

March 2021

The Epistle of St. Paul's

From The Pastor's Desk...

This month is notable for several reasons: the first day of spring, the return of Daylight Savings Time, and the start of Holy Week, just to name a few. Perhaps an equally significant milestone will take place on March 14: we will mark one year since we last gathered in the sanctuary for in-person worship.

The year has seen our worship remain a vital part of our common life, and I am grateful for the continued efforts on the part of so many for the participation in the planning and sharing of worship via Zoom. The Worship Team (Amy Abshire, Angela Baker, Martha Batch, Don Berlin, & Judy Waller) has been a wonderful partner in supporting the transition from the familiar to the virtual over the past year. Likewise, all who have shared their musical gifts (Don Berlin, Wally Cleveland, Louise Cook, Tim Cook, Lorie Courier, Rebecca Glancy, Hannah Gu, Steve & Michele Matthews, Bob Muckle, Suzanne Polacek, Ron Revier, & Christopher Wahl plus Alpha & Omega and Jubilate Ringers) and those who have given of themselves in our worship as liturgists, readers, and speakers have been a blessing to us all. And of course, we can all appreciate the efforts Scott Glancy has done each week with the Zoom slides and Belinda Alkula for recording the service for our YouTube channel.

We have been blessed with friends and family who have joined us for worship from across Colorado and elsewhere in the nation. We have been able to share the gift of Ash Wednesday, the joy of Easter, and the wonder of Christmas. We have celebrated communion and shared in our joys and concerns each week, thanks to the wonders of technology and the faithfulness of this congregation.

The last year since we gathered for in-person worship has been challenging to be sure, and yet, I would submit for your consideration that what has come out of this time is a community of faith whose love of God and for the world has not been dimmed in the slightest. We know that it isn't a place that makes us the people of God, it is love, and love alone that binds us together in praise and thanksgiving to our Creator. It is Christ's love for us that has brought us thus far and whose love will remain with us as we make our way through this challenging time. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit, the presence which reminds us daily of our connection to the Source of All Love, who will be with us as we journey through this time and will celebrate with us when next we gather to ask the Lord's blessing at the corner of Gilaspie and Grinnell.

Every blessing, Pastor Charles

In This Issue

From the Pastor's Desk...page 1

Community News and Events...pages 2-3

Birthdays and Preaching Schedule...page 4

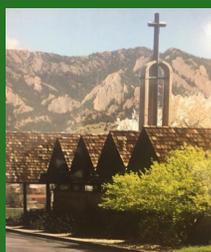
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Lenten Sermon Series is Underway

This Lent is different—and we are doing something different! Inspired to find new ways to keep worship fresh and interesting, Pastor Charles has invited several members of the congregation to give the message on a Sunday during Lent. Thank you to the willing souls who agreed to share God’s word.

The series began on February 28, the first Sunday of Lent, with “Feast or fast” presented by Amy Abshire. Other speakers are...

February 28 - Tim Cook

March 7 - Rebecca Glancy

March 14 - Angela Baker

March 21 - Bob Muckle

March 28 (Palm Sunday) - Claudia Mills

Invite your friends and family to join us for these special messages. You can forward the link from every Friday’s “Worship Links” email.

Pastor Charles will continue to lead worship every week and will return to the (virtual) pulpit to celebrate Easter.

Thank you for your support of EFAA’s Food Bank! While the church building is closed, St. Paul’s efforts have shifted from our food pantry to EFAA’s food bank. We adopted a cereal shelf (\$40/month) and have donated enough money to stock that shelf through August 2023 (\$1290)—wow! We have also sponsored an egg shelf (\$100/month) through April 2021 (\$325 total). Plus \$58.33 was donated for EFAA’s general fund. Please consider making any additional donations to EFAA’s general fund so they can apply it where the need is greatest. Thank you for your gracious generosity.

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

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)

All women in the church are welcome to participate in any of these events. Please direct questions about them to Belinda Alkula (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com or 303-916-2349).

March 13: Mile High Metro UMW District Spiritual Retreat, Co-led by the Rev. Dr. Charles and Belinda Alkula (Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Retreat is based on the UMW study: “Finding Peace in an Anxious Time.”

March 19-20: Western Mountains UMW District Spiritual Retreat (Friday, Saturday)

April 16-17: Mountain Sky Conference UMW Spiritual Retreat (Friday night, Saturday)

June 26: Mountain Sky Conference UMW’s Young Women’s Spiritual Retreat (Saturday afternoon) – 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.”



Church member Sandy Bainbridge is a volunteer community educator for the **Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter**. The Alzheimer's Association has adapted its educational programs to be available online. If you are interested in learning more about supporting people with Alzheimer's, Sandy recommends these 30-minute programs:

- 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
- Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Effective Communication Strategies
- Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors
- Dementia Conversations

Go to www.alz.org/co Scroll down to “Classes and Training.”

Sandy says, “Thanks for helping us keep education going on this important topic in Covid times.”

Open hearts, open doors, open minds.

March Birthdays

3-4 Jim Vander Vorste
3-5 Jayson Dupré
3-9 Lily Berlin
3-9 Betts Daniels
3-11 Elise Cook
3-20 Diane McKnight
3-30 Alexandra Muckle



MARCH PREACHING SCHEDULE

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

We continue our special Lenten sermon series through the month of March.

March 7

Guest speaker: Rebecca Glancy
Communion led by Pastor Charles

March 14

Guest speaker: Angela Baker

March 21

Guest speaker: Bob Muckle

March 28

Palm Sunday

Guest speaker: Claudia Mills

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