

Wesley's Journal December 2018
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Rev. Emilie Forward

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



From the Pastor's Pen



From the Pastor's pen:

*"Macht hoch die Tur, die Tor macht weit! Es kommt
der Herr der Herrlichkeit..."*

Georg Weissel

*"Open the doors, widen the gates. Receive the Lord
of glory."*

A beloved Advent song we learned when I was in Confirmation class and is still sung in our church in my hometown, Glauberg, on the first Sunday of Advent. It is the time to prepare our hearts once again for the coming of our Lord.

One good thing of having heard the Christmas story over and over again is that we all know how it turns out. There is no other way to recapture the good news: God is coming in the flesh to show us what real life looks like.

We will hear about John the Baptist, the messenger of that news. Come to think of it,

the news has not been all that good. There has been a lot of talk about axes, pitchforks, and unquenchable fires. There has been the suggestion that we are snakes in the grass—vipers—to be exact—who only seek God when our own snake pits are on fire. So it's a relief when we hear from a different messenger, Mary, who will turn out to be Mary the mother of Jesus. She is chosen by God to bear a message before she ever bears a child.

Her cousin, Elizabeth, is the first one to hear what Mary has to say, maybe because Elizabeth is the first one willing to listen. She too is pregnant, about six months further along than Mary, and much, much older—so old, in fact, that her impending motherhood is as much as miracle as Mary's. So she and Mary have a lot in common. The obvious difference is that, in Elizabeth's case, there is a biological father hanging around—Zechariah by name, a priest who hasn't said a word in months.

We almost never hear his story in church, which is too bad, since he and Mary have something in common, too. According to the gospel of Luke, they have both been visited by the angel Gabriel, who went to tell Zechariah about his and Elizabeth's baby-to-be before he ever went to tell Mary about hers.

Unfortunately, Zechariah's annunciation did not go as well as Mary's did. When the angel told Zechariah that Elizabeth would bear a son whose name would be

John, Zechariah questioned Gabriel's announcement. "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

The angel zipped Zechariah's lips, making him mute until the day he heard his son cry out for the first time.



Six months later, when Gabriel told Mary that she would bear a son, she said more or less the same thing. "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" But for some reason the angel went easier on her. He told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, that the power of the Most High would overshadow her, and instead of asking any more questions, she said, "Here am I, the servant to the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

So, when she goes to visit Elizabeth and Zechariah, Mary can still speak, while all he can do is wave. You would think that at a time like this Mary would settle down with Elizabeth and compare notes on their appetites, their mood swings, their back aches and swelling feet. Elizabeth was ahead of Mary and could have warned her about some things and given her some helpful advice, instead for the elder woman sharing with the younger one, it is the younger who enlightens the elder. Mary is launching into a prophecy that we repeat to this day.

"My soul magnifies the Lord," Mary sings in Elizabeth's living room, "and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Elizabeth and Zechariah are the first to hear her song, but it's not just for them. It is also for her, Mary, and for the Mighty One who has done great for her. It is for Gabriel, who first gave her the good news, and for all who will benefit from it. It is for those who came before her and those who came after her. This song is for you and for me.

Let us sing Mary's song and let us sing our song as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. May our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. For he has looked with favor on you, and all generations will call you blessed.

Let us receive the Holy One as we sing our songs of joy. Rev. Emilie & Walt

I want to thank you all for your cards of encouragement, appreciation and thanks as well as your monetary gifts as we celebrated

Pastor's Appreciation month in October. I give thanks to God for your faithfulness to Wesley and to me.

Rev. Emilie



It is with a grateful heart that I thank you all for your prayers, get well cards, hugs and encouragements before, during and after the surgery for my brain aneurysm. I am recovering slowly and will be back soon.

Blessings,
Rev. Emilie

Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School. 11:15 a.m.

Children's Sunday School during worship.

Nursery is available during Worship

Our Deepest Sympathy

To the Family and Friends of:

La Verne Meissner



*For God, Said, "Let light
shine out of darkness," made
his light shine in our hearts
to give us the light of
knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Christ. - 2
Corinthians 4:*



Thank You

To Wesley Church:

I would like to thank the church for your thoughts and prayers and especially welcome Rev. Emilie back! The help this church gives the community, and even my family is greatly appreciated. I know the work of our dear gracious Lord and father gets the main precedence to be most grateful this Thanksgiving.

Thanks be to his Holy Name. Amen. Again we are so gracious to the Holy Spirit, and the good people of this church of God (The one true God of Abraham, Isaiah, and Jacob) Amen.

Sincerely The Colletti Family



Thank you to three talented musicians for the **Offertory** Music yesterday. “Corelli Trio Sonata was performed by Jacob Seekatz (Violin 1), Rachael Pope, Violin 2; and Frederick Schid, Cello. It was beautiful! Jacob will be performing at CSU-P and I will be sending that information to you in another email, I wasn’t quick enough at church yesterday to get the date and time.

Thank you to Rev. Sandy Spahr for filling in while Pastor Emilie recuperates from surgery. She will be back in December if all goes well. Keep both she and Walt in your prayers, Rev. Sandy also! Yesterday, Eddie Bedlien had a special presentation ceremony for all those in the congregation who served in the military. Thanks Eddie, that was very special!

Paulette Stuart

Dear Wesley UMC

Thank you for donating \$200 on Oct 4th 2018. The YWCA and women and children who live here are truly blessed by your generosity and continued support of our programs. Together, we can make a difference! YWCA Pueblo is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families and strengthen communities. Please Visit us at www.ywcapueblo.com

For more information about our many programs offered. With much gratitude,

*Zelna Joseph
Executive Director*



POSADA

Dear Wesley UMC We can’t thank you enough for your very kind donation of \$300.00 received this October. Your generosity will make an immediate difference to local homeless families, youth, veterans and individuals.

*Sincerely, Lili Avalos
Posada Program Manager*



Pueblo Child Advocacy Center

Dear Wesley UMC It is because of Wesley UMC that we can help so many children. So far this year we have served over 175 children. Because of your generosity, we are able to continue to offer our services and create resilience to keep our children healthy.

On behalf of the board of Directors, staff and children we serve, please convey our sincere thanks to all the church members for the recent donation of \$200.00 to the Pueblo Child Advocacy Center.

*Sincerely Dena Rodriguez Executive Director
Pueblo Child Advocacy Center*



CASA



Dear Wesley UMC
 In the spirit of Thanksgiving. We are thankful for you and your willingness to open your heart and make a difference for children CASA of Pueblo serves. You truly make a difference
 Thank you. *Casa Staff & Board of Director*



NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Dear Wesley UMC Members and Committees
 I just want to take a moment to reflect on all that you have done for me in your service to the church. I appreciate your dedication and role you play in the body of the church. You have helped to see that our church fulfills its mission, vision, and values. Thank you for providing for resources, and ensuring that we are responsible stewards of the gifts you have blessed us with. Office hours remain the same for 2019 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday -Friday. On **Mondays** I'm taking incoming calls after 10:00 a.m. If there's anything I can help you with please feel free give me a call or message me at (719) 561-8746 or email me at Office@wesleyumcpueblo.org. Also, please let us know how your loved ones are doing, so, that we can keep Rev. Emile and the Care Team and church members up to date. Looking forward to working with you this next year God bless. Merry Christmas and Happy New - Year everyone!!!

Sincerely Claudine Van Buskirk

UMM December 8th at 8am breakfast.

Chuck Hillestad will talk about a program that he was a part of while serving as a hospital chaplain in California. The program is NODA (No One Dies Alone). It is a nationwide service

that insures that the terminally ill without family should not die alone. Please plan to attend.

Happy December Birthday

Cheryl Dionese	12/02
Nancy Kochis	12/02
Wendy Goins	12/03
Jeannette Frantz	12/04
Rebecca Goyette	12/06
Donald Sanchez	12/06
Cassie Hartman	12/07
Bob Cowden*	12/11
Bob Collyer*	12/13
Lisa Ferguson	12/13
Tom Janoski*	12/19
Markus Kraft	12/21
Mike Solano*	12/21
Frances Bedlien*	12/25
Lloyd Tilley	12/26
Doc Blanchard*	12/27
Walt Forward	12/28
Debbie Harris	12/28
Jerry Ryan*	12/28
Tom Mock*	12/29
Steve Urban	12/29



**Proudly Celebrating 80 years or more*

Happy Anniversary

Doc & Connie Blanchard	(72)
Tom & Lois Jean Mock	(60)

If we missed your Birthday or Anniversary. Please let the Office know at 561-8746

Missions

Cooperative Care Center

is in need of:
canned fruit



Baby Jesus Tree

The Baby Jesus Tree Each Christmas the Missions Committee decorates a Christmas tree in the foyer.

The tree is decorated with ornaments with pictures of baby articles on them such as diapers, baby bottles, formula, clothes etc. We ask the members to take an ornament and bring it back with the item in the picture.

The tree stays up till about New Years and then we take the baby items and distribute them to Catholic Charities, Los Pobres and Cooperative Care. It has been such a tradition that they look forward to it.

Gratefully,

The Missions Committee

Help Needed with Parent's Day Out Shopping Day

The Wesley Ministry Development Team is sponsoring a Mom's Shopping Day on December 14th and 15th between 1:00pm and 4:00pm at our church. The idea is to have a

place for mothers to leave their children, ages two to ten, while they go Christmas Shopping. The Wesley folks who will be watching and entertaining them will be headed up by Jesse Furney, a certified daycare provider, who does our nursery during church services, plus several helpers. One of the features of the event will be a "Gift Store" where, for only \$1, the kids can pick out a small gift and wrap it for Mom and/or Dad. They will also be able to make, bake and decorate cookies. We need your help for this event on each day. You can help by:  Assisting with the care of the children  Take registrations at the door (contact info, child allergy info, etc.)  Donate knick-knacks to use in the gift store  Help in the kitchen baking the cookies

To volunteer call the church office 561-8746 or put your name on the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board outside the door to the Fellowship Hall



Paulette Stuart

Parent's Day Out Shopping Day

- Let us watch your kids while you go Christmas Shopping!
- December 14th & 15th, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- Wesley United Methodist Church—85 Stanford, 81005
- Certified childcare attendants
- Limited space, call 561-8746 For children 2 to 10
- Gift shop for kids to select and wrap great gifts for Mom & Dad only \$1.00 each.

Paulette Stuart

Wesley United Methodist
Church
85 Stanford Ave
Pueblo Co 81004

Return Service Requested



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