

United Methodist Women

1. There will not be a *First Friday Luncheon* in July in observance of the 4th of July weekend.
2. The first Noodle making session will be in the basement, at 3:00 pm. Volunteers are welcome!



United Methodist Women's Pizza Party

There are those who say last month's UMW pizza party at the Spain home was one of the "best ever." Robyn had her wood-burning oven fired up, and she and a few of the other ladies kept the pizzas coming. Those who joined the party brought amazing salads, appetizers, drinks, and desserts to add to the festivities. The conversations were far-ranging and there was a steady cascade of laughter as old and new friends came together for a wonderful summer evening.



Colorful and Green

The church grounds have never been more beautiful and well cared for. Cheiko Bishop began cultivating the flowerbeds many weeks ago, cleared away weeds and winter growth, and planted a wonderfully colorful array of flowers around the church. Liz Linke and her crew have taken care of all the grassy areas, fertilizing, cutting and trimming; they also provided and spread new mulch in all the garden areas. Liz and Cheiko have done all the work for no charge, making a generous, beautiful gift to the church, and providing pleasure to our members, our neighbors and to all who drive by the church. Thank you—for your truly beautiful ministry!



☞ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☜



July

- (4) Happy Independence Day!
- (4) The church office will be closed
- No UMW *First Friday Luncheon* this month
- (10) Women's Book Club (Robyn's house, 6:30 pm)
- (13) David Driver's Memorial Service (sanctuary, 11:00)
- (13) Noodle Making I (basement, 3:00)

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

The closing part of David Brooks' newest book, *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*, is devoted to *Community Building*. His discussion could not be more timely, for the world, the nation, the neighborhood, and the church. The escalating crisis of loneliness, isolation, estrangement, division, conflict, and suicide cries out for a community response. It is one of the sad ironies of our time that we have so many organized activities that fail to approach the level of intimacy and care necessary for a healthy society built by, nurturing, and serving healthy individuals and families. Not only people who live on the margins experience isolation and loneliness; people who appear to be comfortably integrated and active in community also struggle with issues of emptiness and a sense of not belonging.

The Spirit draws every generation of the church to fresh focus on the needs of its age. The church is always called to reach out to others, to neighbors and strangers, but the images of faithful response change from age to age. The great missionary age when churches and organizations sent missionaries across the globe to preach the gospel is over or has been radically revised. The dominant image of that time was to bring light to dark regions of the world, convert the heathen, and offer the door to heaven to populations on the road to hell.

It is right that Christians continue to serve around the world, but the range and vitality of those efforts have expanded and been reimagined. Medical missions, infrastructure missions (investing in specialized work such as digging wells to provide clean water or building homes), disaster relief, work with the homeless and the poor, will always be important both internationally and locally, but an increasingly powerful image focuses on the need to build expansive, inclusive, and safe communities.

Brooks writes compelling about the need for vital community; he gives concrete examples of where such community is being formed. I look forward to our community read of *The Second Mountain*, and our discussion of how the author's insights might impact our ministries. Brooks emphasizes that communities are rarely built with elaborate plans and community builders rarely realize how far reaching their work is. The best work is done simply to respond to a clear need. Of one organizer Brooks says, "*Her work is utterly ordinary.*" And extraordinary!

The Methodist Church is on the cusp of a renewed identity. There is nothing unusual about that—the Spirit always works to renew the Church, sometimes surreptitiously, sometimes with blatant audacity, many times both. The image that drives the movement of the Church today is the quest for genuine community seeking, guided, and shaped by the love of God in Christ Jesus. One of Brooks' exemplars is Sarah Hemminger. She writes, "*Unconditional love is so rare in life that it is identity changing when someone keeps showing up even when you reject them. It is also identity changing to be the one rejected.*" Aren't we the community of unconditional love; isn't that where we found our home; isn't it a home waiting to welcome all others? *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors?*

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Pastor's Corner

How will you be part of the change that is coming in our church and our community? Ask Jay Corr and Marita Bledsoe about the seeds of mission they are hoping to plant in our minds and hearts. Ask Molly Fiore about her hope for a ministry among the prisoners incarcerated in the local jail. Ask Linda Wasser and Eleno Velez about their work and hope for expansion of our food ministries. Join the *Community Table* on Broadway with some of our neighbors in August. You are part of this. Look around you, see a need, and join others to meet the need as we build God's community together.

Annual Conference

While the camaraderie and sense of community at last month's Mountain Sky Annual Conference in Billings, Montana, was invigorating, the conference was emotionally and mentally challenging as delegates conducted the requisite business of the church for the upcoming year and prepared for General Conference in 2020. In the weeks and months ahead we will be discussing some of the resolutions that passed and did not pass the voting assembly. We will consider potential results of the ongoing and contentious theological and sociological debate roiling the life of the church. For those of you who are interested, during this month look for a brochure and various articles on the information table discussing the future of the United Methodist Church. These are historic, portentous times for the Church, and each of us needs to be prayerfully thoughtful, mentally and spiritually engaged in seeking to discern the work of God's Spirit in our community of faith.

Scriptures for July

- (7) 2 Kings 5:1-14; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- (14) Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
- (21) Genesis 18:1-10a; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
- (28) Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13

Thoughts to Ponder

*Every moment of time is a gift to you,
and one day you'll be asked
how you spent each one.*

~~Carmen Acevedo Butcher
The Cloud of Unknowing: A New Translation

*So the question is: what am I not paying attention to?
The function of pain, whether physical or emotional, is to
get our attention.*

*We all have an inner teacher, and inner guide, an inner
voice that speaks very clearly but usually not very loudly.*

*The information can be drowned out by the chatter of the
mind and the pressure of day-to-day events.*

*But if we quiet down the mind, we can begin to hear
what we're not paying attention to.
We can find out what is right for us.*

~~Dean Ornish, M. D.

Be still and know I am God.

~~Psalm 46:10



Bluegrass Sunday

Pentecost in the Methodist Church was enlivened with a special gift of musical energy as the choir led us in a bluegrass celebration. Kayla Roussel started the festival with a beautiful violin prelude to worship. In addition to Matt Miller's mandolin, the choir and congregation sang to Jeanine Kenny and Jenny Roussel's guitars, Chris Weather's bass, and George Saunders' violin. A special thanks goes to all the musicians including everyone who sang in the choir. They led us in a truly memorable celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church.



A Thought on Suicide and Help in the Valley

I just read an article this morning linking high altitude to an increase in suicide rates. I've heard this speculation over the years and more research has been done. Studies do show that counties over 4000 feet have twice the suicide rate as counties at 2000 feet. I think some read this and quickly jump to the conclusion that oxygen machines are the answer. Personally, I think that's a dangerous conclusion. In all I have read and understood about suicide, I see just how challenging it is to understand. There are many things that can contribute to suicidal ideation and what can be a risk factor for one person can actually be a protective factor for another. Suicide is very individualized. I think there are many things about counties over 4000 feet that could contribute to suicidal ideation, high altitude being one of many. In addition, isolation, access to lethal means, lack of mental health resources, lack of housing, and poverty are just a few of the other risk factors. I think all of these can play a role.

I've been in many meetings over the last year or so where I have heard someone say, "There are no mental health resources in Eagle County." I want to be VERY clear. This is NOT true. Yes, we do have a shortage of resources to meet the need, but this is very different from the statement that there are no resources. This is a dangerous message to send to individuals feeling isolated, lonely, and hopeless. Hearing such a message can exacerbate the sense of hopelessness and increase the ideation. The message we need to send to those having thoughts of suicide, feeling lonely, isolated, or alone is that there is hope and there is help.

If you or anyone you know is having thoughts of suicide there is help. Please call the National Suicide Lifeline at 800-273-8255. You can also call this number if you are worried about someone and don't know how to help, what to say, or what to do. Call the number and they can walk you through the best course of action to help someone who may be in crisis. Another great local resource is the Hope Center of Eagle River Valley. The Hope Center's mission is to help those in crisis by keeping them in the community. This is what they are here for, to help those in crisis in our community. Again, if you or someone you know is in crisis (or you are worried they may be in crisis) please call the Hope Center 24/7 Crisis Line at 970-306-4673.

If you would like to help create a suicide-safer community in Eagle County, please consider attending a training to learn how to identify the warning signs of suicide and how to connect someone to help. Every person in our community can add to sending a message of hope, which is indeed life saving.

Molly Fiore

Program Director, *Speak Up ReachOut*



Farewell to the Bogertman Clan

Last month we said goodbye to Anna and Mark, and to their children, Gracie, Amelia, and Joel—with a touch of sorrow and with much gratitude for the few years they were with us. The Bogertman's are on their way to Michigan where they will reunite with old friends and be closer to other members of their family. They go with our prayers and confidence in the rich ministries they will find in their new home.



- 7-02. Calvin Bates
- 7-05. Rachel McKeefe
- 7-06. Bonnie Wallace
- 7-07. Erika Shirk
- 7-07. Cindy Walker
- 7-08. Jennifer Pronga
- 7-13. Frances Galvan
- 7-13. Tracy Kurt
- 7-19. Mariel Belback
- 7-19. Bobby Henderson
- 7-23. Sue O'Neill
- 7-27. Asher Miller
- 7-28. Chris Gifford
- 7-28. Marcia Wild
- 7-30. Dakota Kurt
- 7-31. Ed Smith
- 7-31. Sharyn Smith

The Book Club Women's Book Club

This month's book club meets on Wednesday evening, July 10, 6:30 at Robyn Spain's home, 543 McIntire in Eagle. July's book is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman. All women are welcome to join the group whether or not they have read or finished the book. If you are able, please bring a small snack to share.

