



MAY 2020

Mountain View United Methodist Church **The Messenger**

WE WILL GROW IN LOVE OF GOD, NEIGHBOR, AND SELF AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION.

Let's Just Praise God Anyway

by Pastor Stephanie

Here we are, May. This is usually one of the busiest months of the year at the church, between Mother's Day, graduations, Music Heritage Sunday, and many other celebrations. This year feels very different since we cannot be together. We will try to find ways to celebrate, but I know I will miss the joy of coming together. To be honest, I feel a little down these days as I think about it. We decided to create a May theme to help boost our spirits — Let's Just Praise God Anyway! That's the theme, and we are going to do our best to offer praise in the midst of it all. In the sermons, I will explore some of the things we have to be thankful for in these days: the food we eat, the time with our family, the earth, our memories and we will end the month with Pentecost!

We need a little help with some of these celebrations. For the May 17 service, we would like to have pictures of you outside to share in worship. If you can't get outside, that's fine too. We just miss seeing each other, so send us a picture. You can send them to office@mtview.org with Outside Picture in the subject line. And if you have a graduate this year, send their picture labeled "senior" by May 24. We will honor them on May 31.

Look around — what do you have to praise God for?



You're Invited to Help with our Advent Devotional

by Trudy Gygi, IFD

Let's keep building the Mountain View community by creating our own Advent Devotional to celebrate Mountain View's 60th anniversary. We invite anyone who attends Mt. View to write a simple devotion intended to aid an individual in their Advent spiritual journey.

The format will be the same for all contributions. It includes:

- A Scripture or a stanza from a Hymn or a quote from a spiritual leader
- A story, anecdote or thought of your own. Ideally, this would support the Advent Theme, *Prepare the Way*
- A prayer



You can do it! We are collecting contributions from you (yes, you!) anytime between May 1 and Aug 1. Please send them to office@mtview.org. Please be sure to include all three of the components listed above. You can also hand-write your contribution & leave it in the IFD mailbox across from the Church Office. If you have any questions about format or the Advent devotional collection, you can email any member of the Intentional Faith Development team, including Trudy (mabelgygi@yahoo.com), Sherron (shuffield7@aol.com), or Cheryl (cheryl.runyon@comcast.net).

We need all of Mountain View to support this effort to make it work, so please consider writing a devotion based on your own thoughts and experience and send it to us!

SUNDAY ONLINE WORSHIP: 8:00 AM ON MTVIEW.ORG & FACEBOOK

355 Ponca Place, Boulder CO, 80303 • 303-494-5025 • office@mtview.org • www.mtview.org



Meet the Mt. View Ministry Council

The Mt. View Ministry Council is composed of the chairs of the program committees of the church who meet to organize and plan the program ministries of the church and support one another. They have met twice and will continue to meet regularly. All of these groups are excited to have people join in for any activity they are sponsoring. If you see something you are interested in, contact Pastor Stephanie (seniorpastor@mtview.org) or one of the people listed below:

- **Building and Grounds Care:** takes care of the building and the grounds and all of the upkeep of the building. Paul McClung (paulmcclung@icloud.com)
- **Care Team:** connects those who are homebound to the church, coordinates the Shepherd calling tree program, and generally reaches out to those in the church in need. Connie Balazs (brbalazs@comcast.net)
- **Children and Youth Ministries:** serves the children, youth, and families of the church through Sunday School, youth group, Vacation Bible School, and many other activities. Larissa Hoffman (children@mtview.org)
- **Green Team:** educates the congregation about the environment and helping implement environmentally-friendly practices in the church. Mary Beth Downing (mzmbeth@gmail.com)
- **Inclusivity Team:** Creates opportunities for Mt. View to live into the welcoming statement and our membership as a Reconciling Congregation. Bruce Fest (festbf@aol.com)
- **Intentional Faith Development:** a resource for adult education programs and special projects like creating an Advent devotion book. Trudy Gygi (mabelgygi@yahoo.com)
- **Lawn Care:** the lawn mowing brigade. Lee Courtelyou (lcortely@msn.com)
- **Outreach:** organizes various ministries that serve those in need in our community and beyond. Hands on projects including Thanksgiving in the Park, meals for Boulder Homeless Shelter, and many more. Belinda Strickland (sbstrickland@me.com) and Rus Bakich (pdbakich@gmail.com)
- **Radical Hospitality:** welcomes and integrates new members and creates events that invite others in. Ken Bettenhausen (kenneth.bettenhausen@ucdenver.edu)
- **Sustainability Committee:** oversees the care of the Solar Panels. Arthur Howe (arthurkatyhowe@comcast.net)
- **United Methodist Women:** provides service and learning opportunities for the women of the church. Cheryl Runyon (cheryl.runyon@comcast.net)
- **Worship Committee:** takes care of the sanctuary decor, the ushers, communion, and liturgist. Lynne Pierce (lynnepierce8@gmail.com)
- **Lay Leader:** the congregation's representative to many different groups. Jo Ann Joselyn (jjoselyn@earthlink.net)

The Mt. View Board has met twice. Please visit the website for more information on the meetings including the published minutes. If you have questions or comments please contact the Board chair, Kris Flewelling, (boardchair@mtview.org)

Finance Report

Susie Burley, Treasurer

The financial information for the 1st quarter is amazingly good. The numbers reveal that you are a very, very faithful congregation.

For Q1, we received \$7,500 more in pledges than we budgeted. Consequently our total income nearly matched our budget figure. We were, at \$125,571, only \$500 short of what we anticipated in total income. And that was without receiving any of our rental money from our tenants during March.

On the expense side, at \$134,741 spent on church operations, we were indeed \$9,206 under the budgeted shortfall. Of course, the costs of operating the church slowed down in March, and during April the expenses are greatly reduced. However, we did have to pay the principal on the mortgage during those three months. That totaled nearly \$6,000, and created an overall shortfall of \$14,166.

So, how did we do that? Well, first of all, we increased our accounts payable. And, we borrowed from our old friend, the Designated Fund Account. We are so blessed as a church to have such a faithful congregation and such wise leadership. We have

Mountain View's March 2020 Finances			
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
INCOME: +	\$126,030	\$126,571	\$541
EXPENSES:-	\$143,947	\$134,741	\$9,206
MORTGAGE PRIN PD -	\$5,996	\$5,996	
NET INC. YTD +			(\$-23,913) (\$-14,166)

financial resources that can carry us through a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the United Methodist Foundation has offered a four-month abatement of our principal payment, which eases the pain for now.

Also, please know that our financially talented members, Bruce Shaver, and Kris Flewelling, Chair of the Church Board, along with Pastor Stephanie, steered the church through the grueling process of applying for a Payroll Protection Loan in a timely manner. This loan has few strings attached, and we will know soon if we will receive it.

Church management and staff wish to thank you for your continued support of Mountain View. Your pledge payments, your extra gifts, and your gifts of your "stimulus" checks has encouraged us as we try to serve you with the best online services we can produce. God Bless you all.

Music in a Time of Separation by Steven Burchard

By its very nature, music is a community endeavor. You put a group of people together, with instruments or voices, and you rehearse and perform music together. Of course you can make music by yourself, and there is a lot of solo music out there, but there is a certain special quality about bringing musicians together in ensembles that is not easily duplicated. Our recent church closure has brought this point into strong focus.

I have very much missed the Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers, Head for Home, and my small but mighty Spirit Singers during this time of shutdown. And I miss hearing the sound of our wonderful organ and piano in a live church setting.

I also miss hearing our congregation, whether they are singing We Are Blessed with Head for Home at 9:03, or singing hymns during 8:00 and 10:30 worship. I always know when a musical selection is especially speaking to you, because I hear absolute silence from the congregation. That's a wonderful sensation to feel and I miss it.

And I miss seeing our congregation. I'm sure you know that you all pretty much sit in the same seats each Sunday. And from where I sit with the choir, I have pretty much learned where each individual and family sits. On those Sundays, when I see empty seats that are normally filled, I think, "I wonder where so and so is today." And I'm always glad when the owners of those seats return the following week.

I have been blessed to have a lot of help with producing the music content that you have seen and heard each week during our online worship services. And I would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to each of the following people:

- Richard, Rebecca, and Rachel De La Vega, who have recorded praise songs each week so our 9:03 congregation can hear the music that they are used to hearing.
- Linda Chambers, who has recorded very nice piano music for us.
- Jordan Flewelling, who recorded a wonderful solo for Palm Sunday.
- Pianist, Gerry Luethi, who also has recorded piano music for us from her home, with assistance from her son.
- Interim Organist, Brian du Fresne, who has recorded preludes, postludes, Special Music, and hymn accompaniments.
- Belinda Strickland and Rev. Bev Fest, who have played music and shared devotional messages with us.
- My wife, Sara, and daughter, Abby, who have sung hymns with me so you could hear a little "mini-congregation" to sing along with. Abby also ran the video camcorder for all the music that I contributed.
- Michael Shor, who has taken our music recordings and integrated them into our overall worship service – you have no idea how much work he has put into making our worship recordings really shine.

In the coming weeks, we will also hear from some of our choir members, who will share some solos for our Special Music. I look forward to hearing their voices again. And, of course, all of the just listed folks will continue their work in worship.

Peace to you all, and I look forward to seeing you again in our wonderful Mountain View sanctuary.

From the Green Earth Team: Seven Lessons that the Corona virus can teach us about Climate Change (summarized from April 1 Webinar with Dr. Bullit-Jonas)

1. Science matters. Facts matter.
2. How we treat the natural world effects our well-being.
3. The sooner we mobilize for action, the sooner we can reduce the suffering. Quick and drastic action is required.
4. We have the ability to make drastic changes very quickly. Solving the crisis depends on human behavior and we respond when we are motivated and frightened.
5. All of us are vulnerable to crisis AND we are vulnerable unequally. A difference between climate change and the pandemic is that there are actually industries that push against solving the climate crisis.
6. Holding a vision of a just and sustainable world will give us

hope and strength.

7. We need to build practices that foster and nourish our emotional and spiritual wellness; practices that ground us in courage, wisdom and compassion.

I hope that some of you were able to participate in some of the incredible events offered during the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Were you inspired? Want to share what you learned? Want to join the Green Earth Team at Mountain View? Contact mzmbeth@gmail.com.

Looking to do more? Check out 52climateaction.org for ideas!



SAVE the DATES

May 30, 2020—A Day Together, Rinn-Frederick UMC (rescheduled to July)
 July 31-August 1, 2020—Mission u, Fort Collins First UMC (cancelled for 2020)
 Sept. 11-13-- UMW Western Jurisdiction 2020 Event, Tempe, AZ (RESCHEDULED date)
 Sept. 19, 2020—Peaks and Pikes Peak UMW District Annual Gathering and Celebration, Sunrise UMC, Colorado Springs
 Oct. 23-24, 2020—Mountain Sky UMW Annual Conference, Cheyenne, WY

UMW Western Jurisdiction Travels to Tempe Later in 2020

Due to the coronavirus, the UMW Western Jurisdiction has rescheduled its quadrennial meeting in Tempe, AZ, to Sept. 11-13, 2020. The keynote speaker is atmospheric scientist Katharine Hayhoe, who is an author and speaker about environmental issues while proclaiming her evangelical Christian faith. For more information, visits www.wjumw.com.

Wesley Annes Postponing Medical Missions Talk

With the governor's decision regarding social distancing, the Wesley Annes will postpone its May 5 meeting (co-sponsored with Strangers as Neighbors) to host Torkin Wakefield as she talks about the medical mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico that she took with her husband, a local doctor. When we do meet, we will collect a free will offering for Torkin and her husband to purchase over-the-counter medical supplies for their next mission trip. Please watch future issues of the Messenger for our rescheduled date.

UMW Executive Board meets May 21

The UMW Executive Board will meet on May 21, via Zoom, to discuss the date and program for the Fall Salad Potluck Luncheon and attending the district's "A Day Together," in July at Rinn-Frederick UMC. To suggest a topic for discussion, contact Betty Baal at 303-466-6805.

Masks Update—Buttons Needed

Mountain View stitchers have been busy making and sharing masks here in Boulder and across the state. Through two Days for Girls chapters, more than 4,000 masks have been made and distributed to several hospitals in the Boulder/Denver area and sent as far away as Hilo, Hawaii and Toronto, Canada!

We have a new request for ¾" flat (no shank) buttons. It turns out that the nurses like to sew these buttons on the backs of scrub caps to rest their ears from the pull of the elastic on their masks over eight to 12 hours. If you have buttons to donate, please contact Patricia White at 303-604-6176. Thank you for all your assistance!

Mary Martha Circle Plans to Meet May 20

With fingers crossed that the coronavirus threat has been reduced, the Mary Martha Circle will plan to meet on May 20 at 10:15 am in the Frasier Meadows Retirement Community's Health Care conference room. Pastor Stephanie will share the program. For more information, contact JoAnn Joselyn at 720-562-8027.

WOW Meeting Via Zoom—please join us!

WOW is meeting remotely via ZOOM at 10:15 am on Sundays. We are discussing Short Stories by Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine. All church women are invited to join us and share our "Roses" and "Thorns." For more information about the ZOOM connection, contact Jean Bowen at 303-443-3225.

Books at Lunch Discuss The Tattooist of Auschwitz

The Books at Lunch bunch will meet at 11:30 am on Thursday, May 21, via Zoom, to discuss The Tattooist of Auschwitz, by Heather Morris. We do not have the "Books in a Bag" for this title, so please contact Betty Baal at 303-466-6805 to request a shared copy of the book. All church women (and friends) are invited to read and join us for lunch and our discussion. We also will select our summer reading book at this meeting. New to Zoom and need help setting up? Please contact Mary Beth Downing at 303-875-2110 and she will help you navigate this application.

UMW Cluster Breakfast Postponed

With the governor's decision that large gatherings will be postponed for the time being, the Boulder/Broomfield/Lafayette/Louisville and Niwot cluster of United Methodist Women has postponed its annual Cluster Breakfast until later in the year. Please watch future issues of the Messenger for the rescheduled date. We still will be hosted by the Boulder First UMW unit and Mr. Chris Nelson, the Executive Director of Attention Homes is our speaker. For more information, contact Betty Baal at 303-466-6805.

Need a Good Book (or Two) to Read?

Two books that jumped off the UMW bookshelf for me are Tilly and Tilly and the Crazy Eights, by Monique Gray Smith. Tilly is loosely based upon Gray's life story and provides us with a new insight into the history of indigenous people in Canada and their government's policies of residential schools and reverse racism. Tilly loses her grandmother (also named Tilly) at an early age, but several other women are there to share their wisdom and compassion with her as she learns to love herself. Tilly and the Crazy Eights introduces us to new tribal elders while expanding several characters from her previous book. Tilly travels from Vancouver, British Columbia, to the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow with this group and shares their stories as they visit a tulip festival, Las Vegas, Sedona and Albuquerque. Both books are a quick read and you will want to read Smith's next book when it is published. Want to borrow the books (or other UMW books)? Please contact Lynne Pierce, our program resources coordinator, at 330-714-4581.

What's happening with Children & Family Ministries?

by Larissa Hoffman

This time of stay-at-home orders and social distancing has not been easy for anyone. I miss our Sunday mornings worshipping in the playground. I miss all the creating, the cooking, the singing, and the stories that we enjoy in Christ's Carousel. I miss being with the youth as we laugh our way through Crossfyre meetings. I miss hearing about the highs and lows of the last week, talking about future plans and vacations, and dreaming up new ways to do ministry with my church people.

I know we will get back to what was considered normal eventually, and we have adapted well to this new idea of normal, but I still can't help but feel a little unsure about what tomorrow may bring. I do know that we are better together, and I am thankful everyday for my church family and all the ways we have stayed connected through this trying time.

So, until we can be back in our Sunday School rooms, I will continue to look forward to seeing our Christ's Carousel kids and Crossfyre youth online. Until we can worship together in the sanctuary, I will continue to contribute to our online worship service. And, until we can greet each with a handshake or a hug, I will continue to smile at each of you during some Zoom fellowship time. We got this! God is good!

Christ's Carousel and Crossfyre Connections

We have been enjoying weekly Zoom meetings where we play some games, share some prayers, and have some time to be together.

Our Christ's Carousel meetings have followed our weekly worship themes, beginning with music and movement before enjoying a game or activity. Scavenger hunts, I Spy, and What's Missing have been some favorite games, and we've shared plenty of smiles, jokes, and prayers.

For Crossfyre, our meetings have been a chance to chat, connect, and support each other. We have had some fun with games (Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament!) but have also found some time to think and talk through devotions.

Both groups will continue to meet weekly. We will use online resources until we can be together in person. Providing opportunities for our kids and youth to stay connected helps to manage anxiety and fears, promotes a sense of community even when we are stuck inside, and reminds us all that relationships with peers, teachers, our church family, and others can help us get through anything.



Celebrating the class of 2020!

We will recognize our seniors on May 31 during our online service. Let's celebrate these young people with prayers and well wishes, reminding them that there is hope in the future!

Vacation Bible School 2020 has been canceled

We hope to create an alternative event in late summer that may include following worship themes, using take home activities, enjoying online resources, and hopefully including a small gathering at church to do some VBS-like fun!

The Crossfyre Mission Trip has been canceled

We are the look-out for alternative opportunities, exploring ways we can still do "mission," just without the "trip"!



Strangers as Neighbors Says Thank You! for Summer Snacks for Creekside Students

Our Strangers as Neighbors study group packed snacks for 36 children in 12 families of Kids' Hope students at Creekside Elementary School. St. Paul's UMC provided 80 jars of peanut butter for the children—WOW! Thank you for your generosity toward our students! For more information about how you can help these children or our Kids' Hope program, contact Bonnie Strand at 303-666-7633.



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Donations for Outreach-Related Non-Profits

If you are considering charitable donations in the coming weeks and months, please keep the following organizations on your short list.

Community Food Share (www.communityfoodshare.org; 650 S. Taylor, Louisville, CO 80027) is our local food bank that assists local families and our elders who struggle with hunger. Mountain View UMC maintains a shopping cart for non-perishable food donations in the Narthex, but we cannot provide food directly at this time. Please consider making a financial donation to Community Food Share to help meet basic needs for our Boulder and Broomfield county neighbors.

Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) has served Boulder families since 1918 by providing help with basic needs like food, housing, transportation, utilities and minor medical expenses. Mountain View UMC annually provides diapers, detergent, and paper goods to EFAA during the month of January. Please contact EFAA at 1575 Yarmouth Ave., Boulder, CO 80304 or www.efaa.org during these times of financial insecurity.

Attention Homes serves homeless and at-risk youth in Boulder County by providing a safe place to have basic needs met, along with foster care for homeless youth under age 18. Mountain View UMC has assisted Attention Homes with quilts for the new apartment complex by Boulder First UMC, and sock and personal care products drives. Please consider donating to Attention Homes through its website (attentionhomes.org) or mailing a check to their administrative office (1440 Pine St., Suite B, Boulder, CO 80302).

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the arm of the United Methodist Church that responds to domestic and international disasters, also is accepting donations that can be earmarked for coronavirus-related mission efforts. Please consider making a donation to the COVID-19 Response Fund (Advance #3022612) through the website, www.umcmission.org, or by mailing a check to Mountain View c/o Pastor Stephanie Kidwell, 295 Pawnee, Boulder, CO 80303.

Thank you all for your generous spirits and examples of loving your neighbor.

MOUNTAIN VIEW STAFF

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9:03 am Worship Leader: Rebecca De La Vega

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Accompanist: Gerry Luethi

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Want to submit an article to next month's Messenger?
Email your piece to office@mtview.org by Thursday, May 21

