

The Epistle of St. Paul's

September 2023

In This Issue

From the Pastor's

Desk...page 1

Community News and

Events...pages 2-3

Birthdays, anniversaries, and preaching schedule...page 4

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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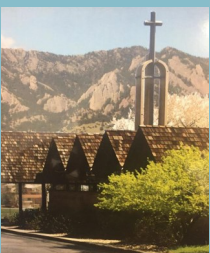
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From The Pastor's Desk...

It may seem odd to be thinking about Advent and Christmas already, but that is what we are already doing at St. Paul's UMC! I would like to invite the congregation to take part in preparing entries for the fifth annual Advent and Christmas devotional. Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, and you are invited to take part in the season of anticipation and celebration with a devotional that will be shared with the community.

This year's theme is **the names and titles [given or ascribed] for Jesus**. There are many names and titles found in the scriptures. Some of these are well known, such as the Son of God, Messiah, and Emmanuel/Immanuel. Others are less well known, such as Dayspring, Lion of Judah, and Morning Star. When we name or describe the One whom we follow, we are joining Christians across the centuries in sharing what we believe about this Jesus of Nazareth.

There are three easy steps to participate:

1. Select any one of the multitude of names or titles that speak to the theme of this special season. A list of some of the many names/titles will be on the usher's table on September 3. You may choose from this list or provide an alternative name/title and the supporting scripture reference for your choice.
2. Write a one or two paragraph reflection on what that name or title means to you.
3. Submit it to the church office by November 15 via email.

A sign-up list will be available on the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary on September 3. You may also email the office with your choice. Entries are needed for December 3-24. As in years past, I will prepare entries for the Twelve Days of Christmas and the Day of Epiphany (December 25-January 6).

Print copies of the devotional will be available on November 24. We will post daily entries on the blog and on our Facebook page each day of Advent (starting on December 3) and concluding on the Day of Epiphany (January 6).

Every blessing,
Pastor Charles

St. Paul's Fall Luncheon—Sunday, September 10

A potluck luncheon is planned for the St. Paul's church family and guests for Sunday, September 10, right after the service. Pulled pork or BBQ chicken sandwiches and lemonade will be provided by the fellowship team. Bring something to add to the meal—salad, coleslaw, chips, dessert—or contribute to the donation basket that day. This will be a great day because the choir will be back from summer break and the food will be wonderful. Be sure to put it on your calendar.

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, September 7, at 11:45 a.m. at Murphy's Tap House (585 McCaslin Blvd., Louisville). Please R.S.V.P. to Bren Smith by September 5 (garysmith364@gmail.com / 303-910-5703).

Breakfast Fellowship will meet on Saturday, September 9, 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 resume on Friday, September 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Pat Cleaveland's home. Please R.S.V.P. by September 12 to Pat via text, email, or phone call (patcleaveland@msn.com / 303-542-3338). Note: If you wish to carpool or follow along in a personal vehicle, please plan to depart from the church parking lot **at 9:15 a.m.** Pat's driveway is rough, so low sports cars may be challenged. Pat will provide lunch. (Folks with special diets might want to take preferred food/drinks.)

A memorial luncheon for Donna Wasson will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 (time TBD) at St. Paul's UMC in the fellowship hall. All ladies are invited to celebrate the life of Donna Wasson and her active participation in the life of the St. Paul's United Methodist Church family. This will be a catered event. R.S.V.P. to Joan Cooper (ajcooperjr@comcast.net / 303-898-8034) by Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

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

2023 FOOD DRIVE FOR EFAA

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 to contribute. Julie Van Domelen, executive director at the Emergency Family Assistance Association, says that in the past month, 40% of people who came to EFAA for help with food, housing, etc. were new to EFAA. That number is expected to increase with school starting and the approach of colder weather. According to EFAA data, 4,797 children in Boulder County live in poverty – a startling statistic. You contributed so generously to the food drive last summer – please do so again. EFAA's shopping list of most needed items can be found at www.EFAA.org/donate. We'll aim for delivery to EFAA on September 18. Watch the bulletin and News You Can Use for more details and updates.

Fall Study Opportunity

Do you ever think about crossing your fingers behind your back when you recite parts (or all) of the Apostles' Creed? Does Original Sin mean that those who die and are unable to accept Jesus, like babies, go directly to hell? Isn't being orthodox basically the same as fundamentalism (or Fundamentalism)? Does the doctrine of the Trinity amount to a belief in three gods? Does doctrine really matter, or should we just "follow the example of Jesus"? If you've ever asked questions like these, you may enjoy a new Sunday morning class presented by Tim Cook – "Who's Afraid of Orthodoxy?: Challenges, Misconceptions, and the Promise of Perennial Christian Truth." This study will be offered at 8:45 a.m. in St Paul's library, beginning Sunday, September 10. Reading will be minimal (a few handouts), and much discussion will be encouraged.

The Financial Secretaries kindly request that any donation/pledge checks or cash that you bring to the church office go *directly into the safe*, which is located on a shelf in the copier closet. There is a deposit drop (silver handle, top of safe) right on the front of the safe for you to put your check/cash into, and you don't need to have access to the inside of the safe to do this. This will ensure that your donation is credited promptly and is more safe and secure than dropping a check or cash into the Financial Secretary folder. *The Financial Secretary folder is not to be used for placement of donation checks or cash any longer.* Thank you for your assistance! There is a friendly reminder note on the folder to remind you to drop your check in the safe.

St. Paul's new hearing loop is installed and operational! If you have hearing aids with telecoil (T-Coil) function, turn the feature on for the sound system to broadcast directly to your hearing aids. We also have four receiver/headphones in the back of the church for those who have hearing loss but no hearing aids. Suzanne Polacek is your contact for any questions at suzanne.polacek@gmail.com or 303-709-6676.

September Birthdays

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 Anniversaries

Nick and Christina Pulaski
9-15-2014
Sandra and Jim Jordan
9-22-1979

SEPTEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

September 3 / Communion

Rev. Janeen Hill speaking

September 10

"In a word: Love"

Matthew 18:15-20, Romans 13:8-14

September 17

"Once more from the heart"

Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

"Someone is watching"

Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

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