

Parker United Methodist Church

Cross & Flame

JULY 2016



ONE NATION UNDER GOD



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



This is a season for Conferencing in the United Methodist Church!

Through the spring and summer of 2016 we will experience three major ‘conferences’ where key decisions are being made. You will remember that within our UM system the word ‘conference’ is actually used in two very distinct ways.

For example, when we talk about the Annual Conference, we are thinking about an actual meeting of folks who come together in a large gathering. But at the same time, when we say “Annual Conference” we are also identifying a geographic region. Our Rocky Mountain Annual Conference includes all of Colorado, all of Utah, and most of Wyoming.

I know you will remember our prayer support for the General Conference that took place May 10-20! And you will recall that our Annual Conference took place June 9-12. Now we are anticipating the meeting of our Jurisdictional Conference July 13-16 in sunny Scottsdale, Arizona.

Each Conference gath-

ering has a unique purpose and focus. The General Conference is global in nature and makes decisions that impact the broadest issues of ministry, structure, and theology. The Jurisdictional Conference has specific responsibility for electing Bishops. And the Annual Conference is responsible for local mission and the support of individual congregations.

One of the primary things that happen at the Annual Conference level is the appointment of pastors. Each church in the region is assigned pastoral leadership by the Bishop and the Bishop’s Cabinet. It is one of the key functions that provides support and missional movement for congregations. At the close of each Annual Conference session, the Bishop has responsibility for reading the pastoral appointments as a way of formally ‘setting’ the place where individual pastors will serve.

This year, at the close of the ordination service, Bishop Stanovsky read the names of Cody Anderson and Randy Jessen to serve the Parker United Methodist Church. She likewise read the name of Pat Bell to serve the Tapestry United Methodist Church. From a very personal point of view, I am excited and blessed by that

decision! It is a joy to serve the Parker based faith community!

The congregation has been moving forward for over 100 years. Step by step, year by year, person by person...ministry happens. It is a privilege to walk in a path that has been well traveled and remarkably fruitful for so many years. At the same time, it is very exciting to look at the future. The days ahead are bright and filled with great promise. Our task it to stay in alinement with the promise of God and to respond to the continued invitation to grow as disciples of our Lord.

The invitation for growth comes to us in a very

personal way. It also arrives as a challenge to us as the Body of Christ. The call includes our mission outreach, our engagement with Scripture, our investment in prayer, our charge to engage issues of justice, as well as the task of seeing our lives connected deeply to the love of God and intensely related to our local and global neighbors.

These are good days! I pray that the summer season will be filled with opportunities to worship with joy, share your life with passion, and discover the renewing gift of grace in your life. The Lord bless you all!

In Christ, Randy Jessen

Endowment Committee

In May we were pleased to award grants to all five graduating seniors who submitted applications for scholarships. This is a great way for PUMC to thank our youth for all their commitment to the church over the years, and to help them with the next step in their education.

There are several ways to make donations to the Endowment, to generate income for Church projects: 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

Cody Anderson, Associate Pastor



About this time every summer, my children are tired of hanging out with each other, fighting and calling names,

and I have had it about up to here! No matter how many times we talk about treating each other with kindness and love, daily there are angry words that are yelled, hurtful comments made and tears that are shed. I just can't understand why my children can't get it. And then I turn on the news and wow, I hear more angry words being yelled, more hurtful comments being made, and more tears that are shed.

When I was attending our Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, one of the most inspiring and challenging speakers was one of our young clergy by the name of Jasper Peters. He stood up and called us to engage in critical conversations, especially regarding the Black Lives Matter movement.

While he knew that many would disagree with his words, he made the statement, "I may believe that you are wrong, but I love you enough to not ignore you."

And with that, he brought us back to our baptismal vows: "Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?" So what does it look like if we take those vows seriously? What does it look like if we renounce the spiritual forces of division, reject anger and hatred, and repent of the times when we have stood by or joined in when anger and hatred are spoken?

God calls us to guard our hearts and our words.

But we know that often speaking words of love and kindness can be harder than we think. We get passionate about an issue, hear words that make us angry, and before we know it, we are in the midst of yelling angry, hurtful words, even though we have been taught that we need to be different. With the example that is before our children, no wonder they can't get it right!

My friends, let us strive to be different, especially in this time and in this place! Let us strive to be a people who are known by the love that we live and show to others! Let us be kind in the way that we treat people,

even if they don't agree with us. Let us engage in discussion, not yelling matches. Let us be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19). And let us live into our baptismal vows and be the people that God has called us to be!

JULY ACOLYTE LIST

RED ROBES ON THE FIRST SUNDAY

	8:00 am	9:30am
3 RD	MATTHEW ANDERSON LUCAS HODGSON	IAN FITZPATRICK BEN CHRISTENSEN
10 TH	BELLA BYINGTON CHLOE LENTZ	HAILEY BERGE McKENNA GEORGE
17 TH	CONOR PALMQUIST HAYDEN CASSEL	TAVIE BROWN MAYA STROMAN
24 TH	JOSIE THOMAS HANNAH THOMAS	LAUREN KUSNER CLAIRE BUNTEMEYER
31 ST	BEN SHIER MAX SHIER	LEILANA THORSTAD TARYN THORSTAD

Missions:

Many thanks to everyone for your wonderful support of our 2nd Sunday blessing bags mission. In May we assembled UMCOR health kits and in June we created bags to share with VBS volunteers. In July we'll take a break, but encourage everyone as a mission activity to consider contributing to the Pastor's discretionary fund or purchasing gifts

cards to King Soopers, Walmart, etc. so that our pastors are able to help provide support to those needing some help (you can drop these off at the church office).

We'll resume our blessing bag mission in August when we assemble hygiene bags for La Puente home in the San Luis valley. Look for more info on items to donate in mid-July bulletins. Enjoy a wonderful summer!

April Kauffman-Director of Student Ministries



Thank you pation.

to everyone who has supported the Youth Mission Trips with donations!

We are so blessed to be a part of such a giving church. I am so happy to announce I had enough chaperones for the junior high trip as well as many monetary donations. If you would still like to donate, but haven't you may give a check (or cash) to the church with Youth Mission Trip Donation in your memo line. Thank you to everyone who has supported us!

The Youth had a terrific time leading worship Sunday, June 12. We had youth greeting, ushering, leading prayer and reading scripture, singing and playing instruments. Annabelle Peterson did a fabulous job delivering a sermon that had the congregation laughing and then moments later with tears in their eyes. I'm so proud of the whole group who gave their entire morning to lead all three services. I want to thank every single family who helped get their youth to church early that morning and supported them in their partici-

Summer is underway! The Youth are so excited to be out of school and many of them are off on family trips for the summer. However, for those who are in town we have plenty of activities to keep them busy. The junior high went on Mission Trip to Cortez, CO at the end of June. We had twelve youth and three adults go. Please watch for more information and pictures from that trip.

The July is full of activities including an ongoing Bible Brunch that meets at Village Inn. We're also having a pool party, going to see Parker's performance of Grease!, going to Movies in the Park, the senior high will go to Tsaile, AZ for a mission trip, and we'll round out the summer with a pajama and movie night at the church.

We are oh so blessed to have such a wonderful group of young people who are anxious to love each other and God! I'm looking forward to my time with them this summer and am already planning activities for our school year!



Well, as many of you know, the last couple months have been notable in my family for the milestones that have been celebrated. We have collected a

Bachelor's degree, two Master's degrees, and a Marathon medal! I was also commissioned at Annual Conference as a Provisional Elder, a big step toward ordination in 2018!

Another big milestone that happened at Annual Conference this year was my official appointment exclusively to Tapestry. The Bishop and her cabinet decided that Tapestry showed enough positive momentum that I no longer needed to be assigned to Parker UMC as an Associate Pastor. This is a big vote of confidence by the Bishop and the people of our Conference. It is also a development which calls for another huge thank you. If it were not for the people of

More than anything else I could say in this article, I were not for the people of

PUMC and their encouragement and support, Tapestry wouldn't have been launched. This new church is as much a testament to PUMC's desire to reach out to people as to anything my team and I have done this year.

The last twenty years as a member and then a pastor at PUMC have been transformative for my family and me because of your love and the movement of the Holy Spirit through this place. We have worshiped together and learned together. Celebrated together and cried together. Through it all, you have been amazing and I look forward to a

deep continued relationship between Tapestry and Parker UMC's.

Please know that all of you are always welcome to visit us over at Tapestry and see how we are doing. We will be at the Wildlife Experience for the foreseeable future and at the beginning of September we move to weekly worship. This promises to be another incredible year as we continue to give Glory to God and do our part in building the Kingdom!

May the Lord bless you and keep you.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

What a joy it is to be part of this church! The UM MEN'S group is an interesting gathering of men. We represent multiple ages and interests and differ somewhat in our understanding of what it means to live as a Christian.

Seems to me that most anyone who believes in Jesus as Lord would enjoy being part of one or more of the Men's groups.

2nd Saturday each month a breakfast and meeting for all men from 8:00 -- 9:00am.

Each Wednesday a small group in study at 6:30am

Each Thursday morning a gathering of men in the 30 & 40 year age at 6:30am.

All groups gather at the Church.

Keith Eipper, President

**GIVE ONE OR MORE OF
OUR GROUPS A TRY !**

Lay Leader, Ruth Wills



Summer Greetings,
The second of the three church conferences are now over. Our annual Rocky

presentation and voting of whether we will join up with the Yellowstone Conference to become a new Mountain Sky Conference. The Yellowstone Annual Conference is meeting June 16-19, and they also will be taking a vote to decide if they are willing to move forward in this process of joining together. All the votes will be counted on Sunday, June 19th, in the afternoon and can be seen via 'live stream' on the rmcumc.org website. If both conferences want to move forward in this four year process, then a petition to that effect will be presented at the July Jurisdictional Conference. Our United Methodist denomination is shrinking here in the U.S. and Europe and growing in Africa and the Philippines. Helping to make our UM churches more of a movement of Wesleyan vitality in our country instead of a stagnant institution is the hope behind this new conference.

Mountain Conference ended on June 12th with Pat Bell and Cody Anderson both involved in the Celebrating of Ministry Service: Pat was Commissioned along with six others,(a step along the way to becoming an ordained elder), and Cody was recognized as being a licensed Local Pastor.

We selected Rev. Skip Strickland to be our RMC nominee for bishop. He will join several other nominees at the upcoming Western Jurisdictional Conference in July in sharing his hopes and dreams for our UMC and answering questions from the delegates at that conference. Only one nominee will be selected by a voting process to be a new bishop for the UMC.

Another important area of the conference was the

Grace and Peace be yours today and every day!
Ruth Wills, Lay Leader

Prayer Ministry Update:

Prayer can be difficult or easy as you make it. It is a conversation with and conduit with God. Keep your requests,

praises, recognition of blessings in your mind whenever you can. This month pray for the church.

Sabrina

Thank you!

Once again, a huge thank you to all of our those who donated items, prayed for our VBS or volunteered your time and energy and helped make our Vacation Bible School a

huge success! We had over 275 children this year, which was such a huge blessing! Thank you, thank you, We could not have done it this year without the support of all of you!

Wanted: Children's Sunday School Teachers:

Do you like to have fun? Are you an energetic or enthusiastic person? Can you talk with children and share a smile with them? Do you feel God calling you to serve? We are looking for people who are committed to helping provide

a safe and loving environment for our children as they learn about God and His love for them. If you think this may be you, please email Cody at cody@parkerumc.org to learn how to get involved. We are looking for Sunday School teachers for all ages and all services.

July 4th Popcorn and Fireworks

Come join us for fireworks and popcorn on Monday, July 4th!

The Hospitality Committee will be handing out bags of popcorn and bottles of water to people viewing the Town's fireworks display from our church parking lots.

Help is needed on Sunday, July 3rd, to put together the bags of popcorn. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00PM and fill the bags assembly-line style. It should take no longer than one hour, and it's a lot of fun! Help is also needed directing traffic in and out of the church parking lots before and after the event. If

you can assist with parking, please contact Keith and Eileen Carpenter at 303-841-7531.

Happy Independence Day!



Little Blessings Updates:

It was about a year ago when the Little Blessings expansion committee learned of some space opening up off of Plaza Dr. and Parker Rd. that might be a good fit for the expansion of the Little Blessings Preschool. Emily opened Little Blessings Plaza Campus with a staff of 3 teachers and 15 kids total between the three classrooms. In January 2016 we introduced drop-in supplemental child care for families. By the end of May 2016 we wrapped up the inaugural school year at Plaza with 32 students enrolled in preschool and averaged 5-10 children daily in the drop in child care room. What a blessing! Little Blessings is currently offering a Summer Camp to community and church families every week this summer with the option of drop in child care for families Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00. There is an average of 30-40 students attending camp each week. In August, Little Blessings Plaza Campus launches a new school year. As of the middle of June there are 42 children enrolled at Plaza campus before drop in child care. The word is out, the

support is abundant and for that we are seeing with patience that in just under a year Plaza campus is 3/4 full. A big thank you for the support from the Church and community to provide a satellite campus to reach another 42 children in the Parker area. Between the two campuses Parker United Methodist is able to provide early childhood education and child care to 320 children in the Parker community. Again, what a blessing!

Little Blessings begins school August 15th. Please contact Emily Shaffer to learn more about the Plaza Campus at 303-840-6196 or Tricia Woods to learn more about openings and volunteer opportunities at the Church campus at 720-204-4420.



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PLAZA CAMPUS
A MINISTRY OF PARKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH