



The Epistle of St. Paul's

May 2021

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St. Paul's

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From The Pastor's Desk...

If you've been in the pastor's office at the church, you'll notice bookshelves packed with a lot of books. These books cover a wide range of topics including Bibles, Methodist-related topics, scriptural commentaries, spiritual classics, philosophy, and sexuality. The books include two from the mid-1700's and some published in 2021. There are some that I will treasure always, long after I retire, and others that I am likely to try to find new homes for long before then.

I mention books because we United Methodists have always been reading people, going back to the earliest days of the movement. It was Susanna Wesley who instilled in her children a love of learning which was evidenced in John Wesley's insistence that the early preachers, both lay and ordained, make reading a key component of their work. Wesley wrote, "*Spend all the morning, or at least five hours in twenty-four, in reading the most useful books, and that regularly and constantly.*" He also said, "*Therefore some may read less than others; but none should read less than this.*" Now to be honest, I don't read that much, but the discipline of reading "useful books" is something that has become more and more important to me as I grow older. Wesley told his preachers that they should "*Contract a taste for it [reading] by use or return to trade*" (that is, find another line of work).

But some argued, "*But I read only the Bible.*" Wesley countered: "*Then you ought to teach others to read only the Bible, and, by parity of reasoning, to hear only the Bible. But if so, you need preach no more.*" What Wesley meant by this was don't use reading the Bible as an excuse to limit your understanding of God. Christians are to continue to grow in their faith throughout their life, using the Bible as a foundation. Wesley's instructions were meant to inform the Methodist Societies that if the Bible is the only thing you know, then other people, including other Christians and the society around us, will tune us out because God is not confined to one expression of love.

"But I have no books." In his day, books may have been expensive, and certainly many in the Methodist Societies books may not have been a priority for those with scarce funds. But Wesley would have none of that excuse because those in the Societies who had resources were expected to share with those without. Wesley even set up a publishing house in London, pouring his own money into providing books and tracts for distribution to the bands, classes, and societies of the Methodist movement. In our time, there is a vast array of books available on the web, public libraries (including audio books), our own church library, and anyone in the church family may also make use of my books in the office.

I hope that you will make The Good Book, along with other "useful books," an important part of your discipleship.

Every blessing,

Pastor Charles

To learn more about John Wesley's library, visit https://divinity.duke.edu/sites/divinity.duke.edu/files/documents/cswt/05_John_Wesleys_Reading-London.pdf

When Will We Gather Again?

Unfortunately, we cannot give a definite date when in-person worship services will resume. Be assured that when the building does reopen, our cleaning service will do a thorough cleaning and disinfecting. We will also adhere to guidelines for safety suggested by the Bishop, the Governor, and the County Health Department. Meanwhile, we will continue to worship and fellowship online. Our church is still a vital—if virtual—community! Continue to check the blog, Facebook page, YouTube channel, and our website for opportunities to connect.

Current Status of St. Paul's UMC:

- Office is closed. Administrative work is being done remotely. Email the church office with questions, concerns, and prayer requests (office@saintpaulsboulder.org).
- The preschool is fully operational. Other groups are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- The food pantry is stocked with resources for those who require assistance. King Soopers cards are also available. Food pantry is by appointment only (with Pastor Charles).
- Our blog (www.bolderstpauls.blogspot.com) and Facebook page (@boulderstpauls) are updated daily with online resources. The calendar, found on our website (www.stpaulsboulder.com) is a where to go to see what you can expect to happen in the weeks and months to come.
- The Wired Word study is emailed each Thursday. Contact Pastor Charles if you're interested in receiving this study which looks at current events through the lens of scripture.
- On Sundays, we continue to meet for worship via Zoom for the time being. The link is emailed every week.

Adapted from the Mountain Sky Conference (MSC) Ministry in the Time of Covid Team:

RED STATUS – Stop all in-person worship and gatherings. Essential workers only are allowed in the church building(s). This is the “*Stay in Love with God*” time and stay-home phase of our ministry. Right now, it is best to err on the side of caution, even as directives are eased from the various Mountain Sky Governors. **As of this publishing, St. Paul's UMC is no longer in the red zone!!!**

YELLOW STATUS – Cautionary Return. At St. Paul's UMC, we want to “*Do Good*” as restrictions are lifted. This may mean a gradual return to gatherings, depending on the circumstances. **Yellow Status** begins when state, county, and local officials have reported a consistent testing positivity rate less than or equal to 4 percent. **This is where we find ourselves. As of 15 April, Boulder County was reporting a positivity rate of 5.9%.**

GREEN STATUS – In-person gatherings are the “*Do No Harm*” phase that can be initiated when the virus is contained for a significant amount of time. Permission will be granted to us by the Conference for us to return to full activity and in-person gatherings. This will be in place only as we are confident in the care of our community. **Green Status** for all activities will likely be dependent on a testing protocol for asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers, antibody testing, therapeutic drug therapies, aggressively caring for those who have contracted COVID-19, and approval and availability of a COVID-19 vaccine. State and local officials must have successfully met the criteria of Yellow Status, and there must be evidence through case reporting, testing, and community monitoring that there is no evidence of a rebound.

Here at St. Paul's UMC, returning to full participation will be based on the oversight of the Bishop, Crisis Response Team, state, and national guidelines, as well as the seasonal movement of the virus.

Ladies Lunch Bunch and Men's Breakfast resume this month!

Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, May 6, at 11:45 a.m. at 95A in Lafayette. Men's breakfast group will meet on Saturday, May 8, at 8:00 a.m. at LaPeep in Boulder.

New Keypad on Back Door

St. Paul's and Sunrise Preschool have installed a new keypad at the back (west) door of the church. Sunrise Preschool paid for this with a small grant. The church building will be locked at all times now, even when the preschool is in session; parents will enter through the back door using the keypad. A door bell will be installed for delivery persons and visitors.

Church members with keys are encouraged to enter the building through the kitchen door. If you are opening the building for a group outside preschool hours--such as a music rehearsal or a committee meeting--you are encouraged to unlock the FRONT door for your group members. Please do not prop doors open in cold weather. Please remember to lock all doors before you leave the building.

Church members who want the key code to access the back door can request it from the office.

The Trustees thank you for your cooperation with the new system as we try to keep everyone who uses the building safe.

WOMEN'S SUMMER BOOK GROUP 2021

Since we usually start meeting mid-June, it's time to start thinking about a book to read and discuss for 2021. As always, suggestions are welcome. We'll meet weekly to discuss a good book, discover new ideas, and share what's going on in our lives. If you haven't participated before, please consider joining us. Just let Judy Waller (judy38waller@gmail.com) know and you'll be added to the list.

An email will go out soon to start the ball rolling – date and time to meet, book ideas, etc. There will also be an updated announcement in the June Epistle.

As of now, the plan is to meet via Zoom; that worked well for us last year.

THANKS, EVERYONE! Thank you for continuing to support St. Paul's by using your King Soopers rewards card (or phone number) when you make a purchase at a KS store or fuel pump. In these difficult times...and the recovery of Table Mesa King Soopers from the tragedy of March 22...it takes extra effort. So thank you for that. Our share of 2021's first quarter rewards is \$286.06.

Open hearts, open doors, open minds.

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 to Belinda Alkula (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com or 303-916-2349).

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."

This Summer – Date To be Determined: "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.

Aldersgate Day – May 24th

John Wesley records in his journal entry for May 24, 1738 (taken from a rather lengthy account of that day):

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading [Martin] Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Prayer for Pentecost – May 30th

God the Holy Spirit, You are of one essence with the Father and the Son, and You proceed from them. You descended on the Lord Christ in the form of a dove, and on His disciples as tongues of flame. We thank You, we praise You, and pray that You would chase from our souls all the darkness of evil and kindle in us the light of Your grace and the fire of Your love; You live and reign, true God forever and ever. Amen.

—St. Augustine of Hippo, 354-430

Celebrating Five Years of STEMrev

After five years, Rebecca Glancy and her partners have decided to dissolve the STEMrev organization and end programming. They are proud of what STEMrev accomplished and grateful for St. Paul's faithful support.

Ten students participated in the pilot program in Spring 2017. The next semester, Fall 2017, STEMrev offered programming at two sites and served about fifteen students. In Spring 2018 that number increased to 25 students. The following autumn STEMrev served 50 students in three locations, and by Spring 2019 the organization served more than 60 students in four locations. In Fall 2019 and Spring 2020--before schools closed in mid-March--STEMrev consolidated to two locations but still served close to 60 kids. STEMrev also developed a summer camp and an in-school program for the students at Temple Grandin School, whose students are on the Autism spectrum. Across these locations students ranged in age from eight to fifteen, elementary to high school.

Last fall, when schools moved to online learning, STEMrev made a series of videos, posted on YouTube, and delivered materials to 75 kids in the I Have A Dream program so they could continue STEM enrichment at home. This winter, STEMrev delivered another 75 kits donated by Carollo Engineering to those same 75 kids.

In total, STEMrev led about 125 projects for about 450 students over five years. That's a lot of STEM learning!

The supplies St. Paul's donated over the years have been donated to Columbine Elementary, a Family Resource School in Boulder. The kits will continue to teach and inspire kids. **Thank you for believing in STEMrev's vision and making it possible.**

Prayer for Trinity Sunday

We worship You, eternal Father.

We call on You, eternal Son.

We confess You, Holy Spirit, dwelling in one divine unity.

To You, Trinity we give praise and thanks.

To You, one God, we sing in endless praise.

To You, Father unbegotten, to You, the only-begotten Son, to You, Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, we confess with our hearts, to You beyond all thought, surpassing all understanding, to the all-powerful God we give thanks; who reigns, now and forever. Amen.

Source: *The Antiphony of Bangor*, #125; translated by Paul C. Stratman for *A Collection of Prayers*.

May Birthdays

5-8 Jim McKnight
5-11 Anna Dahlstrom
5-12 Joey Revier
5-14 Louise Cook
5-21 Pat Cleaveland
5-22 Suzanne Polacek
5-23 Lorie Courier
5-27 Doris Steiner
5-27 Donna Jean Wasson



MAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

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

May 2

John 15:1-8, Acts 8:26-40

"Road trip!"

Communion

May 9

1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

"All this talk of love"

May 16

John 24:44-53, Acts 1:1-11

"Dear Theophilus..."

May 23—Pentecost

Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

"By any other name"

May 30

Isaiah 6:1-8, John 3:1-17

"Is eternal life enough?"

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