

February 2021

The Epistle of St. Paul's

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St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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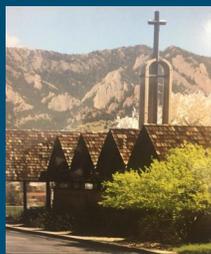
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From The Pastor's Desk...

"When Chekhov saw the long winter, he saw a winter bleak and dark and bereft of hope. Yet we know that winter is just another step in the cycle of life. But standing here among the people of Punxsutawney and basking in the warmth of their hearths and hearts, I couldn't imagine a better fate than a long and lustrous winter."

—Phil Connors, *Groundhog Day*

When Bill Murray's character in the movie *Groundhog Day* uttered those words about the change in how one experiences the long, dark winter, it was after a long journey of self-discovery. This journey had seen him transformed from a self-obsessed individual to a self-giving member of a community. This change was brought about through no shortage of events, relationships, and insights, all designed to awaken in his soul that the world was more joyous than he had ever allowed himself to know or experience.

This year, I would like for us to consider the Lenten journey in a slightly different manner than we have in year's past. So often we hear talk about "giving up something for Lent," the notion that we mirror Christ's sacrificial love for us in surrendering some activity or pleasure in the same manner that Jesus gave up his heavenly dwelling for a season amongst us. Yet this year, as we find ourselves still mired in the grip of the pandemic, it strikes me as asking anyone to give up something in addition to all that has already been taken, might be a step too far for most of us.

This year, I invite you to set aside the things, activities, or habits that prevent you from receiving the gift that is present in your next breath. I invite you to see the simple joys that are found in the people who journey with you through this life. I invite you to listen to what the Spirit has to say to you in the silence of your spirit.

"Now, then, do all diligence to walk in every respect according to the light you have received. Now be zealous to receive more light daily, more of the knowledge and love of God, more of the Spirit of Christ, more of his life, and of the power of his resurrection. Now use all the knowledge and love and life and power you have already attained. So shall you continually go on from faith to faith. So shall you daily increase in holy love, till faith is swallowed up in sight, and the law of love established to all eternity." —John Wesley (Sermon 36: The Law Established through Faith-Discourse II)

Every blessing, Pastor Charles

Virtual Ash Wednesday Service

Please join us for a unique offering of an Ash Wednesday service on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. Zoom login information will be sent out a few days before this virtual gathering.

2021 Lenten Devotional

“You, O Lord, have called us to watch and pray. Therefore, whatever may be the sin against which we pray, make us careful to watch against it, and so have reason to expect that our prayers will be answered. In order to perform this duty aright, grant us grace to preserve a sober, equal temper, and sincerity to pray for Your assistance. Amen.” —Susanna Wesley

This year’s Lenten devotional presents hymns found in the *Methodist Pocket Hymnbook*. I have this hymnal in my office and have found it to be a source of inspiration and devotion over the years. These hymns are presented as found in the hymnal using the punctuation and spelling that was used by the Methodist Episcopal Church more than 200 years ago.

The Methodist Pocket Hymn-book, revised and improved as a constant companion for the pious of all denominations. New York: Published by J. Soule and T. Mason, for the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. Abraham Paul, printer, 1818.

The hymns were selected from these sections of the hymnal: “Penitential,” “Awakening and Inviting,” “Christ our Passover or the Lord’s Supper,” and “Redemption.”

As we offered last year, the devotional entries will be available in print form as well as being shared daily during Lent on our blog and on our Facebook page.

—Pastor Charles

Printed devotionals will be available at the church beginning Monday, February 1. Find them on a table outside the office, in the narthex, and in the kitchen. The church building is open during preschool hours. Stop by and pick up your devotional anytime. If you can deliver devotionals to church members who live near you, let the office know. If you need a devotional delivered or mailed to you, let the office know.

Just Love Lenten Series presented by Mountain Sky Conference

Explore justice issues and live into Beloved Community. Sessions will be held on Sunday evenings through Lent from 5:30-6:45PM, starting February 21.

Here is a sample of sessions in the series:

- Japanese Internment (Concentration) Camps and Generational Trauma: How we must not allow history to repeat itself again: presented by Japanese American leaders at Simpson UMC
- Human trafficking: Kara Napolitano, Research and Training Manager, Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking, Denver
- Push Out - Criminalization of Black Girls in School: A 2021 Mission U presentation by the Rev. Melanie Martin-Dent

For more information, contact vitality@mtnskyumc.org. Presented by the Mountain Sky Conference Mission Team

SUPPORT EFAA'S FOOD BANK

Because of the pandemic there are more families than ever relying on the Food Bank at the Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) in Boulder. We at St. Paul's have been able to help by donating what was left in our food pantry, by bringing food to the various outdoor gatherings, and by giving monetary donations.

EFAA has created several opportunities to help that do not require "in person" contact. You can go to the website (www.efaa.org/donate/food) to find out more. You'll find a "wish list" of most needed items and a link to the EFAA's Amazon Wish List where you can order and have items shipped directly to EFAA. There is a place to credit your gift/contribution to St. Paul's UMC, if you wish.

Also, our church has begun participating in their "Adopt a Shelf" program. We have adopted the "Oatmeal/Hot & Cold Cereal" shelf. Their staff members purchase and stock this shelf for us, for the cost of \$40 a month. Monetary donations can be sent to our Financial Secretary, Martha Batch, with the memo line addition of "For EFAA Food Bank."

Please consider helping our neighbors who are dealing with food insecurity by donating to the EFAA Food Bank by any method that works best for you.

Thanks to everyone who continues to use their King Soopers Rewards numbers! We will soon be receiving a check from King Soopers for \$344 for our share of the Community Funds. It is down from 3rd quarter's \$400, but that could mean "we" didn't shop as much or that there are more participants in the program with whom we share the allocation. Anyway, we appreciate every dollar which helps our budget!

"Finding Peace in an Anxious World": A Virtual Study at Mission U For Adult Men and Women

When: Sunday afternoons (2-4 PM) February 7-28, 2021

Who: Rev. Su DeBree, Study Leader

You can order the \$10 study book by contacting the United Methodist Women Mission Resource Center: 1-800-305-9857 or at <http://www.umwmissionresources.org> under Educational Resources, Spiritual Growth, 2020 Finding Peace. (Note: If you cannot get the book, do not let that stop you from participating in the study! All are welcome. There is no fee to participate.)

To learn more about this study and to access the online registration form, go to www.mtnskyumw.org. Go to "Mission U."

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

February Birthdays

2-4 Ashlyn Cook
2-4 Benjamin Glancy
2-9 Carol Carbon
2-12 Dr. Bob Muckle
2-13 Diana Bett
2-15 Sally Owen
2-16 Cathy Adams
2-19 Linda Bryant
2-19 Joan Cooper
2-26 Frank Richardson



FEBRUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

Worship Sundays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

February 7

"Who are you looking for?"
Isaiah 40:21-31, Mark 1:29-39

Communion

February 14

"Swing low, sweet chariot"
Mark 9:2-9, 2 Kings 2:1-12

February 17—Ash Wednesday

Service at 7:00 p.m.

February 21

"A clear conscience before God"
Genesis 9:8-17, 1 Peter 3:18-22

February 28

"When El Shaddai comes calling"
Romans 4:13-25, Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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Follow us:

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