

Wesley's Journal

January 2019

Wesley United Methodist Church
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To live by Faith to be known by Love and
be a Voice of Hope.

From the Pastor's Pen



"As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us."

Psalm 103:11-12

What happens if you leave your garbage sit a little too long? It begins to stink, doesn't it? It will invite all sorts of pests. It will make your lives unpleasant in a variety of ways. It will begin to stink up your lives. So, the best thing is to get rid of it.

Of course, there is more than one kind of garbage. The kind of garbage we put into our trashcans is relatively easy to discard. It just takes some planning, some effort. When we work at it, it is gone. But there is another kind of garbage that is more difficult to manage. It is the garbage of our past. A great many people have never learned how to deal with yesterday. Instead of looking to the future with hope, excitement, and positive expectation, they are bogged down in the past. They feel guilty about this. They are hurting over that. They are disappointed that they didn't do the other. They are bitter over the way they were treated. For so many people, the past is like a heavy weight around their necks, holding them back from the good future that God intends.

For so many, the negative parts of their past are like that piece of cellophane, clinging to them by static electricity. No matter what they do, it hangs on, irritating, distracting. How can they focus on the future? How can they take hold of the promises of God to make all things new for them if they are so focused on the past? They can't get on to new business because they are so bogged down in old business.

What is in your past that keeps giving you a hard time? Is it something you did, and the guilt of it still hurts? Is it something you failed in and the disappointment of that will not let you go? Is it something someone else did to hurt you, and you keep rehearsing it, and the pain will not go away? Is it grief? Someone or something you once had and now have lost, and your life seems empty as a result?

Surely, we understand that God does not intend for us to live like that. Our God is not a God of the past, but of the future. Our God is One who says again and again, "Behold, I am doing a new thing." "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold everything is new."

I am sure of this: whatever is hurting you, whatever is holding you back, whatever is keeping you from the fullest possible experience of life, God wants to gather it up, and like some garbage collector, take it away so it will never bother you again. God will do that, if you will let him.

Isn't that the message of Psalm 103? "As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us." God is not in the condemnation business, God is in the redemption business. He looks at our past not to find ways to condemn us, but to discover what's holding us back, so that He can take it away and free us for life in the future.

There is not much good we can do with the garbage of the past. There are only two good things we can do with the past: we can allow God to forgive it, and we can allow God to help us learn from it. Remember, God is far more interested in the future than in the past.

As we begin this new year, we want to begin it with hope, with enthusiasm, with the assurance that God will accompany us into the future and that He will make it good. Happy Trails in 2019,

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



BOUNDLESS COMPASSION!

Sound like a good way to start the new year?

We thought so. Jan Warner and Cindy Lewis are going to host a 6 week focus on this book by Joyce Rupp beginning on January 11th.

For more details call Jan at 565-7445 or Cindy Lewis at 545-5089

WELCOME



We welcome a new member Dena Diane Harper who has come to us from White Mountain UMC in Show Low AZ. Dena is eager to serve God at Wesley. Welcome Dena!



COME TO ME

Come to me with teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek my face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with me involves being *transformed* by the *renewing of your mind*. As you focus your thoughts on me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye because my attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely: My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. I also know the plans I have for you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you Hope and future. Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to my Presence.

Interpreted scripture by Sarah Young in "Jesus Calling"

You have said "seek my face." My heart says to you, Your face, Lord, do I seek."- psalm 27:8



WESLEY UNITED MEN'S VALENTINE'S DINNER

The United Methodist Men will again be having their annual

Valentine Dinner, this year on Saturday, February 9th. The tickets will be available in mid-January for only \$10. The tickets will be available from any UMM member. This is the major fundraiser for the UMM and the men certainly value your continued support.

Dwight Hunter

Happy January Birthday



Wilbur Richardson*	01/02
Inez Reivitt*	01/12
Helen Clouse*	01/13
Rick Goode	01/14
Christina Richardson	01/16
Maria Martinez	01/17
Rod Hixon	01/19
Helen Stewart*	01/19
Dena Harper	01/19
Margaret Cribbs*	01/20
Mel Spence*	01/20
LeAnn Zacher	01/20
Maggie Urban	01/21
Avis Solano*	01/24
Bette Lunn*	01/26
Marilyn Selby- Ruff*	01/27
Viki Young	01/27
Jeremiah Duran	01/28
Kevin Murley	01/28
Dean Rush*	01/29
Pat Bush*	01/30
LaVilla Shriver	01/30
Sheryl Augustine*	01/31
Nancy Schiffer*	01/31

**Proudly Celebrating 80 years or more*

Happy Anniversary

Walt & Rev. Emilie Forward (46) 01/13

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

Cooperative Care Center

is in need of:
canned fruit

El Centro de Los Pobres

Is in need of
cooking oil, flour, beans, rice
canned fruit or vegetables.

Household items needed:

- New or lightly used seasonal clothing for men, women, and children
- Blankets
- Pots & Pans
- Small kitchen appliances
- Tooth Paste & Brushes
- Diapers.

Other Donations

- Box Tops (Educational, School Dist.)
- Can Tops (McDonald House)



Youth Ministry

YOUTH PROJECT

Hello all. The youth are continuing to collect items for the homeless. We would appreciate it if you could please spare some of the following: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, new socks and underwear, fleece material 2 yards long, dog food, liquid laundry soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and travel containers. Thank you!

Tori McClune

Thank You !

Thank you to everyone who donated items or who worked with the children at our Parent's Shopping Day event held on December 14th and 15th. A special thanks to Jesse Furney for putting the activity together. We are thankful for the opportunity to minister to families with young children.
Joyce Hudiburgh for The Ministry Development Team

Dear, Wesley congregation,
I have been sick for a while now and I continue to receive prayers and get-well cards from all of you. You all are following God's leading and to my way of thinking are examples of true Christian believers. Thank you so much for all the kind, loving support.
In Christ,
Sara Carpenter

We wish to thank you all again for the continued prayers, get-well cards and phone calls before and after my brain aneurysm procedure. A special thank you to Tony Ashworth and Sandy Spahr who faithfully served Wesley in my absence. With the dawn of a new year we are hopeful for renewed health and blessings.

Rev. Emilie & Walt

Thank you for the many Christmas wishes, cards, gifts, and goodies. We surely enjoyed them.

For all of you who visited the parsonage during our Open House we hope you had a good time and enjoyed the goodies. Thank you to the four carolers, Jacob Seekatz, Ray Beltran, Nicole Barrett, and Shai Harrington who graced us with some awesome singing.

Thanks for coming,
Rev. Emilie & Walt



Mary Martha Circle , UMW Meeting

Mary Martha Circle will meet Jan. 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Circle meetings are always open to all women of Wesley to join in and get acquainted as we start the new year. It's a time to relax, visit, and enjoy each other's company.

With the new year beginning, it is time for us to explore new ideas and activities in order to learn about and participate in the months ahead.

This month's program will be information shared about the Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain United Methodist Women which was held in Denver. Women from all over the Rocky Mountain Conference attended the two-day conference, as they shared in workshops, social activities, and mission work in the Denver area. It was a great experience for the women from Wesley who attended and they will share some of what they learned. So, plan to attend and bring a friend.

Please let us know if anyone needs a ride. Call, Text, or email Jan Warner, Nancy Shultz, or Lavilla Shriver.

Happy New Year

2019



TRINITY VIEWS

Happy New Year and Epiphany Greetings!

As we enter 2019, I pray this finds you in good health and spirit, still treasuring the gifts of heart and life that came to you this Christmas. I hope that you have room for one more Holy Day (the origin of holiday) tradition... perhaps not one you've encountered before.

In some places around the world, it is the custom on January 1st for people to return home and receive a blessing from their parents. It is a lovely practice, with mothers and fathers placing their hands on their children's heads and praying for them, whether they are 5, 15 or 50 years old. Granted, not all of us still have parents to return home to at this stage of life. But this is a gift that nurturing soul-friends might provide one another in the life of our congregations. And, any of us who have young people we connect with might consider offering them a blessing, whatever the "official" relationship. Frankly, I don't believe it's possible for young people to have too many adults who love them. Bring on the "borrowed" grands and aunts and uncles!

Scripture is filled with blessings that can be prayed for and with one another. One of the most famous comes from Aaron's words from Numbers 6:22-27. "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." I suspect that many of you might have these words memorized from regular use in some way. If these exact words feel overly formal, or

just awkward to speak aloud over someone, you might consider how you would naturally express the deeper meaning they convey. How does this person bring you and God delight? How are the bonds of relationship between the two of you and with God a gift? What hopes for well-being and goodness in life do you hold for this person? Truly, how would you bless the space between you?

Whether you actually lay hands upon a beloved one, or simply pray blessings in your heart, I invite you to begin this calendar year with a spiritual gift, blessing those who matter to you.

While you're at it... I request that you join me in offering prayers of blessing for Sarah and Major Rettig, our newly hired Trinity District Congregational Resource Ministers (CRMs). They begin their work with the District this month, even as they continue serving as pastors of the Hugo and Limon churches. As we live into a new season of growth together, I pray that we may all find abundance of hope and vitality as we serve in Jesus' name. Blessings on the Journey from your District Superintendent,

Margaret Gillikin
District Superintendent

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