

# Welcome to Spruce Street United Methodist Church

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



12th Sunday After Pentecost

August 11, 2024

Worship 8:30AM and 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

**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**

**Psalm 130:1-2,7-8**

**LITURGIST**

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my cry!  
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!  
O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.  
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

**\*\*HYMN**

*All Who Hunger*

**TFWS 2126**

**1 All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
You that year for days of fullness, all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**2 All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered In communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**3 All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.  
Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

FIRST PRAYER

LITURGIST

O God, when someone close to us betrays us, it tears us apart. Even when we manage to defend ourselves, it's hard to feel that we're the winner. O God, we pray for friends-turned-enemies. Assure us, and them, of your continuing love, and teach us how to mend and to forgive. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

PROCLAMATION

FIRST READING

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

LITURGIST

25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

<sup>51</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*You Raise Me Up*

Garrett Harper

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PASTOR

SECOND READING

2 Samuel 18:5-15, 31-33

PASTOR

<sup>5</sup>The king gave orders to Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.' And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. <sup>6</sup>So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. <sup>7</sup>The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. <sup>8</sup>The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. <sup>9</sup> Absalom happened to meet the servants of David.

Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. <sup>10</sup>A man saw it, and told Joab, 'I saw Absalom hanging in an oak.' <sup>11</sup>Joab said to the man who told him, 'What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt.' <sup>12</sup>But the man said to Joab, 'Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not raise my hand against the king's son; for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying: For my sake protect the young man Absalom! <sup>13</sup>On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof.' <sup>14</sup>Joab said, 'I will not waste time like this with you.' He took three spears in his hand, and thrust them into the heart of Absalom, while he was still alive in the oak. <sup>15</sup>And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him. <sup>31</sup> Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, 'Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.' <sup>32</sup>The king said to the Cushite, 'Is it well with the young man Absalom?' The Cushite answered, 'May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.' <sup>33</sup> The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would that I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!'

SERMON

"Bitter Tears"

PASTOR

\*\*HYMN

*O How He Loves You and Me*

TFWS 2108

1. O how He loves you and me! O how He loves you and me!  
He gave His life, what more could He give?  
O how He loves you; O how He loves me;  
O how He loves you and me!
2. Jesus to Calvary did go; His love for sinners to show.  
What He did there brought hope from despair.  
O how He loves you; O how He loves me;  
O how He loves you and me!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTOR

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UMH. 883

Eldon Callen, CLM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

UMH. 890

Eldon Callen, CLM

WORSHIPPING THROUGH GIVING

INVITATION TO GIVE

Eldon Callen, CLM

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eldon Callen, CLM

God of boundless love, in this sacred moment of giving, we come before you, recognizing your unwavering compassion and tender mercy. As we offer our gifts, we also lift our hearts in prayer for all who are burdened with pain and uncertainty. May your healing touch reach those in need and may your love bring comfort and strength to troubled hearts. We entrust our prayers to you, knowing that you hear and respond with boundless grace. Amen. (2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH. 895

Eldon Callen, CLM

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

*God, How Can We Forgive*

TFWS 2169

1. God, how can we forgive when bonds of love of torn?  
How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?  
When human loving fails and every hope is gone,  
Your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.
2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,  
how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?  
The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.  
A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,  
When you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?  
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.  
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

SENDING FORTH

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

PASTOR

*"Don't work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life." Heed the Words of Jesus. "For this is the will of My Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."* For truth is everlasting

BLESSING

PASTOR

Beloved, may God's grace open your hearts to recognize the needs of your neighbors; may God's mercy fill your prayers, and may God's peace empower you to share the goodness and blessing you receive from God with all. Amen.

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED, OUR SERVICE BEGINS

**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 flowers, refreshment sponsors, and for liturgists!***

**Post-Service Refreshments Thank You!!**

**Altar Flowers** *In Honor of Cindy Cramer's Birthday~Pat Pierce*

**Radio Broadcast** *In Loving Memory of Dewey and Mary Hastings*

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

SSUMC Offering & Attendance	August 4, 2024
Weekly Offering \$4,394.95	Weekly Budget \$5,067.31
Attendance both services 86	on-line 233 Radio est. 300

### VOLUNTEERS

We need a few volunteers to help with the bulletins on Wednesdays & Thursdays from 11Am-1PM. If you're like to help, please contact Pastor Bart or Cathy. Thank you

### There's a new thing going on

Consider being a greeter on Sundays to serve the church and the Lord.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES** We are collecting school supplies for Scott's Run - Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>

"Wednesday Vespers" begins on August 21st from 6:30-8:00 PM.

It is a weekly study learning about prayer, singing praises and being in fellowship with others in the Old Drummond Chapel at Suncrest UMC.

### **CHOIR ROOM cleanup Tuesday, August 13 at 9AM**

The West Virginia Conference for the United Women in Faith will be held on October 25 through the 26<sup>th</sup> in Summersville, West Virginia. Registration forms are to be turned in to Barbara Loftis by September 20, 2024. Copies of the form are in Seekers Hall and in the office during office hours.

### **OUTREACH AND NURTURE MINISTRY**

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS** 🕊️ . Thank you to all who support this ministry. We will serve on Saturday, the 17th & Next Sunday at 4PM. IF you would like to serve, please contact Carolyn Carr at [cdccarr@yahoo.com](mailto:cdccarr@yahoo.com)

**GIFTS OF LOVE** ❤️ Thank you for your prayers & support. We are collecting household & baby items for the Morgan family who lost everything in a fire. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church or contact Carolyn Carr if you need help.

**PRAYER CHAIN** 🙏🙏 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)

**YARN MINISTRIES** 🗨️ Prayer shawls, squares, cozies, angels, & crosses in my pocket are available

### **PICNIC**

In September, a church picnic will be held under the pavilion. There are more details to come.

Ever wonder what a preacher's house looks like? Now you can see! Come to the Wesley UMC Parsonage Open House on Sunday, August 11, between 2:00 and 4:00 PM! The house is located at 373 Rotary Street, and we're excited to show it off to you! There will be tours, conversation, fellowship, cookies—all the things that make life worthwhile. So put it on your calendar now: Parsonage Open House on August 11, from 2:00 to 4:00. See you there!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD:

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

- Eileen Ford's Family
- Art Ford
- Dottie Harman
- Connie Erenrich
- Stephen Grant
- Nathan Drumheller's Family
- Ray & Carolyn Hubbard
- Sandra Britton
- Teresa Johnson
- Edith Gibson
- Carol McCarney
- Peggy Brookes
- Michael Hubbard
- Vic Zannotti
- Lacey Lewis
- Jacob Morgan & Family
- Debbie Patton
- Mildred McCracken
- Becky Sadler
- Mary Townsend
- Judi McCracken
- Dave Turley
- Bob Ridgeway
- Syndy Slaughter
- Morgan Weaver

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

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, Aug. 11	Worship & Christian Formation	
	Open House-Parsonage	2PM-4PM
Monday, Aug. 12	Harmony	3:00PM
	SPPRC	6:00PM
Tuesday, Aug. 13	Choir room cleanup	9:00AM
	Welcoming Committee	6:00PM
Wednes. Aug. 14	Bibe Study	11:00AM
	Prayer Mtg.	6:00PM
	UMM @ Eat n Park	6:00PM
Thurs. Aug, 15	Yoga	10:00AM
	UMW District Meeting	5:30-7:30PM
Sat. Aug. 17	Circle of Friends	4PM

### The Staff at Spruce Street UMC

- Pastor Rev. Bart R. Thompson
- Lay Minister Eldon A. Callen
- Choir Director Ashley Lewis
- Organist Dr. Marguerite Bostonia

**Parents' Place** is looking to hire a teacher for our Preschool Room. For more information or to apply, email [operations.parentspplace@gmail.com](mailto:operations.parentspplace@gmail.com)

**The United Methodist Men** will meet this coming Wednesday, August 14th, at 6:00 at Eat n' Park. Our featured speaker for the evening is our own Kent Hastings. Kent is a special guy with many talents. We are anxious to hear Kent share his experiences and passions. Please come out and enjoy and support Kent. If there are any questions, please call or text Dan Erenrich at 304-826-0930.