

November Birthdays

11-5 Karlene Ferguson
11-9 Sandy Bainbridge
11-16 Katherine Richardson
11-27 Wendy Wheaton

November Anniversaries

Charles and Belinda Alkula
11-24-1997

NOVEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

November 5 / All Saints Sunday / Communion
"When the Saints go marching in"
1 John 3:1-3, Revelation 7:9-17

November 12
"The clock is ticking"
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

November 19
"A gift that can't be described"
Luke 17:11-19, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

November 26 / Christ the King Sunday
"No need to be sheepish"
Matthew 25:31-36, Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
4215 Grinnell Avenue
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The Epistle of St. Paul's

November 2023

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From The Pastor's Desk..

When you think of November, what comes to mind? As I write this, it is mid-October, and the Christmas decorations have been in storage for weeks. Once upon a time, in a land close at hand, November was about the lead-up to Thanksgiving. Christmas was held at bay until the weekend after Thanksgiving. So, what are you thinking about as November begins?

I am thinking about the lives that will be touched by the ministries of our congregation. I am thinking about the four years we've shared together since Belinda and I first arrived in Boulder. I am thinking about the differences we have, and the common bond we share as the people of God. I know I can't do anything about stopping or even slowing the secular observance of football, shopping, and the like, the things that pass for "important" in our culture. What I can do is remember that each day is a gift from God, and every day is a day of Thanksgiving to our God.

Instead of lamenting the state of the world with its unending litany of disasters, unrest, or 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.

"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today." (Martin Rinkart, 1636, The United Methodist Hymnal, #102)

Our litany of praise might begin 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.

"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 the strength necessary to do 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. One thing, be it a gentle word, an 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 things" will be surprising in its variety and its length.

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

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 supposedly 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

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

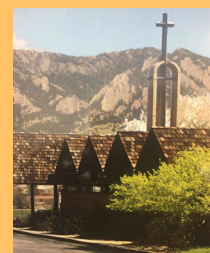
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All Saints Sunday is November 5

Join us in-person or online on Sunday, November 5, as we remember the saints who have touched our lives.

Our annual Church Conference will be held IN PERSON on Saturday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m. Please plan now to attend this important gathering as we celebrate what we've done in 2023 and look ahead to the new year. Our new D.S., the Rev. Jessica Rooks, will preside over this gathering. Since that is the second Saturday of the month when we would normally meet for breakfast fellowship, we will share a breakfast/brunch potluck in the fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m.

2024 Stewardship Campaign

It's that time of year again—time for our annual stewardship campaign for the 2024 giving year. We will again be utilizing Google Forms for our pledged giving again this year.

1. If you have no changes to your pledge from last year, you may email Martha at martha-batch@gmail.com to let her know that you wish to pledge the same amount. You will NOT have to fill out the Google Form if there are no changes. **You will only need to complete the Google Form this year if you are making changes to your pledge for 2024.**
2. If you prefer to fill out a paper pledge card and return that to the church office, you will still have that opportunity! Rebecca will send those out around November 1 when the Google Form is available. If you've previously used the Google Form but would like to complete a paper pledge card this year, please email or call Rebecca by November 1, and she'll mail one to you.
3. All pledges—Google, paper, or emailed—need to be received by November 10 so that the Finance Committee can prepare the budget for 2024 in time for the Church Conference. (See above.)
4. You can find the link for the Google Form in the E-pistle (email newsletter) and News You Can Use for those wishing to make changes to or create a NEW pledge! Remember for ease of use and best results, you should open the Google Form on a desktop computer, not your cell phone or tablet.

Thanks everyone, and as always, we appreciate your generous support of the church. Feel free to reach out to Martha with any questions.

Devotional entries are due to the church office by November 12. Email submissions are strongly preferred.

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, November 2, at 11:45 a.m. at the Casa Alegre (1006 Pine Street in Louisville). **Please R.S.V.P. by November 1** to Robin Berlin (rjberlin7@gmail.com / 303-956-8616).

Breakfast Fellowship will meet on Saturday, November 11, at 8:00 a.m. at Le Peep (by McGuckin's Hardware in Boulder). No reservations necessary!

Mountain View United Women in Faith invite all women to join them to help pack Christmas shoe boxes for Native American Elders. They will gather on November 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Mountain View United Methodist Church (355 Ponca Place, Boulder). Parking is available in the parking lot on Pawnee Street. Bring shoeboxes, wrapping paper, tape, scissors, and "fillings" for shoeboxes such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hats, gloves, socks, reading glasses, healthy snacks, sugar-free candy, tea bags, hot chocolate mix, pens, notepads, cards, etc. R.S.V.P. by November 13 to Joanie Calhoun at Jimnjo30@comcast.net or 303-955-1185.

Prayer Shawl Ministry is seeking knitters/crocheters

We present prayer shawls to anyone in need of these visible reminders of the love of God and of the St. Paul's UMC community. Shawls are given for occasions including (but not limited to) births, illness, graduations, deaths, and weddings. If you are able and willing to create prayer shawls for this ministry, please contact Belinda Alkula (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com / 303-916-2349).

United Women in Faith at Heart of Longmont are hosting a holiday fair on November 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Luncheon will be served between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. Shop for jewelry, home décor, homemade jellies, jams, baked goods, and candies as well as a treasure trove of collectables and gifts from local vendors. Heart of Longmont is located at 350 11th Avenue in Longmont.

DINNER CIRCLES

It is time to reshuffle Dinner Circles. That means that it's a good time to get involved. Dinner Circles are a way to get to know more of the people in our church family and foster stronger relationships. It's amazing what you learn about each other in sharing a meal in a setting outside of church. Anyone can be a member. Please let me know at 307-761-0574, 720-562-8200, or morandfar39@gmail.com if you would like to be added to a group. If you are already a part of a group, I'll assume that you want to continue in a new group. I guarantee you'll have a great time.

—Marcia Hult for the Fellowship Committee