

Lamp^{lighter}

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light until my path. Psalm 119:105

December 2016

from the Pastor's pen

A slower Advent pace is not easy in a world filled with so many distractions. And yet, it is a prayer that, at this busy time of year, in this special season, that we have activities that help us to remember the "Reason for the Season" and how we can lead others (perhaps through our celebration) to know Him.

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7 (KJV)

In Advent, we celebrate the coming of God into our past, present and future – especially in the gift of Jesus whose incarnation as *Emmanuel, God with us*, was planned from the very dawn of time. (Col.1:15-20)

This season, I have re-read Adam Hamilton's The Journey and have felt a nudge to have us travel with the Holy Family to Bethlehem and, in that journey, slow our pace a bit.

One of my favorite stories of this season describes the young, pregnant Mary traveling to see her pregnant relative, Elizabeth. These women – one young and one not-so-young - share conversation, stories and songs about God. Mary stays three months with Elizabeth and it would seem that nothing was rushed. Their conversations were full and rich as they paid attention to each other, their pregnancies and that God was in their lives doing new and marvelous things.

We need to find that same unhurried time to celebrate and ponder the advent of God in our own lives. How can we give our full attention to God and respond to His gift of incarnation?

In a book called Marry a Pregnant Virgin the author writes: "*The ancient Advent wreath harkens from a time when Scandinavian farmers prepared for winter in the year's waning light. They would bring one cartwheel into the house and decorate the wheel with candles and greenery. The message was clear: **you can't go anywhere on three wheels.** The world was slowing down, a spiritual cue for all God's people.*"

Makes me kind of want to take a wheel off the Subaru and decorate it in a similar way....it might encourage me to find a different pace to wait...and watch....and be willing....

Dear Ones, spirituality, with any substance, is hard work. It will require a time commitment – just like any good relationship. In this season, as we journey, we celebrate how God has vowed to be with us. This newsletter will share some special ways that we can share with family and friends and the "anybodies" we encounter who need to know Him. I pray that you find specific ways that you can reach out – heavenward and outwardly to others – as you celebrate GOD WITH US.

Pastor Gene and I both share a prayer that you will have a blessing-filled Advent and wish you Merry Christmas. ...Abiding in Him,
Pastor Dea

Pastor Dea

UMW Dorothy's Circle

**Pikes Peak United Methodist Church
November**

The November 3rd meeting of the United Methodist Women's Dorothy Circle began with reciting the Purpose of the United Methodist Women by eight ladies present.

Our Spiritual Growth Leader, Beulah Shaw read an uplifting selection from **The Daily Bread Devotional** booklet. This month's reading focused on the privilege of prayer and how God works through our prayers. We were reminded of the scripture from James 5:16b "...The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Thank you Beulah!

In the month of November our UMW gathers for fellowship and the making of crafts for the holidays. RuthAnn Reed graciously assembled all the materials, gave clear, concise instructions and each one present was able to construct three lovely ornaments. The first was an angel from a seashell. RuthAnn brought glue or made available a glue gun for this project and everyone was thrilled with the result. Raindeer and snowmen were the two additional projects for our holiday crafting. Our most sincere thanks goes to RuthAnn for her thoughtfulness and creativity in these projects! What a lovely way to get together for fellowship and fun! Thank you Ruthie!

The October minutes were read and approved. Treasurer, Jessie Cooper gave President Brown and Secretary Arnold copies of the monthly bank report for the end of September. As it is almost the end of the year, Jessie has her work cut out for herself with the year-end accounting. We thank you Jessie for all your work!

President Brown read a very kind thank you letter from Natasha Allen, last month's speaker from the Springs Rescue Mission, for the warm welcome she received from our UMW group, the speaker's donation, and the tremendous number of boxes and bags of donated items for the mission. Marg Gilliom also sent us a warm, thoughtful, thank you card. For those who are not familiar with Marg, she was a very active member of PPUMC for many years and someone we always could call upon for assistance!

President Brown asked if the present year Dorothy Circle officers would like to keep their positions, and Suzie Gallivan made a motion to retain the officers; it was agreed upon by unanimous vote.

The December meeting will be held at President's Brown's house on December 15 at 11:30 for our annual (and truly WONDERFUL) Christmas pot luck luncheon. Everyone signed up for a dish, and LaVada will make the main meat dish. Thank you LaVada for your offer to once again host Dorothy Circle's Christmas luncheon!

Cards are being sent to several of our members who are having birthdays or anniversaries, especially to Grace Cook, Hal Smith and Debbie Pemberton as they are having health issues. (As of this printing, our beloved Grace Cook has passed away, she will be sorely missed by ALL who knew her)

Ethel Pierson passed out the UMW prayer sheets to close our program at 2:45 pm. Delicious refreshments of pumpkin spice cake with frozen yogurt were provided by Gretchen, thank you to both ladies for their service!

Our next meeting on January 5, 2017, will be on Prayer and Self-denial so no refreshments will be provided, however, President Brown will provide water bottles.

Most Sincerely,
Gretchen



**"Thanks-Mas"
Dinner**

**THANKS-MAS
Holiday Dinner**

Sunday, December 11

**Worship includes
Youth & Youngster
Christmas program
and then our meal.
MEAT WILL BE
PROVIDED**

**See Ann Keetch about
decorating a table
for eight....**

Hymnal History

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Do you know the words to 200 Christian hymns? Phillips Brooks did by the time he graduated from Harvard University at the age of 20. Born in 1835, Phillips Brooks was one of six sons, every one of them learning one new hymn weekly, to be recited on the following Sunday before the entire family. The words of these hymns often found their way into the Reverend Brooks' sermons as well as in his teaching studies given at Yale University. After the Civil War ended, and President Lincoln's death, Brooks took a trip to Europe where on Christmas Eve in 1865, he arrived in Bethlehem and crossed the fields where shepherds first saw the stars and heard the angels' announcement of Messiah's Birth. This holy scene was so deeply etched into his conscience that in 1868, Brooks asked his organist at Trinity Church in Boston, Mass. to compose a suitable tune for the poem he had written; the one we know today as O' Little Town of Bethlehem.

The music was written by Lewis H. Redner, "who was roused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-strain whispering in his ear, and seizing a piece of music paper jotted down the treble of the tune as we now have it, and on Sunday morning before going to church he filled in the harmony." That morning O' Little Town of Bethlehem was sung in Reverend Brooks' home church in Boston. On April 30, 1891 he was elected sixth Bishop of Massachusetts; 15 months later he died at the age of 58 having never married, but given his life to the service of God and his fellowman.

Gretchen

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Joan Roberts
- 10 Joshua Allen
- 10 Andrew Olson
- 15 Rowena Collins
- 16 Jarrod Castle
- 20 Sally Simmons
- 21 Martha Simons
- 23 Marty Corder
- 26 Craig Baumgartner
- 29 Beulah Shaw
- 29 Desmond Payne
- 31 Ethel Pierson

The BOW WOW Ministry



A couple of months ago, a homeless person arrived at our doorstep on a Sunday morning hungry and with a little brown dog at her side. Food was found for the lady, but there was no dog food for the little dog! Pastor Dea said it was too bad, because that little dog was hungry too. SO, with that in mind, we now have a "Dog Ministry" food bucket. In the kitchen, to the right of the stove, there is a white bucket labeled, Dog Food; dry kibble for any hungry canine who comes for sanctuary. A can of lams, wet dog food is available for those older pets or to give to the homeless owner to take with them. Labeled bowls for water and food are right there with the bucket too.

Gretchen will keep track of the food bucket should it get low over time, especially in the summer.

Please feel free to help our canine companions with this outreach, whether or not they come into our Church or are on the steps. After all, God is God of all creation!

Gretchen







Mel's Famous
Biscuits & Gravy
MEN'S BREAKFAST
at 9am 
Great Food, Fun and Fellowship!
Saturday, Dec 17th

*Carols, Candlelight
and Holy Communion
Christmas Eve
@ 5:30 p.m.*



December 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		4:45pm TOPS		1:30pm Dorothy's Circle 		
4 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS	5 6:00pm Adult Bible Study	6 4:45pm TOPS	7	8 6:00pm Giggler's Group 	9	10 10:00am Children's and Youth Ministry Team
11 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS 12:15pm THANKS- MAS Holiday Dinner	12 6:00pm Adult Bible Study	13 4:45pm TOPS	14	15	16	17 9:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 
18 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS	19 6:00pm Adult Bible Study	20 4:45pm TOPS	21	22 6:00pm Giggler's Group 	23	24 5:30pm Carols, Communion, Candlelight 
25 9:30am Worship  Christmas Day	26 6:00pm Adult Bible Study	27 4:45pm TOPS	28	29	30	31



*The
Prayer Corner*

What shall I give "HIM"?

Every year it seems to start earlier and earlier.... decorations, television ads, newspaper ads...they've even moved "black Friday" sales to start after everyone is finished eating their turkey dinner...ON THURSDAY People rush, push, and grab trying to be the first to get the best for the least amount of money.

The lists of WHAT "I" WANT FOR CHRISTMAS seems to get longer and more expensive. Kids ask for things with grown-up costs.

Don't get me wrong. "Tis better to give than receive" still has merit. But, do WE ever ask (besides the Drummer Boy's example") what WE can give? Wouldn't it be great if we all rushed with excited anticipation to church every Sunday? Even waiting in line outside the doors...to be sure we got a seat or even standing room only? We CAN celebrate Christmas by giving every day in the Christ Child's honor.

We can support our church with our tithes, offerings and gifts in the Christ Child's honor.

We can help when and where we can, give when and where we can, and pray and share the gift of Agape Christ's Love . Instead of a "New Years Resolution, perhaps we can start now! If we promise God in Jesus Name we are less likely to go back on our word. God knows what we have because He supplies our needs. God knows our hearts because He gave us; through the Holy Spirit, a sense of "Do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason!"

Please look around. Match up what YOU CAN GIVE with what someone REALLY NEEDS.

God gave us THE GIFT of eternal life through His son Jesus Christ. Do we open our hearts and receive this gift or reject it? Let us pray:

Dear God,

We anticipate the coming of the Christ Child and all that means in our lives. A chance to renew our promises to You and a chance to honor You by making some changes in our lives that no longer serve us or You! We know that this may not be easy....but we also know that You will walk us through to glory.

Help us , forgive us, and let the Light of Your Son Jesus Christ shine through us...not only at Christmas time but every day.

Our example may be the ONLY HOPE seen in these troubled times....let us Rejoice and share the Good News of our Lord and Savior. O Come, O come Emanuel.

Amen. Twinkle

UMW Dorothy Circle Giving and projects for 2016

When we join a United Methodist Women's Group, we become a part of the women's division of the National UMW Board of Global Ministries. One of these parts is Dorothy Circle which was named for Dorothy McPherson, wife of the late Reverend Glenn O. McPherson who served Pikes Peak United Methodist Church for several decades. As a UMW group, we are encouraged to give to the UMW Pledge, UMCOR and other Christian missions and programs

This year's Dorothy Circle assistance list is as follows:

- *Supplied LaPuente Mission with 34 personal bags (made, and filled by UMW), seven bags of miscellaneous items, a speaker's fee and travel donation, plus 200 pounds of rice
- *Ronald MacDonald House representative was given 14 bags of individual food donations plus a speaker's fee, a quilted baby blanket and several pounds of aluminum pop tops
- *A dozen Stained Glass window booklets were purchased to give to new members
- *Greeting cards were sent to approximately 60 people
- *The speaker from Urban Peak of Colorado Springs received 7 bags of items, and a speaker's fee
- *We served receptions for two memorial services
- *Valentine goodie bags delivered to 8 people from our church who are unable to attend regularly
- *We acknowledged the National UMW directive to be more sensitive to our Native American brothers and sisters through hosting One Nation Walking Indian Mission's speaker with 20 bags of clothing and needful items plus speaker's fee
- *The Springs Rescue Mission, celebrating their 20th anniversary in Colorado Springs, sent a representative to update us on their work and received more than 20 boxes and bags of items, plus a special speaker's fee.
- *Dorothy Circle presented the entire August 21, 2016 Sunday Service on Fanny Crosby, mission worker and composer through excerpts from her biography and music composed by her
- *Several of our group also assisted the outdoor Sunday Service of the Blessing of the Animals
- *Red Bird Mission received labels for Education and two Christian magazine subscriptions
- *Three UMW members presented programs that helped augment our speaker's fees
- *Several members assisted three of our membership to move their families into new housing
- *The United Methodist Corp on Relief (UMCOR) received their annual monetary donation.

Dorothy Circle is dedicated to loving and serving God through loving and serving His Church, wherever that need exists.

Gretchen

The Youth &
Youngsters will
present

"Sleepover at the
Stable"

Sunday, December 11
during worship



Youth Schedule

December

Dec. 10- Children's Ministry Team meeting at 10 am;
Christmas program practice and party at noon-
Come help build our Gingerbread scene!

Dec. 11- *Christmas Program today!*

Dec. 17- Youth Christmas Party 6 pm

Dec. 18- Christmas caroling 1 pm – all ages

Dec. 22- Youth Fundraiser 9 am- 9 pm All
day gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble
on Briargate.

Dec. 25- NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL OR
CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY- Enjoy the regular
service with the congregation!!

Dec. 31- 9 am – Undecorating the church



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### *A Christmas Prayer*

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share  
in the song of the angels, the gladness of the  
shepherds  
and the wisdom of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all  
over the world.*

*Let kindness come with every gift and good desires  
with every greeting.*

*Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ  
brings, and*

*teach us to be merry with clean hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be  
Thy children,*

*and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for  
Jesus' sake. Amen.*

~

*Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)*



I am so pleased that this mission group has had a wonderful year in 2016. We have had approximately 10 members each class. We have had a lot of fun and have learned various things. Some of the member have learned how to quilt pillows. Other members have learned how to make hats with the round looms. Still others have crocheted hot pads, pot holders and various other items. The more the merrier. We each do our own thing and there are members that are available to help if you need it. We have a great fellowship time. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us that would be great.

Ruth



Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: For thou art my praise. Jeremiah 17:14

- Cletis Reed
- Deborah Pemberton
- Jim Caudle
- Frank Martinez
- Hal Smith
- Esther Kennedy
- Dick & Sue Bush
- Harmon Hammitt
- Katie Lynn
- Rachel Schilowsky
- Jonathan Sommer
- Melissa Stallings
- Rick Keetch - in the loss of his Father
- Scott Myers
- Travel prayers for Ruth Sheaves
- Charlene Belshaw - in the loss of her Cousin

## TOPS Club (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

In December the TOPS group will have Programs on how to survive the Holidays. On December 13 TOPS will be having their annual Christmas Party. So there will be no meeting. We will have a weigh in and roll call and then we will dismiss and have our party at the meeting place. We are hoping to have a loss for the year of 2016 for the Chapter. So in December we will be working hard to accomplish this. Weather permitting we will meet each Tuesday in December. We would love to have anyone visit us on our meeting nights. We are looking forward to our 2017. TOPS has wonderful programs in the work for the next year. Hope to see some of you. **Please feel free to contact Ruth Reed if you have any questions at 471-1393.**

Ruth

## Shopping Ideas



**Parents:** Harry & Lindsay, are BRONCO fans

### Kids

- Jesse, (boy) 10 years old: likes basketball, football, Batman and Superman action figures, and cars
- Evangelene, (girl) 10 years old: Barbie dolls and accessories, bath salts & bubble bath, Celestial Teas: peppermint bark, chamomile or sugar cookie
- Alexus, (girl) 12 years old: make-up, perfume, bright-colored-mismatched socks, BRONC stuff
- Allona, (girl) 15 years old: Gift cards, hair brush, hair ties
- Jacob, (boy) 12 years old: likes basketball, football tennis shoes (size 7)
- Jordin, (boy) 17 years old: Hoodie or jacket (size 3x), socks, RAIDERS football stuff

**Pets:** THREE large dogs – treats, collars, leashes

### Chistmas Dinner

- Turkey has already been provided
- Potatoes
- Vegetable side dishes
- Relishes
- Rolls/Butter/Jelly
- Dessert
- Christmas Cookies/Candy/Goodies



we can help

[Debra.Mitguard@westsidecares.org](mailto:Debra.Mitguard@westsidecares.org)

or call 719-389-0759 ext. 108.

### Holiday Dinner



On December 11th we will be having our annual Holiday dinner. The dinner will be right after that morning service which will include the children and youth's Christmas program. I hope you have all been thinking about what you plan to bring. Remember that the turkey and ham will be provided, so you will only need to bring sides or dessert. If you signed up to decorate a table, we will be arranging and decorating the tables between 2 and 4 on Saturday the 10th. We are going to use the small side room for the food and the large room for the tables. See you all there. Blessings and love to all,

Sally

Pastor Dea's Sermon Calendar  
December 2016

- December 4 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
  - Worship with Holy Communion
  - "Joseph of Bethlehem
  - Matthew 1:18-24
- December 11 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
  - Youth & Youngsters Christmas Production
    - "Sleepover at the Stable"
  - "The Journey – Part 1"
  - Luke 1:39-45
- December 18 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
  - "The Journey – Part 2"
  - Luke 2:1-7
- December 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE @ 5:30 p.m.
  - Carols, Communion & Candlelight
  - "The Manger and This Time"
  - Luke 2:1-20
- December 25 ~ Christmas
  - **NOTE SERVICE TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

Pikes Peak

United Methodist Church

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**719-634-3589**

[www.pikespeakunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://www.pikespeakunitedmethodistchurch.com)

Sunday Worship 10:50 AM

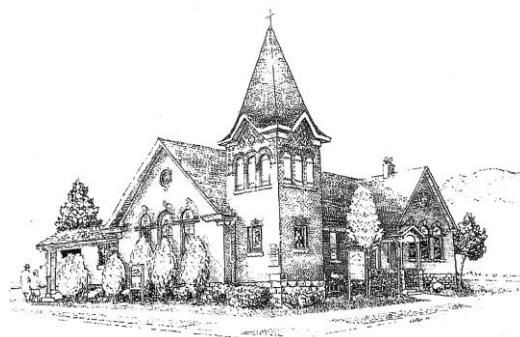
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