

The Grapevine
Newsletter
February 2012
Issue 2, Volume 5



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

☪ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☪

February Events

- *Sunday, February 5th*
- Holy Communion
- **9 am - UMM Bible Study**
- *Thursday, February 9th*
- UMW Meeting at 6:30 pm
- **Sunday, February 12th**
- **9 am - UMM Bible Study**
- *Monday, February 13th*
- Ad Council Meeting at 6:59 pm
- *Tuesday, February 14th*
♥♥ **St. Valentine's Day** ♥♥
- **Sunday, February 19th**
- **9 am - UMM Bible Study**
- **Tuesday, February 21st**
Shrove (Fat) Tuesday
- **Pancake Dinner at 6:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, February 22nd**
✠ **Ash Wednesday Services** ✠
12:00 noon and 6:00 pm
- **Sunday, February 26th**
- **9 am - UMM Bible Study**
- **Monday, February 27th**
- UMCEV hosts Simple Supper
- **Wednesday, February 29th**
LEAP into your Bible DAY
What will you do with your extra day this year?



Sundays in Eagle

(333 2nd Street)

10:00 am

Traditional Worship

Children's Church

- Grades: K - 2 & Grades 3 - 5

- Nursery: Newborn - 2 years old

6:00 pm

Contemplative Service

Pastor's Corner

☪ Pastor Sid Spain

One of the themes that dominated my times of prayer and meditation, and my reading and study of Scripture last year has been the conviction that *how* we believe as Christians, *how* we share and witness our faith is as important as *what* we believe. We make a terrible mistake when we think that "getting it right" is only about having a clean and clear list of doctrines, teachings or truths that cancel out other ideas or ways of seeing the world. I believe in Truth and think of myself as a thoughtful believer, alas maybe even a theologian, but more and more I am convinced of the virtue and necessity of humility.

I believe in Jesus and the decisive importance of following him in the world, and I know God's ways are higher than my ways and God's thoughts than my thoughts. I believe Jesus is the revelation of the saving essence of God, God's patience and mercy and love and God's passion for justice. I believe there will be a Day of Judgment just as there are days of judgment. I believe we who follow Jesus must speak against and oppose evil and injustice in whatever ways we meet them. All that said—I also believe the strident, angry advocacy of Christian faith and values that we hear in so many places is contrary to God's way of persuasion and conviction.

While I disagree with the limited repertoire of what some of my sisters and brothers identify as Christian, the *what* of their words, what disturbs me most is the *how* of their witness. I listen for their convictions and admire their courage to speak, and I listen for their respect and love for those who disagree with them. Too often I hear tones of condescending judgment and self-righteousness, and an unwillingness to listen to the other. I listen for a hint of humility. There are times to be angry, but even in those times we do not dismiss or vilify those who disagree with us. Peter says, "Honor everyone."

Some of us need to find the courage to enter into the public discourse about where we are and where we are going as a nation; we need to step up and speak out. We need to enter the fray, but we need to enter the fray not only as truth speakers but also as truth seekers and peacemakers. How is our witness shaped, even changed, when we recognize that everyone we meet is loved by God and created in God's image? How is our witness changed if we consider that we may be meeting Christ in those we meet? How is our witness changed when we allow the possibility that we might be wrong and they might be right (even a little)? Can we have courage and the strength of our convictions—and humility?



Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

Services will be at noon and 6:00 pm in Eagle. With the taste of pancakes and sausage still in our memories, we turn to the days of Lent beginning with the recognition of and meditation on our mortality. Although Lent is a penitential season, 40 days of self-denial, reflection and prayer, the purpose and experiences of the season are anything but somber. In the lengthening light of spring, Lent allows us to prepare for the dawn of Resurrection and for a closer walk with God. In Lenten prayer the spark of faith is fanned to a warming blaze, the beauty of Jesus made clearer to our souls, and our spirits lifted and strengthened for all the coming days may bring.



Fat Tuesday, February 21st

We call it Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday and this year we will celebrate it on February 21. What does the word *shrove* mean? It comes from old English where to *shrive* meant to **hear someone's sins, assure them of God's forgiveness and give them spiritual advice.** Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday is a day to consider what wrongs we need to repent of and what changes we need to make with the help of God. Penitents may see a priest, pastor or spiritual advisor and receive *shrift* on Shrove Tuesday.



Similarly *Fat Tuesday* or *Mardi Gras* is a time when a conscientious homemaker would use up all the rich fats in the larder in anticipation of the simple foods she or he would prepare for Lent, a season of fasting and spiritual reflection. Many places like New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro and Venice have a carnival before the beginning of Lent. *Carnival* literally means “farewell to meat” (*carni* as in carnivorous, and *vale* as in valediction). Join us in the Eagle fellowship hall at 6:00 for pancakes and sausage and king cake (bring your colorful beads) as we prepare for Lent.



UMW NEWS: Monday, January 30th ~ UMW Hosts Simple Supper, call Donna Gress at 328-6921 or Teri Nelson at 376-7606 if you can help out.

The United Methodist Women will hold its next meeting on Thursday, February 9th, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women in the Congregation are welcome. Snacks provided. Contact Teri Nelson or Diane Gress for more information.

Early Word

Look for the mystery bag to make its reappearance this month for Pastor Sid's time with the children in our worship service. Look, too, for our children to take over the Early Word on the first Sunday every month to sing the songs they have been learning during the previous weeks.

Inspirational Thought

“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this “emotion” is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder, or stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead. His eyes are closed.”—Albert Einstein

God Says:





The finance committee met on January 15, 2012 to review how the 2011 year ended and we began planning for the challenges in 2012. Financially it was a stable year for our church considering the current economic conditions in the valley. Total income in 2011 was \$130,628.78 while expenses came in at \$137,198.23. We were fortunate to have some carryover from 2010 to help us meet our primary financial obligations. Our goal for 2012 should be to meet our expenses of approximately \$2,500 each week [\$140,000/52 weeks = \$2,500] and replace the shortfall in 2011 of \$6,571.45 [6,571.26/52=126.35] for a revised goal of \$2,627/week. We will

God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.




~ Mark your calendars for April's Holy Week Activities ~
Sunday to Sunday: April 1st to April 8th

1st Palm Sunday, normal service times.
2nd, 3rd, 4th Reading the Bible Through Jewish Eyes
We will be selling tickets as they become available. The course will be taught by Rebekah Simon-Peter each evening from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
5th Seder We will be selling tickets to this special Holy Week event led by Rebekah Simon-Peter at 6:00 pm. Venue to be determined.
6th Good Friday, services in Eagle at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm
8th Easter Sunday, service times to be announced; We are planning on two morning services in Eagle, and one afternoon service in Gypsum.
Labyrinth; will be available in Fellowship Hall throughout the week.

February Birthdays

- 1/29 Sandy Houghton (sorry we missed you last month!)
- 2/01 Ashley Kipp
- 2/01 Vivian Kipp
- 2/01 Amy Packer
- 2/02 Sonia Arnold
- 2/02 Marcia Keiser
- 2/02 Amelia Balzarini
- 2/03 Steve Johnson
- 2/04 Bruce Penman
- 2/06 John Blizzard
- 2/06 Karen Ray
- 2/07 Ruth Lenz
- 2/07 Liz Lounsberry
- 2/08 Randall Reynolds
- 2/08 Thomas Reynolds
- 2/09 Guadalupe Martinez
- 2/10 Faith Reichardt
- 2/11 Bert Bratton
- 2/12 Linda Carr
- 2/13 Justus Johnson
- 2/14 Jack Bradbury
- 2/15 Suzanne Delaney
- 2/15 Rick Patriacca
- 2/16 Don Gress
- 2/19 Ian Casey
- 2/21 Doug Crabb
- 2/21 Avarri Kuhn
- 2/25 Dottie McCall
- 2/27 Brady Blizzard
- 2/27 Meg Hartley
- 2/28 Samantha Pritchard

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a
Love is patient and kind;
love is not jealous
or boastful;
it is not arrogant or rude.
Love does not insist
on its own way;
it is not irritable
or resentful;
it does not rejoice
at wrong,
but rejoices in the right.
Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never ends.



Lina Lucille Plymell
Baptized 01/01/2012





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Open Minds.
Open Doors.

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ReThink Church!
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Inspirational Thought: *“Most of the major teachings of the great religions do not demand blind faith as much as they demand new eyes.”*—Richard Rohr

Welcome to our Administrative Assistant, Louise Carter

Louise Carter has been a member of UMCEV for many years. In the last year, she has been our faithful and valuable Treasurer. This year, she has stepped into a new role; our new Administrative Assistant. We welcome Louise with open arms and gratitude for her skills and service.



Louise lives in Eagle with her husband, Rod. She has three children, five grand children and many, many friends. She loves to go camping, fishing, gardening, traveling and enjoys anything outdoors. Stop by the office any time on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10 and 2 to say

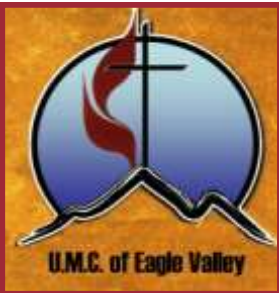
“Hello and Welcome!”

👉 👉 👉 MEDIA MOGULS 👈 👈 👈



We would like to say a hearty “Thank You” to Alan Holub 👈 for his media assist during Advent and Christmas. He really saved the day!

And as always, we would like to commend Josh Farmer 👈 for his YEARS of faithful service to our church and for having a backup plan to train Alan on the Media system. We are always looking for more volunteers so if you are interested in learning how to operate our system, please contact Josh!



Scriptures for the month of February

- Feb 5th: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
- Feb 12th: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45
- Feb 19th: Isaiah 43:18-25; Psalm 41; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Mark 2:1-12
- Feb 26th: Hosea 2:14-20; Psalm 103:1-13, 22; 2 Corinthians 3:1-6; Mark 2:13-22