

Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

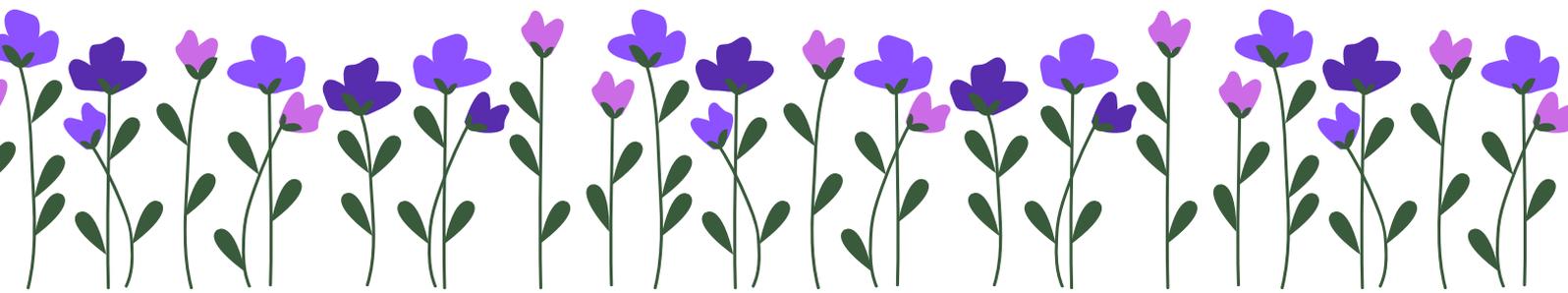
3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219



On Friday evening, Mike and I met my youngest son Tristan, his wife Rachel, and little Finley, their daughter, at an outdoor food court to celebrate Tristan's birthday. Friday evening was a particularly mellow evening and there were many families gathered for a Friday evening of food and conversation. It was amazing to watch the children

eating and then running around that safe area with many sets of eyes on them to keep them safe. Adults chatted, children laughed. We were all strangers, but all of the adults felt a shared sense of responsibility to keep an eye on each other's children as they played. As I watched them, I couldn't help but think of the children that were silenced on May 24. The horrible decisions of one man ended the laughter of 19 children. As faithful Christians we can not celebrate the Ascension and birth of our Christian church on Pentecost without acknowledging our responsibility to be people of action - people of the Spirit. God came to earth as Jesus to hold out hands, so to speak, and teach us about the call we each have to help people see the grace we each possess. It is that grace that can bring peace to the world. The arrogance humanity has embraced to gain power is also the power which will destroy. We are meant to be peacemakers and peace sharers. I know this isn't my typical newsletter article, but I am compelled to remind us that we can bring hope. We can vote for candidates who will bring safety to our children, we can become better versed on what is happening in our government, and we can share peace with those around us.

Love, Pastor Denise



Mountain Sky Annual Conference 2022

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Conference Session of The Mountain Sky Conference!

This year, sessions will happen in-person June 16-18th in Helena, Montana at Helena United Methodist Ministries (HUMM). This includes St. Paul's UMC and Covenant UMC. We will partner with GNTV to bring sessions to those in-person and those who choose to attend online. The second half of the Annual Conference will occur Oct 21-22nd in an online-only format to focus on the legislative work of the Mountain Sky Conference. As a clergy or laity member, you are expected to attend both sessions to complete the business of the annual conference this year.

Attending AC this year in person is Rev. Denise who will be assisting the secretary of the AC. Attending online as our Lay Leader is Curtis Gay. Attending as Equalization Members online are Mary Johnson and Oscar Bender-Stone. This year in the Western Jurisdiction we need to elect 4 or 5 Bishops. Bishop Elaine Stanovsky - our former Bishop - is retiring as are several others.

Here is a map of our Annual Conference:



At this time, the petitions have not been published, so keep track and we'll let you know as more information becomes available.



Musings of a Public School Teacher

When school shootings appear on our social media feeds and in the news, I inevitably hear from friends who ask me, "What can we do?" I hate that question, mostly because I know that what they really mean is, "what is someone else going to do to stop this?"

I'm a high school teacher in Denver, and a former professional minister in the United Methodist Church. I left paid church work for several reasons, but I've never left the United Methodist church. Despite all the differences we may have in understanding theology or applying God's word to our church policies, the one thing United Methodists have never been afraid to do is roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and get to the work of gun regulation before another precious life is sacrificed in the wake of its violence.

In 2015, Joe Iovino of United Methodist Communications wrote a powerful reminder about our responsibilities as per The Book of Resolutions, the collection of our official positions on many issues, including gun violence. Here is an excerpt of his writing, but I encourage you to use the URL at the bottom of the page to read his entire piece:

Resolution 3428 in the 2016 Book of Resolutions, "Our Call to End Gun Violence," calls upon The United Methodist Church—which means you, me, and every member of our denomination—to do several things.

Conversations and prayer

The Book of Resolutions calls congregations "to make preventing gun violence a regular part of our conversations and prayer times." In order to be part of the solution, we need to talk and pray. Congregations are encouraged to use resources such as Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities, a free, downloadable resource from United Methodist Church and Society to facilitate these conversations.

Promote gun safety

United Methodist gun owners are called upon to help prevent gun violence by safely storing and securing guns, and by teaching and practicing gun safety.

Encourage legal sales

The Book of Resolutions suggests United Methodists "partner with law-enforcement and community groups" to encourage "full legal compliance with appropriate standards and laws" to the sale and ownership of guns.

Advocate for regulation

Finally, we are called "to advocate at the local and national levels for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence."

Our prayers should lead us to action. We read in 2 Thessalonians 1:11, "We are constantly praying for you for this: that our God will make you worthy of his calling and accomplish every good desire and faithful work by his power" (CEB). We too pray for God to give us the wisdom and strength needed to fulfill the desires he has put within us for a world that is free from the violence of mass killings.

As United Methodists, this means getting involved in issues of gun violence and working to prevent these events.

Read the entire article here:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ways-united-methodists-can-take-a-stand-against-gun-violence>

Pentecost



Pentecost - which is described in Acts 2 - is 50 days after Easter; however, it correlates with Shavuot which is 7 weeks after Passover or, in the Christian calendar Maundy Thursday. Although Shavuot began as an ancient grain harvest festival, the holiday has been identified since biblical times with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. To commemorate the giving of the Torah at Sinai there is a tradition of staying up all night studying Jewish texts in what is called Tikkun. (This sounds like a tradition we should have picked up as Christians.) On Shavuot the Book of Ruth is read and dairy foods are eaten. It was on this day that the believers of Christ began to gather and the Holy Spirit came as wind and fire.

Pentecost is also known as Whitsunday. When the festival was first celebrated in the Christian church is not known, but it was mentioned in a work from the Eastern church, the *Epistola Apostolorum*, in the 2nd century. In the 3rd century it was mentioned by Origen, theologian and head of the catechetical school in Alexandria, and by Tertullian, Christian priest and writer of Carthage.

In the early church, Christians often referred to the entire 50-day period beginning with Easter as Pentecost. Baptism was administered both at the beginning (Easter) and end (the day of Pentecost) of the Paschal season. Eventually, Pentecost became a more popular time for baptism than Easter in northern Europe, and in England the feast was commonly called White Sunday (Whitsunday) for the special white garments worn by the newly baptized. In *The First Prayer Book of Edward VI* (1549), the feast was officially called Whitsunday, and this name has continued in Anglican churches. In Catholic and other Western churches, priests often wear red vestments during Pentecost to symbolize the "tongues of fire" that descended on the disciples from the Holy Spirit; members of the congregation also wear red in some traditions, and the altar is commonly dressed in a red frontal cloth.





The History of Father's Day

Father's day was inspired by Mother's day, which was established by a United Methodist woman, Ann Reeves Jarvis. One reason that Mother's day became such an important holiday celebrated so widely in such short time is that many saw financial benefit in the holiday-- particularly florists. Father's day did not have the same kind of enthusiasm because fathers did not like things like flowers and other sentimental items, so it was difficult to shop for fathers and difficult to sell things targeted around Father's day. On July 5th, 1908, the first Father's day celebration was held at a West Virginia church to honor the men and fathers who had died in the explosions in the Fairmont Coal Company mines. A year later, a woman in Spokane, Washington named Sonora Smart Dodd started trying to establish a day equivalent to Mother's day for fathers. She went around to churches, shopkeepers, and government officials to gain support for the holiday. One year later, Washington celebrated its first state-wide Father's day. When Father's day first began gaining traction, there was some controversy and disdain from fathers, as they did not want trifles like flowers, and saw the holiday as a commercial cash-grab to sell more products which were usually paid with the father's own money, as at the time the holiday was established, many women had not joined the workforce, and most if not all mothers' full time job was watching their children. There was additional controversy with many Americans saying that Mother's day and Father's day should be scrapped in favor for one holiday, Parent's day. This idea was scrapped when the Great Depression rolled around, and Father's day became a way for struggling retailers to advertise their goods, such as neckties, hats, and greeting cards. When World War 2 began, shopkeepers and retailers began advertising that Father's day was a way to honor the troops. At last, in 1972, Richard Nixon made Father's day a federal holiday. Today, economists say that an estimated 1 billion dollars is spent on Father's day gifts annually.



June 2022

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3 4

5 11AM Worship
Jade Beals
BIRTHDAY
Admin Council

6
Nancy and Len
Schremmer
ANNIVERSARY

7

8

9
Choir from Texas

10
Tim Coursey
BIRTHDAY

11

12
11AM Worship
Aerin Bender
BIRTHDAY

13

14

15

16

Annual Conference

17

18

19
11AM Worship
Father's Day

20

21

22

23
Len Schremmer
BIRTHDAY

24

Kathy and Kevin
Leech
ANNIVERSARY

25

26 11AM Worship
Jill and Cliff Thompson
ANNIVERSARY
Rita and Jerry Goddard
ANNIVERSARY

27

28

29

30

Liturgists

June 5, 2021

Lataine

June 12, 2021

Mary

June 19, 2021

Eva

June 26, 2021

Lataine

Lectionary Readings

June 5, 2022

- Acts 2:1-21
- Genesis 11:1-9
- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Romans 8:14-17
- Acts 2:1-21
- John 14:8-17, (25-27)

June 12, 2022

- Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
- Psalm 8
- Romans 5:1-5
- John 16:12-15

June 19, 2022

- 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
- Psalm 42 and 43
- Isaiah 65:1-9
- Psalm 22:19-28
- Galatians 3:23-29
- Luke 8:26-39

June 26, 2022

- 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
- Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
- 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
- Psalm 16
- Galatians 5:1, 13-25
- Luke 9:51-62