

Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219

January and February are months of transition and an ever so minuscule perception of longer days of light. As we began this New Year we were reminded of the Light that Jesus brought to us that was symbolized with the star that the Magi followed. That light is not just part of a sweet story about a baby, but is within us and shines through us as we share love, peace, and justice. The light is revealed in us individually and as a community, and that's the easy part. God loves us, not how we reveal that in each moment of our lives. Is it enough to be kind, although being kind is good? Is it enough to give money to the poor, though it is still a good thing to do? Is it enough to . . . ? It is something each of us wonder. Is what I am doing to show my faith enough? Over the next six months, this congregation will be discerning how their faith is going to shine - and, I have no doubt that it will shine. This is a faithful community and you are very loved.

Love, Pastor Denise



The Mood of Christmas by Howard Thurman
When the song of the angles is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To release the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart."

Rev. Denise will be on leave beginning January 16 and returning February 14. Pastor Betty will be preaching one Sunday, and Mike for another Sunday. I am available my email and if there is an emergency. The bulletin will be complete with liturgy before I leave on the 15th.

Lectionary Readings- January

January 1, 2023

-Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
-Psalm 8
-Revelation 21:1-6a
-Matthew 25:31-46

January 8, 2023

-Isaiah 42:1-9
-Psalm 29
-Acts 10:34-43
-Matthew 3:13-17

January 15, 2023

-Isaiah 49:1-7
-Psalm 40:1-11
-1 Corinthians 1:1-9
-John 1:29-42

January 22, 2023

-Isaiah 9:1-4
-Psalm 27:1, 4-9
-1 Corinthians 1:10-18
-Matthew 4:12-23

January 29, 2023

-Micah 6:1-8
-Psalm 15
-1 Corinthians 1:18-31
-Matthew 5:1-12

Liturgists

January 1, 2023

Eva

January 8, 2023

Lataine

January 15, 2023

Mary

January 22, 2023

Eva

January 29, 2023

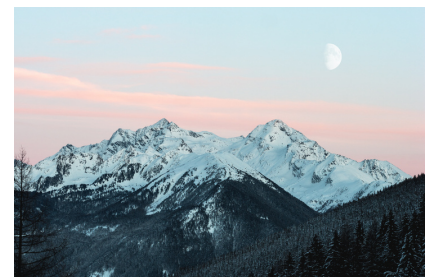
Lataine



Sacred Doors will soon be hosting 2 groups. I have been working with these groups since the fall and booking their dates.

Our first group is from the Wesley Foundation at Iowa State University. They will be here from March 12 - 18. The group of 20 will arrive Sunday evening and dinner will be prepared for them (we'll need some volunteers to help). I will work with the team on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday all day at non-profits like The Delores Project. I will do a closing worship service with them Friday evening and they will leave on Saturday. I will check the building on Saturday.

The second group is from a United Methodist Church in Wyoming. Their leader and I have Zoomed several times. The cost for both of these groups is \$250 per person for the week. They will be here June 11 -17. There will be a similar schedule including working with ECM. I will work closely with each group each day including writing devotionals for the evening processing time.



Lectionary Readings- February

February 5, 2023

-Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
-Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
-1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
-Matthew 5:13-20

February 12, 2023

-Deuteronomy 30:15-20
-Sirach 15:15-20
-Psalm 119:1-8
-1 Corinthians 3:1-9
-Matthew 5:21-37

February 19, 2023

-Exodus 24:12-18
-Psalm 2
-Psalm 99
-2 Peter 1:16-21
-Matthew 17:1-9

February 26, 2023

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

Liturgists

February 5, 2023

Mary

February 12, 2023

Eva

February 19, 2023

Lataine

February 26, 2023

Mary

"The most valuable thing we can do for the psyche, occasionally, is to let it rest, wander, live in the changing light of room, not try to be or do anything whatever."—May Sarton

For January Community Ministry is needing:

- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Jam
- Canned fruit
- Cereal

Community Ministry is also have a special collection of soup. On Sunday, February 12 is their Souper Bowl. We are collecting soup that needs to be delivered by the previous Wednesday to Community Ministry.



This winter has begun brutally cold. Most of us have the ability to live in nice, cozy homes - even if we have to throw on an extra layer of clothing. There are many in Denver who do not have that luxury - how they got to this point in their lives is not the point. We are called to clothe those with no clothing. If you have gently used coats, whatever sizes, let's donate them to those who are in need. Please bring coats by January 15 t the church.



MLK jr. and his religion

On All Saints Eve of 1517, Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg church door to denounce the sale of indulgences and invite church leaders to a public debate. This was a calculated public protest. It was meant to dramatize the suffering of the marginalized in a way that the powerful could not ignore.

Nearly 450 years later, King would likewise use public protest to confront the social devastation of false doctrine.

King's roots at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta taught him to recognize the spiritual and theological roots of racism. Later, his extensive college studies gave him the theological and philosophical categories he needed to expose it. When King arrived in Montgomery, Ala., in 1953, he immediately recognized the religious dimensions of the racial climate. "The racial peace which had existed in Montgomery was not a Christian peace," he wrote. "It was a pagan peace, and it had been bought at too great a price."

Significantly, both Martin Luther and his namesake emphasized God's love as the centerpiece of social engagement. Throughout his life, Luther maintained a commitment to divine love as the guiding principle to social action. Like Luther, King also emphasized divine love as the ground of social engagement.

King centralized the cross of Christ as the particular revelation of God's love that empowers and guides social action. When he was arrested and unjustly tried, Christ did not respond with retaliation or passivity. Rather, he responded with self-giving nonviolent action. This redemptive pattern guided and empowered the entire nonviolent movement.

For King, the cross and resurrection of Christ proved that God uses faith-filled engagement with suffering in transformative ways. The cross shows that love will have the final say over injustice. So as freedom fighters committed themselves to nonviolence in the face of billy clubs and fire hoses, civil rights leaders did so believing that "unearned suffering is redemptive." God's love is the only power that can overcome hatred. As King demonstrated, God uses social engagement with suffering to transform the hearts and minds of a nation.

From How the Protestant Reformation led to Martin Luther King, Jr., Analysis by Mika Edmondson

Wise Women Also Came by Jane Richardson

Wise women also came.
 The fire burned
 in their wombs
 long before they saw
 the flaming star
 in the sky.
 They walked in shadows,
 trusting the path
 would open
 under the light of the moon. Wise women also
 came,
 seeking no directions,
 no permission
 from any king.
 They came
 by their own authority,
 their own desire,
 their own longing.
 They came in quiet,
 spreading no rumors,
 sparking no fears
 to lead
 to innocents' slaughter,
 to their sister Rachel's
 inconsolable lamentations. Wise women also
 came,
 and they brought
 useful gifts:
 water for labor's washing,
 fire for warm illumination,
 a blanket for swaddling. Wise women also came,
 at least three of them,
 holding Mary in the labor,
 crying out with her
 in the birth pangs,
 breathing ancient blessings
 into her ear. Wise women also came,
 and they went,
 as wise women always do,
 home a different way.



History of Lent

Lent, in the Christian church, a period of penitential preparation for Easter. In Western churches it begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides a 40-day period for fasting and abstinence (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. In Eastern churches Lent begins on the Monday of the seventh week before Easter and ends on the Friday that is nine days before Easter. This 40-day "Great Lent" includes Saturdays and Sundays as relaxed fast days.

A period of preparation and fasting likely has been observed before the Easter festival since apostolic times, though the practice was not formalized until the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. It was a time of preparation of candidates for baptism and a time of penance for grievous sinners who were excluded from Communion and were preparing for their restoration. As a sign of their penitence, they wore sackcloth and were sprinkled with ashes. This form of public penance began to die out in the 9th century, and it became customary for all the faithful to be reminded of the need for penitence by receiving an imposition of ashes on their foreheads on the first day of Lent—hence the name Ash Wednesday.

From Britannica.com



January 2023

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

11AM Worship

2

3

4

Jesse Holdren
BIRTHDAY

5

6

7

8

11AM Worship
Church Dinner
Administrative
Council

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

11AM Worship

16

17

Janet Shaw
BIRTHDAY

Eva Staley
BIRTHDAY

18

Diana and Richard Smith
ANNIVERSARY

19

20

21

22

11AM Worship

23

24

25

26

27

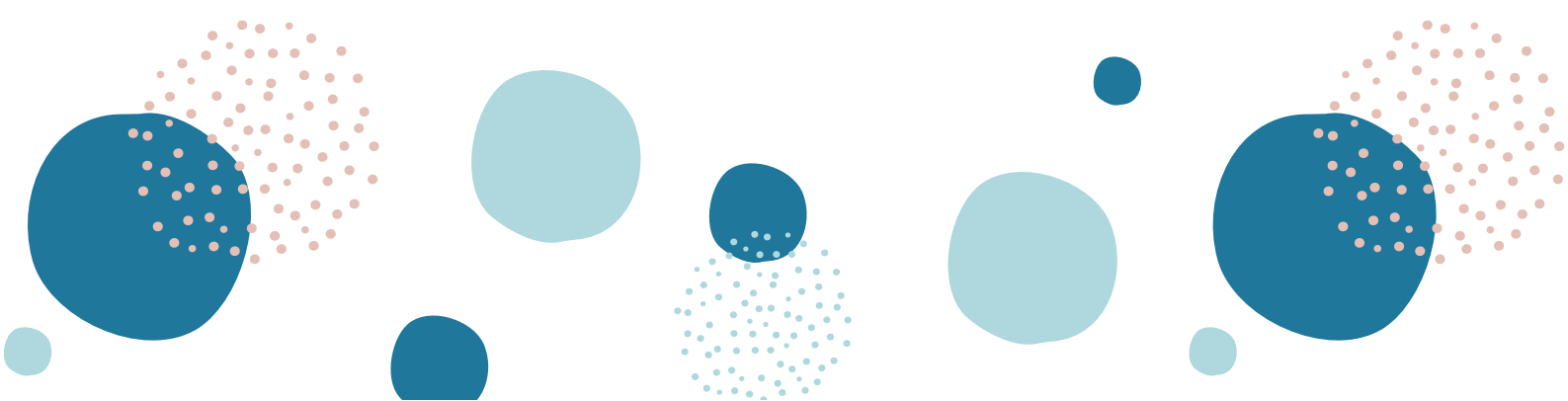
28

29

11AM Worship

30

31





February 2023

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

11AM Worship

Nancy Schremmer
BIRTHDAY

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

11AM Worship
Jon Kaiser
BIRTHDAY

Tristan Steelman
BIRTHDAY

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

11AM Worship

26

27

28

11AM Worship

Rhylee Thompsom
BIRTHDAY

