



Spruce Pine
United Methodist Church



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March 31st, 2024 – 11 am

Easter Sunday

Kathey Hollifield, Music Director
Bruce Ikard, Worship Technician

Kathy Miller, Organist
Rev. Steven Coss, Pastor

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.

GATHERING OF THE CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

Meredith Hoilman

Prelude

“Christ is Risen” - Schram

Instruments

OFFERING OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

^Call to Worship

Meredith Hoilman

Let us be called to worship our Resurrected Lord!

ALL: Hallelujah, He is Risen!

Christ has broken the chains of death! Christ has conquered!

ALL: Hallelujah, He is Risen!

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

ALL: Hallelujah, He is Risen!

Almighty God, through your Son, you overcame death and opened to us the gates of life.

ALL: Hallelujah! He is Risen!

^Opening Hymn

“Low In the Grave He Lay”

UMH 322

^Opening Prayer/Blessing of Love

Meredith Hoilman

Almighty God, through your Son, you overcame death and opened the gate of eternal life!

We praise you for your gifts of new life!

God of power and majesty, you have raised Jesus Christ and delivered him, and us, from death's destruction.

We thank you for the victory, for Christ's sacrifice, and for lifting us to new life in Him!

... and may the Resurrection Power of Christ, and the Love of Christ be with you now.

And Also with you!

...Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace and love.

Children's Message

Beverly Greene

Children's Change Offering (M-Y Meds)

(Following the children's message and change offering, children through second grade may choose to attend children's church. Our volunteers will meet you at the back of the church. Our church nursery is available for infants and toddlers.)

PROCLAIMING & HEARING GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem

"Let the Bells of Easter Ring"

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

MSG

"After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move. The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. "Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message." The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there."

Pastoral Word

"He Is Risen!"

Pastor Steve Coss

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Offering our Gifts and Praises to God

Offertory

"The Strife is O'er, The Battle Done"

Handbells & Piano

^Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 95

Closing Prayer: ALL: Glory to the Father, who has woven garments of glory for the resurrection. Worship to the Son, who was clothed in them at his rising. Thanksgiving to the Spirit, who keeps them for all the saints. To God be the glory, Amen!

^Closing Hymn

"He Lives"

UMH 310

Benediction/Benediction Music

"He Lives"

UMH 310

^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.

APRIL 2024 ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPUMC'S BIBLE IN ONE YEAR JOURNEY CONTINUES TODAY! – The B-1 Journey is continuing! Today's Sermon continues the process. Monday Bible Studies resume tomorrow at 10 am in the Faithlink Class and at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall or Summit Room. We are working on resuming the Zoom broadcast as well. Several Sunday School classes are participating as well!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ON EASTER MONDAY – The office will reopen on Tuesday at 9 am for regular business.

NO CHOIR PRACTICE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 – Choir Practice will resume on Wednesday, April 10.

MISSIONS TEAM - Mayfield Ky. was virtually wiped off the map on December 10, 2021 by a tornado. We are getting together a team to serve there from April 14-20. There will be construction opportunities as well as support and devotional roles. For more information contact Melanie Jirka 828-260-1714 or Marvin Walker 828-766-5379

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

NAME TAGS Please remember to wear your name tags to help Pastor Coss learn your names. If you need a name tag, please let Tim Drum know and he will make one for you.

LIVING TREE DONATIONS CONTINUE – SPUMC’S chapter of the United Women in Faith has established a memorial to honor our church members and loved ones who have passed away. This memorial is known as a “Living Tree” For more information on how to donate, see the Handout in the Welcome Center or speak to Tim or Sharon Drum. We will be making a second order soon when we have 20 more names. Thank You!

GIVING - We have 4 ways in which you can respond to God through your financial giving:

1. During the in-person worship services. Simply drop it in the plate when passed by the ushers.
 2. U.S. Mail. You can send the church your offerings by mailing them to Spruce Pine UMC, 11090 Hwy 226S, Spruce Pine NC 28777.
 3. You can drop off your offerings during church office hours, which are Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 4. Online. Go to www.sprucepineumc.org. Click on the "Give" tab, then on the "Donate Now" button that pops up.
- Thank you for being faithful in your giving to the ministries of Spruce Pine UMC. We remain committed to being the "Beacon on the Hill" for Spruce Pine, Mitchell County, and beyond.

PEW PADS ARE BACK – Please fill them out and pass them from the inside to the outside and back. They will be collected after each service! These are important to us for contact information and requests.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND - Our Church has been most generous to our fund for helping needy people with energy bills, food, and housing. The needs are increasing just now (especially with the recent power shutoffs), please consider supporting this fund, people are in crisis. Our church is known as a Congregation who cares, we know you will do your part.

SPUMC SUNDAY MORNING ONLINE CONNECTION –is available three ways:

1. Go to www.sprucepineumc.org, then click *Online Connection*. You can then load it from there on Sundays.
2. On Facebook can look up Spruce Pine United Methodist Church and follow the link.
3. The email you get with the bulletin each week has a link to click on as well to get the content.

CONTACT PERSON FOR CARE & FELLOWSHIP – Starli McDowell will be the contact person for the first quarter of 2024. Her email address is starlimcdowell@gmail.com and her phone number is (828) 773-0814. (Susan Curtis is the contact person for the second quarter).

SONS OF THE SON & BRIDGE OF HOPE HOMELESS MINISTRY - Needs: coats, gloves, hats, socks, blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, food, toiletries, and your prayers. 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.

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.

THANKS, PRAISES & CELEBRATIONS – Thank you to the Care and Fellowship Committee for the Wonderful Wednesday meal for March, and for those who came to eat. Thanks to the Missions Committee for the informational program on the upcoming mission trip. Thank you to those who use their teaching gifts with children in Sunday School, Hilltoppers and Confirmation Class.

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; all who have COVID and those who are recovering; Catherine L.; *Bill Haberneck*

SUSTAINING PRAYERS: Our homebound members; The Greens at Spruce Pine & Mitchell House Residents, Staff, and Families; for those in addiction: for recovery and sobriety in 2024; Jacquelyn Taylor; Susan Hoeg, Virginia, Charlie & William; those with mental health issues; Hannah Blanton; Mike Lewis; Ron & Linda Cromarty; Ann Butler & family; Andy Grindstaff; Bob Cook; Jaden Pernell; Doris Deyton; Shane Heath; James Thomas; *Lucy Murphy*; Jennifer Miller; Jennie Johnston, Kris Butterwek; Alexis (medical issues); *Randy Hembree*; Charles Sproles; Rylan McMahan; Olivia Cook (Killian Wustrow’s sister); Anna & Chuck & 5 children (Phil White’s Daughter & family, house fire); Sandra Hoilman and family; Skyler Stewart’s Sister in Law; David & Dort Bear (auto accident); *Carolyn Brunning (blood clots – 6 months of treatment)*

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: the family of Robert McKenzie (Husband of Madeline and Grandfather of Jessica Wustrow); the family of Richard Griffin; the family of Brenda Robinson; the family of Frank Gurley

FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR/RECOVERING FROM TESTS OR SURGERY: Mary Woodfrey; Dean (Judy’s cousin, transplants); Catherine Andre; Tommy Phillips; *Marcia Dunn*; Daniel Buchanan; Jessica Ruegg; Trudy Willis (recovery); *Diane Sheeley (upcoming surgery)*; Dylon Fischel – improving; Wanda Willis (*Lila Baskin’s Daughter in Law, tests*); *Beverly Greene (Surgery April 8)*; *Tim Drum (recovery)*; *Jim Sockwell (recovery)*

FOR THOSE WITH CANCER: Holly (brain tumor); Ava Hollifield; Janet Ward Slaughter; Gloria Smith (lung); Erin (brain cancer); Raymond Mayberry; Shirl Phillips; Wayne Ledford & Billy Ledford; Caleb Watson (8 y/o with cancer); Tessie Miller (Leukemia); *James Ouzts*; Rick Phillips; Julie Phillips; Weston Atkins; Lisa Graham; Julie Smith Ackiss (chemo); Pat Coffey; Mary Garland; Donald Dale; Will Richter – Kidney cancer and surgery (friend of Jenell Young); Bob Brunning (Carolyn's husband, bone cancer); Joy Williams (Surgery); Larry Davis; Wendy Willis (*Lila Baskin's Daughter in Law*)

FOR THOSE LIVING WITH PAIN, ILLNESS OR INJURY: Wanda McClellan (lupus); Sandra Glenn; Louise Weeks (rehab); Ann Butler; Josh (muscular dystrophy); Nathan Buchanan; *Tim Hollifield*; Dori Sweatt Beck (Auto immune disorder); Jaydon Stevens (Diabetes); Troy Gouge (Shepherd Center in Atlanta); *Lila Baskin (Fall)*; Veronica Edwards (Stephanie Drum's Mother in Law – Hospitalization); Jeff Smith – *Lila's Nephew (Stroke)*

FOR SURVIVORS OF INJUSTICE, DISASTER, OR TRAGEDY: Survivors of sexual abuse/harassment; Survivors of child abuse; Separated children & families; Victims of human trafficking; Earthquake victims in Haiti; the people of Afghanistan; flood victims of Haywood County; People of Ukraine; Flood victims in Kentucky, victims of Hurricane Idalia; victims of the terror attacks in Israel; victims of gun violence in the US and the world

FOR AREA CHURCHES & MINISTRIES: Pine Grove UMC; 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; Peter Constantian; Pensacola United Methodist Church and their community; the Beacon Center, it's guests and volunteers.

FOR THOSE TRAVELING, ON MISSION, OR IN THE MILITARY: Lindsey Potter (Army National Guard); Josh Swindler (Navy); Ben Potter (Army); *for those preparing to go on the Mission Trip to Kentucky*

We want to join with you in prayer for your concerns and needs. Simply contact Pastor Steve 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.

| 2024 WORSHIP LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE: (Please note some changes) | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| (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 |
| 4/7/2024 | Tim Drum | Bruce Ikard | Jon & Melanie Jirka |
| 4/14/2024 | Bruce Ikard | Sharon Drum | Margarett McGraw & Freddy Jones |
| 4/21/2024 | Kathey Hollifield | Ginny Downs | TBA |

| REGULAR MEETINGS | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| GROUP | DAYS | LOCATION | CONTACT |
| Blue Ridge Bridge Club | Mondays - 9:30 am | Fellowship Hall | Ed Banta |
| SPUMC Book Club | 1 st Tuesday - 10 am | Parlor | Margarett McGraw |
| UMW Nightingale Circle | 2 nd Monday - 3 pm | Welcome Center | Sharon Drum |
| Finance | 2 nd Thursday - 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall | Bert Sheeley |
| Care and Fellowship | 2 nd Saturday - 10 am | Fellowship Hall | Debby Misicka & Larry Bohannon |
| Choir Practice | Wednesdays - 6:00 pm | Sanctuary | Kathey Hollifield |
| Trustees | 3 rd Thursday – 5:30 pm | Fellowship Hall | Lloyd Glenn |

| BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 3/1 – Beth Ziemba | 3/3 – Mariea Tountasakis | 3/4 - Donna Martin | 3/4 - Mike Murphy | 3/5 – Clara Ahlquist | 3/6 – Susan Davis |
| PRESENCE: | Sunday, March 24, 2024 | | | 9 am – 19 11 am – 87 Total – 106 | |
| GIFTS | 3/24/2024 | General Fund – \$2,281.00 | | 2024 Weekly Budget Need - \$5,611.00 | |
| | | Year to Date - \$58,550.77 | | YTD Budget Need - \$67,332.00 | |
| | | Community Assistance - \$260.00 | | Shepherd's Staff - \$50.00 | |
| | | UMW/UWIF Bake Sale - \$310.00 | | Shepherd's Staff Food - 62 | |

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

Lector: Meredith Hoilman Greeters: Wayne & Wanda Henline Children's Time: Beverly Greene

Prelude: Instruments Offertory: Handbells & Piano

WITNESS: NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS WORLD, GOD FULFILLS THE PROMISES OF NEW LIFE, FULL LIFE, AND RESURRECTED LIFE. IN THIS TROUBLING TIME, HOLD ON TO GOD'S PROMISES. LET THEM GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS. AND, IN CREATIVE AND UNEXPECTED WAYS, LET US SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH THIS TROUBLED WORLD – THAT NO MATTER WHAT, DEATH DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD!

****Next Week's Scriptures – April 7, 2024****

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1 – 2:2; John 20:9-31