

The Epistle of St. Paul's

October 2022

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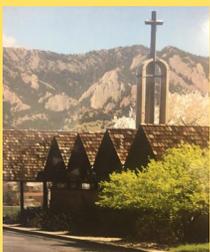
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From The Pastor's Desk...

This month I want to revisit my Epistle article from October 2019. I was prompted to do this after reading an article describing the latest research from the good people at Pew Research about the decline of Christianity in the United States. The gist of the article was that by 2070, Christians will be a minority in this country, down to 46% if current trends continue unabated. Religiously unaffiliated (the “Nones”) would make up 41%, and other religions would comprise the remaining 13%. (<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/09/13/projecting-u-s-religious-groups-population-shares-by-2070>)

From The Epistle of October 2019: On the 31st of this month, the 505th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation will be observed. When Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk and professor of theology, walked to All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517, and nailed his 95 theses (questions/statements for debate) to the door, I don't think he had any idea what his action would mean to the Church or to the world. He was, after all, a man whose vocation involved asking the tough questions and demanding that believers in the Word of God examine the link between what they claimed to believe and what they did with those beliefs. The questions he wanted to debate rattled the Church and led to religious warfare between nations and hundreds of years of animosity between Catholics and the myriad of Protestant denominations, sects, and churches that we know today.

Here at the St. Paul's UMC, we are challenged to remember that the Reformation was not intended to create a new church but rather to urge the Church to return to the core belief that it is in God alone we find pose for our life. Before we can “Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” we must first return to God.

In the coming weeks and months, I appeal to each person connected to St. Paul's UMC to ask themselves these questions: Who do I say God is and who have I told about this belief? What are the spiritual practices that help me in my faith walk? When do I see God present in my life and when am I present to God? Where is my faith life in need of attention and where do I go for support? Why is this faith community (St. Paul's UMC - Boulder) a part of my life? How will I live out my faith in the future?

Back to the present: It's been three years since I wrote the above, and I wonder: Are we able to examine our individual spiritual life or our life as a community of faith? The culture around us continues to be transformed before our very eyes, and we find ourselves increasingly irrelevant in the eyes of many in our community and in the eyes of some church members as well. We have some tough decisions to make in the coming years. I pray to God above that we have the faith to engage in the tasks before us with the same fervor that Martin Luther had when he strode to the church in Wittenberg in 1517.

Every blessing, Pastor Charles

World Communion Sunday

Holy Communion joins us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On World Communion Sunday, United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This universal and inclusive connection is the foundation of the special offering for World Communion Sunday. Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. In 2021, World Communion Sunday offerings awarded 242 scholarships and grants. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. The needs exceed what we can fund, and your gifts can further growth and success.

On October 2, St Paul's welcomes Rev. Ashley Murphy as our guest preacher and worship leader. Ashley is beginning her second academic year as executive director of the Wesley Foundation at CU. Please plan to come and hear about the exciting things going on at Wesley under Ashley's leadership.

At 8:45, please join us as Ashley participates in a discussion in St Paul's library about her efforts to build bridges between Wesley and the university, the Boulder community, and ecumenically.

Wesley Foundation is the campus ministry of the United Methodist Church. As a ministry primarily for and with college students, Wesley relies on outside funding to do its work. You can assist this important work by donating with a check made payable to St. Paul's UMC with Wesley Foundation on the memo line or online by choosing "Wesley Foundation" from the dropdown menu using the online giving link—<https://stpaulschurch.breezechms.com/give/online>. You may also donate directly to the Wesley Foundation at wesleyf.org/donate. Here you may make a one-time donation, or please consider the recurring gift options.

In mid-October (exact date to be determined), the Adult Discussion Group will begin viewing a video series entitled "Sacred Texts of the World," produced by The Great Courses. As the title suggests, this series provides an introduction to the scriptures of the major world religions. Please feel free to join us as you are able, and watch the bulletin and News You Can Use for more information on dates, etc. The group meets at 8:45 on Sunday mornings in St. Paul's library. Contact Tim Cook (tacook8@gmail.com) with any questions.

UPCOMING THEATER EVENTS AT BDT STAGE: *The Buddy Holly Story* (Oct. 1, 2022-Jan. 28, 2023), *Something Rotten* (Feb. 25-May 13, 2023), and *Sound of Music* (June 10- Sept. 30, 2023). Some people expressed an interest in *The Buddy Holly Story*. Judy will check on group rates and availability—let her know if you are interested.

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

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, October 6, at 11:45 a.m. at Chautauqua Dining Hall (900 Baseline Road, Boulder). **Please R.S.V.P. by October 4** to Sandy Bainbridge (Sandy_Bainbridge@yahoo.com / 970-584-0311)

There is handicap parking in front of the hall and other metered parking nearby. It is suggested to carpool from the church lot. Please coordinate with each other. It is highly recommended that you arrive 45 minutes early and take a walk, listening to the audio tour on your phone. Upon arrival at any stop, call 303-952-1600 from your mobile phone, and press the corresponding tour stop number to listen to the narrative.

Sew What is for those who love to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and/or just enjoy visiting with one another. Our next meeting is **Friday, October 21**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The location will be announced in News You Can Use. We meet monthly on the third Friday of each month (September-November and February-May). Folks are encouraged to take their own lunches and preferred drinks. Some drinks will be provided.

Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith (UWF) Annual Meeting

October 7-8, 2022 (Friday, Saturday)

Hybrid Gathering: First United Methodist Church, Cheyenne, Wyoming / Zoom

To register, contact Belinda Alkula.
303-916-2349/Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com

Mountain Sky Conference (MSC) Part 2, Annual Conference 2022

October 21-22, 2022 (Online Only – Plenary & Legislation sessions)

Belinda Alkula is the St. Paul's United Methodist Church's Lay Member to Annual Conference. She will be voting, representing our church family. Legislative sessions will include presentations on the mission and ministry of the Mountain Sky Annual Conference; annual legislation including the budget, nominations report, and guiding policies; voting on petitions, including church disaffiliations; confirming episcopal nominees for the upcoming Western Jurisdictional Conference (Nov 2-5 in Salt Lake City, Utah); and visioning and commitment toward the future of the MSC!

Please put this year's **Church Conference** on your calendar. We will hold a virtual gathering on **November 19 at 10:00 AM**. Please submit all reports to Pastor Charles by November 5.

Advent/Christmas Devotional Reminder

There is excitement in the air as the countdown begins for submissions to come in for this year's Advent/Christmas devotional! This year's theme is people and animals associated with the Nativity story. Pastor Charles would like submissions by November 1 if at all possible.

October Birthdays

10-1 Joey Vander Vorste
10-1 Sienna Pulaski
10-2 Braden Nunnery
10-11 Etta Levitt
10-18 Debbie Berlin
10-23 Martha Batch
10-25 Gregory Wahl
10-26 Dan Daniels
10-26 Polly Stowe
10-26 Melissa Sullivan
10-29 Molly Nunnery
10-30 Belinda Alkula



OCTOBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

October 2 / Guest speaker Ashley Murphy
Communion / World Communion Sunday

October 9 / Native American Ministries Sunday
"That endurance thing"
Psalm 111, 2 Timothy 2:8-15

October 16
"The evangelist's road map"
Luke 18:1-8, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

October 23
"Was it worth it?"
Luke 18:9-14, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

October 30 / Reformation Sunday
"Salvation has come hither"
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10

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