



The Epistle of St. Paul's

March 2023

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St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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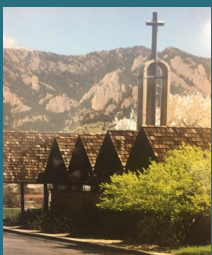
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From The Pastor's Desk...

I was looking at the church calendar on our website (www.stpaulsboulder.com) and noticed that on the 12th we will once more “spring forward” into daylight savings time. It got me to thinking that how we approach time, how we use or misuse it, is an important consideration for those of us in the Christian faith.

We know, for example, that the scriptures have plenty to say about time, both our understanding of it and God's understanding of the same. We read how people made good use of the time allotted to them and plenty of examples of time misused, often by the same people. However we interpret the use of time in the Bible, we can be assured that our awareness of time as a concept isn't all that different from our spiritual forebears. In a spiritual sense, time is like any other gift from God. To paraphrase Hans Urs von Balthasar, “Time is God's gift to you, what you do with it is your gift to God.”

I don't remember when it occurred to me, the realization that I had more years behind me than lay before me. Whenever it was, I am fairly certain that I was not the first nor the last to come to that awareness. I also know that here at St. Paul's we can point to the exact day when we were organized as a faith community: November 15, 1964. We know that it's been fifty-eight years now of our offering a witness at the corner of Grinnell and Gillaspie. In all that time, have we been good stewards of God's gift of time to us? What about the future? I don't know how much time we have ahead of us as a faith community; however, I am confident that regardless of the amount of time still to come, St. Paul's UMC can continue to offer an effective witness to the world that passes by our corner each and every day.

However time is measured – be it a page on the calendar, the tick-tock of a clock, or the rising and setting of the sun – time is indeed a gift that is meant to be embraced but never restrained. Whatever we think we are doing with this gift – spending it, saving it, or wasting it – it existed before us and will continue on without us.

During the season of Lent, I invite you to make the best offering to God you can of the time you have been given. Read the Psalms, come to worship, share your faith in ways large and small. In the time before us, consider how good a steward of time you are, and if there is any shortcoming, be bold in asking God for one more gift: asking for the Spirit's guidance in making the best use of time as you offer it in holy awe back to your God.

Every blessing, *Pastor Charles*

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, March 2 at 11:45 a.m. at Murphy's Tap House (585 McCaslin Blvd., Louisville). **Please R.S.V.P. before March 1** to Michele Matthews (mlmatt@comcast.net / 303-817-2541).

Breakfast Fellowship will next meet on Saturday, March, February 11, at 8:00 a.m. at Doug's Diner (2574 Baseline Road, Basemar Shopping Center). No reservations necessary!

Sew What will meet on **Friday, March 17**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Joan Cooper's home. Please R.S.V.P. by March 14 to Joan via email, text, or phone call (ajcooperjr@comcast.net / 303-898-8034). Note: Folks are encouraged to bring their own lunches/preferred drinks. Some drinks will be provided. Sew What is for those who love to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and/or enjoy visiting with one another.

The 2023 Peaks/Pikes Peak District Gathering will take place via Zoom on Saturday, March 18, from 9:00 AM to noon. The link will be available in the News You Can Use email that week.

The "love" book discussion group led by Claudia Mills via Zoom, focusing on C. S. Lewis's classic text *The Four Loves*, continues through March. Lewis explores four kinds of love—affection, friendship, erotic love, and love of God—drawing on sources from both scripture and secular literature. In our discussion, we will also have the opportunity to encounter some dated attitudes regarding love that merit reexamination. Even if you missed the first few sessions, you are encouraged to join us any week, whether or not you have read the text. The group meets on Thursday evenings, from 7:00-8:15, until March 23. To join the class, contact Claudia at 303-928-0649 or by email at cmills@colorado.edu. The Zoom link is in each week's News You Can Use email.

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

Bridge House is Looking for New Mentors

Bridge House is now booking their next mentor training course for the week of March 13. If you would like to join that training, please get in touch with Scott Medina (scott@boulderbridgehouse.org).

Throughout 2023 and beyond, Bridge House will be building up the mentor program. This is an incredible opportunity to impact one person directly. Volunteers are assigned to one of our Ready to Work trainees, whom they informally mentor for the coming year, meeting with them a couple of times a month.

Here are a few aspects of this program:

- Prospective mentors start with a two-hour training to learn about the program, to learn about establishing boundaries, and generally to see if this is the right fit for them.
- A year+ commitment is required.
- Mentors are assigned once a trainee has been in the program for about four months and continues AFTER they graduate and move out of the House.
- Mentorship is entirely optional for the trainees.
- The heart of the program is to give trainees an additional resource for support, which happens through informal meetings of shared interests. You might go on a hike with your mentee, share a meal, explore hobbies together, and be there for them as they transition back to living and working on their own.
- There are required mentor meetings every 6-8 weeks where we share our successes, questions, and challenges.
- Mentors should be over age 25.

If you have other questions about the program, please let Scott Medina know (email above).

Are you looking to HIRE a trainee?

Bridge House has a wonderful trainee who has been through the year-long program and is ready to graduate and find a job of his own. He is extremely dependable, and staff can see him succeeding in a job for many, many years. However, he doesn't have a HS diploma or GED, and he is a bit socially awkward but personable. He's a hard worker who just needs the right fit!

If you know of an opportunity that Bridge House could explore, please reach out to Scott Medina, and he will connect you with Bridge House's Employment Specialist, who can give you more info. Thanks for being on the lookout for this!

March Birthdays

3-4 Jim Vander Vorste

3-9 Lily Berlin

3-9 Bets Daniels

3-11 Elise Cook

3-20 Diane McKnight

3-25 Jovanka Jones

3-30 Alexandra Muckle

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

MARCH PREACHING SCHEDULE

March 5 / Communion

"Marching order"

John 3:1-17, Genesis 12:1-4a

March 12

"A thirsty people"

Romans 5:1-11, Exodus 17:1-7

March 19 / UMCOR Sunday

"What do you look like?"

Ephesians 5:8-14, 1 Samuel 16:1-13

March 26

"Shake, rattle, and roll"

Romans 8:6-11, Ezekiel 37:1-14

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