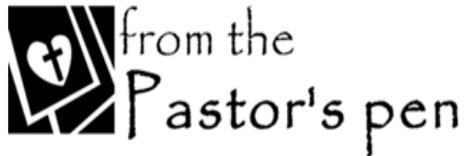


The Lamplighter

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

January 2015



Greetings, Family of Faith of Pikes Peak UMC! With the change of our calendar pages comes the change of Pastor Leslie Wood's departure and my arrival as your new pastor. I have been praying about you and the ministries that go forth from the church building we call our faith home. My husband, a retired UM pastor, Gene, and I are looking forward to serving and working among you in the days and years ahead. It is exciting to anticipate what God has in store for all of us.

As we start the New Year we are also in the new *church* season of Epiphany. The Scripture readings we will encounter, for the Sundays after the Epiphany, show, in dramatic ways how people came to understand who Jesus was, through his baptism, the calling of his disciples *and* through a bodacious healing in his hometown synagogue!

The word *epiphany* means *appearance* or *manifestation*. Some of us would use words such as "*eureka*" or "*aha*" like when that light bulb of understanding comes on. We'll have plenty of "*aha*" moments together as we journey through the church year using Year B of the lectionary readings. In 2015 the gospel readings will come from the book of Mark.

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the "big four", one of the synoptic gospels and probably the earliest written (at least that's what my professors at Perkins School of Theology keep telling me.) Interestingly, as we read through the Gospel of Mark we have those epiphanies of details that aren't in the Gospels of Matthew or Luke. The writer of Mark's gospel recounts what Jesus did in vivid style and the pace of the narrative will keep us almost breathless. Doesn't THAT sound like an exciting way to journey with Jesus in 2015? The Gospel of Mark has – and will allow us to have our own - "*aha moments*" as we come to understand who Jesus was as Son of God *and* Son of Man and why He had come to live among us.

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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 Dea Sharp

(C) 216-3817

Email: pastordea@gmail.com

Director of Music

Barbara Turner

Certified Lay Minister

Twinkle Gordon

Newsletter Editor:

Carol Stephenson

carol@riverrat-nw.com



Meet the Sharps!



We are blessed and excited to receive my appointment at Pikes Peak UMC. By way of introduction, here is a little information about us.

Gene and I are both Iowa natives. That's where my parents and brother and family, as well as Gene's mom and sister and her husband, still live. It's also where we met and when I married him 23 years ago I got the whole package that included my "in my heart, not under it" kids, Gene's three grown children. In the last 20 years, those three, have blessed us with their spouses and seven "grandies". All of them reside in the Fort Worth, Texas area.

Gene and I live on almost 6 acres of treed property north of Florissant (west on Highway 24 and home of the National Fossil Beds) where we live as "modern day pioneers". We share our home with Rocky, a black lab, and Belle, a feisty feline.

My formal education was completed with a B.A. in Drama/Speech from Clarke College, a small, private, liberal arts Catholic institution in Dubuque, Iowa. And my adult working life has included being a Sales Manager for a 5-star hotel in Dallas, Texas; being the Office Administrator to the National Sales Director for a company based in London, England; co-owning a business in Vail, Colorado with Gene; being a teller for Wells Fargo banks and a part-time merchandiser for Hallmark. Gene is a University of Iowa grad and has completed graduate studies at Drake University and Wharton Business School. His secular career was in the food industry including being CEO of a grocery wholesale company in Dallas.

The Christian journey, a lifelong journey, on which God has led me, includes growing up Lutheran, attending a Catholic college, and marrying a Methodist for whom I joined the denomination by Confession of Faith. I'll call myself a *Christian* rather than be defined by denomination. Gene, began his "third and final" career when he entered the ministry in 2004. We are both Licensed Local Pastors and have been in ministry together since I began my formal ministry in 2009, most recently on the Western Slope at Fruita UMC and Gene at Palisade UMC. Our Course of Study classes have been at Perkins School of Theology on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

We come to serve and provide Biblically sound spiritual leadership and inspiration as we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. Caring for the Family of Faith at Pikes Peak UMC, lifting you in our daily prayers, and being responsive with Christian support as we ALL accomplish God's work in the world is the purpose for which we are called to serve your church. We look forward to being a vital part of the Pikes Peak UMC community and growing with you into the future.

Abiding in His love,
Pastors Dea & Gene Sharp

UMW Dorothy's Circle **Pikes Peak United Methodist Church**

The December 4 meeting of the United Methodist Women's Dorothy Circle began at 11:30 at President Brown's house for the annual Christmas luncheon. Our usual group of women welcomed Pastor Leslie, and Melissa Espinosa-Stallings to the get-together!

Dorothy Circle was blessed to be invited to President Brown's home again this year for the annual Christmas luncheon! Besides opening her home to us, President Brown provided the meat and drinks and the rest of us brought side dishes and desserts to round out the meal.

Her home was beautifully decorated with nativity scenes, Christmas trees and a beautiful table set for the ten ladies who attended. Our lovely meal was complete as each woman in turn told how many states she has lived in and a little bit about her life in each state. Our Christian fellowship, Christmas luncheon was a great success, thanks to everyone who attended and with special thanks to LaVada Brown, our Circle President, and her husband Joe who took pictures and graciously drove several ladies to and from the party.

Our first meeting of 2015 will be held at the Church on January 8th at 1:30 pm. We usually meet the first Thursday of the month, however since the first Thursday is New Year's Day, we have moved the meeting to the following Thursday! There will not be an outside speaker for our first meeting of each new year is on Prayer and Self-Denial which will be hosted by Beulah Shaw.

All ladies are welcome to attend our UMW meetings. We strive to honor God by serving others in or away from our own community.

Gretchen Arnold

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

Pastor's Wish List

- **Fishing Nets** - for altar decor usage 1/25 (we'd prefer the large net(s) but will make smaller nets on poles work - we'll cover the poles).
- **Christmas Decorations**-Before folks put away their home Christmas decor ask them to consider donating, to the team for altar decor, extra items they no longer use. (I think the team would like a larger nativity collection) Folks could also check their closets/drawers for material and table clothes that could be used to cover tables or the altar.

Please contact Pastor Dea at 216-3817, for more information

The Prayer Corner

Happy? New Year?

It's that time of year again...when we want to become closer to those we care for and for those we care about But money, time and other commitments prevent it? It doesn't cost anything. It only takes a moment , and surely we are not too busy to consult God; who by the way has ALL the answers! We profess to catch up on our lives but we never really do. This is not meant to be a maudlin statement, just a way of a fast-paced life. What would happen if we prayed for everyone everywhere, whether they share our views or not? Prayer doesn't cost anything. It only takes a minute. What if it were possible through prayer to change hearts, behavior and a future that includes less violence with more equality and respect? This is possible, you know!

We could take a moment at the start of each day consulting God's plan for ALL OF CREATION. We could ask God to be with those in pain...mentally, physically and spiritually.

This pretty much covers everyone everywhere, does it not? It establishes a pattern that perhaps we have thought about but never got around to it.

Prayer can and will do marvelous things! It can move mountains of stubbornness, melt the ice of frigid abstinence, and bring each of us all closer to a peaceful co-existence. I believe that is what we really want. We really want a "peace on earth and let it begin with me" mind-set. Let us pray:

*Dear God,
When we start each and every day asking for Your help, we know You will guide us. If we listen to that "still small voice" within called the Holy Spirit, then we will make sound, compassionate choices. If instead of getting into debt for "things", let us make a habit of rendering random and purposeful acts of kindness. Then ALL WILL BEFFFIT! When we add the usual things to our New Year to-do list, let us put our lives into Your capable hands. Simple words...God, be with us today and every day. Amen.*

Twinkle Gordon

Blessings to the following January Birthdays

Irv Johnson	Jan. 2
Rachel Mae Williams	Jan. 6
Pastor Leslie Wood	Jan. 7
Kelly Miller Baines	Jan. 8
Rachel Schilowsky	Jan. 13
Mary Kay Marshall	Jan. 14
Justin David Durrant	Jan. 17
Jessie Cooper	Jan. 18
Alexis Schilowsky	Jan. 20
Marshel Thompson	Jan. 22
Jim Rawlings	Jan. 22
Lori Lee Keating	Jan. 24
Ken Arnold	Jan. 26
Sandra McClain	Jan. 28
Mel Trafton	Jan. 28
Crystal Miller	Jan. 29

January Anniversaries

Russ & Virginia VanDerWege	Jan. 4
Cletis & Ruth Ann Reed	Jan. 12
Bill & Carole Garriott	Jan. 21

Sandwich Social



On January 4th we will have a meet and greet for Pastor Dea. This will give everyone a chance to introduce themselves. Lunch will be sandwiches, chips and cake. Hope to see everyone there.

Sally

January 2015

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1 Happy New Year	2	3
4 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship 12:15 Meet Pastor Dea Social	5 6:00pm Disciple Bible Study	6 6:00pm TOPS	7	8 1:30pm Dorothy Circle 6:30pm Admin Council	9	10
11 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Pancake Breakfast 10:50am Worship & Children's SS	12 6:00pm Disciple Bible Study	13 6:00pm 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 Disciple Bible Study	20 6:00pm TOPS	21	22	23	24
25 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS	26 6:00pm Disciple Bible Study	27 6:00pm TOPS	28	29	30	31

**TOGETHER, WE EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO THOSE
IN CRISIS SO THEY CAN OVERCOME FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES.**

Human Relations Day is January 18, 2015

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of our town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- ❖ An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- ❖ A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- ❖ An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, allows the work of folks like Bruce and Becky Ballou to build relationships with those teens in Texas. Your gift allows Montey Payne to lead recovering addicts towards healing. And your gift helps Rev. Steve Burr find work for ex-offenders.

This work,
and hundreds of other ministries,
are possible because you give.

Will You Support the Ministry of Christ Among Those on
the Margins?

Will you continue to support Human Relations Day?
Will you continue nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening
communities’ self-improvement efforts and advocating for
the oppressed?

Rev. I Maliik Safir, whose church works with those gripped by addiction in Little Rock, sums up the work of Human Relations Day by recalling Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan: “to meet the poor, the disadvantaged and the underserved at the places where others have robbed them and help them to recover from the wounds of social inequality.”

Human Relations Day is one of six *special offering* Sundays in the United Methodist Church. Offering envelopes will be provided on Sunday, January 18. For more information visit [Human Relations Day](#) on the Internet.



**Our Gingerbread Church
Built by Kim, Shalee, Lori and Lexi**

Continued from Page 1

Our first Sunday together, January 4, is the Sunday of the Epiphany – when we encounter the Wise Men, those iconic symbols of Epiphany, who were Gentiles who sought Jesus. Their understanding (aha!) included that Jesus belongs to everyone. The Good News is for everyone, not just a select few. They brought gifts to the young Jesus and remind us to give some thought to what gifts we will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time or our talents? Our service in the community? Our witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion? Trust me, Dear Ones, we’ll have the Perfect Example of Jesus to guide us!

There’s no time like the New Year to make fresh commitments. Your “aha moment” may be as enlightening as the star the Wise Men followed. Blessings to all of you in 2015. I look forward to being in ministry with you and continue to be....

....abiding in Him, *Pastor Dea*

Happy New Year!!!



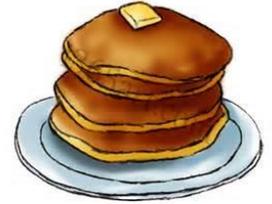
The New Year brings new resolutions- new promises to lose weight, stop caffeine consumption, jog every day, etc... Every year people begin the year with good intentions and lots of promises. We strive to keep up with those changes and improvements, but many of us falter. We are human. Thank you Lord for sending Your perfect Son to earth in the form of a wonderful child who has saved us all. At the time we are trying to make some changes, the youth and children of our church also try to make changes in their lives during the New Year. Some of these changes are not healthy ones. Please be aware that 95% of individuals who suffer eating disorders are under the age of 18. Anxiety disorders which lead to self abusive behaviors such as "cutting" are on the rise. The children and youth today have stresses in school and at home that they don't often verbalize. As a community of faith, please lift these precious gifts up in your daily prayers. Let them know when you see them at church and out in the community how truly remarkable gifts of God they are. Remind them they are perfectly and wonderfully made in the image of God. God has a plan for each of us, we need to prayerfully consider what direction our lives need to take. Blessings Always!

Needs for Children's Ministry:

- Sunday School Teachers/helpers (sign-up in the hallway or contact Kim Sommer)
- Children's Ministry Team members (meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am)
- Non-toxic Markers
- Pancake mix
- New white t-shirts, all sizes (there is tie dying in our future!)
- Youth Sponsors!!
- Vacation Bible School Leaders for Art, Music, Crafts, Games, and Kitchen

Kim Sommer
(719) 210-7394

Join us for a



Pancake Breakfast!

Pikes Peak United Methodist Church Youth

Come join us for a morning of fun and fellowship to support our youth in mission. We will be showing an introductory video of the mission field our youth have chosen to visit and support.

**When: church Sunday January 11th
from 9 am– 10:45 am**

**Donations to go towards our youth
mission trip in June.**

For more information contact
Kim Sommer at **(719) 210-7394**

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The Men's group will meet for breakfast on Saturday January 17th 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*



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

Jean & Bill Edwards
Susie Gallivan and her Sister, Pat Brown
Frank Martinez
Harmon Hammitt
Marty Corder
June Reed
Herb & Beulah Shaw
Ken Arnold

January 2015 Sermon Calendar

January 4, 2015 ~ Epiphany Sunday
Service with Holy Communion for Epiphany
"Wise Men Still..."
Matthew 2:1-12

January 11, 2015 ~ Baptism of the Lord
Reaffirmation of Baptism
"A Good Beginning"
Mark 1:4-11

January 18, 2015 ~ 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany
Human Relations Special Offering Sunday
"Who Is It For?"
1 Samuel 3:1-10 and John 1:43-5

January 25, 2015 ~ 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany
"Immediately"
Mark 1:14-20

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED