



The Epistle of St. Paul's

July 2021

In This Issue

From the Pastor's Desk...page 1

Community News and Events...pages 2-5

Birthdays, Preaching Schedule...page 6

St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

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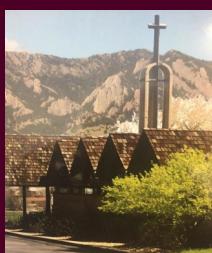
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From The Pastor's Desk...

It has been a long, long, long time since we last gathered in the sanctuary for worship. Do you remember much of that last Sunday together (March 8, 2020)? The time of waiting – waiting for the pandemic to run its course, for the vaccine to come, for the infection numbers to drop, the vaccine numbers to rise, and for the community to reopen is at an end. On July 4th, we will gather once more for in-person worship and the next chapter in our common life as the people of St. Paul's UMC.

It is important for us moving forward not to seek a return to “normal.” Normal wasn’t working all that well for us and while we will be glad to have some semblance of our routine back, we should first consider what lessons we’ve learned and what the next chapter of St. Paul’s story might look like.

I believe that we have learned that we can have productive (and shorter) meetings, including Church Conference, via Zoom. Whether due to health issues, traveling, or convenience, we have been able to stay connected to friends and family during virtual worship, which we could have not enjoyed had we been meeting in-person. We were able to reimagine communion, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and more. We have been able to continue being in ministry with our community through an enhanced relationship with Brookdale Meridian, the food pantry, and a blood drive.

Moving forward, I believe that it will be important for us to consider what being a church looks like in 2021 and beyond.

The neighborhood church that was introduced to the Table Mesa community in 1964 no longer exists, as is evidenced through our membership, who live in communities throughout Boulder County. So, where is our mission field? What can we retain and what can we let go of for us to be the faithful disciples of Jesus known as St. Paul’s UMC? What ministries might we recognize that we might begin (or end), and what ways can we be open to God doing things in new ways? We might need to adjust our thinking for them to begin now.

We have an attractive location here in south Boulder, but as we’ve learned these past fifteen months, we don’t have to have a building, attractive or otherwise, to still function as a successful faith community. Our building can serve the community beyond our church family if we are able to reimagine its purpose in new ways. We will continue to make use of our YouTube channel to post videos of our in-person worship services, make daily posts to our blog, and use other means to engage the world in ways that we might not even be aware of now.

I am deeply grateful for the flexibility and faithfulness shown by so many during this challenging time. I am also thankful that we have come through this season of our common life as faithful witnesses of the power of faith, love, and hope made present through the abiding presence of God’s Holy Spirit.

By God’s grace we are moving into a future with promise. Come, for the God-shaped future awaits.

Every blessing, **Pastor Charles**

In-Person Worship Resumes July 4

Join us in the church sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, July 4. We will sing together, celebrate communion, and honor our musicians. Worship will be followed by fellowship time sponsored by the Fellowship Team. Individually wrapped treats will be served.

What to expect: There will be a table by the ushers' stand with extra masks, hand sanitizer, index cards, and bulletins. Masks are recommended and MANDATORY when singing. Pastor Charles will not wear a mask when preaching, but Pastor Charles and the other server will be masked during communion. As we receive communion, ushers will keep people separated in line. Index cards for writing out joys and concerns will be available in the pews and at the ushers' table. Ushers will collect the cards, and Pastor Charles will read the prayer requests aloud. Microphones will not be passed, nor will offering plates be passed through the pews during worship. You can leave your offering at the ushers' table or utilize online or text giving options.

See you there!

Summer Sermon Series

Pastor Charles invites you to join him this summer on a journey through the **Apocrypha**. These lessons are a valuable insight into the period of the story of our faith between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The series began on June 27 with The Prayer of Manasseh. The following weeks will be July 4: Tobit 13:1-13 * July 11: Judith 14:8-10 * July 18: Baruch 5:1-9 * July 25: Sirach 51:1-5, 13-30 * August 1: Wisdom of Solomon 1:1-16 * August 8: 2 Maccabees 1:1-6, 24-29 * August 15: 2 Esdras 4:13-21 * August 22: Prayer of Azariah 28-34.

Our prayers go with Rev. Youngwon Seo, Hannah, and their daughters as they transition to a new appointment in Colorado Springs. They will be missed in Boulder!

From the Finance Team

All church members and friends were sent an email invitation to create their own user profile in Breeze, which is the financial and attendance platform that the church is now using. **We would love for all members and non-members to create a Breeze profile.** When you create your own profile, you will be able to track your giving, attendance, and personal information. Having a profile in Breeze will help us keep our records up to date and will allow you to more easily access our new online giving option.

Once you have completed your personal profile in Breeze, you can easily check your quarterly giving and even print your own report. Martha will continue to send quarterly statements to those who have requested one, and year-end statements to everyone.

If you did not receive an email from Martha, please let her know (marthabatch@gmail.com). Please contact Martha if you are having any troubles creating your Breeze profile.

If you have checks sent via auto-draft from your bank to Martha Batch's house, **please change that address to St. Paul's UMC effective immediately.** If you prefer to make an offering in person, you can place your donation checks in the offering plate at church beginning Sunday, July 4 (see facing page). If you have signed up for online giving, no changes are necessary.

We appreciate everyone's steadfast dedication to the church during this past fifteen months and are thankful for how quickly and easily you have adjusted to our new financial system.

Office Update: Office staff will continue working remotely through the summer. Staff will not keep regular office hours. If you need to contact Rebecca or Michele, you can email the office (office@saintpaulsboulder.org) or leave a message at 303-494-0615 (office). We check messages daily. You can also contact Rebecca or Michele at home.

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, July 1, at Olive Garden in Westminster at 11:45 a.m. If you would like to car pool, we will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. Please let Joan Cooper know you are coming and if you would like to car pool. (303-898-8034). **Men's Breakfast** will meet on Saturday, July 10, at 8:00 a.m. at Le Peep in Boulder. No reservations needed. All are welcome!

Wednesday morning fellowship will continue to meet weekly at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom, even as we increase our in-person events. This is a great time to connect with your church family without having to spend time in the car. Just log in! The link is sent every week in Tuesday's News You Can Use email. You can also dial in by phone if you are travelling. Contact the church office about dial-in details.

United Methodist Women Upcoming Events

United Methodist Women: We are women with a Purpose!

"United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Upcoming UMW Events (All Virtual, Via Zoom)

People do not have to be members of The United Methodist Church to participate. Please direct questions about them to Belinda Alkula (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com or 303-916-2349).

July 21, 22, 28, 29 (Evening Classes, 6:30-9:00 p.m. via Zoom): "MISSION u" Study for Adults: Men and women are invited to participate in this study about the book *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, by Monique Morris. Registration details link information at mtnskyumw.org

September 25 – Saturday: Peaks Pikes Peak Annual Meeting. Registration details TBA.

October 8-9 – Friday and Saturday: Mountain Sky Conference UMW Annual Meeting. Registration details TBA.

November 6— Boulder First UMC UMW is hosting a UMW Friendship Cluster Breakfast. It is planned as an in-person event. This is subject to the pandemic situation. If there is another spike in the COVID-19 infection rate, it will a virtual event. More details will follow.



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



Mountain Sky Conference
Hatchathon

August 24 - 26, 2021

Right now, more than ever, our church needs innovators and innovative ideas. Do you agree? Are you creative and have a desire to make a difference in your church, community, and our world? Do you have a ministry idea or an interest in launching an emerging faith community? I want to talk to you about the possibility of attending this year's Mountain Sky Hatchathon -- an important catalytic event that can help clarify and launch your innovative ideas into new ministries, or even an emerging faith community!

"The Hatchathon gives space, time, and the right conditions to move your idea from concept to launch. This 2.5 day event is recommended for people who are still clarifying their idea for an impact enterprise,

or who want to learn the basics for getting an entrepreneurial ministry off the ground. Participants will create prototypes of basic framing documents, develop an initial pitch deck, and practice communicating their ideas to others." - Ministry Incubators (<https://ministryincubators.com/offerings/hatchathons/>)

We are partnering with and being supported by Ministry Incubators in this event and ongoing work to support both emerging faith communities and new ministries within established faith communities. (for more information, please visit their website: www.ministryincubators.com).

The Hatchathon is not just a one-and-done event. Instead, it is the beginning of a year-long process of supporting your idea for ministry that will include monthly coaching with one of the Ministry Incubators staff and quarterly cohort calls with the other Hatchathon participants.

Worried your idea is not ready for prime time? That's what this event is for. We want to invest in YOU -- whether you have no clue, a bit of an idea, or you just need some help moving your idea to launch and sustainability, I believe this event will help you go to the next level.

Let's talk details:

When? August 24-26, 2021

Where? Front-range CO (exact location TBD)

Cost? Minimal. Any fun things you want to do. Mountain Sky Conference is providing lodging, food, and travel support. If you can offer some continuing ed, that would be welcomed, but this is our investment in you.

Interested? Visit the Mountain Sky Conference website. We only have 12 slots so complete the form to reserve your conversation soon. Other questions? Feel free to reach out at vitality@mtnskyumc.org.

Shalom, Rev. Jeff Rainwater, Superintendent of Congregational and Community Vitality

July Birthdays

7-1 Michele Matthews
7-3 Marcia Roberts
7-14 Heidi Soha
7-15 Bobby Dahlstrom
7-18 Austin Cooper
7-19 Alex Wright
7-22 Steve Batch
7-24 Marcia Hult
7-26 Joyce Brandon
7-27 Skippy Rollins
7-29 Jerry Beaber



JULY PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 4

"Echoes of another voice"
Mark 6:1-13, Tobit 13:1-13

Communion

In-person services begin

July 11

"Let's make some noise!"
Mark 6:14-29, Judith 14:8-10

July 18

"The glory of God's worship"
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56, Baruch 5:1-9

July 25

"How much does wisdom cost?"
John 6:1-13, Sirach 51:1-5, 13-30

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