

Spruce Street UMC Newsletter

386 Spruce Street

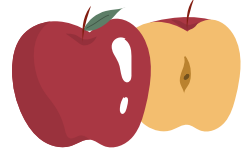
Morgantown, WV 26505

304.292.3359

Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. In-Person & 10:45 a.m. In-Person & Online

September Newsletter 2026



Doors

Doors do remarkable things. They are gateways to possibility, thresholds of hope, and borders of sanctuary. In practical ways, they also keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer; they keep out unwanted critters and, at times, unwanted people. Doors provide both protection and opportunity.

Doors can also serve as pilgrimage points and symbols in prayer and worship. Scripture gives us language for this: In John 10:9, Jesus says, *"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved."* Luke 11:9 reminds us, *"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."* Revelation 3:20 offers another image: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me."* In the Roman Catholic tradition, certain churches, cathedrals, and basilicas are designated to have Holy Doors during seasons of jubilee. The Catholic Church defines a Holy Door as a visual symbol of internal renewal: a willingness to make peace with God, reconcile with neighbors, restore what has been damaged, and reshape the heart through conversion and renewal. Passing over the threshold of a Holy Door symbolizes entering more fully into the presence of God, with forgiveness and transformation at the heart of the act.

Which gets to our doors. We need new doors. Our doors will be consecrated once they are replaced, they will be dedicated to the glory of God. We believe all who pass through them will have the opportunity to feel and experience the presence of the living Christ. We hope they find a generous welcome and a place of peace. We hope their heart is warmed and that they are transformed into disciples who make disciples.

If you would like to support this ministry, please pray for the church at 386 Spruce Street. If you are able, please also consider giving to the door project; a giving form is included in the newsletter.

Every Blessing,

Every Blessing,

Pastor Bart



September Birthdays

9/1	David Helms
9/12	Gale Truman
9/15	Jay DeFabio
9/15	Brandon Eddy
9/15	Harper Koon
9/15	Kevin Taylor
9/15	Lauren Webster
9/17	Abby Erenrich
9/18	Dale Hetrick
9/19	Tia Biro
9/21	Courtney Hetrick
9/22	Gerri DeFabio
9/22	Jeanette Stanger
9/27	Katie Glowacky
9/27	Art Hahn Jr.



SPRUCE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT

IN MEMORY OF • IN HONOR OF

Help us replace the doors of our church while honoring or remembering someone special.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Your Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

THIS GIFT IS:

☐ IN MEMORY OF

☐ IN HONOR OF

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:

☐ WALLPLAQUE— \$100 MINIMUM PER NAME

☐ REMEMBRANCE BOOK —\$25MINIMUMPER NAME

NAME(S) TO BE REMEMBERED OR HONORED

Additional names may be listed on the back.

MY GIFT

Amount of Gift: \$_____

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Givelify

**Checks payable to:
Spruce Street United Methodist Church**

Please write **“Door Project”** in the memo line.

GIVELIFY

You may also make your gift through the Givelify app.

IMPORTANT: When giving through Givelify, please include “Door Project” in the designation or notes so we know your gift is for the Door Replacement Project. Please also indicate whether your gift is for the **Wall Plaque or Remembrance Book**, and provide the name(s) you wish to honor or remember.

THANK YOU!

Your gift helps us care for our church home and provides an opportunity to honor and remember those who have been part of our lives and our church family.

Please return this form and your gift to the church office or place it in the offering.

Spruce Street United Methodist Church

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



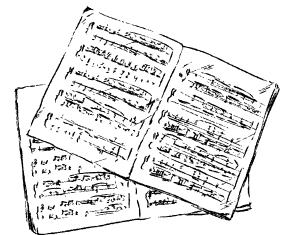
On August 23, Art Hahn shared a beautiful story about his late wife, Arlene, who was inspired by hearing the hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" on her transistor radio, on a difficult day at her job at Towers dormitories, many years ago. I never knew Arlene Hahn, but hearing this little anecdote lifted my spirits, as surely it did everyone at worship that day. Their love lives on in Art's memories, and Arlene still touches other people many years later.

We all have lost loved ones, and we keep their memories and traditions alive in our own unique ways. Keeping these stories alive is the best way to pass along their Christian examples and wisdom to our own children, who may never know them.

Family legacies are living things in spiritual ways. In the music world, we perform music from many past centuries because bringing them back to life inspires and energizes our spirits. Tunes that stay in our memories are a huge comfort during tough times, just as remembered advice from a father or mother can ease our minds when times are tough.

The Bible consists of many written forms of inspired teaching, lessons, miracles, and traditions. It is not reference material but living Word. God's Word comes to us as a legacy that is familiar to us: a personal story, a prayer or poem, a prophet's courageous example, and the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus which is a living sacrifice in His Church. When we sing a Wesley hymn, pray the Lord's Prayer, share a Psalm of David, and listen to the Choir, we all partake of a facet of the legacy of the Church, and God's plan for the world. Let us keep bringing this to life with every "Amen" and every hymn of praise which reflects the threads of God's plan, to continue a true Christian legacy.

*My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you peace and prosperity. PROVERBS 3:1-2 (CEB)*



-Marguerite

As my time at Spruce Street UMC comes to a close, I want to sincerely thank all of you for your support and kindness over the past couple of years. My time as your choir director has helped me grow immensely as a musician and conductor, but, more importantly, it has brought me into fellowship with a truly wonderful group of people. While everyone at Spruce Street has been deeply welcoming and kind, the members of our choir hold a special place in my heart. Each one of them is deeply thoughtful and caring, and I am constantly blown away by their generosity and willingness to help others. They are true examples of Christ's love, and I am so grateful for the music and fellowship we have shared. I know that I am leaving you all in good and capable hands, and I can't wait to cheer you on from afar. Please keep in touch! Once again, thank you so much for the experience, the memories, and the joy. I will miss you all!

With Love,

Ashley

"I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High." - Psalm 9:2

Spruce Street United Methodist Men

The Spruce Street UMM were treated to a fantastic program on Wednesday, August 12. Darrell Summers, former owner of Summer's Towing and Repairs, treated the audience to a great overview of the towing business, entitling his program, "Tow Trucks Do More Than You Think." Indeed, Darrell shared many stories and photos of tow trucks in action. Some of the stories were humorous, some made you scratch your head, and others touched your heart. It was quite eye opening to see and hear all of the ways that tow trucks are used.....more so than just towing a few cars or trucks illegally parked. At the conclusion of the dinner and program at Eat n Park, we went outside to the parking lot and were able to see one of these monster trucks in person (picture). What an amazing piece of machinery! A huge thanks to Darrell for his time and efforts and passion.



Giving Report

- **Feeding Ministries:** Money and Food Gifts in July and August over \$1300. We fed people of Mon. County and Morgantown at the pavilion, the local church, the office, and with Scotts Run.
- **Special Olympic Support:** Through Supporting Mundy's Run, over \$650.
- **Flood Relief:** Flood Buckets and Money \$1200

Thank you, SSUMC for your support and generosity. God bless.

Welcome, New Members!

We were blessed to welcome two new members to Spruce Street UMC in August.
Welcome to Eugenia Moore and Andrea Elkins!



Barnabas Stamp Drive

The Barnabas Group is hosting a stamp drive to ensure we have enough stamps to meet our needs. We send out more than 60 cards per month, making stamps our largest expense. Decorative stamps add even a little more extra sunshine. We love to send encouraging notes!!

Thanks to your generosity, all of the stamps and cards we have used over the years have been provided through donation. We truly appreciate your continued support of this outreach ministry.

Blessings,

Barnabas Group



United Women in Faith



When a lot of people think about women in the United Methodist Church, they think about good food – for good reason. Spruce Street United Women in Faith will soon have not one, but two, fundraisers involving mouthwatering homemade fare! On Sunday, October 18, buyers can retrieve pre-ordered soups, rolls, and cookies. Watch the bulletin and Seekers Hall for pre-paid order forms in the upcoming weeks. The other fundraiser – back by popular demand – is the Christmas cookie sale on December 13. The UWF will take pre-paid orders, and extra cookies will be available on the day of the sale.

Watch for information about our additional fundraiser, Boscov's Friends helping Friends sale. The sale is October 21, and the UWF will sell \$5 shopping passes worth 25% off your purchase! A large purchase will result in a larger discount! Remember though: You must shop on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 either in person or online.



Here's another thought about the Boscov's discount pass: We could help our newly housed neighbors in the area by purchasing something for Gifts of Love. (There's probably a wish list in this very newsletter. 😊) In addition, October is Undie Sunday month – use your shopping pass to buy undies! Purchase a discount pass to be ready for October 21.



If you have enjoyed earlier Sight and Sound productions, the fun and fellowship offered through Almost Heaven Tours, and the shopping excursions in the Amish country, mark your calendar for April 23-24 for *Jonah*! OR... if you've NEVER been on one of these bus trips, now is your chance to try it out! UWF President Teresa Johnson will provide additional information and collect deposits for reservations (681-209-3961). *Checks: Spruce Street UMW; memo: Jonah*. More information may appear in this newsletter.

In effort to finish an important project we need help from church members (THAT'S YOU!): If you have photos or electronic pictures, scrapbook materials, or greeting cards you meant to send, we need to complete a scrapbook for Penny Turley. Please send items to Carolyn Carr as soon as possible: 1307 BAKERS RIDGE ROAD, Morgantown WV 26505. You can also email electronic material: cdccarr@yahoo.com



As part of our ministry to educate children, last year we pledged \$250 each year to support Messy Church for three years. We have provided our second year of the pledge. Note: We recognize that Messy Church is not just for kids – it's multigenerational.

For another ministry, we plan to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas goods to clients at Scotts Run Settlement House. As soon as SRSB provides instructions, we will make plans.

We have been able to provide funding and assistance to members of our community and organizations by receiving support from you and through the hard work of our United Women in Faith members. At this time, we extend thanks to everyone who has been giving time and talents to our endeavors! Grace be with you.

Gifts of Love

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. If you have items that you no longer need that are gently used, please consider donating those items to our Gifts of Love. Suggested items include but are not limited to:

- Dishes
- Pots & pans
- Silverware
- Glasses/mugs
- Cooking utensils
- Can openers
- Mixing bowls
- Serving dishes/spoons
- Tupperware
- Cleaning supplies
- Coffeemakers
- Toasters
- Blenders
- Microwaves
- Dishcloths
- Towels
- Baking sheets
- Bakeware
- Measuring cups/spoons
- Potholders/mitts
- Cutting boards
- Storage organizers
- Blankets/quilts
- Linens
- Backpacks
- Flashlights/lanterns
- Batteries
- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Basic hygiene items



SCOTTS RUN DONATIONS

We collect nonperishable food and other items for Scotts Run Settlement House in our Overflow Area. **Please keep our low-income neighbors in mind as you are doing your grocery shopping.** Additional helpful things to donate include non-perishable, high-protein items such as canned tuna or beans and whole grains such as rice or pasta. These items help keep bellies full!



September Lectionary Scriptures

September 6 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 20 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September 13 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 27 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32



Job Description Spruce Street United Methodist Church

Position: Church Administrative Assistant

The Church Administrative Assistant will report to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and is under the daily supervision of the Senior Pastor. The position is under the yearly evaluation of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Position Requirements:

- Must display a Christian perspective and have a willingness to learn the workings of the United Methodist Church.
- High School Diploma or equivalent.
- Operation of general office equipment such as folding machine, copier, FAX machine, computer, and telephones.
- Efficient operation of the computer, including Word, Excel, Power Point, database programs, design software such as Canva, and Internet tools/programs.
- Must possess confidentiality, loyalty, and professionalism in day-to-day duties.
- Serve as an effective team member of the church staff and make every effort to attend staff meetings.
- Relaxed business-casual dress code

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Serve as a receptionist for the church office, noting/relaying requests and announcing visitors/members waiting to talk with the pastor(s) or other staff members.
- Answer incoming and recorded telephone calls.
- Collect necessary information for the Sunday service bulletin and prepare a rough draft of the bulletin for review and editing by the pastor(s). In addition, arrange for reproduction/copying of the final bulletin. Work in cooperation with volunteers.
- Preparation of letters, bulletins, newsletters, and post cards. Additionally, maintain mailing lists, e-mail lists, name tags, church directory, and Facebook and other social media platforms.
- Use the church software management system to maintain a central filing system for all church correspondence, reports, records (including charge conference, quarterly conference) etc. Access to the filing system shall be controlled and entered only by the Administrative Assistant, pastor(s), and staff.
- Maintain and update the monthly church calendar in a timely manner, adding or removing entries as they occur.

Job Description
Spruce Street United Methodist Church

- Notify persons that will be participating in the Sunday services.
- Collect and enter the information needed for membership rolls, weddings, baptisms, deaths, etc., that thereby enables the church membership secretary to enter proper data in the church books.
- Maintain the parking permits in cooperation with the City of Morgantown Police Department. A log will be maintained of all church members that have parking permits, The Church Secretary will recover all parking permits.
- Schedule building-use and collect payments as necessary for the use of church facilities, including kitchen, social hall, etc., according to church guidelines. Communicate building-use schedule to the Building Supervisor.
- Prepare material for mailing and delivery (as needed) to the post office.
- Maintain and update the sermon topic and other church information on the outside church bulletin board.
- Supervise maintenance on the various pieces of office equipment.
- Maintain and control access to the central office key cabinet.
- Access the office safe as needed.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Hours: 16 Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

Pay \$15 per hour

Approvals:

Pastor _____ Date: _____

Staff-Parish

Relations Committee _____ Date: _____

Church Administrative

Assistant _____ Date _____

Upcoming Events



Learn Ways to Deal with Challenging Situation of Life

Pragmatic Mindfulness Course Taught by Dr. Mark Clingan

There are many types of meditation. First, a brief note on what mindfulness meditation taught in this course is not and what it is. Mindfulness meditation is not a “trance state” or an abnormal state of consciousness. It is not a mysterious spiritual practice. Mindfulness meditation is practice at being more aware of the ever changing conditions that we encounter every moment.

Current research shows a host of benefits from mindfulness meditation and mindful living. These benefits range from physical health to relaxation and behavioral health. The focus in this course is on developing coping skills for the challenging situations that we all face and on increasing the enjoyment of living.

The approach from Pragmatic Mindfulness is secular but, with the guidance of clergy, anyone can apply the practices to their own religious or spiritual beliefs.

This course will meet once a week for five weeks. Each lesson lasts between 1 and 1½ hours. The course consists of a wide range of practices designed to develop awareness. These exercises and meditations are practiced during the lectures and also through the week. Most people find these exercises fun, relaxing, and instructive.

The price of the course is FREE to the congregation of the Spruce Street UMC. Lessons may be held in person or over Zoom. Dates and times are to be determined based on the desires of interested parties.



Join
Spruce St
United Methodist Church

ON OUR ANNUAL TOUR TO

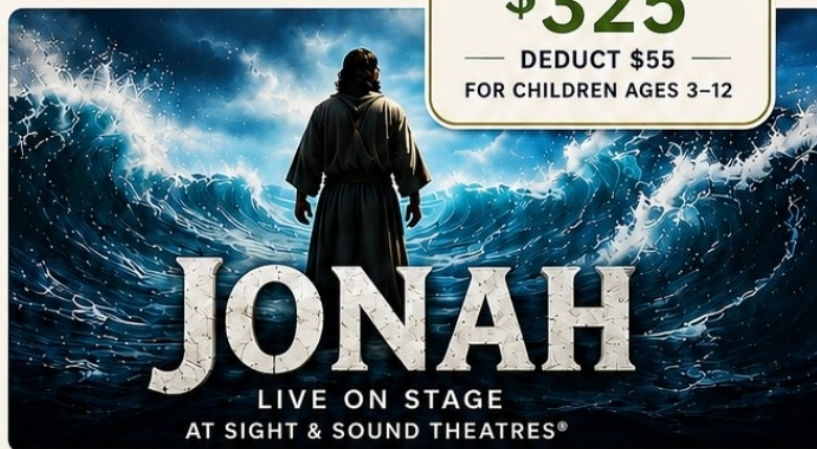
Lancaster
THIS SPRING!

as we partner with
Almost Heaven Tours

to provide a fun 2 days at Amish Country
and to see **Live Jonah** at Sight & Sound Theatres.

INCLUDES:

-  Lodging
-  Motorcoach Transportation
Motorcoach pick-up from Morgantown
-  1 Hot Breakfast
-  1 Dinner Hosted by
the Amish at Their Home
-  Admission to Sight &
Sound Theatres' Jonah
-  Time for Shopping
at Local Places
-  Visit Hershey
Chocolate World
-  and MORE!



APRIL
23RD - 24TH

COST FROM
\$325
— DEDUCT \$55 —
FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-12



Almost Heaven Tours

To be added to the reservations,

Teresa Johnson
681-209-3961

Spruce St UMC Office Hours & Contact Info

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)

304-292-3359

sprucestumc.org

SPRUCE STREET STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastor	Rev. Bart Thompson	304-813-7213 pastor@sprucestreetumc.org
Lay Minister	Eldon Callen	304-290-7142 eldonc45@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant	Em Pechon	304-292-3359 secretary@sprucestreetumc.org
Financial Secretary	Judy Kennell	finance@sprucestreetumc.org
Music Director	Marguerite Bostonia	margbos6@gmail.com
Choir Director	Ashley Lewis	jashleylewis@gmail.com
Children's Ministry	Lena Glowacky	childrensministry@sprucestreetumc.org
Building Supervisor	Bonnie Johnson	johnson26541@yahoo.com
Prayer Focus	Carolyn Carr	cdccarr@yahoo.com

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 3PM District Conference @ Bridgeport UMC	31 	1 	2 11AM Bible Study	3 10AM Chair Yoga 7PM Chancel Choir	4 	5
6 <i>15th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	7 <i>Labor Day – Church Office Closed</i> 11:30AM Labor Day Picnic	8 	9 11AM Bible Study 6PM UMM @ Eat N Park	10 10AM Chair Yoga 6PM Bell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	11 	12
13 <i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 4PM Church Picnic @ Westover Senior Park	14 6PM SPPRC 7PM Finance	15 	16 11AM Bible Study	17 10AM Chair Yoga 6PM Bell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	18 	19
20 <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	21 5PM Bishops Day @ Life UMC in Fairmont	22 	23 11AM Bible Study	24 10AM Chair Yoga 6PM Bell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	25 	26
27 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	28 6PM Administrative Council	29 	30 11AM Bible Study	1 10AM Chair Yoga 6PM Bell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	2 	3