

# The Epistle of St. Paul's

November 2020

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## St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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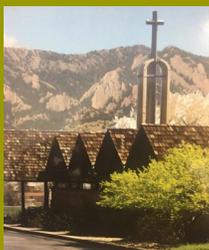
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## From The Pastor's Desk...

*"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." –Francis of Assisi*

It would be an understatement to say that this is a challenging time for the world, our nation, the communities of the Front Range, or for us here at St. Paul's UMC.

The November 3<sup>rd</sup> election will not bring to a conclusion the seemingly unending cycle of campaigning that is the state of our democracy. Nor will the issues faced by countless communities and individuals find a solution that will satisfy everyone when the last vote is counted. And yet, somehow, with God's blessing, the sun will rise on the world on November 4<sup>th</sup> and we will face whatever future there might be, together.

*"There is only one way to eat an elephant: a bite at a time." –Bishop Desmond Tutu*

It occurs to me in reading the words of St. Francis that we might find ourselves better equipped to face that future if we decided to reframe the conversation. Instead of lamenting the state of the world with its unending litany of disasters, unrest, or the latest controversy, perhaps it might be better to offer a litany of praise to God. What's that, you might ask, despite everything we're supposed to offer praise to God? That's exactly what I'm suggesting we do.

Our litany of praise might begin first by giving thanks to our God for the gift of life and for finding ourselves participants in the ongoing act of creation. We might give thanks for our ability to share in the tasks of being in community: this planet, this nation, this county, and this church.

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." –attributed to John Wesley*

We could then ask for strength necessary to do one thing, one thing that would contribute to making our corner of the world a bit better. Doing what we can, not necessarily what we want, will go a long way to ushering in the Kingdom of God in our lifetime. Doing one thing, be it a gentle word, a random act of kindness, or a moment of thanksgiving, provides the foundation for the next 'one thing' and our growing deeper in love with God. The list of 'one thing' will be surprising in its variety and its length.

*"When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." –Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

We bring our litany to a conclusion by offering our affirmation that we have eliminated the things that serve as barriers to our relationship with God and with our neighbors. By eliminating these so-called impossible barriers, we are left with the only thing that is possible, and that is the truth that we are blessed when we offer the Gloria Patri:

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

Every blessing, Pastor Charles

## All Saints Day – November 1<sup>st</sup>

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Your Son, Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that Thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love Thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

–Book of Common Prayer, 1979

## St. Paul's UMC Anniversary

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's will celebrate its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary! From our beginning we sought to worship God and serve our neighbors. May the next fifty-five years continue to build upon this legacy of love and service!

## Virtual Church Conference

According to the Book of Discipline (§ 246.1) *“Within the pastoral charge the basic unit in the connectional system of The United Methodist Church is the charge conference.”*

On **Friday, November 14, at 3:00 PM**, all members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church are asked to attend our very first virtual church conference! At this gathering, we'll do the work that is required by the Discipline: *“The primary responsibilities of the charge conference in the annual meeting shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church (§§ 120-124), receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist Church.”*

Please make every effort to participate in this event. **Login information will be provided by email.**

## 2021 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to everyone who submitted their 2021 pledge form online or by mail. If you have not done that yet, it's not too late! Having an accurate estimate of our income helps us budget for the upcoming year. For a link to the online e-pledge form or a printed copy, contact the church office.

**WAY TO GO!** You all have helped our budget and we are grateful. We have earned **\$400.59 in 3rd quarter rewards from King Soopers!** Thank you to everyone who has signed up and are participating in this benefit program for the church. It doesn't cost a thing and the church gets credit for every KS grocery and gas dollar you spend. If you haven't had a chance to sign up or are unsure how to do it, please let Joey Vander Vorste know ([jimnjoey@aol.com](mailto:jimnjoey@aol.com)) or Terri Himes ([terri.himes@comcast.net](mailto:terri.himes@comcast.net)). We'll all be grateful! Thank you.

## Advent Kickoff—Curbside at St. Paul’s

Mark your calendars! St. Paul’s is launching into Advent with a curbside drop-off/pick-up from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Monday, November 23, and Tuesday, November 24. Stay in your car. Contact free!

You can...

- Drop off donations for the Mitten Tree to give to the un-housed in Boulder. (See below)
- Drop off donations for EFAA food bank
- Pick up your Advent devotional
- Pick up a gift bag from Pastor Charles and Belinda (Including your countdown candle, see below)
- Receive a plate of Christmas cookies baked by St. Paul’s talented bakers

We can’t gather to together to “hang the greens” this year, but we can still give and receive the gifts of the season.

*If you can’t stop by yourself for this curbside event, we can deliver to you. Volunteers needed for contact-free home deliveries. Contact the office.*

**On the first Sunday in Advent, folks will be invited to “turn on” their Advent-countdown-candles during our Zoom worship service.** Everyone who picks up a gift bag from the Alkulas (see above) will receive one LED candle with a countdown to Christmas label on it and a special marker to use on the label while counting the days of Advent.

### O, Mitten Tree!

This year, despite COVID challenges, we are going to continue our Christmas drive to provide gifts for the homeless. Although we cannot “trim” the “Mitten Tree” in the sanctuary, we can still provide warmth and holiday cheer to the clients of the Boulder Homeless shelter. This year the shelter has specified that they are looking for donations of “warm hats, heavy gloves/mittens, wool socks, and \$5 gift cards to someplace our clients could buy lunch, a cup of coffee, or an essential item: Safeway, McDonalds, Starbucks, Target, etc.” (Note that they do NOT want more generous gift cards, as they want to treat all clients equally at the holiday gathering).

There are two ways you can participate: 1) Drop off any of these UN-wrapped items at the Advent kickoff event in the church parking lot (see above) or 2) make a donation (either cash or a check made out St. Paul’s with “Mitten Tree” in the memo line). Thank you for supporting this ministry!

Loving God & Creating Hope & Changing Lives

## Resources for United Methodist Women

These are uncertain times. However, as the saying goes, “you can’t keep a good woman down!” We are determined and resilient. We are women of faith, committed to turning faith and hope into “Love in Action” for the betterment of women, children, and youth all around the world. And, yes, there is still much work to do.

However, before we can do that, it is so important that each of us commits to a form of self-care every day. I love this 4-minute video about 5 ways to cope with pandemic fears: [https://youtu.be/QsJ8B\\_FhqS4](https://youtu.be/QsJ8B_FhqS4). For me, it clarifies how I can find a balanced approach to life, especially in these challenging times.

Below are some additional resources, which I hope will encourage and inspire you.

Yours in Christ, Belinda Alkula

### UMW Resources:

Message from Harriet Jane Olsen, the UMW General Secretary (6 minutes): <https://youtu.be/uN8tHsZOkcE> Uplifting and encouraging. She highlights our longtime commitment to women, children, and youth.

2019 Annual Report: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/AnnualReport2019.pdf> It details how Mission dollars are being spent.

Faith Talks: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>. These discussions with female faith leaders and advocates are very timely and worthy of your attention.

**Lunch Bunch will meet November 5 at 95A in Lafayette. We will meet at 11:45. We need reservations by November 1. You can let Joan Cooper know if you are coming.**

The next **neighborhood “Breakfast-to-Go”** in partnership with The Meridian is Sunday, November 8th, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the church parking lot. On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2:00 p.m., Belinda Alkula and Natalie Junk from The Meridian will leave Halloween goodies bags on our neighbors’ front doors, inviting them to this event. Goodies bags will include Halloween treats and an invitation to upcoming church events. Other church members are encouraged to volunteer to help.

## St. Paul's Reconciling Statement Final Vote

After nearly nine months of praying and listening, St. Paul's is approaching the end of our journey toward becoming a more inclusive congregation in terms of welcoming Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning individuals. Of course we welcome all people at St. Paul's UMC. But, as stated in our Frequently Asked Questions, we propose a statement welcoming these individuals who have been specifically excluded by the global United Methodist Church's *Book of Discipline*.

More than 30 people responded to our recent survey asking for feedback on a potential reconciling statement. We are excited, grateful and inspired by the number of responses received. They were overwhelmingly positive. The comments and feedback we received were enlightening and very helpful.

The first draft of the statement said "St. Paul's UMC welcomes and celebrates people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions." Based on your feedback, we have replaced *celebrates* with *affirms*, so the new version says "St. Paul's UMC welcomes and affirms people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions."

The Reconciling Ministries Team--Judy Waller, Scott Glancy, Rebecca Glancy, Claudia Mills, Abby Lagemann, and Steve Batch--remain open to questions and discussion. We have compiled a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** at <https://tinyurl.com/reconcilingfaq> Thank you for your support on this journey and for your love and care for one another and all God's children.

We are now ready for a congregation-wide vote on this statement that is so important to the future of St. Paul's and the wider United Methodist Church. There are two questions (below). You can cast your ballot online or mail the cut-out paper ballot to the church office. Responses are anonymous; remember if you mail a paper ballot not to include identifying information like a return address. We must receive 75% "yes" votes to adopt the statement and to join the Reconciling Ministries Network. **Deadline is November 9.**

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1. Shall St. Paul's adopt the statement "St. Paul's UMC welcomes and affirms people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions."? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

2. Shall St. Paul's join the Reconciling Ministries Network? The RMN is an organization of United Methodists who advocate for the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in both the policy and practices of the UMC. \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Welcome to **Ben Glancy**, who joined the church during worship on October 25. He completed St. Paul's first virtual confirmation class over the summer.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Dennis and Marcia Hult

4900 Thunderbird Dr. #541

Boulder, CO 80303

New phone number: 720-562-8200

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

## Bridge House Fall Update

First, a **big thanks** to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped support our big “virtual” Farm to Table event last month, which happily was our most successful fundraiser ever! We are so grateful.

**Community Table Dinner Update:** For a variety of reasons, we’ve learned that serving our dinner indoors is not going to be viable for the foreseeable future on several levels: legal, logistical and safety-wise. As COVID will likely be a very prevalent factor throughout the winter, we need to ensure that our services are safe for guests, staff and volunteers alike. Thus, an indoor option unfortunately is not a possibility right now. So, we plan on continuing to offer nightly dinners Monday-Friday in a “grab and go” format. Good news is that we will soon be switching to a HOT DINNER in individually-packaged serving sizes, so at least our guests will have nutritious hot food to eat.

Here’s a brief update on **volunteering opportunities:**

- **Community Table dinners** This is an OUTDOOR opportunity, rain or shine, although as it gets colder we will be able to stand INDOORS and hand out the meals from the doorway. Volunteer duties are to help staff with handing out the meals and checking in guests as they arrive. Masks and gloves should be worn. No on-site eating for the clients, it really is just grab and go. We are at Grace Common’s Annex (former First Presbyterian Church) at 16th & Walnut in the parking lot to the north side of the building. Volunteer hours are 4:45pm-6pm, Monday - Friday. Only 1 to 2 volunteers needed per night. <https://calendly.com/bhvolunteers/community-table-dinners-grab-and-go>
- **NEW Lunch service in Longmont** We have been asked to help serve lunches Monday-Friday from approximately 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at two different locations. This is very similar to the grab and go dinners. Countryside Village, [1400 S Collyer St, Longmont](#), OR River Valley Mobile Home Park, [10910 Turner Blvd, Longmont](#). For more details, please contact Kyl Caragol at [kyl.caragol@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:kyl.caragol@longmontcolorado.gov). Please cc me ([Scott@BoulderBridgeHouse.org](mailto:Scott@BoulderBridgeHouse.org)) on your email to Kyl.
- **Mentoring at Trainee at Ready to Work House** This requires an additional three hour training. The time requirements include meeting with your mentee every 1-2 weeks in informal settings, plus required mentor-support groups every 6 weeks, and occasionally attending House events/meetings at the Ready to Work House. It requires a year-long commitment. If you want to help change the course of one person’s life, this is the way to do it! Let me know if you are interested and we can offer more details: [Scott@BoulderBridgeHouse.org](mailto:Scott@BoulderBridgeHouse.org)
- **Brownie production assistance** Do you know about our delicious Danconias truffle brownies, made right at our Kitchen location as part of our social enterprise? Learn more here: <https://www.danconias.com> We will volunteer support in assembling the brownie boxes and other associated preparations. You will be working alongside staff and Trainees in our Ready to Work program. Email me at [Scott@BoulderBridgeHouse.org](mailto:Scott@BoulderBridgeHouse.org)

Thank you for your support!

Scott Medina

## George Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to *"recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"*

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

*Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October, A.D. 1789*

Loving God ✨ Creating Hope ✨ Changing Lives

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11-5 Chris Cole

11-5 Karlene Ferguson

11-16 Katherine Richardson

11-22 Alecs Donaho

11-27 Wendy Wheaton



## NOVEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

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

### November 1—All Saints Day

*"Do you have hope?"*

Matthew 5:1-12, 1 John 3:1-3

VIRTUAL COMMUNION

### November 8

*"Be careful what you ask for"*

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-15, Joshua 24:16-25

### November 15

*"Living in the Light"*

Psalms 123, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

### November 22—Christ the King Sunday

*"Baa baa Black Sheep"*

Matthew 25:31-40, Matthew 25:41-46

### November 29—1st Sunday in Advent

*"Let's wrap this thing up"*

1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Isaiah 64:1-9

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