



The Grapevine
Newsletter
March 2011
Issue 3, Volume 4



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

☛ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☚

Events and Church Happenings:

- **Tuesday, March 1st**
First Tuesday's Sewing Circle 6:00pm
- **Sunday, March 6th**
 - World Religion Class, 9:00 am
 - Sunday Worship, 10:00 am
 - Communion Sunday
 - Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- **Tuesday, March 8th**
 - Shrove (Fat) Tuesday Mardi Gras Pancake Supper at 6:00 pm
- **Wednesday, March 9th**
 - Ash Wednesday services, 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm
- **Sunday, March 13th**
 - Youth Bible Study, 9:00 am
 - World Religion Class, 9:00 am
 - Sunday Worship, 10:00 am
 - Trustees 12:15 pm
 - Methodist / Lutheran 2nd Sunday in Gypsum at 4:00 pm
- **Sunday, March 20th**
 - Pastor's Pantry
 - Sunday Worship, 10:00 am
 - Confirmation Class 5:00 pm
- **Sunday, March 27th**
 - Youth Bible Study, 9:00 am
 - Sunday Worship, 10:00 am
 - Trustees 12:15 pm



Sundays in Eagle

(333 2nd Street)

10:00 am

Traditional Worship

Children's Church

- Preschool: 2 - 5 years old
- Grades: K - 2 & Grades 3 - 5
- Nursery: Newborn - 2 years old

7 pm Contemplative Service

Sundays in Gypsum

(118 Eagle Street)

4 pm Chapel Service

Pastor's Corner

☛ Pastor Sid Spain

There is a growing stack of books on my desk as I prepare for Lent and Easter. Soon we will finish our brief series on *Christ and the World Religions*, and begin to focus on the heart of our faith, Jesus Christ. I've chosen books from different places on the theological spectrum, some I am immediately comfortable with and some whose assertions and conclusions challenge or even disturb me. I don't agree with all I am reading, but I'm determined to listen to voices from unfamiliar places.

In recent weeks we've seen how Jesus is a persistent presence in the imagination of men and women around the globe. Part of the reason for that is surely because one third of the world's population professes to be Christian, but Jesus tantalizes the imagination of the multitude for many reasons. Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and Jews all offer explanations of who he was, the significance of his life, and his enduring appeal. In all the conversations between Christians and people of other faiths, he is the issue. The world is drawn to him, but many do not accept what we believe to be the most important claims of who he is and what he has done. We don't have to listen to the questions of Islam or Buddhism about Jesus; look at the shelves in the religious section of Barnes and Noble. How many opinions can Christians devise, expound and defend? It is not an exaggeration to say that Jesus is the most prominent and controversial figure in all human history. Popular and intriguing people come and go, but Jesus endures.

I'm reading a pretty long list of books for Lent, all of them about Jesus. One of the books focuses on the last week of his life, another on the last 24 hours. One is denser, a more scholarly treatise that discusses different opinions of his true identity and the enduring effects of his life. A couple of the books are more confessional than scholarly; they are the dessert for my meal of study and reflection, another soul's tale of seeking and glimpsing.

Lent is a season for reflection, for prayer and study. I don't ask you to tackle a stack of books this year, but I do ask you to set aside, *devote*, time to reflection, to prayer and to study. We've provided you with two small devotional books, *Renewed for Life*, Lenten reflections based on writings of Henri Nouwen, and *A Clean Heart Create in Me*, reflections from the writings of C. S. Lewis. We have two this year because I was unable to choose between them. I encourage you to use them both, perhaps one in the morning and one in the evening. More importantly I urge you to join me in reading all four gospels during Lent. When was the last time you read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John cover to cover, Matthew 1:1 to John 21:25? Open your tattered old Bible with its tabs and highlights, or find a new translation. Maybe some of you will choose to read from the New Testament Robyn, Denny and I gave you for Christmas. Whatever version you choose, read thoughtfully, even contemplatively. Read with an open mind and an open heart. You might choose to keep a notepad and pen close at hand for insights or prayerful questions. As we move toward Easter this year, let's give the Evangelists a fresh hearing. Let's give Jesus time and room in our busy schedules.



Happy Birthday to Pastor Sid! We wish you the happiest of days and a most excellent year! Thank you for leading our congregation and caring for our church! We appreciate all you do!



Shrove Tuesday



Our annual Shrove or “Fat” Tuesday dinner will begin at 6:00, this Tuesday, 8 March, in the fellowship hall in Eagle. Pat Eddings is coordinating the dinner again this year—that makes three times. Terri Fischer is baking our King Cakes again this year—**that’s three times** now too. Always fun, and good way to prepare for a meaningful Lent, Shrove Tues-

day reminds us that our faith in Christ follows seasons and rhythms of celebration and self denial, all movements to help us deepen our lives in communion with God.



Ash Wednesday



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.

Who Is Jesus to Me?

Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus is the Victim offered for our sins on the Cross. Jesus is the Word—to be spoken. Jesus is the Truth—to be told. Jesus is the Way—to be walked. Jesus is the Light—to be lit. Jesus is the Life—to be lived. Jesus is the Love—to be loved. Jesus is the Joy—to be shared. Jesus is the Sacrifice—to be offered. Jesus is the Peace—to be given. Jesus is the Bread of Life—to be eaten. Jesus is the Hungry—to be fed. Jesus is the Thirsty—to be satiated. Jesus is the Naked—to be clothed. Jesus is the Homeless—to be taken in. Jesus is the Sick—to be healed. Jesus is the Lonely—to be loved. Jesus is the Unwanted—to be wanted. Jesus is the Leper—to wash his wounds. Jesus is the Beggar—to give him a smile. Jesus is the Drunkard—to listen to him. Jesus is the Mentally Ill—to protect him. Jesus is the Little One—to embrace him. Jesus is the Blind—to lead him. Jesus is the Dumb—to speak for him. Jesus is the Cripple—to walk with him. Jesus is the Drug Addict—to befriend him. Jesus is the Prostitute—to remove from danger and befriend. Jesus is the Prisoner—to be visited. Jesus is the Old—to be served. —*Mother Teresa*

Crop Walk to End Hunger; May 1st, 2011

Mark your calendars! We are going to have the inaugural CROP Hunger Walk in Eagle Ranch on Sunday, May 1 at 2pm!

This is an effort to raise money and awareness for hungry people of the world and Eagle County.



Of course we want EVERYONE to walk - 1K or 5K. We also need people to help plan and organize this wonderful event. We especially need someone from our church to be a team leader. You would get people so sign up for the walk. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Arnhold at 328-6028 or [a_sprung@hotmail.com](mailto:prung@hotmail.com).



Guest Speakers

Pastor Spain will be away Sundays March 27 and April 3. Our morning worship services will be led by Glenna Brayton and Chip Unglert, two Methodist Lay Leaders serving in our Rocky Mountain Annual Conference. Please make them welcome. I am sure the messages they bring and the services they lead will be a blessing to all.

Thought for Reflection

The Westerner, excited to be on a safari for the first time, force-marched his native guides through the jungle on a wild search for game, any game at all. The party made good speed the first two days but on the third morning, when it was time to start, the hunter found all the guides sitting on their haunches looking very solemn and making no preparations to leave. "What are they doing?" the man asked. "Why aren't we moving on?" "They are waiting," the chief guide explained. "They cannot move farther until their souls catch up with their bodies."

~ (Joan Chittister, *40 Stories to Stir the Soul*) ~



The Grapevine
Newsletter
March 2011
Issue 3, Volume 4

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.



March Birthdays

- 3/01 Michael Ray
- 3/02 Nelson Gilbert
- 3/03 Jillian Lee
- 3/04 Sidney Collett
- 3/08 Tim Cochrane
- 3/08 Denise Kipp
- 3/09 Lisa Chaple
- 3/09 Jordyn Driver
- 3/10 Shannon Lujan
- 3/10 Sandy Knuth
- 3/11 Sid Spain
- 3/12 Matt Barker
- 3/13 John Chizmadia
- 3/13 Salome Kuhn
- 3/14 Spencer Chaple
- 3/15 Talia Lujan
- 3/17 Jack Niswanger
- 3/18 Dylan Dodds
- 3/18 Wayne Fischer
- 3/19 John Packer
- 3/20 Beth Nystrom
- 3/22 Anatole Arnold
- 3/23 Hannah Hibbs
- 3/23 Laurie Martinez
- 3/24 Abby Arnold
- 3/25 Laura Ray
- 3/26 Eva Martinez
- 3/28 Adele Wilson
- 3/30 Charise Crabb
- 3/30 Ava Rose



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

333 2nd Street
Corner of 2nd & Howard
PO Box 546
Eagle, CO 81631

Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

970-328-6598
fax 970-328-0407
office@valleyumc.com
www.valleyumc.com

ReThink Church!
www.10thousanddoors.org

Wise Words

Someone wrote these beautiful words. Read and try to understand the deep meanings in them. They are a little like the Ten Commandments to follow in life.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble; it is a "steering wheel" that directs us in the right path throughout life.
2. Do you know why a car's windshield is so large and the rearview mirror is so small? Because our past is not as important as our future! So look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes years to write, but only a few seconds to burn.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it. It will not last forever! If going wrong, don't worry. That can't last long either.
5. Old friends are like gold. New friends are diamonds. If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold. Because to hold a diamond you always need a base of gold.
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end."
7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in his abilities. When God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in *your* abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eyesight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision."
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles. It takes away today's peace.

Wise words, indeed.

Contributed by Janet Southerlan

A Prayer



*Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth;
lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust;
lead me from hate to love,*

*from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe.
Peace. Peace. Peace.
~ Mother Teresa ~*



Scriptures for the month of March

Mar 6: Genesis 12:1-3; 15:5-6; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Mar 9: Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Mar 13: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Mar 20: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Mar 27: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42