

# March 2019

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## Center United Methodist Church

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## Saguache United Methodist Church

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## Pastor Debbie

Grace and Peace of Christ be with you,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this newsletter article for March. As many of you are aware, my mom has gone home to be with the Lord and she suffers no more, her eyesight is clear and her hearing is superb as she walks among the beloved on the streets of heaven. We only understand in part what our departed understand in full. Thank you for the beautiful sympathy cards. May our days be filled and motivated with love as we move forward. My heart is also heavy with the outcome from the decision general conference special session made in St. Louis. I refer to Margaret's letter enclosed in this newsletter. If anyone wishes to speak to me concerning any of the issues, please know that I am available. Lord have mercy in the hours and days ahead, heal our broken spirits, and lift us up to live as Jesus' disciples of love with no condemnation.

Looking toward Lent which will begin with Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019, we approach the holy season of Lent, I wish to explain a little of our Methodist history with Lent. Many have misquoted John Wesley in believing that Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week were of "no use." When Wesley wrote this it was concerning the omission of these from the Book of Common Prayer for the new Methodist after the American Revolution. These Methodist were formed in strong covenant groups who were practicing acts of piety which included fasting and acts of mercy which included helping the poor. Each person in their covenant group was held accountable toward their actions. The societies for corporate worship of Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week were fledging, so it wasn't that Wesley thought they should be omitted or of "no use," but the implement of them at that present time wouldn't benefit the body of believers as much as the foundation of the covenant groups whose design toward holy living would allow them to become strong faithful disciples who would understand the strength of observing Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week in a corporate setting of worship.

I will be asking us to revisit our *Forty Days with Wesley* book as well as daily *The Sanctuary* Lenten readings compiled by my friend Rev. Juan Carlos Huertas. Our Lenten bible study is *The Way* Adam Hamilton's book on Jesus' parables. Sunday sermon series on the words of Jesus will continue. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Center sanctuary will be open for prayer and imposition of the ashes from 9 am through 12:30 for those who wish to come pray. The Ash Wednesday service will be at Saguache United Methodist Church 6:30 pm. Those who need transportation for the evening service, please contact the Center church office. The Center Lenten bible study is to be arranged. The Saguache Lenten bible study will be Sundays after the fellowship time after worship.

We have had a high demand for our food bank and it is deeply depleted. Please join us in restocking it during the coming weeks. Also I am asking for volunteers from both Center and Saguache in efforts to plan and have a Vacation Bible School or something similar. I am also asking for volunteers in preparing special music especially for Easter. Just email me, text me, call me, or speak to me at church if you're interested.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you,  
Pastor Debbie

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A new year is underway. Plans for 2019 are in motion. At the February Ad Board meeting it was decided to have a Kentucky Derby Party. The Faith Adventures Team also decided to have an Easter Egg Hunt and we thank them for the opportunity to invite young children and families to our church and share in the celebration of our Savior's resurrection. It is possible we will set up a table at the "Poor Boys Car Show" we are waiting for more information on if and when that would be.

March Giving

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Donations  | \$3,255.81  |
| Expenses   | \$9,902.63  |
| Net Income | -\$6,646.82 |

We look forward to a year of events involving the community and possible new ways of sharing our faith in Jesus. An important part of stewardship is giving of our time, our energy and the sharing of our faith with those outside of our church. If you have suggestions or ideas about these events or any new ones please let someone on the administrative board know. You are also always welcome to attend and let your feelings be voiced. March Ad Board meeting is on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (They really are a pretty good group of folks) Thanks so much to Janet Kuntz and Sue McClure for all your time spent on the bookkeeping. Is it so vital to our church.

Tony Holcomb  
Finance, Chairman  
850-9984

## **UMW/Martha Circle CUMC**

### **Clip and Save these Dates!!!!**

***Thank-you so much for the generous donations made during the "Souper Bowl" food drive. The Center Food Bank greatly appreciates your support. The gift of food to a hungry family is worth its weight in gold and more.***

### **2019 Calendar of Events for UMW**

March 5<sup>th</sup> Program on Prayer and Self-Denial

April – No Meeting for UMW

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day Salad Supper at 6:30

June – Mission project – Hygiene kits for migrant workers

July – 20<sup>th</sup> Yard Sale and Bake Sale

August – School Staff Luncheon (Date to be announced)

August or September – Trip to Creede (Watch for announcements)

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas Brunch at 9:30

December 14<sup>th</sup> - Soup Luncheon and Bake Sale

We will need help to make the Yard and Bake Sale happen and also with the Holiday Soup Luncheon and Bake Sale in December. Being on a committee is the first step to being able to make your voice heard and your ideas count. If you would be interested in helping with these events from the ground up please let Glenda (849-3303) know. We appreciate your help and input during this time of planning.

### **Martha Circle Meetings**

Martha Circle will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month throughout the year. Meetings start at 9:30. Martha Circle will have a "bakeless" bake sale on Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. We welcome new members and invite all to attend meetings at anytime. For more information of these events call Martha Circle President Marilyn Eagles 754-3704.

## CUMC Cooking with Your Neighbor

We had a good crowd for the New Orleans dinner provide by Pastor Debbie. And she worked all day on it. Thank You Pastor Debbie! It was very good and a way to narrow the gaps folks seem to sometimes feel when not clearly understanding the ways of others. We need to get more folks to step up and out to show us the culinary talents with foods we might not be familiar with. I know you have lots of experience in cooking. A great deal of you are at least as old as I am! If you have a specialty you would like to share with others, please let me know. It is March and on the 7th we will be doing anything "green" for St. Patrick's Day. Charleen 850-8804

## SUMC Dinner with Your Neighbor

Mardi Gras came early to Saguache UMC in the form of an "authentic New Orleans" feast imported and prepared by Pastor Debbie, and served to some 45 souls. Delicacies not normally seen in Saguache included crawfish, crab, shrimp, oysters and all the trimmings! The seafood became a boil, and was served in jambalaya, gumbo, Cajun pasta, etc.

The hall was beautifully decorated in Mardi Gras traditional colors, had beads and candy treasures and masks decorated the tables. The "Krewe of Love" crowned the king and queen. Queen Mary Morfitt, and King Bill Hazard were adorned with purple robes, feathered masks and crowns. The regal pair presided at the head table, and were served throughout the meal by devoted "pages".

Desserts included a queen and king cake, as well as pie, and beignet (which we learned is a puffy, fried and rolled in sugar Cajun treat)! Dudley Pace was the lucky recipient of the tiny baby baked in the king cake, which entitled him to a prize!

Supper With Your Neighbor has set the bar higher than ever, thanks to Pastor Debbie and her Herculean production. The community of Saguache extends their profound thanks for such a fun evening, and wonderful meal! Mardi Gras on Valentine's Day will be tough to top, but we are already thinking!!



## Movie night

We had very good crowd of all ages of folks watching "Ferdinand the Bull" movie. There were several generations represented in the crowd. It is the third Thursday of the month at CUMC.

**Yard Sale** While picking those things out of your house and yard for the church yard sale this coming summer, please remember all items for the yard sale are to be clean and prices marked.

## 4 Tough Choices

Many of our congregation is well versed in the ways of the world. We are experienced people. (Not Old) We, however, are now having to look at reality. Some of us are looking at alternative living situations, having to get to lower altitude, needing more care than living alone. Some of us are having friends and relatives who are having health issues or even losing friends and family members. It is not easy to deal with these things. They often cause us to take deep looks into what the future might hold for us and what we might do to lighten our load of decisions. None of those will be easy decisions.

I have been having health issues with the bone transplant. Those issues are more than you want to deal with. I even had someone say to me: "Would you have done the chemo and all if you knew what was coming?" I thought about that and I don't even think I made a decision. I just kept going like the energizer bunny. You just push through today and one day, in the snow, ice, and extreme cold, I did have to ask God if maybe he had a little too much faith in my being able to deal with these issues. I think he might have given me a shove and said: Get to a place where life might be a little less stressful. How? Hmm. What if you woke up tomorrow after having a stroke? What if you got killed in a car accident today? The only thing certain in this life IS that we will die. Yet most of us do not think it is going to happen to us. (Not yet.) Get a will, try to provide help to those who you love and who will have to clean up your life's accumulations. Provide for those who rely on your care. Simplify your life. What do you really need to keep living on your own? Take time to watch the Hoarder program on TV. It will open your eyes as to what is too much.

**"God doesn't condemn His people having earthly possessions; but He does condemn when earthly possessions have us. Crystal McDowell**

#1) Earthly possessions are inferior to the heavenly one

**"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2).**

#2) Earthly possessions will be destroyed eventually

**"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare" (2 Peter 3:10).**

The most expensive and greatest treasures on the earth will have the same end—nothingness. After Jesus comes back and the world is judged, there will be nothing worth holding on to.

#3) Earthly possessions can't be trusted

**"Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf" (Proverbs 11:28).**

Every day something of worldly value is broken, destroyed, lost, or stolen in some part of the world. Many who suffer this type of loss may never completely recuperate from it emotionally or financially. However, those who truly trust in God and His heavenly riches only have to suffer temporary loss from the world, but they will gain much more in the Lord's peace, joy, and grace.

#4) Earthly possessions can't be given in exchange for your soul

**"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" (Matthew 16:26).**

When we all stand before God, there won't be one earthly possession in our hands. Both saints and sinners come before the King of kings with only what we did with our lives—either accepting or rejecting Jesus. Those who put their trust in Him will have no reason to fear; however, those who rejected God for the pursuit of riches will have much sorrow and regret.

#5) Earthly possessions can be used for heavenly purposes

**"I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings" (Luke 16:19).**

God blesses His people with the specific purpose that they will in turn be a blessing to others. When we give an abundance of our wealth to spread the gospel—we are using wealth to build up the kingdom of God. Our finances that support missionaries and Christ-driven ministries allow the resources to flow so that the Good News will be spread to the ends of the earth.

#6) Earthly possessions are worth less than a good name

**"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold" (Proverbs 22:1).**

Many people underestimate the value of a good name in the pursuit of wealth and earthly possessions. Those who turn down financial opportunities to keep their good name will be blessed beyond measure in God's economy.

#7) <sup>5</sup> Earthly possessions can choke the desire for God

***“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature” (Luke 8:14).”***

\*<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/7-great-bible-verses-about-earthly-possessions/>

I am going home now to try to do what I said above. Get it out of my house and help someone else get what they need. It isn't easy to get rid of "things" you have collected for 60 some years and it isn't done in a few minutes. It takes time and determination. Good luck on your work. Charleen



TRINITY

Dear Friends,

I write to you a few hours after the closing of General Conference 2019. The Traditional Plan has passed, but truthfully we don't really know where we stand. Judicial Council has been asked to review the work done this week. Various churches, perhaps including yours, are considering their options for the future. At this moment, I couldn't begin to predict what the next few months will bring, nor prudently recommend to you any course of action other than prayer.

What I CAN do is submit to you that over the course of this week in St. Louis, the United Methodist Church demonstrated itself to be deeply divided... over and over again voting close to, and once voting EXACTLY in a 50-50 split. Over the past two years, many of you have discovered that your local congregation has within it similarly divided perspectives. All of this strikes very close to home.

What this means is that there are those among us who are satisfied with this outcome and others who are devastated. As with any political process, this means that there are winners and losers. That means that some of us are in pain from the conclusion General Conference came to and others among us are in pain because people dear to us are hurting.

While I don't know what will happen next, I do know that many of those experiencing the greatest suffering are our young people... some of whom feel they have now been told that they or their friends are not valued or wanted by their church.

Sisters and Brothers, I urge you, above all else in the days to come, put on love. Offer compassion to those around you. Weep with those who weep. Treat one another with tenderness. Help one another to see the humanity in each... the belovedness of each. Reach out to others... especially young people... with a shoulder and listening ear. Let us all strive our best to BE church no matter what.

In this moment when being the church is especially challenging, we come to the time of our church year when we are invited to dive even deeper into church and to draw closer to God... to dwell in scripture... to be steeped in prayer... to serve sacrificially and to love unceasingly. Now, when *how* we love each other matters more than ever, we are confronted by the fact that Jesus' injunctions to love our neighbors and enemies has never been easy, and isn't about to start now.

This Lent, I pray for love, in small ways and large, to be our guide in our life together. May we hold close to our hearts one of the most powerful promises of scripture:

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.— Romans 8:38-39*

Blessings on the Journey from your District Superintendent,

*Margarit*