



**Open Hearts....**

**Open Minds...**

**Open Doors...**

## GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Lakewood, CO 80228

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### WINDOW ON THE HILL SEPTEMBER 2021

**Reverend Mark Thurman, Pastor**

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

#### Staff of GMUMC

##### Pastor

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##### Music Director

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##### Organist

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##### Nursery Director

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

##### Virtual Ministries

Elizabeth Burg  
[elizabeth@gmumc.com](mailto:elizabeth@gmumc.com)



### Mark's Musings

One of the many things I love about Colorado is the absence of fleas. My home state of Texas, in comparison, has more than enough to share. We battled 'em tooth and nail (or maxillary laciniae and tarsus!) They say that if you were to add up the flea-related vet bills, flea treatment offered by pet groomers, and home flea pest control in America alone, the total would come to approximately \$8 ½ BILLION annually! And still, the fleas prevail. Along with the meek, I'm pretty sure the fleas will also inherit the earth.

Which leads me to wonder if we humans aren't just parasitic fleas on this otherwise healthy host, we call Mother Earth; and perhaps things like the Corona virus and all the consequences of climate change- unprecedented hot temps, flash flooding, air pollution, etc.- are just her attempts at pest control? The analogy ends, however, with us fleas as the victor. If Mother Earth ever decided to exert an effective treatment on her pest problem, we wouldn't stand a chance!

I try not to think about it.

On that note, I have stopped listening to the depressing litany of, i.e., COVID stats on the radio news, along with reading the several COVID updates that pop up on my cell phone every single day.\* Thinking about it too much was affecting my emotional and spiritual health. And I found that it was not even THE truth, but only an interpretation of the facts, and a negative one at that, which apparently sells. If the public demand ever switched to a greater desire for, and support of, more positive news... well, I imagine our morale might be very different.

Years ago, I read the results of an interesting little survey conducted asking the question: if Jesus came back today, what would he make of the state of things in our world? The majority of folks answered that he would be very upset about the abuse of his Father's beloved creation, angry at all the injustice, etc. But there were a minority of folks who answered differently, believing that Jesus would see all the good people who were trying to help, who were taking care of the COVID sick, who were attempting to find solutions to climate change, who were spreading kindness in the world, focusing positive intentions, and proclaiming the good news of God's healing love and grace, rather than spewing negativity and pronouncing only doom and gloom.

Our congregation right here at Green Mountain UMC, along with countless others in the Denver Metro, across our country and the world, has been pretty beat up by COVID. She's a hurting puppy, in need of some healing treatment from us, her family. When you look at your membership vows to support the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, and service, are

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you more of a pest or a cure? What kind of positive focus can you bring to our congregation in your daily prayers and meditations, your weekly worship, and regular service. Given all we've been through, we're not only alive, but beginning to flourish once more. I, for one, am itching for relief after so much infestation. Let's treat and heal this ol dog of a church together!

"For we know that in *all things*, God is working for good among those who love God, who have been called according to God's purpose (Romans 8:28)."

*\*I briefly scan the major news stories on Yahoo in order to remain informed.*



*Pastor Mark*



## International Rescue Committee in Denver DONATION NEEDS

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit humanitarian organization that works in the U.S. and around the world to help people whose lives and livelihoods have been shattered by conflict and disaster as they survive, recover and regain control of their future. Forced to flee conflict or persecution, many have survived for years against incredible odds. They often step off the plane with few belongings. The following donations help provide refugee families with the essentials to start their new lives in the Denver-metro area.

### Miscellaneous

- Grocery store, Target or Walmart gift cards
- Laptops & smartphones in good working condition
- Shower curtains with hooks
- Light bulbs
- Bicycles, helmets and locks
- Car seats & booster seats (purchased new)

### Kitchen items

- Frying pans, saucepans & boiling pots
- Can openers
- Bowls & dinner plates
- Drinking glasses
- Large mixing or serving bowls
- Large and small wastebaskets with trash bags
- Teakettles (stovetop and electric)

### Cold weather items (given out year-round)

- Winter jackets
- Winter hats
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Snow boots, all sizes

### Household cleaning items & toiletries

- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Mops/brooms
- Toilet brushes
- Washcloths & kitchen towels
- All purpose cleaner
- First aid kit
- Lotion/Vaseline
- Feminine hygiene pads
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Diapers, all sizes
- Baby wipes

### Furniture

- Floor lamps
- Kitchen tables
- Kitchen chairs
- Couches
- Dressers

### Bedding & linens

- Alarm clocks
- Full size sheets
- Twin size sheets
- Pillows (purchased new)
- Warm blankets, all sizes
- Bath towels

### Help Afghan Refugees!

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a drive to help Afghan Refugees settling in Denver through the International Rescue Committee. They are asking for several items (included on the attached list).

**We will be collecting these items at church on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>. Please bring any items you wish to donate to the church Sunday morning.**

If you have items that are too large (such as lamps, dishes, etc.), call Mary Bloomstran at 303-263-2906 and she will arrange for the items to be picked up.

This is our opportunity to make a big difference for a small effort on our part and serve an immediate need.

### How to donate:

1. Visit our Amazon Wish List at <http://a.co/400fyP>
2. E-mail [IRCDenver.volunteer@Rescue.org](mailto:IRCDenver.volunteer@Rescue.org) with a list of the items you'd like to donate and our team will work with you to schedule a time to deliver your donations
3. Visit [Rescue.org/Denver](http://Rescue.org/Denver) to find a list of needed items and donation kits

### Items the IRC in Denver is unable to accept at this time

- Televisions
- Small appliances (microwaves, toasters, blenders, etc.)
- Sleeper sofas or futons
- Broken items or items in poor condition or missing pieces
- Used mattresses or pillows
- Clothing, shoes and undergarments
- Stained or damaged blankets, towels or other linens
- Home decorations (vases, wall decorations, picture frames, etc.)
- Used car seats
- Sports equipment or other recreational items (sleds, skateboards, etc.)

International Rescue Committee in Denver  
1873 S. Bellaire St. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Denver, CO 80222

[Rescue.org/Denver](http://Rescue.org/Denver) | [IRCDenver.Volunteer@Rescue.org](mailto:IRCDenver.Volunteer@Rescue.org) | [@IRCDenver](https://www.facebook.com/IRCDenver)



**OCTOBER Newsletter items due by Sunday, September 17, 2021**

email: [mnotari@msn.com](mailto:mnotari@msn.com) & [gmumc@gmumc.com](mailto:gmumc@gmumc.com)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Announcements



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

**Bobbi's Blessing Box** is up and running. Located in the front corner of the parking lot, this little pantry of emergency staples has gotten donations and been used by neighbors who are very appreciative for the help. Many thanks to everyone who has helped along the way. I especially want to thank the Lyons and Montano families for making it happen. *Donna Bunger*





## FROM THE TRUSTEES:

### 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:  
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*.



### 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/>

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When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**amazonsmile**

A gentle reminder that GMUMC benefits from online purchases made on Amazon by designating GMUMC as a charity when you shop at smile.amazon.com.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0534933>



## News from the Cedar Hill Community Garden at Green Mountain United Methodist Church (part of Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) community gardens)

"Planting seeds for the future."

Jean Arnold, Outreach and Garden Liaison



### Fundraising 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.

**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.

All garden plots are planted and growing. We have a growing waitlist and close it out a few weeks ago. We will reopen the waitlist in the fall. The garden had its first Compost Class and workday on June 6, 2021. We are making good use of the leaves that were dropped off in the fall and the straw in the spring. We need more "greens" for our composting operation: untreated grass clippings, weeds and tree trimmings would be welcome. Just place bags of organic material on the east side of the new shed next to the compost bins. Do not put donations in the compost bins – where we are "cooking" and turning compost in a 70-30 ratio of "browns" to "greens".

We appreciate all the tool donations that have come in – especially the wheelbarrow from Roxanne Penn. Thank you, Roxanne. We had been using tarps to drag dirt and hay and compost around the garden. The wheelbarrow is a "back saver." The remaining items on our tool wish list appear below. We will also be spending some of our plant sale money \$700+ on these items once we see what is left on the list after donations:

**Spade shovel, hand spades, steel rake, soft rake, landscaping rake, gardening fork, broad fork, hoe, stirrup hoe, hose repair items, replacement dramm wands, 5-gallon buckets, trash bags, hand pruners, twine, hammer, nails, would all be great to have around!**

A Boy Scout from Troop 989 will be doing his Eagle Scout project in the garden this summer. He and his troop (and other volunteers) will be constructing bat/bird boxes and raptor perches (natural rabbit control). We have an owl living in our Russian olive tree who is helping with the rabbits. When watering at dusk, it is fun to watch the owl drop on soundless wings out of the tree in the hunt for her evening meal.

The shade pergola will be installed by a contractor in the coming months (located where the pollinator garden and bench are located). DUG will let us know the date once they get their contractors lined up for the construction season. After the pergola is in, we will *finally* be able to order and install the bricks. The garden is open to all, so come visit. Just remember to close the gate – those pesky rabbits are still sneaking in and eating the produce.

Check out the website (under construction by co-garden leader Stacey Cummins) at:

<https://communitygardengmu.wixsite.com/cedarhill>



I was contacted in April with the interest of resuming **Dinner for Eight**. I gladly contacted all the TEAM LEADERS to get their feedback and to ask them to contact the members of their groups. Various groups have been going out to their favorite restaurants & having fun catching up.

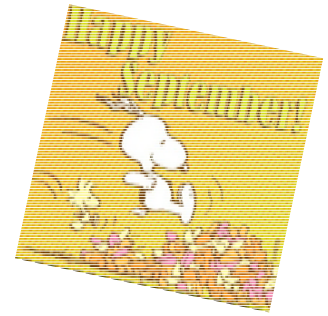
I would like to start putting the SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER groups together August 25<sup>th</sup>. This process takes time to do, so I need your help. Please let your current Team Leader or me know if you would like to continue participating in Dinner for Eight.

**IF YOU ARE NEW TO GMUMC**, we meet once a month at a local restaurant to dine and socialize. It is a great way to get to know others from our church. Each group has 8 people with a mixture of couples, singles, and occasionally their children. The Team Leader & members of each group decide what days, times, and places work best for them and set up each dinner together. It is a wonderful way to try new cuisines or suggest your favorite and enjoy an evening of Fellowship.

New groups are formed every four months, giving you the opportunity to get to know more people. If you are interested in joining or trying it out, or have questions about DINNER FOR EIGHT, please contact Darline Bowland at [darlinebowland@gmail.com](mailto:darlinebowland@gmail.com) or (303) 987-1219.



# CHILDREN'S NEWS SEPTEMBER 2021



It is always fun to learn see what adventure God leads us each day. As I have prepared for the school year to begin, I have read many articles about "learning loss" and then I came across a fantastic article, '[Let's Start This Year By Focusing On Learning Gains](https://www.edutopia.org/article/lets-start-year-focusing-learning-gains)' (see link below) And, I really started thinking..... YEA!! Let's focus on the GAINS!!! I am asking you, what have you gained this year? The article mentions we have gained patience, endurance, communication, technology skills...I am excited to say, that yes, I have gained these but also so, so much more. We have learned to understand and love each other when we see each other.

This is leading me to tell my beautiful families that sadly, due to the positivity rate of COVID-19, Kickoff Sunday this year has to be postponed until the Fall. The Church Council voted to change the date so that we can maintain safety. We will still have the BIBLE presentation on September 12, 2021. So, if you would like to receive a Bible, please let me know.

Sunday School will not be canceled. We will have Sunday School the first Sunday and the third Sunday of the month. I am going to put out a *sign-up genius* for any parents who would like to lead a class but if not, Ms. Kelli will lead the class. So please mark your calendars for the first and third Sunday until we can have our official Kickoff Sunday. I will also continue to send those "Academy Award" YouTube Videos for each Sunday... and if anyone else would be interested in leading a YouTube lesson, it would be great for the kids to see other people.

[https://www.edutopia.org/article/lets-start-year-focusing-learning-gains?fbclid=IwAR3bHbM\\_bhJESUgLOZ\\_WEFf0tYc3cLHQp9JY43B6ltv0jVY2CyWUMEB7Nk](https://www.edutopia.org/article/lets-start-year-focusing-learning-gains?fbclid=IwAR3bHbM_bhJESUgLOZ_WEFf0tYc3cLHQp9JY43B6ltv0jVY2CyWUMEB7Nk)

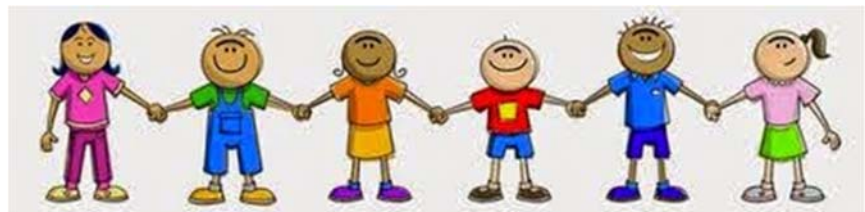


**Kelli Schnase**  
**Children's Director**

*Look at our youngest member at GMUMC!!!*

**Welcome to GMUMC**

Maxwell Paxton Mukarakate♥





**Sept 2021**

**Grades 6 - 12**

**Sun, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>**                      **No Youth - Labor Day**                      **N/A**

Enjoy Labor Day weekend with your families as we get back into the swing of school.

**Sun, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>**                      **Kickoff Celebration**                      **6 - 7:30 PM**

Prepared to party?!? Playing some awesome games sounds like the perfect way to bring in the fall season!

**Sun, Sept 19<sup>th</sup>**                      **Gremlin Taming**                      **6 - 7:30 PM**

Since May was so busy for all of us, we moved this program to the fall. Tonight, is all about listening to our heart, and silencing the nay-sayer inside our head! This program is fun and empowering. Ready to beat back negativity like a boss??

**Sun, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>**                      **Mission Trip Planning 2022**                      **6 - 7:30 PM**

Who is ready for Mission TRIP again? We've been missing this fun and powerful week during COVID-19, and it's time to set up a trip for 2022! Bring your schedules for the summer and we will vote on options and get some plans in place!

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> - Boondocks Lock-in**

**Oct 10<sup>th</sup> - Game Night**

**Oct 17<sup>th</sup> - Mission Project Follow-up Plan & Nerf War**

**Oct 24<sup>th</sup> - Corn Maze or Program**

**Oct 29<sup>th</sup> - Pumpkin Carving and Movie**

**Nov 14<sup>th</sup> to Dec 12<sup>th</sup> - Gift Card Sales and Dec 19<sup>th</sup> - Last day to pick up cards**

If safety is questionable due to COVID variants, we will continue to adapt and overcome!

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



## OUR SERVICE, CONCERNS, & CELEBRATIONS




James O'Toole	09/02
Lisa Neve	09/02
Duane Patterson	09/03
Steve Olson	09/03
Eric McLean	09/04
Frank Walters	09/05
Deb Thomas	09/06
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
Steve Rickett	09/13
Jan Hightower	09/16
Jean Dinwiddie	09/16
Jewell Phipps	09/17
Deborah Hindman	09/18
Donna Bunger	09/18
Elizabeth Walcott	09/20
Stan Sheeley	09/20
Cristian Borcan	09/21
Jackie Ferguson	09/21
Madelene Vestal	09/22
Marsha Moore	09/22
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

Bob & Bev Kimball	09/06
Robert & Amy Alexander	09/09
Vincent & Kristen Allen	09/12
Jim & Karen Schmoker	09/14
Frank & Roxanne Penn	09/25
John & Alyssa Olson	09/29



Congratulations to Andy & Jennifer Thomas on the engagement of their daughter, Kay, to now fiancé, Collin.

Congratulations to Julia Montano who will attend her sophomore year of college in-person in San Francisco, instead of from her room here on Zoom. Prayers for safe travel & safety for Julia.



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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:

John Crouch, family member of Charles & Madelene Vestal  
Frank Williamson, Clara Lou Humphrey's husband

#### Church Members:

Richard Jaworowski	Lorna Chapa	Donna Lozano
Georgia Lewis	Charlotte Harding	Charlie Oleson
Shirley Allison	Alex Neve	Charlotte Worster
	Charlotte Knox	

#### Family of Church Members:

Cheryl Tafel, Lorene Branson's sister-in-law  
David Chapa, Joel Chapa's brother  
Linda Carter, Betsy Lee's sister

#### Friends of Church Members:

Michael, son of friends of the Wrapps

#### 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  
MJ Paulsen



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

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*.



#### ATTENDANCE

DATE	8:00am	10:00am
07/25	-	56
08/01	09	51
08/08	05	54
08/15	09	55