That Name"

UMH 171

^Opening Prayer of Confession

Let us pray together:

Holy God,

**in the light of your holiness we see ourselves as we really are,
and we are ashamed.**

**We confess that we are people of impure thoughts and unclean lips;
we think too highly of ourselves and too little of others.**

**We cling so tightly to the treasures of this world
that we cannot open our hands to receive blessings from above.**

**Our feet follow the paths of sin;
we wander so far astray that we become strangers to righteousness.**

Forgive us, and set us again on the path that leads to life.

**Deal with us not as we deserve, but according to your mercy;
not because we are worthy but because you are gracious.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. --from pray to the Lord (adapted)

(time for silent prayers of confession)

While it is true that we have sinned,
it is a greater truth that through God's love in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
God has shown his love for us in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that free from sins, we might live for righteousness
by his wounds we have been healed. --Romans 5:8, I Peter 2:24
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

^ **Sharing of the Peace of Christ** "The peace of Christ be with you" **"And also with you."**
(Through the gift of Jesus Christ, we have been granted forgiveness and peace with God and with one another. As a sign and celebration of the peace we have been given, we invite you to turn to your neighbors, extend your hand, and greet/bless them with the words, "The Peace of Christ be with you.")

^ **Hymn of Praise** **"At the Name of Jesus"** UMH 168

Offering our Praises and our Gifts to God

Offertory GLENNA TASEDAN

Doxology **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"** UMH 95

Children's Message BEVERLY HALE

Children's Change Offering M-Y MEDS MEDICATION MINISTRY
(Following the children's change offering, parents of small children may choose to escort their little ones to our church nursery: our nursery volunteers will meet you in the welcome center just outside the sanctuary.)

Call to Prayer **"Let It Breathe on Me"** UMH 503

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem **"Jesu, Blessed Jesu"** CHANCEL CHOIR

^ **Scripture Reading** **Luke 18:9-17** NT 77

Proclamation of the Word **"Jesus vs. Religion: Justified"** REV. JEREMY TROXLER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD AND SENDING FORTH

^ **Sending Hymn** **"Like a Child"** TFWS 2092

^ **Benediction**

^ **Postlude**

^IF ABLE, PLEASE STAND

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **IF YOU'RE NEW HERE . . . WELCOME!** We're glad you could join us, whether you're new to the community, new to our church, or if you might be new to this whole "church" thing altogether. We hope you won't be nervous: it doesn't matter who you are, what you've done, what you're wearing, what you believe, or what you don't believe – you are welcome here. You are among friends, and we hope you feel at home in this place of grace.
- **A SPECIAL WELCOME TO CHILDREN!** Parents, we are so grateful that you and your children are here to worship with us! We believe that children have much to teach us about how to receive the Kingdom of God, so please don't worry about your kids being a distraction in worship: the sounds that children make are music to our ears, and we are genuinely grateful that they are in our midst.
- **CHURCH NURSERY** - If it is helpful, you are welcome to leave your child with the caring and trained volunteers in our church nursery, which is located in our Sunday School hallway; or, if you prefer, you can make use of the "family

room” which we set up each Sunday in the blue-carpeted foyer at the back of the sanctuary: that way your child can play and roam freely while you can relax and listen in to the service.

MARCH / APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUMMIT STUDENT MINISTRY & HILLTOPPERS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - TODAY** - at 5:30pm at SPUMC. All kids (Hilltoppers) and all 6th-12th graders (Summit) are invited to enjoy a meal, fun activities, and time to grow in faith together.
- **LENTEN DEVOTIONS - THIS WEDNESDAY MARCH 13TH AT 6:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY** - To help us in our Lenten observances, Pastor Jeremy will be leading a brief time of Bible Study and prayer each Wednesday evening before choir practice. All are welcome.
- **PLANTING TREES AT THE ORCHARD** - We are looking for servants who might be able to help bless our community and God's creation through a workday to dig holes and plant trees at the Orchard at Altapass. Can you help? If you have any questions about dates and skills needed, please contact Jon Jirka at 828-260-1713.
- **WEDDING** - Randal Greene and Beverly Hale are to be married at Spruce Pine Methodist Church Saturday April 13 2019 at 2:00pm. No invitations to be sent. Friends and family are welcome. There will be a reception following the ceremony hosted by the Nightingale circle. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend. The couple is registered at Belk and Target.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **A SIGN UP SHEET IS AVAILABLE** on the Welcome Table - Please sign up and fill out the information if you are willing to periodically help members of our Church family. The primary focus is food and transportation requests.
- **CONTACT PERSON** - Janet Ouzts is the contact person for the 1st quarter and may be calling if someone is in need of food, transportation, etc. Her phone number is 828-467-1025.
- **LEFT BEHIND IN THE HIGH COUNTRY - SUPPORT GROUP FOR SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS** - Meets at 6:30 pm the 1st Wednesday every month in the Oak Room, Sloop Medical Offices Building, Cannon Hospital, Linville, NC. Contact Bob at 321-243-1640 or Sandy at 828-467-5379.
- **BRIDGE OF HOPE / SONS OF THE SON** - wants you to be part of our Ministry by Praying for us: Needs: coats, gloves, hats, socks, blankets, food and toiletries etc. Thank you & God Bless, Phil White
- **WE INVITE EACH FAMILY TO BRING AT LEAST ONE CAN OF FOOD EACH WEEK** for the Shepherd's Staff food assistance ministry. There is a box in the Welcome Center...let's fill it each week! Please check the "Best Used Before" date on the items you donate and make sure it is more than 30 days before expiration. Thank you.
- **PLEASE FILL OUT THE PEW REGISTRATION PADS** by the windows at the end of each pew. **Pass them to the inside** and the ushers will pick them up after they receive the offering.

REGULAR MEETINGS

GROUP	DAYS	ROOM	CONTACT
Blue Ridge Bridge Club	Mondays, 10 am	Fellowship Hall	Nancy Ball
SPUMC Book Club	1 st Tuesday, 10 am	Parlor	Margarett McGraw
Weight Watchers	Tuesdays, 5 pm	Fellowship Hall	
UMW Nightingale Circle	2 nd Monday - 7 pm	Welcome Center	Sharon Drum
Choir Practice	Wednesdays - 7:00 pm	Sanctuary	Kathey Hollifield
Al-Anon	Every Thursday	Youth Room	467-1193 & 704-609-3360

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE:

(If you are unable to serve on the date scheduled, please exchange dates with someone and let the church office know.)

DATE	LECTOR	CHILDREN'S TIME	GREETERS	NURSERY	PRESCHOOL
3/31	Aaron Buchanan	Melanie Murphy	Mary Robinson & Donnie Peters	Quincy Sparks	Meredith Hoilman
4/7	Meredith Hoilman	Tracy Carroll	Nancy Ball / Jan Hamilton	Sherry Sherman	Brandy Miller
4/14	Dwight Willett	Bruce Ikard	Susan Basini / Clara Ahlquist	Rachelle Shock	Tracy Deyton
4/21	Tim Drum	Greg Hoilman	Lloyd & Nelle Glenn	Chelsea Thayer	Kim Ledford

OUR COMMUNITY COVENANT

When a person becomes a professing member of the body of Christ at Spruce Pine United Methodist Church, he or she covenants to participate faithfully in the ministries of the congregation and in life in the world by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness.

- **GENERAL PRAYERS:** For all who do not know the love of God in Christ Jesus the Lord; for the well-being of our community; for local, state, national, and world leaders
- **SUSTAINING PRAYERS:** Our homebound members (*Shirley McManus*); Brian Center, Smoky Mountain, and Mitchell House Residents; Staff, and Families (*Mabel Whiton, Audrey Davenport, Ramona Gragg*); *Beth Wyatt & Reg Bezzola*; Jo Thomas; June Wilson; David Hoeppner; *Bretta Walker*; *Charles Hale*; All expectant mothers and unborn children (*Carolyn*

Boles); *Laura Curtis Hodges*; for those in addiction: for recovery and sobriety in 2019; *Sandra & Louis Woodard*; Maggie Snyder (caregiver); Troubled Teenager; Lynda Briggs; Jan Hamilton's family, Weston Stout; Jane Greenwood; *Tim Hollifield*; Olivia Silver; Amanda Drum; James Davis; J.C. Gage; Crystal Wood; Stan Elkins; Muffy Dayton; Marcia Murphy; Dakota Yelton; Kimberly Oberhammer family; *Beverly Hale*; Mike Bartlett; Dennis Chandler; Rosemary Coffman; Rosemary (*Stan Cook's sister*); Barbara Butts (*Ann Denny's daughter*); Tess Coulter (*Jack Burleson's mom - Hospice*); Corey & Kathryn Hoilman & new baby Avery

- **FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** those who have suffered miscarriage; family of Ruth Buchanan; the family of Cary Pitman; the family of Zoe Ellis; Gloria Schulman & family; family of Chris Ollis; family of Henry Street; family of Bea White; family of Rick Crisp; Paul Sherman & family (death of father); the family of John Ahlquist; the family of Kathryn Riddle
- **FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY:** Jerry Morgan (*Quincy's dad - back*); Atlas Benton (back); *Ann Denny*; Wayne Whitson (*Ima's brother*); Allan "Jerry" Douglass (corneal transplant surgery); Bishop Sharma Lewis; Madeline McKenzie (Shoulder); *Danna Gibson (Crohn's)*; David Wilson; Meredith Hoilman (bone marrow donor); Heather Walker (heart transplant); Norma Weathers; *Gloria Hoepfner (tests)*; *Neil Brown (surgery)*; Tom Wilson (recovering from surgery); *Wanda Henline (tests)*; Wayne Hoilman (lung transplant)
- **FOR THOSE WITH CANCER:** Judy Rinard; Diane Meatyard; Joyce Woody; Holly (brain tumor); Randy Chambers (cancer treatment); Jada Daniels (lung); Larry Metcalf (liver); Chase Ambrose; Ava Hollifield; Shirley Hise; Hal Harrison; Janet Ward Slaughter; Gloria Smith (lung); Brian Baker: Rev. Brenda McDaniel; Claire Spence; Becky Hoilman; Unnamed Person; Bill Hayes; Dan Whetstone; Dick Hautala; Darren Ward; Mike Burke (brain tumor); Peggy Grantham (bladder); Eliza Bray (4 yr. old) and family; Lisa McKinney; Cheryl Oglesby
- **FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY:** Mike Snyder (Parkinson's); Aubree (encephalitis); Wanda McClellan (lupus); Mary Kay Thompkins (MS); Heather Blackburn; Sandra Glenn; Tonya Hall Wilson; Nelda Johnson; Danna Gibson; Allison Street; Brian Westveer (fall); Sarah Hobart; Amanda Ikard (discs); Martha Wrenn (Crohn's); Coy Hollifield; Sam Blevins (lungs)
- **FOR SURVIVORS OF INJUSTICE, DISASTER, OR TRAGEDY:** Survivors of sexual abuse or harassment; Survivors of child abuse; Separated children & families; Victims of human trafficking; Samuel Oliver Bruno family; Thacker family (house fire); people of Venezuela
- **FOR AREA CHURCHES & MINISTRIES:** The Toe Valley UMC Charge (Mt. Zion - Pine Grove); Bakersville UMC, Red Hill - Dayton Bend UMC; The Newdale UMC Charge (Celo-Martin's Chapel-Windham); SPUMC (Pastor, Staff & Members); M-Y Parish Food Bank; Lamplighters Children, Families and Staff; Shepherd's Staff
- **FOR THOSE TRAVELING, ON MISSION, OR IN THE MILITARY:** Dallas Martin (Marines); Tucker McElrath; Lindsey Potter (Army National Guard); Ben Potter (Army); those on Mission Trips

We want to join with you in prayer for your concerns and needs. Simply contact Pastor Troxler or the church office and tell us about your prayer concern. Please submit names to the church office by Thursday morning to be included on the weekly list.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK			
24 - Sharon Drum		25 - Jeb Bell	27 - Meredith Hoilman
			30 - Tom Wilson
PRESENCE:		March 17 th , 2019	11:00 - 97
GIFTS	March 17 th , 2019	General Fund - \$3,034.00	Weekly budget need - \$4,583.00
		Year to Date - \$57,656.00	YTD Budget Need - \$50,413.00
		Children's Offering - \$54.20 - M-Y Meds.	Summit Youth - \$150.00
		Community Assistance - \$140.00	
		Shepherd's Staff - \$25.00	Shepherd's Staff Donations -43

The Spruce Pine UMC would like to acknowledge a gift to the general fund in Memory of John Ahlquist from Sharon Pope.

SERVICE: Thanks to those who are serving in special ways throughout the past week and today ...

Lector: Tracy Deyton Greeters: Wayne & Wanda Henline Children's Time: Beverly Hale
Head Usher: Vern Coulter Nursery: Katie Willett Preschool: Kim Ledford Offertory: Glenna Tasedan

WITNESS: FOLLOWING IN THE WAY OF JESUS MEANS NOT ONLY SEEKING TO SAY AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT, BUT ALSO TRYING TO SAY AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE RIGHT REASONS, WITH THE RIGHT MOTIVATIONS. JESUS CRITICIZES RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO MAKE A BIG SHOW OF THEIR FAITH: WHO DO WHAT'S RIGHT, BUT WITH THE WRONG MOTIVATIONS, BECAUSE THEY WANT TO WIN PRAISE FROM OTHERS. BY CONTRAST, JESUS INVITES HIS FOLLOWERS TO SOMETIMES DO THEIR GIVING, AND PRAYING, AND FASTING "IN SECRET," FOR GOD ALONE, AND IN A WAY THAT ONLY GOD KNOWS ABOUT. ONE WAY TO WITNESS TO THE HUMBLE WAY OF JESUS IS TO DO GOOD WITHOUT CARING ABOUT GETTING ANY PUBLIC 'CREDIT' FOR IT. WHAT'S ONE GOOD THING YOU CAN DO FOR CHRIST OR FOR SOMEONE ELSE DURING LENT THAT NOBODY ELSE HAS TO KNOW ABOUT?

****Next Week's Scripture - March 31st, 2019****

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32