

Window on the Hill SEPTEMBER 2020

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



GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MARK'S MUSINGS

So... I was idling in my car, waiting for the light to turn green, when another driver pulled up alongside of me, pulling her mask down at intervals to take a drag off her cigarette. I found the juxtaposition interesting, while at the same time being careful not to assume too much. Perhaps she was wearing the mask to avoid incurring a fine. Maybe she was just seconds away from her destination- work, gas station, grocery store, etc.- and had just put it on before deciding on a quick smoke. It's possible, I guess, that she might have just loved the feel of cotton against her face or was sporting the lovely, colorful design on her mask as a fashion accessory. Who knows? My guess is that she was simply taking precautions against contracting the coronavirus, which is the primary purpose of wearing these masks in the first place. And if that's correct, then I can't help but wonder about the curious disconnect between donning a mask to avoid disease while toking on a cigarette, known beyond a shadow of a doubt to court disease!

When the light turned green, we both headed off to our respective destinations, parting company probably forever. But I found myself using the encounter to contemplate my own moments of disconnect between Jesus' life and mine. Jesus had a pure and absolute knowledge of himself and his world and was accountable for his own decisions rather than blaming others. Jesus understood himself to be more than only his physical body or emotions, knowing instead who he truly was in the Spirit. Jesus never condemned himself or others, and forgave everyone, including himself. Jesus was fully self-realized, and in complete union (co-[m]union) with God, the Creator, and all of God's creation. Jesus taught love, practiced love, was/is Love.

When we pray the prayer he taught his apostles, when we read and meditate on his teaching, when we affirm ourselves as his disciples, do our subsequent actions and words and even our innermost private thoughts reveal the truth of our convictions... or are we just blowing smoke? And, remember, just as second-hand cigarette smoke has been proven to be harmful to the surrounding crowd, and not just to your own health, your practice of the Christian life also affects everyone else around you. Even that anonymous person idling in the car next to you at a stoplight.

Wishing you the blessings of health, physically, emotionally, and spiritually,

Pastor Mark



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September 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!

Hope is like peace. It is not a gift from God. It is a gift only we can give one another.

- Elie Wiesel -

These are the Days of The Heavy Sigh. News – overwhelming. Coronavirus – spreading. Political temperature – hot. Common sense – endangered. When the good news is “toilet paper is in stock” you know the National Sanity Bar is set too low. And yet. The collective weight of kindness, though the individual acts may seem feather light, can tip the scale in favor of a Better World. Amidst the confusion and concern around a school year, a school supply drive (masked & distanced) takes place. When a health assistance agency serving the medically and economically vulnerable needs food, a virtual drive takes place and the \$\$\$ expectations are not only met but exceeded. A Community Garden appears despite a shutdown, and neighborhood connections are made, food is grown and distributed, and the bees, butterflies, (and rabbits) are happy. For no reason at all – other than a kind heart – a man teaches himself to bake high-quality designer breads and distributes them at random. Another soul spends countless hours and abundant sweat to improve a playground and cure a water drainage issue. And on. And on. What we do matters. It always has. But now, with some heavy weights being tossed on the challenging side of the scale, those small acts seem to gain a needed heft. Just looping a mask over your ears is a radical act of kindness and care. One step at a time. One breath at a time. One kind word at a time. One conversation at a time. One (masked) smile at a time.

We can do this.

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

Program Notes: As we continue to abide by the precautions brought on by our viral visitor – I’m erring on the side of using “zoom” for our various groups. This reality is under constant evaluation based on the values of individual and communal safety, as well as, current viral transmission data.

Welcome & Gratitude to all those taking part in:

- ✚ Our July Virtual Cereal Drive for Project Angel Heart was a success – I set a goal of \$300 and we received \$700 for this great organization! Thank you for your kindness & generosity in these challenging times.
- ✚ Thank you to those who joined our Community Action Group (Sunday’s 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.), sharing their concerns, anxieties and hopes as we pondered White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo and other resources. This was the beginning of an intense conversation on this, and many issues, all 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.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Group \$ support efforts: NarSarah Clinic - \$4,101; Kiva Microloan Group - \$33,375 (1,230 loans).



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

2020 Trustees

Ron Bernard, Mike Coen, Tom Cummins, Deanna Hanna, John Morrison, Calvin Mukarakate, Roxanne Penn, Karen Schmoker

FROM THE TRUSTEES

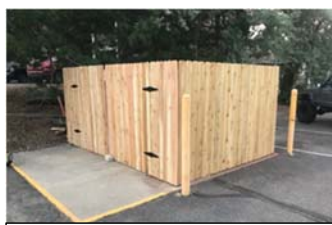
The Trustees have been busy this summer with several outdoor repair projects. The wooden supports under the play pad were rotting, making the structure unsafe. We removed the Trex® top boards and the rotten posts and now have replaced the posts in fresh cement. Next to be installed will be the new framework and then the top. The play pad covers the drainage pond catching roof rain and snow melt. It has a drainpipe running under the playground that exits below the garden into a ditch headed towards Cedar St., and that drainage has been improved.

The second project was to prevent rain from the parking lot from flowing down into the townhouses to the north. We had received complaints about this problem lately because the ditch that diverted this water had filled up over the years. 6x8 timbers were installed along the rear edge of the parking lot, and this water now also flows into the play pad ditch.

Our dumpster enclosure fence was due for a makeover. Old fence boards and support 2x4s needed to be replaced. The gate was falling apart, and the old structure was an eyesore!

Our custodian, James O'Toole, has been repainting the parking lot stripes. He also replaced the columbarium fountain water pump. The restrooms have gotten new paint and the Fireside Room restroom, and the daycare entrance hallway has new flooring. The flooring installation was no cost to GMUMC.

So we keep working to maintain our property, indoors and out. Because we didn't have Grubby Sunday work time both Spring and Fall, volunteers are so appreciated to work on their own schedules on bush and tree trimming, trash pickup, etc. Anyone who can help on Wednesdays, Fridays, or Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with finishing the play pad would receive extra credit! Please call Karen Schmoker with your questions at 720-552-2723.



New Dumpster Enclosure

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

I'm going to be attempting to begin an online early Sunday morning worship, **live via Zoom, Sunday, September 13 beginning at 8:00 a.m.** and not going any later than 8:45 (which is when the Hill Toppers Sunday School class meets- I don't want to interfere with them.) This will be a contemplative service with about a 10-minute guided meditation followed by a scripture reading and opportunity for group discussion and concluding with prayer concerns/celebrations. No sermon or hymn singing, etc., very different than our traditional worship we are currently videotaping. It's open to all ages, and I want to encourage you to invite a friend to join us. I have no idea how it's going to go, nor any expectations. But I've feeling the need for this for quite some time, and with no near end in sight to our in-person worship ban being lifted, I just don't want to wait any longer. Besides, we've got nothing to lose!

Thanks for considering your participation,
Mark



FINANCE COMMITTEE

For the month of July we had income of \$16,633.92, and expenses of \$33,320.92, for an overall net balance of -\$16,687.00 for the month. Our overall balance for the year is -\$30,016.99. We realize that some people may be having some hardships right now due to the current situation, but we ask that you make every effort possible to continue making your pledges. As a reminder, we do now have a new on-line giving option, with a link on our website, which may be easier for some to use. The church is still operating, even though we are not physically able to be there, and we still need your continued financial support.

Thanks,

Greg Hise & Jane Bernard
Finance Co-Chairs



October 2020 Newsletter items
due by
Sunday, September 18, 2020
email: mlnotari@msn.com &
gmumc@gmumc.com



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.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

September 2020



Hello Families!!

Happy Back to School!!! I bet many of you have been frantically meeting teachers online and trying to figure out different learning platforms! I know I have felt a giant amount of stress piled on pretty quickly.

I have discussed with some of the Sunday School Teachers different ideas, other than Zoom; do get the children involved again? We all have heard that the kids are 'zoomed out!!' We are looking to find different and new ways to bring the kids in, and open to any ideas any of you may have. 😊

Please keep me posted on how you are all doing and/or if you need anything. I am here to help!

Kelli Schnase
Children's Director





Sept 2020

Grades 6-12

September Roaming Gnomes Up to 9/20

The fun isn't over yet! Take your gnomes for the adventure of their lives! Videos, photos, creativity, and pure hilarity ensured. Hanging with our "gnomies" has never been better! We will have a party to share our adventures!



Text Taylor and Cara your love on **Sept. 12th** as they get married! (It may take them a few days to respond!)

Sun, Sept 20th Gnomie Party 6:00 - 7:30 PM Youth Kickoff Gnomie Party! Share pictures and stories from all your gnome adventures via Zoom! This party is sure to be a riot, and let's get this year started with FUN!!!

Sun, Sept 27th Game Night! 6:00 - 7:00 PM You know what we have been missing?! Game Night!!! Time for some Zoom-tastic games and a break from schoolwork! Join us online for a Zoom Game Night!

****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.****

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sept 6th - Labor Day Weekend (No Youth)

Sept 12th - Taylor & Cara get married! (No Youth)

Sept 20th - Zoom Gnomie Party

Sept 27th - Zoom Game Night

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



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SEPTEMBER 2020



James O'Toole	09/02
Lisa Neve	09/02
Anna Sawyer	09/03
Duane Patterson	09/03
Steven Olson	09/03
Eric McLean	09/04
Frank Walters	09/05
Deb Thomas	09/06
Lucille Greenlee	09/07
Bruce Bane	09/08
Nelson Garcia	09/08
Edwin Smith	09/09
Georgia DeLong	09/09
Norma Schneider	09/09
Kendall Morrison	09/10
Mary Wylie	09/10
Suzanne Barnes	09/10
Glen McLaughlin	09/12
Sam Moore	09/12
Steve Rickett	09/13
Jan Hightower	09/16
Jean Dinwiddie	09/16
Jewell Phipps	09/17
Deborah Hindman	09/18
Donna Bunker	09/18
Elizabeth Walcott	09/20
Stan Sheeley	09/20
Cristian Borcan	09/21
Jackie Ferguson	09/21
Emma Moon	09/22
Madelene Vestal	09/22
Marsha Moore	09/22
Ajulu Ajang	09/23
Ann Topliff	09/24
Kendal Osborn	09/24
Mary McLaughlin	09/24
Peter Montano	09/24
Steve Bernard	09/25
Youngmin Choi	09/25
Boyd Berry	09/27
Peggy Morrison	09/28
David Wylie	09/30



Bob & Bev Kimball	09/06
Amy & Robert Alexander	09/09
Vincent & Kristen Allen	09/12
Jim & Karen Schmoker	09/14
Danielle & Garth Scholl	09/24
Frank & Roxanne Penn	09/25
David & Roxanna Cutler	09/29
John & Alyssa Olson	09/29



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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 have experienced loss:

The Family of:

Barbara Cleveland, Betty Walker's sister-in-law
McClellan family on the death of Mary Jane McClellan
Tab Nettleton, Jay Nettleton's brother; former members of
GMUMC

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

Church Members:

Ray Tanner Alex Neve Charlotte Worster
Tom Walker

Family of Church Members:

Kristin Forrest, Mary Wylie's niece
Ron, Betty Butler's brother-in-law
Kati Homes, Neomi Hilton's niece
Peyton Adams, Jeff Blivens & Chris Morrison-Blivens' niece
Cassidy & Mateo Martinez, niece & great-nephew of Bruce
Bane

Friends of Church Members:

Linda Siener, Madelene Vestal's friend
Joni Hightower Namesnik, former member of GMUMC

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 Siener, 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
Taylor Merrill, Charles & Madelene Vestal's grandson
Evan & Danielle, Marsha Carey'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*.

