

The Lamplighter

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

December 2014



Pastor's Ponderings

I have noticed a curious trend in road construction over the past decade, give or take. It seems as if the British affinity for circular junctions, that is roundabouts, has taken over America. They have certainly popped up all over the place in Colorado Springs. I suppose there are statistical reasons why roundabouts make for better intersections. I, however, still feel like I am risking my life whenever I enter a busy one. A few years ago we took three vans full of youth down into the Baja of Mexico for a mission trip. We entered a roundabout in Tijuana and got stuck! We circled around and around for several minutes before we were able to exit the non-stop looping. I'm not convinced that we Americans really know how to utilize roundabouts properly!

That said, if you like the thrill of going in circles, roundabouts are probably your cup of tea. As we enter into this season of Advent, however, we are reminded of the words of the Prophet Isaiah, through Mark's pen...or quill.

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" (Mark 1:2-3, NRSV).

John the Baptist, said Mark, is that messenger; and he came to proclaim the One who is all about making our lives straight and true. Remember that old saying? "Stop the merry-go-round! I want to get off!" The Baptizer is pointing to the One who promises that we don't have to stay on the endless looping of a chaotic life. He was proclaiming the advent of a new way; a life-giving way. Only, we know that the Advent really began roughly 30 years earlier, at the birth of the Child .

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Pikes Peak

United Methodist Church

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

Our Church Mission:

**"Worshiping God, Accepting All, Sharing
with the World"**

Phone: 719-634-3589

Website:

www.pikespeakunitedmethodistchurch.com

Sunday Worship 10:50 AM

Children's Sunday school 11:00 - Noon

Pastor Leslie Wood

(H) 593-9476 (C) 650-9449

Email: pastorles@outlook.com

Director of Music

Barbara Turner

Certified Lay Minister

Twinkle Gordon

Newsletter Editor:

Carol Stephenson

carol@riverrat-nw.com



West Side Cares



Thank you to all that donated for the Thanksgiving food baskets. We donated two turkeys and \$92.00 for 20 pumpkin pies to Westside Cares.

Socks, Hats & Gloves Tree

Christmas trees, when decorated, sparkle with all sorts of bright colors. This year we have a chance to decorate a tree that will brighten someone's daily existence with warmth and dignity. Between November 30th and December 14th, bring new or like-new socks, wool hats, gloves and mittens and decorate the tree in the Narthex. Blankets and adult-sized coats are a nice under-the-tree option, as well. What we take for granted is a precious commodity for some. Your "decorations" will be donated to Westside Cares.

Team leaders needed

Do you like do-it-yourself (DIY) projects? Do you have pretty good skills with tools? Are you organized? Could you lead a small group to tackle a project?

If you fit this profile, we would like you to consider being a DIY Team Leader. As you know, we have a great new facility that is already providing a wonderful enhancement to our mission, but it also has a few deficiencies. We have identified a number of small to medium sized projects that could be undertaken by volunteers. Things like drywall repair, painting and simple wood work. Our first step is to find the needed leaders to make this happen. Please contact **Ed Brady** (edbrady@me.com) or **Kenneth Smith** (kryburn@gmail.com) if you can volunteer to be a project leader. Thank you for considering this opportunity to improve WSC.

Westside Cares hospitality station... is running out of cookies! Our hospitality station just isn't the same without something sweet to go with the coffee. We typically get our cookies and other snacks from Care and Share, but they haven't had any for us to order these last couple months. If you would like to donate cookies, apples, oranges, coffee cake or anything else that go nicely with a cup of coffee contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759 or Debra.Mitguard@westsidecares.org.

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As we enter *this* Advent season Brian and I are acutely aware that God has been making adjustments to our paths these past several months. A few years ago, when I began this journey into the ministry, we knew that the day would come when God would call us to something new. Just to get to the point of saying, "Yes, we'll go where you send us" was a big deal for us. We've always been "stay put in the loops of our familiar patterns" kind of people.

It was a little scary and exciting back then to say, "Our lives are yours, Lord, wherever you lead." Yet, you, my dear friends at Pikes Peak, were my first "something new." These past 2 ½ years I have been blessed in immeasurable ways. I have seen God working in amazing ways through your grace, and care and excitement to respond to God's moving *you* along new paths of obedience. You repeatedly welcome people in, regardless of their situation in life. You truly see people through the eyes of Christ, and my own faith has been nurtured by your example.

Now, as the day draws near when I will say "goodbye" and leave Colorado Springs for my new appointment, Brian and I feel we are journeying on sacred ground. There is an inner sense of awe to be in a place of obedience. Admittedly, though, there is some anxiety. I recently heard a great reminder, (though I can't remember where, unfortunately) "The emphasis is on trusting God and obeying Him, knowing that the will of God will never lead us where the grace of God can't keep us." This promise is my prayer for us, and it's my prayer for you. I have heard wonderful things about Pastor Deanne Sharp, your new pastor starting in January. I am excited for you and for her, and for the journey that you will be taking with Christ together. One thing is for certain, on your new journey, Jesus will be your guide, the One to light your way. If there's one thing I've learned over these past few months, God's ways are beyond my ability to anticipate, and God's plans are always more exciting than my own. That is a truth you can count on, too. Know that you will continue to be in my prayers. I have no doubt that God will continue to bless and keep you. You are special. You are held. You are His.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leslie

UMW Dorothy's Circle

Pikes Peak United Methodist Church

The November 6 meeting of the United Methodist Women's Dorothy Circle began at 1:35 pm with seven ladies present:

We began by reading the Purpose of the United Methodist Women in unison, after which Beulah Shaw read an e-mail entitled, **Why Did Jesus Fold the Napkin.**

In the account of Jesus' resurrection (John 20:7), the grave clothes were lying there, but the napkin covering Jesus head was neatly folded and lying to the side. This is very important in Hebrew tradition. After a meal, the master of the house would rise and if finished with his meal, wad up his napkin and toss it onto the table indicating the meal was over, the table could be cleared. However, if the master folded his napkin and placed it by his plate, it meant he was not finished and he would return so the table was not cleared away. The folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back"! What a wonderful symbol Jesus gave us in that folded napkin! Thank you Beulah for bringing our group a more complete understanding of this Hebrew Tradition!

The Treasurer's October report was presented and copies of it given to the President and Secretary. Our thanks go Jessie Cooper for keeping such good records!

President Brown gave a **'What To Do In An Emergency'** brochure to each of us, and passed around a lovely pink thank you card received from Sky Olson for her baby gifts.

All officers of Dorothy Circle have agreed to keep their present positions for 2015. Our newest member Grace Cook has agreed to be the Coordinator for Box Tops and education labels.

After our business meeting, we adjourned to the other room for crafts. President Brown and Gretchen provided the materials and instructions for Thanksgiving cards and Christmas ornaments. A most enjoyable time was had by all as we talked and laughed and fellowshiped together.

Our December 4th will be a pot luck luncheon. The meat and drinks will be provided by our UMW President and the rest of us will provide side dishes. Please see LaVada Brown if you are interested in attending this luncheon.

After refreshing angel food cake and strawberries, we read the UMW prayer together and closed our meeting at 3:00 pm.

Gretchen Arnold

A MELANCHOLY CHRISTMAS

The holidays can be difficult this time of year. Life is sometimes quite a challenge. When folks around us seem jolly, sometimes we are not.

Come for a special Melancholy Christmas Service of Anointed Healing Prayer, Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00p.m.

TOPS Club

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Did you know that a local chapter of TOPS Club, International has been meeting here in Gamber Hall since 2009?

This self-help weight loss chapter began with six members. It has now grown to 15. Three brand new members, instead of waiting for "The New Year" resolution time, will be facing the opening days of 2015 DOWN a few pounds instead of discouragingly UP. Please come check us out.

We meet every Tuesday evening for weigh-in at 5:00-5:45, and a one hour meeting beginning at 6pm.

We hope to "see you lighter!" If you would like more information please contact Ruth Reed 471-1393.

Ruth

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The Men's group will meet for breakfast on Saturday December 20th at 9:00 am at the church. Being that Christmas follows the next Thursday I hope you will all still be here to attend and in the spirit of the holidays bring a friend.

Blessings, *Mel Simmons*



The Prayer Corner

Why can't everyday be

As I sat having my morning coffee in front of the fireplace I had some random thoughts that I would like to share.

I start each day by thanking God for a new day and asking "What is on the agenda for today?" It always includes random acts of kindness, such as doing my best to speak to others as I would speak to Jesus. I must admit that sometimes it does not come easily.

You might enjoy this bit of humor. I love t-shirts with sayings on them. Perhaps these will make you smile as well.

"Just because I think it, does not mean it needs to come out of my mouth."

"God loves you, and I'm trying."

My mother used to say "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." That is wise advice. Bet you have heard that from your folks as well.

There is a point here. We may all be different and unique, but we all have something in common. We all seek acceptance, want unconditional love and a bit of happiness, though not at others expense. And for heaven's sake let's get along with each other!

Hope, Joy, Peace and Love.

Let us pray:

Dear God,

Help us to start each day in prayer seeking Your wisdom. Let us end each day thanking You for our blessings.

You gave us the "gift" of Your Son, Jesus.

Let us honor that by the way we live each and every day. Let this be our mantra: "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." Amen.

Twinkle Gordon

Blessings to the following December Birthdays

Scott Ashlock	Dec. 1
John Turner	Dec. 2
Betty Peterson	Dec. 5
Joan Roberts	Dec. 6
Georgia Wright	Dec. 8
Joshua Allen	Dec. 10
Sally Simmons	Dec. 20
Martha Simons	Dec. 21
Marty Corder	Dec. 23
Christine Dame	Dec. 26
Beulah Shaw	Dec. 29
Desmond Payne	Dec. 29

December Anniversaries

Roy & Betty Peterson	Dec. 5
Charles & Bonnie Bargas	Dec. 21

Pastoral Change

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky has appointed Pastor Leslie Wood to serve as a full time minister to the United Church of the San Juans in Ridgeway, CO effective January 1, 2015. Her last Sunday service will be December 21st and will lead us in worship Christmas Eve, December 24th. The SPRC committee has accepted the appointment of Pastor Deanne (Dea) Sharp as our new pastor effective January 1, 2015. Her appointment is half time as Pastor Leslie's was. It is hoped by the Bishop, the cabinet, our District Superintendent, and your SPRC committee that she will be a very good match for us and will serve us for at least 18 months or longer. She and her husband Gene, a retired pastor, make their home in Florissant, CO, up the pass. Pastor Dea's first service with us will be January 4th. Please prayerfully be with both pastors, their families, and our congregation through this transition period. By our faith Gods love is with us and we are in his hands.

SPRC Chair, *Mel Simmons*

December 2014

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	8 6:00pm Disciple Bible Study	2 6:00pm TOPS	3	4 1:30pm Dorothy Circle Holiday Gathering	5	6
7 8:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Youth & Adult SS 10:15a.m. Spirit Singer's Rehearsal 10:50am Worship & Children's Church		9 6:00pm TOPS	10 7:00pm A Melancholy Christmas Healing Service	11 6:30pm Admin Council	12	13
14 8:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Youth & Adult SS 10:15a.m. Spirit Singer's Rehearsal 10:50am Children's Christmas Service 12:15pm Holiday Dinner Party & Pastor's Goodbye Reception	15 6:00pm Disciple Bible Study	16 6:00pm TOPS	17	18	19	20 9:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
21 8:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Youth & Adult SS 10:15a.m. Spirit Singer's Rehearsal 10:50am Worship & Children's Church 12:15pm Christmas Caroling	22	23 6:00pm TOPS	24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25  Merry Christmas	26	27

Welcome Melissa Espinosa-Stallings!



Melissa Espinosa-Stallings was born in Herford, TX and raised in Hobbs, NM by her foster parents, Ruth and Jack Hansard. It was under their care that Melissa first knew of a God who loves her and it gave her peace. Joining PPUMC is an important step for Melissa, as she explains, "I want to take this step and surrender my love and self completely to my God. I know where my happiness is and that's walking with my God and doing His works. I've always been serene with God in my life."

Melissa has five beautiful daughters, including identical twins! She is also the proud grandmother of four wonderful granddaughters and a delightful baby grandson. Her heart is happy because all her kids love Jesus and are active in their churches in their towns.

Melissa joined PPUMC by profession of faith on November 23rd.



Adopt-A-Special Someone

This Advent you have a wonderful opportunity to serve and help bring joy to a very special Someone.

Special Kids Special Families strives to provide for individuals with special needs and their families. There are multiple programs that make up Special Kids Special Families, including Zach's Place for children, Joey's Place and ICAN for adults, and a foster care program. Every year SKSF puts on a Christmas party for its clients and their families and asks donors to provide gifts for the kids/adults in the SKSF program. The generous giving by the donors reminds these families that they are valued. It also gives the donors a wonderful chance to participate with and support some pretty super kids/adults with special needs.

This year the party is being held on December 14th. PPUMC has generously offered to provide gifts for seven special individuals whose names and wish-list will be provided at the church, beginning Sunday November 30th. Gifts should stay between \$15 and \$30 dollars, and be delivered to the church by Sunday morning, December 14th. Your compassion and kindness will truly make a difference in the lives of SKSF families this holiday season.

HELPING HANDS FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENT HOSTESS

- 1st Sunday--- Sally Simmons & Jessie Cooper
- 2nd Sunday---Twinkle Gordon & Margo Bowler
- 3rd Sunday---Dee Burger & Joan Roberts
- 4th Sunday---Cindy Meerpohl & Cassandra Giardina
- 5th Sunday---Ann Keetch, Karen Wiest & Luci Rawlings

Calendar of Events for Youth and Children



Dec. 7- Christmas Program practice following church at noon

December 7: Youth (6th-12th Grade) Murder Mystery Dinner Christmas party from 6 pm- 10 pm at the church. Come in costume according to your character and bring a 1\$ wrapped gift for the gift exchange (can be something homemade but cannot cost more than 1\$- be creative)

Dec. 13- Children's Ministry Team meeting at 10 am;
Christmas program practice and party at noon

Dec. 14- *Christmas Program today!*

Dec. 20: Youth (6th-12th Grade)- 1 pm An afternoon will be spent decorating gingerbread sleds, creating gift cards, and putting together baskets/bags to be handed out during our all-church Christmas Caroling event.

Dec. 21- **Christmas Caroling!!**

Dec. 28- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY Blessings to you all,

Kim Sommer
(719) 210-7394

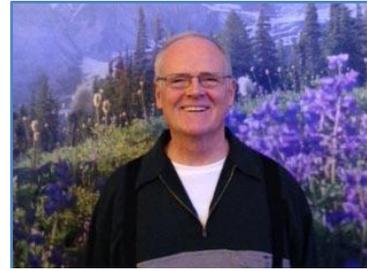


Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: For thou art my praise. Jeremiah 17:14

Hal Smith
Sue Gallivan
Ruby Hilty
Frank Martinez
Deb Pemberton

Chloe Pemberton
Margo & Twink
Elizabeth &
Stephanie Miller
Ken Arnold

Welcome David Hays!



David Hays was born in Kirksville, MO in 1948. His dad, Wilmer, was from Kirksville, MO and his mom, Louise, was from Colorado Springs. David's sister, Cheryl, was born two years after David in Wichita, where his dad was working, and where the family lived through David's first grade year. After that, the family moved to Colorado Springs. David attended Midland Elementary and West Junior High. His 7th Grade English teacher had taught both his mother, aunts and uncles, so it was a difficult year as they excelled in English! He attended Palmer High School through his sophomore year, when the family moved to Santa Cruz.

David graduated from Soquel High School, then spent four years in the US Air Force as a specialist working on Doppler and Inertial Navigation Aids on HC130H Air Rescue and C141 aircraft. In 1970, after the military, David went to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, where he spent a semester working in Montgomery and Charleston, WV counseling disabled coal miners on Black Lung Disease.

During the break between spring and summer semesters David attended a Native American Healing Powwow in Okemah, OK. As a result of that visit he became a college drop-out at the same time his mother was graduating from college with her teaching certificate. David moved back to California. He attended the Los Angeles School of Chiropractic, graduating in 1977 and starting his own practice in Glendale, CA in 1978.

In January 1994 David and his parents returned to Colorado Springs. He cared for both of his parents until his mom passed away in December, 2011 and his father in July, 2013. David sold his parents' house in July 2014, when, he said, he "was homeless (houseless) for two months" until he purchased his new (old) home on W. Bijou. "I can walk to church," he says.

David joins Pikes Peak on transfer of membership from Calvary United Methodist Church.

Calendar of Special Events

(See calendar for regularly scheduled events)

- Dec 4, Dorothy Circle Holiday Gathering, 1:30p.m.
- Dec 10, A Melancholy Christmas Service, 7:00p.m.
- Dec 14, Children's Christmas Service, 10:50a.m.
- Dec 14, Holiday Dinner Party, 12:15p.m.
- Dec 14, Goodbye Reception for Pastor Leslie, 12:15p.m.
- Dec 21, Christmas Caroling, 12:15p.m.
- Dec 24, Christmas Eve Service, 5:00p.m.



Pastor Leslie was very touched by the many kind post-it thoughts that were plastered on her car by the children & youth!

Our Vision

Pikes Peak United Methodist Church is a church with a rich heritage. We are called by God to provide a place of grace where all are welcome. We strive to be a community of faithful followers of Jesus Christ, expressing our spirituality through worship, discipleship, outreach and service. As we grow in faith, we seek the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, who calls us to live in love, joy and peace.

If you would like to receive the Lamplighter in an e-mail, or have an article, please contact Carol Stephenson at 237-4648 or carol@riverrat-nw.com.

*Jesus said, "Don't stop children from coming to me! Children like these are part of the Kingdom of God." **Matthew 19:14***

Pikes Peak United Methodist Church
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Colorado Springs, CO 80904

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED