

# The Epistle of St. Paul's

September 2022

## From The Pastor's Desk..

*"Unite the two so long disjointed: knowledge and vital piety."*  
—Charles Wesley

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### St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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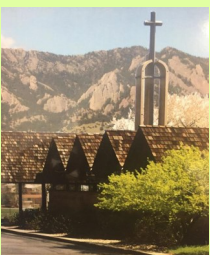
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As I write this in mid-August, it is mere days before the start of another school year here in Boulder County and at the University of Colorado Boulder. Growing up, every time the calendar showed a new school year was about to start, I was ready! The beginning of each new year brings back many memories of my laying out new clothes for the first day of class, making sure I had my supplies ready to go, and looking forward to getting to know my new teacher(s).

I raise this subject because while only a few of us at St. Paul's are currently engaged in formal educational pursuits as teachers or students, all of us are, by virtue of being Christians, compelled to make learning part of our life. We are to be people who make reading, studying, sharing, and digesting the scriptures a central tenet of our faith. We should be reading about prayer, studying the works of the key figures of the Christian faith, exploring contemporary issues through the lenses of faith, plumbing the depths of the scriptures, and much more.

Right now, our learning efforts at St. Paul's consists of one church school class (led by Tim Cook) and a weekly email offering from The Wired Word (thirteen enrolled). We also have the Summer Women's Book Group and the occasional short-term study to help us in our spiritual growth. But is this enough?

From the very beginning of the Methodist movement in England, our spiritual forebearers understood that learning was every bit as important as baptism and communion in the building up and growth of disciples. If we are to continue to exist as a community of faith, making learning a priority for every member is a key component for our future. If we are to continue to exist as a community of faith, understanding our faith and our role within it through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness is essential. We cannot continue to function as a vital community of faith unless we understand and are able to articulate why our faith is relevant to us and to the world around us.

I invite you to join with me this autumn in growing in your faith. It is worth it, trust me!

Every blessing, Pastor Charles

**Ladies Lunch Bunch** will meet Thursday, September 1, at 11:45 a.m., at **Parma Trattoria & Mozzarella Bar** in the Village Shops at Colony Square (1132 W. Dillon Road, Louisville). If you intend to go, **please R.S.V.P. by August 30** to Myrle Myers (mmyers59@msn.com / 303-810-8044 ).

**Breakfast Fellowship** (formerly Men's Breakfast) will next meet on Saturday, September 10, at 8:00 a.m. at **Doug's Diner** (2574 Baseline Road, Basemar Shopping Center). No reservations necessary!

### **Sew What Returns!**

After being on hiatus due to the pandemic since April 2020, Sew What makes its return to the St. Paul's UMC calendar this month. Whether you sew or not, women of the church are welcome to come and bring any fabric arts or just to visit while others are at work. This month's meeting is at the home of Donna Wasson on Friday, September 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please RSVP to Joan Cooper by September 12. Folks are encouraged to bring their own lunches. Some drinks will be provided.

This fall, Rebecca Glancy will lead a **group to read and discuss Austen Hartke's book *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians***. We will deepen our understanding of the range of LGBTQ+ identities and ways to be a truly welcoming church. As the parent of two nonbinary teenagers, Rebecca has been learning a lot about this subject. The group will meet on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. via Zoom for six weeks from September 22 to October 20. We will host special guests who will speak about their experiences as well. Contact Rebecca if you are interested in participating.

**Mountain Sky Conference NextGen & Inclusiveness Ministries** is sponsoring in a book study on *Queering Wesley, Queering the Church* by Keegan Osinski. The book study will take place over five weeks from September 13 to October 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. MDT via Zoom. This book study is for persons seeking to deeper knowledge and understanding of John Wesley's sermons and theology; persons seeking to engage a Wesleyan theology from a queer lens and perspective; persons seeking to be in better relationship to LGBTQIAP+ individuals; and LGBTQIAP+ persons seeking to reclaim or reinterpret Wesleyan theology and spirituality. To register, visit <https://www.mtnskyumc.org>

MSC Abundant Health is presenting a **Mental Health Virtual Fair** on September 13, 20, & 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Look for more information and registration details in News You Can Use. Contact Jana Jones, MSC Abundant Health Coordinator, for more information (jl.jones@outlook.com).

## United Women in Faith Events

### Women's Saturday Retreat

Hosted by United Women in Faith, Boulder First United Methodist Church

**Date/Times:** September 17, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(Lunch will be provided; afterwards, participants will be invited to walk the labyrinth)

**Location:** 1421 Spruce Street in Boulder

**Theme:** "Practicing Sabbath – Even in/Especially in Challenging Times of Life"

**Presenter:** Belinda Alkula

**R.S.V.P. by September 10 to Belinda Alkula**

### Peaks Pikes Peak District United Women in Faith (UWF)

Saturday, September 24, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to noon via Zoom

**Theme:** "Healing and Joy as We Grow"

**Keynote Speakers:** The Rev. Dr. Charles and Belinda Alkula

Registration Details: TBA

### 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

More Details to Follow

## Advent/Christmas Devotional

Pastor Charles invites the congregation to participate in the creation of the fourth annual Advent and Christmas devotional. The theme for this year's devotional is sometimes called a crèche, Nativity set, or manger scene. St. Francis of Assisi created the first crèche in 1223, in an attempt to bring the focus of Christmas back to the birth of Christ and away from material, gift-giving customs.

It's simple!

- 1) Select a person, an animal, or an element of the Nativity that speaks to you. You can also describe a Nativity set that you have in your home that is special to you.
- 2) Write a short reflection (one to two brief paragraphs) on what that that person, animal, element, or set means to you.
- 3) Submit your devotion to the office by November 1 either in writing or via email.

You can write about anything in a Nativity set including but not limited to halos, Infant Jesus, Joseph, swaddling clothes, Mary, shepherds, The Magi (traditional names: Balthazar, Melchior, & Gaspar), gifts of the Magi (gold, frankincense, & myrrh), the traditional ethnicities of the Magi (Europe, Asia, & Africa), the Magi's animals (camels, horses, or elephants), the stable animals (lambs, a rooster, a dog, or cattle), a well, palm branches, the manger, a cave, a barn, the stable, and contemporary figures including farmers, bakers, and candlestick makers, etc.

**Who is Ashley Murphy, and why is she visiting St Paul's on October 2?**

## September Birthdays

9-1 Jack Himes  
9-6 Dave Bishop  
9-6 Jackie Bishop  
9-10 Angela Baker  
9-15 Christopher Wahl  
9-16 Lisa Berlin  
9-19 Pat Muckle  
9-20 Jessie Muckle  
9-27 Steve Matthews



## SEPTEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

**September 4 / Communion**  
*"What happens on the wheel"*  
Luke 14:25-33, Jeremiah 18:1-11

**September 11**  
*"Grace is free, not cheap"*  
Luke 15:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-17

**September 18**  
*"So, what's the catch?"*  
1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

**September 25 / Guest preacher Rev. Janeen Hill**  
*"Who is on our side?"*  
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-26, 24-29, Mark 9:38-50

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