

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



November 2026 Newsletter

November Ramblings 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Jesus Christ, who loves and redeems us, is at the heart of our Thanksgiving faith. This season invites us to pause, rejoice, and give thanks for the many ways God's grace is at work in our lives. It is a joyful time for gathering with family and friends, sharing God's abundance, and extending Christ's love through generous service. As United Methodists, we believe gratitude becomes most meaningful when it moves us to action—welcoming our neighbors, caring for those in need, and helping to transform the world. With Jesus first in our hearts, we give thanks for the grace, freedom, and opportunity to live out our faith with hope.

As Thanksgiving leads us into the busy holiday season, let us receive Jesus' words: "Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow" (Matthew 6:34, CEB). In that same spirit of trust, we remember the prayerful assurance of Julian of Norwich: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." So do not be anxious. Place each day in Christ's care, give thanks for the grace before you, and walk into the season with faith, peace, and hope.

Even through seasons of challenge and change, one truth remains: God is with us. Jesus never leaves us, and nothing can separate us from His steadfast love. As you prepare for Thanksgiving, take time to notice the blessings around you. What are you grateful for? Where have you seen God at work, bringing hope, healing, or new possibility?

What Scripture is speaking to your heart and calling you to faithful action?

Bring these answers to Christ in prayer, and consider sharing them with a friend, your small group, or those gathered around your Thanksgiving table. I invite the Spruce Street family to join in this prayer throughout the Thanksgiving season:

"Lord of the harvest, with joy we offer thanksgiving for Your love revealed in creation. You crown the year with Your goodness and give us the fruits of the earth in their season. Grant that we may use Your gifts for Your glory, for the relief of those in need, and for the well-being of all. Make us wise and generous stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

November Birthdays

Keith Carr	11/1
Neal Johnson	11/1
Ashley Lewis	11/2
Evan Burton	11/2
Dana Trent	11/5
Jenny Smith	11/6
Sue Carpenter	11/6
Becki Deem	11/6
Diane DeAngelis	11/10
Lacey Wolfe	11/11
Stacy Berry	11/13
Madison Britton	11/15
Pam Courtney	11/19
Paisley Hetrick	11/20
Tara Cook	11/23
Rachel Broskey	11/24
Davus Weaver	11/25
Dwayne McKinney	11/27



This Thanksgiving, I also invite you to express your gratitude through generosity. Your gifts to the church help us share Christ's love, serve our neighbors, and offer hope to those in need. You may give by mail, in person, or through the Givelify app at www.givelify.com. Together, as the people called United Methodist, we can give thanks with joyful hearts and open hands.

With gratitude and every blessing,

Rev'd Bart



WHY AM I SEEING THIS?

Sometimes in church, people may view the announcement slides and see an odd announcement about old tires, recycling electronics, or paper shredding. They may wonder, "What does that have to do with our church?" If we believe that "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it (Psalm 24:1)," and we take God's commandment to Adam to heart for our ourselves ("...work [the earth] and take care of it..." (Genesis 2:15)), perhaps these announcements are not "church-related" as much as they are "person-related."

Social Action Coordinators bring information about conservational matters to local congregations and district/local United Women in Faith units. If we can keep materials out of landfills and reduce the space we use for dumping, how much more beautiful will West Virginia – Monongalia County – be? We will be acting as good stewards of the earth by achieving the First Couple's mandate (Adam & Eve, that is) regarding the earth: Take care of it.

We also may view slides that recognize various groups of people who don't look like we do. That's the Wesleyan part of Methodism being "The World is My Parish." We educate ourselves so we are aware that beyond West Virginia, other people with other experiences and realities exist. The world did not begin on the day we were born – the land has history. People believe in their history, and therefore, to acknowledge and respect them is to love them.

So when you see announcements about "some ethnic month that isn't me," or "recycling stuff," remember we are connected to the earth by way of our forefather and foremother, who also produced all the beautiful people outside Monongalia County.

Judi McCracken, WV Conference, United Women in Faith Social Action Coordinator





Musical Musings:



Voting Music Homework

I cannot adequately address the obligation of Christian citizens to participate and vote in our American elections. We are governed by a human Constitution that recognizes no religious convergence of faith and law. But there is no denying “The Golden Rule” that permeates most religions and has stood the moral test of time for millennia: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” as cited in Matthew 22: 39. My humble approach to the most complex decisions in my own life is WWJD: What would Jesus do. This simplicity seems to cut through human machinations in very practical ways.

During this season of voting – and every scheduled election – we often receive good spiritual guidance to help us vote our consciences, from sermons and church leadership. We do not want to flip coins, quit voting, or use superficial issues. Most good Americans learn about their candidates and study the critical issues. This is an honor system, and it used to be honorable to simply respect secret ballots, a sacred duty.

In the crossover areas of politics and spirituality, some hymns come to mind, which could be an aid to prayer and consideration of our civic duty. I will leave the reader to use their own hymnal and Bible to reflect on the following:

UMH 441 ***What Does the Lord Require*** – Directly addresses the admonition of Micah 6 to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly by a Reformed minister from Sussex.

UMH 435 ***O God of Every Nation*** – By 20 th century Methodist pastor William W. Reid who served in WWII.

UMH 437 ***This Is My Song*** – The best-known hymn of Lloyd Stone, calling for heartfelt patriotism and world peace, written after the “War to end all wars.” The FINLANDIA tune is most powerful.

UMH 519 ***Lift Every Voice and Sing*** – The Black “national anthem.” The Johnson brothers were justice activists who created a keen sense of hope from out of the darkness of our nation’s past sins.

May these hymns guide you in your actions and decisions as you take part in our nation’s growth. “God of our weary years, God of our silent tears . . . keep us forever in the path, we pray.”

Marquerite





*The UMS purpose is simple: to serve others, build community,
and share God's grace and love with all.*

The United Methodist Students had a busy October! Here's a recap:

- UMS was designated an official WVU student organization on Oct. 14 and have an official webpage now: wvuengage.wvu.edu/organization/ums. It is fairly bare bones at the moment, but we are working on getting more photos and events posted.
- Visited the Wesley House at Fairmont State University to attend a screening of 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture, a documentary about the controversial introduction of the word "homosexual" in the Revised Standard Version. The Wesley House graciously provided dinner and cookies during the movie.
- Decorated a trunk and handed out candy at Spruce Street UMC's trunk or treat!
- Walked in the WVU Homecoming Parade, handing out even more candy!
- Hosted a used book sale to benefit the Appalachian Prison Book Project. We took books from APBP's space that they cannot send to prisons, set them up at Spruce Street UMC during the farmer's market and asked for donations. We raised over \$200 and helped clear space for APBP's important work.

For the month of November, Spruce Street, Wesley, and Suncrest UMC will be collecting Bibles and study Bibles to donate to APBP. For more information on this ministry, check out the October newsletter.

Special thanks to students Edith Martinez, Kathleen Williams, and Katerina Kopalek for making time in their busy schedule to help build this organization.

As always, please contact me if you would like to connect or suggest a ministry for us: njh0014@mix.wvu.edu.

Blessing to you all,

Nina Han, UMS President

Thank You from Our Hearts

Martha and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for the kindness, prayers, thoughtful gifts, notes, cards, and love each of you shared with us during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your encouragement and generosity touched us deeply and reminded us once again how blessed we are to serve such a caring church community.

Please know that we cherish your encouragement and hold each of you close in our hearts and prayers. Thank you for making this season so meaningful and for allowing us the privilege of walking alongside you in faith.

With heartfelt gratitude and love,
Bart and Martha

With Gratitude from the Clergy and CLM Staff

Thank you, Spruce Street, for the compassion, encouragement, and steadfast support you show us as your clergy and certified lay minister. We are deeply grateful for the privilege of sharing in ministry with you—serving our neighbors in Morgantown and extending Christ's love through our blessed connection.

Please continue to hold us in your thoughts, hearts, and prayers, just as we hold each of you in ours. May God richly bless you for the many ways you care, serve, and walk alongside us.

With every blessing,
Bart and Eldon

🎈 Messy Church News

Remembering to Say “Thank You”

Bible Story: Luke 17:11–19

At Messy Church, we are learning how important it is to remember to say “Thank you!” We are collecting individually wrapped candy to fill candy bowls for community helpers in our area. The bowls will be given to police officers, firefighters, 911 dispatchers, postal workers, city bus drivers, and others as a special way of saying “Thank you for all you do!”

Please help by donating leftover Halloween candy or any other individually wrapped candy by **November 15**.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Psalms 107:1

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend! Thank you for your continued devotion and support of Messy Church!



Holiday Dinner Fund Raiser



When: Sunday November 15, 2026

After 10:45 Service

Cost: Eat In - Free will offering

Take-out \$10

On the Menu: Turkey/Ham, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Vegetable, Rolls, Cranberry Salad.

Drinks: Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee

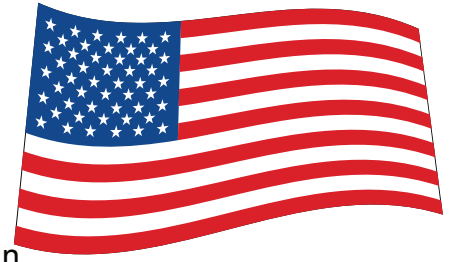
Desserts

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

SSUWIF

VETERANS DAY - NOVEMBER 11TH

On Veterans Day, we give thanks for the brave men and women who have served our country in the armed forces. We honor their courage, sacrifice, and dedication, and we remember the families who have supported them along the way. May we continue to hold our veterans in our prayers and show our gratitude for their service and commitment to our nation.



Spruce Street UMC Veterans

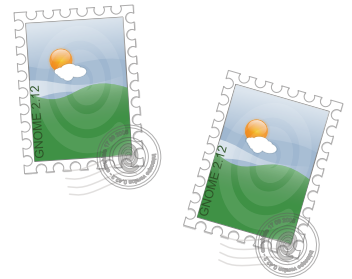
Richard Lee
Ernie Carlson
Dale Hetrick
Thomas Mersing
Doug Harman
Mike Wolfarth

Keith Carr
Art Hahn
Neal C Johnson
Eldon Callen
Joshua Cook

THANK YOU FROM THE BARNABAS GROUP

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Barnabas Group stamp drive. Your generous donations are appreciated with heartfelt gratitude. You ensure we can continue to reach out to our congregants. Thank you again for your giving! You bless us!

The Barnabas Group

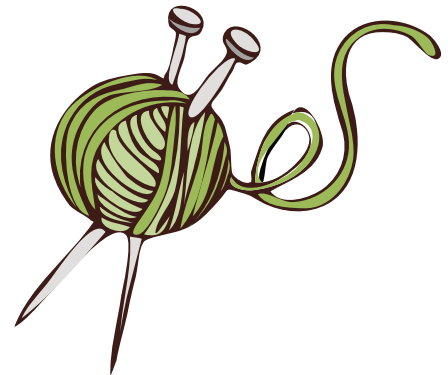


Yarn and Fabric Ministry

Our Yarn Ministry has grown to include fabric projects! This caring ministry offers prayer shawls, children's cozies, prayer squares, angel hugs, and now quilted lap throws.

This is an ongoing ministry, and all items are on display in Seeker's Hall and available whenever you or someone you know could use a little extra comfort and encouragement. We'll also be adding winter scarves and hats soon!

If you have a special request, please don't hesitate to contact Carolyn Carr. We're grateful for the many hands and hearts that make this ministry possible!



November Lectionary Scriptures

November 1 - All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-412

November 8 - 24th Sunday

after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 - 25th Sunday

after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 - Reign of Christ/

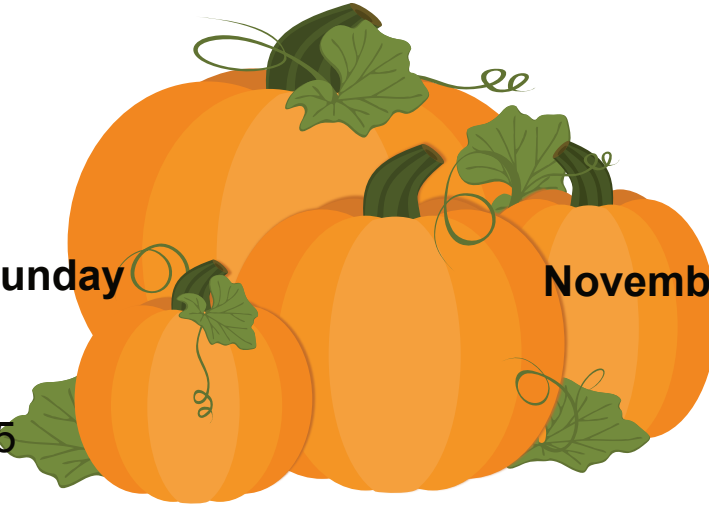
Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46



Prayer Chain

Our prayer ministry is very active. If you are part of the prayer chain and have not been receiving the emails or if you'd like to join the prayer chain, please send your email address to Carolyn at cdccarr@yahoo.com. Short term prayer list can be found in the bulletin each week. Names are moved to the long-term list in the Newsletter after a month in the bulletin.

Lori Britton

Saundra Britton

Becky Davis

Rubyann Downes

Sara Fuqua

Mike Grant

Judy Harman

Carolyn Hubbard

Mike Hubbard

Aly Hutzel

Carolyn Keech

Charlotte Murphy

Sharon Richman

Mary Belle Rowe

John Simpkins

Syndy Slaughter

Linda Sweetman

Penny Turley

Carlton Withrow

Mary Lynn Withrow

Tim Moats

Mike Roberts

Charlene Moats

Mary Brand

Roy Lawson

Wanda Brosky

Freda Barnes

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

We've had requests for a dresser, kitchen chairs, and a small dining table.

SCOTTS RUN DONATIONS

We're collecting donations to support Scott's Run Community Center! Right now, they need non-perishable food for their school weekend backpack program, general community pantry items, and local grocery store gift cards for their upcoming Thanksgiving giveaway. Thank you for helping nourish our neighbors!



A PAINLESS WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

Check your receipt for the Kroger Community Rewards statement. If you have not yet signed up at Kroger with their Community Rewards program, please do so as soon as possible. They will contribute to Spruce Street UMC every time you buy groceries. This does not take away from your points earned with Kroger toward fuel or groceries.



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



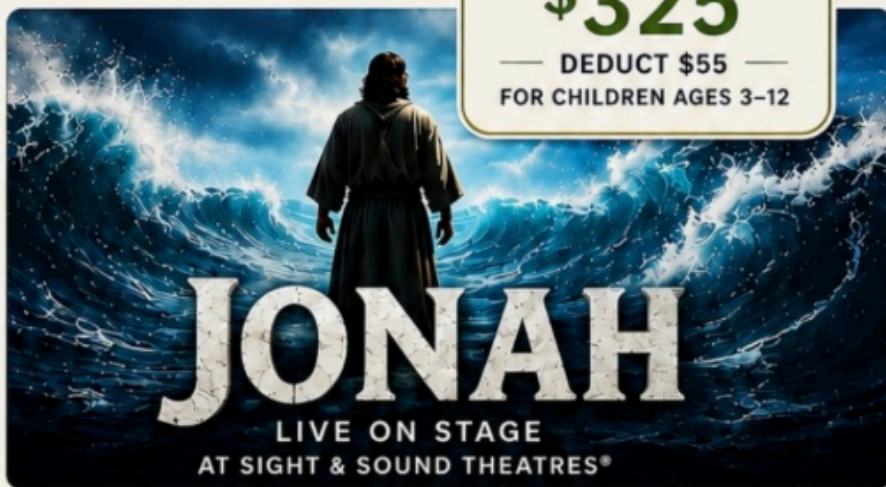
and MORE!

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 Street 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	Tara Cook	304-292-3359 secretary@sprucestreetumc.org
Financial Secretary	Judy Kennell	finance@sprucestreetumc.org
Music & Choir Director	Marguerite Bostonia	margbos6@gmail.com
Children's Ministry	Lena Glowacky	childrensministry@sprucestreetumc.org
Building Supervisor	Bonnie Johnson	johnson26541@yahoo.com
Prayer Focus	Carolyn Carr	cdccarr@yahoo.com

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>All Saints Day</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	2 11:30AM Heritage Bible Study	3	4 11AM Bible Study 6PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	5 9AM Chair Yoga 7PM Chancel Choir	6	7
8 <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	9 6PM SPPRC	10 6PM UWIF	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 11AM Bible Study 6PM UMM	12 9AM Chair Yoga 6PM Bell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	13	14
15 <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School UWIF Holiday Dinner after 2 nd Service 5:30PM Messy Church	16 6PM Finance Committee 7PM Trustees	17	18 9:30AM Scotts Run Backpacks 11AM Bible Study 6PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	19 9AM Chair Yoga 6PM Bell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	20	21
22 <i>Christ the King/Reign of Christ</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School Hanging of the Greens after worship	23 6PM AD Council	24	25	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Church office closed	27	28
29 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	30 5PM Quota Meeting	1	2 11AM Bible Study	3 9AM Chair Yoga 6PM Bell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	4	5