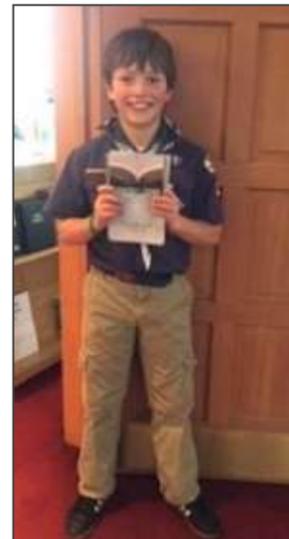




Scouts Sunday

We were pleased to welcome Cub Scout Pack 229 to church last month, to recognize their good work and to have them assist us in worship. The boys rang the bell, handed out worship bulletins, lighted the altar candles, read scripture, and collected the morning offering. They were also featured in Early Word as people who are learning to be trustworthy. Andrea Arnhold is the dedicated, hardworking leader of the pack and a longtime supporter of our ministries. It is our pleasure to provide meeting space for the scouts and their leaders every month; they are part of our greater community's work for the good of our neighborhood and the future of our society.



Happy Birthday Ruth Lenz!

Ruth turned 96 on February 7th. We celebrated at church on the 3rd.

We are so happy to celebrate another year with this amazing woman!

We love you Ruth!



**Ladies
Night Out**

All women of the church are invited to join us for a nice dinner and fellowship, at Fiesta Jalisco (701 Chambers Avenue, in Eagle), on March 21st, 6:30 pm. 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.

March



(6) Ash Wednesday Services
(noon & 5:30)

Lenten Services every
Wednesday, 6:00-7:00 pm

(10) Daylight Savings

(17) St. Patrick's Day

(20) Women's Book Club
(543 McIntire, Eagle, 6:30)

(21) UMW Ladies Night Out
(Fiesta Jalisco, 6:30)

(24) Simple Supper
(UMCOEV, 5:30)

(30) Mtn Sky District Gathering
(Crossroads UMC, 599 30 Rd, Grand Junction, 9:30-3:00)

(31) UMCOR Sunday
(special offering)

**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

As I sit down to write this afternoon, the 2019 General Conference convenes in St. Louis for its last session. By all reports there has been little diminishment of the degree of conflict over the issues surrounding the church's position on the ordination of practicing homosexuals or same gender marriage. Many of my colleagues feel certain there will some degree of division in the church once the final resolution, passed by a majority of the delegates, is published; regardless of the outcome of deliberations, some churches will separate from the United Methodist Church. I am not sure how the fracturing will affect us in Eagle, but I expect we will have to make some fundamental decisions about our relationship with the General Church in the months ahead.

In anticipation of that, I want to take a few moments to clarify what seems to me to be the essence of concern from both sides of the controversy. My remarks are broad strokes and do little justice to the complex, even painful, feelings of many involved. I oversimplify and speak of two groups; call them the *progressive* and the *traditional*. It is important to know that individuals stand in many places along a long spectrum of feelings and attitudes between the radical extremes of the two groups. I fully understand if anyone judges my thoughts not to represent their feelings or the depth and scope of their convictions.

Traditionalists feel the Church should adhere to the principles of our historical faith. The statement in the *Discipline* says that we believe homosexuals are people of sacred worth, but that the practice of homosexuality is not compatible with the teaching of the Christian faith. Traditionalists point to scriptures they see to explicitly condemn homosexuality. For centuries the Church has identified homosexual practice as sinful based on those texts. Thoughtful traditionalists ask, "Are we obeying God and truly loving homosexuals if we uncritically accept homosexuality as a faithful lifestyle? Are we encouraging a destructive way of living outside the will of a loving God?" Many traditionalists also believe the church is surrendering its historic wisdom to the dictates of secular society; the culture moves in a new direction and the church abandons its faith and follows the latest trend.

Progressives feel the Church has by action and negligent indifference shared in the exclusion and persecution of homosexuals. They contend historic attitudes in the church did not have the benefit of modern scientific information on the nature of homosexuality. They believe in broader ways of interpreting scripture, moving beyond literalist and more conservative readings, incorporating new knowledge and grounding the actions of the church in compassion and love. Progressives believe they do not follow the lead of secular society, but rather listen to the truth spoken to the hard heart of the institutional church from outside its walls. Thoughtful progressives ask, "How can we preach a gospel of love and exclude people who, in their God-given identity, are homosexual? How can we deny them the freedom openly to live their full identity, to live their faith and follow God's call in their life?"

Again, my thoughts are incomplete and drastically oversimplify the debate, but I hope they give us a helpful though severely limited frame of reference. There are destructive people at the extremes of both sides of the controversy, but we are destructively mistaken if we think all traditionalists are hopelessly out-of-touch homophobes, or all progressives are religious charlatans who have really abandoned the Christian faith and are not really Christian at all. (Continued on next page)



Pastor's Corner

In the cauldron of controversy we must remember never to dehumanize or vilify those who disagree with us. Something about loving, truly loving, even our enemies!

Most of all, when we talk about the Church's attitude and pronouncements about homosexuals we must remember we are talking about our sisters and brothers, our sons and daughters. Whatever our convictions on the way forward, we can no longer allow anyone to suffer for their gender preference. We must forcefully put the hateful viciousness of the past behind us. We must oppose and resist any form of persecution, discrimination or any dehumanizing force—in our society or in our own hearts.

Thoughts to Ponder
*Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.*
~Jeremiah 6:16

*Our journey toward wholeness, he [Bede Griffiths] taught,
is not a movement away from what is deepest in us.
It is not a looking beyond the matter of creation.
Rather, it is a return to God by returning to our
true center
and to the true center of everything that has being.*
~~John Philip Newell
(A New Harmony)

Lent in March

We begin with a correction from last month's newsletter: **Ash Wednesday** is on the 6th of March this year.

Ashes will be distributed at noon and at 5:30 in the evening, followed by the first of our **Lenten Wednesday** evenings at 6:00. We will meet from 6:00 to around 7:00 Wednesdays 6, 13, 20 and 27 March, and 3 and 10 April. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, 14 April.

Our Lenten Wednesdays will be in two parts.

(1) We will watch and discuss one of six short videos on the **Apostle's Creed**, led by Adam Hamilton. Reverend Hamilton will help us think about what many regard as the doctrinal core of our Christian faith, beginning with the historic declaration that "We believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."

(2) The pastor will conclude the Lenten evening with a lesson on and shared experience of **contemplative prayer**. We will pray together.

Scriptures for March

- (3)** Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43
- (6) Ash Wednesday** Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- (10)** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
- (17)** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
- (24)** Isaiah 55:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
- (31)** Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Women's Book Club

The ladies meet Wednesday, March 20, at 6:30 at 543 McIntire Street at the corner of 6th and McIntire in Eagle. This month's book is *The Little Paris Book Shop* by Nina George. 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.

Confirmation Classes

We plan to finish our formal Confirmation studies in March and have our service of Confirmation on Sunday, 7 April, a week before the beginning of Holy Week. In March we will review many of the things we have studied and discussed over the past two years, and each confirmand will work to complete her or his *Credo* or personal declaration of faith. We know, of course, that declarations of faith should never really be finished—we are called to grow in faith and understanding throughout our lives. Hopefully, this will be only the first of many *Credos* these young people will write as they live their years in Christ.

As I wrote in last month's newsletter, 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.



St. Patrick

There will be no pinching allowed, but you might want to wear green to church on Sunday, 17 March. St. Patrick is one of the most famous and least understood of Christians to the western world, and many people are discovering he is a provocative witness to Celtic spirituality—a dynamic and vital expression of faith that has always understood the importance of *all* creation and its expression of God's love and presence in the world. The good Celts of history would be passionate leaders in the wisest and best environmental movements of our time. Pastor Sid may try to refresh our appreciation for the Shamrock Saint this year.



Thank You
Molly!



- 3-03. Jillian Lee
- 3-07. Alessia Basso
- 3-07. Cole Harper
- 3-08. Denise Kipp
- 3-09. Jordyn Driver
- 3-09. Christina Hooper
- 3-10. Sandy Knuth
- 3-11. Stacey Horn
- 3-11. Sid Spain
- 3-12. Matt Barker
- 3-13. Salome Kuhn
- 3-14. Nolan Emrich
- 3-16. Kirsten McCorvey
- 3-17. Matt Miller
- 3-17. Jack Niswanger
- 3-18. Wayne Fischer
- 3-18. Don Galgan
- 3-19. Hailey Gifford
- 3-19. John Packer
- 3-22. Anatole Arnold
- 3-23. Mitch McKeever
- 3-25. Jeanine Kenney
- 3-25. Juniper Kenney
- 3-30. Charise Crabb
- 3-30. Ava Rose