

The Epistle of St. Paul's

April 2020

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St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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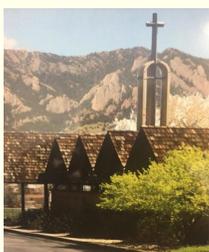
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From The Pastor's Desk...

Easter egg hunts. Getting a picture taken with the Easter bunny. Getting ready for chocolate candy. Buying new spring clothes. Chances are these are the responses most children (and more than a few adults!) would give if asked how they were preparing for Easter. Or at least it was that way last year.

This year is different for us and for the world around us. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt for years to come in the life of St. Paul's UMC and in communities where we live. As I write this, we have missed our first Sunday together and will miss at least two more. We are in uncharted waters and I pray that we will continue to be a community of faith, even in the absence of the physical community.

As a faith community, we are reminded that Easter is coming, and that it is really about the love Jesus offered for each one of us. His resurrection breaks the power of death. During our worship services, in our devotional reading, and through virtual connections, we have journeyed with Jesus, exploring how the path Jesus took toward Jerusalem can still speak to us today in the shadow of the Flatirons.

We are always on a journey, we Christians: A journey of faith and reflection; a journey of hope and of life; a journey of sacrifice and service. Lent is a time when we Christians are called to examine our lives, to be intentional about the relationship we have with our God. Some have chosen during this time to "give up something for Lent," as a sign of their unity with Christ. Others took on something, perhaps reading the Lenten devotional each day, or perhaps taking part in "Lent Madness!"

However we began the Lenten season, we have now arrived at the front porch of April, ready for Easter to come! Yet, there are nearly two more weeks of Lent still ahead of us, opportunities to "get it right this year." Just as we pray for God's help, as we participate in Lenten disciplines, we are asked, as the disciples were asked, to remain awake a little while longer. We cannot allow ourselves to be so caught up in the anxieties of our time that we neglect the time offered to us through God's love for creation. Being intentional about our faith in this time of "social distancing" is critical if we are to emerge from this time intact as a community of faith.

Early Christians savored the approach of the Easter celebration because it marked the gift of new life, of new relationships, of hope. Like those Christians of a by-gone era, we too can savor the richness of God in the faces of our siblings in the faith. In our congregation, we have come a long way together since I arrived here in last July. As people of "The Way," we will continue our Lenten journey until it becomes our Easter dawn and the next chapter in our common life in Christ.

Every blessing, *Pastor Charles*

COVID-19 and St. Paul's UMC

Going into April, it is difficult to determine exactly when we will be able to resume our normal activities. Taking to heart the best guidance available from the Mountain Sky Conference and official health organizations, the prudent action for us to take is to cancel worship services for this month. When we resume worshipping together, our first Sunday back together will be a celebration of the Resurrection!

How we will stay connected as a church family during the response to this pandemic?

- The church office remains open from 9AM to 2PM Monday through Friday.
- The food pantry is stocked with resources for those who require assistance. It is available during office hours.
- Our blog (www.bolderstpauls.blogspot.com) and Facebook page (@bolderstpauls) will continue to see daily posts from the Lenten devotional, announcements, and much more. The calendar, found on our website (www.stpaulsboulder.com) is a where to see what you can expect to happen in the weeks and months to come.
- The Wired Word study is emailed each Thursday. Contact Pastor Charles if you're interested in receiving this study that looks at current events through the lens of scripture.
- On Sundays, our blog will have posts for church announcements, prayer joys & concerns, and for the sermon. Be sure to contact the church office with items you would like to share with the church family. Pastor Charles will be recording the sermon each week and placing it on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJAOAiYsJw1TVrzYvRjROA/playlists>).
- **During Holy Week, we will have special worship services via Zoom: On Holy Thursday, "Comfort Food—A Feast of Love (via ZOOM) at 6:30PM; On Good Friday, "Devotions at the Cross" (video on YouTube); and on Easter Sunday, "Resurrection Devotions (via Zoom) at 10:00AM. Watch your email for details.**

Quiet Disciple at St. Paul's

Tim Cook is the epitome of a constantly faithful disciple at St. Paul's. For many, many years, he has taught the adult discussion class, giving his time, knowledge, and untold hours of effort into keeping this a vital community for wide-ranging discussions bearing on the role of faith in our lives and in our world.

In recent years, he and Sandi took on the herculean task of organizing the church yard sale, persistently and patiently posting and selling items online as well.

Tim has served on numerous church committees, including Finance and Learning. On his own initiative he has been a strong liaison with the Conference, keeping us up to date on developments in the larger church. He has enriched our worship, sharing heart-felt messages from the pulpit, challenging us with words from the Wesleys, and making a joyful noise unto the Lord with the worship band. Thank you, Tim!

Tim will be recognized in person the next time we meet together as a congregation.

The church office has a new email address!

office@saintpaulsboulder.org

Hopefully this will solve some of the problems we've have with undelivered or "junked" email. Mail sent to the old address (sumchurch1003@qwestoffice.net) will be forwarded to the new address. Remember to add the new email to your white list.

Monthly Events

Ladies Lunch Bunch will NOT meet in April.
Men's Breakfast will NOT meet on Saturday, April 11.
Sew What will NOT meet in April meet.

Theater Notes

Candlelight Dinner Theater cancelled the remaining performance of *Jekyll and Hyde*. BDT Stage is temporarily closed. We will keep you posted when theaters reopen and shows resume.

EFAA's Easter program is suspended this spring. If you bought baskets, bunnies, or other supplies to donate, you can leave them in the back of the sanctuary. We will store them in the church for next Easter. We appreciate your forethought in

From Scott Medina, Director of Community Relations at Bridge House:

...I do want to share one definitive decision we've come to: **volunteering at Community Table dinners is discontinued until further notice.** I have been hearing from *many* of you each day regarding the agonizing decision in front of you as to whether to continue serving with us or not. Let us make the decision easy for you. Due to the uncertainty of health risks, along with some programmatic changes which makes volunteerism less vital during this time, we believe it is in everyone's best interests not to bring volunteers into our facilities at this time.

If volunteerism resumes before St. Paul's next scheduled date on April 16, we will notify you by email.

A Note About the Calendar

Because the situation is evolving and events are uncertain, we are not providing a church events calendar in this newsletter. The best way to stay current on events is at our website: **stpaulsboulder.com** Click on "Calendar" on the top of the homepage.

To Yard Sale or Not to Yard Sale, and an Alternative

Doing an annual yard sale at St. Paul's has become a lot of work for not always a lot of financial payoff. Further, we understand that our unofficial "sister sale" at Fairview High School will not happen this year. Thus, we will not have a yard sale in 2020. However, Tim and Sandi have had success selling certain items online. If you have some special pieces that the church might benefit from in this way, talk to the Cooks. You can do this at any time. Please wait to bring items to the church for this. Similarly, don't take it upon yourself to dispose of things at the church (trash excluded, of course). Someone might be using these in ministry, or they might be up for sale. Tim and Sandi will act as our "clearinghouse." Thanks for your help in this way of supporting your church.

**OFFICE IS OPEN
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-2PM**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4-3 Mallory Barnes
4-3 Rebecca Glancy
4-3 Bob Muckle (elder)
4-3 Judy Waller
4-3 Caroline Wayland
4-4 Aidan Crawford
4-10 Gerald Browning
4-10 Don Lloyd
4-15 Larry Esposito
4-16 Daphne Beaber
4-20 Ariel Crowley
4-22 Jodi Bullock
4-22 Sandra Jordon
4-26 Christine Pulaski
4-27 Josephine Glancy
4-29 Benjamin Himes

Happy birthday!

APRIL PREACHING SCHEDULE

*Remember you can watch sermons online
until worship services resume*

April 5 *"It comes down to this"*
Mark 15:22-27, 33-37 and Mark 15:42-47

April 12 (Easter) *"But wait, there's more!"*
Mark 16:1-9

April 19 *"Do you believe it now?"*
1 Peter 1:3-9 and Acts 2:14a, 22-32

April 26 *"Could it happen again?"*

*We are grateful to everyone who volunteered to serve as liturgist
and to provide flowers and fellowship for April. We will con-
tact you when services resume.*

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