



Window on the Hill AUGUST 2020

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



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Reverend Mark Thurman, Pastor



MARK'S MUSINGS

Thankfully, one of the things *untouched* by COVID-19 are flowers. While on a recent day hike in Golden Gate State Park I was delighted by the number of wildflowers in bloom and adorning the sunlit meadows with bright yellows, stunning violets, delicate pinks. Everyone from the hummingbirds to the bees to the butterflies was enjoying the feast too, in the peak of its blooming season.

Of course, that's just the flowers up there in the mountains, which runs on a different schedule than others down here in the city. Each variety has a unique growth cycle relative to, among things, its own location. Some bloom early in the Spring, while others late into the Summer. The Easter Lily, for example, cannot rise sooner or later than its appointed time. Even our most diligent, well-intentioned, and faithful gardening efforts cannot, in the end, bring a flower to bloom before its time. Only God can do that. The opening belongs, rightly, in the hands of God.

A helpful image, I hope, to guide us in our collective discernment regarding the reopening of Green Mountain UMC for in-person worship. I heard someone say, 'We are only responsible for our work, not the fruit of that work.' Many persons have worked very hard in preparation for in-person worship while, at the same time, also building a fuller presence online. I want to thank them, as well as each of you for the unique part you are playing too, even if it's simply in your prayers and patient hopes. God will honor our open hearts and minds, and in time, will also open the doors of our sanctuary, including those already being opened into your laptop, tablet, and mobile devices.

I can't help but wonder what new growth God might rise up in the rich soil of our congregation, having lain fallow for a season, and now ready for sowing once again.

Pastor Mark



August 2020



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

STEVE'S STUFF

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

Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect. – Eleanor Roosevelt

There's a whole lot of talk about freedom these days. Always a discussion worth having – but usually when the word is tossed around today it's not about having an earnest discussion. It's a pseudo-patriotic mantra used to cover all sorts of behavior – often, sadly, actions that fail to take into account anyone but the speaker. It's not a matter of left or right, red, or blue – it just seems the idea of "freedom" has been cheapened over the years. Freedom is an expensive proposition – purchased only with careful consideration, sacrifice, and acceptance of the weight of responsibility for oneself and our fellow human being (not to mention all of creation). Freedom that looks only within is actually narcissism. All our religious traditions strive to get this right – to proclaim the value and essential good of a responsibility that looks inward – and outward. Freedom is not for the weak of spirit. Even though he lived under occupation, Jesus was free – not because he could do whatever he wanted, but because he accepted the responsibility – the cost – of doing what truly mattered.

May we all find the grace and courage to accept the responsibility of our freedom.

Wishing you peace, kindness, and a bit of sanity amidst the storms – be well.

Steve

Program Notes: As we continue to abide by the proper precautions brought on by our viral visitor – as of this writing I am not planning on August in-person gatherings – erring on the side of using “zoom” for our various groups – currently Zooming Hilltoppers, Community Action, and the Virtual Coffee Hour. This reality is under constant evaluation based on the values of individual and communal safety and current viral transmission data and projections.

Welcome & Gratitude to all those taking part in:

Our **July Virtual Cereal Drive for Project Angel Heart** – as of this posting we have contributed \$300 to this annual, and vital, nutritional cause.

Our evolving **Community Action Group** (Sunday's 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.), now pondering *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo and other resources with the prayerful goal of not stopping at words but developing, and taking, actions.

Our steadfast **Hilltopper's** (Sunday's 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.) under the leadership of Bruce Bane, who are not a generation native to “zoom” but have done the challenging work to live, learn, and remain connected via tech old & new.

Our **Virtual Coffee Hour** (Sunday's 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.) participants who always find a way to make the virtual space seem warm, inviting and connected – even though we are all in our little virtual boxes.

Ongoing gratitude to **Amy Santistevan** for Wednesday evening **Zoom Get Together** gatherings.

Special note to those not able to join these “virtual times” due to tech limitations or understandable preference (*you're right, it's not the same*) – let's stay connected via phone, word, and “porch talks” where safely possible. I enjoyed several distanced, masked, but in-person porch visits recently. Thank you for your gentle hospitality.



Announcements

All in-person church activities have been cancelled until further notice.



Green Mountain United Methodist Women
Sunrise Breakfast
Generally 1st Wednesday of Each Month
8:00 a.m. IHOP-Lakewood City Commons

OUTREACH

ACTION
Center

School Supply Drive

**Green Mountain United Methodist Church
Parking Lot**

Friday, July 31, 2020

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Help 4,000 Jeffco Students Start the School Year Right! The Outreach Committee is holding a school supply drive in the church parking lot from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday July 31st.

Due to COVID-19, only NEW School Supplies will be accepted.

- Backpacks
- Colored Pencils (10 or 12 packs)
- Pink Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Folders (prong & pocket)
- Highlighters
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Pens (blue, black, & red)
- Scissors (sharp tip)
- Spiral Notebooks (college ruled)
- Dry Eraser Markers
- Graph Paper

If you cannot attend the drive, please contact Mary Bloomstran at 303-263-2906 or mbloomstran@comcast.net and she will pick up the supplies. Cash donations are also welcome.





FINANCE COMMITTEE

For the month of June, we had income of \$48,872.67, and expenses of \$56,400.73, for an income of -\$7,528.06. Most of the expenses were for unexpected property tax bills for the day care center. Our overall balance for the year is -\$13,552.69. Even though we are not able to attend in-person services right now, the church continues to operate, so we ask that you please continue to send in your pledges. We also now have a new on-line giving link on our website, so we encourage people to use that, as it may be an easier option for some. As always, thank you for your continued financial support of GMUMC, and may you all be safe and well.

Thanks,

Greg Hise & Jane Bernard
Finance Co-Chairs



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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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CHILDREN'S NEWS

August 2020



Hello Families!!

I hope you are all taking care of yourselves and enjoying some breaks with your family. My family has spent much of the summer at our family cabin, near Fairplay, as you may have seen from the Children's Times. ☺

We will continue the next couple of months of church online. In the fall, we will look at Zoom Sunday School classes (if needed), so that the children can see more of each other. It's a little more difficult to host these as the children are so little.

Meanwhile, please keep me updated and posted on 'happenings' in your children's lives and if you would like to relay any information with me to share with our church family, I would love to do that.

🎂 Carlos Warclub has been a member of GMUMC, since he was **little and adorable!** And now we need to celebrate him as **bigger and adorable!** To honor him during COVID-19 on his **15th birthday**, his family is requesting a **drive-by honking and waving party Saturday, July 25th from 2:00-4:00 p.m., 2432 S. Winona Ct. Denver 80219.** I am sure he would love to see you! 🎂

Kelli Schnase
Children's Director





GMUMC Grades 6 – 12 August 2020

*Check out the **GroupMe App!***

Summer Click, Grab, Go Hunt Ongoing

This photo scavenger hunt has bizarre activities and crazy requests from dinosaurs to singing in the rain. Even though we can't do it together, we can share our adventures with each other and compete for the ultimate prize! Remember to send your pics to Alex!

COMPLETE Mission Project N/A

Mission Project is complete, but the fun isn't over yet! Excellent job writing cards for the congregation and challenging the church to do a photo scavenger hunt! Check out the program content on YouTube and keep an eye out for the pictures from the congregation's photo scavenger hunt.

August Roaming Gnomes Ongoing

We will take lawn ornaments for the adventure of their lives! Videos, photos, creativity, and pure hilarity are sure to follow. Hanging with our "gnomies" has never been better! As soon as all of our gnomes are delivered, we will send out the address where you can pick up your pal and start the fun!



****Programming may change based on church and community efforts to keep everyone as healthy as possible! Please take care of yourselves & avoid exposure to COVID-19.****

If you have any questions please contact Alex at: 303-882-0006

OUR SERVICE, CONCERNS, & CELEBRATIONS



♥ THANK YOU ♥

You all are so wonderful and supportive as a community for our members. On Saturday, July 11th we held a drive-by shower for Katy Griebel and her newly adopted son, Isaac, and it was an over-the-top successful. Below are pictures of some of the gifts you brought or had sent to Mommy Katy and Isaac. Your generosity is overwhelming and so appreciated. This will give Katy and Isaac a great foundation to start their life together as mom and son. Thank you once again for all you do for our members and the larger community.

Melissa Sussman



To our amazing GMUMC family,

We want to take a moment to thank all of you for the foster shower you threw us (and a special thank you to Melissa Sussman and the bell choir for organizing the day). We are so blessed to be a part of this loving community. I know how involved you are in outreach, but the response we experienced is mind blowing. We have so many new toys, clothes, and the opportunity to go shopping for school this fall. So many of you came to spend some time with us or sent us items and well wishes in the mail and we appreciate you all. You truly walk the lives of what Christianity is about. We offer this prayer for you:

Dearest Father,

You were truly all-knowing when you showed us your church at GMUMC. Your love and good work shine in each life that walks within these walls. Please, continue to bless this congregation and help them to bless others as they have blessed us. We ask this in your most gracious name. Amen.

All our love,
Katy and Isaac

AUGUST 2020



Aimee Kover	08/01
Karla Byrd	08/01
Pete Gomez	08/02
Owar Ajang	08/03
Charlotte Worster	08/04
Susan Jaworowski	08/04
Mary Curtis	08/06
Karen Haden	08/07
Elizabeth Ongu	08/08
Alyssa Olson	08/11
Ruth Cook	08/12
Barbara Stoddart	08/13
Nina Sturgeon	08/13
Dorothy Horn	08/17
Hannah Fitzgerald	08/18
Julie Reigle	08/19
Vivian Tanner	08/19
Aimee Johnson	08/23
Kent Bates	08/24
Ronna Duncan	08/24
Beverly Kimball	08/26
Kristen Kagiya	08/26
Patricia Harris	08/26
V. Ruth Bronson	08/30
Brenda Bronson	08/31



Mark & Lori Osborn	08/01
Stacey & Alex Horne	08/01
Boyd & Sharon Berry	08/06
Lisa & Mark Allison	08/11
Charles & Madelene Vestal	08/11
Darrel & Ruth Schnase	08/20
David & Kris Little	08/27
Aimee & Arnie Kover	08/28
Jim & Rilene Thompson	08/31



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Our Care Corner

Keeping Our Promises

By Upholding the Church with...

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



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

Church Members:

Ramona Twiss	Bob Wrapp	Vicky Hamilton
Ray Tanner	Alex Neve	Charlotte Worster
Celena Robinson	Pat Harris	Velda Walters

Family of Church Members:

David, Brenda Bronson Walker's brother
Scott, Karen Harmon's son
Ron, Betty Butler's brother-in-law
Ruth Breit, Margrith Alminas' sister

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

Nicholas Billman, friend of Vestals
Ari Quast, Nephew of Pastor Paul
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
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



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

Michael Anderson	Brady Christensen	Doug Huenneke
Andrew Quast	Gloria Sher	
	Timothy Skinner	

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.

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*.

