

# The Epistle of St. Paul's

February 2024

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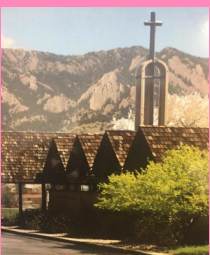
## St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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

There are two events on this month's calendar that just happen to fall on the same day: Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. They have much in common, though looking at the greeting card section of King Soopers or advertisements on TV or in the newspapers, this may seem not to be the case.

The idea of Ash Wednesday is an ancient one, dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. While it is not mentioned in the Bible, its use as a reminder that our place as disciples is to reflect the gospel in every part of our lives is important to remember. The focus is no longer on the sinfulness of humanity or on the preparation of candidates for baptism, as it was years ago. Ash Wednesday is now seen as a reminder that we are to make the way of Christ our way as well and that in focusing on being intentional about our life in Christ, we are able to claim the name Christian.

Valentine's Day is not as ancient, though some suggestions have arisen that it is linked to an ancient Roman practice or that it was introduced to honor one of several ancient Christian saints, but the exact origin of the day is unknown. It wasn't until the 17<sup>th</sup> century that the day became associated with romantic love. Regardless of its origins, Valentine's Day has become a cultural behemoth and vastly outshines Ash Wednesday through cards, chocolates, and dinners.

So why do I say they have much in common? It's this – both hold up for our consideration an ideal of love. This love, which comes to us through the grace of God as evidenced by the life of Jesus, is lived through the actions, thoughts, and yearnings of people just like us. This love, be it romantic, erotic, or communal, is not meant to be hoarded but to be shared. It is only by sharing God's love that we can truly experience what it means to love or be loved.

So, offer your love to those dear to you this month. Do it by sending cards, giving flowers, or going out to dinner with a special someone. Offer your love to God by coming to worship, reading the devotional entries, or doing acts of service or witness.

Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday – it's a good thing we celebrate both of them.

Every blessing, *Pastor Charles*

## Ash Wednesday

A list of area United Methodist Churches that are offering services on Ash Wednesday will be provided on our church blog on Tuesday, February 13. Find the link in News You Can Use that week.

## Lenten Devotional

Lent marks the beginning of the church's journey toward Easter. This year's Lenten devotional offers hymns that are found in *Hymns for the Use of The Methodist Episcopal Church: With Tunes for Congregational Worship* (1857). 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 more than 200 years ago. The devotional will be available in print form on February 11 and online on our church blog and Facebook page.

**Ladies Lunch Bunch** will meet on Thursday, February 1, at Old Santa Fe Mexican Grille (592 McCaslin Blvd., Louisville) at 11:45. Please R.S.V.P. by January 30 to Marcia Hult (morandfar39@gmail.com / 307-761-0574).

**Breakfast Fellowship will meet on Saturday, February 10**, 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, February 16**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Blue Room at church. Please R.S.V.P. by February 13 to Michele Matthews via text, email, or phone call (mlmatt@comcast.net / 303-817-2541). Folks are encouraged to bring their own lunches/preferred drinks. Some drinks will be provided. Sew What is for those who love to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and/or enjoy visiting with one another.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Bishop Karen plans to be at St. Paul's on April 7 (the Sunday after Easter). The Fellowship Committee is planning a potluck luncheon after the service that day. Mark your calendar for the service and luncheon.

## From the Finance Team

As the Finance Team moves to a new bookkeeping and accounts receivable system, we have a couple of requests/words of advice as you make plans for your 2024 donations. Please consider these things as we move into the 2024 giving year:

1. For cash donations to the PATH Fund made during church on the first Sunday of the month, please place your donation into one of the giving envelopes found in the church pew, filled out with your name. This will allow us to credit you for those cash donations.
2. For the financial secretaries, more information is always better than less! Please be sure to give any fund notations on the memo line of your checks.
3. We hope to have an online giving option available soon. If you're interested in testing this new system for us, please let Martha know.
4. If you are making donations to more than one fund on a given Sunday, it is easier for our system entry if you write separate checks. We CAN and WILL accept donations for multiple funds that are given in a single check; however, it is easier if you write separate checks for each fund.

Thanks, everyone. As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

**Thanks for everyone's continuing support of the church by logging their dollars spent at King Soopers into their Shared Rewards Program. In the fourth quarter of 2023, we earned a pain-free \$264.96!**

## Finding and Building Peace in Anxious Times

### Mission u Virtual Winter Adult Study (for men and women)

This study will meet on February 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. (MST). This study will offer spiritual tools and actions we can take to calm anxieties and employ our faith to serve as peacemakers in anxious times. It will be led by Rev. Su DeBree. Find the registration link in the E-pistle and News You Can Use. The Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith did not change its district name, so please register that you are in the Peaks Pikes Peak District. **Questions?** Contact Belinda Alkula (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com / 303-916-2349.)

### A Lenten Prayer from Susanna Wesley

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.

## February Birthdays

2-2 Nell Grindstaff

2-2 Ryan Sullivan

2-4 Benjamin Glancy

2-9 Carol Carbon

2-12 Bob Muckle

2-13 Diana Bett

2-15 Sally Owen

2-16 Cathy Adams

2-19 Joan Cooper

2-25 Katalaya "Kat" Wahl

2-26 Frank Richardson

## February Anniversaries

Angela and George Baker

February 7

## FEBRUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

### February 4 / Communion

*"What's the point?"*

1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Isaiah 40:21-31

### February 11 / Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

*"Elisha and the mantle of Elijah"*

Mark 9:2-9, 2 Kings 2:1-12

### February 18 / First Sunday in Lent

*"Facing the cross: Caiaphas and Nicodemus"*

Matthew 26:57-66, John 3:1-15

### February 25

*"Facing the cross: The two thieves"*

1 Peter 3:18-22, Luke 23:32-43

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