

## *Wesley's Journal May 2018*

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### *To live by Faith to be known by Love and be a Voice of Hope.*

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#### **From the Pastor's pen:**

With the celebration of Mother's Day in the month of May, I would like to focus on the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Acts 1:1-14 describes the ascension of Jesus. This is the last time that Mary is mentioned in the scriptures. In this passage we see her, along with the brothers of Jesus, continuing in fellowship with the disciples and other members of the early church.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that the disciples returned from the mount of ascension with joy, unlike the first time that Jesus left them, when their hearts were broken. Although they were sad to see him go, they were still joyful because the second departure was one of victory rather than defeat.

If the day of ascension meant so much to the disciples, it must have meant more than words could explain to Mary, Jesus' mother. We often talk about the devastating effect of the crucifixion of Jesus upon his disciples and friends without realizing that, whatever they went through, the impact was even more painful to Mary. After all, they had only known Jesus for three-and-a-half years at the most, while Mary had known him longer than any other person on earth. She was the vessel whom the Holy Spirit blessed to bring forth God's Son. Mary was the first human being to receive the word from heaven that a Savior would be born.

It was Mary, who under the power of the Holy Spirit, felt the first stirrings of the baby within her body. It was Mary who carried the child during pregnancy, loving the life within but not understanding exactly what had happened to her or the role of the baby which she bore. It was Mary who personally experienced the pain and the joy of childbirth as her baby was born in a stable

behind an overcrowded inn where nobody seemed to care or take notice. She had been with Jesus at the first moment of his earthly life.

She had been there when the shepherds came to see her baby, bringing reports about heavenly hosts proclaiming hosannas to a newborn Savior. She was present when gift-bearing wise men from the East came following an unusually bright star which led them to the holy family. She had seen, both, the shepherds and wise men bow down to worship her child. She did not understand the meaning of those events, but she kept them in her heart.

Mary could remember the day she took the baby to be dedicated in the temple. She remembered Simeon, who desired to see the Messiah before his death, glorified God as he laid his eyes on the child. Only Mary could remember how perplexed she felt when Simeon told her that, because of the role her son would play in the redemption of Israel, a sword would pierce her own soul as well.

She could remember the night when Joseph awoke her and told her to pack their belongings quickly because they had to flee to Egypt, for King Herod wanted to destroy their child. Only Mary could remember the fear in her heart as she wondered why anyone would want to destroy her precious child.

She could remember the relief she and Joseph felt when they received word from heaven that they could return to their homeland, and their excitement when they settled in Nazareth. Mary could remember the anxiety the time they had gone to Jerusalem and assumed that Jesus was returning with relatives, only to discover after traveling a whole day that their son had been left in the city. Only Mary could remember how she had worried when she searched for him until she found him in the temple. She felt the sword pierce her heart while searching for him.

Mary could remember the joys of those Nazareth days as Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and people. Mary had watched him grow into manhood and take up the tools of carpentry. However, Mary knew that the time would come when he would leave Nazareth.

Mary tried to prepare herself for the inevitable. However, she would never forget the pain of that day when he informed her that he had to leave and pursue the calling he felt within. Only a parent can understand how Mary fought back the tears and forced a smile as she said good-bye to her oldest son and watching him walk down the road until he was out of sight. Only a parent knows how hard she prayed that night and every

night and morning that God who gave him to her would watch over her child and protect him from harm.

Mary could remember when she began to receive mixed messages about her son's ministry. Some said he did mighty works for God while others said that he was crazy. She could remember the pain in his eyes when his messages and ministry had been rejected. She could remember his words, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house" (Mark 6:4).

I know that each one of us must bear our own crosses and experience our own pain. Each lash Jesus received was a lash across Mary's heart. Each blow of the hammer that drove the nails deeper into his hands and feet was felt within her soul. Each drop of blood that was shed was her own because that person on the cross was not some criminal, he was her son.

That's why she stood near the cross. Others had walked away, but Mary was bold enough to stand where her son, her little boy, was dying. She had been with him in the beginning, she would be with him at the end. When he hung his head and died, part of her died.

Others had their grief, but hers was special. Hers was a mother's grief.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, Mary had a special joy. No one had been with him as long as she had. No one had prayed for him like she had. No one had loved him as long or suffered as she had.

Ascension Day for Mary was Mother's Day. On that day God's plan of salvation that had begun over thirty-three years before was brought to a glorious finale. On that day Mary received the ultimate gift—the gift of knowing that her faithfulness, labor, pain, love, and prayers had not been in vain. On that day, Mary, the hand-maiden of God received her blessings. The blessings of God.

Happy Trails,  
Rev. Emilie

**Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.**  
**Coffee Fellowship 11:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School for all ages. 11:15 a.m.**

## THANK YOU!

I want to thank you for allowing me to meet you and join your service to inform you about Habitat of Humanity here in Pueblo. I felt very welcomed and felt the unity. I enjoyed your fellowship and happy to meet others who follow the Lord's path.  
Thank you, Valdia Espinoza  
Volunteer Coordinator.

## Time to Tell Your Story

The Board of Lay Ministry is asking all churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference to send pictures and stories to "Tell Our Story" at Annual Conference in Ogden, UT. This year's theme is "Safety, Homelessness, and Justice."

Please consider:

1. How does your church's ministry provide "home" for others?
2. Telling the story of how we not only invite, but accept others into our circle.

Trinity District submitted wonderful, heartwarming stories last year and we hope every church will send another story this year. The deadline for submissions is **May 6<sup>th</sup>**. Pictures with two or three sentences describing them need to be sent to Myrna Prentice, BOLM Communications Coordinator, at [myrnaprentice@mac.com](mailto:myrnaprentice@mac.com) and to Margaret Hotze at [margarethotze.umw@gmail.com](mailto:margarethotze.umw@gmail.com).

May your day's be blessed,  
Jerry Clare and Cindy Snodgrass  
Co-Lay Leaders of the Trinity District

## Help Wanted!

*Volunteers that is.....*

Our church requires a lot of volunteers to operate our building, fulfill the needs of our members, strengthen our faith and most importantly keep our covenant with God. Here is a partial list of some volunteer job openings where YOU could help.....

- Head Usher (Bill Easton is retiring from this job)
- Ushers
- Mission Committee Chairperson
- Christian Education Chairperson
- Care Team members

Please contact the Wesley Office if you are interested in helping.

-- Jim Stuart

Mother's Day

## Bring Mom to Worship

There's no better way to honor your Mother than to bring her to worship on Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>

## **St. Paul Memorial Fund**

Has allocated \$39,371 to nine area churches. I am pleased to report that the Pueblo St. Paul Memorial Endowment Fund has completed another successful grant cycle by awarding nine Southern Colorado United Methodist Churches and organizations a total of \$39,371. All of these funds will be used to support youth programs, outreach efforts and improvements in these churches. This money was available for these grants due to the investment growth in our endowment during 2017. The following UMC churches received grants: Adriaance, Alamosa, Canon City, Center, Pueblo First, Saguache, Swink and Wesley. Also, the Beaver Creek UMC Camp and Retreat received a grant for scholarships.

We are proud that since the St. Paul Fund was started in 2008 it has made 111 grants for a grand total of over \$204,000, without using one cent of the original principle

If you would like to make a donation to grow our principle and make it possible for us to award even more grants to do God's work contact me or any one of our committee members. Money donated to the Pueblo St. Paul Memorial Endowment Fund never stops giving and it is a lasting legacy to all those who built and supported this great church for over 100 years.

*Jim Stuart, Chair*

## **MISSIONS**

### **El Centro de los Pobres**

Is in need of soups, canned corn men's jeans and long sleeve shirts, men's boots and shoes.

### **Cooperative Care Center**

May needs: Mac 'n' Cheese/  
Crackers/ Kids' Fruit Snacks



Success comes in cans:

Failure comes in can'ts!

*I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.*

*Philippians 4:13*

## ***Happy May Birthdays***

<b>Ramona Higbee*</b>	<b>05/03</b>
<b>Josh Mangin</b>	<b>05/05</b>
<b>Jonathan Mangin</b>	<b>05/07</b>
<b>Merlene Morrell</b>	<b>05/12</b>
<b>Steve James</b>	<b>05/13</b>
<b>Brayden Buffalo</b>	<b>05/17</b>
<b>Nancy Higbee</b>	<b>05/17</b>
<b>Wilma Bard*</b>	<b>05/20</b>
<b>Lois Goode</b>	<b>05/21</b>
<b>Cynthia Lewis</b>	<b>05/21</b>
<b>Ken Kraus</b>	<b>05/22</b>

***\*Proudly celebrating 80 years or more***

Happy  
Annivers  
ary

**Markus & Heidi Forward - Kraft**

*If we missed your Birthday or Anniversary,  
please let us know at 561-8746.*



### **Wear Red to Worship**

On Sunday May 20th, we will celebrate the day of Pentecost by wearing red to worship. Red is symbolic of flames that appeared over the Disciples heads. when the Holy Spirit came upon them that day.

### **Our Deepest Sympathy**

**To the Family and Friends of:**



**Bill Brown**

**Torsten Felzmann**

### **The United Methodist Women Reading Program**

Every year the Methodist Women receive a list of books to read in the following categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for the Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Wesley UMW is buying a new book every month from one of the above categories.

We invite the congregation to read along with us. Please feel free to check out and read the books in the library *on the library cart*.

This year so far our new books include:  
**MASSACRE AT SAND CREEK:** *How Methodists Were Involved in an American Tragedy.* In November 29, 1869, Colonel John Milton Chivington, a Methodist minister, gave the command that led to the slaughter of 230 peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho, primarily women, children, and elderly who were camped under the protection of the U.S. Government along Sand Creek in Colorado Territory and flying both an American and a white flag.

**DETAINED AND DEPORTED** *Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire.* Drawing on heart of reporting in Arizona-Mexico borderlands, journalist Margaret Regan tells the poignant stories of the people caught up in immigration dragnet: undocumented immigrants who are detained and languishing in detention centers for months or years, or those deported and sent to violent nations, If you have any questions regarding the reading program or how to check out books see *Jan Warner*.

## **Intentional Prayer May 2018**

We are seeing all over town the signs that say “Pray for Pueblo”, I challenge each of us to come up with a breath prayer that we can quickly pray when we see one of the signs.

Such as:

- \* Help us restore our Christian values.
- \* Please be with us and guide us.
- \* Show us the way to love and peace.



Please join the challenge and say a prayer every time you see one of these signs.

*Marsha McDaniel*

## **Wesley Youth**

The youth group went in front of the Church one Sunday with a question. The question was: What does it mean to be a Christian? Then people were asked to raise their hands if Jesus was part of the answer. The kids have been trying to put some historical context into answering this question in the perspective of talking to people who have heard of Jesus.

In other news, the youth group has started working on their garden for the summer and fall. We will be going back to PAWs soon and on our first fun trip in May.

*Tori Mc Clune*

## **April Church Council Meeting**

Church council meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend and bring your ideas and concerns. All committees' chairs should be in attendance or have a member of their committee there to report, at the very least they should submit a written report to Marsha McDaniel or Kelly Hudgens before the meeting.

The monitor and cameras have been purchased for the security on the doors for the east side of the educational wing. We now need to purchase some kind of locking mechanisms for the doors that can be controlled from the office.

Larry Frank has had three different contractors look at the roof in the educational wing and is now waiting for the bids to arrive.

The committee for Communications and Website is still working on improving our public face. They would appreciate any help and or ideas you may have.

### **A few of the upcoming events:**

Planning for Vacation Bible School

Estate Sale May 4-5, 3 Bell Flower Ct.

Spiritual Retreat May 5<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall

Mother's Day & Pentecost May 20<sup>th</sup>

Change the World Day June 20<sup>th</sup>

*Marsha McDaniel*

Wesley United Methodist Church  
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Pueblo Co 81005

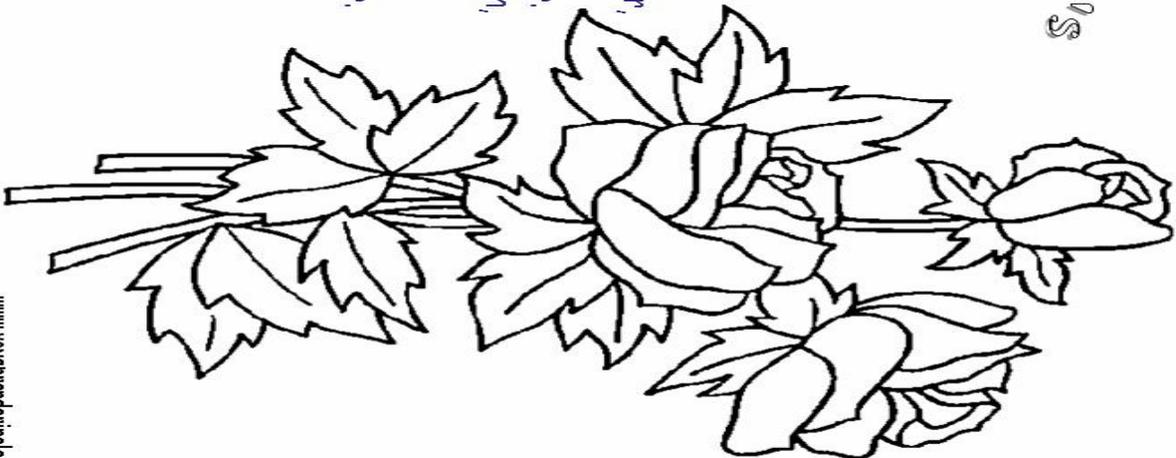
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**Return Service Requested**

*Happy Mother's  
Day*

Hundreds of stars in the pretty sky,  
Hundreds of shells on the shore together,  
Hundreds of birds that go singing by,  
Hundreds of lambs in the sunny weather,  
Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,  
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,  
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,  
But only one mother the world wide over.



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