

The Lamplighter

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

September 2014



Who are we?

That is a good question, and one worth considering since several have blessed us by joining PPUMC this year. When I joined the UMC in the mid-1980's, I transferred my membership from the Presbyterian Church in my hometown where I grew up. Other than my observation that Methodist churches tend to have fun youth groups, I didn't know too much about Methodism, its history, heritage or basic theological values. I think it's a good time to explore these things. So watch for tidbits in the Lamplighter over the next few months. For instance, what are means of grace in Methodist tradition?

September, as we prepare for the beginning of fall, is an excellent time to re-center our hearts on God after the full, busy days of summer. As Christians we seek and become more closely connected to God through various means of grace, such as prayer, fasting, Holy Communion, searching the Scriptures, visiting the sick and feeding the hungry. When we practice spiritual disciplines such as these, we open ourselves for God's grace to refill us anew.

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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

(Adult Sunday school will be on summer break from

June 22nd – September 7th)

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



SOCIAL NEWS

On September 7th we are going to celebrate the 90plus birthdays of Evelyn Hartley and our new member Preston Holladay. If you would like to bring them cards, there will be a basket to put them in. The celebration will be after the morning service.

Have a good and blessed day,

Sally Simmons

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The Men's group will meet for September on Saturday the 20th at 9:00am. Per the group's wishes, the menu will be the same. Hope to see you all there and bring someone new. Blessings, *Mel Simmons*

TOPS Club

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Labor Day. Summer is over, and the onslaught of holiday parties is about to begin. Do you tend to gain weight with all the winter celebrations? You're not alone! The local TOPS Chapter (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) has already begun the Cut & Burn season: Cut out 100 calories here and there and BURN an extra 100 calories now and then.

It ALL adds up to NOT taking on extra weight. Come give us a try as we watch the pounds FALL off. We meet right here in Gambrel Hall every

Tuesday evening. Weigh-in begins at 5:00, and the meeting is from 6-7.

Questions, please speak with Ruth Reed.

Hope to see you soon!

719-444-5593

**1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd, 3rd FL
Colorado Springs, CO 80907**

Ruth

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John Wesley held that some means of grace are forms of works of piety and some works of mercy. Our works of piety (e.g. studying the Scriptures, prayer) fill us with grace that brings us closer to God. On the other hand, our works of mercy (e.g. feeding the poor, visiting the sick) help us to see others through Jesus' eyes and reach out to serve in loving compassion. Then again, sometimes the two weave together to impart grace in us. In Holy Communion, for instance, we participate in an expression of loving God and loving neighbor. This, after all, is what Jesus both modeled and taught. *Love God with all your heart, mind and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.*

We are called to cultivate means of grace that nurture our lives of faith and shape us into a reflection of Jesus Christ in the world. It is important to practice a variety that both nurture our relationship with God and compel us to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Pastor Leslie

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

UMW Dorothy's Circle

Pikes Peak United Methodist Church

The August meeting of the United Methodist Women's Dorothy Circle began at 1:30 pm with eleven people present to hear an update from Urban Turzi, our long-time contact and today's speaker from One Nation Walking Mission.

Urban began by telling us he had recently joined a group of Utes at a Sacred Tree ceremony in the Black Forest. Teens from many Ute tribes were there to learn about their heritage with these trees which historically guided the People to various sites such as water, lodging or religious places.

Urban then updated us on activities over the last year. One Nation Walking now has a new warehouse located in the old Alexander Film Company that comes complete with an administrative office and all for the same cost as their original site! There is a women's gathering called the Women's Talking Circle which meets twice a month to discuss native women's abuse which is three times more prevalent among Indians as it is for the rest of the country.

There is a new food sustainability program which has just begun which gives a family 12 laying hens and teaches them the care and maintenance of the flock. A family in Kiowa County is the first to receive 12 chickens and they hope to raise more chickens to share. Another new program starting in 2015 will raise hydroponic vegetables using fish hatchery waters.

Along with these new programs, there are Pow-Wow's, lectures, concerts and a film festival designed to help the people at One Nation Walking run their program. Urban told us it takes \$11,000 a month to keep them up and going. LaVada will share information from them on how we might be able to help. Urban left us with a saying, "When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty". Dorothy Circle gave Urban donations of household items, clothing, personal items and a monetary speaker's contribution as well. Our thanks goes to our two guests Joe Brown and Jerry Hartley, who carried the items out to Urban's truck.

Next, we enjoyed Beulah's uplifting spiritual reading from "Songs of a Seeking Heart" entitled, **I wasn't always old, you know**, with thoughts based on John 15:5 about how to remain fruitful throughout all seasons of life. A cute passage from her reading regarded a white-haired lady's T-shirt which read, "I'm not 80, I'm 18 with 62 years of experience." Thank you Beulah.

Jessie read the Treasurer's report and kept up on the bank account! Thank you Jessie.

Thanks to Grace Cook who donated flowers and cards for our UMW gathering.

Dorothy Circle is the United Methodist Women's group for Pikes Peak UMC. We serve God through our service to others, upholding in prayer those in need and keeping Christ first in our lives!

We would love to have you visit or join our group, the first Thursday of each month. Thursday, September 4 will be our next meeting with the Springs Rescue Mission speaking and Shirley hosting the meeting!

Gretchen Arnold



Pet Blessing Service!

Tell your neighbors! Tell your friends! Tell their pets! Sunday September 28th is our annual day to open our doors to our best furry, warm-blooded...and not-so-furry, cold-blooded friends. Come join us!

The Prayer Corner

Pretty Paper

Our children and now our grandchildren present their accomplishments for acknowledgement and proper display. We know they did their very best and seek our approval. Upon seeing their works of art, we can stop and declare that it is "most wonderful"- along with thanks, hugs and a trip to the "noted refrigerator front" for all to see!

Hopefully, we don't give it a cursory glance, put it down on the counter for heaven-knows-what to be spilled on and/or forgotten. As grown-ups; no matter what our age, there is a little person inside each and every one of us that seeks the approval of God and others.

Here are some examples of unconditional love: God knows our hearts. God is our Father. He rewards our kindnesses and forgives our prayers of atonement with grace. Our pets shower us with love and loyalty despite our over-worked, under-paid, unappreciated, sometimes less than angelic selves. All they want from us is that love, loyalty, kindness, and understanding reciprocated. God wants to be first in our lives. God is already on-board for all our needs. In fact, His Son, Jesus, literally signed on the dotted line with His blood to secure our salvation. How do we show God our unconditional love?

Let us pray:

Dear Father, You are first and foremost in my life. All that I have, all that I am, and all that I hope to be comes from You. Let me share my blessings. Let me pattern my life after Jesus. Let me not take the unconditional love bestowed upon me for granted.

Please forgive my short-comings.

I believe in your son, Jesus Christ sacrifice for me. I am humbled and most grateful.

Let me show my gratitude by singing your praises, despite my circumstances now and forever.

Amen. *Twinkle Gordon*

Westside Cares is in need of Kid's Care Kits!

Chery and I went to our first meeting at Westside Cares on August 11th. It was very educational and interesting.

Westside Cares is holding a Capital Campaign Kick Off on Friday, September 12 from 4:30 PM to 7 PM at Westside Cares. Church members are welcome. The campaign is to raise money to pay for the building and needed remodeling.

Westside Cares is in need of "Kids Care Kits". These Kits consist of coloring books, crayons, a healthy snack and a juice box. They are given to children visiting Westside Cares with their parents to help ease any anxiety they might have and to keep them occupied while waiting for services with their parents. You can support this ministry by being a sponsor to purchase items or by donating items: coloring books, crayons, healthy snacks (raisins, goldfish, cheerios) and juice boxes. If interested, contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759 ext. 108 or Debra.Mitguard@westsidecares.org

A clothing drive will be held in September or October to benefit Westside Cares and Goodwill. Goodwill gets the clothing in exchange for clothing vouchers for Westside Cares. More information to follow **WESTSIDE CARES NEEDS...**

- Women's underwear size 5, 6, 7, 8
- Men's briefs and boxers all sizes
- Diapers sizes 5, 6 and pull ups
- Adult socks
- Family size toothpaste and bar soap
- Transparent pill bottles with child proof caps
- Plastic grocery bags

Contact Archie or Chery Wilson at 685-5164 if you have any questions about Westside Cares.

Blessings to the following September Birthdays

Sue Bush	Sept 1
Frank Martinez	Sept 4
Archie Wilson	Sept 5
Evelyn Hartley	Sept 7
Ray Pierce	Sept 11
Lawrence Hammitt	Sept 13
Barbara Turner	Sept 19
Tyler Cole	Sept 19
Tom Hammitt	Sept 20
Joshua Corder	Sept 29
Ashley Schilowsky	Sept 28
Aaron Schilowsky	Sept 30

September Anniversaries

Marshel & Rachel Thompson	Sept 15
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September 2014

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2 6:00pm TOPS	3	4 1:30pm Dorothy Circle	5	6
7 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS 90 th Birthday Celebrations! 	8	9 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm CMC	10 6:30pm Finance Quarterly Meeting	11 6:30pm Admin Council	12	13
14 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS	15	16 6:00pm TOPS	17 6:00pm Nominations Committee	18	19	20 9:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
21 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS	22	23 6:00pm TOPS	24 6:00pm CMC	25	26	27
28 9:30am Adult SS 10:50am Worship & Children's SS Blessings of the Animals 	29	30 6:00pm TOPS				



"As promised, PPUMC is visited by *The Cow*, in gratitude for helping the kids raise \$755 for Heifer International's fight against hunger." May 4th!

A way of living **Stewardship**

On the first day of school Emily noticed that a girl at a desk near hers did not have the supplies she would need as a student. When Emily went home that day, she told her mother about the situation. They both decided that they should go shopping and purchase whatever the poor child would need. Arriving a bit early at school the next day, Emily put all the supplies needed on the child's desk along with a note that read "Surprise, Emily". Emily may not have realized it, but she was being a good steward.

Stewardship involves giving of one's self and of one's resources for the needs we see around us.

A certain pastor arrived at his church one morning and saw a 95-year-old man standing on a small ladder. He had a tool in his hand he was using to trim a hedge that had grown too large. The pastor suggested that the old fellow leave that job for someone younger. The old guy ignored the advice and continued whacking away at the bush. You and I might gasp at the story but we cannot deny that he was exercising stewardship as best he could. It turned out that he finished the job without getting hurt at all.

In the fourth chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he wrote: "*This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy,*" What a challenge! "It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." I ask myself, "Am I a good steward who is always trustworthy?"

Prayer: *Lord of life, help us to be faithful that we may always be worthy followers and servants of whom you are proud.*

In your name. Amen

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

Coop Cooper

Susie Gallivan

Ruby Hilty

Debbie Pemberton

Cletis Reed

Kaitlin Reed

Kerry Shockley - LaVada's Nephew

Hal Smith

Sean Malone- of Crisis Relief International

"Fall Brings Change"

Change is a difficult thing for many people- including myself. We get going in our own little world, on our own little path, along our own merry way and then BAM!!! God gives us a wakeup call and says, "People whom I love, go this way, not that way. Step outside your box, step outside your comfort zone, know I am with you always." When I follow that call that God gives me, it's never failed to be amazing. I thought I would be a singing marine biologist when I was young- now I live nowhere near the ocean. I never thought I would be married- now I have a wonderful husband and 4 awesome children. We are on the doorstep of change for children's/youth ministry and it is amazing. I love the enthusiasm of the younger generations at Pike's Peak. I absolutely melt when the little ones can't remember my name and call me "Teacher". God has a plan for this church and it involves growth and a leap of faith. We are adding a Sunday school hour at 9:30 am for sure for the youth and possibly for the children to the schedule (depending on the attendance) and a choir/drama time for all ages as well. The youth met in August and discussed a plan for activities and mission projects through December. At this meeting, I asked the youth to think of examples in the Bible where being smaller didn't mean things couldn't be accomplished- can you think of any? We have a smaller congregation at Pike's Peak UMC, but that doesn't mean we are a small church. "Small" has defined boundaries, and our congregation is **NOT** bound by the walls of the church. We have so many branches that reach out into the community and we are continuing to grow in mission. The children's ministry and youth ministry are two of those branches. In order for these ministries to continue growing- volunteers are needed. Please prayerfully consider helping with our younger members. You do not need to commit for an entire year of service, but how about once a month? If you are not attending the adult Sunday school class, consider helping with the children at 9:30. While this is a smaller congregation, the love of God is apparent and our cup overflows with that love. Thank you all for your support of this ministry with your prayers, presence, and gifts. The children and youth of this church are blessed indeed.

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)**

Blessings to you all,

Kim Sommer
(719) 210-7394



Welcome Charlene Belshaw!



Charlene Belshaw came to Colorado in 1968. She has been singing in a choir for 44 years. "I use my god given talent to sing His praises, a top priority in my life." A retired Occupational Therapist, Charlene lives with a very smart Siamese cat, Quinn, who is the joy of her life. She enjoys counted cross stitch, puzzles and reading. Charlene loves all animals and wishes she could care for all of them. She collects crosses of all kinds.

"My faith has grown here at PPUMC.

I thank my friend Alice who didn't hesitate to invite me to sing with the choir when others pushed me away.

I thank this congregation for all their love, prayers and support. You are a very loving, caring congregation. I have found my place in a choir and congregation. I have a new church family."

Calendar of Special Events

(See calendar for regularly scheduled events)

Thursday 9/4, 1:30pm Dorothy Circle
Saturday 9/20, 9:00am Men's Breakfast
Sunday 9/7, 90th Birthday Celebrations!
9/28, Blessings of the Animals

**Are you interested in joining
Pikes Peak UMC?
Call Pastor Leslie at 593-9476**

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***

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED