

Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219



Although August is technically a "summer" month, it brims full of the promise of autumn. The days are noticeably shorter, the nights are cool and great for sleeping, the crops of tomatoes and corn seem to just be on the brink of doing something wonderful, and the atmosphere of children and teachers preparing to go back to school is exciting and anticipatory.

This year seems different.

The August days are the same as all the other Augusts I have known, the tomatoes are still trying to ripen before the season is over, and children and teachers are preparing for school - ah, that's it. School.

This year *is* different.

Parents, teachers, school workers and administrators are all struggling with how to provide public education to tens of thousands, millions of bright, beautiful children, without risking the health and lives of those children and their parents and teachers and school workers and administrators. The worst part is - there are no answers. So we debate each other, as red in the face as our tomatoes, to cover up our insecurity and frustration and very real fear.

I have been searching my theology and biblical knowledge to try to understand the different sides of this debate (which in my mind shouldn't be a debate), and all I find is that we are to care for one another - love one another as God cares and loves us.

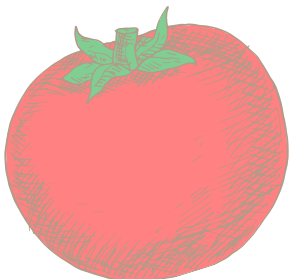
We must allow our teachers to be teachers - rather than stoppers-of-viruses or restarters-of-economies or babysitters - and support them in this profession.

We must honor parents and the struggles they have between needing to work and needing to keep their children safe and healthy. We must support them as they make choices that will keep them up at night, second-guessing themselves.

We are uniquely situated, as a community of faith, to find ways to be the cornerstone of community support for all. We are the hands of Christ in the world, the face of love, and we, too, this August, are on the brink of doing something wonderful...together.

In peace,

Pastor Denise





This year has been particularly challenging to find ways to engage youth groups in learning about marginalized folks and how we can work together to not only offer our help as we can, but also to put a face on those who are pushed to the sides of society. In order to offer some moments to gather as a faith community and to learn more about how we can learn about nonprofits who have taken on this mission, Sacred Doors offered a 4 day virtual mission experience.

The following is an edited version of a summary which can be found online at bethanyumcdenver.com.

Each day 14 youth from 3 different churches gathered via Zoom from 9:30 - 11:30 to play games, learn about one another, read and study scripture that connected with the particular speaker for that day, and then to process what the speaker had said. Each speaker explained their particular mission for about 30 minutes. The youth were invited to spend 2 hours in the afternoon on a mission project of their own. The three churches were Cameron UMC Denver, Simpson UMC Arvada, and Church of the Beloved ECC from Northglenn.

Tuesday July 7 - Homelessness

Megan Gilbert, a volunteer from **Habitat for Humanity**, shared the history and the current ministry. The afternoon assignment was to draw a home for a first time home owner and put in the important things that a family might not only need, but would like to have in their home.



Wednesday July 8 - Immigration

Sarah Jackson, founder, explained **Casa de Paz** is a nonprofit that Sarah started as a sort of way station for those leaving the detention center and their new home is not in Denver. Folks can go to Casa de Paz to figure out the next steps in their journey to a strange land.

Thursday July 9 - Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

Rev. Haley Andreades shared information about **Dry Bones** which is a place for youth and young adults who are without a home to hang out for an afternoon to watchTV, play games, take a shower, and grab a snack.



Friday, July 10

The last day we were blessed with two speakers. One was **Angela Bombgaars**, the executive director of **Extreme Community Makeover**, an organization that volunteers in Denver neighborhoods to help people fix up their home or do lawn work.

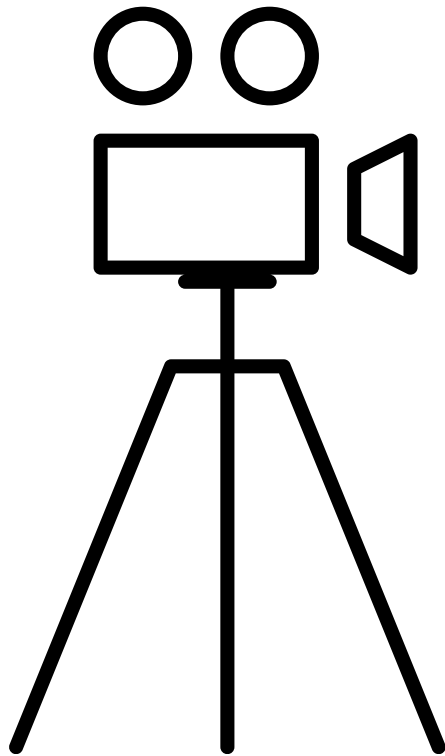
The second speaker was **Kevin Pettit** from **Phamaly Theatre Company**, which hires artists with disabilities. There is the only company like it in the world; they perform at DCPA and other venues in Denver.



The afternoon of the last day, **Elizabeth Fonseca** - a local artist and teacher - helped the youth express their experience of the week through a self-portrait or an intentional collage.

WHO WE ARE

Videos About
the Members of Bethany UMC



- **Who is your hero and why?**
- **When did you first begin to pray?**
- **Who taught you?**
- **What is something you have learned about yourself over these last months of COVID?**

These and other questions need your response!
We would like your story of Bethany UMC.

Curtis will be bringing his video camera to your doorway or sidewalk over the next few weeks to video your answer. We will share them during worship. All of your answers should be 2 - 3 minutes. Curtis will set up times with you soon!

If you have any interest in the Virtual Mission Trips, or would like more information, contact Pastor Denise.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE
bethanyumcdenver.com

www.bethanyumcdenver.com is our new website.

We will be populating it with more information this month.

Thank you to Elephant Rose, Inc. who has prepared it and will be working with Sacred Stones Ministries to keep it updated.

August 2020

Reminder
Send
Offerings
and Pledges



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

11AM Worship
NOON Board Mtg

2PM BOOK STUDY
"The Grace of
Les Miserables"

11AM Worship

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11AM Worship

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11AM Worship

Lectionary Readings

AUGUST 2, 2020

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

AUGUST 9, 2020

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

AUGUST 16, 2020

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

AUGUST 23, 2020

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

AUGUST 30, 2020

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Liturgists

August 2, 2020

Kathy Caughran

August 9, 2020

John Staley

August 16, 2020

Eva Staley

August 23, 2020

Lataine Shaw

August 30, 2020

Kathy Caughran