

The Epistle of St. Paul's

June 2021

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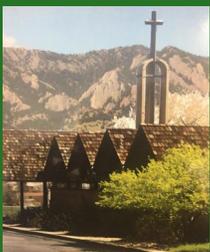
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From The Pastor's Desk..

Teaching is one of the most important tasks that makes up the vocation of a pastor. Teaching can take many forms, from leading a Bible study or confirmation class to preparing a Lenten devotional to writing a monthly article for the church newsletter. Of course, the primary delivery venue for teaching comes in the form of the weekly sermon.

I've shared hundreds of sermons over the years: 1,356 to be exact. Some of them were good, others not so much. I've delivered sermons at historic Methodist sites, dozens of local churches, and many other places. Through it all, I've primarily preached using the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of readings each week from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a Gospel lesson, and an Epistle lesson.

This summer, I'll be stepping away from the Lectionary with my traditional summer sermon series. In 2021, I'm really stepping out of the box with a series taken from readings in the Apocrypha. The Apocrypha is a collection that was written between 200 and 400 years before the time of Jesus. It appears in some versions of the Bible that are used particularly in Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. The works, with unknown or disputed authorship, still contain valuable insights for people of faith and I believe are worth our consideration this summer.

I decided to look to these passages for a couple of reasons, the first of which is that I've never preached from them before. While the Lectionary is most helpful in keeping preachers away from only preaching on their favorite ten sermon topics/scripture passages, it makes no use of the Apocrypha, lessons that speak to an overlooked understanding of our God. So, I decided that this was the year when I would step out in faith and explore some of these writings with you. The second reason that I am turning to the Apocrypha this summer is because I believe that the Truth of God can be found in other lessons that have spoken to people of faith, particularly those in the Abrahamic religions, in our day and age. We are in uncharted territory as a community of faith; let's make the full use of this time available to us to find our way into the God-sized future that awaits.

We will begin our survey of the Apocrypha on June 27 with the Prayer of Manasseh. This brief passage, just fifteen verses, speaks of the awareness that each of us comes before God, stripped of all the barriers that hinder our relationship with the God of Love. Likely composed between 150 BCE and 70 CE, it bears witness to the consequences of our self-deception (aka, sin), attitudes and behaviors that serve to keep us away from God. But the anonymous author doesn't wallow in despair; instead they come before their God, asking for mercy and believing like the hosts of Israel in ages past that God hears the prayers of God's people.

So, no matter what your plans are this summer, I hope that you will join me on a pilgrimage into the Apocrypha and beyond!

Every blessing, Pastor Charles



Special in-person worship service on July 4.* The Worship Committee is considering options, including an outdoor service or worship in the fellowship hall, where we can open doors to promote airflow. Hopefully this will mark a return to regular in-person worship services moving forward. In-person services will be full services with singing. Masks will be optional. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

*St. Paul's will abide by the conference's guidelines that positivity rates in Boulder County be below 2% for two weeks.

More information about the reopening...

- The Trustees will arrange a thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the church building before the reopening.
- Food may not be available at fellowship time.
- Small groups, such as Women's Book Group and adult Sunday school, may resume meeting in the church building. Policies such as masks, distancing, and food may be determined by group members.
- St. Paul's will not require proof of vaccination from anyone.

Reminder about contributions by check...

If you have changed your auto-draft payments to have them mailed directly to Martha Batch, please be sure to change the address with your bank, back to St. Paul's 4215 Grinnell Ave. Boulder, CO 80305, beginning July 1. You can also switch over to our new web-giving at any time (see next page).

Happy birthday, John Wesley!

June 17, 1703 – Julian Calendar / June 28, 1703 – Georgian Calendar

This being my birthday, the first day of my seventy-second year, I was considering. How is this, that I find just the same strength as I did thirty years ago? That my sight is considerably better now and my nerves firmer than there were then? That I have none of the infirmities of old age and have lost several I had in my youth? The grand cause is the good pleasure of God, who doth whatsoever pleaseth him. The chief means are: (1) My constantly rising at four, for about fifty years. (2) My generally preaching at five in the morning, one of the most healthy exercises in the world. (3) My never travelling less, by sea or land, than four thousand five hundred miles in a year. —From his journal, June 28, 1775

Today I entered on my eighty-second year and found myself just as strong to labour, and as fit for any exercise of body or mind, as I was forty years ago. I do not impute this to second causes, but to the sovereign Lord of all...; I am as strong at eighty-one, as I was at twenty-one, but abundantly more healthy, being a stranger to the head-ache, tooth-ache, and other bodily disorders which attended me in my youth. We can only say 'The Lord reigneth!' While we live, let us live to him! —From his journal, June 28, 1785

New Ways to Donate to St. Paul's UMC

We are pleased to announce that you now have the option to utilize our new "Web Giving" or "Text Giving" platforms, rather than mailing a check or placing your check in the Sunday offering. Both options are completely secure, and you control the frequency, amount, church fund, and funding source for your donations. There is a small fee associated with both options; you can increase your donation amount to cover that fee, or we will simply absorb it on our end.

To utilize "Web Giving": Use the link below, which will allow you to enter your banking information and set your amount and frequency and whether you want to use a debit/credit card or your use a bank account for an ACH transaction. Donations made via Web Giving can be designated for a selection of funds. If you would like to designate a different fund that is not currently on the dropdown menu, simply notify Martha Batch (marthabatch@gmail.com) and she will change your fund designation in Breeze (management software).

<https://stpaulschurch.breezechms.com/give/online>

To utilize "Text Giving": Enter **720-740-3664** into the telephone number field, then type in the dollar amount of your donation, then hit the "SEND" icon. You will then receive a text reply with a link which will allow you to set up your banking information and set your amount. Select General Fund for monthly pledges or designate a special fund (EFAA or PATH Fund, for example) using the Text Giving platform. Made a mistake?? Text REFUND to have your donation refunded immediately!

Another advantage to using web or text giving is that you can easily check your donations for personal or tax purposes.

We will of course continue gladly to accept your personal check, bank checks and cash (once we are back to in-person worship!). Online options are meant to provide our congregation with a fast, easy, and reliable way of donating. As always, we appreciate your constant and consistent stewardship of St. Paul's.

FAQ's

Does this mean that the church has access to my banking account information? No! That information is held, securely, by the payment processor that Breeze uses for payments. You can rest assured that access to your bank account is not accessible to anyone at church or at Breeze.

Does my name show up next to my donation on the church bank statement? No! The only person that receives notification about your donation with your name and donation amount is the financial secretary.

What if I make a mistake and enter the wrong amount? Let Martha know ASAP if this happens, and she can issue a refund. For ACH transactions, this needs to happen within 15 minutes. For credit card transactions you have a bit more time—up to 30 minutes.

If I choose to set up scheduled giving (say, \$100 a month), can I change the amount/frequency of my donation? Yes, but you will need to contact Martha to make those changes.

Are people really doing this? Yes, they are! We've had tremendous response.

Please contact Martha if you have any other questions.

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, June 3, at Murphy's in Louisville at 11:45 a.m. Please let Joan Cooper know if you are coming: 303-499-8591. **Men's Breakfast** will meet Saturday, June 12, at LePeep in Boulder at 8 a.m. No reservations needed.

WOMEN'S SUMMER BOOK GROUP UPDATE

We selected *Dusk, Night, Dawn—On Revival and Courage* by Anne Lamott to read and discuss.

We will meet on Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 p.m., beginning Thursday, June 17.

As of this writing, the options of meeting via Zoom or in person are still being considered. The goal is to make it safe and convenient while also acknowledging the desire to get back to some version of “normal.” It may be possible to arrange a combination of some sort; some good, knowledgeable minds are working on this.

If you'd like to participate and did not receive the earlier email, please let Judy Waller (judy38waller@gmail.com) know and you'll get any updated information.

News from Missionary Mozart Adevu

Since 2011, St. Paul's has had a Covenant Relationship with missionary Mozart Adevu through the Global Ministries division of the United Methodist Church. Mozart has worked in Ghana as the Africa Regional Coordinator for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)'s Sustainable Agriculture and Development Program. St. Paul's has also been supporting Mozart's daughter Selma as she studies medicine at Ghana University.

Mozart recently informed us that his appointment as a United Methodist missionary has ended. In the short term Mozart will continue to work with the farmers that he has been training, including those who recently graduated from the Asian Rural Institute farmer training center in Japan. In the longer term Mozart is forming a non-governmental agency (NGO) called the Environmental Concerns & Sustainable Agriculture Group.

Because Mozart's appointment with the UMC has ended, we no longer have a mechanism for sending money to him. We are investigating how we might support him in the future, but please do not try to donate any money to him this month.

Selma is continuing her medical training. She is now in her 3rd Rotation, in pediatrics. She plans to send a more detailed newsletter when her current rotation ends in a few weeks. St. Paul's can continue to support Selma. If you feel called, make your contribution to St. Paul's and designate it for “Selma Adevu.”

Linda Bryant, a member of St. Paul's, passed away on May 15 at her home at Brookdale Meridian. Please keep her family and loved ones in your prayers.

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).

June 12 – Saturday (8:30 a.m. - Noon): Peaks Pikes Peak UMW District “Spiritual Day Together.” Theme is “Knitted Together: Generous Hearts and Strong Threads.” Deaconess Robin Ridenour will share thoughts about United Methodist women, her “threads” to foremothers and sisters, and how she sees United Methodist women fulfilling our purpose in the coming years. Bishop Karen Oliveto will celebrate communion. Registration deadline is June 9. Find the flyer at “Day Together Info” at mtnskyumw.org

June 26 – Saturday (1:00-5:00 p.m.): Mountain Sky Conference UMW’s Young Women’s Spiritual Retreat – for young women, ages 12-17. Goodies boxes will be mailed to registrants before the event. Retreat is based on the UMW Youth Study “Managing Anxiety.” The theme is “Pressing Pause.” Register online at Mtn-skyumw.org

July 21, 22, 28, 29 (Evening Classes, 6:30-9:00 p.m.): “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 TBA.

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.



Community Table Update

Community Table dinners are still in Grab and Go format, being served outdoors at Grace Commons ANNEX Monday through Friday. They hand out hot meals to everyone who comes (anywhere from 25 to 45 people usually). However, they do still plan on returning INDOORS and to offer the full hot buffet meals with indoor seating like they used to do. This will likely happen at rotating downtown faith communities, and they are renewing talks with them about when that might be able to happen. Scott Medina, coordinator, guesses that it'll probably be late summer to early fall when that can begin (“fingers crossed!” he adds). At that point they'll need full volunteer groups again. They look forward to seeing volunteers again!

June Birthdays

6-4 Jessica Bishop
6-4 Diana Meade
6-5 Wally Cleaveland
6-9 Harry Owen
6-12 Steve Bainbridge
6-22 Zack Nunnery
6-26 Betty Herrell



JUNE PREACHING SCHEDULE

June 6

"Family matters"

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Mark 3:20-35

Communion

June 13

"We need a good definition"

2 Corinthians 4:6-10, 14-17, Mark 4:26-34

June 20/Father's Day

"One night on the lake"

Psalms 9:9-20, Mark 4:35-41

June 27

"All we ever wanted"

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15, Prayer of Manasseh

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