



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



## GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Lakewood, CO 80228

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### Reverend Mark Thurman, Pastor

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

WINDOW ON THE HILL  
FEBRUARY 2021

#### Staff of GMUMC

##### Pastor

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##### Nursery Director

Cherie Werkhoven  
[werkhoventc@aol.com](mailto:werkhoventc@aol.com)



### Mark's Musings

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached that "The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand in moments of challenge and controversy." I'm writing this\* in the aftermath of the storming of the Capitol building by a mob of former President Trump's supporters and, in particular, having just viewed video excerpts of persons directing their anger towards members of Congress (and, by association, persons like myself and many of you who did not vote for Mr. Trump.) I was, frankly, shocked to hear shouts of "Heads on pikes," and "String 'em up!" as well as witnessing racist symbols on flags and articles of clothing, like the one man wearing a t-shirt with the caption, Camp Auschwitz. "This is not your America," one person yelled. "It's our America."

My initial reaction was fear. I'm not scared of much; but mobs are right at the top of my list. Others expressed sorrow and even despair for what the future might further bring. And then, unfortunately, some began to fire back cries of angry retaliation and character denigration towards the rioters.

Until our own George Lee voiced an authentically Christian response, a quest for understanding and ultimately reconciliation of the Trump supporters. George, apparently, has friends on the 'other side,' as most of us do. My own mother is a huge Trump fan, which has unfortunately created a rift in the otherwise good relationship she once had with my youngest brother's wife, an Austin, TX liberal. Both are equally stubborn, unyielding not only in their political ideologies, but more importantly, in their unwillingness to listen to one another in an attempt to gain understanding of *why* they hold their respective opinions. I guess they are both waiting for each other to change their minds and come around to the other's way of thinking. Given the track record for that among both sides of issues like abortion, capital punishment, gun control, etc., I suspect it's going to be a long wait.

George's way, however (and I'm sure he would much rather me title it *Jesus' way*), holds the key to transformation for both, even in the absence of complete agreement. During Rev. King's prior visit to the Illinois Wesleyan University campus in 1961, he gave an interview to WJBC reporter Don Newberg, addressing the angry, violent mob of his own day: "We will match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will, and we will still love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws because non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good. And so, throw us in jail, and as difficult as that is, we will still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children and as difficult as it is, we will still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators and violence into our communities at the midnight hours and drag us out on some wayside road and beat us and leave us half-dead and we will still love you. But be assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. And one day we will win our freedom, but we will not only win freedom for ourselves. We will so appeal to your heart and your conscience, that we will win you in the process. And our victory will be a double victory. This is the meaning of the nonviolent creed. This is the meaning of the nonviolent ethic." (If you have time, a reading of the entire interview is

Mark's Musings... pages 1 - 2  
Steve's Stuff..... page 3  
Children's News..... page 8  
Youth News..... page 9

further enlightening.) The ultimate measure of our Christian character is being revealed right now, in this time of tremendous challenge and controversy. What difference would it make if instead of denigrating the rioters as bad people, we instead joined George in a search for understanding the underlying hurt and frustration that led to the violent anger? (This does not mitigate the legal consequences incurred in breaking the law.) I offer this as one way of observing and honoring this upcoming month of Black History, so much of which is steeped in examples and models of Christian discipleship under tremendous distress.


May the peace of Christ, which surpasses our understanding, bring healing to us all,

Pastor Mark

*(\*The monthly deadline for my article falls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.)*



SOLOS is a group of women, 55 and above, who meet socially on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the months, September through May.  
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Linda Dahlke at (303) 984-1994.



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*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](mailto:swalden@gmumc.com), or call 303-989-3727. Thank You!

## February 2021

***There is no power for change greater  
than a community discovering what it cares about.***

Margaret J Wheatley

It's hard to write anything with certainty these days. A plan, based on a prediction of a probability, of what's possible...is problematic. What will the world look like even one week from now? So, I tap the keys assuming three givens: 1. Masks, 2. Physical distancing, and 3. Hand washing. (What passes as a second Holy Trinity in a pandemic.) But on the question, are we "in" church or "out" I won't venture a guess. But with prudent, continuing precautions and the roll out of vaccines the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel" – though flickering – grows closer. In this anxious interim, I've pondered and pursued, in our zoom groups and in private conversations, the question, "what will we learn from all this and what changes will we make to create a new, improved normal?" When the urgent preoccupation for safety and survival fades, will we take a collective deep breath and build a broader, deeper sense of community? Will we pack up and move out of our comfort zones and realize this whole Jesus "call" is a whole lot more radical. The Call of Christ was not delayed or diminished by a virus – physical church attendance, budget figures, and a building – though great – are not necessities in responding to the "call." Two ingredients are essential – the vulnerability of connection and the courage of commitment. If the only thing that holds us together is a weekly gathering, money, and four walls then we're following convention not Christ. COVID-19 is an in-your-face reminder of the reality of our physical and emotional fragility and our reliance on each other. In short, our need for meaningful, purposeful community. That process of creative connection needs a radical "rethink" – *with action* – as a faith community, a nation, and a world. Amidst our denial, deep grief, and clinging to "what was" we have an opportunity to get about the work needed to fashion "what will be." What does that look like? Together, we decide.

Sunday "Classroom zoom" schedule:

**Hilltopper's** – 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Herd Sanity** – 9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

In the near future *Herd Sanity* will be discussing, *I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist*, edited by Rudy Rasmus.

...and Wednesday evenings enjoy a casual **Mid-Week Check-In** with Amy Santistevan at 7:00 p.m.

**Special note to those not able to join** due to tech limitations or understandable preference (you're right, it's not the same) – let's stay connected via phone, word, & "porch talks" where safely possible.

**Group \$ support efforts:** NarSarah Clinic - \$4,201; Kiva Microloan Group - \$34,350 (1,268 loans).





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



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

### FROM THE TRUSTEES

Back in January 2020 the Trustees discussed safety concerns with the edging on the play pad structure, located in the playground. It is built over a catch basin for collecting runoff from the roof and part of the building grounds.

What was expected to be a simple repair job was not completed until the end of 2020. As it turned out the entire structure had to be completely removed and rebuilt because the understructure had rotting timbers and support posts. Most of the concrete holding the support posts had freeze cracks and had to be replaced or reenforced. Then another issue arose-the pressure-treated lumber needed for the structure frame took over 2 months to procure because the manufacturer was shut down because of a COVID-19 outbreak in their facility.

To eliminate future problems changes were made. The roof drainpipes that dump water into the pit were extended to the concrete drainage pit in the center. A 4-foot-long drain trough along the pad edge where the pad is against the sidewalk was installed, and a French drain was installed around the inside edge of the pit to collect rain ground water. All drains now send water directly into the concrete drainage pit. This minimizes the amount of mud being washed into the drainage Pit and then into the swale (located below the garden at the edge of the parking lot). The swale directs the water towards Cedar Street avoiding the condos and property below GMUMC.

The Trex® top on the play pad was installed 10 years ago and has a 20-year life so it was carefully removed and marked for reuse on the new structure which saved the budget a substantial amount (cost of the Trex® materials in 2010 was \$6,000). A special new feature was also added. The playground resident rabbit now has two permanent access holes to her under-play pad cozy home!

Demolition and Construction was all done by volunteer labor. Ron Bernard donated uncountable hours to overseeing and engineering this project, and the following folks assisted him to get the job done: John Morrison, Mike Coen, Calvin Mukarakate, Doug Wylie, Tom Cummins, Eric, Kendall, & Evan Morrison, James O'Toole, Chuck Thorman, Adam Bernard, Jane Bernard, and James Olson (Ron's son-in-Law). Thanks to all who assisted.



**GMUMC 2020 Trustees:** Tom Cummins Ron Bernard, Deanna Hanna, John Morrison, Calvin Mukarakate, Mike Coen, Roxanne Penn, Karen Schmoker



## **News from the Cedar Hill Community Garden**

**at Green Mountain United Methodist Church, the garden is part of Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) community gardens.**

### ***"Planting seeds for the future"***

Jean Arnold, Church and Society – Garden Liaison

**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.

**The Garden is growing – even over the winter.** Below are pictures taken by garden-friend, Brenda Bronson Walker of the work accomplished this winter. The fence is in (take THAT you pesky rabbits!); the new shed is installed, compost bins and a bench. There is still work to do on the interior garden paths and the upcoming spring/summer professional installation of bricks, a pergola for shade and additional benches in the teaching area by the pollinator garden. We are still in need of signage and have a "dream" of a *little reading library* (in honor of Jefferson County Librarian, church member and benefactor Coralee Brown) at the entrance to the garden.

See the pictures below and the "plan" attached. Pictures tell the story better than words

### **What we need:**

- **Garden tools** – As you start to garden this spring - please think of the Garden and donate your used hand tools, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc. We would like to stock the sheds over this spring and be ready for spring planting. Any extra tools will be donated to DUG for other Community Gardens.
- **Bricks** – The brick fund raiser is still on going. We anticipate installing the bricks this spring/summer. Please contact Lori Osborn if you would like to purchase a brick, the garden's ongoing fund raiser.
- **Labor** – Contact **Jean Arnold** if you are available to volunteer to install rabbit barrier below the fence line this spring/summer. I have heard from many of you and have your names, so you do not have to contact me again.

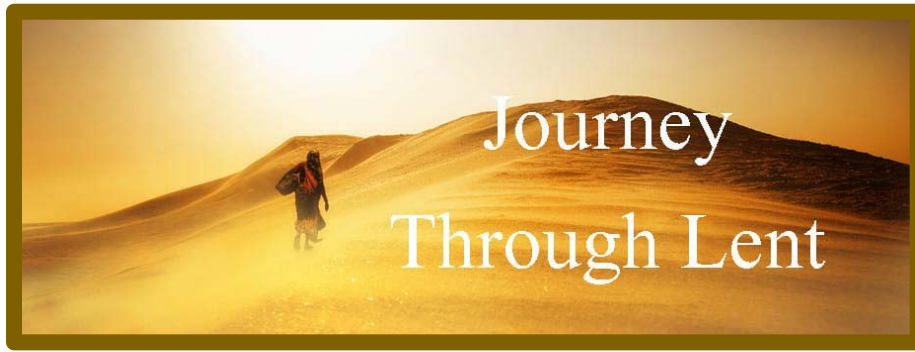
Note: the garden will remain unlocked. Feel free to visit at any time.

- **Fund raising Bricks.** **Lori Osborn** will be in contact with you if you have not provided the "words" you want on your bricks. We will be ordering bricks for delivery a few weeks before they are to be installed. If you have not ordered a brick but have been meaning to do so – it's not too late. Contact **Lori Osborn**.
- 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](mailto: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.

**Garden plots.** If you would like a garden plot for the 2021 growing season, please contact Jean Arnold to be added to the wait list. Once the wait list reaches 10 people, we will close the list until the 2022 growing season. We expect to have 2 - 4 plots available in the 2021 season. Email ([jeanarnold@arnoldarnold.com](mailto:jeanarnold@arnoldarnold.com)) or text at 303.257.2659. Jean is coordinating garden plot assignments.

Check out the website at: <https://communitygardengmu.wixsite.com/gmumc>.





### **Prayer Journey for Lent**

Jean Arnold, Certified Lay Speaker

What will you give up for Lent? *How about 50 minutes of sleep once a week for 6 weeks? How about worrying and doom scrolling?*

What will you add to your life during Lent? *How about a time of dedicated meditation and prayer -- watching the sunrise on a new day? How about laughter and giggling?* This year we will explore "Silly" assumptions. Read *The Three Sillies in The Upper Room* – reminding ourselves to lighten up and laugh. Jesus said: **"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."** Matthew 18:20 NIV. Jesus is with us in our laughter as well as times of tears.

Pastor Mark is also an early riser. And he may join us on some mornings to participate in the Virtual Upper Room. We will NOT be using Zoom (too early for that) – but we will gather using telephone dial-in.

Grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and join us weekly during Lent to dedicate ourselves to a time of prayer and meditation: On **Wednesday mornings at 6:05 a.m., February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31**, we will gather in our *virtual upper room* to pray together. We will use *The Upper Room* as our guide. ***You will find free copies of The Upper Room in the narthex.***

**Send me an email requesting a copy if you do not have one. I will mail yours to you along with a seed surprise from the garden.** If we run out of copies, 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. 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 50 minutes.

#### **Virtual upper room meeting schedule for Lent:**

**February 17, 24 - 6:05 a.m.**

**March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 – 6:05 a.m.**

Questions or need a copy of the meditation for the week: Call, text, or email Jean Arnold – 303-257-2659 (cell) or [jeanarnold@arnoldarnold.com](mailto:jeanarnold@arnoldarnold.com).



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

For the month of December, we had income of \$70,909.90, and expenses of \$29,679.36, for a net balance of \$41,230.14.

We finished the year with a net balance of \$0. We thank you for your continued financial support of GMUMC, and hope for a much more lucrative 2021.

Thanks,  
Greg Hise & Jane Bernard  
Finance Co-chairs



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*March 2021  
Newsletter items due  
by  
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# CHILDREN'S NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2021



### 2020 in Review

January and February, we conducted business as usual with a great showing of children and youth participating in Epiphany Sunday. We also were growing our Sunday school classes, welcoming new families, which were available to children 4-10 with a nursery, infants- 3, running smoothly by Ms. Cherie. Ms. Melanie and Mr. Greg graciously selected and ran the middle school Sunday School.

When COVID hit in March, everything was closed down, so from March-September, we attempted to continue to provide the children with Children's Times and lessons the children could do from home. Emails were sent out each Sunday morning to the families with the children's time links, beginning March 15th until mid-September when the church wide format was adjusted for the whole congregation.

In June, a children's web page was set up for the church website. A very special thanks to Amy Santisteven for helping create, offer pictures and use her special computer skills to create the page with me, and of course Lynne Smithpeter for running and setting up the entire webpage for GMUMC!!!

In September, we tried to get more children involved in the all group service by inviting families to read, or them to play music and send it in.

In October, the children's department teamed up with worship committee and invited families to participate in a socially distanced pumpkin contest, unfortunately because of the magnitude of the virus, the event was moved to sharing these items at home through zoom.

In December, the youth invited us to be a involved in a carols from the couch! It was great to see families singing! We invited children to play music pieces to be recorded and used for the Christmas music celebration.

Our outreach was more difficult this year, but we were given some socks and hats donated for the homeless shelter. Thanks to everyone who donated!



### February 2021 News!!!!

Finally!!!

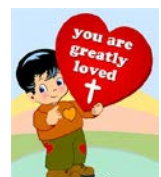
Let's start off the year with a fun **Valentine's Day card making contest!!!** Would you and your sweetheart like to earn a \$50 dinner (gift card) to celebrate Valentine's Day for first place, or \$25 for runner up??? Be creative and make your own Valentine's Day card!!

This event is open to ALL!!! I am excited to see what some of you scrap bookers, artists, and web designers have in mind from the age of 0-100!!!

1. Create a Valentine!
2. Send a photo of your valentine to [Kelli@GMUMC.com](mailto:Kelli@GMUMC.com) or bring your valentine in to the church office and drop it off in Kelli's box.
3. The contest is open now- February 10th!! The winners will be announced and displayed for everyone to see February 14th, Valentine's Day in the online services!!



**Kelli Schnase, Children's Director**







## GMUMC - Feb 2021 Grades 6 – 12

**Sun, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>**                      **Super Bowl Sunday / Chili & Chill**                      **12:00 - 1:00 PM**

Our super football fans are ready for the big day! Since we can't have our normal chili cook-off, let's all make our favorite chili and enjoy a pre-game chill fest. We can even play a game of our own before the big game. To our **seniors**: **APPLY FOR A CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP!!!!**

**Sun, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**                      **No Youth**

**No Youth due to Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day Weekend. Enjoy family time!**

**Sun, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**                      **Love and Politics**                      **6 - 7:30 PM**

Since we just celebrated Valentine's and Presidents' Day let's dig into these two completely different topics. With the inauguration last month and political strife all around us, what are your thoughts on voting, politics, and social issues? What role does love play in this? Where is the love on a global level? Bring loving respect and ideas for random acts of kindness!

**Sun, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>**                      **Movie Mania OR Game Time?**                      **6 - 7:30 PM**

Who is up for connection and relaxation? Bust out the games or break out the blockbuster, it's time for F-U-N. Bring your little Gnomies so they can have some fun too!

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> - No School in Jeffco for Presidents' Day  
March 27<sup>th</sup> - April 4<sup>th</sup> - Jeffco Spring Break - No Youth

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



## OUR SERVICE, CONCERNS, & CELEBRATIONS



Bob Dallmer	02/01
Robb Stenman	02/01
Blake Ramsouer	02/02
Carolynn Fox	02/02
Wava Fleck	02/02
Deborah Bruner	02/03
Gary Starkey	02/04
Vergil Bane	02/04
Kathleen Hise	02/05
Marty Keating	02/05
Katy Griebel	02/06
Neomi Hilton	02/06
Renee Shirley	02/07
Ronald Bernard	02/07
Roxanna Cutler	02/08
Doug Wylie	02/09
Shirley Allison	02/09
Stacey Cummins	02/09
Gary Bowker	02/10
John Olson	02/10
Kathy Patterson	02/12
Randy Johnson	02/15
Jackson Barnes	02/16
Caitlin Haden	02/17
Ian Alexander	02/17
Mary Tilp	02/18
Courtney Scholl	02/19
Lyn Berry	02/20
Roxanne Penn	02/20
Carolyn Wrapp	02/21
Charles Vestal	02/21
Dixie Bowker	02/21
Steve Sides	02/21
Kyle O'Toole	02/23
Rachel Haden	02/23
Betty Butler	02/24
Robert Christy	02/24
Sara Hindman	02/24
Karlynn Cory	02/25
Cathy Young	02/26
Evan Morrison	02/26
Harold Harmon	02/26
Jennifer Thomas	02/26
James Oliver	02/27
Jason Ramsouer	02/27
Johnnie Sheeley	02/27
Betty Kissell	02/28
Anna Branscome	02/29

### Gary Starkey Turns 80 on February 4!



Since we cannot get together to help Gary celebrate the big day, let's do something to commemorate this milestone birthday... Let's send Gary lots of cards with best wishes, memories, jokes and reminiscing of good times had together.

Please send cards to:

**GARY STARKEY**  
**6837 SOUTH DOVER CIRCLE**  
**LIMESTON, CO 80218**



John & Sylvia Polinski	02/05
Don & Carole Falvey	02/10
Amy Santistevan & Renee Shirley	02/12
Bob & Carolyn Wrapp	02/12
Ron & Jane Bernard	02/15
Ed & Barbara Smith	02/17
Clara Lou Humphrey & Frank Williamson	02/25
Mike & Shirl Coen	02/28

Keeping Our Promises

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**For those who have experienced loss:**

**The Family of:**

Edward Shirley, Renee Shirley's Dad

Ruth Breit, Margrith Alminas' sister

Joshua, James O'Toole's nephew

Rev. Jim Haywood, good friend of MaryJane Eddy-Scott

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

**Church Members:**

Ray Tanner  
Shirley Allison

Charlotte Harding  
Alex Neve  
Tom Walker

Charlie Oleson  
Charlotte Worster

**Family of Church Members:**

Dee James, Ruth Schnase's brother

Chris Haemmelman, Chuck Thorman's niece

Keith Haemmelman, Chuck Thorman's son-in-law

Ron & Patti, Betty Butler's brother & sister-in-law

**Remember these people in your prayers.**

**Let us continue to pray for:**

Richard Seip, brother of Anna Myers

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

Taylor Merrill, Charles & Madelene Vestal's grandson

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

Joni Wick, friend of Rich & Jean Arnold

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*.



**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.*

