

# Welcome to Spruce Street United Methodist Church

*“A Church at the Heart of Morgantown  
with a Heart for Morgantown”*



March 10, 2024

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Worship 8:30AM and 10:45AM

Children's Church 10:45AM

Sunday School 9:40AM

386 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

304-292-3359 [www.sprucestreetumc.org](http://www.sprucestreetumc.org)

[facebook.com/sprucestreetumc](https://facebook.com/sprucestreetumc)

Office Hours: Mon-Thur. 9am-1pm



(\*\*indicates to stand if able)

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME**

Pastor

*Our Loving, Learning, Leading Prayer*

*God, as You lead us on this journey, may we faithfully follow the pathway of love and kindness built on Jesus Christ, the solid rock. Open our hearts to love everyone always. Open our minds to slow down and focus on Your will. Open our doors to welcome and share Christ's great commission, while making disciples of each of us. May we be led by You, putting You first in our lives and in all our endeavors. Amen.*

**\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist

Lenten travelers, the journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

**Only in God do we find our rest.**

Sometimes the road is easy, and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

**Other times the road is hard, and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions to be made known in public.**

Somedays we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

**Other days we struggle with the temptation to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.**

Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God and one another through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

**Come, let us worship God together! Amen.** (*Discipleship Ministries*)

**\*\*HYMN**

*Grace Greater Than Our Sin*

**UM #365**

**1. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.**

**Refrain:**

**Grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin!**

2. Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
points to the refuge, the mighty cross.  
(Refrain)

3. Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,  
brighter than snow you may be today.  
(Refrain)

4. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
will you this moment His grace receive?  
(Refrain)

FIRST PRAYER

Liturgist

**O God, You so loved the world as to give Your only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Grant to us the precious gift of faith, that we may know that the Son of God is come, and may have power to overcome the world and gain a blessed immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Discipleship Ministries*)**

PROCLAMATION

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

Liturgist

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and

whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

Spears

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor

GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

Pastor

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

16 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in Him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the Name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than Light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the Light and do not come to the Light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the Light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

SERMON

*"We Don't Practice Bumper Sticker Faith"*

Pastor

\*\*HYMN-

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

UM #206

1 I want to walk as a child of the Light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The Star of my life is Jesus.

REFRAIN:

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the Light of the City of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the Brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the Way to the Father. [Refrain]

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Eldon Callen, CLM 10:45AM

**We believe in God who created us, who loves us and makes us whole.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, whose death, and resurrection**

**is our salvation and our example.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit of God who calls us to abundant life. Amen.**

(Short Statement of Faith from the Uniting Church of Australia)

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eldon Callen, CLM 10:45AM

**O God, Your glory is always to have mercy.**

**Be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word,**

**Jesus Christ Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Hear the good news:*

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

### WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

#### INVITATION TO GIVE

Eldon Callen, CLM 10:45 AM

#### OFFERTORY

\*\*SINGING THE DOXOLOGY

UM HYMN #95 (Unison)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
praise Him all creatures here below:  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eldon Callen, CLM 10:45 AM

God of unwavering love, You have held nothing back in Your love for us, not even Your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to You. As we dedicate our offerings to You, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance You have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (*Discipleship Ministries*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UM #895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

\*\*HYMN-

*Amazing Grace*

UM #378

1. Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.

5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

### SENDING FORTH

#### CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Go in peace, to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.  
We are sent in Christ's Name. Thanks be to God!

#### BLESSING

May The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

#### POSTLUDE

**THE WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED, OUR SERVICE BEGINS**

#### **Post-Service Refreshments**

*Thank you, Judi!*

#### **Altar Flowers**

*"Happy Birthday Bonnie!"*

#### **Radio Broadcast**

*"In Loving Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Stenger by Doug & Jeannette"*

How to Give Online: [www.givelify.com/givers/](http://www.givelify.com/givers/)

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## RADIO, WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Listen on 1300am and 92.1FM

Church Website: [www.sprucestreetumc.org](http://www.sprucestreetumc.org)

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/sprucestreetumc](https://www.facebook.com/sprucestreetumc)

<http://mixlr.com/sprucestreetumc/> to connect to hear the live stream of our worship.

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*Please remember to sign up in Seeker's Hall for radio and altar flower, refreshment sponsors, and for liturgists!*

## PARENTS PLACE FUNDRAISER

It's doughnut time! We're currently selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts as part of our Spring fundraising efforts. Orders are due by **March 21<sup>st</sup>**! Original glazed donuts are \$13/dozen, and others like the following: chocolate iced rings, chocolate iced with sprinkles, glazed Kreme filled, Glazed raspberry filled, glazed lemon filled, glazed blueberry cake, strawberry iced rings, and glazed custard filled are \$14.00 a dozen. Classic and decaf coffee can be purchased for \$12.00 a bag.

\*Donuts will be delivered, fresh, on April 9<sup>th</sup>. You can contact the office for more information or to complete an order form.



**On March 17th** at 5:30PM, come as you are to Messy Church. Bring some friends and relatives for fun, food, fellowship and activities at Spruce Street United Methodist Church and join the fun!



Mark Your Calendars for an Easter Egg Hunt at the church on March 31<sup>st</sup>.



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD:

(Prayer updates can be shared with Carolyn Carr at [cdccarr@yahoo.com](mailto:cdccarr@yahoo.com))

- The Lee family
- Charlotte Murphy
- Rich Hilleary
- Linda Sweetman
- Edith Gibson
- Sue Olcott
- Sue Nutt
- Betty Anderson
- John Nutt
- Mary Kay McQuain
- Dottie Harman
- George Watson
- The Wolfe Family
- Dwaine McKinney
- Dave Turley
- Nathan Drumheller
- Jeanette Stanger
- Dixie Downes
- Rebecca Fallon
- Teresa Johnson
- Mike Glowacky
- Katy Glowacky
- Ken Shanes
- Gale Truman
- Penny Turley
- Eldon Callen
- Syndy Slaughter
- Dale Staley
- Traci Ashcraft
- Rebecca Gamble
- Marguerite Bostonia
- Claire Stanholzer
- Mike Grant
- Myra Thompson's family
- Amy Carr
- Carolyn Keech
- Judy Harman
- Wes Nugent
- Jenny Smith
- Suzann Haught
- Family of Bill Broskey
- Doris Jean Calvert

(The long-term prayer list can be found in the current Newsletter on our website under News and More)

- peace
- Our community folks who need our care and prayers
- state, city and county police, fire and emergency services
- Job losses in Morgantown and the area

### THIS WEEK:

Sunday, March 10	Worship & Christian Formation	
Monday, March 11	Harmony	3:00 PM
	SPPRC	6:00 PM
Tuesday, March 12	Crochet	10:00 AM
	Lent Study	12-12:55 PM
Wednes., March 13	Bible Study	11:00 AM
	UMM	6:00 PM
	Prayer Meeting	6:00 PM
Thursday, March 14	Yoga	10:00AM
	Choir	7:00 PM

## Upcoming

March 16-17	Circle of Friends	4-5PM
March 17	Messy Church	5:30PM
March 24	Easter Cantata	during church
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00PM
March 29	Good Friday Service	7:00PM
March 31	Sunrise Service	7:00AM

## LENT LUNCH STUDY- TUESDAYS IN LENT

- Start at noon, finish by 12:55 so you can get back to work.
- We start Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and end March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Spend time learning about the people who experienced the end of Lent with Jesus such as: **Thomas, Emmaus, Paul, Jesus**
- Lunch and book provided; let the office and pastor know, and it will be emailed to you.

## RADA CUTLERY UPDATE

RADA SUCCESS! Holiday sales were great! Popular items were popping corn, tomato slicers, dips, and sharpeners. Choir sales are ongoing so check them out.

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Thank you to all who support this ministry by serving, donating money for supplies, and keeping those we serve in your prayers.

## GIFTS OF LOVE

Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated. We are in great need of blankets, cookware, glassware, & coffee makers. Please remember we do not accept knives. Blessings to you for your help with this ministry.

## PRAYER CHAIN

Our e-mail prayer chain is an active part of our prayer ministry. If you'd like to be a part of this, please send your email address to Carolyn Carr [cdccarr@yahoo.com](mailto:cdccarr@yahoo.com). You're always welcomed to join our prayer meeting on Wednesdays at 6 on zoom. The link is on our webpage.

## YARN MINISTRIES 🧶

Prayer shawls, squares, cozies, angels, & crosses in my pocket are available to you as desired. If you have a special request, please contact Carolyn Carr.

Request -

We need volunteers to provide refreshments on Sunday morning. They do not have to be elaborate - just something to snack on after services. The sign-up sheet is in Seekers Hall. Thank you. 😊

The UMM (United Methodist Men) will meet this coming Wednesday, March 13th, at 6:00 at Eat 'n Park. We meet in the back room and our fellowship time together consists of a meal, short devotion, special program, and business (for our church and community). This month's program will be presented by Don Davis as he shares information from his attendance at a regional/national meeting for the UMM. This information is important as our Men of the United Methodist Church look ahead to 2024 and beyond. Please attend and support your faith and the men of the church. Questions? Call or text Dan Erenrich at 304-826-0930. Blessings!

### The Staff at Spruce Street UMC

- Bishop Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner Ball
- District Superintendent Rev. Amy Shanholtzer
- Pastor Rev. Bart R. Thompson
- Lay Minister Eldon Callen
- Lay Leader Ken Shanes
- Building Supt. Bonnie Johnson
- Children's Ministry Coordinator Lena Glowacky
- Choir Director Dr. Sam Spears
- Organist Dr. Marguerite Bostonia
- Admin. Asst. Cathy Calkins
- Finance Sect. Judy Kennell
- Lay Servant Don Davis
- Parent's Place/Playdates Coordinator  
Samantha Goulet