



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
719-395-8868 • gracechurchbvco.org

Happy 4th of July

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



As we celebrate our nation's birthday, let us stop and think about the ideals and beliefs that helped make her a strong, independent nation.

JULY 2019

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about the condition of the church.



Rev. Erickson talks about staying in the moment.

2

Ministry Reports



Happy Birthday USA!

1



Mike Frolono reports on the last Council meeting.

3



David's Annual Conference Report

3

Fourth of July Schedule

9:00 am - Patriotic Concert

10:00 am - 3:00 pm Craft Show in Parish Hall

1:00 pm - Patriotic Concert

Open House and Quilts of Valor on display all day.

Catherine's Commentary

Lately, I have heard comments about our Sunday attendance being lower than what we are used to seeing during the summer. The Council has been talking about what we can do to increase our attendance and we are trying several things to do that. These things include radio advertising, community walks, the Blessing of the Animals, and the Spiritual Discovery group. All these events are designed to appeal to people who might be hesitant to attend the service on a Sunday morning. We need your help! Please plan to attend these events and bring along a friend or neighbor.

The community walks take place once a month on Saturday

morning. The walk is about 2 miles at a gentle pace and includes a topic for reflection and discussion. Our next walk is July 13th at 10:00am. The topic will be "Abundance."

The Blessing of the Animals will be on August 24th at 11:00am on the church lawn. It will be followed by a picnic. Anyone who has an animal of any kind is welcome to bring it for a blessing. We had good attendance last year with a number of guests from the community.

Each year, our Spiritual Discovery Group invites new members to join. If you are

Continued on page 4



Sunday morning worship is going so well, and everyone is so welcoming, and I know we will keep doing what we do so well.

David's Column - Staying in the moment.



Recently I saw the advertisements on TV for Hallmark's Christmas in July movies. I have to say I enjoy their movies, but I can wait until later in the year. There are some who find this to be exciting and believe that the countdown for the next Christmas begins the day after Christmas. I, on the other hand, can patiently wait to celebrate Christmas.

There is something to be said about looking to the future with hope and expectation, but what about the present moment? So often we get caught up with planning for what is next and forget to enjoy the moments we have now. It is in these moments that we can discover the grace of God working in our lives. When we rush from one thing to the next, we may miss the gifts of what is before us. The summer activities, the start of school, the leaves turning colors, the enjoyment of candy from trunk or treat, the taste of our favorite pumpkin-flavored beverage: all of these and many more experiences are gifts of God given to us but may be missed in the need to plan for the future.

Continued on page 4

Church Council Report

by Mike Frosolono, Chairman



The financial report for the month ending 31 May 2019 shows a net loss of \$1,068:

Income	-	\$8,758,
Expenses	-	\$9,564, Total -
		\$1,068.

A quarterly insurance payment for Property and Liability accounted for most of the monthly deficit. The pledge income of \$8,553 was below the budgeted amount but was over budget Year-to-Date and ~\$1,000 above the May 2018 pledge income.

As a result of the change in bookkeeper, a committee (Cheryl Wilderman, Maryanne Freed, Ray Stwalley, and Judy Epperson) reviewed the Grace Church financial transactions for 01 Apr 2018 through 30 Apr 2019. No errors were found; all accounts appeared to be in order and correctly documented.

The Personnel Committee recommended, and Council approved an adjustment in Judy Epperson's salary for her work as Congregational Life Coordinator and Administrative Assistant.

Council approved purchase of 50 *The Faith We Sing* hymnals. If, at a later date, more of these hymnals are needed, Council will consider purchasing additional copies. Monies for purchase of the initial 50 hymnals were obtained from the Music Fund and the Andrea Frosolono Memorial Fund.

After some discussion, Council approved renewal of Grace Church's membership in the Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce, which provides meaningful publicity for us.

Continued page 3

Annual Conference

by David Erickson

The Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church held its 2019 Annual Conference in Billings, Montana from Thursday, June 13, 2019 through Sunday, June 16, 2019. There were over 600 delegates made up of laity and clergy. Primarily the conference handled the normal business addressed at each annual conference, however there were some information sessions and petitions related to the results of the 2019 Special General Conference and the upcoming 2020 General Conference.

Normal Business Items

- Worship Services
- Separate Clergy and Laity Sessions
- Ministry Immersion
- Legislative Committees - Used to review the petitions
- Plenary Sessions - Used to vote on items (e.g., petitions, 2020 MSC Budget, 2020 MSC Nominations Report, 2020 MSC Benefits Plan) and elect delegates (both laity and clergy) to the 2020 General Conference and 2020 Western Jurisdictional Conference
- Clergy Appointments
- Memorial Service
- Ordination and Commissioning Service

Information Sessions

The United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy (UMARC) presented an information session of Thursday, June 13 and a Breakfast on Friday, June 14 where information was discussed related to the 2019 Special General Conference and the upcoming 2020 General Conference.

Continued page 5

David's Column continued from page 2

James 1:17 tells us that every good gift comes from God. So, take time this month to enjoy the moment. Receive the good gifts of God, and give thanks to who gave us the perfect gift, Jesus Christ.

Announcements

The next **Community Walk** will be on Saturday, July 13th. Meet at the church at 10:00am and join us for walking and reflection. The theme of the walk will be "Abundance." The walk will be about 2 miles on flat terrain at a gentle pace. This is a great event to invite friends and neighbors to!

Karen, the Grace Gardener, says the iris and lupine need thinning out. If you are interested, please let Judy Epperson know and she will get in touch with Karen.

Calling all "Goats". The "Grace Goats" hiking group will meet Tuesdays in the church parking lot at 8am for a hike. Hikes last from 1 ½ to 2 hrs. Friendly dogs are welcome. No hiking experience necessary. Join us for god company and good exercise. For more information see Danny Simpson.

Catherine's Column continued from page 2

looking for a place for quiet prayer and reflection, lively exploration of spiritual questions, and companionship on the spiritual journey, **THIS IS FOR YOU!!** The Spiritual Discovery Group practices a prayer model developed by the Rev. Jane Vennard. In addition to the prayer experience, the group reads books which they choose. The group meets on the fourth Sunday of each month after church. The group is open to anyone and would be a good opportunity to introduce friends and neighbors to Grace.

We are working to provide opportunities for people to connect with Grace in addition to joining us on Sunday mornings. Sunday morning worship is going so well, and everyone is so welcoming, and I know we will keep doing what we do so well. But we can also reach out to our community in other ways. So, I hope you will help us with this outreach and invite others to join us for these special events.

TRANSITIONS

Prayers of thanks for David and his continuing recovery from his surgery and Bell's Palsy.

Prayers from Chuck and Bev Herrle as they battle health problems.

Continued prayers for Fred and Ampe and their health issues.

Prayers are needed for Mike Frosolono. He fell and broke 2 ribs last week.

The United Methodist Church needs our prayers and support in this tumultuous time.

Please remember to pray for our country and its leaders so they can find the right direction to take the government and the country.

Continue to pray for Janet and Bob Yinger. Janet is recovering from knee surgery and Bob is still having trouble with his voice.

Pray for Catherine and her family. Her parents have moved out of the retirement home.

Council Notes continued from page 3

Progress has been made on several of Council's goals:

- * Work on the weekly teen night is on hold until school resumes.
- * Planning for the 4th of July parade and Blessing of the Animals is well-underway.
- * The first meditative and guided Community Walk was successful with six participants, two of whom were from the community.

Council agreed to provide two baby seats for the Parish Hall so that families with young children can more easily participate in fellowship.

Annual Conference Report by David Erickson

- The United Methodist Church is expected to separate
 - o Both sides believe they will grow and multiply after the separation
- The "One Church Plan" is dead
- Progressive and Centrist groups are resisting from within the United Methodist Church
- Three meetings have been held to discuss going forward
 - o UMC Next gathered in Kansas City - <https://umcnext.com>
 - o Our Movement Forward Summit met in Minneapolis - <https://tinyurl.com/OMF-Proc>
 - o Creating a Future with Hope - <https://tinyurl.com/y655znlr>



Saturday Hike



Photos on this page were taken by Sherry Thomas. The one in the left-hand column is of the Grace Garden.

Monthly Calendar

- 7/4 4th of July Patriotic Concert – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm
- 7/6 Meal at St. George's
- 7/13 Community Walks – 10:00 am
- 7/14 Identify 2020 Stewardship Committee
- 8/1 Begin Planning of 2020 Stewardship Campaign
- 8/3 Meal at St. George's
- 8/10 Community Walks – 10:00 am
- 8/24 Blessing the Animals Service – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

If you have an item that you would like to be put on the church calendar, please call Judy Epperson at 719-395-6380 or email her at admin@gracechurchbvo.org.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 7/15 Rick Fox
- 7/16 Peggy Finkowski

Anniversaries

- 7/4 Kim & Kathy Prather



Grace Notes is a publication of Grace Church in Buena Vista, Colorado

Grace is an Episcopal-United Methodist Ecumenical Fellowship where people of all Christian faith traditions are finding a spiritual home.

Please send articles and pictures to editor Judy Epperson at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com