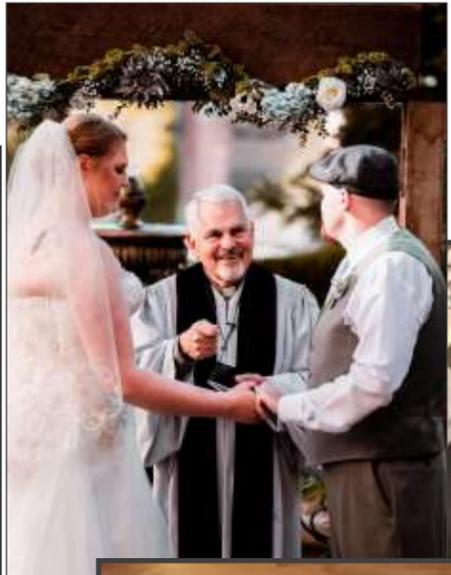


**Congratulations
Graduates!**



**Congratulations
Nick and Camille!**



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

☞ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☜

 **June**

- (2) Ascension of the Lord
- (3, 4) Church office is closed
- (7) *First Friday Luncheon*
- (9) Day of Pentecost
- (10) Ad Council meeting
- (13-16) Annual Conference
- (16) Trinity Sunday
- (16) Peace with Justice (Special offering)
- (16) Father's Day
- (19) Ladies Night Out

Look inside for Annual Conference and UMW details



**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

I am reading David Brooks' new book, *The Second Mountain: A Quest for a Moral Life*. I am also rereading Richard Rohr's *Falling Upwards: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. To a great degree the books are about the same thing. Both writers recognize how important it is that we continue to grow throughout our lives, intellectually, morally, and spiritually, and both identify our need to make the transition from the proper and necessary concerns of our early years to the broader and deeper concerns of our mature years.

In the first half of our lives, we climb the first mountain—we move from childhood through adolescence into our adult years. We work on discovering who we are in relationship to others, we discover and form our personalities as we go to school, fashion our values, choose the basic elements of our faith and philosophy for life. We build careers, and we start families. We learn strategies for success and security. We define what makes us happy.

Somewhere in the journey we are meant to realize the strategies of youth are not adequate, they simply do not satisfy our need for a full and meaningful life. Some people never seem to recognize the waning effectiveness of their old ways; they don't build on and transcend the necessary foundation of the first half of life. They don't begin to climb the second mountain. We recognize some of those people in their incessant striving for personal achievement. They keep reaching for more, more notoriety, more wealth, more things, more happiness. They keep striving for satisfaction in the ways that used to work for them but don't work any more.

The turn from the old ways is marked by a greater passion for life; a passion that can be satisfied only in service to a cause that is bigger than our individual ambition. More and more we turn from self-concern to concern for others. Brooks says it is a turn from a search for happiness to a quest for joy. Happiness is a good thing; joy is immeasurably more.

For years, Brooks has written a political opinion column for the *New York Times*, and is a regular political and social analyst on Public Television's *NewsHour*. Rohr is a Franciscan friar, who founded the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, the organization that conducts the *Living School*, the two-year study program on contemplative prayer I began last August. Both men are prolific, gifted writers. Some might think these men come from different worlds, the political and the spiritual, but they have simply taken different paths to the same realization. They both have climbed the first mountain; both have recognized the need to turn to the second half of life—and both write to encourage others to join them.

I wish I could summarize the wisdom of these books in a short article like this, but there is no way that can happen. I consider encouraging all of us to read and talk about these books in the fall—a church-wide read and conversation! I like that. I already preach about much of this, and it would be exciting to intensify our intentional conversation about our moral and spiritual growth.

(Continued on next page)



Pastor's Corner

For now, I just encourage you to consider the possibility that such a time of change and growth is necessary and possible for all of us—for you. Do you feel the need to find something more, to build on the good life you have lived so far, to build on the lessons you have learned and the challenges you have met? Are you ready to take on the second half of your life and climb the second mountain?



Annual Conference

This year's Annual Conference will be held 13-16 June in Billings, Montana. Delegates are traveling so far north, in part, to recognize the reality of our newly merged Conference. The former Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences are now joined to form the Mountain Sky Conference. In addition to many of the familiar tasks and responsibilities of our annual gathering (including appointments, institutional budgeting, and ordination), the persistent issues related to homosexuality will continue to dominate much of the business and formal and informal conversations of the conference. Pastor Sid and Molly Fiore will be our representatives this year. Both ask for your prayers as they travel to and from Montana, and as they deliberate and engage on all the important work of Conference. Pray for them and all who will be working in all the Conferences across the country and around the world to discern the faithful way forward for the United Methodist Church. Pray for their openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the wisdom only God can give.

Scriptures for June

- (2) Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1-15-23; Luke 22:44-53
- (9) Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27
- (16) Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
- (23) 1 Kings 19:1-15a; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
- (30) 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Thoughts to Ponder

*If change and growth are not **programmed into** your spirituality, if there are not serious warnings about the blinding nature of fear and fanaticism, your religion will **always** end up worshipping the status quo and protecting your present ego position and personal advantage—as if it were God!*

~~Richard Rohr

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life

Our society has become a conspiracy against joy. It has put too much emphasis on the individuating part of our consciousness— individual reason— and too little emphasis on the bonding parts of our consciousness, the heart and soul. We've seen a shocking rise in mental illness, suicide, and distrust. We have become too cognitive when we should be more emotional; too utilitarian when we should be using a moral lens; too individualistic when we should be more communal.

* * *

The good news is that what we give to our community in pennies, our communities give back to us in dollars. If there is one thing I have learned over the past five years, it is that the world is more enchanted, stranger, more mystical, and more interconnected than anything we could have envisioned on the first mountain.*

~~David Brooks

The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life

*Brooks uses the mountain metaphor as a way to describe the necessary aspirations and challenges of the first half of our lives (First Mountain) in contrast to the more mature aspirations and challenges of the second half of our lives (Second Mountain).



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.

Playing to Learn and Learning to Play

Summer is here, and later this month our children will be out of school. I can still remember the feeling of walking off the school grounds the last day of class and looking forward to weeks of freedom. In my later teen years I always had a summer job, but even that was part of the liberty of summer break. In earlier years, though, every day was painted in the primary colors of the glorious, oblivious freedom of childhood. My summer smelled of cut grass and water sprinkling on neighborhood yards and on the dirt of a baseball infield. My summer sounded of bees working the flower gardens, and the smack of the ball against a wood bat.

They were simple days, those slow days of summer when there was sometimes *nothing* to do. Those summers were unstructured, filled with unplanned days to play. Sometimes we were bored, but usually not for long. We didn't realize how much we were learning. I doubt our parents knew it, but they were giving us the time and space to wander and waste time, to explore and discover the world of tadpoles and black widow spiders. We learned by playing; it was a gift of our parents' benign neglect.

I hope I am not in the grip of sentimental nostalgia. I know there is no going back to the makeshift playgrounds and gravel roads of my childhood, but I wonder how many parents feel *obliged* to entertain their children these days. Organized sports, theater, dance, summer camps, videogames and other screen options vie for our children's attention all summer long. Camping trips, rafting, zip lining . . . what will we do today? Are our children still bored sometimes? I suspect so. Do they have time to wander and waste time, and discover their own resourcefulness? I wonder.

I hope our children still have time and opportunity to play through the hours of unstructured, random days. Bored? Figure it out! I'm pretty sure some of our kids (and some of us) need to learn to play again. We need to learn to play again without a plan. We can learn to play and in idle, wandering play we may learn wonderful things.



United Methodist Women

First Friday Luncheon—June 7, 1:00
(Gypsum Creekside Grill, 530 Cotton Ranch Dr.)

Ladies Night Out—June 19, 6:00
(Pizza party at Robyn's house, 543 McIntire, Eagle)

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



Women's Spring Tea



- 6-01. Josh Bissett
- 6-02. Chris Minton
- 6-02. Seth Kuhn
- 6-02. Ashley Patriacca
- 6-04. Sue TerBush
- 6-07. Bret Hooper
- 6-08. Clelia Basso
- 6-08. Diane Gress
- 6-08. Jamison Lee
- 6-08. Ginny Miller
- 6-09. Terrie Fischer
- 6-10. Angela Brown
- 6-10. Lillian Reynolds
- 6-13. Pat McCollum
- 6-14. Amelia Bogertman
- 6-14. Linda Wasser
- 6-15. Ruth Anderson
- 6-16. Jake Cossette
- 6-18. Jim Duke
- 6-18. Nancy Lyon
- 6-18. McCormack Mallory
- 6-22. Carson Hooper
- 6-22. Fran Jones
- 6-22. Bill Walker
- 6-24. Nate Barker
- 6-25. Jay Corr
- 6-27. Kim Albrecht
- 6-30. Anna Bogertman