

The Epistle of St. Paul's

October 2023

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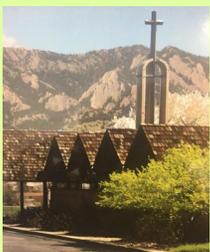
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From The Pastor's Desk...

It occurred to me recently that with the significant changes in demographics at St. Paul's, it might be time to examine which community we are serving. Looking through the church directory, I noticed that there are thirty-eight Boulder addresses and thirty-seven addresses between Longmont and Golden. Additionally, there are eleven addresses outside of Colorado. We are predominately a congregation comprised of older adults. We are exclusively a congregation of one skin hue. What does this mean for us as we move forward into the God-shaped future that awaits us?

It is time for us to redefine what it means to be church and to recognize that the era in which we find ourselves bears little resemblance to the storied past of St. Paul's UMC. We can appreciate and honor the ministries of our community that have touched so many lives and the special memories of people who once filled the pews and classrooms. We can honor the past while recognizing that we are called to the Christian life in the 21st century and that this will require us to adopt a radical understanding of our purpose and our commitment to ministry together.

When responding to critics of his radical methods of ministry, John Wesley said, *"I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, [it is my] duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation. This is the work which I know God has called me to; and sure I am that His blessing attends it"* (from Wesley's journal entry on 11 June 1739).

The United Methodist church makes this statement: "It is recommended that our statement of Social Principles be continually available to United Methodist Christians and that it be emphasized regularly in every congregation. It is further recommended that 'Our Social Creed' be frequently used in Sunday worship."

We believe in God, Creator of the world, and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. **We** believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends. **We** affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind. **We** joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family. **We** commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons. **We** believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress. **We** dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world. **We** believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

So, are you ready to become a radical disciple of Jesus, ready to do your part to transform the world beginning in whatever neighborhood you happen live in and here at St. Paul's? I believe we were called for just such a time as this!

Every blessing, *Pastor Charles*

World Communion Sunday is October 6, 2023

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 minority and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. These donations provide scholarships for undergraduate or graduate level studies for both international and U.S. students. This generosity allows those unable to afford an education to become leaders who embody the mission of the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church, the world, and our communities are in a time of transition. Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to extend healing and hope which will guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our gifts and support, we can invest in talented, qualified students from around the globe to transform the world as witnesses for Christ!

Whatever happened to sin? Join Rebecca Glancy for a discussion of *Sin* by Hugh Connolly on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom beginning on October 10. We will meet for eight weeks. New and used copies of the book are available at Amazon.com. Let Rebecca know if you're interested in participating.

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, October 5, at 11:45 a.m. at Parma Trattoria & Mozzarella Bar (in the Village Shops at Colony Square, 1132 W. Dillon Road in Louisville). Please R.S.V.P. to Sally Owen by October 3 (srpowen@gmail.com / 303-909-0651).

Breakfast Fellowship will meet on Saturday, October 14, 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, October 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Blue Room at church. Please R.S.V.P. by October 17 to Belinda via text, email, or phone call (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com / 303-916-2349). Folks are encouraged to take their own lunches/preferred drinks. Some drinks and snacks will be provided.

Welcome to Our New Neighbors: Haven Ridge

Mother House is now Haven Ridge. Haven Ridge helps women, transgender adults, and their children. The organization provides spaces of safety, respect, and kindness to all. Staff work to ignite the fire of confidence and the belief in the dignity and worth of all human beings for all who walk through their doors. At Haven Ridge, they don't shelter people – they strengthen them. Services will be relocated to a new facility at 1242 Gillaspie Drive, Boulder. Come see what our new neighbors are doing! Join them for a **grand opening block party on Saturday, October 7**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Learn more at www.havenridgeboulder.org.

Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith Hybrid Annual Gathering October 13-14, 2023 (Friday and Saturday)

Theme: "Stir the Pot of Love for Justice"

Zoom Gathering / In-person Location: First UMC, 2800 4th Ave North, Billings, MT

Online Registration: <https://form.jotform.com/232415742628053>

Registration Deadline: October 2, 2023

Adopting Missionary Cristian Schlick

St. Paul's is forming a new Covenant Relationship with Cristian Schlick. Cristian is a missionary representing the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries in ministries with migrants from Central America and Mexico. **Cristian will visit St. Paul's on October 22 at 5:00 p.m. to tell us about his work with Central American migrants, and we will have dinner together in the fellowship hall** following the presentation. In our Covenant Relationship, we will support Cristian with our prayers and donations, and he will share his mission with us and visit when he is able to come to the United States. We previously had a Covenant Relationship with Mozart Adevu, who worked on sustainable agriculture in Africa. Mozart has retired from his position with GBGM. Learn more about Cristian at <https://umcmmission.org/missionary-bio/3022324/>

A money-saving tip from your friendly Financial Secretaries: Choose the ACH transaction option rather than using your credit/debit card when utilizing online giving. An ACH transaction is actually a safer and more secure option for you! For example, a \$300 ACH donation has a fee of \$3.27 attached to it, whereas a \$300 credit/debit card donation incurs a \$9.27 fee—a difference of \$72 over a year. An even less-expensive method of making your donation to St. Paul's is to contact your bank to set up an auto-draft payment to the church. You can set that up as a monthly payment, on the same date each month, and the check will be automatically mailed to the church. Most banks love this type of transaction and do not charge a fee for this service. You can usually find this option under "bill pay" or "auto draft" on your bank's website.

St. Paul's UMC welcomes and affirms people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

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 Anniversaries

Steve and Martha Batch

10-8-1983

Don and Lisa Berlin

10-23-1993

OCTOBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

October 1 / Communion

"To be a disciple, have discipline"

Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

October 8

"The core of our faith"

Matthew 21:33-46, Philippians 3:4b-14

October 15

"What are you thinking about?"

Philippians 4:1-13

October 24

"Whose glory?"

Matthew 22:15-22, Exodus 33:12-23

October 29 / Reformation Sunday

"Back to basics"

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46

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