

... Open Hearts ... Open Minds ... Open Doors

GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12755 West Cedar Drive Phone: 303-989-3727 Fax: 303-987-9220 website: www.gmumc.com

Rev. Paul Murphy-Geiss, Pastor

Guiding members and friends to a fuller knowledge of GMUMC through information, support, confirmation, praise, and celebration.



Window on the Hill December 2019



FROM PAUL'S PEN

When an angel comes to an individual to make an announcement, there's both the assurance of divine protection and, usually, a catch. An angelic visit—whether to announce a baby or a commission or to interpret a vision—typically requires a response.

Amy-Jill Levine

Light of the World



One of the joys of the holiday season is telling and retelling the stories of Jesus' birth as they come to us in the gospels of Matthew and Luke as well as other traditions. In the various accounts, there are many "characters" who play particular roles. There are, of course, the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, Elizabeth and Zechariah, the magi, King Herod, Emperor Augustus, the animals, and numerous angels. An angel visits Zechariah to tell him Elizabeth will have a child. An angel visits Mary to tell her she too will have a child. An angel visits Joseph to tell him not to abandon Mary. An angel, along with a host of angels, visits the shepherds to tell them what has happened in Bethlehem.

All these angels bring news of something that is going to happen. And as Amy-Jill Levine states, the news comes with a catch. The news requires some response. Zechariah loses his voice until the birth of the child whom he names John. Even the naming is a catch—don't follow the normal tradition and name the child after yourself or some family member but name him John. Mary must respond to the angel's news by either accepting or rejecting what is being asked of her. Joseph must risk the scorn of the community by standing with Mary in this unexpected pregnancy. And the shepherds must respond to the news by leaving the fields and their flocks and going to Bethlehem to see what has happened.

I don't know anyone who has had an angelic visitation. Or maybe they haven't been willing to tell about the visitation. Honestly, I'm not sure how I would react if I were to experience such a visitation, and I know I would be tempted to keep it to myself. But I hope that like the "characters" in the birth narratives, I will be able to respond positively. And I hope that I will be up to the "catch."

Then again, maybe I need to acknowledge that there have been angelic visitations which I haven't recognized as such. There have the smiles (and sometime waling) of babies I have held at baptisms. There have been those amazing insights kids give during Children's Time. There has been music that had chills running down my spine. There have been challenging questions during Bible studies. There has been laughter in the midst of a staff and church council meetings. There have been a plethora of likely angelic visitations that I just haven't recognized as such.

I hope that as we approach Christmas this year, we will all look for the angels who are trying to get our attention. And I hope that we will be able to respond to whatever the catch might be!

Peace, shalom, paix, salaam, heiwa, Pastor Paul

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Organist Melissa Sussman mucikmama@yahoo.com

Nursery Director Cherie Werkhoven werkhoventc@aol.com

Paul's Pen1 Steve's Stuff....2 Children's....10 Youth.........11

December 2019



STEVE'S STUFF (RAMBLINGS & PROGRAM NOTES)

Questions? – please see me, email swalden@gmumc.com, or call 303-989-3727. Thank You!

The point of a faith community is not to think alike, but to think together.



The Lopsided Labyrinth Coffee & Tea Club Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Room #403

Looking at the issues of our times, through the lens of faith. The Lopsided Labyrinth coffee jar \$ benefits the SEED/NarSarah Clinic in Sierra Leone = \$3,500.

Coming into Focus...

The Center for Contemplative ANARCHY

A community without walls. A faith beyond belief. No donuts.





The Shared Journey Wednesday, Dec. 18th, 1:30 p.m., Room #403

SJ is an ever-evolving, supportive, community for those that share the daily challenges of facing the diagnosis of dementia – as caregivers, families, and caring friends. All welcome!

Church of The Apocalyptic Optimists

Investing in people and ideas across the globe, via the $\it Kiva$ microloan. Interested? See me. As of October 14th -1,152 loans, totaling \$31,100.





Society for the Advancement of the Human Attention Span Sunday, Dec. 1st – Fireside Room

In November, pondering *Artemis* by Andy Weir; the December selection is TBD *For those interested in this evolving book group...please see me.*

A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.

- William James -





Dec. 1 8:00 service with Communion

10:30 service with Communion

Dec. 8 8:00 service with Communion

10:30 Choir Cantata

Dec. 15 8:00 service with Communion

10:30 traditional service

5:00 Festival of Lessons & Carols

Dec. 19 5:30—8:00 Open Sanctuary

Dec. 22 8:00 service with Communion

10:30 traditional service

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight services

5:00 Family Service

7:00 and 9:00 Traditional services

Dec. 29 8:00 service with communion

10:30 traditional service



Isaac Watts penned the words to *Joy to the World* 300 years ago, and it has been sung ever since. Join us for worship this Advent & Christmas inspired by the beloved carol.





Help Prepare the Church for Advent and Christmas Saturday— November 30 at 9:30

We'll put up all the holiday decorations and share in a brief service of worship to begin the season. After we've finished decorating, we'll share in a light luncheon. (Please sign up on the program table so we know how much food to prepare.



ANNUAL CHEER TREE & WOMEN'S BEAN PROJECT



The cheer tree will be in the narthex beginning on Sunday December 1st and will be collecting toys for the Action Center. The toy distribution will be during the week beginning Monday, December 9th so it will be best if the toys are under the cheer tree by Sunday, December 8th. Although, toys will be accepted and delivered to the Action Center throughout the month of December.

Outreach will be selling products from the Women's Bean Project on Sunday, December 8th in the Fireside Room. Please come and buy products to support the Women's Bean Project.



The holiday season is now upon us and with it all the demands on our time. Advent begins Dec. 1 and it is the perfect time to go deeper into the biblical texts that surround the birth of Jesus.

We'll have a 4-week study using Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*. Dr. Levine shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament; highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasizes the importance of Mary's visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt.

The study will meet at 7:00 p.m. the four Mondays in Advent (Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23). Sign up on the program table for a copy of the study book (cost \$16.00). And be sure to get your copy and read the introduction and chapter 1 before the first session on Dec. 2.



Green Mountain United Methodist Women Sunrise Breakfast Wednesday, December 4, 2019 8:00 a.m. IHOP-Lakewood City Commons



Prayer Journey for Advent

Jean Arnold, Certified Lay Speaker

Anticipation – that is Advent. But anticipation can encompass both excitement and dread. During this season of anticipation, I invite you to join me in a time of dedicated meditation and prayer and we contemplate this season of growing darkness – and journey to the light that shines in the darkness. With the overstimulation and over commitments of the holiday season, Advent is a great time to examine our inner life, our habits, and our relationship with God. What is the reason for this season?

Jesus said: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 NIV.

Grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and join me weekly during the 3 weeks of Advent to dedicate ourselves to a time of prayer and meditation. For three (3) Wednesday mornings at 6:05 a.m. during Advent: December 4, 11 and 18, we will gather in our virtual upper room to pray and share stories both biblical and personal – of sorrow, reflection and joy. We will use The Upper Room as our guide. You will find free copies of The Upper Room in the narthex. If we run out, let me know. I will mail or email you a copy of the guide for each week. Even if you do not have a copy of the Upper Room – call in anyway as we join our prayer voices together with Christians around the world by meeting in our virtual upper room for prayer time (I will be hosting the call):

1.800.430.1833; enter pass code 9626010#. The call is free, and our prayer and meditation time will last for about 30-40 minutes.

Virtual upper room meeting schedule for Advent: December 4, 11 and 18 - 6:05 a.m.

Questions or need a copy of the meditation for the week: Call or email Jean Arnold – 303-257-2659 (cell) or jeanarnold@arnold.com.





FROM THE TRUSTEES



Our thanks to those who worked on Grubby Sunday to get so many jobs accomplished. We cannot keep our building maintained without everyone's help - no matter how small the contribution. Here is the list of the many things that got done: Kitchen cleaning, Outside bush trimming, Columbarium fall cleanup, Narthex blind installation (to keep the sun glare off the choir), Pews vacuumed and polished, Pew hymnals and information/envelopes organized/refreshed, Office windows cleaned, Sinks cleaned, Room #403 boxed and emptied for carpet installation, Bulletin boards/chalk board removed from chapel (from Room #405 remodel), Folding chairs returned to Fellowship Hall, Window air conditioners removed for winter, New Rope lights installed on Sound Booth stairs. The benches in the columbarium have a new polyurethane finish too. In December we will have new carpet installed on the upper hallways of the west building and Room #403. The Fellowship Hall will be stripped and waxed.

Like any home or building that is 53 years old, there are continual upgrades and repairs necessary. Thanks to all for helping the Trustees to keep things running, safe, welcoming, and attractive in 2019.

FROM OUTREACH COMMITTEE





The cheer tree will be in the narthex beginning on Sunday December 1st and will be collecting toys for the Action Center. The toy distribution will be during the week beginning Monday, December 9th so it will be best if the toys are under the cheer tree by Sunday, December 8th. Although, toys will be accepted and delivered to the Action Center throughout the month of December.

Outreach will be selling products from the Women's Bean Project on Sunday, December 8th in the Fireside Room. Please come and buy products to support the Women's Bean Project.



Finance Committee December 2019

For the month of October, we had income of \$29,588,06, and expenses of \$35,346.82, for a balance of -\$5,758.76. Our overall balance for the year is -\$24,955.03. We are not in good shape, as we head into the final two months of the year. I would ask again, that if you are behind in your pledges, to please make every effort possible to catch up, to help us with this deficit. And as always, thank you for your financial support of GMUMC.

> Greg Hise Finance Chair

Jackson Barnes

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Candlelight Services



5:00 p.m. - Family Service

7:00 p.m. - Traditional with Chancel, Carillon & Bellissimo Choirs

9:00 - Traditional Service with Chancel, Carillon & Bellissimo Choirs

All Services conclude with candle lighting as we sing Silent Night, Holy Night with Chancel, Carillon & Bellissimo Choirs



SOLOS is a group of women, 55 and above, who meet socially on the 3rd Friday of the months, September through May. If you have questions, please call

Linda Dahlke at (303) 984-1994.

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NEWS FROM THE GARDEN



"Planting seeds for the future"

Jean Arnold, Church and Society – Garden Liaison

The Vision: Feeding our community. In the words of our leader, Lori Osborn, "I hope that time spent in the garden can grow not only sustainable food, but a community from diverse people and foster a sense of place that brings peace."

The vision: Feeding our community. "I hope that time spent in the garden can grow not only sustainable food but a community from diverse people and foster a sense of place that brings peace." Lori Osborn.

Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) Construction and Volunteer Days. The water is installed, the grubbing is done, and the materials are delivered and waiting to be installed. After being snowed out on October 27, Denver Urban Gardens has scheduled two workdays for the Community Garden.

Our two volunteer days will be Sunday, November 24, 2019 beginning at 11:45 a.m. and Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. Weather permitting, of course. The 10-day forecast for Sunday November 24 shows sunny and mid-50's. We will be instructed by Nessa with Denver Urban Gardens. DUG will provide all tools and materials needed to construct the beds. If we finish the work on Sunday (11-24), we will not need the December 7 workday, but we wanted to get the second day on everyone's calendar just in case.

Any amount of time you can devote to the garden on either Sunday (11-24) or Saturday (12-7) would be appreciated. Please RSVP to Jean Arnold by email (jeanarnold@arnoldarnold.com) or text at 303.257.2659.

- Fund raising. We have sufficient funds to build the "basic" garden infrastructure. But we need another \$20-30,000 to complete the full design. DUG is phasing the build-out over 5 years. Plus, a garden is "forever" fund raising.
 - The Community Brick fund raiser continues. You can order bricks at any time to support the garden. The bricks will be installed once the heavy work is done. Please contact Lori Osborn (lorioho@icloud.com or 303-986-8802) to purchase a brick. Order forms are on the program table outside the Gathering Place.
 - \$100 per 4 X 8 brick + \$10 for clip art;
 - \$200 per 8 X 8 brick + \$10 for clip art.

Website Management: Garden Community member Holly Schnitzler is managing the website. If you have information for the site, contact Jean Arnold at: jeanarnold@arnold.com or 303.257.2659 (call or text).

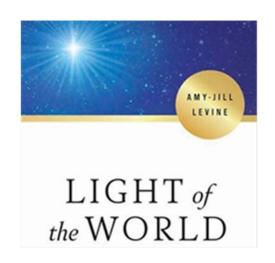
Check out the website at: https://communitygardengmu.wixsite.com/gmumc. See the pictures from our "brick" retrieval day in the spring. Soon we can start posting *PROGRESS* photos. Below are pictures of the garden so far.











Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it's also a great time to dive deeper into the biblical texts that surround the event.

Join us on the Advent journey for a 4-week study with *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, by author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Dr. Levine shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament; highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasizes the importance of Mary's visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt. This study will take place Monday evenings at 7:00 during Advent (Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23) in room 403. Sign up on the program table for a copy of the study book (cost \$16.00).

We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

Help make the season a bit merrier for someone—join us in caroling on December 22nd. We'll meet at 3:00 pm and then head out to sing some of the songs of the season for those in our community who may not be able to get out much. And after caroling, we'll return to the church to warm up with a soup supper. Please sign up on the program table so we are sure to have enough soup for everyone!



If you know of someone who might enjoy having some carols sung for them, let Pastor Paul know.



Bishop Karen Oliveto invites you to join her on a journey to

Explore Our Wesleyan Heritage from April 13-21, 2020.

During these anxious times for those of us called United Methodists, there is no better way to the rich history of our movement. Come celebrate and learn about our unique Wesleyan Heritage and the people called Methodists. You can learn more about the trip at:

http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/he20041320k#.XSYBJ-tKjam



CHILDREN'S NEWS December 2019



December is a busy a very exciting month for children!

This year is Paul's last Christmas with us, and he has a selected a very fun theme for the entire season for advent, JOY TO THE WORLD. So, instead of a children's play, vignettes or other special performance for children we would like the children to attend each Sunday for a fun Christmas children's time each week! Each one is interactive and teaches the children about what Jesus arrival means to us! This also will allow all children to participate instead of just a few! Hope to see you all there!

November 24th, we will be having Bible Sunday! I know of three children already who need or want a bible. If your child is a 3rd grader or older and has not received a DEEP BLUE Bible, please let me know right away and we will present one to them as well!

Butter Braids



The sales of these did not go as well as they have in the past and I still have quite a few Butter Braids available for purchase through the Christmas season! Butter Braids are great to have on hand to serve to visitors you may have during the holiday season! They will be sold for \$10 a-piece, so please stock up! All the proceeds will be used for the renovation of the classrooms.

Lastly, the children, teachers, and I at Green Mountain United Methodist Church, want to wish Paul a happy and healthy retirement! Your guidance, support, and understanding have been so appreciated and you are one in a million! We love you! Go bike around the world!

Kelli Schnase Children's Director





GMUMC - December 2019

Grades 6 - 12

**Download the GroupMe App to receive updates & vote on Youth Group! **



Sun., Nov. 17th - Dec. 15th Gift Card Sales Fundraiser 10 AM - 12:00 PM

We will SELL gift cards through Dec. 8th before and after the service for our outreach work. The last order of cards will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 15th! Please join us to help hand these out!

Sun., Dec. 1st

No PM Youth

Gift Cards in the morning and no PM Youth today!

Sun., Dec. 8th

Outreach Shopping!!!

2 - 4 PM

Let's get into the spirit of Christmas in the best way possible!!! By showing our love for others! Today we will go Christmas shopping for children and older adults. We will choose names from the Salvation Army Angel Tree and go shopping with a \$50 budget per person. This is going to be fun and festive! Friends are welcome with a signed registration form.

Sun., Dec. 15th

Holiday Party!

6 - 7:30 PM

Ready for a Wrapping Relay? Join our Holiday Party and we'll have games, treats, and soda! Bring an ornament to exchange! The more the merrier, so bring your friends to the festivities.

Sun., Dec. 22nd & Dec. 29th

No Youth

No Youth due to Christmas and Winter Break! Enjoy time with your families!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan. 5th - No Youth due to Winter Break

Nov. 30th - Greening the Church (Please join us at 9am to decorate the church for Advent!)

If you have any questions please contact Alex at: 303-882-0006 or email: alex@gmumc.com

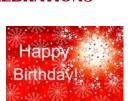








OUR SERVICE, CONCERNS, & CELEBRATIONS



DECEMBER











CONGRATULATIONS!

to Evan Morrison who had a great cross-country season at Green Mountain High School, earning a varsity letter. He also received the "Outstanding Freshman" award!

Lisa Allison	12/25
Monte Bride	12/26
Ruth Schnase	12/26
Karen S. Johnson	12/28
Nora Nichols-Montano	12/28
Jim Thompson	12/29
Danielle Smithpeter	12/30
Brian Wilson	12/31



Glen & Mary McLaughlin	12/11
Steve Cummins & Mary Beth Taylor	12/11
Calvin & Hamunyari Mukarakate	12/12
John & Peggy Morrison	12/16
Rich & Jean Arnold	12/22
Tim & Teresa Holmes	12/26
Richard & Susan Jaworowski	12/27
Paul & Gail Murphy-Geiss	12/29
Marty & Bob Keating	12/30
Tom & Amy Branscome	12/31



To all the members/volunteers who donated the beautiful and useful items brought to Hope City by Brenda and Tom, especially the quilt and bed covers and the CHECK!! Thank you very much.

It was so nice to see Brenda and Tom again. Your team was one of the best and it was like we knew each other for a long time. Whoever comes this way, please do come and see us as Sa Tuvara, we sure would love that.

> Again, thanks to all of you! Dini & Bill

(the Volunteers in Mission Team worked on Dini's home in Lower Lake, California in August)



Keeping Our Promises

By Upholding the Church with...

Our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service.



For those who have experienced loss: The family of:

Herb Stwalley

Cindy Bobian and family, friend of Kelli Schnase

For those who are experiencing health concerns or other difficulties in their lives: Church Members:

Anna Myers Darline Bowland Alex Neve Gary Starkey Doris Reid Ray Tanner the Fleck/Cory family

Family of Church Members:

Kedra Schattinger, daughter-in-law of Emery & Carol Ron, brother-in-law of Betty Butler Don Schnase, Darrel Schnase's father Lesa Reeves, Anna Myers' daughter





Prayers for those serving in the military and their families, especially:

Tell Acott Michael Anderson Brady Christensen
Doug Huenneke Andrew Quast Gloria Sher

Timothy Skinner

Remember these people in your prayers. Let us continue to pray for:

Nicholas Billman, friend of Vestals

Ari Quast, Nephew of Pastor Paul

Dustin Neerhof, great-grandson of Joyce Mellott

Virginia Sorenson, sister-in-law of Frank & Roxanne Penn

Cherie Williams, friend of Jean

Jerry & Linda Seiner, friends of Vestals

Susan, daughter of Anna Myers

Cody Wirth, friend of Brenda Christy

Caroline Clovesko, Kristen Allen's mother

Kinsasha & Kahlia Zamora, great-granddaughters of

Edith Gammon

Bernice Arsenault, mother-in-law of Francis Arsenault

Patrick Wendy, relative of Marcia Johnston-Walden

Rev. Bob Titus

Ashlie Torbic, young friend of Thayne & Sherry Coulter

Linda, Vicky Hamilton's sister

Laura Inzano, friend of Marsha Moore

Jeanne Faulkner, friend of Marsha Moore

Ashley Osborn, niece of Mark & Lori Osborn

Sean Scott, son of MaryJane Eddy Scott

Jason Dennen, friend of Steve Cummins

Taylor Merrill, Charles & Madelene Vestal's grandson

Evan & Danielle, Marsha Cary's son & daughter-in-law

Joni Wick, friend of Rich & Jean Arnold

Les Hildenbrandt, son of Patti Hildenbrandt

Please Note: Names will remain on the Prayer List in the bulletin for four weeks, unless you notify the church office to remove them sooner. If you wish to have someone on the Prayer List for longer than four weeks, please notify the church office so the name may be added to the Long-Term Prayer List that is published in the church newsletter, Window on the Hill.

If you have family members who are currently in military service or the Peace Corp and wish to have their name listed in this section, please notify Meg in the church office.



Date	8:00am	10:30 am
11/03	25	111
11/10	22	128
11/17	N/A	122

ATTENDANCE



DECEMBER 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Book Club 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Youth Bells 6:00-7:30 p.m. Youth Group	2 10:00 a.m. Women's Spiritual Journey 7:00 p.m. SPRC 7:00 p.m. Advent Study 7:30 p.m. AA	3 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	8:00 a.m. UMW Breakfast 5:30 p.m. Bellissimo 6:30 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	9:00 a.m. Quilts for Kids 11:00 a.m. Front Room Ruminators	6	7 8:00 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal
8 Second Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Book Club 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Youth Bells 6:00-7:30 p.m. Youth Group	9 10:00 a.m. Women's Spiritual Journey 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings 7:30 p.m. AA	10 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	11 5:30 p.m. Bellissimo 6:30 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	9:00 a.m. Quilts for Kids 11:00 a.m. Front Room Ruminators	13	14
15 Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Youth Bells 6:00-7:30 p.m. Youth Group Newsletter Articles Due	16 10:00 a.m. Women's Spiritual Journey 7:00 p.m. Church Council 7:30 p.m. AA	17 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	18 5:30 p.m. Bellissimo 6:30 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	19 11:00 a.m. Front Room Ruminators 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Open Sanctuary	20	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Youth Bells No Youth Group	23 10:00 a.m. Women's Spiritual Journey 7:30 p.m. AA	24 10:30 a.m. Bible Study Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5:00 p.m. Family 7:00 p.m. Traditional 9:00 p.m. Traditional	25 Merry Christmas	26 Church Office Closed 11:00 a.m. Front Room Ruminators	27	28
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 1:00 Christmas Caroling No Youth Group	30 10:30 a.m. Women's Spiritual Journey 7:30 p.m. AA	31 New Years' Eve 10:30 a.m. Bible Study				