

The Epistle of St. Paul's

November 2022

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St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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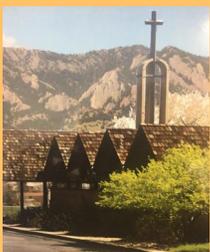
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From The Pastor's Desk...

In November 2006, I was invited to preach at the American Thanksgiving service at St. Andrew's Church in Plymouth, Devon, UK (the church the Pilgrims worshipped in the night before they sailed). This service kicked off the shopping season in the city and was a big deal with the American ambassador and other dignitaries present.

My sermon, "*A truly daring people,*" was taken from Matthew 6:25-33 and focused on the courage the Pilgrims had when they strode up the gangplank to *The Mayflower* and set off across the ocean to the New World. I also spoke about the courage people have today, perhaps not in the manner of crossing the ocean in tiny ships, but the courage God's people have to live each day.

This courage that comes from a faith that beckons us to leave the safety and security of our old way of living. This courage provided the strength to a group of people to establish a church at Grinnell and Gillaspie in 1964. This courage has seen people come within the walls of the church to share food, fellowship, music, and so much more.

With all the courage it takes to do the things the church is called to do – "*Loving God. Creating Hope. Changing Lives*" – there remains a timidity present within us. With all the courage we have witnessed over the years, there still is fear at work when we fail to hold each other accountable for our discipleship. With all the courage we have available to us through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we tend to cling to the "good old days" as a safer bet than the daring, God-shaped future that could be ours.

Turning to the courage that is ours for the asking, I offer here a hymn Charles Wesley published on November 29, 1763 (during the Seven Years War), which is sung to the tune, "Oh God Our Help In Ages Past."

Sing to the Lord by whom we live, From whom our blessings spring, Who doth to us salvation give, And vict'ry to our king.

Thee, Conqueror of our foes we greet, Thee, Lord of hosts proclaim, And cast our laurels at thy feet, And tremble at thy name.

With lowly reverential joy Thy mercy we embrace, This solemn interval employ In ceaseless prayer and praise.

Whate'er these threatening wars portend, Whate'er thy will decrees, Our souls that on thy love depend, Are kept in perfect peace.

Our loving confidence is sure, Our Guardian-Rock stands fast, Under its shade we dwell secure, 'Till every storm is past.

Who rest beneath th' Almighty's wings, May cast their cares away: Whate'er event tomorrow brings, We live for God to-day.

Live each day as people who are not afraid – of death or of life. Live, and show the world what true courage looks like, courage that comes from living in the presence of God. —Pastor Charles

November 1 is All Saints Day – A sometimes overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations, it is not nearly as well known as the day before, All Hallow's (Saints') Eve, better known as Halloween, but All Saints Day is far more important in the life of the church. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On Sunday, November 6, we will remember the saints in our lives and in the life of St. Paul's UMC.

Virtual Church Conference – On **Saturday, November 19, at 10:00 a.m.**, all members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church are asked to attend our virtual church conference. At this gathering, we'll do the work that is required by the Discipline to approve the pastor's compensation, membership report, and Lay Leadership report. Please make every effort to participate in this event. Login information will be provided in News You Can Use.

If It's November...

It must be pledge campaign time! This year's pledge campaign will run from November 1 through November 15. It would be helpful to the Finance Committee if you could return your pledge during this window; however, we will cheerfully accept your pledge at any time! As you consider the amount that you are willing and able to donate to the church during 2023, consider that to keep our doors open and lights on, we rely on the pledged income that we generate every year during this two-week period. The entire church budget, including staff salaries and emergency expenses that the church incurs, is based upon your "promise to pay" or pledge.

Judy Waller has graciously offered her thoughts about giving and pledging to the church. We encourage you to let her words inspire you as you consider your own pledge for 2023.

WHY I GIVE: *I give because my support helps to provide and maintain a caring church, its' ministries and programs, a place for all to worship, a home for any seeker. I give because I am able. I give because it gives me a sense of belonging, of being a contributing part of a faith community. I give because, for me, it's the right thing to do.*

WHY I PLEDGE: *I pledge because it gives me a time to consider and renew my commitment to support St. Paul's with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness. I pledge yearly because it helps me be financially responsible to myself and to St. Paul's. I pledge because I know that having knowledge of funds coming in helps our church to plan for our next year. I pledge because, for me, it's the right thing to do.*

The link to the online pledging form and a few tips for success will be sent in News You Can Use. Paper pledge cards are available on request by emailing the church office. Thank you all, and let us know if you have any questions.

St. Paul's third quarter share of King Soopers rewards is \$284.01. Thanks to everyone for their loyal support!

Last Call for Devotional Entries – Select a person, animal, or aspect of your favorite Nativity set and send a paragraph to the church office by November 6 (pictures welcomed!). The devotional will be distributed on November 20 and will be available online.

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, November 7, at 11:45 a.m. at the Eat Well Café (909 Arapahoe Avenue in Boulder). **Please R.S.V.P. by November 3** to Sandy Bainbridge (Sandy_Bainbridge@yahoo.com / 970-584-0311). We will enjoy a delicious meal and learn more about the services the center offers to community seniors. Please note the change to a Monday lunch this month.

Breakfast Fellowship (formerly Men's Breakfast) will next meet on Saturday, November 12, at 8:00 a.m. at **Doug's Diner** (2574 Baseline Road, Basemar Shopping Center). No reservations necessary!

Sew What will meet on **Friday, November 18**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Suzanne Polacek's home. Folks are encouraged to take their own lunches and preferred drinks. Some drinks will be provided. We will not have Sew What in December.

Holiday Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet **Thursday, December 1**, at 11:45 a.m., at **Murphy's Tap House**, 585 McCaslin Blvd. in Louisville. **Please R.S.V.P. by November 27** to Belinda Alkula at Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com or 303-916-2349.

FALL PRE-HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON—Sunday, November 13

Mark your calendar for the all-church potluck luncheon. Sandwich makings will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to round out the meal (or contribute a couple of dollars for the next luncheon).

Church decorating for the holidays – Come join the fun on Wednesday, November 23, at 6:00 PM as we make our building ready for Advent and Christmas!

EFAA FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

EFAA continues to see an increase in customers at their Food Pantry. The cost of food, toiletries and just about every necessity is getting higher every week. This means more need with fewer people able to contribute. The Food Pantry manager expressed EFAA's gratitude for the delivery of 812 pounds of food and other items from St. Paul's in July. You are encouraged to donate individually, either in person or by using EFAA's Amazon Wish list. Instructions on how to help out can be found at www.EFAA.org/donate.

The Learning Committee would like to create a list of people who might be willing occasionally to take children to the nursery for part of the service. Sometimes children come to church with their parents and are in need of care during worship. Christian-themed coloring books and crayons/markers and some other materials will be provided, and of course it is fine to play with the preschool toys if they are put back in the right place. Please let Claudia know if you are willing to be part of this ministry.

November Birthdays

11-5 Karlene Ferguson
11-16 Katherine Richardson
11-27 Wendy Wheaton



NOVEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

November 6 / All Saints Sunday / Communion

"A basket full of blessing"
Ephesians 1:11-23, Luke 6:20-31

November 13

"In it for the long haul"
Isaiah 65:17-25, Luke 21:5-19

November 20 / Christ the King Sunday

"The beginning of the end"
Colossians 1:11-20, Revelation 1:4b-8

November 27 / First Sunday of Advent

Reflections on Chrismons
Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14

Thank you, thank you, thank you...for all the cards, phone calls, emails, visits, and most of all prayers. Special thanks to our daughter Terri, without whose help and support we would not have weathered this crisis. We feel all the prayers were answered. I have improved so much. Thank you.

—Austin and Joan

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