

# The Epistle of St. Paul's

December 2022

## In This Issue

*From the Pastor's Desk...page 1*

*Community News and Events...pages 2-3*

*Birthdays, Preaching Schedule...page 4*

## St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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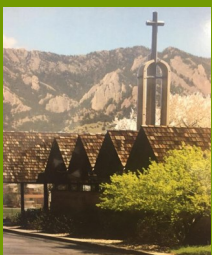
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## *From The Pastor's Desk...*

In December 1969, Charlie Brown, despairing over the lack of meaning and purpose in the holiday celebrations taking place around him, cried out, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus, standing near, said, "Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about," and he then proceeds to recite from the gospel according to Luke 2:8-10:

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

When I went to listen to the speech on YouTube, I came upon the following explanation of this famous scene: "Did you ever notice that Linus drops his security blanket while sharing 'what Christmas is all about'? Just as he utters the words 'Fear not' from Luke 2:10, 'And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.' I believe this was a deliberate point that Charles Schultz was making, to drop those things of the world we cling to and embrace the good news!"

In the time leading up to Christmas Day, I invite you to consider dropping those things which are coming between you and the good news of Jesus's birth, be they people, things, or activities. If the good news means anything to you, will you join me in considering how the birth of a child in ancient Bethlehem could have an impact on your life? Or as John Wesley said, "For with the Redeemer's birth, peace and all kinds of happiness come down to dwell on earth: yea, the overflowings of divine good-will and favour are now exercised toward men." (Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament, *Luke 2:14.*)

This is what Christmas is all about.

Every blessing, *Pastor Charles*

## Christmas Eve & Christmas Day at St. Paul's UMC

This year, our Christmas Eve worship service will take place on Saturday, December 24, at 4:00 PM. The service will be a Lessons & Carols service, which is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors to this festive observance of the Messiah's birth. On Christmas Day, we will offer an online worship experience only at the regular 10:15 AM time. The Zoom link will be in that week's News You Can Use.

## O, Mitten Tree!

Yes, it is that time of year, the time when we share God's love with Boulder's homeless. This year the Boulder Homeless Shelter has specified that they are looking for donations (new and unwrapped) of warm hats, heavy gloves/mittens, wool socks, handwarmers, and \$5 gift cards to someplace our clients could buy lunch, a cup of coffee, or an essential item: Safeway, McDonalds, Starbucks, Target, etc. (Note that they do NOT want more generous gift cards, as they want to treat all clients equally at the holiday gathering.) Please bring your items to church between Sunday, November 27, and Sunday, December 11, and leave them on or near the Mitten Tree in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

**Support EFAA's holiday gift program** at [www.efaa.org/holiday-giving](http://www.efaa.org/holiday-giving). Gifts can be brought to St. Paul's by December 9 to be delivered to EFAA. There is also an option at [efaa.org](http://efaa.org) to order gifts to be delivered directly to EFAA.

St. Paul's is organizing a **Christmas ornament drive** for Rupali, Fairview High School Student Support Services Community Liaison Counselor, and her family, who lost their home in the Marshall Fire. If you can spare an ornament from your personal collection, donations are gratefully accepted through December 4. The plan is to give them to her by December 6. Questions may be directed to Belinda Alkula.

## Christmas Blood Drive at St. Paul's UMC

You are invited to include the gift of life in your Christmas gift-giving this year. Vitalant will hold a blood donation drive at St. Paul's UMC (Franz Hall) on December 27, 11:00 AM–3:00 PM. To schedule a donation appointment, please visit [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org). There are 36 available appointment slots. To sign up to be a donor in the Vitalant blood drive schedule online at [donors.vitalant.org](http://donors.vitalant.org) or call 303-363-2300. Use donor code 10397.

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

**Holiday Ladies Lunch Bunch** will meet on Thursday, December 1, at 11:45 a.m. at the Murphy's Tap House (585 McCaslin Blvd., Louisville). **Please R.S.V.P. by November 30** to Belinda Alkula (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com / 303-916-2349).

**Breakfast Fellowship** will next meet on Saturday, December 10, at 8:00 a.m. at **Doug's Diner** (2574 Baseline Road, Basemar Shopping Center). No reservations necessary!

**Sew What will not meet in December.** Sew What is for those who love to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and/or enjoy visiting with one another. The next gathering will be Friday, January 20, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Suzanne Polacek's home. Please R.S.V.P. by January 17 to Suzanne via email, text, or phone call (Suzanne.Polacek@gmail.com / 303-709-6676). Note: Folks are encouraged to take their own lunches/preferred drinks. Some drinks will be provided.

The Financial Secretaries will both be out of the country during the first week of December. If you make a donation on Sunday, December 4, there will be a delay in getting it deposited. Any donations received on December 4th will be placed in the safe until Martha and Molly return.

**Church Directory Update**—We will be updating the church directory soon. If you have any changes, please send an email to the church office at [office@saintpaulsboulder.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsboulder.org).

Dear Friends & Family of St. Paul's,

As we move from Thanksgiving to the Christmas Season, we once again remember our enormous blessings, not the least of which is the faithful service of our Pastor Charles and Belinda. They, along with dedicated staff and volunteers, continue to challenge and inspire us as both leaders and servants to our community. This year, as we emerge from Covid, they have continued Zoom and recorded services to provide worship beyond our walls to many. They have provided comfort to those in need and extended our mission through social media as well as partnering with local and connectional ministries. Our Christmas custom here at St. Paul's as a congregation is to remember the Alkulas with a monetary expression of our love and appreciation by presenting a cash gift to them on Christmas Eve. If you would like to join in this gift, please make your gift to St. Paul's UMC (memo: Pastor's gift) to leave in the offering plate Sunday morning or send to Martha Batch at 7025 Pike Ct., Arvada CO 80007 (by Dec 21, if possible). Thank you very much for your consideration and may you be especially blessed this Holy Season.

Merry Christmas,  
Joey Vander Vorste, St. Paul's Lay Leader

P.S. This is meant to be a "surprise," so please help keep the secret.

## December Birthdays

12-1 Marcus Berlin  
12-5 Mary Ferree  
12-5 Don Fritschel  
12-9 Sandy Bainbridge  
12-10 Lance Bishop  
12-15 Billy Cook  
12-19 Patty Wright  
12-22 Jan Browning  
12-23 Ann Abbott  
12-23 Myrle Myers  
12-25 Rev. Dr. Charles Alkula  
12-25 Peg Fritschel  
12-30 Ron Revier



## DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

### December 4 / Communion

*"To live in peace"*

Matthew 3:1-12, Isaiah 11:1-10

### December 11

*"One more thing"*

Matthew 11:2-11, Psalm 146:5-10

### December 18

*"The promise realized"*

Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

### December 24 / Christmas Eve

Service @ 4:00 p.m.

### December 25 / Christmas Day

Zoom-only service @ 10:15

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