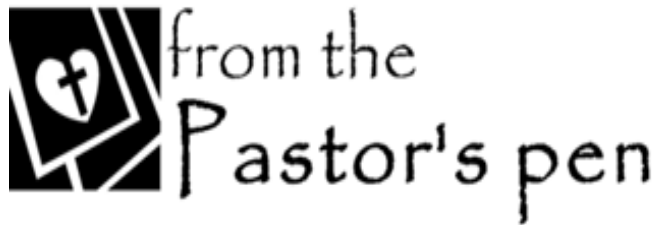


The Lamplighter

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

Jan/Feb 2016



The calendar pages are fresh, not too full (yet) of events or appointments (maybe birthdays and anniversaries.) There are clean places on the pages that we'll fill in attempts to keep ourselves organized and "in control." Truth is: God is still in charge; God is still in control – of our coming and going, our days and our nights and of all that He has planned for each of us.

So we forge ahead into the New Year with memories of the old year....some of them delightfully wonderful and others heart wrenchingly awful. And through it ALL God has been present. When we cry out because of a seeming chasm between God and us...as the saying goes: "*guess who moved!*"

Our role as believers, as people who have faith that we are Children of God, is to continue to live out the things we raised up during Advent last month: hope, peace, joy and love. And those things can be lived out with the same expectation we had for Christmas Day....only that we live them expecting the return of our Savior Jesus. For us, the Christmas season shouldn't end at Christmas but go beyond, throughout every season of the church year, because the expectation of Christmas doesn't end on Christmas Day.

Christ was born into the world...and that brings promises of faith that turn into action: gentleness and truth born into us all, compassion and justice for the poor and oppressed. And even as we continue our celebration of his birth, we also know the challenges that are coming...the meaning of God's love in infant's birth at Christmas is to save us from sin and death that will come down the road...in Jerusalem during Lent and Holy Week.

This year's Gospel lectionary readings will focus primarily on the book of Luke. Luke shares two loves: a love for Christ and a love for the facts. He reported the truth and actual facts when he wrote to his friend Theophilus. Luke's citations will enrich our study of The Word of God and I'm looking forward to sharing and studying with you in 2016. Perhaps *this* is the year that we get a better understanding of who Jesus the healer, teacher, Savior, Son of God, conqueror of death REALLY is.

God is here...God is still in charge....and God has things for us to learn. Consider enriching your new year with a daily devotional. I'm planning to use Charles R. Swindoll's Living Beyond the Daily Grind (Book II) which also ties in with my study of the Psalms and Wisdom literature for one of my classes this summer. You might choose something different – maybe the Upper Room devotional the church provides (or can be located online at www.upperroom.org). We're going to share a Lenten Sunday School class that will look at the Feasts of the Lord by Kevin Howard and Marvin Rosenthal. We'll connect Old Testament Scripture to Jesus' life in the New Testament. It'll be a good way to ease into a Bible study, too. I also hope that additional small group studies crop up this year. If you have an interest for a book or study, and the Holy Spirit is nudging you, let me know and let's get something started.

As we arise from the manger we go into the world (into 2016) as recipients of abundant grace, bathed in love and clothed in God's Spirit...and we go to spread the good news of God's greatest gift to the world. God bless each of you in 2016 ~ and all the years to come.

...Abiding in Him,

Pastor Dea

UMW Dorothy's Circle

Pikes Peak United Methodist Church

November

The November 5th, 2015 meeting of the United Methodist Women's Dorothy Circle began at 1:30 pm with the reading of the Purpose of the United Methodist Women and these ladies present: Gretchen Arnold, LaVada Brown, Grace Cook, Jessie Cooper, Rowena Collins, Evelyn Hartley, Pastor Dea Sharp, Beulah Shaw, Shirley Trucott, Millie Ware and Ruth Ann Reed.

After a very short business meeting where our Spiritual Growth Leader read an article based on Psalm 147 about reflecting on our riches in Jesus Christ. Last month's minutes were read and approved; a report was read by Treasurer Jessie Cooper who prepared a balance sheet on the bank account and gave a copy to President Brown and Secretary Arnold for the month of September after reporting the balances of the UMW and Community Service accounts to the membership. Thank you Jessie for all your work, it's appreciated!

All the hard work that keeps our accounts balanced was appreciated. Our Keeper of prayers and the one who calls us prior to each meeting was thanked. The delicious refreshments were provided and served by our President. Then we got to work immediately on our crafting projects.

Pastor brought several items from her crafting room that intrigued our ladies. One item that caught the eye of the Secretary was a mouse-trap that had been turned into a paper clip for notes and decorated with a tiny artificial poinsettia. Ruth Ann provided a lovely assortment of holiday stick-ons that were used to decorate a round, clear glass, bowl which became the perfect holder for a tiny Christmas candle. The ribbons and stickers made each bowl unique to the maker! Gretchen provided clear glass bulbs into which colored paints were dribbled to produce a colorful Christmas tree ornament. Our craft time was as always, totally enjoyed by the group. It serves as fellowship time, a time to get reacquainted with each other and a time to praise God during this Thanksgiving month. Thanks to all who brought ideas and for those who were inspired to make something new and exciting!

Beulah sent cards to those who have birthdays or anniversaries in November as well as those who are ill or recovering from surgery.

Our meeting ended with a reading of the UMW prayer at 3:07 pm.

President Brown passed around a sign up sheet for covered dishes for the annual Christmas luncheon which will be at her house on December 17 at 12 noon. We also talked about the upcoming year's speaker's agenda.

Heartfelt Thanks and a Most Blessed Christmas to You

Last year at this time, Kenny and I were making little baby Jesus dolls about 3 inches long and it was Kenny's job to wrap the baby Jesus in soft flannel cloth after I had sewn it up and put the face on. We made these for the many children at church who come up each Sunday to hear their Children's message. There was one, baby Jesus doll left and Kenny claimed it as his own. That little Jesus stayed with him all through the last week of Kenny's life especially after the nurses heard of the significance of it! So when Kenny passed on at 1:30 am on a Sunday, he was still holding his baby Jesus. I told the nurses that Kenny had "traded up" that now he was with Jesus and no longer had the need of a little baby figure to remind him of God's love. God's love had sustained Kenny through the last 16 years of his illness and that same love drew him Home at last.

My beloved Church Family, you have called, listened, supported and encouraged me through this valley of the shadow, and I am eternally grateful to each one of you, for the words, cards, e-mails and constant prayers that are so deeply appreciated! I thank God for all of you.

So with these words of joy and hope, may you be blessed by God, even as I send you all my love and prayers for your health and happiness today and in the year to come.

Most Sincerely, Gretchen



Christmas 2015



The Prayer Corner

What's New?

Some of the reasons perhaps are "if it isn't broken don't fix it", life is like a pair of bedroom slippers or old shoes.....comfortable despite being worn out.

The first thing we can do for God and ourselves is our attitude.

If you have now and always been a "a glass is half EMPTY person why not promise to now view life in the "glass is half and working on full" mantra?

First of all; God is IN all things and can DO all things...but here's the ":take away"..WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

For many of us this is nNOT a new concept..

But I challenge you to take it a step forward, EMBRACE it, BELIEVE it and LIVE it!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?

Nothing!!

God wakes you up again each day.That means NEW opportunities to do the right thing at the right time for the right reason.

Do you remember the lady who started her day something like this?

Dear Lord, I have not gossiped, said or done mean things, not over eaten or drank too much. I have not created havoc or hurt anyone's feelings. Thank you, Lord...

However..... I am going to get out of bed now and I need your help!

We smile perhaps because we have heard a rendition of this or use the excuse.... this is who we are...saying "I am not a morning person!"

God is a 24/7 being who loves you more than you can imagine...wants what is best for you and those you care for and about.

God wants a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP...not just a "God bless you" when someone sneezes.

(I heard that got started when it was believed that when one sneezed they would cease to exist) don't hold my feet to the fire on that!)

If you want to really make the devil run for the hills , start your day raising your arms and say "Jesus, thank You for another day. I'm ready . How can I serve You today?"

Not a big deal...you stretch anyway. The minute your feet hit the floor you have purpose, peace to make way within you for good things to come.

That's also known to my little self as the "peace that passes all understanding"

Get rid of the situations and habits that no longer serve you well..

Consult God for everything...Go about doing God's plan for your life and I guarantee God is working on what you need...

Joy is a state of mind.

You can choose to be miserable or joyful.

It is hard to see the good in areas that hurt or challenge us...that is a given.

I did not say it would always be easy...but count your blessings not your challenges.

Take time to brighten another's day..A smile, a random act of kindness, a prayer...and perhaps all.

The best NEW thing you can do for yourself is open your heart and life to the possibilities God has planned for your life and those lives around you.

Let us pray:

Dear God,

You have given me another day. Let me consult You and thank You.

I know You love me and no matter whether I feel I deserve it or not . I am Your child and I invite You to live inside me...

When I get off the path of and for goodness nudge and encourage me with that still small voice within that let's me know what is the best choice for goodness and mercy for myself and others.

I know that without You in my life things will not go well.

I believe that You died on the cross so that I might have life abundantly and eternally.

Thank You for this gift.

I will not only RECEIVE it but open it with my whole heart and share this knowledge with those who do not yet know you.

Help me to do this not only with words but merciful actions.

In Your son Jesus' name the name when spoken..every knee shall bow.

Amen. Twinkle

UMW Dorothy's Circle Year in Review

It is amazing what a small group of dedicated women, through the guidance of Almighty God can do!

January, 2015, started with our traditional meeting of prayer and self-denial where we do not have refreshments, or outside speakers, but instead begins with a reading from our Spiritual Growth leader. This was followed by a short reading on the life of Suzanna Wesley, mother of John Wesley who began the Methodist Church. Our group's January donation was given to the Springs Rescue Mission as our gift to God in appreciation for His love and care as we looked forward to 2015!

February's: love month found us filling 15 valentine bags with goodies for our congregational members who are unable to come to church.

March began with a first-hand WWII presentation by two of our members who helped the rest of us understand how life was for families and military men at this critical time in our Country's history!

April's speaker was from the Ronald MacDonald House. She was given a speaker's donation and many bags of donated items for their houses.

May's speaker was from One Nation Walking, a group we have sponsored with prayers, donated money and items for many years.

June began with a local pastor who felt called to work at the Springs Rescue Mission. At the end of his talk, our own Pastor Dea blessed him in prayer and he took back a speaker's donation and many bags of donated clothing. Throughout the month of June, a box was placed in the entry for our gracious congregation to help supply items for the San Luis Valley's LaPuente Mission.

July's heat reminded us how hard it must be for the migrant workers at Alamosa's LaPuente Mission to harvest the fields. A representative from there drives the four hour trip to our Church each year to give us an update on their work. This year she took back a speaker's donation of money, cases of bottled water, miscellaneous items and 36 bags, (that were sewn by our Treasurer) of personal items needed by the migrant workers.

August and September's meetings hosted Urban Peak in August and the Marion House Soup Kitchen in September. Both of these groups help support our local community with food and shelter for youth and adults. Each of them received a speaker's donation and various items needed for their programs.

November was a month of planning for the upcoming year and a recount of this year's budget.

December is our month for fellowship and a luncheon (hosted by our UMW President at her home) as we celebrate God's gracious love and care for us throughout another year of joyful service.

This year, Dorothy Circle's Spiritual Leader sent over 72 cards to folks in need of encouragement. Over \$800 was given in cash donations, additionally 115 bags of clothing/food items, 15 bags of Valentine goodies, 2 cases of bottled water, and handmade items (baby hats, sweaters and quilts, prayer shawls, meals); were donated and we served six funeral receptions this year. Fifteen pounds of collected aluminum can tops were given to Ronald MacDonald House, over 200 pounds of coats and hoodies were washed, dried, mended and delivered to West Side Cares. Our Missions and Outreach Leader collects and sends educational labels to Red Bird Mission. She supplied Red Bird, One Nation Walking and our own Church with subscriptions for *National Geographic* and *Biblical Archeology* for their libraries and she brings boxes of greeting cards to send out. We were even able to pay our UMW/UMCOR yearly pledge of \$240 a year to the General UMW.

Dorothy Circle may be only a small group in number (between 6 to 10 ladies attend regularly) but we are MIGHTY in the LORD! May God bless all of you this New Year. Your UMW Secretary

All woman are invited to attend our meetings and be a part of a great organization: **United Methodist Women**

Gretchen

January 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1 New Year's Day	2
3 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS	4 6:00pm That the World May Know	5 6:00pm TOPS	6	7 1:30pm Dorothy's Circle 6:00pm Crochet/Knit Class	8	9
10 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS	11 6:00pm That the World May Know	12 6:00pm TOPS	13	14 6:00pm Crochet/Knit Class	15	16 9:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
17 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS Human Relations Special Sunday	18 6:00pm That the World May Know	19 6:00pm TOPS	20	21 6:00pm Crochet/Knit Class	22	23
24/31 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am	25 6:00pm That the World May Know	26	27	28 6:00pm Crochet/Knit Class	29	30

February 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:00pm That the World May Know			1:30pm Dorothy's Circle 6:00pm Crochet/Knit Class		
7 9:30am Adult SS 6:30am 10:50am Worship & Children's SS "Fat Sunday" Spaghetti fundraiser	8 6:00pm That the World May Know	9 6:00pm TOPS	10 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service Ash Wednesday	11 6:00pm Crochet/Knit Class	12	13
14 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS 1 st Sunday of Lent Valentine's Day	15 6:00pm That the World May Know	16 6:00pm TOPS	17	18 6:00pm Crochet/Knit Class	19	20 9:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
21 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS 2 nd Sunday of Lent	22 6:00pm That the World May Know	23 6:00pm TOPS	24	25 6:00pm Crochet/Knit Class	26	27
28 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS 2 nd Sunday of Lent	29 6:00pm That the World May Know Leap Year					

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Rachel Mae Williams
- 8 Kelly Baines
- 11 Melissa Baumgartner
- 11 Dalton Myers
- 13 Rachel Schilowsky
- 14 Mary Kay Marshal
- 16 Brad Remington
- 18 Jessie Cooper
- 22 Jim Rawlings
- 22 Marshel Thompson
- 23 Pastor Gene Sharp
- 24 Evalyn Drayton
- 24 Lori Lee Keating
- 28 Mel Trafton
- 30 Noah Baumgartner
- 30 Levi Ware

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Russ & Virginia VanDerWege
- 12 Cletis & Ruth Ann Reed
- 21 Bill & Carole Garriott
- 26 Tyler & Christine Wood

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Donna Miller
- 5 Christine Wood
- 7 Joe Brown
- 10 Rose Martinez
- 11 Scott Myers
- 12 Harold Smith
- 13 Ann Keetch
- 14 Kelley Arnold
- 16 Bill Edwards
- 18 Coop Cooper
- 18 Carole Garriott
- 18 Chloe Pemberton
- 18 Pastor Dea Sharp
- 23 Kevin Williams
- 25 Veronica Baumgartner
- 26 Dot Cain
- 29 James Caudle (Leap Year)

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Kyle & Melissa Gordon
- 10 Steve & Cindy Meerpohl
- 19 Herb & Beulah Shaw



KNITTING & CROCHET CLASS

If you are interested in learning to knit or crochet please come join the group that will meet in Gamber Hall each Thursday from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm starting on **January 7**. We will start by knitting a lacy scarf. You will need to bring a #7 - 16 inch circular knitting needle and 1 or 2 skeins of Sashay - Red Heart Boutique lacy yarn any color you would like. If you want a longer scarf you will need 2 skeins. Just remember that sometimes it is hard to see dark colors at night.

On **February 4** we will be working on crochet wash cloths or pot holders. You will need a crochet hook size I and 1-2 balls of the Sugar n Cream yarn or Lots of Love yarn. **If you have any questions please contact Ruth Reed 471-1393. I am looking forward to seeing you there. Please use rear entrance.**

TOPS Club (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

TOPS CO 0151, Colorado Springs is meeting every Tuesday evening. We have changed our weigh-in time to 4:30-5:15 pm with our meeting starting at 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. We are talking about our motivation and our goals for the 2016 year. We would love to have any of you that are wanting to lose more than 10 pounds for the 2016 year. You may contact Ruth Reed, 471-1393 for more information.

We do use the back entrance. **You may contact Ruth Reed (Leader) for more information at 471-1393.**

Ruth

Step By Step

The distance from Colorado Springs to Jerusalem is 6917.543 miles. There are 5280 feet in every mile. An average person goes between 2 and 3 feet for every step taken. On average a person takes 2000 steps for every mile. Why all of the numbers? This year we are going on a journey through the life of Christ in both Sunday school and in Children's church. We will be taking steps each week on our journey to Jerusalem. In order to "walk" there each week we will need to go approximately 133 miles or 266,000 steps!! How will we do this? A pedometer will be shared each week with one or two of our young people and for that week, they will need to keep track of their number of steps. Our journey will include learning about the history of the places Jesus lived, learning about the people in His life, hearing the words he spoke, and discovering the man Jesus was and is to us today. Come with us and learn about the life and times of Jesus!!



Special Needs:

Volunteers!! Our Youth would like to have a couple of lock-ins during the next few months. Vacation Bible School is also around the corner!!

Supplies Needed:

Water-based markers (Crayola), School Glue, Glue Sticks, Safety Scissors, Masking Tape, Fabric Paints, Google eyes, Construction paper, tissue paper

Yours in Christ, Kim Sommer

719-210-7394

Pastor's Sermon Calendar

January 2016

- January 3 ~ Epiphany of the Lord
With Holy Communion
"Towards the Light"
Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2:1-12
- January 10 ~ Baptism of the Lord
With Re-affirmation of Baptism
Rev. Gene Sharp
"God's Chosen One"
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- January 17 ~ Second Sunday after the Epiphany
"The First Sign"
John 2:1-11
- January 20 ~ Third Sunday after the Epiphany
"Hearing With Joy"
Nehemiah 8: 1-10
- January 27 ~ Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
"It's About Love"
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

February 2016

- February 7 ~ Transfiguration Sunday
With Holy Communion
"Always Another Climb"
Luke 9:28-36
- February 10 ~ Ash Wednesday ~ LENT BEGINS
Service with Imposition of Ashes
And Holy Communion
"Just a Little Ashes"
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
- February 14 ~ First Sunday of Lent
"Devil Made Me Do It"
Luke 4:1-13
- February 21 ~ Second Sunday of Lent
"As A Hen Gathers Her Brood"
Luke 13:31-35
- February 28 ~ Third Sunday of Lent
"Nourishing Waters"
Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9



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

- Donna Miller
- Vi Griffey friend of Susie Gallivan
- Charlene Belshaw
- Herb Shaw
- Harmon Hammitt
- Hal Smith
- Dick Bush
- Deb Pemberton
- Don Wiley
- Debbie Coyle
- Ruth Tucci for Bev's husband Vern
- Melissa Stallings

I KNOW HE CARES

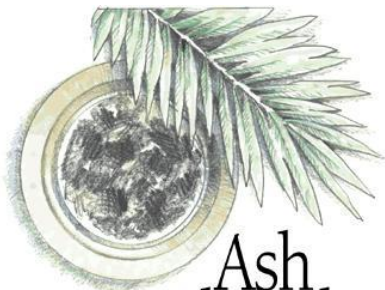
*Jesus cares for you and me
His eye is on us constantly
So never doubt His love and care
We see His handwork everywhere.*

*God sees each tiny bird that flies
He helps them soar up in the skies
He dresses them all in fine array
And feeds them faithfully each day.*

*To each He gave a lovely song
To sing His praises all day long
The Sparrow chirps a melody
Then others join in Harmony.*

*So if God sees each Bird and Bee
I know He also cares for me.*

By Claire Ruby



**Ash
Wednesday
Service**

February 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.



Christmas Caroling

We Did go....

On December 20, 2015 the following people spread Christmas cheer to six of our members in their homes: Twinkle Gordon, Margo Bowler, Elsa Gordon: Twink's Grand Daughter, David Hays, Rick & Ann Keetch, Rachel Thompson, Gretchen Arnold and LaVada Brown.

We had a wonderful time singing and spreading the Spirit of Christmas to Susie Gallivan, Katie Lynn, Hal Smith, Shirley Harr, Martha Simons and Frank Martinez.

Men's Group

The Men's Group 2016 will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday January 16th and also on February 20th. Happy New Year and blessings to you all and invite a friend.

Mel Simmons

New Program!! It's called SCRIP!

Pikes Peak UMC is beginning a new program after Labor Day to help raise funds for the various Mission projects we support- such as the youth mission trip, scholarships to various workshops and leadership programs, etc... It is called the Scrip program. Scrip is Fundraising While You Shop®. This amazingly successful fundraising program has worked for thousands of churches and other non-profit organizations! Scrip turns everyday shopping into cash for your church when families use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases (like gas and groceries) instead of the usual credit/debit card or other money. **Contact Rick Keetch or Kim Sommer for more information.**

Celebrating Harm Hammit



Sunday, February 17 we will have a potluck dinner celebrating Harmon Hammit and his longtime membership at PPUMC. Harm is moving soon, to be nearer to his extended family, and we will sorely miss him. Bring a dish to share, a card for Harm, and a written comment (or 2) that we can share during Fellowship time.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

(C) 216-3817

pastordea@gmail.com

Certified Lay Minister

Twinkle Gordon

Director of Music

Barbara Turner

If you have anything to share with the church in the next newsletter, please contact the editor

Carol Stephenson. 237-4648 or

c-stephenson@comcast.net