



If you're stressing about what to get that hard-to-please relative for Christmas, the SPUMC youth have an answer for you! The 2018 God's Creation Calendar is available for \$10 and will be sure to please even the grinchiest of gift getters. Checks can be made payable to the church with "Youth Group fundraiser" in the memo line. See you in the Narthex after services!

SPUMC Youth Activities Calendar

- Dec 17 9⁴⁵ Sunday School
5³⁰ Live Nativity
- Dec 24 NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES
- Dec 31 9⁴⁵ Sunday School
Youth Group, TBD

FAITHFUL Families

10 a.m., Sunday,
Jan 14, 2018

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Contact Erin Shore for details:
messhore@gmail.com



Kids Choirs meet each week (Sunday) from 4:45-5:30 pm in the choir room. This is open to all kids, pre-K through 5th grade. Please email David Smith (dsmith4430@gmail.com) to sign up your child for this year's Kids Choir!

Handbells - Have you ever played handbells? Never played handbells but want to give it a try? The SPUMC handbell choir began practice this past week. If you have any interest, please email David (dsmith4430@gmail.com).

Blessing Bags

Blessing Bags are distributed through the SPUMC Food Pantry for the homeless and at-risk high school students. Please leave your donations in the Blessing Bag box in Fellowship Hall (under the coat rack).

Live Nativity
5:00 -7:00 pm
Sunday, December 17



Candle Christmas Eve
Worship Service
Sunday, Dec 24
at 5:00 pm

Worship music
from 5-5:30 pm



Fun for Seniors

The Senior Adult Fellowship will meet at 11:30 on Tuesday, December 19 at Table on the Green, Midland Rd., Southern Pines. A program of Christmas music will be provided by Jane Kersey.

Menu choices are Shrimp Scampi on Angel Hair Pasta with salad or Cashew Chicken with steamed or fried rice, salad and a spring roll. Cost of meal is \$10.00 plus tip.

Please contact Lin Heimrick (315-4090) with your choice of menu if you plan to attend.

Thank You FOR **GIVING** GENEROUSLY

Analysis of Offering, Dec 10, 2017

- Operating - \$9,356.00
- Loose Plate - \$233.10
- Sunday School - \$22.00
- Debt Retirement - \$1,889.00
- Enrich Educat. Fellowship - \$1,700.00
- Pastors Discretionary - \$25.00
- Special Funds - \$125.00
- Church Preservation Fund - \$1,287.00
- Special Music Gifts - \$300.00
- Moore Free Care Clinic - \$20.00
- Staff Gifts - \$100.00
- Undesignated Memorials - \$25.00
- J & H Caton Endowment - \$2,003.10
- Southern Pines Primary Bu - \$20.00
- Family Promise - \$90.00
- Children's Clothing - \$555.00
- Food Pantry - \$345.00
- Zoe Ministry - \$200.00
- Total - \$18,295.20**

Summary of Gift Totals—12/10/2017

2017 Budget: \$747,885

Operating Contrib. Rq'd Wkly. - **\$14,392**

Operating Contrib. Rc'd YTD - **\$651,809**

Operating Rq'd YTD - **\$704,731**

Debt Reduction Received - **\$50,195**

Church Preservation - **\$18,121**

Please write on the memo line of your check into which church fund or funds you would like your donation designated: Operating, Debt, EEFF, ZOE, Food Pantry, etc. One check may be split into many different funds. \$50.00 check: Oper - \$25.00, EEFF \$20.00.

STOCK DONATIONS:

We are grateful for all contributions to SPUMC and its missions. If you care to make a stock donation to the church, we ask that you call Audra Webb Lubawski at First Bank Wealth Management. She may be reached at 910-246-0838. She will assist you with the stock transfer. The stock will then be sold immediately, and the funds will be deposited into our SPUMC account with First Bank. You will receive a donation letter from the church within the next two weeks documenting the transaction. All stock transfers will go toward the Operating Fund of the church unless the church is otherwise notified in writing.

The **2018 Finance Campaign** has begun. If you need a pledge card please contact the church office (910-692-3518) or the finance campaign chair, Bill Pate (williampate23@hotmail.com)

SPUMC Schedule of Meetings & Events

Sunday, December 17: Cantata "Were You There on That Christmas Night?"

- 8:15-12:15 pm Nursery (ages birth - 2 years)
- 8:30 am Cantata
- 9:30 am Fellowship Time, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 am Sunday School (for all ages)
- 9:45 am Complex Conversations, RH-5
- 11:00 am Cantata
- 5-7:00 pm Live Nativity

Monday, December 18

- 10:00 am SPUMC Food Pantry (food distribution)
- 6:30 pm Susanna Wesley Circle Dinner, RH-5
- 7:00 pm Finance Committee

Tuesday, December 19

- 9:15 am Staff Meeting
- 9:30 am Exercise w/Gloria Moore, Narthex
- 11:30 am Senior Adult Fellowship
- 3:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship Service, RH-5

Wednesday, December 20

- 9:00 am Christian Community Outreach
- 1:00 pm Staff Luncheon

Monday, December 25-26: Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

- 10:00 am SPUMC Food Pantry
No Communion in Chapel

Southern Pines United Methodist Church Christmas Season Schedule

- Dec 17** Christmas Cantata, 8:30 & 11 am (with orchestra)
Live Nativity, 5-7 pm (live animals + camel!)
- Dec 19** Blue Christmas Service, 3 pm
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Services, 10 am & 5 pm
- Dec 31** New Year's Eve Service, 10 am

- CR:** Choir Room (level, 1)
- FH:** Fellowship Hall
- RH:** Reeves Hall (rooms are numbered 1-5)
- HP:** Hiatt Parlor
- KOW:** Kids Own Worship
- LPLL:** Little People Loving & Learning (preschool) (level, 1)
- SNL:** Sunday Night Live
- SWC:** Susanna Wesley Circle
- UMM:** United Methodist Men
- UMYF:** United Methodist Youth Fellowship
- *The Chapel is also located downstairs directly beside the elevator

Ministerial Staff

- Rev. Tommy Sweeley, Sr. Pastor
tlsweeley@nccumc.org
- Rev. Chae Albright, Assoc. Pastor
calbright@nccumc.org
- Erin Shore, Children's Minister
messhore@gmail.com
- Maren Lowrey, Youth Director
southernpinesumc@gmail.com



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Thank you so very much for my gift. Working at SPUMC is truly a blessing. I've grown in my faith and my profession, all the while making friendships that have spanned these past 15 years.

You are and have been a big part of my family, and we are very grateful.
—Nanette Martin, Admin. Assistant.

Southern Pines United Methodist Church U Connect December 17, 2017



For some, "Merry Christmas" will be a beautiful phrase spoken from the lips of family and friends. For others, "Merry Christmas" might be a reminder that this Christmas will not be such a cheerful time. Instead, Christmas will be a time of remembering loss, sadness, pain, loneliness. Wherever we find ourselves this Christmas, we can all be reminded that Christmas is a season which can be celebrated by the cheerful and the not-so-cheerful because the coming of Jesus many years ago is Good News!

On Tuesday, December 19, SPUMC is offering a different kind of Christmas celebration, a "Blue Christmas" gathering. Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." This is open to all, but is especially for folks who feel less than cheerful approaching the Christmas Season and want to come together for a time of remembering, conversation, and celebration. You are invited to this "Blue Christmas" celebration on the 19th at SPUMC at 3:00 p.m. Warm beverages will be served along with sweet holiday treats. So we can make preparations, please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Your RSVP, as well as any questions you might have about this gathering, can be sent to Tommy (tlsweeley@nccumc.org) or Chae (calbright@nccumc.org).



SPUMC Winter Clothing Drive

November 19 - February 18

To benefit clients of

Sandhills Coalition for Human Care

What to bring: CLEAN and gently-used

coats	vests	gloves
jackets	sweaters	scarves
hats	heavy socks	boots

For: men, women, and children of all ages

Place items in marked boxes outside of the large fellowship hall and outside of Reeves Hall at your convenience.

Those in need will greatly appreciate the comfort of warm outerwear, and you will enjoy less clutter in your closets.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR DONATIONS

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jane Dillon, the Tuesday morning receptionist, who answers the phone, files, and greets all who stop by the office during the SPUMC weekly staff meeting.

Jane has faithfully and joyfully served in this ministry for the past 10 years.

Jane, thank you for your always joyful disposition and ever-smiling face.



Alternative Christmas Fair

\$1,310 Northern Moore Family Resource Center

\$735 Family Promise

\$50 S. Pines Primary School

\$910 Moore Free Care Clinic

\$1,875 Heifer

Thank you for your generosity and for giving a gift that will keep on giving.

—The Outreach Committee

The **2018 Sanctuary Flower Calendar** is located in the Narthex on the desk at the Information Center. Hollyfield Design, 130 E. Illinois Ave., Southern Pines, NC 28387 will be the florist designing our arrangements. Select a date by signing on the calendar. You will receive a letter of instruction for payment, etc. Also included is a stamped postcard to be returned to the church office. You may fill out what you would like printed in the bulletin. The cost is \$50 plus tax per arrangement. Please direct any questions to Mikey Delle, flower Chairperson 910-725-0367.

Complex Conversations

is a Sunday School opportunity which allows people of all ages to have conversations around complex and important contemporary issues and topics that relate to our faith.

Join us today as we continue our discussion of the book *Toxic Charity*. Copies can be picked up and purchased in the church office for \$10. The class meets in Reeves Hall, room RH-5 at 10 am. For further information, please contact Chae Albright, calbright@nccumc.org