



The Epistle of St. Paul's

May 2024

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St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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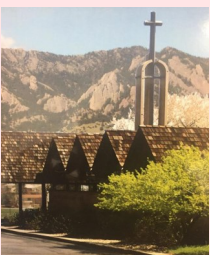
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From The Pastor's Desk...

When I sat down to write this article for the *Epistle*, the UMC General Conference was ten days away. I don't know what the outcome of this monumental gathering will be. I am confident, however, that whatever happens in Charlotte, North Carolina, between March 23 and May 3, it will reverberate throughout the Connection for years to come. In 2016, I attended the General Conference in Portland, Oregon. For ten days, I volunteered in the Prayer Room, supporting those in need of prayer and reflection during the difficult days taking place. I watched as delegates, bishops, spectators, and others walked the labyrinth, visited with spiritual directors, and entered into the prayer stations. Each day I sat in the arena, celebrating the amazing worship and agonizing during the emotional debates. I remember wondering, during one such debate, if I was witnessing the death of the church or the birth of a new church.

As you read this, the work of the hundreds of delegates from across the four continents where the United Methodist Church is found will be in the final days of their work. Revised Social Principles, fallout from the denominational disaffiliations, and issues surrounding human sexuality are among some of the issues that will be/have been considered. I pray that evidence of grace will have been present in Charlotte and that the world will have witnessed what happens when people of faith come together in the unity of God's spirit.

Here at St. Paul's, there are four days on the calendar this month that provide us with the opportunity to reflect on our faith in unique ways. May 9th is **Ascension Day** (Ascension Sunday is the 12th), the day when the church remembers the ascension of the Lord as recorded in Acts 1:6-11. On May 19th we will celebrate what, for John Wesley, was the most important day of the year for Christians: **Pentecost**, the "birthday" of the church, as described in the second chapter of Acts. The importance of this day cannot be emphasized enough. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be agents of transformation starting with ourselves and moving out through our congregation and into the world. On the 21st and 24th, the heirs of the Wesleys observe the spiritual awakenings of Charles and John Wesley in May 1738. This is an ideal time to look into your own heart and see where or how God has been at work in your life. The last of the four days is May 26th, when the church observes what is perhaps the most unique part of the Christian faith: **Trinity Sunday** (Matthew 28:19). Each of these days reminds us that the life of our faith community is an extension of the Christian faith as passed down to us from across the centuries and experienced by each of us afresh each day.

I pray that everyone connected to St. Paul's will be blessed by God this month and, in turn, will be a blessing to others. May is a wonderful month to celebrate, so let's make the most of this month to share what God is doing in and through our faith and our church.

Every blessing, *Pastor Charles*

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, May 2, at 11:45 a.m. at Old Santa Fe Mexican Grille (592 McCaslin Blvd., Louisville). Please R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, April 30, to Kathy Lloyd (klloyd79@comcast.net / 303-810-8004).

Breakfast Fellowship will meet on Saturday, May 11, at 8:00 a.m. at Le Peep (2525 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder, next to McGuckin's hardware). No reservations necessary. All are welcome!

Sew What will meet on Friday, May 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sandy Bainbridge's home. Please R.S.V.P. by May 14 to Sandy via text, email, or phone call (Sandy_Bainbridge@yahoo.com / 970-584-0311). Sandy plans to provide an egg-dish brunch menu. If folks' dietary restrictions/preferences necessitate other options, they are welcome to bring their own food/preferred drinks. Sew What is for those who love to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and/or enjoy visiting with one another.

Women's Summer Book Group

It's time to start planning for the 2024 session of this wonderful group. We meet weekly to discuss a good book, discover new ideas, and share what's going on in our lives. We've met via Zoom since the pandemic; that seems to work for most people, although it's certainly open for discussion. The past few years we've met Thursdays from 3:00-4:30, which seemed to work for most of the participants. We're always open to input. We try to find a book that is interesting, humorous, inspirational, spiritual, and available. Suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. If you haven't participated before, please consider joining us. We'll have a meeting to get organized, decide on a meeting time, review book selections, and select our book in early June. Watch for an announcement! Contact Judy Waller or Belinda Alkula for more information.

The UMC General Conference continues through May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Please pray for delegates as they prepare. Go to <http://www.mtnskyumc.org/light-a-candle> to express your prayers. Pastor Charles has begun posting materials, updates, and relevant links on the church blog (bolderstpauls.blogspot.com).

Thank you to everyone who participates in the King Soopers loyalty program. St. Paul's earned \$271.04 in first-quarter loyalty rewards.

Welcome returning members John and Margaret McIntosh, who rejoined St. Paul's on April 14. They were previously members here in the 1990s.

Music Appreciation Day is May 19.

Calling all musicians, friends of musicians, family members of musicians, and lovers of music—we need your help filling out the summer special music calendar. If you or anyone you know would be interested and willing to provide special music this summer, please let Amy Abshire know at amy_abshire@msn.com. Currently, every Sunday except July 21 is available! Thanks in advance for your help.

St. Paul's UMC welcomes and affirms people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

May Birthdays

5-8 Jim McKnight

5-11 Anna Dahlstrom

5-12 Joey Revier

5-14 Louise Cook

5-18 Madilyn "Madi" Wahl

5-20 Sandi Cook

5-21 Pat Cleaveland

5-22 Suzanne Polacek

5-23 Lorie Courier

5-26 Jerry Cantril

5-27 Doris Steiner

May Anniversaries

Carol and Neal Carbon

May 27, 2000

MAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

May 5

"To live in Love's embrace"

1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

May 12

"Don't look up"

Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:1-11

May 19 / Pentecost

"Prophesies, dreams, and visions"

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15; Acts 2:1-4, 14-21

May 26

Claudia Mills preaching

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