

SPRUCE PINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

MAY 2025

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 5

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Spruce
Pine United Methodist
Church is to be a
Beacon on the Hill,
spreading the Good News of
Jesus Christ through:
Worship, Fellowship,
Education, Nurturing and
Service.



Pastor Holly Cobb McKim

MANNA FOR THE JOURNEY

"Some people brought children to Jesus so that he would place his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded them. "Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said, "Do not forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children." Then he blessed the children and went away from there."

Mathew 19: 13 - 15 CEB

I had a brief conversation with a first grader in our Lamplighter Literacy program the other day. This particular student, bounded off the bus, ran into the hallway and very quickly took her spot on the floor near me. I was into her energy but curious, so asked a few questions while all the other students were busy putting away their book bags and jackets, etc.

Me: "No book bag today?"

First grader: "Nope."

Me: more inquisitive, "No homework?"

First grader: "Nope!" as she shakes her head gleefully, grinning with her signature first grader smile with her two front teeth absent.

Me: "No book bag, no homework, no problem. And as far as the teeth, you have two more coming in soon!" She then smiled a big cheesy grin! We laughed together!

Jesus was clear with his disciples, children were as important as any other group of people in his presence and in the kingdom of heaven! The adage that children should be seen and not heard may have been the disciples thinking? Or that Jesus had more important people to interact with and could not be bothered with children, may have been their reasoning for scolding those bringing children before Jesus? Again, Jesus was clear.

I am clear in my theology, philosophy and social policies, children are precious in God's sight and mine! Let us feed them physical food as well as spiritual food! Let us protect them at all costs from sexual predators! Let us help parents be successful in raising strong, bright and compassionate children! Let us advocate for all children: able bodied and differently abled, from all nationalities and faiths, from single parent, LGBTIA+ or foster parents! ALL Children are valuable to our church, community and country! I am Pro-life, meaning I am for ALL children from utero throughout their young adult years, for everything that will help them thrive, their mind, body and soul!

Weekly Scriptures

May 4, 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter

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

May 11, 2025 Mother's Day

4th Sunday of Easter

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

May 18, 2025

5th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 11:1-18
- Psalm 148
- Revelation 21:1-6
- John 13:31-35

May 25, 2025

6th Sunday of Easter

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

May 29, 2025

Ascension of the Lord

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



SPRING STRING FLING 4/26/2025 – photo by Maria Tountasakis

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AT SPUMC

There are 3 separate classes that meet on Sunday mornings from 10:00 – 10:50 am.

○ Adult class in the Parlor (Room 4) in the Education wing. Contact Margaret McGraw (828) 592-5055 for more information.

○ Adult class in the Pastor's Office (Room 3) in the education wing. For more information contact Marvin Walker (828) 766-5379.

○ Adult Class in the Fellowship Hall, for more information call Matt Hollifield (828) 467-1812 or Dwight Willett (828) 467-8852.

Consider taking on a study and discussion with these wonderful leaders!

GET INVOLVED AT SPRUCE PINE UMC

SPUMC BOOK CLUB – Meets on the First Tuesday of each month.

SPUMC CHOIR – Practices on Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Sanctuary

MISSIONS WEEK WITH UMCOR – April 28 – May 2 we will meet at the church daily to be assigned work by the Disaster Response Leadership. All skill levels are welcome, part or full days or all week are possibilities. For more info: Call Melanie Jirka (828-260-1714) or Marvin Walker (828-766-5055) for more information.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY MEALS – Volunteer with the care and fellowship team to help prepare, set up, serve or clean up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – Join one of the above classes.

LAMPLIGHTERS – Volunteer with the reading program, see Sharon Anderson or Kathey Hollifield.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE – Give to the Community Assistance fund to help people in the area who need a hand up.

UNITED METHODIST MEMES



YOU CAN ALSO HELP BY DONATING FOOD TO SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Located in the building that houses Tractor Food and Farms, directed by Starli McDowell. There is a food collection box in the Welcome Center. Make sure that the food you donate has an expiration date more than 30 days past the donation.

HELP IS ALSO NEEDED AT THE M-Y PARISH FOOD PANTRY IN THE TIPTON HILL AREA.

Members of our church and others meet every other Friday to unload the Manna Food Truck and then on Saturday to distribute food to people in need in the area. See Beverly Greene for more information.

*Many things that you will need to know about the Spruce Pine United Methodist Church can be accessed by simply reading the bulletin! Make sure we have your email address and **you will get** the Worship Information, Prayer requests, giving information, Birthdays and Anniversaries!*

EASTER FLOWERING OF THE CROSS



Photo by Beth Rosko

May Calendar

1st – National Day of Prayer
4th – Holy Communion (Both Services)
6th – Spruce Pine UMC Book Club – 10:00 am – Parlor or Welcome Center
8th – Finance Committee Meeting – 5:30 pm – Fellowship Hall or Welcome Center
11th – Mother’s Day
12th – United Women in Faith – Welcome Center – 3:00 pm
14th – Lamplighters Goodbye Dinner – 5:00 pm – Fellowship Hall
15th – Trustees Meeting – 5:30 pm – Fellowship Hall or Welcome Center
24th – Mountain Brook Estates HOA – 11:00 am – Fellowship Hall
25th – Leah Brown (Duke Divinity Student) here – Reception after 11 am service
26th – Memorial Day

May Birthdays

3 – David Misicka	20 – Grace Buchanan
6 – Harper Drum	22 – Rev. Alan Beaver
8 – Lila Baskin	24 – LeeRoy Ledford
11 – Gilbert Buchanan	28 – Rev. Mary John Dye
13 – John Wilson	30 – Jan Banta
15 – Randal Greene	30 – Peter Constantian
19 – Nelle Glenn	31 – Wayne Henline

May Anniversaries

12 – Tim & Sharon Drum	24 – Mike & Melanie Murphy
22 – Sam & Jenell Young	26 – Ed & Jan Banta
23 – Ron & Sara Allen	27 – Tim II & Kristen Drum

Thanks To:

- Lamplighters: students staff and volunteers
- Kevin Cox, Elizabeth Damico, Becky Ammons & Jon Jirka
- Disaster Response Teams and their Leaders
- Shepherd’s Staff Leaders and Volunteers
- All who give to Community Assistance
- Rhonda Gouge, Kathie Kuhne, and Sam McKinney for the Spring String Fling (Proceeds to Disaster Relief) (\$2,450.00)
- Everyone who works with Care & Fellowship
- Everyone who keeps us updated on the Prayer List
- All who donate to Shepherd’s Staff
- All who volunteer at M-Y Parish Food Bank
- Those who take meals to the sick and shut-ins and to doctor visits
- All who serve as Lector, who do Children’s Time, serve as Greeters
- All of the people who will join the above group and those who will be ushers.

Dearest Church Family,
Thank you so much for the lovely reception, gifts and words of appreciation that were shared with me last Sunday. Serving as Coordinator of Children Ministry has been one of the greatest joys of my life. With love, Ginny

Contact us:

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

Office Phone: 828-765-7446

Office email:

sprucepineumc@gmail.com

Pastor email:

hmckim@wnccumc.org

Visit us on the web at

www.sprucepineumc.org

And on Facebook at
Spruce Pine United
Methodist Church

Shepherd’s Staff

Food donations over the years to
Shepherd’s Staff

2014 – 1,202	2020 – 769
2015 – 1,078	2021 – 2,892
2016 – 1,030	2022 – 1,524
2017 – 1,062	2023 – 1,128
2018 – 1213	2024 – 1,138
2019 – 1,526	

January – 40

February – 54

March – 49

April - 41

2025 Total - 184

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Thanks to your generosity we have helped 19 families and individuals with projects totaling \$6,554.73.

Since 2013, we have helped families and individuals with projects totaling \$406,669.63.