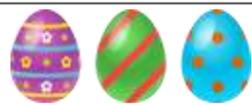


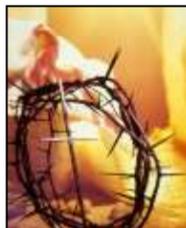
Lent in April

Our last two **Lenten Wednesday** evening meetings are planned for 3 and 10 April. We will finish watching and discussing the Adam Hamilton series on the Apostles' Creed, and will conclude our consideration and practice of several ways to meditate and pray contemplatively. We meet from 6:00 to 7:00.



Easter Sunday Child Care

We will have nursery care for both the 8:00 and 10:00 services on Easter Sunday. There will be Children's Church at the 10:00 service only. If you are interested in helping with this service and our children, contact Deb Gifford at 970-390-5920.



Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, 14 April. We will have services on Holy Thursday (18) beginning at 6:00, Good Friday (19) at noon and 6:00 and a special contemplative experience on Holy Saturday (20) (see companion article). Easter worship services will be at 8:00 and 10:00 on Easter Sunday, 21 April. Invite neighbors and friends to join you for our Resurrection Celebration—just a simple invitation to share in worship, and in the promise and life-giving hope we have in the resurrected Christ.

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is a time in between, in between crucifixion and resurrection—a time, according to the Apostles' Creed, when Jesus "descended to the dead." It is a day we all understand; we have experienced the dim, empty time between desperate disappointment, loss, or death and the reemergence of hope and new life. Holy Saturday is a gift of time to ponder the great dark mystery of our lives. It is an offer of slow time to contemplate the love of God revealed in the radical life and willing dying of Jesus, *and* to consider our own life in God's presence with us even in the valley of the shadow of death.

This Holy Saturday we will set aside a time devoted mostly to silence and contemplation. From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm we will have an opportunity to move between places in the church and its surroundings. The sanctuary will be devoted to silent prayer with occasional, brief thoughts or prayerful suggestions from Pastor Sid. Weather permitting, participants will be encouraged to go for a walk *in prayer*. Walking prayer is a time to walk attentively, carefully observing our surroundings and listening to the conversations of our hearts. Most people think of walking in nature, through the countryside, but walking prayer is also meaningful in urban settings. The key is to look and listen and pray—in silent attentiveness as we walk. The labyrinth will be open in the fellowship hall.

Between 12:00 and 12:30 we will share a simple meal in silence. Soup, bread, and water will be provided.

The youth room will be the exception to silence. Sacred, meditative music will be available in the room, as will simple art materials and coloring pages for creative, focused prayer. We will have an opportunity to color or prepared pages *and/or* create and color our own works such as free-hand mandalas. Feel free to bring your own materials.

Members of the church, invited guests, and anyone in the community are welcome to join us. Come for the entire time or any part; come to pray, walk the labyrinth, sit with sacred music—come to share soup in silence. Come with simple expectations, open to whatever the Holy Spirit may have in store for you.



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

☞ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☜

Pastor's Corner

☜ Pastor Sid Spain



(1-5) Church office is closed

(7) Confirmation

(8) Ad Council

(1, 8, 15) Lenten Study
(fellowship hall, 6:30 pm)

(3, 10) Lenten Service
(fellowship hall, 6:00 pm)

(5) UMW *First Friday*
Lunch
(Gypsum Creek Golf Course, 1:00)

(14-20) Holy Week Services

(Maundy Thursday, 6:00 pm)
(Good Friday, noon & 6:00 pm)
(Holy Saturday, 10:00—2:00)

(17) Women's Book Club
(Spain's home, 6:30)

(21) **Easter Sunday**

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)

I am blessed to have a circle of friends who love good books—books that cross the spectrum of genres. Swapping reviews and recommendations is one of our favorite games to play. My fiction predisposition is for works of mystery and intrigue. I have friends (and a son) who gravitate to science fiction and fantasy. We all seem to love historical fiction. Our nonfiction preferences vary as well, but we enjoy well-written, fast-moving biographies. Some of us keep books of poetry close at hand, from Mary Oliver to George Herbert, T. S. Eliot to Rumi.

A few friends always include serious theological works on their list of must-reads, but all of us celebrate finding rich, readable spiritual works. All of us have writers like Annie Dillard, Anne Lamott, Henri Nouwen, Richard Rohr (maybe not *always* easy to read), Philip Newell, and Thomas Merton on our bookshelves. Some of us include works by the great thinkers and mystics of the past—Teresa of Avila, Pierre de Chardin, Bonaventure, Julian of Norwich, Francis of Assisi, John Wesley. We still regularly and religiously read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—and Paul, the Psalms, Isaiah and others.

I am endlessly intrigued and blessed by the wealth of talent I encounter in the books I read. We truly are fearfully and wonderfully made, and the range of inspiring creativity God has loosed on the world is breathtaking. The best of such gifts come from the heart and penetrate straight to the heart. The best speak to the light we know and to the inevitable darkness we experience.

A couple years ago, a good friend recommended writer and poet John O'Donohue to me. Last week I was reading one of his poems entitled *For Failure* and I thought of *us*—you and me and our experiences of the universal certainty of failure. Here is an excerpt from John's poem.

*But the light that comes after rain
Is always fierce and clear,
And illuminates the face of everything
Through the transparency of rain.*

*Despite the initial darkening,
This is the light that failure casts.
Beholden no more to the promise
Of what dream and work would bring.
It shows where roots have withered
And where the source has gone dry.*

*The light of failure has no mercy
On the affections of the heart;
It emerges from beyond the personal,
A wiry, forthright light that likes to see crevices
Open in the shell of a controlled life.*

(Continued on next page)



Pastor's Corner

*Though cruel now, it serves a deeper kindness,
Wise to the larger call of growth.
It invites us to humility
And the painstaking work of acceptance*

*So that one day we may look back
In recognition and appreciation
At the disappointment we now endure.*

***“The light that failure casts . . .
serves a deeper kindness . . .
a larger call of growth . . .
invites us to humility . . .
so that one day we may look back
in recognition and appreciation at the
disappointment we now endure.”***

God truly loves us every moment, is always with us—rain or shine—but God plays the long game for the salvation of our souls—using even cruel failure to bless us.

Thoughts to Ponder

*When you pray, you open yourself to the influence of the Power which has revealed itself as Love.
The Power gives you freedom and independence.
Once touched by this Power, you are no longer swayed back and forth by the countless opinions, ideas and feelings which flow through you.
You have found a center for your life that gives you a creative distance so that everything you see, hear and feel can be tested against the source.*

~~Henri J. M. Nouwen, *With Open Hands*

By salvation I mean, not barely, according to the vulgar notion, deliverance from hell or going to heaven, but a present deliverance from sin; a restoration of the soul to its primitive health, its original purity; a recovery of the divine nature; the renewal of our souls after the image of God . . . True religion is loving God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves; and in that love abstaining from all evil and doing all possible good to all [persons].

~~John Wesley



Confirmation

The 2018-2019 Confirmation class will be confirmed on Sunday, 7 April. Mariel Belback, Josh Bissett, Hailey Gifford and Jillian Lee will be confirmed in our church at the 10:00 service; Sammi Boeke and Jalyne Kirkland will be confirmed at the 9:00 service in First Lutheran Church of Gypsum. Unfortunately, Scotland Farmer has had to postpone his confirmation until the summer because he was very ill this winter.

This is a sacred event in the lives of these young people and a cause for all of us to celebrate. Hold them in your prayers and be there on the 7th to congratulate them and celebrate a blessed step into their future of faith and service in the name of Christ.

Vacation Bible School

At the present time, we have no plans for Vacation Bible School. There may be a week available for Rainbow Trail to come and support our efforts in late June. If anyone is interested in directing this week that has been an important outreach to our children and the community, please discuss this with Pastor Sid. There are support materials available and a framework for our connection to Rainbow Trail but also the opportunity to run our own VBS with other materials. In other words, any person interested in directing may organize in whatever way they see fit. Thanks for your support in all children's programming.

Education Sunday, May 5th

Join us for a day to honor our 2nd graders with Bibles, 5th graders with a gift for continuation, 8th graders with Bibles as they enter high school, and a time to recognize those graduating from high school. If you have a child in any of these grades, please contact the office with information. Even if your child cannot attend that day, we would like to include them in the program and in receiving a gift at another time. Thank you!

Summer Children's Church Teacher Needed: *Paid position* to start on June 2nd. Responsible for simple curriculum, craft and snack for our children ages 3 years old-5th grade during the summer months of June, July, and August. Would consider a shared position of every other week. Contact the office at 328-6598 for details.



United Methodist Women

First Friday Lunch—April 5th

(Gypsum Creek Golf Course (530 Cotton Ranch Dr)

First Friday Lunch—May 3rd (location TBA)

All women of the church are invited to join us for a nice lunch and fellowship. Please RSVP by signing up at the UMW table at church. If you need a ride or have questions please contact Robyn Spain, 303-903-8249 or Sandy VanCampen 970-471-2660 .

Annual Spring Tea—May 4th

(Fellowship hall at church, 1:30—2:30, more announcements to come)



- 4-02. DJ Jensen
- 4-03. Betsy Cochran
- 4-04. Robyn Bryant
- 4-04. Kalista Farmer
- 4-04. Amy Niswanger
- 4-05. BethAnn Mallory
- 4-06. Linda Johnson
- 4-07. Sam Casey
- 4-08. David Kuhn
- 4-09. Fred Bapp
- 4-10. Sandy Van Campen-Harris
- 4-10. Kay Miller
- 4-11. Addy Pronga
- 4-16. John Gamble
- 4-17. Elaine Quiring
- 4-18. Mark Bogertman
- 4-21. Amanda Boyd
- 4-21. Nancy Gamble
- 4-21. Bryan Lee
- 4-21. Julie Lingle
- 4-25. Sigmund Johnson
- 4-26. Andrea Arnhold
- 4-27. Danielle Miller
- 4-27. John Plymell
- 4-29. Coral Pronga

Scriptures for April

(7) Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

(14) Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

(18) Holy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

(19) Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19-19:42

(21) Easter Isaiah 65:17-25; Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12

(28) Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

*From all of us to
all of you!
Happy Easter!*



Women's Book Club

The ladies meet Wednesday, April 17, at 7:15 at 543 McIntire Street at the corner of 6th and McIntire in Eagle. This month's book is *The Address* by Fiona Davis. 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.