

Parker United Methodist Church
Cross & Flame

November 2015



**GIVE
THANKS**

With a Grateful Heart



11805 South Pine Drive - Parker, CO 80134
303.841.3979 - www.parkerumc.org

“Looking Forward” by Randy Jessen, Senior Pastor



Can you think back to the best Thanksgiving experience of your life? I can actually think of several but the one that stands out happened just a few years ago. As it turns out, we seldom have our primary family Thanksgiving gathering on the actual holiday. Our typical pattern is to celebrate with the traditional feast on the Sunday before or the Sunday after. That way our kids can get to the in-laws and have two Thanksgiving dinners!

It was the Sunday following Thanksgiving. We had been in worship during the morning hours with the turkey planned for later that afternoon. We often have a large group that includes the full family plus anyone they would like to invite. We also typically offer an open invitation to the congregation just in case someone has no place to have a traditional gathering.

This time, a young man took us up on the offer. He heard the invitation during the morning worship service, arrived just in time to eat, then stayed around for dessert and some football. When he left, we all looked at each other to see

who John belonged to. Sue and I thought he came as a friend of our son. Our son thought he was a friend of his nephew. No one knew anything but his first name. John contacted us later to tell us thanks and to explain what a blessing it had been to spend the day as a part of the family.

Sometimes the blessings we offer are intentional and well thought out. Other times they unfold on the spur of the moment. Then there are times when blessing is shared and received without anyone really noticing that it happened. Sometimes, that is the best way.

This is the season for blessings. We are about to move into the holiday season with all the beauty and joy we can muster. Whatever you do, don't let the holiday season wear you out or grind you down. Just remember that the blessing you share with someone else may be the only gift they receive. Let a spirit of Thanksgiving flow through your life so it can be received by someone who needs a lift.

If you can be a blessing all by yourself, just imagine what kind of blessing tsunami we can create as a congregation! We can create

networks of grace, we can add into the hearts of others in 2016. blessing to the lives of children, I believe it will be a wonderful we can provide a place of hope year! It is bound to be good... for folks who struggle, we can because when we work together even extend blessing around the er...abundant blessing happens. world.

I hope you will be a part of the Creating Blessing effort as we think about mission and ministry that will flow through our lives
God bless you all

Don't Look Now But... Hanging of the Greens -Sunday 11/22!

The 1st Sunday in Advent is 11/29.



The Worship Committee will host “The Hanging of the Greens”, the time we decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas, on Sunday November 22nd at 12:15 (or after 3rd service). We ask anyone who can assist to please either stay after second service to begin getting things ready, or return and give us a hand. The more hands the easier and shorter this will be. Please contact Amy Hicks if you can help at 303-489-1178 or e-mail through the website. Additionally if anyone has extra Christmas lights that they would like to donate, please contact Amy

NOVEMBER ACOLYTE LIST

	8:00 am	9:30am
1ST	HANNAH THOMAS	CLAIRE BUNTEMEYER
	JOSIE THOMAS	BELLA BYINGTON
8TH	JAMES SMITH	GRAYSON HARDY
	CHLOE LENTZ	ANDREW HUEY
15TH	CAITLYN VOYLES	HAYDEN CASSEL
	TAVIE BROWN	GRAYSON CASSEL
22ND	COLTON WARNER	McKENNA GEORGE
	CONOR PALMQUIST	MAYA STROMAN
29TH	MACKENZIE BROWN	HANNAH REYNOLDS
	CAS STANLEY	RACHEL REYNOLDS

Cody Anderson, Associate Pastor



Have you ever found yourself in a King Soopers or Walmart or Safeway looking for a bag of chips and just thought, “how can I even choose when there are so many choices?”

That happens to me almost every time I find myself in the store.

In our society, we are blessed to have abundant choices. You need cereal? Well would you like the ones with marshmallows, or the ones with just bran flakes, or the ones with light sugar bran flakes with strawberries, or maybe you just want the one with all the cookies. You need a shirt?

Well would you like the one made out of cotton, or how about the one that J. Lo designed, or what about the one with all the flowers, or maybe the shirt with your favorite sports team logo? You would like to go out to eat? Well, would you like fast food, or would you like a place that serves you chips and salsa, or would you like a place with the best egg rolls, or what about a place that has unlimited choices in beverages? And don't even mention all of the options

that we have on where to spend our time and our money! The lists are endless!

Yes, we are a blessed society. And yet, when we look at our communities, we can see people who are in need. These are people who do not have the option to decide on what kind of cereal they are eating (whatever is the cheapest), or what kind of shirt they are going to buy (whatever is donated), or where they are going to go out to eat (eating at home is way cheaper).

Maybe you have found yourself there... maybe you are there now. In Philippians 4:19 we find these words, “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” You see, God doesn't promise to provide for all of our wants, and believe me, there are many choices out there! But instead, we are told that God will provide for all of our needs.

What are you in need of today? Maybe you are hurting and are in need of someone listening to you... maybe you are in need of someone to provide a meal for you... maybe you are struggling and in need of hope... God is there and will meet all of

your needs.

In this season where we start to focus on all that God has blessed us with, let us remember first of all that we are blessed! We are blessed with all that we need.

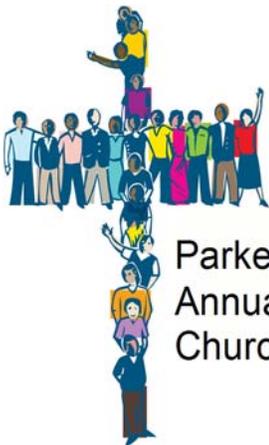
We are blessed with homes, with families and friends, with more than we could possibly ever need.

And we are blessed with a place where we can come, just as we are, and be supported and loved and challenged in our faith. And in this season, we also have a choice. We have a choice to feel that we never have enough, or we

have a choice to be thankful for all that God has given us. We have a choice to spend money on our wants, or we can reach out to those who are in need and to give.

Let us choose to “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Let us be a people who live lives of gratitude and who have generous hearts, choosing to reach out to those who are in need in communities and in our world.

Annual Church Conference will be Monday November 30 at 7pm



**Parker UMC's
Annual
Church Conference**

Soup and Salad Dinner at
6pm

This is an important meeting in the life of Parker UMC, held each year to review ministry areas, update membership roles, elect the Lay Leadership Team and Committee Members who will lead our Church in 2016 and conduct other vital church business. Everyone is invited to attend. People on

the membership roles will be the ones able to vote. Mark this on your calendar and plan to attend.

Wendy White, Director of Children and Families Ministry



November is traditionally a time of reflection, a time to give thanks. Last year, around this time, we took our children on a family mission day-trip downtown. We started at the local Dollar Store. We bought lots of toiletry supplies, as well non-perishable foods. We set up an assembly line in the kitchen and stuffed plastic grocery store bags with various supplies for the homeless.

Then, we packed the bags in the car and headed downtown, near the capital building. My sons were hesitant to get out of the car, to interact, to talk, to share time and space with the homeless. But, with a little encouragement, they were off! They would smile, and wish the person well as they gave the modest gift of basic hygiene supplies and food, sharing God's love.

This time of year, budgets can be tight with the holidays just around the corner. Giving doesn't have to stop just because the budget is tight! For a few dollars, you can make a large stack of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to share! Or, spend an afternoon

coloring pictures, and then grab a roll of tape, and head to a nursing home. Walk around, ask people if they would like their room decorated! We've always been told, "Yes!"

As we pause to give thanks, to realize how fortunate we are, step into action. There is so much of God's work that needs to be done in the world. Come up with an activity that works for your family! Let me know what you were inspired to go do! I'd love to share your stories in hopes of inspiring even more families into action!

I am truly thankful... thankful at how He has provided for us... thankful at how He continues to bless my life and the lives of those in our congregation... thankful at how He is working in our lives and preparing us for our future. God is so good and we are truly blessed!



"Investing In Christ's
Ministries Through Parker
UMC for 2016"

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt,
rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid
aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for
thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have
nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed
God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am thine. So
be it.
And the covenant which I have
made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

Have you ever thought about what it really means to surrender to God's will? In our world today, especially here in the West, we work so hard to make money, to have security, to be comfortable, maybe to be famous – even if that only means being a big fish in the small pond in which we live.

In the prayer above, however, we are called to be used by God in whatever way God decides



– even if that means giving up wealth, notoriety, and comfort in order to be the right tool for God's purpose. What an amazing testament of faith it is when we can pray

this prayer in full and complete sincerity. However, we're not all at that place. In fact, even if some of us are able to really mean this prayer when we say it, it might not be a state of mind in which we stay. But that's the journey we are on, to move closer to the point where we are always living so as to be fully in the will of God.

The word we use for the spiritual growth we make toward this goal is Discipleship. As we become more faithful disciples through prayer, worship, giving, and serving others, we are transformed by the Holy Spirit into someone who moves ever closer to God's vision for us. I hope and pray that each day we live is one more in a long line of days in which it gets easier to surrender all we are and all we have to the perfect will of God. God bless!





November already!

Where does the time go? In October we United Methodist Men assisted our second Preschool – the Plaza location -- with some of their renovation. At our October 10th meeting, Hank and crew had a new menu and we ate our fill. November 14 will have them doing breakfast again. We hope to welcome several of you men “new-to-the-group” along

with us regulars. That is “regular guys” made a little special by the love of Christ and the fellowship of other Christians. Come and find out for yourself, November 14th at 8:00am starting in the church kitchen. Hope to see **YOU!**

Also, our 2016 Retreat will be March 11 & 12 with Pastor Randy as our leader. More information to come.

Keith Eipper, President



UMW ANNUAL BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd IN
THE NARTHEX BETWEEN ALL SER-
VICES

Please stop by the bake sale tables and pick up some delicious and beautifully wrapped baked goods. All donations received will be used for the 2016 Women’s Retreat on April 1-3, 2016 at the

Hideaway Conference Center.

*Calling all men and women bakers or snack makers: We need items for the bake sale! Please drop off your baked goods Sunday morning, November 22nd. Thanks for your generous support.



Handel's Messiah.

The tradition continues!



Please come and invite all of your singing friends

to be a part of this wonderful community event. Community choir

rehearsals will be held on Wednesday December 2, 2015 @ 7pm and on Saturday December 5th at 9:00am. We will perform the Messiah with full orchestra on Sunday December 6th at the 8 and 9:30am services. Please make this a part of your Christmas traditions either by singing or attending. For more information please contact kurt@parkerumc.org

Find a new place to serve in 2016

Each year at our Annual Church Conference, (to be Monday 11/30 at 7p) the new committee and ministry leadership teams are presented to the membership for review and approval. There are many exciting and rewarding places to serve each year. Many of our committees and ministry teams need additional members, so if you see something that interests you please let us know by sending an email to Ruth Wills ruthmwills@aol.com or Mel Bond mel@parkerumc.org

Here is a list of our Committees and Ministry Teams. If you would like to know more about the roles and responsibilities of any of these, contact Mel or Ruth.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Hospitality | Adult Ed/Small Groups |
| Fine Arts | Finance |
| Lay Member to Annual Conference | Preschool Council |
| SPR-Staff Parish Relations | Prayer Ministry |
| Trustees | Missions |
| Children's Council | Nominations & Leadership Development |
| Worship | Lay Leader |



LAY LEADER—RUTH WILLS

Greetings Everyone, Fall seems to have arrived as the temperature outside is in the high 60°s and the nights are cooling down. Fall, my favorite time of year, a time of plants showing their beautiful autumn colors, blue skies and an occasional dusting of white upon the distant mountaintops. The garden is still producing its fruit, and I don't worry anymore about weeds. Fall, a time of preparation for the winter months ahead, for new schedules or classes or opportunities; a time of looking forward and remembering what has passed.

This is also a good time to look at how we handle our communications. Sometimes we get so busy, we think we have done an adequate job of letting others know particular information, and then we find out we have not done a good job of communicating. Within our church family when contacting the office for bulletins or information for the worship/narthex screens, let both Mel and Jason know. This would help them both to know your information and enable them to coor-

dinate the work for which each of them is responsible. I also encourage you to generally try to improve your communication skills. With all the technology that is available to us, what is often lost is the one on one, eye to eye contacts with one another and the silent times to focus on the majesty and mystery of God.

As we look forward to our Annual Church Conference on Monday the 30th of November, a lot of preparation will be done by committees and committee chairs, our pastors, the church office and volunteers. We will be gathering for a light meal and fellowship at 6:00 pm and then at 7:00 pm the meeting will begin. In case you have never attended, come and participate and learn!

Still looking for additions for our PUMC Committees, might that be you?

Ruth Wills, Lay Leader
303-693-7365,
ruthmwills@aol.com





Little Blessings wishes you a Blessed Thanksgiving!

College Care 2015: “How great is to each student sent to their the love the Father has lavished on dorm/address just before their final semester testing. In it are us, that we should be called Children of God!” 1 John3:1



Fall is in the air! That means it is time again for our college kids to receive a care package from their home church family!! The UMC Circle, Neighbor to Neighbor has been helping our congregation to support our College Youth over many years. The College Care Mission, through our church family support, provides a care package offering or goodies for the box in the Narthex labeled “College Care”. If you desire to write a check, please put “College Care” in the memo. Please send any questions or updated addresses for your student to Chris Ambors’ email: ambors1@comcast.net

Fall Reading with the Contemporary Christian Book Group

Please join the women of the Contemporary Christian Book Group for our fall reading! We meet on the first Wednesday evening of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Room 216. If you have any questions, contact Susan Gustin at sjgustin@comcast.net or [303-324-1226](tel:303-324-1226)

November 4: *Jesus without Borders: What Planes, Trains and Rickshaws Taught Me about Jesus*, by Chad Gibbs (Non-fiction). Chad Gibbs has lived his entire life in Alabama,

the buckle of America's Bible Belt, where Christianity is a person's default setting. In *Jesus Without Borders*, Gibbs steps outside of his very comfortable existence, to learn what it's like to be a Christian anywhere else in the world....Over the course of many months, Chad and his Alabama worldview spent time with believers from Beijing to Rio de Janeiro, worshipping with them and observing not only how their faith influences their daily lives but also how their daily lives influence their faith, in hopes of learning which parts of his faith have been compromised by the American Dream.

Creating Blessing Sunday
November 22



Prayerfully consider your investment for 2016 in Christ's ministries through Parker UMC. Bring your investment card to worship with your or indicate your investment via the on-line form.

All Saint's Day

Sunday November 1

The annual dove release will be following the 9:30a Worship Service.



If you have a name of a loved one you would like read at the release, please email office@parkerumc.org on or before Wednesday 10/29.



Did You know that

Prayer Requests can be made by filling out the Prayer Request Cards and dropping them in the

Offering Plate on Sundays or by contacting one of the Pastors or Mel or Cindy or Sabrina Thompson. We are looking for more Prayer Ministry members please contact Randy Jessen or Sabrina Thompson.

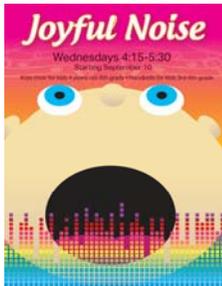
Do you like coffee? Do you like to meet new people? Volunteers needed... The Hospitality Committee is in need of more volunteers to work once a month, or even as occasional substitutes, in areas such as greeting church attendees at the door, working at the Welcome Desk, ushering, or making coffee. You can work before or after the service time of your choice, or usher during the service you attend. Training is provided! This is a fun way to help serve the church, learn new things, and meet new people. If you are interested, please contact one of our Hospitality co-chairs, either Deb Barthel at deb.barthel@comcast.net or 720-842-0822, or Mary-Lou Davis, at tdavis248@comcast.net or 720-328-9145.

Returning Mission Trip To Haiti: Amy Hicks will be leading a trip back to Haiti from April 4 thru 11 2016 to work again with Respire Haiti. This trip will concentrate on Community projects and whatever mission the school needs done. I would like to take a big team this year, so begin planning now to take this time off to serve the Lord. If you want to feel amazed, read Megan's blog at www.respirehaiti.org. As I read about this marvelous Haiti. This trip will young women, my faith is strengthened ten-fold. If you are interested in participating in this trip, please contact Amy on 303 489-1178 or call the Church Office.



Update from Dusty and Kim Hill, Wycliffe Bible Translators in Entebbe, Uganda. Moving Forward...and Backward. We are happy to share that we have 4 New Testaments (NT) which are heading into the final stages before printing and distribution! Reaching this long anticipated goal in Uganda has been the focus and work of many on the Uganda team. With that in mind, one naturally wonders what the team invests in next. We are excited that some of those 4 communities are moving backwards. No, not entirely, but since they have finished translating the NT, they're now going "back" to the Old Testament! So we are planning and preparing to help the Nyole, Gwere, and Aringa communities to begin OT translations. Some other projects are moving forward from Luke to start translating other books of the NT. This is for four of the seven languages which were part of the Luke Partnership (they completed the book of Luke last year). One of those groups, Ma'di Okollo, wants to make an audio

Joyful Noise



It is not too late to join the Joyful Noise Children's Choir! We would love to have your son or daughter join this group! We meet on

Wednesdays from 4:15-5:30. Every child between the ages of 4 through 5th grade is welcome! Contact wendy@parkerumc.org.

Kids Sing in Worship

Join us on November 8th as our children will be singing the introit in worship at the 9:30 service. There is nothing better than hearing children worshipping God, and it starts off worship in just the right way. Make sure to come early and be a part of this wonderful moment! For more information, contact Wendy at wendy@parkerumc.org

XYZ/Preteen Thanksgiving Dinner
Friday, November 13th, 6-8 pm

All persons with "60+ Xtra Years of Zest" (XYZ members and others within our church community) and all Preteens (4th-6th grades) are invited to join us for this wonderful evening of Thanksgiving and Sharing. Be prepared to enjoy a feast put on by our preteens. Please call Wendy White at the church office or email at wendy@parkerumc.org if you would like to join in this great evening of food and fellowship!



Sunday School Helpers

Still Needed!

There are BIG things happening in children's Sunday School, and by big things, I mean lots of children! We continue to grow every Sunday, and we need your help! We are in need of extra hands and helpers in our Children's Sunday School classes. Come and see the amazing things that are happening in the lives of the children in our midst!



Missions: As we wrap up our Missions theme of 'Poverty' we've seen support of several organizations that will help those in poverty locally, regionally and across the world. In early November we'll host our second Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack. If you didn't have a chance to participate in last year's event, you may want to check it out this year. It really is a great event where in just two hours you can help pack meals and know that you've helped make a difference in the lives of children in need.

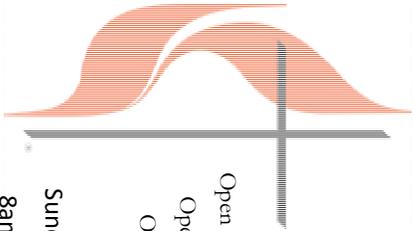
Toys' mission where we have a chance to be a blessing to others through contributing towards Thanksgiving meals through Parker Task Force or donate toys to help needy parents provide gifts for their children through the Denver Inner City Parish Christmas Toy distribution program. All of these are great opportunities to be God's hands and feet and a chance for each of us to help share His love with others. You can contribute towards any of these missions by writing your check to Parker UMC and noting the organization name in the Memo and putting it in the offering or leave it at the office.

As we move into the holiday season we'll look at helping those in need within our community. We will again focus on our 'Turkeys &



translation of the NT, so we will work with them. In none of these projects will our staff do the translation. Instead we partner with them to support their efforts in translation. Our role is to provide funding, consultancy services, translation and literacy training, and technical support while the work itself is managed and even partly funded by the local community and church. We're really hoping and praying for community ownership of these projects and ask for your prayers for the finalization of getting these projects underway. We thank you, the people of

Parker United Methodist Church, for walking alongside us as we move forward (and backward!) on this great journey that is life in Christ! You have faithfully supported us for eleven years and we are truly grateful for your many prayers and gifts! In His Grip, Kim, with Dusty, Tessa, Jack, and Cooper. dusty_hill@sil.org kim_hill@sil.org website: www.heartofthehills.org. Wycliffe Bible translators is a worldwide effort to bring the scriptures to people in their own heart language, then teaching them to read it so that they can understand and come to know Jesus. When people read or hear the Bible in their own language, they begin to pray in their language with a deeper understanding of God's word, realizing that God speaks their language, too!



Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

Sunday Worship Times
8am, 9:30am & 11am
Holy Communion at 9:10am

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