

The Epistle of St. Paul's December 2019

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St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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From The Pastor's Desk...

(My paraphrase of a rather famous letter)

Is there a Messiah? I take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the St. Paul's United Methodist Church:

"Dear Pastor, I am 8 years old. Some of my friends say there is no Jesus. Papa says, 'If you see it in the Epistle newsletter, it's so.' Please tell me the truth, is Jesus real?"

Virginia, your friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be adult's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, humans are mere insects, ants, in our intellect as compared with the boundless world about us, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, Jesus is real. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Jesus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, and no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Jesus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody alive has seen Jesus, but that is no sign that there is no Son of God. The most real things in the world are those that people cannot see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. No-

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body can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which neither the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in this entire world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Jesus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, He will continue to make glad the heart of people everywhere.

Every blessing,

Pastor Charles

You're Invited...

Pastor Charles invites you to an exhibit in Boulder where his paintings will be seen throughout this month:

The exhibit runs from November 8 - January 6 at Café Aion (1235 Pennsylvania Ave.). One of Pastor Charles' paintings, "Pride of Boulder: Stonewall @ 50" is the cover piece for the announcement.



"HAPPY HOUR" OPENING RECEPTION NOV 08 5PM-7PM



Judy Fisher
Rick Dallago
Nance Larson
Charles Alkula
Claudia Ringel
Corrie Contreras

CAFE AION
1235 Pennsylvania Ave., Boulder

NOV 07 thru JAN 06, 2020

Anthem Aires invite you to "A Very 'Airey' Christmas" on Saturday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary: a concert in one act, featuring the Anthem Aires.

Also, the Anthem Aires will be performing during church on December 8 as well as on Christmas Eve.



Monthly Events

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on December 5 at 11:45 a.m. at The Cork at 3295 30th Street. Let Joan Cooper know if you are coming: 303-898-8034.

Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, December 14 (second Saturday) at 8:00 a.m. at Le Peep. No reservation needed; just come and enjoy.

Sew What will not meet in December.

Annual UMW Gathering 2019 in Salt Lake City

This was an historic event – the merging of Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain UMW conferences into the first Annual Gathering of the Mountain Sky Conference UMW!

The meeting started on Thursday, October 24, at Crystal Inn, with a gathering of the new leadership team for the new conference. Each district gave a report. The second day was a day of leadership training and/or Ubuntu projects. The three Ubuntu projects were visits to Crossroads Urban Center and UMCOR West and Days for Girls, where participants worked on sewing bags. The third day was the actual celebration and business meeting, at Christ UMC, as well as six satellite locations around the new conference. Highlights included a musical celebration led by Rev. DeLyn Celec and a memorial service honoring those women who had passed away since fall of 2018. The new conference has a goal to raise \$135,000 for its Legacy Fund. The weekend concluded with worship and a communion service. Plan to attend an Annual Gathering in the future!

—Summarized from minutes submitted by Janet Ulrich
Western Mountains District

Help feed the hungry at Community Table. We need volunteers for Thursday, December 19, from **4:30 pm - 6:30ish** (one shift only) at **2691 30th Street**. Let Melanie Muckle know if you can help: 303-641-6003. Thank you!

Wesley Annes United Methodist Women's Circle cordially invites women of St. Paul's to our Christmas UMW Soup, Salad, and Dessert Potluck on December 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At Mountain View United Methodist Church (Barker Hall 355 Ponca Place). Please R.S.V.P. by December 1 to Betty Baal at **Bandbbaal3@q.com** or **303-466-6805**.

Theater Notes

Here are schedules for BDT Stage and Candlelight Dinner Playhouse into Spring/Summer, 2020.

BDT Stage

Ragtime: March 7-May 30, 2020

The Sound of Music: June 5-September 19, 2020

Candlelight

Holiday Inn: November 29, 2019-January 19, 2020

Jekyll and Hyde, the Musical: January 30- March 29, 2020

I've already heard some interest in *Ragtime* at BDT so we will be putting a group together for that; it's a little early to book, but keep the dates in mind.

The St. Paul's Youth Group, which meets every Sunday at 9:45 a.m., has recently started the process of joining the Reconciling Ministries Network. We have adopted the Reconciling Statement "The St. Paul's youth group welcomes and celebrates people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions."

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Deadline for *Epistle*: 15th of the month

Deadline for bulletin: Wednesday prior to Sunday

Loving God *✿* Creating Hope *✿* Changing Lives

EFAA Family Holiday Gift Room

We are again working with the Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) to provide NEW, UNWRAPPED gifts for their Family Holiday Gift Room. This is a way for parents to be empowered to choose a gift for their child during this season. This allows our congregation to have the greatest impact on those families being helped by EFAA. The Love Wreath is already in place at the back of the sanctuary. It's filled with cards listing an age group and suggested gifts. Please take a card and return UNWRAPPED gifts to St. Paul's by December 8. We will make arrangements to deliver the gifts to EFAA so they will be available when the Holiday Gift shop opens December 12. They will also accept wrapping paper, bows, and holiday bags. Thank you for your continued support.

Note: EFAA has requested that we not give gift cards. If this poses a hardship for you and you wish to contribute please talk with Judy Waller. They also are unable to accept books other than ones specified on one of the cards.

EFAA GIFT ROOM WISH ITEMS

Ages 0-5: Puzzles, crayons, Play-doh, washable markers, stickers, blocks, toys, stuffed animals, board books, bubbles, dress-up clothes, and winter outerwear (fleeces, hoodies, hats, mittens, scarves, coats, snowboots)

Ages 6-12: Dress-up clothes, Legos, Playmobil, sports equipment, journals, jewelry, action figures, markers, colored pencils, puzzles, craft kits, sidewalk chalk, outdoor toys, Nerf toys and blasters, and winter outerwear (fleeces, hoodies, hats, mittens, scarves, coats, snow boots, socks)

Ages 13-18: Sports equipment, cosmetics, jewelry, watches, journals, scented lotion, room décor, headphones, bag/purse, wallet, music, movies, hair accessories, and winter outerwear (fleeces, hoodies, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, coats)

Join our area Methodist choirs for a big Christmas event at the Heart of Longmont UMC on Saturday, December 14, at 4 p.m. Dr. Arturo Gonzalez will conduct the Flatirons Community orchestra. The combined choir will sing a selection of traditional Christmas carols and some international carols. The evening will end with "Silent Night," which will meld into the "Hallelujah Chorus." If you are interested in joining us please email Jessica Bennett at www.erieumc.org.



In Our Community



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
ST PAUL'S DINNER CIRCLES & GUESTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019
4:00-7:00 PM
3880 CHIPPEWA DR.
BOULDER, COLORADO, 80303

HOSTED BY GROUP THREE
Louise, Wally & Pat, Marle, Jerry C, Jerry B, Harry & Sally, Dennis & Marcia



Dinner Circle Group 2 is hosting a **holiday open house** for all dinner circle members (Groups 1, 2, and 3), their guests, and anyone interested in joining a dinner circle in the new year. This event is on Tuesday, December 17, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at 3880 Chippewa Drive (Hults' home).

O, Mitten Tree!

This year, as for the last several years, our Christmas drive to provide gifts for the homeless will be our "Mitten Tree" in the back of the sanctuary. Or rather, our Mittens, Gloves, Hats, Scarves, and Socks Tree! If you'd like to participate, please bring adult-sized hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and warm socks (unwrapped) to trim the tree. The tree will be available to receive its "ornaments" from Sunday, December 1, until Sunday, December 15. For more information, contact Claudia Mills at 303-928-0649.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 12-1 Marcus Berlin
- 12-4 Jerry Fergusson
- 12-5 Mary Ferree
- 12-5 Don Fritschel
- 12-10 Lance Bishop
- 12-10 Benjamin Laybourne
- 12-13 Luke Johnson
- 12-15 Billy Cook
- 12-18 Caroline Crawford
- 12-19 Patty Wright
- 12-22 Jan Browning
- 12-23 Ann Abbott
- 12-25 Rev. Dr. Charles Alkula
- 12-25 Peg Fritschel
- 12-27 Brad Polacek
- 12-30 Ron Revier

DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

- December 1** *Hanging of the Crismons*
Matthew 24:36-44
- December 8** *“Maybe Isaiah was on to something”*
Matthew 3:1-12
Isaiah 11:1-10
- December 15** *“Christmas Pageant in-a-bag”*
Luke 1:47-55
- December 22** *Choir Cantata*
- December 29** *Worship with Claudia and Christopher*

Change of Address

Doris Steiner has moved into a new apartment at The Meridian. Her new apartment number is #236.

VOLUNTEERS

	12/01	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/29
Fellowship	Vander Vorste	Claudia Mills	Cleavelands	Belinda Alkula	Vander Vorstes
Flowers	Muckles	Claudia Mills	T. Cook	Sandra Jordan	Vander Vorstes
Lay Liturgist	Bob Muckle	Bob Muckle	Bob Muckle	Bob Muckle	Rebecca Glancy

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent	2 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m.	3	4 Chancel Choir 7:30	5 Ladies Lunch Bunch 11:45	6	7 Anthem Aires Concert 7:00 p.m.
8 Anthem Aires in Worship Love Wreath Gifts due back 2nd Sunday of Advent	9 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m.	10	11 Chancel Choir 7:30	12	13	14 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Le Peep
15 Jubilante Bell Choir and Christmas Pageant Mitten Tree gifts due 3rd Sunday of Advent	16 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m.	17 Dinner Circle Open House 4-7 p.m.	18 Chancel Choir 7:30	19 Community Table 4:30-6:30 p.m.	20	21
22 Chancel Choir Cantata 4th Sunday of Advent	23 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m.	24 Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service with AnthemAires 7:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day (Office closed) No chancel choir!	26	27	28
29 Worship with Claudia and Christopher 1st Sunday after Christmas	30 Yoga with Rebecca 9:00 a.m.	31				

Coming in January

January 6—Epiphany

January 8—Chancel Choir resumes

January 18-25—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 19—UMC Human Relations Day

January 20—Susanna Wesley's birthday

January 20—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

What will your New Year's resolution be? **Yoga** class meets every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the **Blue Room**.

*Follow us:
Our website at
www.stpaulsboulder.com*

*Our blog at
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