



# The Epistle of St. Paul's

May 2022

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## St. Paul's United Methodist Church

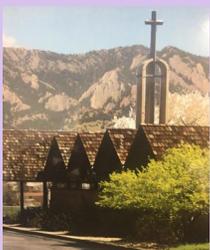
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## *From The Pastor's Desk...*

There are times in everyone's faith journey when we become aware that we are at a crossroads moment. These are the times when we have a decision or decisions to make, decisions that we will refer to years down the road as one of those moments when time is marked as before and afterwards. May 21 and 24, 1738, were two such crossroad moments for the people called Methodist.

On May 21, 1738, Pentecost Sunday, Charles Wesley found himself sick in bed. Following a visit from his brother John and some friends, he rested and prayed, rising in strength and power, immediately setting pen to paper, and composed two great hymns: "And Can It Be That I Should Gain" and "Where Shall My Wondering Soul Begin." This marked a turning point in his life and ministry after which this already prolific poet became one of the greatest hymn writers in the history of the Christian faith.

Three days later, his brother John experienced the assurance of salvation which he records in his journal: *"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a [Moravian] 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."* This turned an Anglican clergyman, drifting without purpose in his life and work, into a dynamic force for the gospel that burned brightly across the British Isles for the next fifty-plus years and continues across the world to this very day.

I mention these two events as examples of what can happen when people of faith make themselves available to the presence of God at work in their life and in the world around them. Neither of these events happened without the presence of others in their lives. For Charles, it was the visitation of friends and family, sharing in his vulnerability, which gave him the assurance of God's presence in his weakness. For John, it was a Bible study, which awoke in him the realization that God's love was meant for everyone, including himself!

I believe that each of us at St. Paul's can have our own "Aldersgate" experiences this month. It could be in Tim's adult study on Sunday morning, it could be with the Wednesday morning Zoom visit, or it could be during a call or visit with someone who needs to know God's love is still available to them. Wherever you go and whom-ever you meet this month, you will come into contact with the power and presence of God.

St. Paul's needs people whose lives are being transformed by God. Will you join the chorus of creation in shouting to the cosmos what God has done in your life? St. Paul's is at a crossroad, and the future of this community of faith is in the balance. Which way will we go, and who will lead the way?

Every blessing,  
Pastor Charles

**Ladies Lunch Bunch** will meet Thursday, May 5, at 11:45 a.m., at BJ's Restaurant (1690 28th Street, Boulder.) Please R.S.V.P. to Myrle Myers by May 3 (mmyers59@msn.com or 303-810-8044).

**Men's breakfast** will meet May 14 at Le Peep at 8 AM. No reservations needed. If you have questions, contact Austin Cooper.

Thank you to everyone who participates in the **King Soopers' loyalty program**. Our first quarter (2022) share is \$234.64, which is a big budget bonus!

### THEATER NOTES

BDTSTAGE is now offering bookings for groups! The bad news is that here is no discount on the ticket price, and tickets are pricey - \$75 for the center tables. The discount may be offered again later. The good news is that the 18% gratuity still applies and beverage is included. We also get early booking for better seats. They offer "family" 4-packs at a 20% ticket discount; I'm happy to look into that.

Upcoming shows include musical tributes to Stevie Wonder, John Denver, Billy Joel and Elton John. The summer show is *The SpongeBob Musical*, May 27– September 3. Visit [bdtstage.com](http://bdtstage.com) for more information. Let Judy Waller know if you have any interest.

**May 15 is Music Appreciation Day** St. Paul's United Women in Faith will host fellowship time after worship. The point of contact for this event is Joan Cooper.

### Women's Summer Book Group

It's time to start planning for the 2022 session of this wonderful group. We meet weekly to discuss a good book, discover new ideas, and share what's going on in our lives. As always, suggestions are welcomed and encouraged – day and time to meet, book to read and discuss, Zoom or in-person or both. If you haven't participated before, please consider joining us. Just let Judy Waller know and you'll be added to the list. An email will go out soon with updated information.

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

## United Women in Faith News

**St. Paul's United Women in Faith – 2022 Quiet Disciple Award Recipient: Joey Vander Vorste!** During the Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith Spiritual Life Retreat on April 2, nominees from various churches in our conference were celebrated. Our Joey was recognized as being our church's UWF 2022 Quiet Disciple. Here is an excerpt from the nomination that Joan Cooper submitted:

Joey Vander Vorste is a committed disciple of Christ, a humble and loving woman, and an active member of St. Paul's UMC in Boulder, Colorado. She provides transportation to/from church for members who live at the nearby retirement community. She sings in the choir and plays in the hand-bell choir...Throughout the years, she has hosted "dinner circle" gatherings in her home. She invited a student to stay in her home, while working on her doctorate at the University of Colorado. She has encouraged and supported other church family members while they pursued their educational goals. December 30, 2021, when church family members lost their home to the Boulder County wildfires, her home became their home, until they could make other arrangements.

**2022 Assembly:** Belinda Alkula will be participating **virtually** in this year's Assembly, which takes place in Orlando, Florida, May 20-22. Every four years, Assembly is offered at different cities around the United States. It is an inspirational, educational gathering of faith-based woman who want to feel spiritually nurtured, connected to our larger sisterhood from around the globe, and be moved to action. It includes dynamic worship experiences, workshops, and an opportunity to participate in "The Ubuntu Day of Service," a pre-event opportunity to serve the local community.

### SKIPPY ROLLIN'S GUIDE FOR LIVING

I WILL TRY TOMORROW TO LIVE A SIMPLE, SINCERE, AND SERENE LIFE, REPELLING PROMPTLY EVERY THOUGHT OF DISCONTENT, ANXIETY, DISCOURAGEMENT, IMPURITY, AND SELF-SEEKING; INSTEAD, CULTIVATING CHEERFULNESS, CHARITY, AND THE HABIT OF HOLY SILENCE; EXERCISING ECONOMY IN EXPENDITURE; GENEROSITY IN GIVING, CAREFULNESS IN CONVERSATION, DILIGENCE IN APPOINTED SERVICE, FIDELITY TO EVERY TRUST, AND A CHILD-LIKE FAITH IN GOD. I WILL TRY TO BE FAITHFUL IN THOSE HABITS OF PRAYER, WORK, STUDY, PHYSICAL EXERCISE, EATING, AND SLEEPING WHICH I BELIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS SHOWN ME TO BE RIGHT. AND AS I CANNOT DO THIS IN MY OWN STRENGTH, OR EVEN WITH A HOPE OF SUCCESS, ATTEMPT IT, I LOOK TO THEE, O GOD MY FATHER, AND THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

## May Birthdays

5-8 Jim McKnight  
5-11 Anna Dahlstrom  
5-12 Joey Revier  
5-14 Louise Cook  
5-18 Madilyn "Madi" Wahl  
5-21 Pat Cleaveland  
5-22 Suzanne Polacek  
5-23 Lorie Courier  
5-26 Jerry Cantril  
5-27 Doris Steiner  
5-27 Donna Jean Wasson



## MAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

### May 1 / Communion

*"Blessing, honor, glory, power"*  
Revelation 1:4-8, Revelation 5:11-14

### May 8 / Mother's Day

*"The scene around the throne"*  
Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17

### May 15

*"New and improved"*  
Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6

### May 22

*"Bank on it"*  
Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

### May 29 / Ascension Sunday

*"Why bother?"*  
Ephesians 1:15-23, Acts 1:1-11

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