



The Epistle of St. Paul's

November 2021

From The Pastor's Desk..

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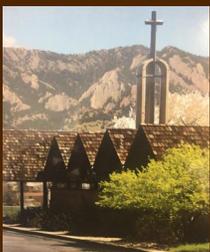
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In November 1863, our nation was deep in the throes of the Civil War, a war that would result in more than one million casualties on both sides. President Lincoln, responding to the events of Gettysburg and Vicksburg, and at the urging of Sarah Josepha Hale (editor of Godey's Lady's Book magazine), issued a decree that the people of the nation should give thanks to God for the victories in the war and for the continual bounty of this land at the hand of our God.

Here in 2021, we are likewise amid struggles that have taken hundreds of thousands of lives. Our contemporary struggles include, but are not limited to, the Covid pandemic, poverty, the epidemic of gun violence, systemic racism, and the ravages of climate change.

As was true in the midst of the terrible war that gripped our nation in Lincoln's time, we too can turn to God to find our way forward. Lincoln was not acting under the illusion that a presidential proclamation would be enough to end the war or the suffering that had come from it. He knew that all the prayers of all the people would not be enough to heal the nation. What he knew, and what I also believe to be true, is that when we turn to God in prayer it changes us and, by extension, can change the way we see and interact with the world around us.

And so, I would ask each of us to be intentional in our prayers this month to give thanks to God. Thanks for what we have, sure, but also for what we can do for others. Thanks for the love of God of course, but also for the love that moves us to see the world's peoples as worthy of our love. Thanks for blessings we have known at St. Paul's UMC, naturally, but also for the blessings our church continues to share with the communities in which we live.

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.
Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And guard us through all ills in this world, till the next!
All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Every blessing, *Pastor Charles*

A Prayer Meditation for All Saints Day by Safiyah Fosua

We give You thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped You, whether in arbors or cathedrals, wooden churches, or cement meeting houses.

We give You thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise: manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil, strong hands and hands gnarled with age, holy hands.

We thank You, God, for hardworking saints, whether hard-hatted or aproned, blue-collared or three-piece-suited. They left their mark for You, for us, for our children to come.

Thank You for the sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of Your saints. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

Thank you to those using their King Soopers cards for groceries and gas! It benefits the church greatly! The third quarter KS rewards came to **\$280.89**. Thank you all!

Ways to Help Economically Struggling Students at Fairview High School

Belinda Alkula spoke with the school's student support services community liaison, Rupali Hofmann, who is currently working with 60 at-risk families whose children attend the high school.

The school stocks the "Knights Closet" with items students really need (things their families cannot afford to provide for them). Ms. Hofmann said she struggles to keep it stocked. She has created an Amazon Wish List with items that are needed. View the Wish List at Amazon.com. If you mark an item as a gift, then you can note that it is being given from a St. Paul's United Methodist Church Family Member. The purchase will be mailed directly to Ms. Hofmann at the school.

Additionally, there are families who live "outside the catchment area" of the school's provision of transportation to/from the school. These families struggle to have money to put gas in their cars to get their children to school and/or they cannot afford the cost of the RTD bus passes. One RTD bus-pass booklet has enough passes in it for one week's transportation; it costs \$9.00. Please consider donating money to cover some of the transportation costs for students. If you want to send a check to help support at-risk students, the school has an account set up for individuals/churches/companies to donate directly to the school. A check can be made payable to Fairview High School,

with the memo line entry: "Community Liaison Fund," and the envelope can be addressed to "Monika Czebotar, Fairview High School Treasurer, 1515 Greenbriar Blvd., Boulder, CO 80305." Ms. Czebotar said a donation letter can be given, so that the gift is noted as a tax-deductible charitable donation.

Please also pray for families and support services at the school. **Thank you!**

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends.
Amen.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, November 4, at 11:45 a.m. at Chez Thuy Vietnamese in Boulder. Please let Joan know if you can come. The next **Men's Breakfast** will be Saturday, November 13, at 8:00 a.m. at Le Peep in Boulder. See you there!

The date for this year's **church conference** will be December 4 at 10:00 a.m. This event will be a virtual gathering.

A Prayer for Veteran's Day (from the Book of Common Prayer 1979)

Judge of the nations, we remember before You with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent Begins November 28

St. Paul's third annual **Advent devotional** will be available at the church starting on November 22. Devotional entries will also be posted each day on the church blog and on our Facebook page starting November 28. **Hanging of the Greens** is Saturday, November 27. Watch News You Can Use for details.

Belinda Alkula has completed her two-year term as the Mountain Sky Conference UMW Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator. At the Conference UMW annual meeting in October, **Belinda was elected to serve as the Mission u Assistant Dean**, beginning January 1, 2022. Mission u is a transformative education program that offers study on biblically grounded curricula. These curricula are intended to motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to be in ministry for a more just and equitable world, locally and globally.

Bridge House Update

Once a year we celebrate all of the trainees who graduate from our Ready to Work program. "Graduation" means that they've secured their own full-time job and moved out of the Bridge House into their own apartment/home. We're very proud of the hard work they've done to succeed in the program and get back to a self-sufficient lifestyle. Congratulations to this year's graduates!

Bridge House is in need of a few special items: a carpet cleaning machine, two dishwashers, and two snowblowers. If you have any of these used items that you'd be willing to donate, we'd be very appreciative. Contact Scott Medina at Scott@BoulderBridgeHouse.org

Community Table dinners continue in an outdoor Grab and Go format.

November Birthdays

11-5 Chris Cole

11-5 Karlene Ferguson

11-16 Katherine Richardson

11-27 Wendy Wheaton



NOVEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

November 7 / Communion

All Saints Sunday

"Lazarus, come out"

Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44

November 14

"In the time of waiting"

I Samuel 2:1-10, Mark 13:1-8

November 21

"The beginning of the end"

John 18:33-37, Revelation 1:4b-8

November 28 / 1st Sunday of Advent

"The world needs more (a)lerts"

I Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:26-26

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