



The Grapevine
Newsletter
January 2012
Issue 1, Volume 5



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

Serving Our Congregation and Community

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Sid Spain

January Events

- **Sunday, January 1st**
Happy New Year!
- Baptism of Lina Plymell
- Communion
- **Friday, January 6th**
- Epiphany
- **Saturday, January 7th**
- Taking down the greens - 9:00am
- **Friday, January 13th**
UMW's FREEDOM FRIDAY
- 5:30 - 10:00 pm
- **Monday, January 16th**
- **Martin Luther King Day**
- **Worship Committee 7:00pm**
- **Monday, January 23rd**
- UMCEV hosts Simple Supper

Inspirational Thought

"Because God is at the farthest reaches of the universe and in the most secret depths of the human heart, God is the constant companion, who cannot be escaped, fooled, or ignored."

--Timothy A. Beach-Verhey

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

Sundays in Gypsum

(118 Eagle Street)

4:00 pm Chapel Service

As I write this, I've only begun to lean forward into the New Year. There are still good things to do in 2011. We should never get ahead of ourselves and should always make the most of the gift of the new day. Still, I think of 2012 in my prayers with hope for another remarkable year. As you probably have noticed we are moving into an election year. By their nature, elections and the nearly inescapable campaigning that precedes them are contentious, but in our history we have seldom reached the level of incivility and ideological divisions we witness today. It wearies and saddens my spirit to listen to the way many of us speak about and to one another.

For many politicians public debate and the rhetoric of the campaign are **mostly theater. They say hateful things about their opponent's character when it's their turn at the microphone, and laugh together as if they are best friends** when the debate is ended. We all understand the conflicted and fickle values of love and war and politics, but the theater of this campaign reflects and feeds a growing, more self-indulgent and rigid animosity in our country.

The increasing incivility and, in many cases, disturbing disregard for the truth, are part of the crucible of faith we will face in the coming year. How will we live our faith and faithfully follow and represent Christ in 2011? Can we be passionate about our values, ardent in expressing our concerns without succumbing to the temptation to denigrate and dismiss our opponents? Can we overcome the fear of other people and other ideas with courage and confidence in God? Can we take our faith into the world, and help bridge the widening gaps in our community and culture, whatever we meet them, economic, ethnic, ideological or religious? Can we be *instruments of peace* and healing in an increasingly fragmented and fracturing world?

In his new book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, Parker Palmer challenges his readers *to engage, not evade, the tension of our differences*. Similarly, Jesus challenges us to be in the world, but not of the world. In the world we meet the same issues and have the same concerns that grip our neighbors, but unlike some in the world, we do not respond with fear or condescending, **dismissive anger. We remember Jesus' admonition to persistently love and pray for one another—including our enemies.**

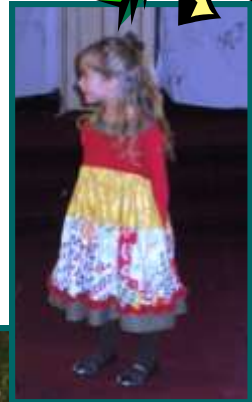
Some political candidates include the importance of Christian *values* in their speeches, yet many have a severely limited list of what those values include. Our values are centered on life and freedom, faith and compassion; we are passionate about the sanctity of life, issues of human dignity, and the sacred worth of every soul. We know that *how* we express our values is important; our anger does not express the righteousness of God. We must never forget that everyone we meet is created in the image of God and loved from the core of creation. During the coming year we will have ample opportunity to grow in faith and understanding, to be Christian in what we do and how we do it. **Led by God's Spirit we can be a Christ-like difference in reclaiming community, and, in Christ, we can stand against the tide of incivility, prejudice and fear threatening the world. Let's discover what it means to live Jesus in 2012.**



Christmas on Broadway



Children's Christmas Program



Contemplative Service Resumes

The evening contemplative service resumes at 6:00 on Sunday, 8 January. As you commit yourself to greater spiritual growth in 2012, consider joining Pastor Sid for this short service of meditative music, scriptural reflection and prayer. Come when you can, perhaps even once or twice a month. Allow the sounds and the silence of the evening to **draw you into a deeper awareness of God's presence; reflect on your day, prepare to meet the new week, and realize more of the life God hopes for you in Christ Jesus.**

One New Year's Resolution

There are many things I hope to change in 2012. I want to lose weight and not lose my temper so often. I want to be more sensitive to all the people I meet, more thoughtful and generous. I want to watch less television and read better books. I want to be more faithful and disciplined with my writing. But I am not making any resolutions about those things. I make only one, simple and hopefully achievable resolution this year. I resolve to spend 12 minutes each day in silence and purposeless prayer. I want to do nothing for 12 minutes but *be*. I want to be still, silent and available to God who always searches for and welcomes me to a deep, restorative and transforming rest. For 12 minutes each day in 2012 I resolve to *do* nothing, *plan* nothing, maybe learn even to *think* nothing, and simply allow God to be God *in* me, *for me and in God's wisdom* through me in all the remaining minutes of the day. Somehow I believe the other unresolved resolutions for the year will be **sorted out in God's love and grace. I encourage you to make one simple and achievable resolution for your spiritual being** this year.

2012



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God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.



To Doris Andrews



Once again on Christmas Eve our children received a small gift from Doris Andrews, this year a simple and lovely angel. Once again Doris provided Christmas cards and matching kitchen magnets to be sent and shared with her church family. Doris was too weak to join us Christmas Eve and we missed her. She tells me this is her last year to provide her wonderful gifts to the congregation. Who knows how many years Doris has thought of us all in the special seasons of the year? She has provided memorable little gifts not only at Christmas, **but at Easter and for Mother's Day and Father's Day.** Through her generosity and faithfulness Doris has lived in the heart of the church and in communion with God. Remember Doris in your prayers this year, pray for her as she has prayed for you, visit her if you can, and give her a special welcome whenever she is able to join us in worship.

January Birthdays

- 1/01 Kim Sanchez
- 1/02 Lina Plymell
- 1/02 Denny Spain
- 1/02 Georgie Zinda
- 1/03 Kathleen Brown
- 1/05 Susan Hewitt
- 1/05 Tage Terbush
- 1/05 Madeline Lounsberry
- 1/06 Ruth Casey
- 1/07 Kezie Lujan
- 1/07 Pat Quenon
- 1/08 Katie Johnston
- 1/10 Brian Stevens
- 1/11 Margaret Collett
- 1/12 Tracie Nation
- 1/13 Darcy Buster
- 1/14 Corbin Wilson
- 1/15 Rod Carter
- 1/15 Trey Kuhn
- 1/17 George Wilson
- 1/19 Tyler Hancock
- 1/19 Michelle Friedman
- 1/20 Loretta Fischer
- 1/21 Julie Claydon
- 1/21 Ben Eddings
- 1/22 Christine Allen
- 1/24 Bob Savage
- 1/25 Mary Cochrane
- 1/25 Chieko Bishop
- 1/28 Jett Pope
- 1/29 Sandy Houghton



A Beautiful Sight and a Joyful Noise

Thanksgiving for our UMCEV Choir during Advent and Christmas.



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

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Eagle, CO 81631

Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

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www.valleyumc.com

ReThink Church!
www.10thousanddoors.org

Christmas Baskets ~ December 17, 2011



Parsonage
Christmas
Open House

Charge Conference Rev. Steve Goodier w/ Don and Donna Gress



Scriptures for the month of January
Jan 1st: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
Jan 8th: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
Jan 15th: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
Jan 22nd: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
Jan 29th: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28