

Empty Bowls Monongalia Soup & Bread Luncheon

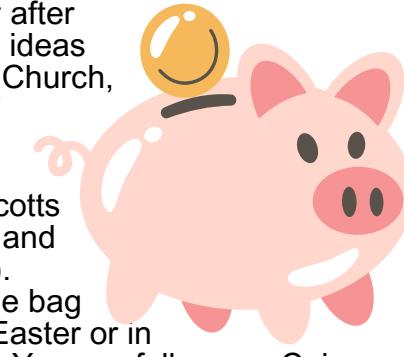
Empty Bowls Monongalia is having their annual Soup Luncheon on Saturday, February 28th from 11:00-2:30 at the Hazel and J.W. Ruby Community Center at Mylan Park. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. All proceeds support local hunger programs in Monongalia County! For tickets, see Gale Truman.



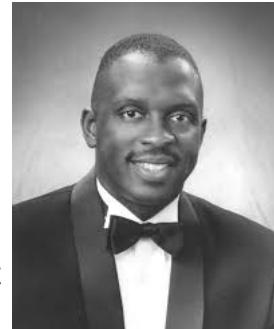
Empty Bowls
MONONGALIA

Coins for Lent

During Lent, we are reminded to examine our lifestyles and ask, "What can we do for others?" Lent is a good time to commit to giving money to a project that helps those in need. One way to involve the family is to collect coins during Lent and donate the money after Easter. Here are some ideas for your giving: Messy Church, Gifts of Love, Circle of Friends, Advent and Lent Studies, Confirmation Class, Scotts Run, Apportionments, and the Building (Trustees). Please put a note in the bag when you turn it in at Easter or in the Eastertide season. You can follow our Coins for Lent Giving Calendar in the February newsletter if you need some inspiration! Pick up a Lent bag and join us!



African American Composer Spotlight: Moses Hogan



Until his untimely death in 2003, Moses Hogan was one of the most celebrated contemporary directors and arrangers of spirituals. He was a graduate of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. He also served as Artist In Residence at Loyola University in New Orleans where he founded the internationally acclaimed Moses Hogan Chorale. In his short life, he created dozens of new original arrangements of classic spirituals, and formed several choirs that performed them with new vitality.

Gifts of Love

Thank you to everyone who donates to this ministry. It is a very active and ongoing service to our community. Besides the items on our basic list (available in our February newsletter) we have a special need for blanket, bed linens, & towels. Thank you.



We'll Miss You, Penny!

Please join us in saying goodbye to Penny Turley as she starts her next adventure! We will be having a luncheon in Penny's honor on March 1st after second service. Feel free to bring cards, photos, or stories! Food will be provided by UWIF.



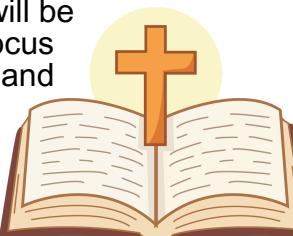
Random Acts of Kindness

**BE KIND
TO ALL
KIND**

Have you been showing kindness? Have you recorded the acts of kindness? Good! When you come into church services please remember to put a heart in the basket in Seekers Hall and share a special act of kindness that you observed.

Join Us for Lent Study

Our church's Lenten study will be on Tuesdays at noon. Our focus will be on the creation story and the meaning of our place in the created order. Lunch is provided. We will also, Zoom the lessons, using our Bible Study link available on the website. Please come and join us!



Lectionary Readings Sunday, March 1

Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17



Welcome to Spruce Street United Methodist Church



"A Church at the Heart of Morgantown with a Heart for Morgantown"

386 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505 304.292.3359

Website: sprucestumc.org **Email:** secretary@sprucestreetumc.org

10:45 a.m. Service on WCLG-AM 1300 or Morgan 92.1FM

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/sprucestreetumc/

Audio Live Streaming: <http://mixir.com/sprucestumc/>



1st Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

8:30 & 10:45 AM

WELCOME TO SPRUCE STREET CHURCH

We are glad you are here. Whether you are here for the very first time or a lifelong member of Spruce Street United Methodist Church, you are welcome. May this day be filled with God's presence and blessing.

2026 SSUMC Attendance & Stewardship - Sunday, February 15th

111 In Person / 56 Online / Radio Est. 300 / Offering \$13,465.39 / Budget \$4,879.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Radio Broadcast: In honor of Saundra Britton's 83rd birthday, by Roger Britton.

Altar Flowers: In honor of my beautiful bride Connie's birthday, by Dan.

Today's Liturgists: Greg McCracken (8:30) & Robyn Lindamood (10:45)

THIS WEEK AT SPRUCE STREET UMC

Sunday, February 22nd

8:30AM	Worship Service (In Person)
9:45AM	Sunday School
10:45AM	Worship Service (In Person & Radio Broadcast)
4:00PM	Circle of Friends

Monday, February 23rd

6:00PM Ad. Council

Tuesday, February 24th

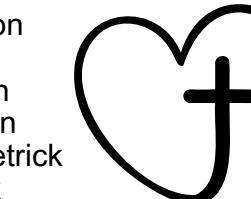
12:00PM Lent Study 1
6:00PM UWIF

Wednesday, February 25th

11:00AM Bible Study
6:00PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)

Thursday, February 26th

10:00AM Chair Yoga
6:15PM Handbell Choir
7:00PM Chancel Choir



Prayers of the People of God

Prayer updates can be shared with Carolyn Carr.

David Barnes
Fran Barnes
David Barnett
Lori Britton
SaRita Britton
Dolly Cale
Matt Drabidh
Judy Harman
Courtney Hetrick
Dale Hetrick
Sharon Hillary
Carolyn Hubbard
Mike Hubbard

Carolyn Keech
Judy McFarland
Joyce Moore
Charlotte Murphy
Bren Nichols
Susan Presley
Julia Rife
Dr. Wilbur Sine
Syndy Slaughter
Angie Thompson
Viv Wilson
Linda Wise
Mick Yanak

The Church in Worship

Congregational Responses and Prayers are in ***bold italic print***

† Congregation Standing (as you are able)

Prelude

Announcements and Welcome

Our Loving, Learning, Leading Prayer (on screen)

† Call to Worship

We hear a whisper of temptation, that says you need more and more, and yet we believe we are not enough.

People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.

We hear a whisper of temptation, and we look with envy at stones and wish they are bread.

People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God

We hear a whisper of temptation that urges us to hurt ourselves or others.

Our response is knowing we do not have to test God's compassion and love. God loves us, already.

We hear a whisper of temptation, to follow the false idols of greed, power, and wealth.

With the grace of God, we work through our temptations to serve and worship only God.

† Hymn #140 (UMH)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

First Prayer

God of the wilderness, as we begin this journey of Lent, help us to travel lightly. Strip away what distracts us and draw us closer to your heart. May we find you not only in comfort, but in quiet and simplicity. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Liturgist

2¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden," ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." ³ ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden," ³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die," ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Children's Moment

Pastor Bart

Choral Anthem

We Shall Walk Through the Valley of Peace by Hogan SSUMC Chancel Choir

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Liturgist

5¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned- ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Bart

4¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon

“Whispers”

Pastor Bart

† Hymn #2088 (TFWS)

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

African American Ministry Emphasis (on screen)

Pastor Bart

Affirmation of Faith (on screen)

UMH #881

Eldon Callen, CLM

Prayer of Confession (on screen)

Eldon Callen, CLM

Words of Assurance (on screen)

Eldon Callen, CLM

WORSHIPPING THROUGH GIVING

Invitation To Give

Eldon Callen, CLM

Offertory

† Doxology #95 (UMH) “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Eldon Callen, CLM

Prayer of Thanksgiving (on screen)

Eldon Callen, CLM

The Lord's Prayer (on screen)

UMH #895

Eldon Callen, CLM

† Hymn #269 (UMH)

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

SENDING FORTH

Blessing

Pastor Bart

Go, now, in the comfort and blessing of God's mercy, trusting that wherever you go, God's steadfast love surrounds you, sustains you, and supports you for the journey ahead. Amen.

Postlude