



Open Hearts....

Open Minds...

Open Doors...

GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WINDOW ON THE HILL APRIL 2021

Reverend Mark Thurman, Pastor

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

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Mark's Musings

I once had a friend who was raised Roman Catholic. He attended church one Easter Sunday and following the joyful singing of hymns, spoken responsive litanies and the recitation of creeds, the book of gospels was processed throughout the sanctuary, censed with a smoking, aromatic thurible (Google it), and the designated text for that year's Easter was read aloud to the standing congregation. After sharing the account of Jesus' resurrection, the gospels were sealed and returned to their proper resting place, while everyone sat back down in their pews awaiting the sermon from a guest priest- an elderly, visiting bishop. The wizened clergyman slowly rose from his chair, and carefully made his way to the pulpit. Grasping it with both hands, he looked out over the congregation and then said, simply: "Today is Easter Sunday, the festal celebration of our Lord's resurrection. With mocking, hellish glee, just as the devil began to grab ahold of Jesus to rend his very soul, God raised him from the dead in victory to everlasting glory... and God had the last laugh." The old priest smiled, then turned around, walked back to his chair, and took his seat.

My friend said it was the shortest, but best Easter sermon he'd ever heard, before or since. And maybe it will be for you, too!

Wishing you a glorious Easter celebration, filled with the joy of resurrection; and one day, at your own departure, may you be in heaven a full half hour before the devil even knows you're dead.

Pastor Mark



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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, or call 303-989-3727. Thank You!

April 2021

A Brief Theology of Knuckle-Sucking

Each weekday, weather permitting, the daycare (located at the church) takes a select group of toddlers on a circuitous journey in a bright red cart that seats six – I assume comfortably, though they are harnessed to red & white striped seats so any protests would be vocal (and to date, no wailing or gnashing of teeth – if they had teeth – are noted). The goal, I assume, is a bit of healthy outdoor time and mental stimulation – though a route bound by the sidewalk in front of the church isn't exactly a Lewis & Clark expedition. Mostly these passengers are sucking on their knuckles, that being the most attractive stimulus apparently available. I don't recall those days, so the fascination eludes me at present. The bright-jumper-wearing travelers go right past my makeshift office window, so seeing their mildly bemused to bored expressions is quite easy and entertaining. Now I'm not much for anthropomorphic (human-like) images of God – the old Man or Woman peering down from a white, cloud-dimpled, sky at His/her Creation – but I have to wonder if we don't "look" to God like the Traveling Knuckle-Sucking Toddlers before me. God knows I feel that way most days (like the kid's, not God), making my way through the world lost in some obsessive thought or consuming concern that blocks my vision to everything truly interesting that passes by. Life, pretty much. We've all got our "knuckles" in our mouths to some degree. If you're looking for some lofty Biblical tie-in or neuron-rattling insight you're looking at the wrong column. When you distill most religious and spiritual traditions down to vaporous ooze the message, I modestly suggest, is: "*wake up*, spit the fist out of your mouth, wipe the mote out of your eye, pull your head out of your self-absorption and look, see, live." Simple message – but no easy task. *Sigh*. In our drowsy pre-occupation, we're all strapped into a bright red cart, pushed by unseen forces, with only the faintest thread of control, on a path that's beginning to look like a circle. In our "awake" state we're bound together, motivated by mysteries not entirely understood, giving over our need to control, on a bumpy but adventurous path that brings us back to where we started. Either way, we're all strapped in this cart, so we might as well give a hearty welcome to our fellow travelers and celebrate the ride, bumps, and all.

The feeling remains that God is on the journey, too.

Saint Teresa of Avila

As of the newsletter deadline, it's uncertain if our small groups will, 1) continue in zoom format, 2) resume in person, or 3) do a hybrid of zoom and in-person. I apologize for the "???" that pervade advance decision making these days – but public health data and a commitment to safety make certainty a fool's mission (which likely is always the case). I thank you for your patience!

Sunday "Classroom zoom" schedule – ***please note new times:***

Hilltopper's – 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Herd Sanity – 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Group \$ support efforts: NarSarah Clinic - \$4,201; Kiva Microloan Group - \$34,700 (1,281 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

Green Mountain United Methodist Church RELAUNCH UPDATE

Sunday, March 21,

was an exciting day for the 30 members who attended our 1st in-person worship service. It was wonderful to greet some of our friends, and we hope with each succeeding week more of our members will be vaccinated and feel comfortable attending.

There are some changes to our (re)Launch procedures as safety recommendations have evolved since we first began COVID prevention measures. Here are the GMUMC updates:

- The elevator can be used.
- Only the north doors will be unlocked (unless you have a key card for another door).
- "First Come, First Served" will allow for 100 people or more in the sanctuary depending upon how many are family groups or single attendees.
- Sign in on the attendance form so we know who to contact if necessary.
- Masks must be worn.
- Temperatures taken at the door are optional.
- The sanctuary pews have been taped off to allow for 6-ft. social distancing. Family groups can sit together.
- Sing the hymns softly or hum behind your mask!
- The offering plates will not be passed. There will be a basket provided for offering envelopes in the narthex.
- Please exit the sanctuary at the direction of the ushers and/or continue social distancing through the aisles and narthex.
- There will be no coffee time following the service. Please socialize with your friends in the parking lot.

The LED lighting project is 99% finished! It was quite a challenge to reach the cove lighting in the sanctuary ceiling and the spotlights over the stage. All of the pews had to be unbolted and moved for the lift to access the cove lights, and the choir risers and bell tables also had to be moved. Many of the fluorescent bulbs in the pendant lights and spotlights were burned out as were some of the cove lights. Our lift and tall stepladder were both used to access these areas by the professional electrician. All of the troffers in the Gathering Place, hallways, daycare, kitchen, Fireside Room, and Fellowship Hall were retrofitted. In addition, the offices and narthex also have new LEDs. We have also replaced over 100 bulbs in closets, Sunday School rooms, etc. throughout the buildings. It will be nice to have motion-controlled switches in some areas and bright lighting everywhere. This project was paid for through memorial funds and accumulated income on our endowment fund, and also through Xcel Energy's rebate offer. No budget funds were used for the lighting project.

Any socializing with friends must be done in the parking lot.

Air Hugs, Smiles, Hand Waving, and Cheerful Greetings are encouraged!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mark or the church office at 303-989-3727 (Mark: ext.202).

Church Security is Everyone's Responsibility

"A safe and secure church means that all of the People, Places, Property, Programs, and Processes of the place of worship are functioning in a way that is as free from the potential for harm as possible, twenty-four hours a day, every day, in every service and activity. At the same time, leaders, volunteers and congregants are ready to respond to a threat or emergency of any kind, to get assistance and to help themselves and others."

Tina Lewis Rowe, 2015

To this end, the Trustees of Green Mountain United Methodist Church have attended local law enforcement meetings on church security, consulted church security videos and publications, and analyzed GMUMC's current security situation with our Lakewood Police. However, the following items should be noted by all members as we do what we can to keep GMUMC a safe place to be. Thanks.

- Members should report to the church staff or Lakewood Police any security situations such as (1) persons or family members having issues against church and/or staff and (2) persons having issues with church members that could seek revenge against them at the church. Reports can be anonymous. Intervention procedures will be initiated by either church staff or police, as necessary.
- Know where the exits are from the sanctuary and other areas of the building. Exits from the sanctuary are:
 1. The main doors at the back of the sanctuary.
 2. The door along the east wall (nearest the organ) leading to the Fireside Room patio doors and stairway to the exit on the lower level.
 3. The exit door near the bell tables leading to the columbarium and the stairs to the Fellowship Hall on the lower level.
- Do not prop doors open in any way. Those folks arriving late for a meeting should have a cell phone number for someone already at the meeting.
- In case of a security situation remember – *Run, Hide, Fight*.



Save the Date - Where Action Matters Event Friday, May 21st

The Action Center usually hosts "Where Action Matters Breakfast" in the spring for people to find out more about the Action Center both through volunteer opportunities and through financial support. This year they will be holding a **virtual event on Friday, May 21st**.

Representing our church, Mary Bloomstran is a "**Champion**" for this event and will be holding a breakout room for those who sign up for this event under her. It will take less than one hour. Please contact Mary at **303-263-2906** or marybloomstran@comcast.net if you would like to join this virtual event. More information regarding time will be provided later.

Action Center Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

The Action Center is now taking all seasonal clothing donations and also donations of blankets and linens as well as non-perishable food. Visit their website for donation drive thru times.

Also – they will be holding the annual **Beautiful Junk Sale** in September this year. Please plan to attend this event on the **weekend of September 17-2021**.

The Action Center is always in need of volunteers and you can sign up for just 3 hours at a time. Visit their website to find out about opportunities to volunteer in the clothing bank and food distribution.

<https://theactioncenter.org/get-involved/>

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 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) or text at 303.257.2659. Jean is coordinating garden plot assignments.

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





FINANCE COMMITTEE

For the month of February, we had income of \$34,804.02, and total expenses of \$33,727.20 for an income of \$1,076.82. Overall, for the year we have a balance of \$3,570.06, however, we are only in this position, because we had a few pledges for 2021 that were pre-paid for the whole year, so this number is misleading, and not indicative of where we would actually be at this point without the pre-paid pledges. We recognize that we are still in a difficult stage, due to the covid pandemic, so we ask that you continue to be very cognizant of what you are spending, so we can keep a good balance on the books, and not end up with a huge deficit like last year. And as always, we thank you all for your continued financial support of GMUMC.

Thanks,
Greg Hise & Jane Bernard
Finance Co-chairs

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ARTICLES

*May 2021 Newsletter
items due by
Sunday, April 18,
2021*

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CHILDREN'S NEWS APRIL 2021



We are so excited to start inviting the children back to church! Our first children's event will be Palm Sunday, March 28th and we are going to be waving palms around the church grounds.

We will continue to slowly start bringing the children back but have decided that this year we will not have Sunday School. Instead, we will have Children's Church with Ms. Kelli where we will do fun art projects, science, cooking(individually), and games. The children will all be expected to maintain the social distancing CDC guidelines. ☺ I am always excited to have another adult help. We just want the kids to get back and have camaraderie with one another and be excited to come each Sunday.

This year, in place of having our traditional Eggstravaganza, we will have a variety of Easter activities during church on Easter Sunday.

Kelli Schnase, Children's Director





GMUMC
April 2021
Grades 6 – 12

* Send your **Gnome Pictures** to Alex! *

Sun, April 4th **Easter / Spring Break - No Youth**

Enjoy time with your families celebrating Easter and enjoying Spring Break!

Sun, April 11th **Sparking Joy** **6 - 7:30 PM**

Overwhelmed with too many commitments? Need to do some Spring cleaning? Marie Kondo shared a de-cluttering process with her incredible method. How can we use her concepts to change our spaces, our schedules, and our lives? Time for a fresh start!!

Sun, April 18th **Boundaries OR Movie/Game Night** **6 - 7:30 PM**

Tonight is about creating healthy boundaries with our friends, family, peers, and partners. Get some guidance around how to have the best boundaries possible. If we are all feeling the pressures of school and responsibilities and need some time to let off steam, we can watch a movie or play games. You decide what you need tonight!

Sun, April 25th **Slay the Beast** **6 - 7:30 PM**

Dealing with gruesome challenges? Have beastly homework? Stuck in struggles? Tonight is about practical ways to slay the gigantic problems in our lives. Spartan Secret: sometimes rest is necessary for war.

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 2nd - Coffee and Connect
(Check-in Convo with Alex)

May 9th - Mother's Day (No Youth)

May 16th - Gremlin Taming
(Stress and Self Compassion)

May 23rd - **End of Year Bash &**
Celebrate our Seniors

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

OUR SERVICE, CONCERNS, & CELEBRATIONS



Don Bungler	04/01
Amy Branscome	04/02
Anna Myers	04/02
Caitlyn Stenman	04/02
JW Hindman	04/02
Emery Schattinger	04/03
Frances Arsenault	04/03
Robert Harris	04/03
David Little	04/04
Brandon Barnes	04/06
Jim Schmoker	04/06
Teresa Camper	04/06
Greg Montano	04/07
Betty Walker	04/11
Carsten Scholl	04/14
Elizabeth Jackson	04/15
Gregory Hise	04/15
Sydney Maybury	04/16
Jessica Haden	04/17
Edith Gammon	04/18
Pamela Sunday	04/18
Deanna Hanna	04/20
Nancy Elwood	04/22
Rhonda Renaud	04/26
Tom Cummins	04/26
Bob Keating	04/27
Alex Thomas	04/28
Andrea Thomas	04/28
Amy Santistevan	04/28
Ken Schoeman	04/30



Brian & Georgia Lewis	04/04
Charles Aker & Ronna Duncan	04/05
Phil & Jan Brown	04/14
Nelson & Lisa Garcia	04/19
Dallas & Janice Riedesel	04/24

Congratulations



Congratulations to Gary & Janet Starkey who celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary on March 22nd.

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:

Ray Tanner
Ron, Betty Butler's brother-in-law

Church Members:

Georgia Lewis Rhonda Renaud Neomi Hilton
Charlotte Harding Charlie Oleson Shirley Allison
Alex Neve Charlotte Worster Charlotte Knox

Family of Church Members:

Marlene Notari, Mary Lou's mother-in-law &
Kris' grandmother
Jerry Hilton, Neomi Hilton's son
Joel Chapa, Lorna Chapa's husband
Lucille Gomez, Pete Gomez's mom
James Johnston, Mark Osborn's father
Corinne Permaul, Chuck Thorman's sister-in-law &
Lynne's aunt
David Bronson, Brenda Bronson's brother

Friends of Church Members:

Ray Lamboy, co-worker of Billy Cummins
Joe Stevenson, Melissa Sussman's co-worker

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

Richard Seip, brother of Anna Myers
Nicholas Billman, friend of Vestals
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



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

Michael Anderson Brady Christensen Doug Huenneke
Gloria Sher Timothy Skinner

If you have family members who are currently in military service or the Peace Corps 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*.

