



The Epistle of St. Paul's

May 2023

From The Pastor's Desk..

Ah, May! That month replete with festive occasions, secular observances and holidays, and religious holy days, a month that serves as the doorway to those lazy, crazy days of summer! Ah, May! What will this month bring? And just what will we say, come the arrival of June, when we have done with all of the days that May affords us?

I looked back at what I have shared with you through *The Epistle* since 2020, and it got me to thinking about just what it is that we have done, and what we could do, with the time we have available to us this month.

Three years ago, we were overwhelmed by the impact that Covid-19 was having on the world and upon the congregation of St. Paul's UMC. I concluded my Epistle article with *"Each of us has the ability and the means to transmit the image of God to this and future generations. Who you are matters because you matter to God, who God is matters because God matters to you."* Two years ago, I mentioned that John Wesley's heirs were to be a reading people and invited you to make use of the church library and the books in my office since *"I hope that you will make The Good Book, along with other 'useful books,' an important part of your discipleship."* Last year, I wrote about the spiritual transformation that occurred in the lives of John and Charles Wesley in May 1738 and concluded with *"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?"*

For three Mays, I've invited you to share the gospel through your daily activities, to continue growing in your discipleship through the written word, and to live as transformed people of faith. Which brings us to May 2023. During the course of May, I want to invite each person who has a connection to St. Paul's UMC to make an intentional decision to either begin, continue, or expand upon what being a follower of Jesus means to you. Share your faith with one person. Read one book that leads you deeper into your faith. Commit to one ministry, big or small, but do it with all the passion you can muster.

June will come regardless of whether or not you have done the three things above. I hope though, that come May 2024, you will be able to say, *"May 2023. That's when it all began. That's when my faith began to really impact myself, my church, my relationships, and my world."*

Every blessing, Pastor Charles

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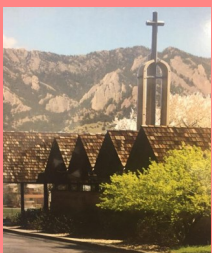
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Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, May 4, at 11:45 a.m. at Parma Trattoria & Mozzarella Bar (1132 W. Dillon Road, Louisville). Please R.S.V.P. by May 2 to Louise Cook (louisecook916@gmail / 303-859-9327).

Breakfast Fellowship will next meet on Saturday, May 13, at 8:00 a.m. at Le Peep (2525 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder, next to McGuckin's hardware). No reservations necessary. All are welcome!

Sew What will meet on Friday, May 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Blue Room at church. Please R.S.V.P. by May 16 to Bren Smith via email or phone call (garysmith364@aol.com / 303-910-5703). 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.

Free Virtual Women's Spiritual Life Retreat

Sponsored by the Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith
Friday, May 19, 6:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturday, May 20, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

This year's theme is "Goodbye Worries. Hello Joy!" On Saturday, Belinda Alkula will be leading a 30-minute breakout-room session on the importance of joy and laughter in our lives, featuring chair-dancing, song-singing, and laughter yoga exercises.

Find registration links in the E-pistle and News You Can Use.

Thanks to everyone (again!) for their first quarter support of St. Paul's by making **King Soopers purchases**, translating into shared rewards of \$279.16.

Prayer for Ascension Day

O God, You have glorified our victorious Savior with a triumphant resurrection from the dead, and ascension into heaven, where He sits at Your right hand. Grant, we ask You, that His triumphs and glories may ever shine in our eyes to make us see more clearly through His sufferings, and more courageously endure our own; being assured by His example, that if we endeavor to live and die like Him, for the cause of Your love in ourselves and others, You will raise our dead bodies again, and conforming them to His glorious body, call us above the clouds, and give us possession of Your everlasting kingdom. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. © 2000 Order of Saint Luke Publications. Used with permission.

Theater Updates

BDT will be open beyond this summer's *Sound of Music* for one more performance—*Fiddler on the Roof* with Wayne Kennedy playing Tevye! Sunday matinees are already filling up for *Sound of Music*. Judy Waller will be getting more specific information soon and will be offering up some dates for that performance. *Fiddler* will be announced to the general public at the end of this month, so be thinking about that, too.

Women's Summer Book Group

It's time to start planning for the 2023 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. We try to find a book that is interesting, humorous, inspirational, spiritual, and available. Suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. If you haven't participated before, please consider joining us. Contact Judy Waller or Belinda Alkula for more information.

Sunday Fellowship Notes

May 7 will be a regular fellowship—not birthday celebrations. May 14 fellowship will celebrate Mother's Day, May birthdays, and Music Appreciation Day.

Sandra Jordan wants to thank our church community for their support, cards, and good wishes after the unexpected and sudden passing of her sister Donna Kittell in Wyoming. Donna had attended St. Paul's many times and always enjoyed her visits. Your kindness and love was very comforting and greatly appreciated.

Mother's Day

Statistics say that \$20.7 billion will be spent on moms in honor of the U.S. holiday that falls on the second Sunday in May: Mother's Day. All that cash and commercialism goes against everything the women who originated the idea intended. Visit this link (www.umc.org/en/content/methodist-history-the-founding-mothers-of-mothers-day) to meet the Methodist mother and daughter team who worked to create a day to honor a mother's love and to emphasize how important a mother's role is in building a peaceful world.

Hymn for the Day of Pentecost Charles Wesley (1740)

Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
let us Thine influence prove;
source of the old prophetic fire,
fountain of life and love.
Come, Holy Ghost, for, moved by Thee,
Thy prophets wrote and spoke:
unlock the truth, Thyself the key,
unseal the sacred book.
Expand Thy wings, celestial Dove,
brood o'er our nature's night;
on our disordered spirits move,
and let there now be light.
God, through Himself, we then shall know,
if Thou within us shine;
and sound, with all Thy saints below,
the depths of love divine.

May Birthdays

5-8 Jim McKnight
5-11 Anna Dahlstrom
5-12 Joey Revier
5-14 Louise Cook
5-18 Madilyn "Madi" Wahl
5-20 Sandi Cook
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 7 / Communion

"Living stones, living people"

John 14:1-14, 1 Peter 2:2-10

May 14 / Mother's Day, Music Appreciation

"Stand and deliver"

1 Peter 3:13-22, Acts 17:22-31

May 21

"There's a lot to tell"

Ephesians 1:15-23, Acts 1:1-11

May 28 / Pentecost

"That's a mouthful"

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, Acts 2:1-21

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