





Welcome to Spruce Street United Methodist Church  
"A Church at the Heart of Morgantown  
with a Heart for Morgantown"

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

*(\*indicates to stand if able)*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

Pastor

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

LITURGIST

Lift up your heads, O gates!

**and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory  
may come in.**

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

LITURGIST

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

**With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the  
eternal Christ?

**With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever  
living, ever green.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our  
Savior?

**With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion,  
death, and resurrection.**

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son  
of God?

**By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold  
the saving work of God.**

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor

**BLESSING OF THE TREE (UNISON)  
LITURGIST**

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**BLESSING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Pastor

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love, and the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin, may this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE 1** Schlobohm 8:30am/ Wolfarth 10:45am

Reading: Isaiah 60:2-3

*For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

HEBREW BIBLE READING Jeremiah 33:14-16 Liturgist

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Choral Anthem: "Come, Emmanuel"

by Paris

\*GOSPEL READING Luke 21:25-36

Pastor

<sup>25</sup>"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the

kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be

alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Homily

“And So It Begins”

Pastor

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith Based on Luke 21:25-36*

*But when these signs begin to happen,  
stand erect and raise your heads.*

We shudder at signs we see.

Anxieties bombard us.

Our hearts are afraid.

Lord, let us be vigilant, hold our heads high.

Make us an Advent people

with hope as our

stronghold. Jesus,

You once came into our world with all its sorrows.

Keep us awake and alert to your presence

in the midst of our struggles now.

Tell us again that your love

will triumph.

*Written by Anne Osdieck*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord of Advent that prepares us for our Christmas Peace, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift you gave freely. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you.

**We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the screams of those in need.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, free us from our captivity, free us to a life lived in joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE- (SEE SCREEN)**

**Pastor**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **THE OFFERING**

**We give joyously to our Lord with our time, talents, gifts, service, presence, and witness.**

#### **DOXOLOGY: (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 DEDICATION***

**Holy God of Light and Love: Lead us through this season of journey, not only in our worship, but also in our living. Ignite not just candles, but the flames of our faith, that we will fully trust you more with all we are and all we have. As we offer our gifts to you, open our hearts to the joy of generosity, that we might give compassion recklessly, judgment sparingly, and forgiveness unconditionally. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## SENDING FORTH

\* “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”, verses 1, 4, 7

### **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God  
appear.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O  
Israel.

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse’s tree, an ensign of thy  
people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all people on thy  
mercy call.

*Refrain*

7. O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart  
and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver  
us from earthly strife.

*Refrain*

\*BENEDICTION IN UNISON

**Go forth in peace, 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

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# ***THE SPRUCE STREET ANNOUNCEMENT DISPATCH***

*Sunday, November 28, 2021*

## **RADIO BROADCAST DEDICATION**

(no sponsor)

## **ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION**

- In Memory of Ralph Schlobohm  
by Luella

**Special Thanks to all that helped decorate the church for the Christmas Season!**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD:**

(Prayer updates can be shared with Carolyn Carr at

[cdccarr@yahoo.com](mailto:cdccarr@yahoo.com))

Quinn Williams

Charlotte Taylor

Becky Digman

Jean Losh

Pam Todd

Jerry Hott

Delbert and Del Hilling

Elaina McCutcheon

Rita and David Friend

Debbie Davis

Sarah Davis

Debbie Summers

Jimmy Neville

Jane Thompson

Lynda Ware and family

The family and friends of David Goff

The family and friends of Judy Poe

Unspoken Prayers

Art and Eileen Ford

Frances Lindamood

Dale Staley II

Dana Trent

Phyllis Glowacky

Jean Smith

Pastor John Welch

Bob Jones

Dorothy Moore

Connie Rutan

Teresa Murray

Sancie Smallwood

David Thompson

Kevin Taylor

Jessica Martin

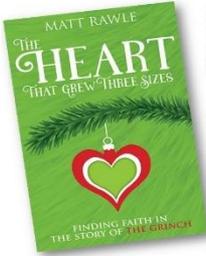
Keith and Carolyn Carr

## **UPCOMING CHURCH CALENDAR**

- *ADVENT STUDY, Sundays at 6pm, in-person and via Zoom*
- *Administrative Council, Monday at 6pm*

# Upcoming Advent Class

At Spruce Street United Methodist Church



## Hybrid Advent class

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes:  
Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch

- ✦ Begins November 28 @ 6pm
- ✦ Spruce street UMC
- ✦ Choose to attend in-person  
or by Zoom
- ✦ Masks required in-person



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## THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev'd Bart Thompson: (304) 813-7213; pastor@sprucestreetumc.org

**Administrative Assistant (Madelaine Shultz):**

secretary@sprucestreetumc.org

**Communications (Judi McCracken):** crack1111@comcast.net

**Building Supervisor (Bonnie Johnson):** johnson26541@yahoo.com

**Prayer Focus (Carolyn Carr):** cdccarr@yahoo.com

**Financial Secretary (Judy Kennell):** finance@sprucestreetumc.org

**Music Director (Marguerite Bostonia):** margbos6@gmail.com

**Choir Director (Sam Spears):** samuelbspears@outlook.com

**Children's Ministry (Lena Glowacky):**

childrensministry@sprucestreetumc.org

## CHURCH INFORMATION

Spruce Street United Methodist Church

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

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

386 Spruce St, Morgantown, WV. 26505

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

(closed Friday, Saturday)

Office Phone: (304) 292-3359

## HOW TO GIVE ONLINE

Please use our app

<https://www.givelify.com/givers/>.

REMEMBER TO USE THE CHURCH GIVING APP ON GIVING TUESDAY AFTER CYBER MONDAY on November 30, 2021.  
[www.givelify.com/givers/](http://www.givelify.com/givers/)

**COMMUNICATION MINISTRY:**

**RADIO, WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE**

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

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

Check out <http://mixlr.com/sprucestreetumc/> to connect to hear the live stream of our worship. To listen to past worship services, when on the homepage scroll down on the left-hand column and click Showreel items for past worship services.

**PRAYER & OUT REACH MINISTRY:**

Our prayer shawls, prayer squares, crosses in my pocket and masks are always available. If you desire or need them, please let us know. We will bring them to you. 😊

Gifts of Love ministry is in need of twin size bed sheets, light weight blankets, bakeware, pots and pans, new standard size pillows and fans. Thank you for your generosity.

**Collecting for Books and Towels**

**Bath and Books**

**Donate:**

- character bath towels
- children's books

**Where:**  
Bring donated items or monetary donations to the church

**Items benefit Local Head Start Students!**

**Ages:**  
• 3-5

**Questions?**  
Contact: Lena Glowacky  
[lglowack@gmail.com](mailto:lglowack@gmail.com)  
or (304) 319-4040

**Collecting for Friendship House Blankets and Toiletries**

## COVID PROTOCOLS UPDATE

- We want to thank you all for being kind, caring, and loving people who love God and love neighbor.
- We want to thank you for being a wonderful church family and following the Covid protocols and keeping people safe. #GREAT JOB DISCIPLES!!!! #YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!
- We are going to reintroduce one congregational hymn into the service at the end of the service.
  - Masks will be required
  - Social Distance will be maintained
  - Hand washing and sanitizing are encouraged
  - Please wait till the ushers dismiss you, so as you wait:
    - Listen to the postlude
    - Pray
    - Know you are blessed, beloved, child of God, precious and beautiful to behold
- Remember the protocols are an expression of discipleship and we are building a loving and caring church community that includes a place and home for most vulnerable of our population.
- We are adjusting our bulletins and worship format to accommodate congregational singing.