

Parker United Methodist Church

Cross & Flame

JUNE 2016

FROM THE RISING

of the sun

to the place where it sets,

THE NAME OF THE LORD

IS TO BE PRAISED.

Psalms 113:3



Creating **BLESSING**



Little Blessings
Preschool & Kindergarten

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

“Looking Forward” by Randy Jessen, Senior Pastor



The arrival of summer is always a time of excitement.

We love the warm weather and the opportunity to get outside once again. It is also a great time for travel, adventure, gardening, or whatever activity brings renewal to your spirit.

The church staff team will be using the summer months to continue conversations about the process of Christian discipleship. The team has been investing time thinking and praying about a model of discipleship ministry that could unfold within the life of our church. We have been reading, studying, and exploring options that may have great potential for the uniqueness of our congregation.

Imagine this, you are a new believer who is looking for a starting place to explore the basics of the faith. Or perhaps you are a person who was involved with your faith as a student but you have been away from the church for a while. Now you sense a need to understand the flow of Scripture by taking a look at the content of the Bible. Or what if you

were a deeply invested believer with strong Biblical background but you are now seeking a way to invest your time in mission ministry.

Each of these scenarios (and many more) are a very real part of our congregational life. As a result, we all know that a ‘one size fits all’ approach to Christian discipleship and personal spiritual growth is really not going to meet the unique needs we bring to the table. However, we also believe that Jesus invites us all to the table so we can grow, learn, serve, and share our lives with others.

Our efforts at designing a discipleship network are focused on creating the best of all systems so individuals could find a mentor, small group, class gathering, or mission experience that would help them grow in their faith. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if each person could identify their need and then find the next step for their faith journey right here within the life of our congregation?

I know that my personal journey has been impacted in different ways through uniquely different experiences at different seasons of my growth in Christ. In the early days, I

sensed a need to invest in the New Testament to understand the teachings of Jesus. At a certain point, I needed a mentor to help me on the discipleship journey. Eventually, I needed a much deeper level of teaching to round out my knowledge base. But the real turning point for me was the experience of hands on cross-cultural face to face mission ministry.

We believe there is a path for each person. Some of our paths will intersect while others will be on a one of a kind journey. There are basic elements and deeper experiences that await each believer. Our task as a con-

gregation is to create a vision, implement a plan, and invest in growing through a deeper investment in our faith.

The ministry team of your church is working toward a positive outcome. Pray for us and pray with us to the end that God would be glorified, the name of Jesus would be imbedded in all we do, and that the power of the Holy Spirit would lead the way.

I hope you have a wonderful summer! Let's worship and work together!

God bless you all!

Randy Jessen

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 Cody.

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 Cody at cody@parkerumc.org as soon as possible!

April Kauffman-Director of Student Ministries



I can't believe I've been here for four months already! Time is flying by - we must be having fun! It's been so great to meet so many of the youth. We had 13 graduates at PUMC this year and we wish them all good luck for their future plans. Those students are: Jessica Baumbach, Ellie Furuta, Franceksa Gilsdorf, Erin Hill, Michael Huckle, Chessa Kerr, Jerry Kigerl, Samantha Pier, Sam Ross, Isaac Stroman, Katie Wallace, Matthew Weber & Megan Zimbeck.

We are gearing up for our two Mission Trips this summer. If you're able to help with a donation it sure would be appreciated. We've estimated around \$6,000 in expenses such as van rental, chaperone fees, and gas for the two trips. If you would like to make a donation, please write *Youth Mission Donation* in the memo portion of your check and send it in to the office or drop it in the offering plate. Our Junior High are traveling to Cortez, CO at the end of June and the Senior High are going to Tsaile, AZ, at the end of July. It will be a great experience for everyone!

Our summer is jam packed and ready with activities. For a schedule, please find the

yellow calendar sheet at the top of the Youth News Rack, in the office or in the youth room. It's a complete schedule for the summer (unless we would be adding some more to an already full schedule!)

Move Up Sunday will be June 5th. So, if you have a current 5th grader who will move up to 6th he or she is now part of our youth group, and I look forward to meeting them! We have Sunday School each week, except for the first Sunday of the month. We encourage students to attend church with their family (or with me) as it is Communion Sunday. Otherwise Junior High Youth (grades 6, 7, & 8) meet for Sunday school in room #138 and the Senior High (grades 9, 10, 11 & 12) meet in the Youth Room (#144)

YOUTH PARENT / STUDENT MEETING - I am having an informational meeting on two different Sundays, so please try to attend one. May 29th or June 5th I will be in the Youth Room (144) at 10:30ish (a little after the 9:30 service). So grab a donut and come on back. I'll have some handouts about our activities, meals, forms of communication and answer any questions you have. This is for students going into grades 6-12 in the fall and of course their parents as well!

Cody Anderson, Associate Pastor



Discipleship is such a big word that we use all of the time in our Christian walk, but what does it really mean?

What does it really mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I grew up in the church, and so the amount of times I have heard the word “disciple” or “discipleship” are too many to count, and it had just become this word that I have heard a lot but hasn’t had a lot of deep meaning to me until recently.

These last few months, our staff team has been reading books and having discussions about discipleship, and through my readings, I have felt challenged. Being a disciple of Jesus isn’t just one of the things that I should be doing as a Christian, it should be all that I am doing. It isn’t just a one time thing, or a step in my journey, it is my entire faith journey.

So what does that look like for me? What does that look like for a body of believers? How can we be intentional in our discipleship?

First, we have to submit to Jesus as our Lord, the One that guides our lives.

Submitting is all about being obedient to what God calls you to do and who God calls you to be.

Second, we have to learn Jesus’ words and way of ministry. We do this by setting a side time to do a devotional, read God’s Word, pray, join a Bible study or small group, have discussions with other Christians, worship... the list goes on and on.

Third, we need to imitate Jesus’ life and character.

We must become the hands and feet, being Jesus in this world and doing the things that Jesus would have us do. We do this by speaking kind words to our neighbors, by praying for others, by reaching out and helping those who are in need, by going on mission trips.

And finally, we need to find others who don’t yet know Jesus and introduce them to the love of Jesus, and then teach them what discipleship really looks like. Paul shows us this in the way that he mentors Timothy. In the same way, we are to mentor others along their discipleship journey, and have someone we are accountable to as well.

Can you imagine what our church would look like if we all were more intentional with our discipleship? Can

you imagine how our community would be transformed? Will you join me on thinking and praying about how we can grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ? Will you join me in a journey where we are more intentional about growing and learning, imi-

tating and reaching out, and mentoring others while being transformed? Blessings to you as you continue on your discipleship path and become a stronger disciple of Jesus Christ!

JUNE ACOLYTE LIST

RED ROBES ON THE FIRST SUNDAY

8:00 am

9:30am

5th MATTHEW ANDERSON
McKENNA GEORGE

HAILEY BERGE
CAITLYN VOYLES

12TH LUCAS HODGSON
JAMES SMITH

HANNAH THOMAS
JOSIE THOMAS

19TH HANNAH REYNOLDS
RACHEL REYNOLDS

LEILANA THORSTAD
BELLA BYINGTON

26TH LAUREN KUSNER
TAVIE BROWN

MATTHEW NGUYEN
GRAYSON HARDY



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 Serve as a Stephen's Minister: By: Jan McClain

Three years ago I moved to Parker to be closer to my children. Yes, I was sad to leave my beautiful years in Fort Collins, but I also know that God so often truly honors new beginnings and I asked him to help me embrace the change.

A kind friend at PUMC suggested that I commit with her to the Stephen's Ministry training class which was about to begin. I was interested and very familiar with the Ministry but there was one problem: I am a Senior, very senior, and I questioned if I could be effective in fulfilling the requirements and duties. Could my age be a problem for my grasping the needs and situations of much younger persons? With that question still very much in my head I joined the class training.

I have always enjoyed a variety of individuals and tried to keep my door and my heart open to them. The training enhanced my understanding and my support for others

and most importantly, my desire to serve them. I could now be more effective; my listening skills were honed; personal judgements removed; my focus sharpened on the person needing my empathy and friendship. The ones we serve are often mourning, or could be lonely and despairing for companionship, some suffering from personal strife or even illness and some trying to make life choices and simply could use a friendly and private sounding board. Many just need a friend to pray with them, to walk their walk with them. My hope is to bring calm, a supply of TLC, and support and confidence that comes from our Lord and Savior!

So I'm not too old! And the profound joy as a minister that I am allowed to witness: joy in healing hearts; joy in good relationships; joy in how God provides for each of us; joy in God's unconditional love for all his children.

Being a Stephen's Minister allows me the privilege of serving my God and his people. What could be better?



Sunday 6/5/2016 at Noon is a reception to say goodbye to Phil and Cindy Harris, who are moving away.

Lay Leader, Ruth Wills



Greetings from is happening as viewed from Portland and the either perspective, but there is General Confer- more struggle to come as some- ence Proceed- of the petitions that have not ings, received approval or defeat will

My room- ry. Keep those prayers coming!

mate had an insight last night of Perhaps you do not realize the UMC in relationship to the your importance as a member biblical story of Jacob and his of a local congregation. You struggles with the angel of God are where the UMC is impact- before meeting his brother ing the community around you Esau (Genesis 32:22-32). Her and in areas around the insight was that our divided world. This gathering is work- UMC is like Jacob as we strug- ing on how we work, but you gle to go forward. Liberal ver- are doing the work! Thanks be sus Conservative, both sides to God for EACH ONE OF YOU are struggling with an angel of and thanks for your prayers! God, and both sides will need to be changed and limp forward Grace and Peace, as we receive the blessing of Ruth Wills God. There is much good that

Prayer Ministry Update: If you want to join the Prayer Links please contact Sabrina Thanks for all those who partici- Links please contact Sabrina Thompson or Rev. Randy participated in and attended the Na- Thompson or Rev. Randy tional Day of Prayer Event. Jessen. This month pray for the church.

The Zingers - great folks from PUMC, have been practicing and monthly performances on Thursday mornings. All are wel- fun, joy, music and praise to our come. No tryouts. Please con- Lord by sharing our voices in the tact Denver at 303 773 3890 or community. We would like oth- xyzingers@aol.com. ers to join us in our practices



UNITED
METHOD-
IST MEN

Sure was nice to have youth assisting with the Mother's Day Breakfast! Thanks!

Recently I read an article which started -- "ANYBODY, GOT A GOD-SIGHTING" this week? This was the question used to start the Sunday sermon time. It sure got the attention of those seated in the pews! Their church was in the 'crummiest' place for a church to be located in a run-down town. The attendance was dwindling, and comments about the congregations future were not positive.

However, the question did get the people thinking about the last time they experienced 'God's activity' around

them. They began to take notice of and then share with others their perceived "Sightings of God at work". Did the church begin to grow -- that wasn't mentioned in the article, but what was mentioned was that the people were more eager to gather each week and tell of their "God sightings". They began to realize that God was working among them and God had not given up on them nor their future!

Likely you and I also need to take notice of God at work among us and then tell others of what we've seen. Sure will give hope and encouragement -- and the Lord knows we all need more of that!

Keith Eipper, President of
UM MEN of PUMC



Children's Ministry Updates

"Move Up" Sunday is 6/5:

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 Cody (cody@parkerumc.org) or April (april@parkerumc.org).



Vacation Bible

School: CAVE

QUEST: JUNE

20 THRU 24

9A TO NOON—

4 YEARS OLD

THRU 5TH

GRADE. \$30

per child, or \$50 per family. Register today! To register, check out our website at parkerumc.org and follow the instructions, or pick up your registration form in the church office. There are still a few spots available in our VBS, so don't miss out on this wonderful week of fun for your child! If you have questions, please contact Cody at the church office or at cody@parkerumc.org

VBS Help Needed: We are still in need of help to make our Vacation Bible School a huge success! 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 close to 300 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 Cody at cody@parkerumc.org as soon as possible!

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 helpers. If you would like to become a part of this great ministry and teach a Sunday or two this summer, please contact Cody Anderson at cody@parkerumc.org, or call the church office.

