

Parker United Methodist Church

Cross & Flame

MAY 2016

For now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12(NRSV)



Creating **BLESSING** Preschool & Kindergarten



Little Blessings
Preschool & Kindergarten

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

A FEW SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church / Trustee / Work Day – MAY 21, 2016: Please join your Church Trustee Team for an INDOOR WORK DAY. It will consist of painting, caulking, changing light bulbs, cleaning light diffusers, and other indoor cleaning tasks. Please be sure to bring gloves or other supplies for painting that you would like to use, i.e., gloves, rollers, pans. Work Day will begin at 9 am and end at 1 pm. If you have questions, contact Jud Jaqua at jpjaqua@comcast.net. Thanks. Hope to see you at the Work Day. Jud Jaqua. Trustee Chair

Pentecost Sunday is May 15 The “Birthday” of the Church

Wear Red On Pentecost Sunday—Pentecost is a Christian holy day that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter. Originally, Pentecost was a Jewish holiday held 50 days after Passover. One of three major feasts during the Jewish year, it celebrated Thanksgiving for harvested crops. However, for Christians we remember that before Jesus was crucified, He told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come after Him—John 14:16–18. And 40 days after Jesus was resurrected (10 days after He ascended into heaven), that promise was fulfilled when Peter and the early Church were in Jerusalem for Pentecost: *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”* Acts 2:1–4

XYZ Monthly Breakfasts—3rd Friday at the Village Inn near church at 9am. Everyone is welcome!

Eden Gardeners’ Plant Sale Sunday, May 1, between services in the Narthex. (see page 12 for details)

Preschool Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast Friday, May 13th at 9:15. (see page 13 for details)

National Day of Prayer Event is Thursday 5/5. “Wake Up America.” (See page 9 for details.)

Mother's Day
Brunch May 8th 9 to 11a


“Looking Forward” by Randy Jessen, Senior Pastor



I have been studying the New Testament book of Philippians in the last few weeks. It is a beautiful section of Scripture that has a compelling message for today. There are some major themes that flow into our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit through the mind and pen of the Apostle Paul. Ultimately, they end up on a page that becomes a blessing to every person who takes time to engage.

One of those key themes has to do with living together in a spirit of unity. Paul is encouraging the people to share their lives together as a united community in spite of obstacles that are either present or looming on the horizon. But unity in and of itself is never the final goal. In the end, the objective in the Christian community is to live in unity for the cause of holiness.

Bishop N.T. Wright likes to say that, “Unity is easy if you don’t care about holiness. And holiness is easy if you don’t care about unity.” Both themes need to walk hand in hand so they can validate and support one another.

One of the ways we can be united together is through the gift of prayer. So I want to invite you to join me in an experience of unity through purposeful prayer.

Many of you know that our United Methodist General Conference will be meeting in Portland, Oregon May 10-20, 2016. As always, when the General Conference meets every four years, there are important decisions that will be made. This session is no exception. Significant decisions will be made that will have an impact on the UM Church around the world.

Would you join me in 20 days of prayer to support the work of the General Conference? Here is the plan, each day from Sunday May 1st through Friday May 20th we will pause at Noon to pray for the delegates, the decisions, and the outcomes of the General Conference. Some can lift a breath prayer while others can invest additional time. Whatever we can to it will focus us on unity of the Spirit and on holiness of action.

I have marked my calendar for a Noon reminder starting on the first of May. Let’s pull together for the life and future of our church!

As always, I am looking forward to seeing you on Sunday or anytime you are engaged with the church. By the way, don't forget to 'check-in' whenever you are here!
Blessings to you all,
Randy Jessen

April Kauffman-Director of Student Ministries



We are busy this time of year! I'm beginning to think an hour is NOT enough time on Sunday nights for announcements, lessons and games!
Goodness!

about Success for Teens (books provided from the APD). Also on the 15th we'll be having Senior Recognition Sunday during our morning services.

This summer we have two mission trips scheduled, we'll be hiking and having a pool party and a continuous Bible Study (Bible Brunch.... Featuring trips to Village Inn!) Watch for more information.

Friday April 29-30, our Senior High will be having a Lock OUT.

We'll spend our night having fun with activities, food and fellowship. Between 3-4 AM we will be serving "lunch" to the Parker Police who patrol through the night on our newly paved parking lot! Then we will be taking treats to the clinical staff on call at Parker Adventist.

We'll end our night together watching the sunrise and thanking God for all of his gracious gifts. And then..... we'll go to bed!

In May we'll be helping out the UMM with Mother's Day breakfast in the Narthex on the 8th. On the 15th we'll be having Shelley Owens speak to us from the Aurora Police Department

We are also starting to serve for the Parker Task Force. April 16 was our first effort with helping them collect food at the Safeway location. We hope to grow this effort and challenge the church to join us one day!

Please take note of the new Youth Newsletter and monthly events updates in the Narthex just outside the Sanctuary. If you have a youth or know of one who would like to get connected or needs more information, please give me a call 720-204-4424 or email me april@parkerumc.org.

Cody Anderson, Associate Pastor



May is one of the craziest months in my life. With all of the end-of-the-year celebrations, the graduations, getting my yard ready, preparing for summer, etc etc, life just seems to take on a life of it's own. It seems like I am constantly running from one thing to another. Often it is during the craziest of times in my life that I act out in ways that aren't beneficial for myself or for those around me. Perhaps it is an angry tone that I give my kids after they have asked me the 100th time if they can do something, or the irritation that I show when I pass that slow driver, or the way that I act when someone asks me to join them for another event that I can't get into my already-packed schedule. The hurry hurry just turns me into someone that I don't really like and that person that I become is not a good representation of who I really want to be. Can you relate?

Lately, the Christian radio stations have been playing this wonderful song called "Breathe" by Jonny Diaz. It is

a wonderful Christian song that speaks to the craziness that often happens in our lives and how we forget to "just breathe" and let God fill us. The lyrics say "Breathe, just breathe. Come and rest at My feet. And be, just be. Chaos calls but all you really need is to take it in, fill your lungs with the Peace of God that overcomes, just breathe. Let your weary spirit rest, lay down what's good and find what's best, just breathe." It reminds me of the verse in the Psalms, "be still, and know that I am God!"

What would our lives look like if, during this hectic busy time where we are running around trying to do end-of-the-year things, we would make time to be still and just breathe? What would our impact be like if in the chaos and anxiety times we would just breathe in God's spirit into our lives? What difference could we make, not only in our own lives, but in the lives of those around us if we chose to set aside time to just be with God before we start running with our schedule? I am pretty sure that peace would rule more often in our lives, that goodness would flow out, and that we would live the lives

that God has called us to live... breathe"? Let us set aside time lives of love and grace for others. So during the month of May, will you join me and "just

to be still and let goodness and love flow from us as we fill out lives with God's peace.



tapestry
united methodist church

"Dear God, I think I am ready to surrender my life to you, to become a disciple of Jesus. I want you to transform my life in every way that you desire... except maybe in this one way. I'm really happy when I do that..."

Oh, and this thing that I really treasure, I just couldn't stand it if I had to give that up... And certainly you wouldn't expect me to do that, would you?..."

Time and again, people have come to church believing in the transformative power of God and hoping that they too will be transformed. This may have been true for you, it certainly was for me, that we come to the church hoping and praying that our lives with Jesus will be somehow better and more meaningful than they were without Jesus. We come full of excitement and anticipation at the possibilities that can happen. After all, the Bible tells us that "with God all things are possible." The problem often comes, however, that after a while we don't really see a whole lot of change. We find that we easily fall back into our same old ways of living. What's the deal?!

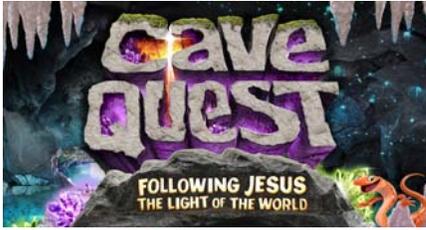
Well, I find that the deal is that we haven't really trusted everything to God. God seems to be plotting out a plan or a direction for

our lives, we see the direction God wants us to go, and then we say to God, "Sweet, I like what I'm seeing and I'll meet you down the road a ways, but I'm going to go this way. I know it is a little longer and it will take me twice as much time, but this road is paved and smooth and it runs past all those places I used to hang out so it will be much more comfortable than that old bumpy way you want me to go."

As I recall, Einstein's definition of insanity was "doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." For many of us, this is our spiritual journey. We want to keep doing what we do and have God transform us somehow. Not.Going.To.Happen.

In the Gospel of John, 1:37-39, two disciples are seen following Jesus down a path. Jesus asked them what they want, and they reply, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" They wanted to know where they could meet up with him later after they were finished doing what they had to do. Jesus didn't give them an answer, instead saying, "Come and See." Jesus was saying to these guys, "Nope, if you want to follow me, then follow me. Starting right here and now." And they did.

If you want your chance at transformation, you too have to take a chance on Jesus. You have to put your trust in Him and not of



Vacation Bible School “CAVE QUEST”

June 20 thru 24—9a To Noon.
For children 4 years old thru 5th grade. \$30 per child, or \$50 per family. Join us for this year’s VBS, “Cave Quest.”. Registration will be open starting May 1st and fills up fast, so make sure to register right away. To

register, check out our website at parkerumc.org and follow the instructions, or pick up your registration form in the church office. Watch for more information about this exciting ministry event! If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Wendy at the church office or at wendy@parkerumc.org

VBS Help Needed: Mark your calendars and help us share the message of God’s love for the children in our congregation and in our community. We are planning for 250 children for the week, and need YOUR help in providing a safe and loving

place for children to grow in their faith. Please don’t miss out on this amazing opportunity to serve! If you can help in any way during VBS on June 20-24th, please contact Wendy at wendy@parkerumc.org as soon as possible!

the things of this world. You have to try something new and be bold in your faith and trust. You have to shake up your routine and listen when Jesus says, “Come and See.”

Throughout the United Methodist Church, it seems that the select word for the foreseeable future is Discipleship. We should be aware that the purpose statement of the UMC is “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.” That transformation

starts with each one of us. For the world to be transformed, we have to be transformed. How do we start? Not by doing the same things as yesterday!

What does being a disciple mean to you? Take a minute and think about the Disciples in the Bible, and then pray about what being a disciple of Christ might look like in your life. Ask God for help in seeing what you should add to your life, or what you should let go of? Transformation can begin today.

Endowment Committee. We are still requesting that members donate funds that the Endowment Fund will match in order to give cash awards to our graduating High School Seniors who are planning to further their education. Please mark "Scholarships" in the memo line on your check. This is a great opportunity for PUMC to assist our graduating seniors in the next step in their education.

If you want to learn more about the Endowment Fund, please look for our new brochure that outlines the purposes of the three funds and the work of the Endowment Committee. The last page of the brochure can be filled out and placed in the collection plate or

dropped off at the office to either ask for more information about estate planning, or specifically about making gifts to the Endowment Fund. In addition to making a gift in your Will or by beneficiary designation to the "PUMC Endowment Fund" you can make a current online donation to one of the three Endowment Funds: just look for "Endowment" in the drop-down list at the "Donate" link on the PUMC website. The Scholarship Fund generates income to be awarded for scholarships; the General Fund can be used for any purposes to further the mission of the church, and the Stroh Fund is used only for capital improvements to the church building and grounds.

Laurie Hunter, Chair



PUMC Youth
Scholarship Application
SPRING 2016

Download your application at
[www.parkerumc.org/
ministries/youth-ministries/](http://www.parkerumc.org/ministries/youth-ministries/)

fill it out, and email it to office@parkerumc.org



Do You Know About "Stephen Ministry"? Do you know someone struggling with the loss of a loved one, illness, job loss, divorce, a spiritual crisis, or another of life's challenges? A Stephen Minister is

ready to help! Our Stephen Ministers are trained lay people who provide confidential care and encouragement to people going through difficult times. If you know of someone who might benefit from this kind of care, contact the office at 303-841-3979. We will put you in touch with our Stephen Ministry Leader, Al Banisch.

Why I Became a Stephen Minister

by Greg Socha

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help him up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

My former neighbor (Curt) taught me this lesson many years ago. When I faced a difficult task, I completed it by myself. At the completion of the job, I was usually exhausted and unhappy. However, when Curt faced a big task, he would ask me to help him. A task that was difficult and frustrating for one person was much easier, and usually enjoyable, for two people.

Having learned and lived this principle, I accepted the offer to attend Stephen Ministry training in 2001 when it was offered at our congregation in Michigan. I was so impressed with, and committed to, what I had learned, that I became a Stephen Ministry Leader in 2002.

Psalm 23:4 mentions walking through the valley of the shadow of death. Difficult times are inevitable for each of us. Sooner or later, each of us

faces his or her own valley of the shadow of death, and it is much better to walk through that valley with a caring, trusted, Christian friend, than it is to walk alone. Stephen Ministry prepared me to be that trusted Christian friend providing care, hope and encouragement.

Imagine having to cope with the loss of a loved family member -- alone. Imagine dealing with tragic news from the battlefield -- alone. Imagine facing a future of chemotherapy and radiation therapy -- alone. Imagine facing an economic crisis -- alone. Imagine having to help a loved one deal with substance abuse -- alone.

God has worked through me to help my care receivers cope with cancer, divorce, failing health, loneliness, fear, and economic issues. These experiences have helped me to be a far better empathetic listener and caregiver than I could have possibly been without Stephen Ministry.

In 2012, my wife, Nancy, had an unusually bad time with fibromyalgia pain, which was almost debilitating. As I helped her during this period, I saw a downturn in my attitude, enthusiasm, and energy. We each agreed to be Care Receivers and graciously accepted the

care provided to us by our Stephen Ministers.

how they can work through them.

My Stephen Minister was a gift from the Lord. He was thoughtful and helpful. I always appreciated his objectivity, insight, and encouragement. I looked forward to each of our visits and the distinctively Christian care that he provided.

As a Caregiver, and as a Care Receiver, I am grateful for Stephen Ministry, and I am thankful that P.U.M.C. has embraced this program.



Stephen Ministry works. It helps care receivers better understand their situations and

May Acolyte Schedule

8:00 am

9:30am

RED ROBES ON THE FIRST SUNDAY

1 ST	MATTHEW ANDERSON JAMES SMITH	GRAYSON HARDY NOAH PFISTER
8 TH	HANNAH THOMAS JOSIE THOMAS	LAUREN KUSNER MAYA STROMAN
15 TH	HAYDEN CASSEL GRAYSON CASSEL	BEN CHRISTENSEN LUCAS HODGSON
22 ND	CAITLYN VOYLES CHLOE LENTZ	HANNAH REYNOLDS RACHEL REYNOLDS
29 TH	BEN SHIER MAX SHIER	CAS STANLEY CONOR PALMQUIST

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR CROSSES WHEN YOU ACOLYTE

Lay Leader, Ruth Wills



Spring Greetings, May 5th, is the National Day of Prayer and Parker UMC, at 6:30 pm, will host the community to participate in prayer for the many areas of our lives; then during May 10th to May 20th, the General Conference of our United Methodist Church will be in session. If there was ever a time for prayer, it is during these times. Can we spend too much time in prayer? I think most of us do not spend enough time in prayer. We are on the low side of the balance. I encourage you to find the time for prayer and the blessing that praying will bring you!

Outside my window on a huge pine tree, heavily snow-laden branches are being released from those wet mounds of snow as the branches move and shower snow downward and then return to their normal positions. Sometimes there can be too much of a good thing: too much water on roots of plants can kill those roots, too much heavy snow on branches can break the branch, and sometimes too much of anything can be destructive in our lives. Also not enough of a good thing can be detrimental and even destructive. My message this month is for balance. Balancing our time, balancing our finances, balancing our food intake or exercise or work/study schedule or family time is important for our physical, emotional and spiritual health. Even balancing the time we give to prayer is important, for we often do not take time for prayer in our busy schedules.

This month of May is presenting us with opportunities for needed prayer for our country and our church: Thursday,

Grace and Peace be yours today and every day!

Ruth Wills
Lay Leader



CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Annual Plant Sale: Also, Eden Gardeners will have a plant sale on Sunday, May 1, between services in the Narthex. Anyone can bring in some seedlings that you have started, or perennials you want to thin, or houseplants you don't need anymore to donate to the fundraiser. Then come and shop -

the cost is a donation!

Garden Tours:

Eden Gardeners are looking for people who would be willing to let us tour your yard or garden this summer. Any volunteers? For info on any of these events, contact Diana Hill at colohills@msn.com



Missions:

in early May we will collect items/donations for UMCOR health kits that provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Assembling will take place in May. Look on the Mission Table for the list of items needed for each kit. have very specific requirements so please review the list closely. And / or you can write a check to PUMC and note 'UMCOR Health Kits.

Wendy White, Director of Children & Family Ministries



As many of you know, I recently traveled with the Haiti Mission Team from PUMC to Gressier Haiti. I believe

everyone has a calling from God, we must learn to listen to that calling, and to make decisions in our lives in response to that calling. Our team helped at the school in delivering and organizing math curriculum, building a stage, and painting. Then, on Saturday, we visited a local family. The mother passed away three weeks before in childbirth, leaving behind the husband and 8 children. The newborn survived and was 3 pounds. This family lives in extreme poverty, under dirt-floor tent house, and a small wooden structure also with dirt floor. There was no food when we arrived, and the water source is miles away. Many families would be emotionally crushed when faced with these difficulties. But, we can all learn from this family's resiliency, and love. As our team built a fence to surround and protect their yard from goats and dogs, we spent time playing with the children. They were so

everyone has a calling from God, we must learn to listen to that calling, and to make decisions in our lives in response to that calling.

Our team helped at the school in delivering and organizing math curriculum, building a stage, and painting. Then, on Saturday, we visited a local family. The mother passed away

happy, learning to play Connect 4, being held, tickled, lifted up, and played with. These children, faced with a myriad of trauma and difficulties smiled and loved through all God placed before them. I learned from that. We can all learn from that.

We are each called to serve in different ways, through our individual spiritual gifts. Some of us are called to be teachers, working in our local schools, or maybe just teaching Sunday school on Sunday mornings. Some of us are called to be healers and work with the sick as nurses or doctors, or maybe just sit with someone who is sick and in need of someone walking by their side through the darkest of times. Some of us are called to feed the hungry, working with wonderful organizations that help those who are less fortunate, or maybe just being passionate about collecting food and chal-

lenging others to do the same. Some of us are called to be missionaries, going to far off places and helping spread the gospel, or maybe just working with smaller missions in our own communities. No matter what we are called to do, we all have a calling from God. Do you know what that calling is? Are you intently seeking God and asking "what would you have me do?" Are you listening? More importantly, are you being faithful and answering that call?

If you feel called to serve God through mission work, please let me know. I would be happy to speak to you about ways our church can help you answer that call. I plan to return to Haiti this fall, and would love to have you join me! If you hear a different call, I would like to hear about it and watch God lead you in new and exciting directions where you can make a difference in our world!

Little Blessings is wrapping up a terrific 2015-2016 school year. Thank you to the many parents, congregation members and leadership teams in the church who contributed their time and talents this school year. We will be holding a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, May 13th at 9:15. Please join us in the Nar-

thex for some fellowship, food and entertainment provided by the children.



Little Blessings
Preschool & Kindergarten
PLAZA CAMPUS
MINISTRY OF PARKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you Sunday School teachers!:

We have 36 amazing people who have cared for, ministered to and taught our children ages 3 years old to 5th grade this year. This year, we have seen a growth in our children's Sunday School program and have broken our record several times with the amount of kids we have had on a Sunday morning. Without their wonderful ministry and dedication, our Sunday School program would not be as successful as it is. They have done wonderful work with our children in their Sunday School classes! Thank you so much for your amazing work and dedication, teachers!

Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed:

Our children's Sunday School classes continue to grow, and the Sunday morning energy is electrifying to be around! Our regular teachers have done a wonderful job this year, loving our children and helping them grow in their faith. Many of our regular teachers take a summer break to rejuvenate and it is a wonderful time to bless them by having volunteers teach their classes for them. Please consider becoming a Summer Sunday School teacher for our children's classes. This is a wonderful ministry to be a part of, and blesses not only our children, but the teachers that are so dedicated to helping them grow. We have 11 classes that we need to have teachers and help-

ers. If you would like to become a part of this great ministry and teach a Sunday or two this summer, please contact Wendy White at wendy@parkerumc.org, or call the church office.

Preteen Events: On May 13th from 5:30-7:30pm, we will be having our End-Of-The-Year Preteen BBQ at one of our local parks (site to still be determined)! Mark your calendars, look for location updates and food sign-ups, and make sure to not miss all the fun!! Preteen Events are for children in 4th, 5th and 6th grades. This is a fun time where kids get to come together and have fun while growing in their faith. Friends are always welcome! For more information, contact Wendy White at wendy@parkerumc.org or call the church office.

"Move Up" Sunday: June 5th will be "Move Up" Sunday where children may begin to start attending their new class/grade for their church groups. Preschool students should stay or go to the class that is appropriate for their age. Students who are in 5th grade but will be in 6th grade in the fall should start attending youth programming, but may also keep attending preteen events as well. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy at the church office or wendy@parkerumc.org

The United Methodist Men

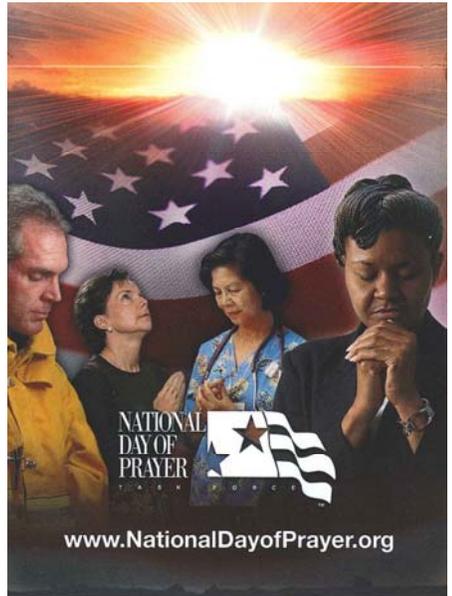


will be providing a Breakfast for all on Mother's Day, May 8th. It will be served from 9:00 to 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. There is no charge. Hank is coordinating this and the menu will be a good one! Some from the Youth Fellowship will be assisting in this event. It is to honor Mothers, yet it is for all of us -- women, men, youth, children -- to enjoy, as we all have/have had a Mother. We think this is a nice way for Mothers and families to have a nice breakfast and good fellowship and not have to do dishes!"

**National Day of Prayer,
Thursday May 5.**

“WAKE UP AMERICA!”

We are having an event for the National Day of Prayer on May 5th at 6:30pm at Parker UMC. It will include prayer, readings, and hymns. President Harry S Truman first signed a bill declaring a National Day of Prayer in 1952 at the time of the Presidents choosing and in 1988 the bill was changed to fix it to the first Thursday of May. It is intended to be for all religions. This month pray for all our leaders. Remember never cease praying.



The Zingers - great folks from PUMC, have been practicing fun, joy, music and praise to our Lord by sharing our voices in the community. We would like others to join us in our practices

and monthly performances on Thursday mornings. All are welcome. No tryouts. Please contact Denver at 303 773 3890 or xyzingers@aol.com.