



January

(5) UMW *First Friday Luncheon*
(Grand Ave, noon)

(7) Epiphany Sunday

(7) Charge conference
(Glenwood Springs, 2:00 pm)

(14) Human Relations Sunday
(Special offering)

(24) Women's Book Club
(Parsonage, 211 Golden Eagle, 6:30 pm)

Pastor's Corner ☜ Pastor Sid Spain

Pastor's Corner

Another new year offers us the lavish gifts of minutes and hours, days and weeks—*time* to live, *time* to join God's conspiracy of Big Love. A wonderful thing about God's big conspiracy is that it doesn't require a big agenda or a sizable distraction from the inevitable demands and expectations of our daily living.

There *are* times to commit ourselves to special ministries—teach our children a simple lesson on Sunday morning, fix something at the church or repair a broken step at an elder's home, make a salad for Simple Supper, visit a sick neighbor, make a little more time to pray for the homeless or the hungry, for refugees and immigrants, for victims of violence or natural disaster, tutor a struggling student, give something extra in our worship offering. There are always opportunities for dedicated acts of ministry, mercy and justice. But we can be part of the conspiracy all the time. God's love isn't spread and shared only in the moments we call "ministry." We can be subversives for love in every moment. A genuine smile, a thoughtful greeting, a sincere "How are you?" can be shivers of light into the gloom of another person's secret struggle. *Being there* wherever we are is a ready opportunity for God to reach out and touch.

What we choose to do with our time matters, but even more important than what we do is how we do it. Our Methodist Church gave us a good gift many years ago, a gift of identity in a few fathomless words—*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*. Those are big words for a conspiratorial vision, words that can fuel a dynamic, ever-expanding understanding of who we are *and* who we believe God is and what we think God is doing.

I remember the title of a book I almost read in the 60's: *Your God is Too Small* by J. B. Phillips. The title is enough for now, enough to consider how we are going to live in 2018. In his book, *Barking to the Choir*, Gregory Boyle challenges us to open our minds to more about God.

*"It is our human occupational hazard to settle for little.
We settle for purity and piety when we are being invited to an exquisite holiness.
We settle for the fear-driven when love longs to be our engine.
We settle for a puny, vindictive God when we are being nudged always closer to
this wildly inclusive, larger-than-any-life God."*

The pages of the book entitled *2018* are blank now. We start writing our story and our part in God's story the moment we wake from sleep on the first of January. The wild Spirit of God invites us to join the conspiracy, to become part of "something wildly subversive and new." (Boyle)

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)



Thoughts to Ponder

In response to an American religious leader's contention that "secular culture" would always be "hostile" to Christianity, Gregory Boyle writes:

*I don't believe this is true.
Our culture is hostile only to the inauthentic living of the gospel.
It sniffs out hypocrisy everywhere and knows when Christians aren't taking seriously what Jesus took seriously.
It is, by and large, hostile to the right things.
It actually longs to embrace the gospel of inclusion and nonviolence,
of compassionate love and acceptance.
Even atheists cherish such a prospect.*

~~Gregory Boyle (S. J.)~~
Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship

Worship Volunteers

Since we are approaching a new year we figure it's a good time to remind our congregation that worship volunteers are needed every Sunday.

Sunday worship Lay ministry begins with greeting and handing out the bulletins (Greeter/Usher), ringing the church bell and lighting the altar candles (Acolyte). The liturgist reads the scriptures, and a person or family hosts after service refreshments (Fellowship hosts). These Lay minister duties are shared with other members of the congregation so don't feel like you would be stuck doing it every time. Obviously, the more folks that sign up the less times *you* will be asked to. If everyone/family would participate, it would be only once in the whole year that you will need to fulfill your worship ministry.

Please contact the following leaders to sign you up:

Greeter/Usher—Cindy Walker (cwalkart@gmail.com)
Liturgist—Bill Walker (bill-walker@comcast.net)
Fellowship host—Louise Carter (office@umcofegalevalley.org)
Acolyte, Bell ringer—Cynthia Sibley (children@umcofegalevalley.org)



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. Carpooling suggested.



Scriptures for January

- (7) Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
- (14) 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
- (21) Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
- (28) Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



Christmas on Broadway

This year's Christmas on Broadway was a tremendous success. Once again our float and live Nativity in the park elicited the out-loud enthusiasm of the people lining the street and making their way to the bonfire. The children were especially touched by the idea of the baby in the manger. Chicken noodles, chicken noodles, chicken noodles—always a favorite and this year more people than ever spooned their savory way down Broadway from Batson's. We thank the Batson family for their generosity in providing the noodles free to the town. And we thank all of you who played any role in our outreach celebration with our neighbors. It truly takes a village—or a devoted community of faith. God bless you all!

United Methodist Women



The next First Friday Lunch will be Friday, January 5, at the Grand Avenue Grill, on Highway 6 in Eagle, at 12:00 noon. The signup sheet is on the table by the stairs in the foyer. Please put a star by your name if you need a ride or call me, Mary Arnold at 347-7627.

Women's Book Club



The next meeting will be Wednesday evening, January 24th, 6:30 at the parsonage (0211 Golden Eagle Drive). January's book is *Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino*, by Joyce Rupp.

Please bring a light appetizer to share. If you don't have time to read the book, plan on coming anyway. Call Robyn for more info (303) 903-8249.



Food Ministries

Simple Supper ~ Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm, church basement fellowship hall.

We continue to open our doors to the community for a complete and warm meal. Christmas fell on Monday this year and yes, a handful of volunteers came to make Christmas dinner special. There were 56 guests, including volunteers. Presents were handed out to the kids. All were Merry!

Food Pantry ~ Mondays 5:30-7:00 pm, Tuesdays 10:00 am-noon, Thursdays noon—2:00 pm, basement fellowship hall.

The food pantry continues to receive food donations from Salvation Army, Costco, City Market, Loaf N Jug and other local stores. The Rose Foundation continues their regular monetary donations as well. This Christmas the Rose Foundation donated \$2500 to buy Christmas dinner fixin's for the recipients of the food pantry. We bought hams, potatoes, green beans, bags of cuties and more from the local City Market. Come on in if you need a little assistance with your grocery list. We help everyone!
Contact Linda Wasser (eaglefoodpantry@gmail.com) if you wish to volunteer.

- 1/02. Lina Plymell
- 1/02. Denny Spain
- 1/05. Madeline Lounsberry
- 1/05. Tage TerBush
- 1/06. Ruth Casey
- 1/07. Kezie Lujan
- 1/07. Pat Quenon
- 1/10. Everett Emrich
- 1/10. Deb Gifford
- 1/11. Margaret Collett
- 1/13. Cary Lee
- 1/15. Trey Kuhn
- 1/16. Rod Carter
- 1/19. Michelle Friedman
- 1/20. Loretta Farmer
- 1/21. Ben Eddings
- 1/22. Christine Allen
- 1/25. Chieko Bishop
- 1/25. Mary Cochran
- 1/28. Jett Pope
- 1/29. Sandy Houghton
- 1/29. Cassidy Kurt
- 1/29. Scott McCorvey