



Open Hearts....

Open Minds...

Open Doors...

GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12755 West Cedar Drive

Lakewood, CO 80228

Phone: (303) 989-3727

Fax: (303) 987-9220

Email: gmumc@gmumc.com



WINDOW ON THE HILL DECEMBER 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

Rev. Mark Thurman
mark@gmumc.com

Children's Director

Kelli Schnase
kelli@gmumc.com

Youth Director

Alex Neve
alex@gmumc.com

Office Manager

Meg Leak
gmumc@gmumc.com

Finance Secretary

Kent Bates
kent@gmumc.com

Custodian

James O'Toole

Music Director

Randy Hise
RTommyH@aol.com

Hand Bell Director

Janet Starkey
janetstarkey27@comcast.net

Organist

Melissa Sussman
mucikmama@yahoo.com

Nursery Director

Cherie Werkhoven
werkhoventc@aol.com



Mark's Musings

The days were growing shorter, nights longer, colder. Not so quick to warm up the next day. You remember last month. And one day the church furnace that supplies heat to the east side of the building shut down. The diagnosis included a part that needed to be ordered, probably a wait of a few days. And wait we did. And the days and nights grew colder.

One morning, I entered the cold storage locker my office had become, swept aside the racks of beef and pork I was curing, past the milks and cheeses, and plugged in the space heater to begin the long, gradual warm up to at least something in the 60 degrees range. And that's when everything went down- computers, voice mails on the land line, coffee pot. Apparently, a fuse had blown. Finally, during the attempt to move the coffee pot to another room to at least start that brewing, I spilled some of the cold water in the machine down the front of my shirt.

It was one of those mornings.

And I'm sure Meg could share some of her own experiences, huddled as she was in her office for those several days, door closed, space heater on high. We were both eagerly expecting the arrival of the furnace part, and more so with each passing day. Like a couple of kids expectantly awaiting the arrival of Christmas day. Like Mary and Joseph awaiting the birth of their child. Like the church, beginning its seasonal waiting, and expectant watching, and praying, for the Advent of the Savior.

The morning we walked into the church and felt the heat on again, it infused the whole workplace with the comfort and joy befitting the season! And the atmosphere was all the warmer, somehow, for the wait and endurance of the cold. Like a good meal tastes even better when you're good and hungry. Like a church bright with decorations shines even more splendid in the night, amidst the surrounding darkness. Like the simple act of raising our lit candles together this year in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, while singing 'Silent Night' - a connection no longer taken for granted because of our recent prior years of separation and isolation.

Consequently, I'm hearing one of the traditional gospel readings for this time of year in a richer, fuller way. Perhaps you will, too:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..."

All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of humanity.

And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness does not overcome it...

And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. (And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.)"

Let every heart prepare him room

Pastor Mark

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Announcements



Green Mountain United Methodist Women
Sunrise Breakfast

Generally 1st Wednesday of Each Month
8:00 a.m. IHOP-Lakewood City Commons



ORDER TODAY...and reserve your CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

The worship committee is taking the hassle out of your Christmas poinsettia shopping! Purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary, decorate your home, or for gifts, for \$12.00 each. Home and gift orders should be picked up Sunday, December 19th. Sanctuary poinsettias may be picked up after the gpm Christmas Eve service on December 24th.



For the month of October, we had income of \$25,013.34, and expenses of \$29,139.34, for a net income of -\$4,126.00. Our overall balance for the year as of the end of October is -\$34,242.11. We are not in a good position financially with the budget, as we near the end of the year, so any additional help would be greatly appreciated. As always, we thank you for your continued financial support of GMUMC.

Greg Hise and Jane Bernard
Finance Co-chairs

All orders must be prepaid, quantities are limited. **All orders must be placed by Sunday, December 12th.** Order yours before the rush! Place your check payable to GMUMC and labeled "flowers" along with the order form below, in the collection plate or mail or drop-off to the church office. Please complete the dedication portion of the form for all sanctuary poinsettias. Please print clearly.

Name: _____

(For Chancel Flowers, Please Circle)

In Celebration of _____

OR

In Memory of _____

Personal (#ordered____)

To be picked up 12/19

For the Chancel (#ordered____)

To be picked up after Christmas Eve Service

Total \$ _____ attached.



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*



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.

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/>



Bellissimo Handbell Group

Come join the fun and make beautiful music ♥

Bellissimo Handbell Group is looking for some new ringers. We practice on **Wednesdays, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** No experience is needed, we'll teach you everything you need to know! We'd love to have you join us.



JANUARY 2022 Newsletter items due by the **DAY AFTER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**
email: mlnotari@msn.com & gmumc@gmumc.com

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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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CHEER TREE



The Cheer Tree will be located just outside the sanctuary this year supporting the Action Center's Holiday Gift Programs for hundreds of children in Jefferson County. We are collecting donations of NEW, unwrapped toys. Most needed toys include:

Dolls of diverse races, Arts and Crafts kits, Legos/Mega Blocks, Make-up and Science Kits, Scooters & Helmets, Headphones. We are also collecting donations of socks and mittens. Please place your donation under the cheer tree by Sunday December 5th. If you wish to make a cash donation, please give it to Meg in the office or contact Mary Bloomstran at 303-263-2906.

We are also participating in the Action Center's Adopt-A-Family Program. The families provide a wish list for the children to the Action Center and then they are adopted. This year we are adopting 4 families. The lists include "needs" and "wants." Most of the items will be purchased from the Outreach budget but if you would like to help, contact Mary Bloomstran at 303-263-2906.



Prayer Journey for Advent – Virtual Upper Room

Jean Arnold, Certified Lay Speaker

Anticipation – that is Advent. But anticipation can encompass both excitement and dread. During this season of anticipation, I invite you to join me in a time of dedicated meditation and prayer as we contemplate this season of growing darkness – and journey to the light that shines in the darkness. As we all continue to navigate through COVID – encountering our feelings of fear, uncertainty, and scarcity -- Advent is a great time to examine our inner life, our habits, and our relationship with God. What is the reason for this season? Jesus said: **"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."** Matthew 18:20 NIV.

Grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and join me weekly during three weeks of Advent to dedicate ourselves to a time of prayer and meditation. **For three (3) Wednesday mornings at 6:05 a.m. during Advent: December 1, 8 and 15**, we will gather in our *virtual upper room* to pray and share stories both biblical and personal – of sorrow, reflection, and joy. We will use *The Upper Room* as our guide. **You will find free copies of *The Upper Room in the narthex*.** The Upper Room is also available, free online at that the following link: <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>.

Even if you do not have a copy of the *Upper Room* or access to the online version – call in anyway as we join our prayer voices together with Christians around the world by meeting in our *virtual upper room* for prayer time (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 40 minutes.

**Virtual upper room meeting schedule for Advent:
December 1, 8 and 15 - 6:05 a.m.**

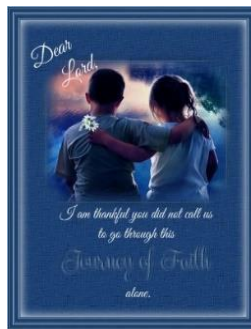
Questions or need a copy of the meditation for the week: Call or email Jean Arnold – 303-257-2659 (cell) or jeanarnold@arnoldarnold.com.



ADVENT STUDY

You are invited to join Pastor Mark on four Monday evenings- beginning November 29th and running through the entire Advent season until December 19th for a very special discussion and sharing of the wonderful meditations and practices offered in a little book entitled, *Pauses for Advent*, written by Trevor Hudson, a Methodist minister who served in southern Africa for more than 35 years. Pastor Hudson encourages his readers with brief daily reflections on scripture, including a simple, doable practice that helps apply the day's word to our lives. 'Pausing for just a few minutes each day,' he promises, 'readies our hearts to receive the most wondrous gift of all – the Christ who is alive and present with us today and every day.'

You may find the book on both the Cokesbury and Amazon websites for under \$10 or contact the church office and we'll be glad to order you a copy. Your assignment will begin on November 22nd, with a reading of Day #1, and you'll continue each day until our first class discussion together on Monday, November 29th, at the church from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Please contact Pastor Mark with any questions at mark@gmumc.com or Meg at gmumc@gmumc.com to place a book order.



SHARED JOURNEY

Our support group for caregivers with loved ones experiencing dementia is open to all. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Place to be determined.

For more information, contact Sonya Noyes 303-985-9522.

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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

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 getting ready to "go to bed" for 2021 -- with a final harvest and celebration of a successful second-year growing season with every plot under cultivation and a wait-list for plots in 2022. We have grown pumpkins, Swiss chard, beans, peas, peppers, onions, basil, marigolds, columbines, cosmos, petunias, kale, lettuce, beans, eggplant, arugula, zucchini, sunflowers, zinnias, strawberries, the list goes on.

We fed our neighbors (and ourselves) with vegetables and socially distanced chats -- bringing our community into the Garden. And delivering produce to community members who are home-bound. We have participated in beauty and supported our pollinators -- and many, many rabbits. We added a fence and shade pergola. All are invited to come into the garden for a respite and to just *be*.

The garden contributed to the healing of one of our 9-year-old gardeners, who had a kidney transplant at Children's Hospital this spring. His mom writes, in thanks:

"I wanted to thank you so much for the privilege of the garden plot. [I]t brought so much joy to us. [W]e got an amazing herb Harvest enough to last [] through the whole winter. When things were at its bleakest it was beautiful to come out to the garden to see the hope that it provides us."

Eagle Project. Joe Gaietto with Boy Scout Troop 989 refurbished the south shed with new shelves, paint, and hardware. The Troop added shelving, tool hooks, a bulletin board and white board to the new, north shed. See the pictures below. Joe began working on this project in the summer and was able to complete it in November. Thank you to co-garden leader Matt Ardiolo, who helped Joe and Troop 989 with this wonderful project.

Thank you for the **Fall mulch / leaves** -- It takes about 3-4 bags of leaves for each garden plot. And we will be adding leaves through the winter months -- once we start getting snow. Any remaining leaves will be used to make compost.

What we need:

Garden tools -- As you put your own garden to bed -- or you are downsizing -- please think of the Garden and donate your used hand tools, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc. 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 in the spring now that the fencing, compost bins and shade pergola are in (see below).

Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) Construction.

The bricks will be installed by a professional contractor, who met with Jean Arnold in August. Due to challenges with skilled labor, we decided to push the installation off until spring. Please contact Lori Osborn if you would like to purchase a brick; the garden's ongoing fundraiser.



Fundraising Bricks

Lori Osborn and Jean Arnold 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 2022 growing season, please contact co-garden leader **Ali Young** @ mustang.ali@hotmail.com to be added to the wait list. Once the wait list reaches 10 people, we will close the list until the 2023 growing season. We expect to have 1-3 plots available in the 2022 season. Ali is coordinating garden plot assignments.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



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 25th. 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 or (303) 987-1219.



CHILDREN'S NEWS

DECEMBER 2021



Merry Christmas!

A very special thank you to the Olson family for bringing supplies for caramel apples, and fun stringy spiders for Halloween fun!!

For the Advent season, in Sunday school we are going to dive into creating Advent wreaths and learning about the words of affirmation that are connected to the candles. Each Sunday, the children will get a candle to add to their wreath, a bible verse will be learned, and we will do a craft for each Sunday. Please come and join us!

I am so excited to gather with you on Christmas Eve this year!! I hope that you will be able to join us for the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve service to celebrate together.

However, if you are unable to attend that day, we are highly encouraging the children to be part of the Advent season! I have asked families that have been attending, to take part in the lighting of the advent wreath. If your children would like to create or sing a song or play instruments, please video record it and send it to me and we will air it for the whole congregation to see!!

*Kelli Schnase
Children's Director*



Youth Group

GMUMC - December 2021 Grades 6 – 12



****Youth Gift Card Sales are cancelled this year** because permission was not granted to use the money for Youth Outreach and Missions. We apologize for the inconvenience to our amazing supporters. **

Sun., Dec. 5th Christmas Shopping Outing 1 - 3 PM

Who is ready to go shopping?!? Outreach Christmas Shopping is always one of our favorite Youth events and IT'S BACK!!!! We will choose families in need and find amazing Christmas gifts for them. There's no better way to celebrate Christmas than giving to those in need.

Sun., Dec. 12th Gifts & Presence Program / Games! 6 - 7:30 PM

Well last year's holidays were sure different, but what does this year look like? Tonight we will explore the tradition of giving gifts as well as the impact of being together for holidays. Plus, who's ready for some GAMES?!?

Sun., Dec. 19th Holiday Party! 6 - 7:30 PM

Who needs a break from finals and studying?!?! Ready for THE Wrapping Relay? Join the holiday festivities for games galore! The more the merrier, so bring your friends and an ornament to exchange!

Sun., Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd No Youth - Christmas Break

No Youth due to Christmas and Winter Break! Enjoy time with your families!

UPCOMING DATES:

Jan. 9th - Visualization Program
Jan. 16th - No Youth for MLK, Jr. Day
Jan. 23rd - Game Night
Jan. 30th - Program Night

Feb. 6th - Dating Program
Feb. 13th - Possible Chili Cook-off
Feb. 20th - No Youth for Presidents' Day
Feb. 27th - Game Night

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


OUR SERVICE, CONCERNS, & CELEBRATIONS



Hamunyari Chigwada	12/01
Eden Turner	12/02
June Ryker	12/03
Margrith Alminas	12/03
Melissa Bride	12/03
Richard Jaworowski	12/04
Claire Johnson	12/06
Patti Hildenbrandt	12/06
Thomas Branscome	12/06
Kim Myers	12/07
Linda Rosen	12/08
Mary Lou Notari	12/08
Paul Murphy-Geiss	12/08
Ryan Morse	12/08
Karen Schmoker	12/10
Jean Schwien	12/11
Chloe Harris	12/12
Kayci Morse	12/12
Bob Wrapp	12/13
Erik Wypiszynski	12/13
John Morrison	12/13
Lisa Fulks	12/13
Nicole Smithpeter	12/13
Amy Hindman	12/15
Stephen Walden	12/16
Ali Young	12/17
Lexi Kagiya	12/17
Tom Walker	12/19
Cadence Allen	12/21
Carole Falvey	12/22
Joyce Buckland	12/22
Amy Alexander	12/23
Charlotte Harding	12/23
Jody Morse	12/23
Brenda Mole	12/24
Matthew Schlieper	12/24
Lisa Allison	12/25
Monte Bride	12/26
Ruth Schnase	12/26
Karen S. Johnson	12/28
Nora Nichols-Montano	12/28
Jim Thompson	12/29
Danielle Smithpeter	12/30
Brian Wilson	12/31



Steve Cummins & Mary Beth Taylor	12/11
Glen & Mary McLaughlin	12/11
Calvin & Hamunyari Mukarakate	12/12
John & Peggy Morrison	12/16
Rich & Jean Arnold	12/22
Richard & Susan Jaworowski	12/27
Paul & Gail Murphy-Geiss	12/29
Marty & Bob Keating	12/30
Tom & Amy Branscome	12/31



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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:

Curtiss, Phyllis Witttrup's brother
John Polinski, former GMUMC Choir Director
Donna Hill, Kirsten Allen's sister-in-law

Church Members:

Mary Bloomstran	Rilene Thompson	Robb Stenman
Charles Vestal	Donna Boyca	Karen Harmon
Tom Walker	Charlie Oleson	Shirley Allison
Alex Neve	Charlotte Worster	Charlotte Knox

Family of Church Members:

Michelle Paopao, Mike Skillern's wife
James Tanner, Vivian Dewberry Tanner's husband
Richard Stoddart, Barbara Stoddart's husband

Friends of Church Members

Jim Hopkins, Friend of the Wrapp's

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

Cathy Sheldon, neighbor of Ken Bullard & Brenda Mole
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	10:30am
10/31	3	82
11/07	5	97
11/14	5	70
11/21	5	69