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MOUNTAIN VIEW MESSENGER

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MARCH 2018

a people of God, learning to love like Jesus

COUNTING CROSSES

"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ga. 6:14

Last Sunday, during the children's time, our children were asked to count the crosses in the sanctuary. To my count, there were 10 on my stole and my robe, 2 on the main cross at the front of the sanctuary (an inner and an outer cross), 4 on the altar, 2 on the banners, and 1 on the Christian flag. That's a total of 19 crosses! But that's not all. There are 2 crosses on every bible and hymnal cover in the sanctuary, and 1 on the cover of every songbook! I didn't count them all, but that pushes the number of crosses in our sanctuary easily over 600! And there are additional crosses etched inside each of those bibles, hymnals, and songbooks. All told, the number of crosses in our sanctuary soars somewhere over a thousand!

Clearly the cross is an important symbol of our faith. In fact, it's the central symbol of our religion. But why? Why would we venerate an instrument of execution? Well, the Cross is the place where the suffering love of Jesus accomplished our salvation. There, on the Cross, Jesus took in our worst and gave us his best. He took in our badness and gave us his goodness. It took in our hate and gave us his love. He took in our wounding and gave us his healing. He took in the nails and gave us forgiveness. Yes, the Cross is that place of the Great Exchange where Christ took it all in and gave nothing but grace! As the old prophet once put it: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (Is. 53:5) Yes! Healed! Saved! Salvaged – at the Cross! That's why we can't take our eyes off the Cross or ever forget all that happened there – to Christ and for us!

Lent is a time to think of the Cross and to reflect on this Great Exchange. It's a time to remember what it cost God to come among us in Christ and to show us his love. It's a time, also, to reflect on all that we lay on Christ at the Cross and all that we gained from Christ by the Cross. And in so doing, to feel within ourselves the renewed gratitude that comes from recalling how God's goodness overcame our badness and brought us once more into the orbit of his love! May your Lenten journey bring you nearer to the Cross and to the Christ of God who hung there...for you!

UPCOMING SERVICES

March 4 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

Communion - Help the Needy

Liturgist Lois Smith
Communion Servers Mack & Sue Burks
Children's Time Rusty Merrill

March 11 - 4th Sunday in Lent

Liturgist Sam Gould
Children's Time Kathy Stimits

March 18 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Liturgist Jo Lied
Children's Time Youth

March 25 - Palm Sunday

Liturgist Lee Taylor
Children's Time Judith Meyer

March 29 - Holy Thursday-7:00 pm Living Last Supper - The Twelve Soliloquies

Liturgist Jo Lied

March 30 - Good Friday Tenebrae-7:00pm

Liturgist Jeff Kuykendall

Past sermons (audio) @ www.mt-viewumc.org

CHURCH EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT LEARNING AND SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS 8:30 - 10:00 AM

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN ROUNDTABLE (CCR)

In February the CCR completed its study of Diana Butler Bass' book entitled *Grounded: Finding God in the World-A Spiritual Revolution*, and ended the month with guest Native American Austin Box speaking on Native American spirituality. On March 4, the CCR begins its new study of John Philip Newell's book entitled *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings*. Dr. Newell is an ordained Church of Scotland minister with a passion for peace among the great wisdom traditions of humanity. He is an internationally acclaimed teacher, retreat leader and speaker, and is the widely read author of several books, including *Listening for the Heartbeat of God, Praying with the Earth* and *A New Harmony: The Spirit, the Earth & the Human Soul*. Formerly warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, he is now companion theologian for the American Spirituality Center of Casa del Sol at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico and the co-founder of Heartbeat: A Journey Towards Earth's Wellbeing. He will be speaking at First United Methodist Church on April 11 and at Iliff School of Theology on April 18.

In January, the CCR adopted the following purpose statement: "The Contemporary Christian Roundtable is an adult Sunday school class within Mountain View United Methodist Church of Woodland Park, CO. The group has three objectives. They are to (1) study topics which will empower and inform our faith, (2) enhance our ability to articulate and express our faith and (3) be a supportive and reconciling faith community within the

larger Mountain View community. We honor and celebrate the diversity of all God's Creation and welcome ALL people (including all sexual orientations and gender identities), regardless of who they are, where they have been, or what they believe. All are invited to join us in study, service, prayer, and the thoughtful, honest sharing of our faith journey." In January, as a community within Mountain View United Methodist Church the CCR joined the United Methodist Reconciling Ministries Network

LENTEN STUDY FINAL WORDS FROM THE CROSS Sundays 9:00 am

It's not too late to join Pastor Michael as he teaches a Lenten study at 9 am each Sunday in the former sanctuary. He's using Adam Hamilton's book "Final Words From the Cross" and Will Willimon's book "Thank God It's Friday" as the basis for this study. You will not need to read either book to participate but you may want to order one or both for your own spiritual growth. They are available through Cokesbury bookstore.

LIVING BIBLE CLASS: The class will join Pastor Michael's Lenten Study.

VOICES IN PRAYER: Meets Sunday morning immediately following worship at the front of the sanctuary to pray for concerns that have been shared during worship.

WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT MINISTRY: Thursday mornings at 10:00 am at the church. Our current study is titled "Jesus the One and Only" by Beth Moore. It consists of video sessions and homework. If you would like any additional information contact Dianne Shafer at 687-4133.

WOMEN'S SECOND CUP OF COFFEE March 13 & 27

Second and fourth Tuesdays from 9:00 - 10:00 am, all women are invited to meet at Pamela Gore's home. Babies and preschoolers welcome. A short devotional will be shared and time will be devoted to building relationships. Coordinator: Oattie Baumgardner 687-2646. Call for more information. **Please come!**



MHPP DISTRICT GATHERING

Saturday, March 3, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
 First United Methodist Church
 420 N Nevada Ave.
 Colorado Springs, Colorado



"Because you have little faith," he said. "I assure you that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Go from here to there,' and it will go. There will be nothing that you can't do." – Matthew 17:20

The Mountain Sky Area is doing a new thing this spring... gathering regionally for united learning, faith formation and connection. We are excited to bring laity and clergy from fifteen locations across Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming together to participate in this opportunity to explore HOW we, as an area, will actually develop the Beloved Community we've been envisioning. Together, we seek to become MOUNTAIN MOVERS: Cultivating Beloved Community.

We are excited to welcome our keynote speaker Christian Peele, who is Executive Minister of Institutional Advancement at The Riverside Church in New York City. She works with an incredible team that's thinking creatively about the meaning (and purpose) of Christian stewardship. We will also experience a powerful worship time led by our own Bishop Karen Oliveto.

Congregations are encouraged to bring lots of folks as there will be intentional opportunities for smaller group time focused on identifying the mountain God is calling your community to move. Today more than ever we need a bold faith that sends us into our communities as living examples of the good news. Plan to join this important one day event. You can register online at: <https://rmcumc-reg.brtapp.com/DistrictGathering2018>.



Easter Flowers

HONOR A LOVED ONE THIS EASTER

In lieu of flowers this year, you will have the opportunity to make a donation in Honor or Memory of someone special. Donations will benefit the Day Break adult daycare program facility in Woodland Park. Memorials will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Day Break offers day care services of hope, care and respite in a loving environment. Some of our congregation have utilized these services with great satisfaction and appreciation. A member of the worship committee will be in the narthex before and after services March 4, 11, and 18 for sign up and to receive your suggested donations of \$10. Contact Ann Snipes for more information. 720-427-1828 or 303-647-2136.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Our Holy Week service schedule is as follows. Invite a friend to join you for these special services:

- Sunday, March 25 – Palm/Passion Sunday Services at 10:30 am followed by church-wide potluck and Easter egg hunt.
- Thursday, March 29 – Last Supper Reenactment at 7:00 pm
- Friday, March 30 – Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm
- Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday Service At 10:30 am

MOUNTAIN VIEW MARTHAS

BLESSING BAGS: Mountain View Martha's and the Mission Team have prepared Blessing Bags for homeless persons. If you would like to have a Blessing Bag in your car, they are available in the cabinet under the coffee cups in the narthex.



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS: Do you like breakfast? Would you like to fellowship with your friends from church? There are three groups that meet for breakfast on a regular basis. The Men's Emmaus Alumni Group meets at the Hungry Bear restaurant every Wednesday at 7:00 am. The Women's Emmaus Alumni Group meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:15 am at the Smokehouse. Graduates of the Emmaus Retreat Program, or those interested in learning more, are welcome to attend. An open Men's Fellowship breakfast also meets at Grandmother's Kitchen every Friday at 7:30 am.

ANONYMOUS DONORS GIVE PROTECTIVE VEST TO LOCAL POLICE

Through the great generosity of an anonymous Mountain View couple, the Woodland Park Police Department has received a donation to acquire advanced active shooter/crowd control gear to include a helmet, vest, first aid kit, and individual trauma aid kit. This gear will be purchased through the Shield 616 agency whose motto is taken from Ephesians 6:16 which says, "Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." The Shield 616 agency encourages you to pray for the recipient of this gear as you remember all of our First Responders who daily lay their lives on the line so we can live in peace and safety. Indeed, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn. 15:13 NLT) Thank you donors!

A special thank you to Cathy Davis and Jan Downing for repairing the Lenten banners. They look beautiful! The worship committee



March 11, 2018



ANNOUNCING MEMBERSHIP OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW WAY FORWARD TASK FORCE

The 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church established a 32-member Commission on a Way Forward to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and to explore options that help maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. The Commission will present their recommendations to the Council of Bishops in April or May of this year and the Bishops should publish those recommendations in June or July.

Recognizing the importance of the Commission's report and its potential impact on our church, the Mountain View UMC Church Council has established a Way Forward Task Force to prepare our congregation to receive and act on the recommendations of the Way Forward Commission with the goal of fostering mutual understanding among members of divergent views, maximizing unity within the congregation, and bringing people together around our stated mission of making disciples who love like Jesus. The members of our local Task Force are:

Rev. Michael Gore – Pastor
 Mr. John Schafer – Church Council Chair
 Mrs. Marcene Etchieson – Lay Leader
 Mr. Dan Nicholson – Staff Parish Relations Chair
 Mr. Sam Gould – At Large Member
 Mrs. Marci Nickelsburg – At Large Member
 Mrs. Martine Vogel – At Large Member

The members of our local Task Force ask for your support and encourage you to join them in praying regularly the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi which they have chosen as the prayer to frame their efforts as they help the congregation chart its way forward:

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
 where there is hatred let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 and where there is sadness, joy.
 O Divine Master,
 grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled, as to console;
 to be understood, as to understand;
 to be loved, as to love;
 for it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

March Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV)
For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Wednesday, March 7, 9:00 am
Children's Ministry Team Meeting

Sunday, March 11, 11:45 am
Brunch for Children's Ministry volunteers

Sunday, March 25, 10:30 am
Children will process with Palms during Prelude

Parent Survey has gone out. Please respond to help our Children's Ministry Team plan for the Summer!

YOUTH MINISTRY MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MEET SUNDAY FROM 4:30 - 6:00 PM

YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 4, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 11, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 18, 10:30 am
Youth to present Children's time-10:30 am
Stuff Easter eggs for Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

Wednesday, March 21-Wednesday, March 28
Mission trip to Belize

Palm Sunday, March 25, 10:30 am
All Church Potluck lunch
Youth will hide eggs for children
NO YOUTH GROUP

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm
Holy Thursday Worship Service

Friday, March 30, 7:00 pm
Good Friday Worship Service

Sunday, April 1
NO YOUTH GROUP/EASTER



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE -

Saturday, June 2 from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm. Donations may be dropped off in the church basement. Our youth group is small but mighty and determined to continue making a difference by participating in mission projects nationally and locally. **Please NO clothing or broken items and ABSOLUTELY NO ELECTRONICS.** The cost to dispose of electronics will reduce the overall profit. Thanks for supporting our Youth.



CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS? READY TO DOWNSIZE?
WE WILL START TAKING ITEMS IN MARCH.

GET YOUR RID OF STUFF

DROP OFF YOUR ITEMS TO THE CHURCH BASEMENT,
OR CALL MARCI TO SET UP A TIME. 719-551-8779

NO ELECTRONICS OR
CLOTHING

FINANCE FACT - JANUARY 2018

	Monthly		Annually		Variance
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Tithes & Offerings (pledged)	27,557	20,211	27,557	20,211	7,346
Tithes & Offerings (unpledged)	3,925	6,594	3,925	6,594	(2,669)
Other Revenue	880	8	880	8	872
Total Revenue	32,362	26,813	32,362	26,813	5,549
Total Expenses	32,747	24,332	32,747	24,332	(8,415)
Revenue over Expenses	(385)	2,481	(385)	2,481	(2,866)
Mortgage Principal Reduction*	(4,183)	(4,165)	(4,183)	(4,165)	(18)
Net Cash Flow	(4,568)	(1,684)	(4,568)	(1,684)	(2,884)

*Includes payments from unrestricted funds only, i.e., monthly principal payments

Important Notes for January 2018:

(1) Pledged revenues were over budget for the month by \$7,346.

(2) Expenses were over budget due to payment of the building insurance (\$10,208) in one lump sum.

Mortgage Principal Reduction

	Monthly	Annually
Undesignated funds (see above)	\$4,183.00	\$4,183.00
Restricted gifts, adjustments, etc**		
Total	\$4,183.00	\$4,183.00

Cash Allocations

Total Fund Balances	1,521,639.70		
<u>General Fund Total</u>	<u>(1,462,056.16)</u>		
Cash in Operating Checking Covering Designated Funds	59,583.54		
Operating Bank Account (January, 2018)	89,541.10		
Owed to restricted fund(s)			
<u>Cash to cover designated funds</u>	<u>(59,583.54)</u>		
Unrestricted cash to pay bills	29,957.56		
	<u>Operating Checking</u>	<u>Cash for Bills</u>	<u>Cash Designated</u>
	89,541.10	29,957.56	29,500.00
			15,000.00
Restricted Fund Balances			15,083.54
Building Fund Balance	33,574.69		
Restricted Fund Balances	7,836.28		
Deposit in Transit	-		
From Operations Checking	-		
Total of all Restricted Fund Fund Balances	41,410.97	59,583.54	

Our Mission: Making Disciples Who Love Like Jesus!

2017 COMMUNION OFFERINGS

Jan - Habitat for humanity ~ \$991
 Feb - Community Cupboard ~ \$936
 Mar- Help The Needy
 DayBreak
 Apr - One Great Hour of Sharing
 May - Woodland Park Senior Center

Jun - Conference Offering
 Jul - TBD
 Aug - Local Fire Stations
 Sep - TBD
 Oct - World Communion
 Nov - Welcome Home Warrior
 Dec - Alternative Gift Market



Woodland Park/Teller County Community Cupboard and Divide Food Pantry



March items are rice & pinto beans. There is a box in each entryway for your donations.

The Little Chapel Food Pantry in Divide distribution dates are Mondays, March 12 & 26.

Divide Food Pantry continues to need clean, used egg cartons and plastic bags. There is a container in each entryway for those items.

EYE GLASSES—old eyeglasses are being collected in the narthex by the Missions Committee and will be donated so others may have the gift of better vision.



MARCH COMMUNION OFFERING will benefit Help the Needy

BATTERY BUCKET



There is a "battery bucket" in the narthex for recycling used batteries

THANK YOU

"We would like to thank you all for the care and beautiful service for our beloved dad (Rick Figgie). The luncheon was perfect, a wonderful group of beautiful ladies that were so helpful. It was a wonderful meal.

We will always be so grateful."

Christopher, Nicholas & Laura Figgie

Red Bird Mission participates in the following for support of their School: You collect the box tops from General Mill's products and bring them to church and put in the in the big cardboard soup can located in the narthex, we will then send them to Red Bird Mission and they will redeem the box tops for items or cash for their School. Thank you for helping support Red Bird Mission.



Community Outreach Opportunity Help Cut Firewood

If you like to exercise, enjoy fresh mountain air and at the same time, help someone heat their home, come join the group one Saturday a month to cut firewood. Help the Needy has an organized event, the 3rd Saturday of each month. Volunteers run a log splitter, help cut, stack or load firewood into vehicles.

Next Work Date: March 17 (third Saturday)
Location: Beside Fire Station on County Line Road
Time: 9:00 am - Noon

For further information, please contact the Lebarios at 332-1640.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY We need volunteers to work from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm on Saturday, March 10 at the Marian House Soup Kitchen. Their address is 14 West Bijou Street in Colorado Springs. Parking is available in the parking lot. Enter at the rear entrance to the kitchen. If you would like to car pool from the church parking lot, please meet us at 9:20 am. We will be serving lunch and cleaning up. Please contact Joe Baumgardner at [719-687-2646](tel:719-687-2646) with any questions.



2018 MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Janis Kuykendall
- 4 - Joan Rook
- 6 - Patti Metz
- 7 - Mike Snipes
- 8 - Alec Cirka

- 11 - David Sapp
- 12 - Brooke Smith
- 12 - Addison Vagts
- 13 - Scott Laudert
- 18 - Dan Meyer
- 18 - Colleen Reinert
- 18 - Ian Elliott
- 19 - Ginny George
- 25 - Martine Vogel
- 26 - Jim Courter
- 26 - Christina Gore
- 26 - Remi Rook

28 - Don Jones

2018 MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 - Michael & Carol Theimer
- 13 - Bob & Gail Kendrick
- 14 - Lee & Karin Taylor
- 18 - Joe & Oattie Baumgardner
- 20 - Bill & Vicki Huffor
- 30 - Michael & Pamela Gore
- 30 - Jack & Mary Marsh

HOLY HOSPITALITY HOSTS

- January - Bell Choir
- February - Children's Ministry Team
- March - Nominating & Lay Leadership Committee
- April - Adult Ministry
- May - Integrational Ministry Team
- June - Chancel Choir
- July - Trustees
- August - Mission Committee
- September - Mountain View Marthas
- October - Worship Committee
- November - Finance Committee
- December - Invitational Ministry Team

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN CAREGIVERS



Let us know if:

- You want a home visit
- Are in the hospital or a rehab center
- Have lost a loved one
- Want a ride to an appointment

We are praying for you.

Contact Marcia Myers at 687-6021 or Pastor Michael at 687-3868. Emergencies (401) 824-9055.

NEEDED - CHURCH VOLUNTEERS:

The following committees are in need of additional volunteers: The Worship Committee needs someone to set up for monthly communion and periodic baptisms. Volunteers are also being sought to phone our first-time guests welcoming them to Mountain View. Training will be provided. Please contact Pastor Michael if you are interested in serving in any of these offices.

FOOD MINISTRY

There are many folks in our congregation who are experiencing difficult times with health issues.

Questions have been asked, "How can I help?, Is there anything you need?"

This question has spurred the idea of creating a supply of meals that will be kept in our church freezer. When a need arises, we'll be prepared to help.

As we create meals at home, let us keep this ministry in mind by adding a few extra ingredients to be packaged. Let's have fresh meals stored in the freezer; not haphazard left-overs. Aluminum containers tightly sealed should be clearly marked with contents, reheating directions and the date prepared. The meals will be delivered as needed.

Watch for further updates as this ministry evolves. Hopefully in a positive and blessed direction.

For further information, contact Stephanie Witman at 719-291-3888.



IN MEMORY

Susan McMillen
3/28/1946 - 2/5/2018