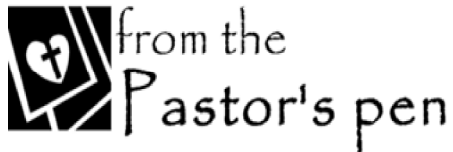


Lamplighter

December 2019



Advent 2019! Four Sundays *and* the days in between to reflect on the celebration of the birth of Christ. One commentary mentioned that "waiting in the Advent season is a reflection of our whole lives...(because) we are waiting for the *last* Advent – when there will be a new heaven and a new earth."

The author, Donna VanLiere wrote, "For some reason I have always assumed that when God wanted our attention, God would do something big that would rouse us from sleep to bring us back to God." I agree! Something BIG! What could be bigger than:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them [is that big enough?] and the glory of the Lord shone around them [how 'bout that?] and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people." ~ Luke 2:8-10 NIV

T-H-E-R-E it is....GOOD NEWS ~ GREAT JOY ~ FOR ALL PEOPLE.

Talk about something to celebrate!
That God loves us....so much as to send the Son, Emmanuel, to live among us.
And not *just* the world but US specifically!
That God is with us...closer than our breath, not absent *or* distant.

As Rick Warren says in his book The Purpose of Christmas

"When God is near, we lose our fear!"
And **that God is for us...**God sent Jesus into the world to save, not condemn.
The God who ...set the stars in their places...says

"I love you. I AM with you. I AM for you."

As I say on many Sundays, "no matter who you are OR where you are on your walk of faith we are glad you are here." Don't you **know** that God's version – the BIG THING TO GET OUR ATTENTION – is much more emphatic: No matter who you are, where you've come from, or what you've done in your life, the Good News, **WHO CAME ON THE FIRST CHRISTMAS**, is for YOU. That, my dear friends, is worth celebrating.

Once again, this edition of the Lamplighter is filled with news and announcements for you to engage in God's work at Pikes Peak UMC ~ including the choir's Cantata presentation with the Trinity UMC choir and our Christmas Eve service. Mark your calendars and start to share the GIFT...and bring someone with you to worship and to these special events!

Pastor Gene and I are so blessed to have each of you in our lives and involved in our ministries. We pray that The Gift, the One sent to share God's love, will awaken you and those you love to a renewed life in *your* faith walk. Gene and I look forward to sharing this Advent and Christmas with you and your families. .

We HAVE been blessed! Now, let's BE a blessing!

Pastor Dea

UMW Dorothy's Circle

Pikes Peak United Methodist Church

November

The November 7th meeting began at 1:30 pm, with the reciting of the UMW pledge which was read in unison by seven members and two dear friend-guests.

Our program for November's meeting was given by Ruth Ann Reed, who provided our annual craft time last year as well as today's inspired afternoon of fellowship and fun. We decorated gingerbread people to adorn packages, and made waterless, snow globes! RuthAnn and her dear friend Mary Kay Marshall moved from table to table helping and explaining each craft to us. Thank you so much for your time and energy Ruth Ann, and for your welcome assistance Mary Kay! You are a blessing to all of us!

As Ruth Ann and Mary Kay tidied up the craft tables, the business side of our meeting proceeded. Last month's minutes were written in the Newsletter so everyone was invited to read them. Then we moved on to a shortened Treasurer's report, since our Treasurer was not with us today.

Chery who is our representative with West Side Cares, told us what was needed this year by that organization. Men's and women's, winter coats, socks, and underwear; men's shoes and jeans.

Chery also asked for assistance with the food pantry at Trinity UMC for Christmas food distribution. Helpers are needed to *take orders from the staff to the food packers, *assemble food bags, *carry it out for disabled guests. If you would like to help, please tell Gretchen as the Wilsons are gone.

New, news is that Seth and Millie Ware will be moving to Missouri in January. We will have a going away party for them after church, time and date to be announced.

We ended our meeting by praying the UMW prayer together, then enjoyed Strawberry Coffee Cake with fresh strawberries provided by Gretchen Arnold.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Gretchen



"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

Written by famed composer, Johann Sebastian Bach in 1733, to celebrate the Birth of Christ, **Gloria in Excelsis Deo** is Latin for "Glory to God in the Highest" and is Bach's sole surviving composition written in Latin.

Johann was born into a musical family on March 31, 1685, his father appointed as the City Musician of Eisenach, Germany. Several brothers had already settled into musical positions by the time Johann was orphaned at age 10, so he went to live with his musically gifted, eldest brother for the next five years while learning to fine tune his own musical compositions. Although Johann wrote over 200 Cantatas, once you have stood and listened to the Gloria in Excelsis Deo, you cannot forget the magnificent ending that has virtually remained unchanged from its original version.

In the last decades of his life Johann reworked many of his earlier compositions and died in 1750 at the age of 65, from complications following eye surgery.

Gretchen

God Be With You



Seth & Millie Ware
After Worship
~December 29~



Saturday, December 28th



The Dorothy Circle will meet on Thursday, December 5 for their Christmas luncheon 11:30 a.m. in Gamber Hall. All women are invited. Pastor Dea is providing the meat (smoked pork) for this annual celebration. Ladies can bring side dishes, salads and desserts. See you then.



MINISTRY

**** Join us for our committee meetings**

**2nd Saturday of the Month
@ 9:00 a.m.**

**Contemplative Worship
2nd & 5th**

December Sundays at 5 p.m. at PPUMC



Lectio Divina



**"Sermon of
the Amount"**

Monthly Giving 2019

Monthly budget \$6303

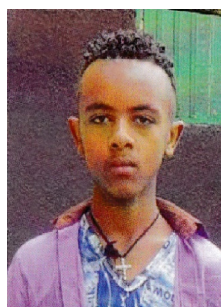
September \$5069

October \$5503

November \$4801 (to date 11.17.19)

Westside Cares

- Women's underwear and bras – all sizes
- Men's winter coats (all sizes) CRITICAL NEED
- Men's boxers/briefs – all sizes
- Men's jeans – sizes 30-36
- No household items please



Our “son” Bereket lives in Ethiopia, in northeastern Africa. In Jesus’ time, the area was known as Arabia. As we celebrate Christmas and think of the three wise men, we find that one of them, Balthazar may have come from Arabia, modern day Ethiopia. In many drawings of the wise men, Balthazar is a dark-skinned man, known for his knowledge of astronomy (the study of the stars) and the one who brought the young child Jesus, the gift of myrrh, traditionally a precious ointment used for anointing a person’s body at death. This gift, myrrh, was a symbol of Jesus’ sacrificial death. Who knows, Bereket may have the blood of a wise man in his family! ~ Gretchen

Ongoing Adopt a Family

Our family is Mom and 3 kids. We are praying that our Outreach effort into our neighborhood will be ongoing with this family for a long time. The kids receive care-giving from our neighbors, Cyndi & Bill Webber who live right across the street! The kids have been attending VBS the last couple of years. Wouldn't it be nice to keep the “adoption” going throughout the coming year? We'll get their birthdays and plan for Easter and back-to-school...always encouraging the family to join us for worship and more.

Extra info is coming but we've just learned that Shona's dad died, in Tennessee, last month and she was involved in a car accident, just weeks ago, that totaled her car. In addition to our support, she can use prayers ♥

As in the past, we will have ornaments on a tree with gift ideas. We'd like to do a food basket, too. Here's some general info – more to come....

Mom, Shona, is a manager at Rudy's BBQ and has variable early/late work hours.

Cyndi & Bill get the two older kids to school and back each day. **Could we come up with some things that the kids could “shop” and wrap for their mom? What about snacks and a small food basket for Cyndi & Bill?**

Family of Faith: we have been blessed....now – let's BLESS THEM!

Kids ~ Ian is 6, wears size 8, likes dinosaurs and trains

~ Gracie is 4, wears size 6 – likes princess clothes and toys

~ Payton is 3 in December, wears size 4 and she likes the princess things, too



SAVE THE DATES –

December 2019

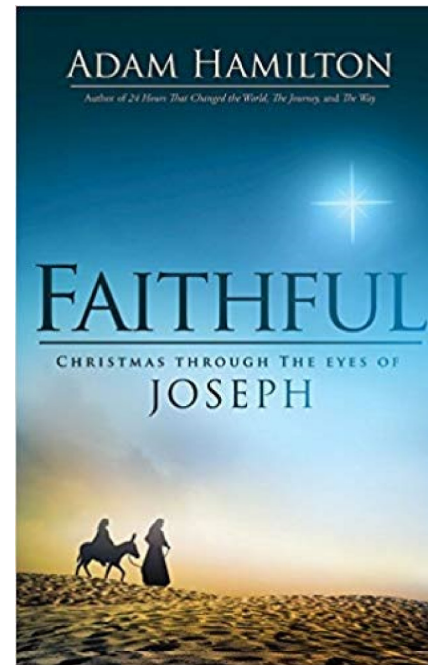
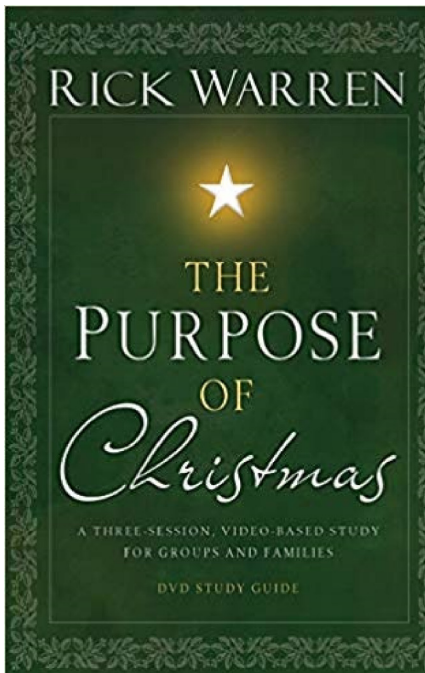
- * **December 8 ~ PPUMC**
ThanksMas Dinner
- * **December 22 ~ Choir**
Cantata @ Trinity UMC
- * **December 24 ~**
Christmas Eve Service at
5:30 p.m.



K & C GIGGLERS
PPUMC's Crafters

The crafting Giggles **have restarted!** The group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in Gamber Hall at 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. **Bring your Christmas crafts** or your ongoing projects – knitting, crochet, card making, whatever gets YOU *crafty*.

If you have a question about a project you're working on, Ruth Reed will be happy to assist. Call her at 471-1393.



ADVENT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The Purpose of Christmas

Thursday lunch study – Book \$7

Faithful, Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph

Sunday mornings



We have received an invitation from **Fostering Hope** to become Respite Care Team Members.

This is a once-a-month obligation to go, as a team, to meet with the family (boys, aged 4, 2 and 1 years old.) Then, based on mutual schedules arrange once-a-month caregiving for kids while their adults have time for their appointments. **Please contact Kim Sommer @ cnksommer@comcast.net**



Grace Notes

inspirations for a blessed life.

*"It is Christmas in the heart that puts
Christmas in the air!"*

~ W.T. Ellis

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER



Remember our shut ins:

Charlene Belshaw,
Maria Castle, Bill Edwards, Jim Hodges,
Gene Miller, Ruth Pierce, Rachel
Schilowsky, and LaMona Sherwood

****Watch for Pastor Dea's prayer
emails.*



1 – Becky Shaw
4 – Jim Wilson
6 – Joan Roberts
10 – Joshua Allen
12 – Gracei Mullins
13 – Shirley Girod
20 – Sally Simmons
26 – Craig Baumgartner
29 – Beulah Shaw
31 – Denise Sherwood

Anniversaries

6 – Terry & Suzy Peet
18 – Jay & Karie Mullins
20 – Gene & Cindy Blackney



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**Invite your family and friends to join us
for our Christmas Eve service with carols,
candlelight, and Holy Communion.**

Service begins at 5:30 p.m.

A Noel Celebration

Christmas Cantata for the Community
Pikes Peak & Trinity UMC Choirs

Sunday, December 22, 2019
1 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church
701 N. 20th Street
North of Uintah



SAVE THE DATES – January 2020

- * **January 4** – 9 a.m. UN-decorate Christmas
- * **January 4** – then AdCo Calendar Planning
- * **January 4** – 1 p.m. Movie Matinee
- * **January 11** – Outreach in the Parking Lot
- * **January 19** – AdCo quarterly meeting

Pikes Peak

United Methodist Church

2927 W. Pikes Peak Ave. CO Springs, CO 80904

719-634-3589

www.pikespeakunitedmethodistchurch.com

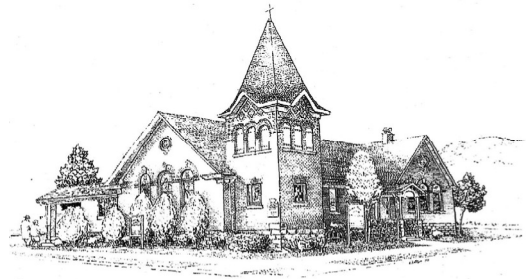
Sunday Worship 10:50 AM

Pastor Dea Sharp

pastordea@gmail.com

Director of Music Barbara Turner

Editor Carol Stephenson



Pikes Peak United Methodist Church
2927 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80904