



Chicken Noodle Soup and Bazaar



Welcome Jenny Rousell

About 120 boxes were filled with fixin's and a grocery gift card for Thanksgiving.

The annual Holiday Food Basket event was a great success thanks to our very own Mike McWilliam, a handful of inmates and many more wonderful volunteers! Linda Wasser, Eleno Velez and Louise Carter coordinated and directed the event.

Molly Fiore, our guest speaker on Sunday, November 19th, spoke about the tragedies and blessings in her life. She helps members of the community with depression and suicide issues. Her book is entitled



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

☞ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☜

December

- (2) Christmas on Broadway
- (3) Advent begins
- (9) UMW Brunch
Diane Holmes house, 10am
- (10) Annual Christmas Program (Church 10am)
- (10) Parsonage Christmas Party (12-3pm)
- (11) Ad Council meeting (church basement, 7pm)
- (13) Women's Book Club (Parsonage, 6:30)
- (18-23) The Labyrinth (See article for details)
- (24) Christmas Eve (10:00 am, 4:30, 8:00pm)



- (25) Simple Supper

UMC of Eagle Valley
(333 2nd Street)

Worship
(10:00 am - 11:00)

- **Simple Supper**
Monday (6:00-7:00)

- **Food Pantry**
Monday (5:30 - 7:00)
Tuesday (10 - 12)
Thursday (12 - 2)

Pastor's Corner

☜ Pastor Sid Spain

Pastor's Corner

As winter strengthens its grip in the north, our ancient memory tells us it is time to slow down. The land lies dormant, the river freezes, clouds hang pendulously gray for days at a time. Creation invites us to ease up, to give our minds and bodies time to rest.

Of course we know that the exact opposite happens in our western civilization Decembers. Things don't slow down; they accelerate. No month in the year is busier than December. No month comes close. Small wonder we are so stressed, distressed and depressed as a culture. We really do miss the reason for the season.

No wonder our society is so out of sorts, so broken. God calls us to Sabbath rest every week *and* every year. The earth cries out for us to tarry for a while. It is dark outside and cold; could there be a clearer invitation to slow down and rest? But we don't slow down and we don't rest. In December we shop more, we host and attend more parties, we decorate more, we bake more, we take more short, quick trips—until we are exhausted with it all. It's fine to shop a little, party time with friends and colleagues is a good thing, we all love the colors and cookie smells of Christmas, but every December we try to do too much—and too much of any good thing is a bad thing—and where does the time go?

Richard Rohr says this about *time* in our affluent, hectic, helter-skelter lives.

Time is exactly what we do not have. What decreases in a culture of affluence is precisely and strangely time—along with wisdom and friendship. These are the very things that the human heart was created for, that the human heart feeds on and lives for. No wonder we are producing so many depressed, unhealthy and even violent people, while also leaving a huge carbon footprint on this poor planet.

Imagine with me. Imagine a quiet winter evening at home—read a book and enjoy the silent, lovely presence of loved ones—maybe a leisurely game of cards or cribbage, scrabble or clue. Scatter the pieces of a puzzle over a cardboard table and linger over it a few minutes every day. Watch as order emerges from chaos. Okay, go ahead and bake and decorate a batch of cookies. Go slowly; take time to breathe. Pause to pray; pause simply to rest in God's presence. Breathe.

We need to listen for the voice of winter wind in the trees, the voice of silent darkness in the evening, the voice of our earth home as it yawns in slumber, for the still, small voice of God whispering to us in a thousand ways. Listen, slow down, rest, and breathe. This season make time for the Spirit of Jesus; make time for rest, peace, wisdom and friendship.





Thoughts to Ponder

The saint who thinks he casts no shadow is very dangerous. That is why, traditionally, the two marks of the saint are joy and penitence.

It has been said that heaven is complete unity in unimaginable diversity.

~~~Alan Jones, *Soul Making: The Desert Way of Spirituality*

### Scriptures for December

- (3) Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:5-19
- (10) Malachi 3:1-4; Matthew 24:36-44
- (17) Zephaniah 3:14-20; Mark 13:24-37
- (24) Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55
- (24) **Christmas Eve**—Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
- (31) Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

### Parsonage Christmas Party

The annual parsonage Christmas party will Sunday afternoon, 10 December, from 12:00 to 3:00. Come hungry and enjoy a good time with a remarkable group of people from the church and our extended community of friends.

### Advent and Christmas

**Advent** begins on Sunday 3 December. That means the last Sunday of Advent is **Christmas Eve** this year. Consequently, we will celebrate Advent at our customary worship service at 10:00, and light our Christmas Eve candles and sing Christmas carols at 4:30 and 8:00 that evening. The early service will be especially for families—we celebrate the excitement and energy of our children. The later service will be more serene, more akin to and reminiscent of *Silent Night*.

Although there will be no worship service on Christmas Day, we will serve a **Christmas Day Simple Supper** that evening. Expect Christmas music and a Christmas reflection. We're asking our regular diners to let us know if they are coming. You are welcome to join us—just let us know you plan to be there.

### The Labyrinth

*The labyrinth dates back thousands of years.*

*No one knows who created any of the labyrinth forms,*

*but we do know from experience that embedded within each design*

*is a pattern that somehow quiets our deep inner being so we can hear our own wisdom and the wisdom attempting to reach us.*

*Chartres Cathedral, an hour south of Paris, houses what is perhaps the world's best-known labyrinth.*

*Labyrinths are not mazes. Mazes are designed to make us lose our way.*

*Labyrinths have the exact opposite purpose: they are designed to help us find our way. It seems that through the beautiful flow of sacred patterns,*

*labyrinths help us ground ourselves.*

(Adapted from *The Sand Labyrinth* by Lauren Artress)

Our labyrinth will available in the new hall from Monday, 18 December through Saturday morning, 23 December. The stairway door (next to the front office door) will be open from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. On Saturday the door will open from 8:00 to noon. Make time during the week before Christmas to rest your body and your soul, to pray, meditate and reflect on the love of God and the many comings of Christ in your life. Prepare your soul and your spirit to celebrate Christ's birth.

### Advent Devotionals

We have three Advent devotional books this year. *Jesus: God's Promise* for adults is inspired by the writings of Henri Nouwen; *The Act of Advent* is for teens and young adults; *Angels We Have Heard on High* is a "sticker journey through Advent" for our children. *Angels* comes with a Bethlehem scene ready for the daily sticker. Everything will be available Sunday 3 December. Please contact the office or Pastor Sid if you will not be at church next week. Plan a quiet time every day to use these books, to read and pray an Advent thought—by yourself, with your family, or with a friend. Prepare the way of the Lord into your heart.

### Christmas on Broadway

We still need a few people to help with Christmas on Broadway on Saturday, 2 December. We will decorate the float in the church parking lot at 2:00 that afternoon. Members of the Nativity will meet at the church at 4:30 (time to dress and get on the float). We need people to help us prepare the scene in the park (arrange hay bales and set up the sound system). We need a few hands to clear the park (load the hay bales and sound system back on the truck and unload at the church); un-decorate the truck at the church. We're looking for drivers, and would like to make a list of available flatbed trucks. Contact Pastor Sid to help (970-376-1688). For the soup we need four large coolers, two people to deliver from the church to Batson's, one more server on Broadway, and two or three stalwart souls to clean up everything at the church at the end of the evening. Contact Louise at the church office if you can help in any way.

### UMC of Eagle Valley Annual Christmas Program

Sunday, December 10th, 10am



The Gifts of Christmas written by The Skit Guys, performed by the UMC/First Lutheran combined Youth Group, musical selections by the children of UMC and the adult choir directed by Kalista Farmer and Cynthia Sibley.

Join us for a special fellowship following the performance.

### United Methodist Women's Brunch



Our Christmas Brunch will be Saturday, 9 December, beginning at 10:00. Diane Holmes is graciously hosting us this year at her home, 472 Harrier Circle in Eagle. Diane is providing everything for the brunch so please RSVP with her (970-306-9456) or with Cindy Walker (860-235-5105). Bring a gift under \$20 to exchange.

### Women's Book Club



The next meeting will be Wednesday evening, December 13th, 6:30 at the parsonage (0211 Golden Eagle Drive). December's book is *A Christmas Carol*, by Dickens. Please bring a light appetizer to share. December is also the month that the ladies exchange gifts. Gift should be of \$20 value or less. Enjoy the book and come ready to share your thoughts. If you don't have time to read the book, plan on coming anyway. Call Robyn Spain for more information (303) 903-8249.



### Charge Conference

Churches from Eagle, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Aspen, Rifle and Meeker will join together for a combined Charge Conference this year. District Superintendent Marv Vose will preside at the conference. We will meet at the Methodist Church in Glenwood Springs. Mark the time and date: we will begin at 2:00, Sunday afternoon, 7 January 2018.



- 12-03. Misty Clark
- 12-04. Maria Crabb
- 12-05. David Metz
- 12-06. Audrey Anzalone
- 12-09. Bob Holmes
- 12-11. Maddox Rose
- 12-12. Kathy Devlin
- 12-13. Barbara Ann Fischer
- 12-13. Kalinda Karbasi
- 12-14. Moria Horn
- 12-15. Louise Carter
- 12-15. Susan Crawford
- 12-19. Jaden Pope
- 12-21. Ed Arnold
- 12-21. Zak Cossette
- 12-22. Diane Barker
- 12-23. Vanie Habiger
- 12-26. Stephen Anzalone
- 12-26. Tonya Farmer
- 12-26. Johanna Jensen
- 12-28. Miriam Karbasi
- 12-29. Neal Harper
- 12-29. Jessica Hartley