

Parker United Methodist Church

Cross & Flame

August 2015



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

“Looking Forward” by Randy Jessen, Senior Pastor



Dear Friends:

This is the season for conversation about back-to-school. The signs are everywhere. School supplies abound. Clothing

sales for children are rampant. Students are trying to get in one more outdoor activity. And teachers are getting anxious!

The season is the same for the church. Except instead of thinking about back-to-school, we would like for you to ask the “what’s next” question about your journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The answer to that question will tell you how to approach the closing days of the summer season.

When I ask the “what’s next” question for my own life I think about the goals I have for mission service and for a deeper investment in the community. I also think about my need for a systematic engagement with Scripture. The answer will be different for you but the question is the same. What is the next step in my discipleship journey?

The answer to “what’s next” for you might direct you to become part of a fellowship group like Din-

ners For Eight. Or it may point you to enroll in a Disciple Bible Study experience. Perhaps the answer for your life will be about some form of service in the world or within the church. The Lord has an answer for each one of us if we are willing to ask the question!

In the next few weeks you will find the Connections booklet being distributed within the church. That is our effort to help you ask and answer the most important discipleship question anyone can ask. The Connections tool will give you a snapshot of places you can serve, groups you can join, and experiences that will expand your horizons of faith. I hope you will get your hands on a copy and consider taking the next step in your journey with the Lord.

While I would love to invite everyone to find a place or an experience...I also want to add a word of caution. Don’t sign up for something that will create a struggle for your family or deplete the time you have to invest in the people you love. Be sure you balance your life! Don’t get so busy that you neglect the most significant part of your life. There is an appropriate balance to our journey. Make it work for you in a way that is a blessing to

God, a reward for your own life
and a gift to your family.

What's next for you?
Stronger worship attendance,
deeper investment in Scrip-
ture, engagement in mission,
connections to others in fel-
lowship...Find the place and
the people that will bless you,
and then go for it.

I am looking forward to seeing
you on Sunday!

God bless your journey!

Randy Jessen



August 2015 Acolyte Schedule

8:00 am

9:30am

RED ROBES ON THE FIRST SUNDAY

2ND	HAYDEN CASSEL	JAMES SMITH
	GRAYSON CASSSEL	SEAN SAYLER
9TH	BEN SHIER	HANNAH REYNOLDS
	MAX SHIER	RACHEL REYNOLDS
16TH	BELLA BYINGTON	CAITLYN VOYLES
	CAS STANLEY	MAYA STROMAN
23RD	HANNAH THOMAS	CLAIRE BUNTEMEYER
	JOSIE THOMAS	CONOR PALMQUIST
30TH	McKENNA GEORGE	GRAYSON HARDY
	TAVIE BROWN	ANDREW HUEY

Cody Anderson, Children & Family Ministry

I love to go on hikes with my family.



What I have learned is that there are several things that you need to make sure you have with you on your journey. The most important of these items is a map of where you are going. But here is the thing about hiking: even with the greatest preparation, sometimes the path can be difficult. Sometimes it can be filled with lots of twists and turns. Sometimes it can have some challenging hills to climb. It can exhaust you and make you feel like you can't continue. Sometimes it can have obstacles in the path, like large rocks or deep crevasses that we have to get past. And sometimes it can feel like the path will never end. Yet the hike is also filled with great beauty and peace, and when you finish, a great sense of accomplishment.

Life is one of the greatest journeys that we will ever go on. We need to make sure that we are prepared for the wonder and difficulty of the journey before us. One of my favorite verses is found in Proverbs 3:5-6. It says, "Trust in

the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Trusting and submitting are not always easy things to do. We live in a society where we are taught to trust ourselves. We are told that we need to do what we want to do and trust OUR hearts. Yet God calls us to do something completely different. God wants to be our map through this hike called life. God wants us to submit to what God would have us do. And we can trust God. We can trust The One True Map to guide us through life. No, the hike will not always be easy. The journey will be filled with difficult hills and obstacles to cross. But if we truly trust in God and submit to what God would have us do, then we will be on a journey that will create great beauty and peace in our lives.

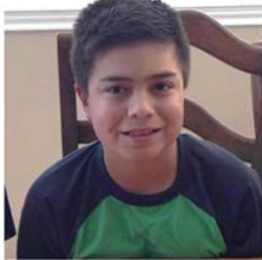
On one of these hikes with the family, Jackson (my youngest son) kept running ahead and tripping. His knees were skinned, his cheeks were stained with tears, and he just wanted to quit. He didn't have the map before him, and he couldn't see the dangers that were in his path. But when he allowed me to hold his hand and help

guide him, his steps became sure though he may stumble, he will and he was able to finish the not fall, for the Lord upholds him beautiful hike that we were on. with his hand.” (Psalm 37:23-24) The same is true with God. If we Let us trust in God along this jour- trust God and allow God to lead ney called life, and may God make us, then we will not stumble. the paths before us straight. “The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him;

Student Spotlight

By: Cori Fitzpatrick

Liam White: Liam is going to be an 8th grader at Cherry Creek Challenge School. He is a part of National Junior Honor Society, Baseball, Lacrosse, and



Golf. In his free time Liam loves to play sports with his family and friends. He collects baseball cards and is a huge Pirates fan. He also enjoys cheering for the Steelers and Notre Dame. Liam also likes mountain biking, reading and traveling. Recently he has traveled to Ireland, New England, and Haiti. He was a part of the mission team from PUMC that went to work with Respire Haiti. When asked what he likes most about Parker UMC, he said, “Being a part of Youth Group and going on Mission Trips”

Sam Pier: Sam is going to be a Senior at Chaparral High School. There she is on the Cross-Country and Soccer teams. She



enjoys biking, shopping, and babysitting. Sam’s family moved to Texas for several years before returning to Colorado and PUMC. She immediately started attending the Youth Group and getting involved. She even applied for the Saturday custodial position at PUMC and does a fantastic job. Sam says, “I like PUMC because I always feel welcome when I walk through the doors, and getting involved in the youth group has been fun. I have never been a part of a group that I have become friends with so quickly.”

Our Parker UMC Youth On Missions: Middle School Mission Trip---July 5-10th



and stain some of the buildings and walk-ways, but there was still plenty of work to be done.

Since the fire, the fence surrounding the camp is down in several places, leaving gaps for the free-range cows to come into camp. Each day the "Fencing Crew" worked hard re-

We took seventeen 7th and 8th graders to Bellvue, CO to attend "Youth in Mission" at Buckhorn Camp. Buckhorn is owned by the United Methodist Rocky Mountain Conference and has several camps and retreats all year long. The camp owns 230 acres and in 2012, half of it was burned by the High Park fire. Buckhorn was the base for the fire-fighters so the camp had extra protection and thankfully, only lost one cabin and the ropes course.

pairing fence and digging post-holes. The floods in the area last year gave more access to the cattle to come to Buckhorn as the Cattle guards were filled with mud to the point where you couldn't tell there was a guard present. The "Cattle Guard" job was slow going, messy & tedious, but by the end of the week all 3 guards were cleared out enough to keep the cows out. Another job the kids could select was the "Trail Crew" that worked on creating a path around the pond. This was very hard work removing grass and weeds and flattening out the mud to make a path. In the afternoons, this crew also worked on clearing the river of trees and debris so future camps can cool off by taking a stroll through the water. The most popular job, but definitely not

Buckhorn has new Directors, Ryan & Marieke Colby. They are working hard to improve the camp and came up with the idea of doing a Missions Camp. There were several jobs that they needed help with. Unfortunately because it rained all week we were unable to paint

any easier was “Wood Chipping.” Most of the burnt trees surrounding the camp have been cut down and piled up. It was our job to haul those trees and limbs to the wood chipper. This crew was very focused because the chipper was too loud to allow for kids to get distracted by talking. Ryan was very pleased with the progress made and said it was better than he could’ve hoped for.

The kids worked very hard in wet and rainy conditions, but they found ways to make working fun and had great attitudes all week. They also had plenty of time to play. Human Foosball, 9-Square, Carpet Ball, Jedi Tag, skits, silly songs, rock climbing, square dancing, ooga-booga, and hanging out with new friends were highlights for our group. We also loved that the rain

stopped enough the last night to go to “Green Cathedral” for worship and communion. The view is beautiful from this spot. The staff at Buckhorn like to think of the fire as a blessing because it has opened up the area to some amazing views. If you ever get the chance to go to Buckhorn Camp, don’t miss seeing the cross at Green Cathedral. So many trees surrounding this spot were burnt, but the cross remains standing...scarred, but standing. I believe seeing this cross opened up our youth’s eyes to seeing that God still performs miracles. Thank you PUMC for supporting the youth. They will remember this week for the rest of their lives!





The Simla United Methodist Church mission project is completed! The photos show changes brought about by hard work and fresh paint. PUMC provided 35 workers (5 women - 30 men). Because several people could go more than one day, we had 37 "workers" there over the 7 work-days. An additional task of replacing the windows in the "old parsonage", now a rental, was accomplished also.

We are so thankful: for you who prayed for our safety during travel and work; for you who "allowed" your spouse to go while worrying and praying at home; for those who assisted greatly in promotion and recruitment of workers. As coordinator, I am especially thankful for cheerful, able-bodied, skilled workers who said, "I can help do that!"

Special thanks to Allen and Judy Book, members of Simla UMC, who worked along-side us and saw that supplies were on hand. Their snacks were appreciated too! They, like some of our workers, are

in their 70's, but God has given us the ability to ignore that for a time like this. Also to David, the Missions Chairperson of Limon UMC for coming to help one day.

The PUMC Men's Group accepted a challenge! We all, working together, with a variety of abilities, accomplished a monumental task. We can feel good about that! But we are also mindful to give the Praise to God. Short-term, near to home, Missionaries for Christ! That's us!

Keith Eipper, President of the United Methodist Men

PS -- Anticipate some enjoyable reminiscing at the August 8th Men's Breakfast! 8:00am. Come, join us!

Look for additional photos of the Simla Project and our workers on the "Mission Monitor". This is located in the Narthex just across from the sanctuary doors.

Simla UMC—Work In Progress





Simla UMC
Before
&
After



From: "Judy Book" <bookroad5@aol.com>
Date: Jul 14, 2015 5:24 PM
Subject: Re: Simla UMC
To: "<revkeithre@gmail.com>" <revkeithre@gmail.com>
Cc:

There are no words that can adequately thank your group of volunteers that so graciously gave their time, money and energy to scrape, paint, rebuild, retouch and generally enhance the beauty and hope of the Simla Church and parsonage!

We were so impressed with the quality and quantity of work. Each individual had a task to perform and did it very professionally. The enthusiasm with which everyone worked as well as the great relationship between them made the work so much easier. What a blessing it is to have such a talented, dedicated group of people in your church that are willing to share their gifts with others.

Even our renter in the parsonage expressed his disbelief and pleasure at having all 9 windows replaced so professionally and quickly! They look fantastic and he can actually open a window that wasn't either broken or painted shut!

A big thanks to Reverend Keith for his skills in coordinating such an effort. Signing up volunteers, getting ladders and equipment gathered, and making sure all supplies were here and ready was quite a task that he accomplished very well!

Again, bless you all for your timeless work and dedication at the Simla United Methodist Church. We are so appreciative of all you did! God has truly blessed us!

Pastor Sherry, the congregation and the community

Prayer Ministry Update

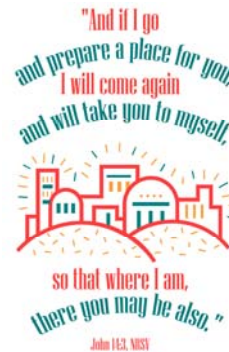
We will be a Taize Service on Thursday September 10 at 7:00 pm. Taize is a form of worship that originated in France. It in-

cludes music, meditation, prayer, and reading of bible passages.

Remember to never cease praying.

"The Gospel of John: A Guide for Spiritual Growth"

Rev. Kenneth Neal will teach an 8 week course called "The Gospel of John: A Guide for Spiritual Growth," beginning Sunday, September 12, in the Open Circle Class at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited. The course will be based on selections from the 21 chapters of John with explanations of the meaning and mystic growth implications of the Christian believer toward further closeness to God. Copies of the commentary in its first draft will be available for all attendees.



Ready for diving lessons this fall? That is, deep diving in your study journey in the Bible! Parker UMC has been traditionally a Church with strong participation in the Disciples Bible Study program. Disciples is a series of yearly progressive in-depth studies that last about 35 weeks each starting in September.

- Do you want to have a disciplined study where you read the Bible in a year?
- Do you want to draw richer meaning from stories and lessons of the Bible?
- Do you want to be able to draw on Biblical verse to apply to life's moments?
- Do you want to enjoy and learn from others' interpretations, experiences, reflections and learnings of the Bible?
- Do you feel God is calling you to a new destination in your Christian journey?

Then consider a Disciples study program this fall! Based on interest, any number of these different Disciple classes will be offered. Disciple I is a pre-

requisite for the other Disciples series, but after you have been through 80% of the Bible in Disciple I, you can then take any other series where you have interest and desire!

Disciple I Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Disciple II Into The Word / Into The World (Genesis-Exodus-Luke-Acts)

Disciple III Remember Who You Are (The Prophets-The Letters of Paul)

Disciple IV The Tree of Life (The Writings-Gospel of John-Revelation)

To sign up or express your interest in a study, contact the Mel in the Church office (mel@parkerumc.org) or Rich Oppmann at rich.oppmann@mho.com; 303-663-1825. And look for signup tables that will be in the Gathering Area during late July and early August. Classes will begin as early as the second week of September, and could be in the day or evening, depending again on interests and leadership. We hope that God will speak to you and give you encouragement to become a Disciples graduate! Learn how to dive in the Bible! And dive some of the greatest treasures you can find!



Tapestry Update
Hello friends and family of
Parker UMC!



The Tapestry launch is moving along and we have had some great firsts since I saw most of you at the end of June. We have started "The Loom," a Monday night gathering at the Caribou Coffee up on Lincoln (across the street from the Wildlife Experience). At "The Loom" we get together and just talk about issues like how to practice Christian Hospitality and what we really mean when we talk about God's grace. The Monday night gathering is called "The Loom" of course because the loom is where we begin to weave together people's lives into our Tapestry. We start our discussions at 6:30pm and they typically run an hour.

As for Sunday worship, it has been fun to spend some time worshipping in other churches and experiencing how they "do church" as we think about planning Tapestry's worship services. We are planning right now for Tapestry's first worship service to be at 9:30am on August 30 at the Wildlife Experience. As we start, we plan to worship once-a-month on the last Sunday of each month. This

will expand as we grow, with us someday worshipping additional weeks and finally adding additional services. Of course you are all invited to join us whenever you feel the urge to see what is going on.

Finally, we are in the process right now of planning local service opportunities in the community of Lone Tree/Parker. I will make sure you all get information on those as well. We want to make sure that the community knows we are there and eventually counts on the work we do and the love we share.

Any and all are invited to join us for any of our activities. You are also invited to help support our new ministry by donating funds through PUMC. If you would like to donate to Tapestry's start-up, just drop a check in the offering with "Tapestry" clearly written in the memo line. It will be forwarded to us. If you have any questions about anything we are doing, call me at 303-570-8145 or email me at rev.patbell@yahoo.com. I would love to talk to you about it.

God bless,

Pat



Lay Leader—Ruth Wills



Greetings Everyone,

This is a time of many transitions for our church family and the opportunity for us to look forward with hope and not with apprehension. I want to share with you some insights of a recent lay leadership training that I took that involves the word “hope” as it applies to us as laity:

H is for hospitality – an area in which we can all improve in reaching out to other people

O is for offering Christ – sharing our stories and listening to others’ stories of how God is working in our lives

P is for purpose – what is our purpose (mission) as United Methodists? It is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world . It is in living the best way we can to honor Christ who is our savior.

E is for engagement – loving one another and participating in what our church offers to us for spiritual growth and mission

Each of these areas can be expanded with many insights, but even this basic list can help us look forward with hope to the unfolding of newness that is around us.

On Sunday, August 23rd, we will be celebrating Laity and United Methodist Women Sunday. UMW will be selling pies during the in-between times of our three services. The monies collected will be used for mission - globally and locally. The worship services will center on the importance of you, the laity.

May our gracious God bless each of you daily!

Ruth Wills, Lay Leader
303-693-7365,

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
ANNUAL PIE SALE
SUNDAY AUGUST 23rd**



Please donate pies to the pie sale to help us raise funds for our pledge to Global Missions and the annual Women’s Retreat.

We will be selling pies in the Narthex between all services and pies can be dropped off in the kitchen. Thanks from Parker United Methodist Women!

**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)

August 5 (beach book!): *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* (Fiction) is another irresistible novel by **Fannie Flagg** that shines a light on women's lives during World War II. Flagg gives us lovable, quirky characters and lots of humor along the way.

September 2 (Back-to-school): *Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West* by Dorothy Wickenden (Non-fiction). In the summer of 1916, Dorothy Woodruff and Rosamond Underwood, bored by society luncheons, charity work, and the effete men who courted them, left their families in Auburn, NY to teach school in the wilds of northwest Colorado. The book is written by the granddaughter of Dorothy Woodruff and is based on letters the women wrote home.

October 7: *The Prayer Box*, by Lisa

Wingate (Fiction). When Lola Anne Poole, an old-timer on Hatteras Island, passes away in her bed at ninety-one, the struggling young mother in her rental cottage, Tandi Jo Reese, finds herself charged with the task of cleaning out Lola's rambling Victorian house....Running from a messy, dangerous past, Tandi never expects to find more than a temporary hiding place within Lola's walls, but everything changes with the discovery of eighty-one carefully decorated prayer boxes, one for each year, spanning from Lola's youth to her last days. Hidden in the boxes is the story of a lifetime, written on random bits of paper--the hopes and wishes, fears and thoughts of an unassuming but complex woman passing through the seasons of an extraordinary, unsung life filled with journeys of faith, observations on love, and one final lesson that could change everything for Tandi.

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.

December 2: *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, by Kathleen Norris (Non-fiction).

Struggling with her return to the Christian church after many years away, Kathleen Norris found it was the language of Christianity that most distanced her from faith. Words like "judgment," "faith,"

"dogma," "salvation," "sinner"—even "Christ"—formed what she called her "scary vocabulary." Norris found she had to wrestle with these words and make them her own before they could confer their blessings and their grace. Blending history, theology, storytelling, etymology, and memoir, Norris uses these words as a starting point for reflection, and offers a moving account of her own gradual conversion. She evokes a rich spirituality rooted firmly in the chaos of everyday life—and offers believers and doubters alike an illuminating perspective on how we can embrace ancient traditions and find faith in the contemporary world.

DEALING WITH LOSS SUPPORT GROUP:

Sometimes working thru a significant loss in your life can be very difficult on your own, whether it be the death of a loved one, a job loss or a divorce. Maybe talking with others who are in the same circumstances could help. We meet the 1st. and 3rd. Wednesday of the month at 6pm. For information, call Maureen Oppmann at 303-663-1825 or e-mail at Maureen.oppmann@me.com

XYZ UPDATES:

August Events—

Mark your Calendar

> Breakfast, Friday August 21st, Village Inn

> Annual Cherry Creek picnic hosted by Jim and Ginger Spate. Tuesday, August 25th (Wednesday Rain Date). More information will be sent out soon.

A Summer of Change at Parker UMC

There are exiting changes happening and to come at our Church.

In Worship—Jane Haskell retired in mid-May after over 25 year servicing Parker UMC with her organ and piano skills. On July 19, Paul Ijames joined us as an organist/accompanist/11a Worship Leader. Effective 7/1/15, Pat Bell was assigned to the new Tapestry UMC and will no longer be performing 11am Worship Leader or as our associate pastor.

In the Church Office—Debbie Barthel, Office Assistant, decided to retire after 7 years. Cindy Griffith was hired as our Administrative Assistant, but after 3 months received a career-focused job with a financial institute and has moved on. We welcome Cindy Rhymer as our new Administrative Assistant.

Youth—Cori Fitzpatrick's last day with us as our Youth Director was on July 16. The job ad to fill her position closed 7/6 and as of this writing (7/15) SPR is reviewing the list of applications and will provide our congregation with more information as available.

Children—Current plans are for Cody Anderson to become a Pastoral Assistant in early September as she begins her study to become a Local Pastor. She will assume some of the duties Pat had but as of this writing those have not been formally identified. The job ad for our Director of Children & Families Ministry will close on 7/24. SPR will then review applications and select a replacement.

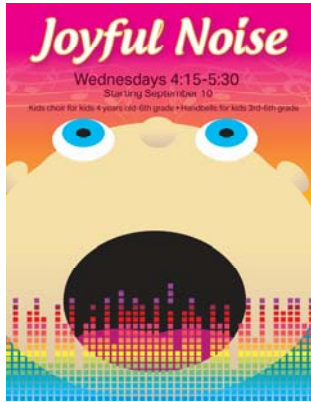
Preschool—We will have many new faces in our Preschool and many returning teachers. In early July, Joy Johnson, Assistant Director, resigned to take a Director position at another school. Candi Robinson has accepted the job as Assistant Director. Candi has been one of our teachers for many years.

Meet Candi Robinson, Little Blessings Preschool and Kindergarten's new Assistant Director.



A new school year for a kid is going from a hazy, lazy summer where the schedule is playing at home and catching bugs to having to rise and shine to get ready for school. This can be a transition time for many kids as well as their parents. This is where the staff at Little Blessings looks forward to greeting every child on August 17th and to begin another exciting year and school experience. This year we welcome new families and new staff. Candi, who is not new to Little Blessings will be our new Assistant Director. She began her work at PUMC in 2001 as our Nursery Coordinator and shortly after she began working in the preschool. Last year we were blessed to have her support as our Extended Programming Coordinator. We welcome Candi to the Little Blessings administrative team and look forward to a wonderful year. Please contact Tricia at tricia@parkerumc.org or Candi at candi@parkerumc.org to learn more about Little Blessings.

Joyful Noise



Joyful Noise will begin September 9th. Joyful Noise is our children's choir and is for children ages 4 years old-5th grade. We

offer bells for children ages 3rd-5th grade. Don't miss out on this fun time for children to worship God and share their talents. Information and registration forms will be available in August in the Narthex, so be sure to pick yours up!

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.

Growing Ministry

With our children's ministry growing, we need your help!! Due to the increase in children on Sunday mornings, our Sunday School is expanding, and we need more Sunday School teachers. Would you be willing to teach once or twice a month in our Sunday School program at 9:30 or 11:00? The lessons are easy to



teach, and the materials are ready and waiting for you... all we need is for you to teach God's love to our children. Remember, it takes all of us to raise our children in God's love. For questions or to volunteer, please email Cody at cody@parkerumc.org

✓ Sunday School REGISTRATION

Make sure that your child is registered for this year's Sunday School . Simply pick up a registration form in your child's Sunday School class.

Sunday School Supplies Needed

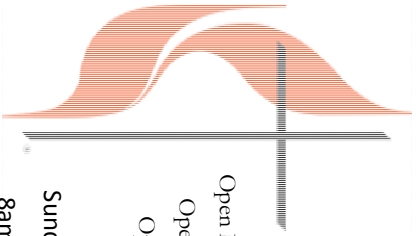


As the new year begins, it is time to help stock our Sunday School supplies! While you are out picking up school supplies, take this list with you and help us replenish some of our supplies.

- Construction Paper
- Glue Sticks
- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue
- Tape
- Poster Board
- Goldfish Crackers
- Fruit Loops

If you want to help but can't make it to the store, help our Children's Ministry by making a monetary donation. Just write Children's Ministry in your memo line.





Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

Parker United Methodist Church

11805 S. Pine Dr. Parker, CO. 80134

303 841-3979

www.parkerumc.org

Sunday Worship Times

8am, 9:30am & 11am

Holy Communion at 9:10am

August 2015

