

It was great to join so many of our neighbors for the first annual community dinner on Broadway, sponsored by the Friends of Eagle Colorado.



# United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

☞ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☜

## September

- (3) Labor Day
- (5) Women's Book Club  
(543 McIntire, Eagle, 6:30)
- (7) Women's annual camp  
trip (Yeoman park)
- (9,23) Confirmation class  
(Youth room, 6:00-7:30)
- (16) Laity meeting  
(after worship)
- (22) Noodle Making  
(Basement hall, 9:00am)



UMC  
of Eagle Valley  
(333 2nd Street)

Worship  
(10:00 am - 11:00)

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• Simple Supper  
Monday (6:00-7:00)

• Food Pantry

Monday (5:30 - 7:00)  
Tuesday (10 - 12)  
Thursday (12 - 2)  
Second Saturday (9-11)

## Pastor's Corner

☜ Pastor Sid Spain

### Lectio Divina—An Ancient Way to Read Scripture

I promised to share parts of my "Learning School" journey with you now and then, and I write this article to follow up on something I shared in a sermon last month. Since that morning, several of you have asked me about *Lectio Divina*. You can find many resources online to help you understand this ancient way of reading scripture and other sacred literature—and I encourage you to do so. The following thoughts reflect my practice of this way of divine reading, *one* of the principle ways I read the Bible every week.

*Lectio Divina* or *Divine Reading* is a traditional way to read scripture, meditate and pray. *Lectio Divina* helps us deepen our awareness of the Presence of God and our communion with God. It also increases and deepens our knowledge of God's Word. In divine reading we do not approach sacred Scripture merely as a text to be studied; we open ourselves to Christ, the Living Word, inspired, taught, and experienced by the Holy Spirit.

Traditionally, *Lectio Divina* has four separate steps: First, we **read** the passage—usually three times. The first time we simply read the passage we have chosen, and listen for any word or phrase that stands out to us. The second time we read more slowly and linger with any arresting word, phrase, or thought that rises from our reading. The third time we allow our attention to dwell on that part of the text. Feel free to make notes on what you are thinking. At another time, these thoughts may guide further research, study, or writing.

The second step is to **meditate** on what you have read, to focus on how the passage speaks to you. Sit and let your mind sift and sort your thoughts on the text. Follow the path of your questions and insights.

The third step is to **pray**; take time to articulate your thoughts in prayer to God. The prayer can take any form—a question about what you have read, a prayer of thanksgiving for what you have read, a prayer for yourself or someone else whose name or special need has been sparked by what you have read, a song or verse of praise.

The fourth step is to **contemplate**. In contemplation we try to sit in silence; we ask God to help us still the thoughts and feelings that fill our minds—we sit still, in silence, and simply listen. This is usually the difficult part of *Lectio Divina* for most people—few of us are comfortable with silence, and many of us have a hard time sitting still for any length of time without "doing" something. Be patient with yourself and don't try too hard. This is a place where good intention really counts. However persistent, random and chaotic your mental and physical fidgeting may be, God will honor your desire to experience the Presence of the One in whom we live and move and have our being.

Make the time and find a place to practice *Lectio Divina*. Be deliberate, mark your calendar and set your clock—do it, and stay with it. Over time the practice will change you. *Continue to next page.*



In and through the Word of God the Holy Spirit will transform you more and more into the likeness of God, into the mind and person of Christ.

In the months ahead we will have time to practice *Lectio Divina*, not only individually but also together in small and larger groups. Something very special happens when we read, meditate, pray and contemplate together.

As I said earlier, you can find many resources, books and articles, describing and guiding the practice of *Lectio Divina*. Another explanation or a nuanced difference in its practice may speak to you more clearly than I have. Please do not hesitate to talk to me about this. We will journey together in the way everlasting.

### Confirmation

Mark your *Confirmation* calendars and plan to meet at the church on Sundays 9 and 23 September. We will meet as before, in the youth room from 6:00 to 7:30.



### Women's Book Club

The next meeting will be Wednesday evening, September 5th, 6:30 at the Spain's new house, 543 McIntire. The book is *The Essex Serpent* by Sarah Perry. Please bring a light appetizer to share. If you don't have time to read the book, plan on coming anyway. Call Robyn Spain for questions (303) 903-8249.

### Scriptures for September

(2) Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
(9) Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37  
(16) Isaiah 50:4-9a; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38  
(23) Jeremiah 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37  
(30) Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

### Laity Sunday

Sunday, 21 October, has been designated *Laity Sunday* by the Mountain Sky Conference (formerly the Rocky Mountain Conference). The Conference newsletter identifies that Sunday this way:

*Laity Sunday is a Special Sunday established by the General Conference and scheduled for the third Sunday in October. This day provides a focused opportunity to celebrate the ministry of all Lay Christians.*

An article with a lengthier discussion of possible ways to celebrate Laity Sunday is available on the information table outside the entrance to the sanctuary. Pastor Sid will be recruiting a team of our members to organize, lead, and participate in our worship service on 21 October. Please consider being part of that team—bring your talents and willingness to share your ideas to a meeting following worship on Sunday, 16 September.

### Thoughts to Ponder

*Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and  
teach me:  
for you are God, my savior.*  
~~ Psalm 25  
\* \* \*

**Be still and know I am God.**  
(Silence)

**Be still and know I am.**  
(Silence)

**Be still and know.**  
(Silence)

**Be still.**

(Silence)

**Be.**

(Silence)

~~Psalm 46:10

\* \* \*

*Go out this day and practice God's strange  
generosity to others,  
share the good news of God's astounding love  
with them,  
and rejoice in their wellbeing,  
so that you, too, may be well.*

~~Feasting on the Word  
Liturgies for Year A,  
Volume 2, Proper 20



### Women's Annual Camping Trip

This year's camping trip will be Friday, 7 September, at Yeoman Park.

It is a fun time. The ladies have a potluck on Friday night and a fun-filled breakfast Saturday morning. If you are interested, please RSVP with Robyn by Sunday, 2 September, (303) 903-8249.

**Rainbow Trail/VBS Day Camp** has been a tradition for a number of years here at UMC of Eagle Valley. For those of you who don't know, we hire a group of young college age camp counselors from the Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Salida to come and assist us with our day camp. They bring a great testimonial to our young children and youth, have boundless energy to shepherd our kids, and are masters at camp music and games. We love having them come to join us. With our commitment to hire this group, we also receive curriculum to be used for Bible stories, craft ideas, registration templates and promotional materials. Our churches, and those who partner with us, are in charge of securing the adult and youth volunteers, to provide the decorations, craft, mission, and activity materials, snacks, a program dinner and to house and feed our counselors for the week. It is a monumental effort to organize behind the scenes and so many people contribute to make it a success each year. We hope our church and the others are committed to this concept in the future. And best of all, we reach the children of our congregation as well as many in the community who make our camp a tradition for their family.

This year, following our successful run in August, directed by Jeanine Kenney, we asked for feedback from our families. Here is what they had to say....

- **My kids love their time with you all! Thanks for all you do!**
- **Overall, my kids LOVED the camp. They did not complain at all - except the first morning - they did not want to go. That was it - they never complained after that - and jumped out of bed every morning excited to go. On Saturday morning they were sad it was no longer "Church camp".**
- **Snacks - healthier options than at other camps and my kids were not hungry! My boys in general had a blast last week with all of the games, activities, and singing! The yoga portion was really nice as well...Dinner - such a great idea and makes it easier for working parents to partake.**
- **The kids of course loved it and loved the counselors - also all the middle school and high school kids. [My child] said he is excited to help when he is old enough.**
- **It was all great! I loved the later timing...we are going a little crazy waiting for school to start. My kids loved it and were so excited to talk about what they learned.**
- **We have recently realized how many people have mentioned our youth and the contributions they made to the week of VBS. Parents of our campers and adult volunteers mentioned how much growth they have seen in our youth and how helpful, engaging, and respectful they were. These young people are becoming one of our most valuable assets and we are both proud and thankful for their support this year. They have become role models for our younger children. THANKS!**

Just know that your financial support, both in designated and general giving, and your gift of time help this program to become a reality and insure its success. Our continual thanks!

All the best!

Children's Ministry Partners

Pictures included on insert .



### UMW is seeking a Social Director

Duties include setting up monthly "First Friday Lunches" and quarterly "Ladies Night Out" dinners. If interested please contact Cindy Walker at: [CwalkArt@gmail.com](mailto:CwalkArt@gmail.com) or 860-235-5105. This is an easy job (aprox. two hours a month) and you get to meet and socialize with a fun group of women!

### Happy Birthday !

9-01. Dale Mosier  
9-03. Chris Boyd  
9-03. Klara McCorvey  
9-06. Amy Casey  
9-07. Teri Nelson  
9-08. Elizabeth Basso  
9-09. Gerry Bortz  
9-11. George. McCollum  
9-13. Vince Jones  
9-15. Francis Reynolds  
9-15. Randy Schapiro  
9-16. Claytie Crabb  
9-16. Karen Lee  
9-18. Cate Barney  
9-19. Maureen Henderson  
9-19. Carrie Wild  
9-21. Raenette Johnson  
9-22. Miles Kipp  
9-25. Maya Belback  
9-26. Molly Fiore  
9-26. Robert Habiger  
9-26. Pam Westfall  
9-27. Teegan TerBush  
9-28. Josh Farmer  
9-28. Barbara Meese  
9-28. Michael Pritchard  
9-28. Caitlin Yarger  
9-29. Tom Allen