

The Epistle of St. Paul's

July 2022

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St. Paul's United Methodist Church

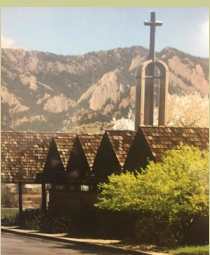
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From The Pastor's Desk...

"Priam saw him first, with his old man's eyes / A single point of light on Troy's dusty plain / Sirius rises late in the dark, liquid sky / On summer nights, star of stars / Orion's Dog they call it brightest / Of all, but an evil portent, bringing heat / And fevers to suffering humanity / Achilles' bronze gleamed like this as he ran." —Homer, The Iliad, c. 600 BCE

Centuries ago, the ancient Greeks observed that the hottest days of the year typically fell during the appearance of Sirius, the Dog Star. This awareness of what was happening in the natural world was of great importance to our ancestors, of such importance that traditions and myths arose to explain just why things were the way they were.

We may not have the same inclination to attach significance to the appearance of certain stars, the changing of the seasons, or other natural occurrences, but like the ancients, we still attach great meaning to the events we see transpiring around us. Here at St. Paul's, as we make our way through the summer months, we make note of the heat, the scarcity of water, and the lighter traffic on the streets surrounding CU.

I've noticed something else about the Dog Days of Summer: the life of the church, and the work the church is called to engage in, continues. There are still places that God is calling us to enter, people who need to know that the church sees them as God does: beloved.

While the temptation is quite strong to take the summer off, to see coming together on Sunday mornings as being optional, I would urge you to look deeply into your spiritual life and see how coming together as the body of Christ is still important. If you're not sure if worship or fellowship is relevant during the summer months, consider why it has been important to you during other times over the course of your life. If worship or fellowship are no longer important to you, consider how your absence impacts others in the church.

If you can't come to worship in person, please remember that we are offering a Zoom option. If Sunday morning doesn't meet your needs, please visit our YouTube channel during the week and participate in the common life of the church that way.

Come to worship (in-person or online) this month and bring someone with you!

Every blessing,

Pastor Charles

Summer Sermon Series

This month, Pastor Charles will return to the book *Stories That Sneak Up On You* for sermon starters. Each of these short stories will give you something to think about—and hopefully smile about—during the hot summer days!

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, July 7, at 11:45 a.m., at Doug's Day Diner, at their **NEW LOCATION** in the Basemar Shopping Center, 2574 Baseline Road, Boulder, CO 80305. (It is several stores down from Goodwill and Broadway Wine & Spirits.) Please R.S.V.P. to Louise Cook by July 5 (louisecook916@gmail.com / 303-859-9327).

Men's breakfast will meet on Saturday, July 9, at Le Peep in Boulder at 8:00 a.m. No reservations are needed. Hope to see all of you there!

United Women in Faith News

Virtual "Mission u" for Adult Learners: Consecutive Wednesday Evenings (7:00-9:30 p.m.), July 13, 20, 27, and August 3. The study book is "Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship," by Darryl W. Stephens. Questions about it may be directed to Belinda Alkula, Assistant Dean, Mountain Sky Conference Cooperative Mission u (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com or 303-916-2349).

Prayer for Independence Day

Almighty God, You rule all the peoples of the earth.
Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom You have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world.
Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together.
Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with Your gracious will.
Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Andy Langford, UMC Discipleship Resources, *Prayer for Independence Day*



United
Women
in Faith

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

Mountain Sky Conference (MSC) of The United Methodist Church

2022 Hybrid Annual Conference (AC) — Two Sessions to complete all the business of the AC

Session One — June 16-18 in Helena, Montana (in person and online)

- Clergy Session Business of the AC (BAC)
- Laity Session / Co-Lay Leader Election
- Tug of Love
- Names lifted of those who believe they have been called to the ministry of the bishop
- Clergy appointments “fixed” for the next year

Pastor Charles and Belinda Alkula participated in Session One of the AC virtually.

Session One Highlights

- Gayla Jo Slauson, from Colorado, was elected as co-lay leader in the MSC (her second 4-year term). The other MSC co-lay Leaders are Nancy Flint, from Montana, and Barry Welliver, from Utah.
- Rev. Dan Daniels’s milestone of 60 years in ministerial service was recognized.
- Rev. Dr. Charles Alkula’s milestone of 30 years in ministerial service was recognized.
- Rev. Dr. Charles Alkula was appointed for a fourth year of service as pastor of the St. Paul’s UMC in Boulder, Colorado.
- Rev. Dan and Bets Daniels’ son, the Rev. John Daniels, was lifted for discernment to become a bishop in The United Methodist Church.
- Wonderful worship services – opening, memorial, and ordination. (Pastor Charles talked about them during his sermon on June 19.)
- Bishop Karen Oliveto challenged churches in our conference to avoid “atrophied imagination.” Now is the time to trust the Holy Spirit’s direction, imagine new possibilities, and take bold action.

Announcement that the 2023 AC will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Session Two — October 21-22 (online only)

- Legislative work
- Budget
- Nominations Report
- Petitions & Resolutions (Deadline for petitions is September 9.)
- Election of candidates for bishop

Pastor Charles and Belinda Alkula are registered to participate in Session Two of the AC virtually.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Alkula

Lay Member to Annual Conference, St. Paul’s UMC, Boulder, Colorado

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
7-23 Scott Glancy
7-24 Marcia Hult
7-26 Joyce Brandon
7-29 Jerry Beaber



JULY PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 3 / Communion

"I don't read the cookbook anymore"
Isaiah 55:10-13, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

July 10

"The final frontier of Alfred Centauri"
Luke 10:25-37, Genesis 2:4b-9

July 17

"Account your blessings"
Luke 12:13-21, Matthew 6:19-21

July 24

"The new ump "
Matthew 7:1-6, John 8:1-11

July 31

"The parable of the talents"
Matthew 25:14-30

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