

Open Hearts....

Open Minds....

Open Doors....

WINDOW ON THE HILL **JANUARY 2024**

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GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12755 West Cedar Drive Lakewood, CO 80228 Phone: (303) 989-3727 Fax: (303) 987-9220

Pastor: Reverend Mark Thurman

Associate Pastor: Reverend Debra Juarez

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



Mark's Musings

I inherited my love of sci-fi/fantasy literature from my father. Kurt Vonnegut Jr was his hands-down favorite, and I remember Slaughterhouse-Five making quite an impression upon me sometime around middle school. Once hooked, I began to make my way through the works of other authors like Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clark, H.G. Wells, etc. But my favorite of the bunch was Ray Bradbury. The Illustrated Man blew my mind; likewise, Something Wicked This Way Comes. And don't even get me started on Fahrenheit 451!

So, it was with surprise and delight that I stumbled across a poem composed by none other than Ray Bradbury, simply entitled, A Christmas Wish. Composed in 1993, it was originally intended as a Christmas gift to be privately distributed among his relatives and friends. But I hope he won't mind if the rest of us, sci-fi fans and friends, also read and ponder his poem during this Christmas holiday season:

> *Grow me old with grace, Lord, grow me old with grace,* Let my face age, yes, and the flesh moulder, But as I grow older, let my mind be fresh. Let my mind stay root to all the tree; Rainwash me constantly with newer, newest, new. Broom my chimney-flue, sweep the mould, Let me not be old cupped in old. Enough that life should crease, fold or wrinkle; Sprinkle all with your melon dews, dawn showers, Long sunlit hours, bright starts with no ends; Whatever sends the shoot upsurge from root – Let that be mine. No soot, please, God no soot; No clinkered meteor dross-piles. Let hearthing heart, soul's fire-grate Accumulate no dires, dreads, doubts that soon or late Will misappreciate our being, Or mortar up the inner walls of seeing. I must see. So, let be! Where I may choose to stay let that be my place, Erase its evil, free me from my fort, That dark resort where venom curdles cream. Let my dream seem better than it is, for survival's sake; Where the fox slakes sweetly, let me bend with beast To sluice a feast of cool, calm, noonless blood. Heal every wound and scar. Each cut, unkind, erase. Efface, uproot, cast out all envy, doubt. Let me not curse the dreamless ones who curse. Rehearse me. Lord.

So when the green goes forth with an autumn face, Let it have grace, teach me that good grace. And in the midst of a final living Teach me to forgive myself for not forgiving.

> A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all, Pastor Mark



ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education is pausing Rev. Debra's Sunday morning class until January. **Watch for information on upcoming classes this winter**

Enjoy the holidays!

Rev. Debra Juarez Associate Pastor Green Mountain UMC

Email: <u>debra.@gmumc.com</u> Cell: (303) 570-5180



Welcome to our new Office Manager Mary Watson

Please stop by the office and introduce yourself.







NEW MEETING PLACE: Le Peep Union Blvd – Lakewood

141 Union Blvd, #101 (just a bit South of the Wells Fargo Bank Bldg.)

Lakewood, CO 80228

Please join us at our Green Mountain UWFAITH monthly breakfast meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3rd at Le Peep Restaurant, 141 Union Blvd #101. We will meet in their separate meeting room.

UWFAITH's motto - We believe love in action can change the world



For more information Brenda Bronson at 303.941.7634 or brendabronsonfpe@gmail.com

Green Mountain UWFAITH Candlelight Dinner



Fundraiser for our UWFAITH Missions Giving, which supports missions worldwide More Details to Follow!



I hope that you've enjoyed your various Dinner for 8 Groups this year. I'll be working on the **Winter Jan-April '24** Groups starting the week of Dec **26**th, this process takes time to do. If you would like to come back, or take a break, or leave **DINNER for 8**, please let I me know directly. Thank you.

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 7 or 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 towards the end of the evening. It is a great way to possibly try new cuisines or suggest your favorite & 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 trying it out / joining **Dinner for 8** now or you have questions about what we do or how it works, contact, **Darline Bowland** at darlinebowland@gmail.com or 303-987-1219, or you can talk to me at church.

Thank you, Darline Bowland

BOBBI'S BLESSING BOX



Here is a list of items that seem to be favorites:

Macaroni and Cheese

Peanut Butter

Soups – condensed and regular

Dry Pasta

Spaghetti Sauce

Meats in a Can – Sloppy Joes, Manwich, Spaghetti & Meatballs,

Ravioli

Rice

Beans – dry, canned, refried

Canned Vegetables – favorites: Green Beans, Corn, Tomatoes,

Potatoes

Packets of Meals – Au Gratin Potatoes, Stroganoff, Hamburger

Helper. Skillet Meals

Ramen/Cup o Noodles

Canned/Packets Meats - Tuna,

Chicken Crackers (any type)

Cereal

Oats

Milk – Dry or in a Carton (refrigerate after opening)

Flour

Coffee

Tea

Salt, Pepper, Seasoning Packets

Salad Dressing

BBQ Sauce

Snacks – single serving crackers, fruit snacks, popcorn,

pudding, Jell-O gelatin and candy

Thank you, Donna Bunger



Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Green Mountain United Methodist Church SPRC Committee

Chairperson: Alex Thomas

SPRC Liaisons:

Mary Watson and Cheryl Dial

Kim Myers and Alex Neve

James O'Toole

Cheri Werkhoven

Janet Starkey

Melissa Sussman and Bill Loper

Alex Thomas

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Your consideration and participation would be greatly appreciated:

Our Church is in need of the following position for next year:

Chair of the Worship Committee

Please prayerfully consider your gifts and talents, and how you might help serve in 2024. For more info, contact Pastor Mark @ mark@gmumc.com or 303.987.3727.

Thank You



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.







Bellissimo Handbell Group

The Bellissimo handbell group is looking for some new ringers. No experience needed, as Janet will teach you everything you need to know. We are a fun-loving group and play for the congregation several times a year. We rehearse every Thursday from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm. If you are interested, or would like to know more, just contact Janet at 303-518-3924, or <u>janetstarkey27@comcast.net</u>. Or just show up on Thursday.

We are so happy to have everyone visiting in the Gathering Place after church on Sundays. Many people have been so generous with their time and talents in providing the snacks. The money collected in the offering basket on the serving counter is used for basic supplies, such as tea, coffee, hot chocolate, paper and plastic products and additional snacks as needed.

Contact Marilyn Griebel if you want to provide snacks and don't forget the offering basket. It's a great way to promote fellowship within our church.

Thank you.

Marilyn Griebel, margriebel@yahoo.com/(970) 729-0712



The Gathering Place

There are many opportunities to be of service to others through our church activities. People are needed and invited to join the choir, to usher and greet on Sundays, help with pot lucks and receptions, help host the after church coffee hour.

Volunteers may be called to serve a meal to someone in need, to transport someone to a vital appointment or make phone calls to new people or shut ins. It is a great way to meet new people and help others.

If you would like to have more information about something that interests you, please get in touch with one of the following:

Mary Watson – Church Office Manager – 303-989-3727

Mary Bloomstran Thomas – Outreach Committee, 303-263-2906 or Mary Jane Eddy-Scott, Lay Leader. 540-538-1133

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Action Center Donations and Volunteer Opportunities



New Care Team Update:

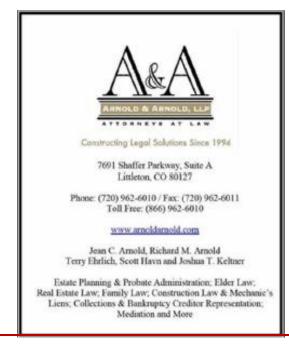
We currently have about a dozen folks on the team and there is always room for more.

As a community that cares for one another with our prayers on Sunday mornings, we'd like to be more organized in how we follow up with the people we lift up in prayer. Our thought is that members of this team would be in touch with folks to check on how they are doing, what they might need, meals, visits, rides to doctors' appointments and other needs. The team might then coordinate with the pastors and others to help meet these needs. We are called to visit the sick and help the needy, but it's not always helpful if everyone visits someone who is recovering. On the other hand, if we all assume someone else is checking up on each other, people might fall through the cracks. We've had about a dozen folks sign up so far indicate they'd be interested in serving. If you'd like to know more about this team or get involved, contact Rev. Debra at debra@gmumc.com or 303-570-5180 and help us get started.

We will be meeting again on January 8th after worship in the Fireside Room.



Thank you to all who helped get our Chrismon tree up and decorated for our Advent Season.



King Soopers Community Rewards



As many of you know King Soopers has ended its gift card program. In its place, they have initiated the Community Rewards Program. This is a just a reminder for those of you who need to link their SooperCard, so that the church will still be getting money for your shopping at King Soopers

You will need to create a digital account by going to www.KingSoopers.com/CommunityRewards.

You will then select **Create an Account**. Under sign-in information, enter your email and create a password (write down your password, you will need it in step 2). Select 'Use Card Number' and enter your SooperCard Number or Alternate ID, last name, and zip code. Under 'Select your Store,' enter your zip code and then select 'Find Stores.' Choose your store and then select 'Create Account.' Once you get the welcome email, then you can go back in clicking on the link in the email and finish creating your account.

Church Directory



GMUMC Online Directory

There are two ways to access the church online directory with pictures of members, their phone numbers, and emails. The church office will need to have put your information into the directory in order for you to open and use directory.

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Here are the two methods.

- 1. Go to the church website, <u>gmumc.com</u>, and click on "directory" which is on the bottom bar of the home page. You may either download or open the directory. You will need the church password, so call the church office at 303-989-3727 to obtain the directory password.
- 2. Download the app on your smart phone or tablet: Instant Church Directory by Communication Resources (a yellow church icon). The app will ask for your email address (which must be in the directory), and then you can set a password. You can get the app on Google play, the Kindle store, or the Apple store

LifeSpark Cancer Resources

LifeSpark Cancer Resources is a Colorado non-profit organization that uses Reiki and Healing Touch wellness therapies to bring peace and healing to individuals with cancer. Sessions are offered at partner locations including hospitals, spas, and churches, as well as remote locations. For many years Green Mtn. UMC has hosted LifeSpark massage sessions in a room opposite the church nursery in the lower west building.

How LifeSpark Sessions Work:

- *LifeSpark* wellness therapies promote peace and healing on all levels.
- Adults 18 and over with cancer are eligible: any type or stage of cancer.
- Receive 8 weeks of healing sessions, scheduled at a time convenient for you.
- You'll be matched with an experienced healing touch or Reiki provider.
- Caregivers are eligible (family members who take care of a cancer patient)
- *LifeSpark* is a free program.
- *LifeSpark* sessions last about an hour.
- LifeSpark sessions do not replace medical care, but rather support you during and after cancer treatment.

Contact LifeSpark at 303-425-5670 to schedule sessions.

LIFESPARKNOW.ORG



Outreach Prayer Shawl Ministry now has nine church members making the prayer shawls. If you know of someone in cancer treatment or experiencing grief, or any other situation, please contact Mary Bloomstran (303) 263-2906, and we will provide a prayer shawl.



News from the Cedar Hill Community Garden -

The garden is part of Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) community gardens.

Note: Our garden is asleep for the winter. The garden is always unlocked so feel free to visit at any time.

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

Eagle Project Installation of memorial and paver bricks; improve paths and fall clean up of the garden. Thank you to Jackson Burford, with Boy Scout Troop 989, and our contractor Javier Compos, who installed the bricks under the shade pergola in November 2023. Those not installing the bricks improved the paths and cleaned up the garden and prepared all the greens for composting.

Pictures of the completed project appear below. After the installation of the bricks we found that we were missing three bricks that had been ordered. PolarEngraving is manufacturing them and anticipates shipping in December. We'll install the three missing bricks in the spring once the ground thaws.

What we need:

- Garden tools If new garden tools were on your Christmas list, consider donating your old tools. Any extra tools will be donated to DUG for other Community Gardens.
- **New Wheel Barrow.** The old one wheelbarrows could not be repaired. We will be using money donated to the garden by the Eric McLean family plus some additional memorials money to buy a new wheelbarrow in the spring. Thank you, McLean family.
- **Pitch Forks.** Our used one broke at the end of the season. We use pitch forks to turn the compost. If you have a good pitch fork you're not using, consider donating it to the garden. We need two.
- **Heavy-duty Shears.** We need two sets of heavy-duty shears (long blades) for chopping up greens and browns for compost into 2" pieces. Our current one is just about at the end of its life. It was donated in 2020 and has seen some hard use during four growing seasons.
- **Brick rubber hammer.** As we continue to install memorial bricks into the future, we need a rubber hammer to "seat" the future bricks.
- **Donations for scholarship plots.** Two of the plots in the garden are scholarship plots. Thank you for your 2022 donations making these plots possible for gardeners in 2023. The cost to support a scholarship plot is \$50 / plot.

Garden plots. If you would like a garden plot for the 2024 growing season, please contact co-garden leader **Ali Young** (mustang.ali@hotmail.com) to be added to the list. We anticipate having 2-3 plots open up this spring. Once the wait list reaches 10 people, we will close the list until the 2025 growing season.



Children's Department News January 2024

We purchased \$350 worth of toys using the money we earned from the Sept. Craft Fair Bake Sale to purchase toys for Foothills Elementary Holiday Shop.

Dec. 24th We will have Sunday School as usual at the 10:30 am service. Christmas Eve service will be at 4pm (no Sunday School during this service). Childcare (under 3 years old)will be available at both services in the nursery.

Dec. 31st We will celebrate the New Year by wearing Pajamas to church. The congregation is welcome to join us. We will be watching "The Star" and enjoying snacks.

Jan 7th We will celebrate Epiphany during Children's Time with the Three Wise Men. During Sunday School we will finish watching "The Star" and have a discussion.



Jan. 14th, 21st and 28th we will learn about Jesus early years.

New Year's Resolutions are hard to keep. One of the greatest gifts we give is the "Gift of Time" whether it be for ourselves or others. I challenge everyone to spend an extra 10 minutes every day (or more) sharing GOD love with others Read a book with a child, call a friend, enjoy a beautiful sunrise, wish someone a good day, count our blessings.

If you have any questions or need more information about the Children's Department please contact <u>Kim Mvers</u> at kim@gmumc or 720-810-2157

Kim Myers, Director Children's Department



GMUMC - January 2024 Grades 6 – 12

Sun, Jan. 7th

Balancing Old & New

10:15 - 11:30 AM

Ready for a fresh start? Starting a new year always feels like a new beginning. We set new goals, yet we go through these routines every year and this process is familiar. How does life present us with new and unique experiences while creating patterns and consistency? Let's take a look at the old and new rhythms of life today.

Sun, Jan, 14th

Painting & Games

10:15 - 11:30 AM

Let's start the year off with some chill activities! If you haven't finished your canvas, this is a great opportunity to paint. Leave your mark on the Youth Room with your legacy masterpiece. If you have finished your canvas, we will play some card and board games today.

Sun., Jan. 21st

Uncertain Future

10:15 - 11:30 AM

Ever worry about the future? Wonder how things will look or what will happen down the road? Today is all about how we deal with concerns about an uncertain future. Join us for the convo.

Sun., Jan. 28th

Game Day

10:15 - 11:30 AM

Are you ready for some fun? With a mix of new and old, active and chill, today's games will be a blast! Friends are always welcome.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb. 4th - Romantic Love Program
Feb. 11th - Possible Chili Cook-off

Feb. 18th - Presidents' Day weekend Feb. 25th - Self Control Program

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





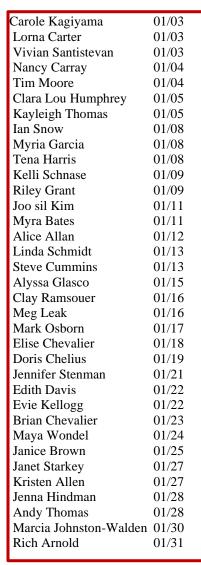














Steve Cummins & Mary Beth Taylor Glen & Mary McLaughlin

01/18 01/28

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, MEG.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 17 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

We appreciate you L all you've done for us. Enjoy the next adventure on your life's journey. We will miss you but wish you GODSPEED♥



To view photos of Meg's retirement celebration click here:

<u>Photos Meg's Retirement Celebration</u>

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:

Bobby Clark, cousin of Bill Loper Carolynn Fox Carolyn Wrapp Ruth Cook Gary Wilson

Those experiencing health concerns or other difficulties in their lives:

Church Members:

Betty Walker Phyllis Wittrup Jean Dinwiddie Ima Jean McKenna Patrick Sullivan Frank Penn Lettie Covert

Family of Church Members:

Ken Sullivan, Patrick Sullivan's dad Alex Seip, Anna Myers' nephew Marge Childers, Roxanne Penn's sister Patti Sundberg, Patrick Sullivan's girlfriend Keith Haemmelmann, Chuck Thorman's son-in-law

Friends of Church Members

Jane Tallerday, friend of MaryJane Eddy-Scott Doug Dalton, friend of Donna Bunger James Grisson, by Donna Bunger

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

Cherie Williams, friend of Jean
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
Reverend 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
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

Renee Parkhurst, neighbor of Madelene & Charles Vestal

Virginia Sorenson, sister-in-law of Frank & Roxanne Penn

PLEASE NOTE:

Names will remain on the Prayer List 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, his/her name will be added to the Long-Term Prayer List that is published in the church bulletin.

Prayers for those serving in the military, their families and all first responders and their families.



| ATTENDANCE | | | | |
|------------|-------|--|--|--|
| DATE | TOTAL | | | |
| 11/26 | 80 | | | |
| 12/03 | 83 | | | |
| 12/10 | 81 | | | |
| 12/17 | 140 | | | |



JANUARY 2024



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|--|-----|-------------------|
| | Happy New Year Office Closed | 2 | 9:00 a.m. GMUWFAITH Breakfast Meeting LePeep – Lakewood | 4 | 5 | 6 Epiphany |
| 7 Epiphany Sunday 10:15a.m. – 11:30am. Youth Group 10:30 a.m. Worship | 7:00 Committee Meetings 7:30 p.m. AA | 9 10:00 a.m. Bible Study | 10 | 9:30 a.m. Quilts for Kids 5:30 p.m. Bellissimo Bells 6:30 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir | 12 | 13 |
| 10:15a.m. – 11:30am. Youth Group 10:30 a.m. Worship | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting | 16 10:00 a.m. Bible Study | 10:00 a.m. Shared Journey | 9:30 a.m. Quilts for Kids 5:30 p.m. Bellissimo Bells 6:30 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir | 19 | 20 |
| 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. Youth Group 10:30 a.m. Worship Newsletter Articles Due For January | 7:30 p.m. AA | 10:00 a.m. Bible Study | 24 | 9:30 a.m. Quilts for Kids 5:30 p.m. Bellissimo Bells 6:30 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. Youth Group 10:30 a.m. Worship | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |