

The Epistle of St. Paul's

June 2022

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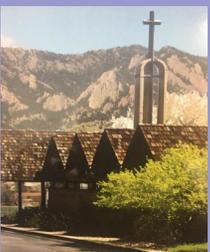
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

4215 Grinnell Avenue
Boulder, CO 80305
303.494.0615

stpaulsboulder.com

bolderstpauls.blogspot.com

office@saintpaulsboulder.org



From The Pastor's Desk...

We begin the month of June with what is perhaps the most important day on the church calendar: Pentecost. I take my cue from John Wesley, who held that this day is what our faith is truly about.

Christmas, with the tale of the babe in a manger, gets a lot of attention, and rightly so, for this is when we observe the coming of God to live among us. Easter likewise gets its justified focus based upon the power of love over the ever-present reality of death in the world. But Pentecost...

Pentecost is so different that even Hallmark can't pin it down long enough to put a price tag on it. With Pentecost, sometimes called the birthday of the church, we move into an entirely unknown experience, an experience whereby we are invited, empowered, and reborn into a new life, a life lived in the presence of the Living God. For us, Pentecost takes shape through our understanding of the grace of God that was unleashed upon the disciples of Jesus that day in Jerusalem. In the Wesleyan context, we understand God's grace as being present in three expressions:

1) Prevenient Grace is that presence of God that draws us closer to the heart of God, even before we are aware of it. This continues throughout our life, always prompting us to respond to the way that leads to life. 2) Justifying Grace is that experience we have when we accept for ourselves the gift of God's grace. John Wesley likened it to our crossing through the threshold into a new life, a life lived in the desire to be in the presence of God. 3) Sanctifying Grace is the continual work of the Holy Spirit in our life, or as John Wesley called it, "habitually filled with the love of God and neighbor" and as "having the mind of Christ and walking as he walked." Or to use a truly Wesleyan term, Sanctifying Grace is the act of "going on to perfection" or being made perfect in love.

Pentecost is not merely a remembrance of an historical event, anniversary, or birthday. It is our recognition of what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do in the life of God's people. Won't you claim your part in this activity and make grace a living part of your journey of faith?

Every blessing,

Pastor Charles

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, June 2, at 11:45 a.m., at Parma Trattoria & Mozzarella Bar in the Village Shops At Colony Square, 1132 W Dillon Road, Louisville. Please R.S.V.P. to Pat Cleaveland by June 1 (patcleaveland@msn.com or 720-897-6541).

Men's breakfast will meet on Saturday, June 11, at Le Peep in Boulder at 8:00 a.m. No reservations are needed. Hope to see all of you there!

Special Sundays in June

June 5 is Pentecost Sunday. The color red recalls the tongues of flame that descended upon the Apostles when they received the Holy Spirit. The paraments and altar flowers will be red. We can all join in by wearing something red that Sunday so Pastor Charles looks out on a "sea of red." This will also be the Sunday we begin **summertime fellowship before worship** (see below).

June 19 is Father's Day. We will honor our fathers by sharing a favorite photograph (or two). We did this virtually last year; this time the photos can be displayed and viewed in person. Be looking for that photo; you'll get a reminder in News You Can Use the week before.

Volunteers are needed for fellowship time on Sunday morning. Sign up on the last column of the volunteer sheet at the back of the sanctuary. **Beginning June 5, fellowship time will start at 9:45** (before the service.) We'll shift back to fellowship after the service on September 11 (Fall Renewal Sunday).

- Food served can be as simple as crackers and a drink or as complex as the host chooses to prepare/bring. However, unless the event is announced as a luncheon or special event, simplicity is encouraged.
- Follow the posted directions to make progress toward a zero-waste facility. Review posted directions for compost trash, recyclable trash, or other trash.
- Be sure to use compostable plates, cups, and napkins provided in the pantry. Use real silverware and mugs and wash them after use.
- Coffee Service Maintenance—Prepare coffee (1 pot of decaf and 1 pot of regular). Filters and coffee ground packs are on the counter. Put a filter and a pack of coffee grounds in the basket. Dispose of the plastic grounds bag in the trash. Used filters and grounds go in the compost. Push the "Brew" button to start. Rinse carafes at the end of the food service.
- Birthday Sunday of the month—Starting in September, cake will be served the first Sunday to recognize birthdays in that month. Volunteers are requested to host any other refreshments that day and serve the cake. Cake will be provided by Belinda Alkula.

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

Women's Summer Book Group

Our first organizational meeting will be June 9 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. via Zoom. We will meet at that time on subsequent Thursdays for 8-9 weeks. Let Judy or Belinda if you aren't on the email list and want to join us. We will choose the book at the June 9 meeting.

United Women in Faith News

Virtual Pajama Breakfast—June 25: Hosted by the Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith via Zoom, 8:30-10:00 a.m. We will hear from women who attended the 2022 Assembly, honor deaconesses in our conference, and get an update on United Women in Faith's rebranding campaign. You get to stay in your pajamas and participate from the comfort of your home!

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 Kingdom: 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/303-916-2349 (cell).

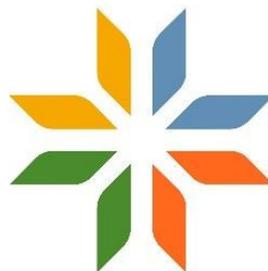
Pentecost Hymn by Charles Wesley

Lord, we believe to us and ours
Thy precious promises were given;
We wait the Pentecostal powers,
The Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven.

Assembled here with one accord,
Calmly we wait the promised grace,
The purchase of our dying Lord;
Come, Holy Ghost, and fill the place.

If everyone that asks may find,
If still thou dost on sinners fall,
Come as a mighty rushing wind;
Great grace be now upon us all.

Behold, to thee our souls aspire,
And languish thy descent to meet;
Kindle in each the living fire,
And fix in every heart thy seat.



United
Women
in Faith

Prayer for Trinity Sunday (June 12)

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given to us Your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of Your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see You in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (The Book of Common Prayer)

June Birthdays

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



JUNE PREACHING SCHEDULE

June 5 / Pentecost/ Communion
"Is it ever going to be enough?"
Acts 2:1-4, 14-21, John 14:8-17, 25-27

June 12 / Trinity Sunday
"Living in community"
Romans 5:1-5, Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

June 19 / Father's Day
"What Elijah heard"
Galatians 3:23-29, 1 Kings 19:1-15a

June 26
"One wild ride"
Luke 9:51-62, 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

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