



February

- (1) UMW First Friday Lunch ~ Noon, Owashi
- (1) Making breakfast burritos (4pm, church basement)
- (2) Snowshoe for Peru!



- (14) Valentines Day
- (17) Boy Scout Sunday will be observed—the Scouts will be the worship servants this day.
- (18) Presidents Day



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

My eighteen-month calendar is open in front of me as I write the column this month. A perennial question gathers a degree of urgency as I look at the closing months of my life in pastoral ministry—over 40 years have passed since I was ordained. The question: *How can I make the most of the days? What are the best ways to spend my time and invest my energy?* It is a perennial question, among many important questions we ask through the years, but one with a special poignancy when we approach the end of a major part of our lives.

The overarching answer is straightforward and simple. In the last months of pastoral ministry I want to stay faithful to my calling. I want to marshal all the lessons I have learned in order to effectively communicate my faith and whatever wisdom I have gained. By the grace of God, I want to continue to learn and grow in wisdom and in standing with God and my neighbor. I want to help you and whomever I meet in the coming days to grow in faith and spiritual vitality. I want all of us to walk closer to God and live profoundly full and meaningful lives—to be more fully alive.

To those ends I will continue to pray and preach, and to spend time with anyone who desires to seek and search for ways to *live Jesus* and continue their spiritual journey with greater intention and good effect. In response to a need identified by our church leaders, I will develop and teach a simple course on what it means to be a Methodist. They tell me such a course will not only be valuable to newcomers and seekers, but also to many who have attended the church for months or even years. *What is it about being a Methodist?*

I am working with some of you to organize what we tentatively call a *Socrates Café*—an effort to reach out to truth-seekers who are not inclined or are even resistant to coming to church. The *Café* meetings will be open to all, but the primary target audience is young professionals, many of whom are busy growing their families and building their careers. We envision the *Café* as a civil, welcoming place to discuss a wide spectrum of ideas; it will not be an overtly or formal religious forum—it *will* be a truth and wisdom-seeking place for searchers of all kinds.

I want to offer a prayer service at the church, perhaps mid-week, a time and place to come share concerns and pray together in a restorative sanctuary where our spirits can find rest and be renewed in God's presence. I envision a simple gathering where we can ask questions, share insights, wrestle with the concerns of the world and our own lives, and encourage each other in ways to take good care of our souls.

Of course, I will continue to invest time in study and my own spiritual growth, and in nurturing my closest loves and relationships, with Robyn and Denny foremost, and with friends and colleagues.

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Pastor's Corner

I want to do more aim-full wandering in the open and wild spaces of the Valley, maybe improve my golf game a stroke or two, day dream some beautiful dreams, maybe help a few lonely or sad souls along the way, and do my small part in making our community and nation better, kinder, more just and virtuous. Ambitious goals? Why not? I ask you to help me write the story of these final months of my professional career—as we all continue to write our chapters in the great story of God's love writ small and large in the lives of people like you and me.

Confirmation Classes

Our confirmation class for 2017-2019 is nearing completion. Seven students, including two from 1st Lutheran in Gypsum, are working on their final projects in anticipation of being confirmed early in April. The class has studied the history, doctrines, and traditions of our Christian faith, and they have regularly shared experiences in contemplative prayer and Bible reading. They have memorized scripture, information on the composition of the Bible, and central doctrines of Christianity. Their final project is to write their own *Credo*, a personal statement of faith. We are reading and discussing tradition creeds (Apostles' and Nicene) and using them as models, but the young people will write their own statements of faith in their own words, emphasizing what they discern to be the essence of their faith in God. How valuable a work would that be for all of us!

Each student knows the decision to be confirmed is his or hers alone. The hopes and commitments of their parents and other family members certainly matter, the words spoken at their baptisms are foremost in our minds, but their decision belongs to them. Please pray for them, one by one and all together: Mariel Belback, Josh Bissett, Scotland Farmer, Hailey Gifford, Jillian Lee, Sammi Boeke, and Jalyne Kirkland.

Scriptures for February

- (3) Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
- (10) Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
- (17) Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
- (24) Genesis 45:3-11, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

Thoughts to Ponder

I don't want to be doomed to mediocrity in my feeling for Christ.

I want to feel.

I want to love.

Take me, dear Lord, and set me in the direction

I am to go.

~~Flannery O' Connor

Love is the highest gift of God.

All of our revelations and gifts are little things compared to love.

There is nothing higher in religion.

If you are looking for anything else, you are looking wide of the mark.

~~John Wesley

Contemplative Studies

Pastor Sid continues his study with the "Learning School" of the *Center for Action and Contemplation* headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He finished his second week in residence at the end of January. The course includes a considerable amount of reading (both ancient and contemporary spiritual works), online lectures, and bi-monthly meeting with a circle group of eight fellow students. The next residential week will be in August. The rigorous program of study and experience concludes in August 2020. We, of course, will hear some of the fruit of the experience in sermons and teachings, and Pastor Sid welcomes any opportunity to talk about this and any other part of our shared spiritual journey.

Looking Ahead

This year Lent begins on March 4th with Ash Wednesday. Palm Sunday is April 14th followed by Holy Week, which leads us once again to our celebration of the Resurrection on Easter April 21st.

Snowshoe for Peru!

Come join Corazon de Esperanza, a local non-profit in support of at risk youth in Peru by snowshoeing in the snowshoe race at Sylvan Lake on Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 9am same-day registration, 10 am race around the lake! Advance Registration of \$30 is on line at www.corazondeesperanza.org. Check out the Facebook page or contact Cynthia for details (970-376-0109). No state park sticker is required for racers and supporters the day of the event.

Our church will be serving breakfast burritos the day of the event. We need help making the burritos starting at 4pm on Friday night, Feb. 1st and serving them on Saturday morning at the lake. This is a great outreach for our church and a way to support projects around the community and world. Come join us!

Women's Book Club



The ladies meet Wednesday, February 20, at 6:30 at 543McIntire Street at the corner of 6th and McIntire in Eagle. This month's book is *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp. Drinks are provided and most participants bring a variety of tasty snacks to share. Read the book (or don't) and come for a lively evening.



First Friday Lunches are back!

All women are invited to join us for a delicious meal and great conversation! This month, February 1, noon, we are meeting at Owashi Restaurant located in downtown Eagle. If you need a ride or have questions please contact Robyn Spain, 303-903-8249 or Sandy VanCampen 970-471-2660.

This month we celebrate 10 years of uninterrupted Simple Suppers! Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this achievement in ministry possible through a decade of faithful giving.



UMCOEV Food Ministries

These are stressful times especially with the Government shut down. Family budgets are taking a punch and food stamp recipients may not get their benefit next month. The United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley Food Ministries are here to help.

The Food Pantry continues to receive generous donations from many organizations and households in the community. We want you to share our ministry to anyone who you think could use some help. There is no reason why anyone should go hungry in this Valley. There is plenty to give. We do not report to the government. Registration is required for statistics and to manage distribution only. Food Pantry hours are on the front page of this newsletter. Don't forget, Simple Supper, (a free hot meal) every Monday evening too. Jamie Bates is the new coordinator for our church! Thanks Jamie!



- 2-01. Ashleigh Kipp
- 2-01. Vivian Kipp
- 2-01. Amy Packer
- 2-02. Sonia Arnold
- 2-02. Marcia Keizer
- 2-03. Steve Johnson
- 2-04. Laura Emrich
- 2-07. Ruth Lenz
- 2-07. George Lewis
- 2-08. Luke Kuhl
- 2-08. Thomas Reynolds
- 2-08. Randall Reynolds
- 2-12. Linda Carr
- 2-13. Justus Johnson
- 2-15. Rick Patriacca
- 2-16. Carrie Cossette
- 2-16. Don Gress
- 2-19. Sandy Anderson
- 2-19. Ian Casey
- 2-19. Norm Drake
- 2-21. Doug Crabb
- 2-21. Avarri Kuhn
- 2-26. Caris Miller
- 2-27. Jade Ann Kenney
- 2-28. Samantha Pritchard