

# CROSS & FLAME

A quarterly publication of Parker United Methodist Church

MAY - JULY 2017



# Looking Forward: May 2017

This summer should be fun! In fact, every summer should be fun. The season of warm days, green lawns, lush gardens and family picnics should always be fun.

We think the summer of 2017 will also be fun here at the church. We always have a great time with summer camps, mission trips and Vacation Bible School. But this year we will be having some fun in worship as well.

Cody and I will be sharing a series of Sunday sermons based on Your Favorite Bible Stories~Revisited!

We will dig into some of the greatest hits like: Moses and the Burning Bush, David and Goliath, Gideon and his Fleece, Jonah and the Whale, Elijah on Mt Carmel, and even Daniel in the Fiery Furnace. Be ready for a fresh look at your favorite Sunday School accounts from the Bible!

In addition, I want to invite you to join me on Wednesday evenings for an informal set of conversations about some of the key Christian authors and leaders from recent history. We will spend seven weeks together thinking about the influence and teaching of spiritual leaders like Thomas Merton, C.S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen, Dorothy Day, E. Stanley Jones, Mother Theresa, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We will gather for a one hour conversation about the impact and continuing impact of these significant Christian leaders and authors.

I pray that your plans for the summer are bringing joy to your heart and mind. It is a great time to worship, enjoy family, and experience the beauty of Colorado.

In this next year we will be continuing to seek the wisdom of God as we continue to develop our congregational focus on welcoming new people into the family, discovering new places to engage in mission outreach, and continually seeking to find new ways to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Summer, winter, spring or fall; our faith in Jesus, our desire to grow into his likeness, and our longing to serve others will always be the focus of our faith. I pray that the summer months will bring a spirit of healing and hope to you and your family.

As always, I am looking forward to seeing you in worship!

God's blessing to you all!

Randy Jessen

# CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

Activities and offerings for kids of all ages



Learning about God through play. What could be better? Photo by Bob Logan VBS 2016.

## Move Up Sunday

**June 4th:** Sunday School children 3 years – 5th Grade will “Move UP” to the next grade.

## Vacation Bible School

June 19th – 23rd: This year our VBS theme is the “Marker Fun Factory.” Kids will discover they are lovingly crafted by God on this interactive adventure. The kids will become hands on inventors that will experience God, the ultimate Maker. Register your kids or sign up to be a volunteer at [www.parkerumc.org](http://www.parkerumc.org).

## Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed

Summer is a fun time to spend with the kids at PUMC, curriculum changes, games are played, everyone is happy that it's summer! If you are able to volunteer, even one Sunday a month, please contact Noelle Allison at [noelle@parkerumc.org](mailto:noelle@parkerumc.org).

## VBS Volunteers Needed

VBS is a huge community event. We welcome over 250 children and their families. It takes approximately 100 volunteers to make the week go smoothly and share God's love with these kids. Please contact Noelle Allison, Director of Children and Families at [noelle@parkerumc.org](mailto:noelle@parkerumc.org) if you feel God calling you to serve in this way. We'd love to have you!

# ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Managing the Parker UMC Endowment Funds



## Scholarships Awarded to High School Seniors

The Endowment Committee was pleased to award scholarships to eight of our high school seniors at the 9:30 service on May 14, 2017. Contributions to assist the church's scholarship efforts should be made to the Parker United Methodist Church, with the Miller Scholarship Fund noted in the memo line on the check. In addition, proceeds from vehicle donations will be allocated to the Scholarship Fund. If you have a vehicle to donate (including boats, trailers, motor homes, as well as cars and trucks), please call 1-866-2277 and mention Parker United Methodist Church. Vehicles for Charity will do the rest, and the Scholarship Fund will receive 80% of the proceeds of sale. Our goal is to increase the scholarship fund so that the income generated will support the scholarships, without also using income from the General Fund.

## Tax Filing and Estate Tips

With tax-filing season just behind us, this is a good opportunity to remind our members that Congress did make permanent the direct contribution from an IRA to a public charity (including Parker United Methodist Church) for up to \$100,000 for a taxpayer who is at least age 70 ½. Such a contribution is excluded from the taxpayer's taxable income, and can be used to meet the minimum required distribution as well.

Remember to keep your estate plan up to date, both to reflect changes in federal tax and state probate laws, but also changes in the family. This can include the birth or death of family members, marriages and divorces. Terms of Wills and Trusts should be reviewed every few years, as well as beneficiary designations on life insurance, annuities and retirement accounts.

# STUDENT MINISTRIES

Youth activities are open to students grades 6-12



## Youth Happenings!

We have several fun activities planned for the Spring/Summer time in Youth Ministries. You can always find the latest copy of our youth calendar on the top of the Youth News Rack in the Narthex of the church. If you have further questions or comments, please email [April@ParkerUMC.org](mailto:April@ParkerUMC.org) or call April at 720-204-4424.

## Our Latest "Special Plans" For Summer!

May 5th .....	Jr. High Time Out (5 PM - Midnight)
May 14th .....	Sr. Recognition Sunday
May 14th .....	Boondocks
June 2-3 .....	Sr. High Lock Out
June 10th .....	Fishing/Hiking Picnic Day
June 18th .....	Rockies Game (1:10)
June 25-30 .....	Jr. High Mission Trip
July 2 .....	No Youth Group
July 9th .....	Pool Party
July 15-22 .....	Sr. High Mission Trip
July 23 .....	Pajamas, Pizza & Games
July 30 .....	Picnic/Kickball Sr. Hi vs. Jr. Hi

# Youth Group Sunday Gatherings Are:

5 - 6 PM - for Jr. High (grades 6-8)

6 - 6:30 PM - Snack Dinner for all youth grades 6-12

6:30 - 7:30 PM - Sr. High (grades 9-12)

# Our Summer Mission Trip Dates Are:

Jr. High (current 5th - 7th graders) June 25-30, Youth in Mission at Buckhorn United Methodist Church Camp. A mission/camp experience. \$275/pp

Sr. High (current 8th - 12th graders) July 15 - 22, Tsailie, AZ with Sierra Service Project. \$400/pp



Great Wolf Lodge Winter Retreat



Youth Group Games



Maundy Thursday event at Southeast Christian

# YA young adults

*A new group  
for adults  
18 through 20s*

**Wednesday Nights Starting May 31<sup>ST</sup> 7:00 At PUMC**

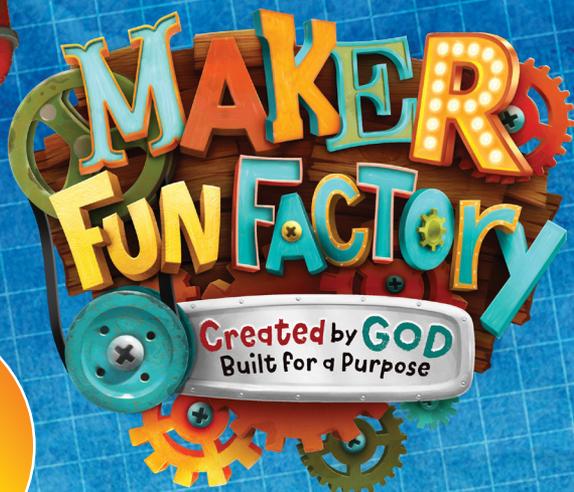
**"Be in on the planning of what YOU want out of a Young Adult group!"**

**Questions? Call or Text April Kauffman 720-383-1577 Email: [April@ParkerUMC.org](mailto:April@ParkerUMC.org)**

# 4TH OF JULY

**COME WATCH THE FIREWORKS AT PARKER UMC**

Come join us  
for fireworks and popcorn  
July 4th! We'll be handing out popcorn and  
bottles of water to people viewing the town fireworks display from our  
parking lot. We need help July 3rd to put together the bags of popcorn. We'll meet at 6 PM  
in the Fellowship Hall. Help is also needed directing traffic the evening of the 4th. If you can  
help with any of these needs please contact Cody Anderson at [cody@parkerumc.org](mailto:cody@parkerumc.org)



**JUNE  
19-23**

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.PARKERUMC.ORG](http://WWW.PARKERUMC.ORG)

**WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS!**  
CREW LEADERS, AND HELPERS OF ALL KINDS  
CONTACT NOELLE ALLISON: [NOELLE@PARKERUMC.ORG](mailto:NOELLE@PARKERUMC.ORG)





# LITTLE BLESSINGS

Preschool and Kindergarten



## Goodbye Summer...Hello School Year!

**Saturday, July 29th from 10AM-Noon:** Please join us to celebrate the end of the summer and get ready for a fun filled new school year!

Our updated playground will be open and we will also have a bounce house for the kids to jump around and have some fun and there will also be carnival treats like cotton candy and snow cones!

Some of our teaching staff will also be on sight if you'd like to come and meet your teacher and play before we dive into the school year!

This event is open to all that would like to attend.

## Summer Camp

Little Blessings will be offering Summer Camp options for children up to 8 years old at both the Plaza Campus and Main Campus this summer. Full time and part time camp options are available as we bring weekly themes to life. Please email [Tricia@parkerumc.org](mailto:Tricia@parkerumc.org) or [Emily@parkerumc.org](mailto:Emily@parkerumc.org) to learn more.

## Thank You for All of Your Support!

Thank you for your support this 2016-2017 school year. It has been a fun school year watching these students grow in their faith, their friendships and their school readiness skills. The Little Blessings 2017-2018 school year begins August 16th. There are still openings at both campuses for students 18 months old through Kindergarten.

# MISSIONS

Serving our community, our nation, and our world



The MobilePack is a multi-generational mission event. Bring your family and pack meals that save lives.

## On-Going:

Did you know that last year the Parker Task Force (PTF) distributed over 124,000 items of food supporting just over 2,800 client visits to their food bank? PTF is dedicated to providing individuals and families in our community with food, limited financial assistance, and other support services to help them become self-sufficient.

You can support this mission by bringing non-perishable food items and leaving them in the food bank containers in the Narthex for our weekly drop off at PTF. Or if you'd like to make a donation, you can write a check to Parker UMC and note 'PTF' in the memo and drop it in the collection plate or leave it at the Church Office.

## Upcoming:

This year's Feed My Starving Children MobilePack is scheduled for October 27-28. In the past three years members from our church and the Parker community have packed over 450,000 meals that were distributed to children across the world. In order to purchase the food that we'll pack, the FMSC committee has several fundraising events planned.

You can support this mission's fundraising efforts by donating items, volunteering to help, and shopping at the Rummage Sale/Silent Auction scheduled for the first weekend in June. If you'd like to donate items for the Silent Auction or Rummage sale, please contact Bill Blakslee evenings at 303-877-5271 or via email at [Blakslee@comcast.net](mailto:Blakslee@comcast.net). If you are able to help with pick up of items, setup or cleanup, please contact Angie Egan at 303-550-8110 or via email at [angieegan@hotmail.com](mailto:angieegan@hotmail.com). Or if you'd like to make a donation, you can write a check to Parker UMC and note 'FMSC' in the memo and drop it in the collection plate or leave it at the Church Office.

**Consider a mission trip this Fall**—it is a great way to grow your faith and serve others!

Respire Haiti Christian School, Gressier, Haiti — September 12-18 (for more info contact Wendy White @ wendy.white.haiti@gmail.com. )

Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota - September 23-29 (for more info contact Ken Smith @ kennethgsmiith@aol.com.)



**Saturday May 6th, 8:00am – noon.** We invite all volunteers to help spruce up the church grounds and help improve the older landscaped areas immediately around the building. Tasks include pruning and trimming of trees and shrubs, and adding a fresh layer of mulch in those areas that need it most.



## **Hail and Farewell to our DS Rev. Melanie Rosa**

As you know, we will be getting a new District Superintendent in July. The Leadership Teams are planning a Hail and Farewell Reception for Rev. Melanie Rosa and Rev. Tezenlo Thong on Sunday, May 7, 2:00-4:00 pm, at Hope UMC. Everyone is invited.

If you would like to help with the purchase of a gift card, please send a check (payable to Rocky Mountain Conference) to the district office by Wednesday, May 3.

# CHURCH WIDE GARAGE SALE

JUNE 2ND, 3RD AND 4TH

We Need Your Donations for this FMSC Fundraiser!

We are currently seeking your tax-deductible donations of:  
Good condition furniture, Gently worn clothing, Jewelry / Watches, Toys and Games, Bicycles and outside toys, Sporting goods, Working electronic devices, Antique or decorative collectibles, Framed artwork, Dishes or kitchen items

Contact Bill Blakslee at 303-877-5271 or  
via email to [Blakslee@comcast.net](mailto:Blakslee@comcast.net)  
to arrange to get your donated items to our team.

Don't have  
items to donate?  
Come shop and  
find new  
treasures!



FEED MY  
STARVING  
CHILDREN  
MOBILEPACK

# EVERYBODY NEEDS A HAND

## from time to time.

Whether you need just a bit of assistance or support for a length of time, we can help.

From visits while you are recuperating at home, to meals, to rides, to friendly notes, calls, or cards – call on us when you need a hand. Contact Pastor Cody or Nancy Smith: [cody@parkerumc.org](mailto:cody@parkerumc.org) and [care@parkerumc.org](mailto:care@parkerumc.org)

## Caring Ministry

PARKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Do you know someone who is  
**STRUGGLING WITH ISSUES?**



## Stephen Ministry Can Help

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? 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.