

# The Epistle of St. Paul's

January 2020

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## St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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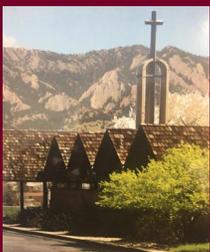
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## From The Pastor's Desk...

Come, let us anew, Our journey pursue,  
Roll round with the year.  
And never stand still, till the Master appear:  
His adorable will, Let us gladly fulfil,  
And our talents improve  
By the patience of hope, and the labour of love.

Our life is a dream, Our time, as a stream  
Glides swiftly away,  
And the fugitive moment refuses to stay:  
The arrow is flown, The moment is gone,  
The millennial year  
Rushes on to our view, And eternity's here!

O that each in the day, Of His coming may say,  
"I have fought my way through,  
I have finish'd the work thou didst give me to do!"  
O that each from his Lord, May receive the glad word,  
"Well and faithfully done,  
Enter into my joy, And sit down on my throne!"

—Charles Wesley *Hymns for New Years Day* (Bristol: Felix Farley, 1750)

New Year's Day is supposed to usher in a blank slate, the time when we leave behind all the baggage that we had carried with us during the previous year and embrace 365 fresh possibilities. That's the way it is supposed to be, isn't it?

And then there is 2021.

Following a year that might be best described in less-than-flattering ways, we stand on the brink of a New Year. What will this year bring us? How will we respond to the challenges and the blessings that we encounter over the next twelve months? Are we ready, as individuals, as a community of faith, or as citizens of our nation to move through the coming months with God ever-present in our lives?

St. Paul's UMC has weathered the first nine months of the pandemic and while we most certainly miss aspects of our pre-pandemic life as a faith community, we are positioned to lean into this New Year with confidence that the best of all, God is with us.

The promise of a vaccine certainly lifted spirits as 2020 ended. And while we can be grateful for the science that brought such relief, we know that there is still a long way to go before we are able to engage in "normal" activities.

*Continued on page 2...*

Our purpose as a community of faith is not to return “to the way things were” but to work toward the coming of the kingdom of God in our lives and in this world. Right now, we must decide how to bring about the realization of God’s reign in our time and in this place. What in your walk of faith needs to be left behind with the remnants of 2020 and what are you able to see as the best you can offer God in the coming year? We are each given the same number of minutes in a day, 1,440. 1,440 minutes to draw closer to God and to the creation that was called, “*Good.*” 1,440 minutes that we can offer in the service of the Christ. 1,440 minutes to remind ourselves that we do not exist in the universe alone but draw each breath in the companionship of the Holy Spirit.

And so, on December 31, 2021, will you be able to stand before God and say, “*I have finish’d the work Thou didst give me to do!*” And will the Lord be able to say to you in return, “*Well and faithfully done, enter into my joy, and sit down on my throne!*”

Every blessing,

*Pastor Charles*



MOUNTAIN SKY  
MINISTRY CROSSROADS

Have you checked this out yet? Crossroads is a new platform we’ve launched this fall to share ministry ideas and network about ministry innovations for your churches across our conference. It will also be a site to find training and events that will help you in leadership development and church vitality. We invite you to visit <https://mtnskyumc-crossroads.mn.co/> to join the network, take a look around, and when you’re ready, ask questions, post ideas and articles, share the wisdom and blessing God has given.

**“Finding Peace in an Anxious World”: A Virtual Study Opportunity  
sponsored by United Methodist Women**

You are invited to join Rev. Su DeBree to explore ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines. The Zoom study sessions will be offered Sunday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. from February 7-28, 2021. A time for informal conversation will be offered from 1:30 to 2:00pm just prior to each study session. There is no cost to attend. Participants are encouraged to purchase the book *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* edited by Erin James-Brown and read it prior to the event. The book may be purchased at [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org). Registration will open on-line in January at <https://www.mtnskyumw.org/events/mission-u/> **Mission u classes are open to all men and women.**

**New for January 2021** Scott Glancy and Claudia Mills will lead a discussion-based class in the philosophy of religion. Together we will explore foundational questions like “What is God like?”, “Can we prove that God exists?”, and “What is a soul?” The class will start in January and run for 12 weeks. We will choose the meeting time according to the availability of the participants, and we will meet over Zoom. If you are interested, please contact Scott at [scott@glancys.net](mailto:scott@glancys.net).

### Women’s Summer Book Group in the Winter?

By all accounts, last summer’s Virtual Book Group was a success. Maybe, in this strange year, we should see if it works as well in the winter. Interested? Let Judy Waller hear from you.

Several of us have looked at a couple books by Bob Goff (check out his web site): *Love Does* (study questions available) and *Everybody, Always* (becoming love in would full of setbacks and difficult people). Other suggestions welcome and encouraged.

### Bridge House Update

Our beloved **CEO Isabel McDevitt** will be transitioning out of Bridge House soon to rejoin The Doe Fund in NYC, where she first worked. The good news is that we will continue to work together as we expand our "Ready to Work" program and The Doe Fund’s “Ready, Willing and Able” program.

On Sunday, December 20, we held our annual **Homeless Memorial: A Day of Remembrance** ceremony to remember all those who have passed away this year who have experienced homelessness. You can view it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZsLgzg6QH4>

We held our annual **Christmas Day Meal** this year, but, unfortunately, we had to do it in Grab and Go style, like we do our Community Table dinners.

Remember to support Bridge House by ordering one of our **Take and Bake meals** from our Kitchen. Delivery is available for \$5, or come to the Kitchen to pick it up: <https://www.communitytablekitchentakeandbake.org>

## January Birthdays

1-4 Eric Franz  
1-4 Melanie Muckle  
1-5 Don Berlin  
1-5 Gary Smith  
1-11 Brenda Smith  
1-14 Karen Richardson  
1-21 Joe Wright  
1-22 Layla Bishop  
1-25 Dr. Scott Schiesswohl  
1-30 Dennis Hult  
1-30 Sydney Richardson



## JANUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

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

**January 3/Epiphany Sunday**  
*"Are you ready for something new?"*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Revelation 21:1-6a  
**Communion**

**January 10**  
*"Sprinkled, dunked, or poured, oh my!"*  
Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

**January 17**  
*"Oh, to see what Nathanael saw"*  
I Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51

**January 24**  
*"As simple as that?"*  
Mark 1:14-20, Jonah 3:1-5, 10

**January 31**  
*"One word"*  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

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