

Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219

Thank you.

My heart is filled with the awesomeness of community.

2020 has been a year that has certainly caught us off guard. With the unprecedented destruction of human life by the Coronavirus, hurricanes, floods, fires, and gun fire, we have felt since the beginning of March wave after wave of uncertainty, loss, and redirection of our faith. We wonder how we can ever manage to come out on the other side with nary a scratch. Well, we won't. We are not going to be the same, and sometimes that is ok. No one expected us to have so many losses, known and unknown. But, we can be crushed or we can grow.

As I write this I am thinking about John Staley and the pillar he was to our community of faith. As I began as your Pastor, I was so grateful for John's focus on detail and advice on how our plans affected the stability of our faith community. I appreciated his ability to call into question expenditures, and yet be able to see the vision for this building. It is that kind of faith that leads me to continue our plans and mission in this neighborhood.

As we continue to experience the red tape of the city of Denver, we also experience this faith. Our faith is not coming into question, our faith is stretching and growing even as the walls of government seem to close in. We are now stepping into a season of gathering information and remaining faithful to our intended mission.

One of the most difficult things I have had to ask you all to do is to step out in faith - one more time - as our project for being a mission center come closer to opening. I know you all have worked hard and been attentive to the needs in the community. I step out onto the water with my eyes on Jesus, and we are holding on together.

I am so grateful to be at Bethany during this time; to watch the transformation and dreams for vitality to be closer to realization. Each of you are dear, dear members of the body of Christ called Bethany United Methodist Church. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ - and together we will be transformed. Amen.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Denise

September 2020

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

11AM Worship
NOON Admin Council

LINDA KAISER
BIRTHDAY

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

11AM Worship

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

11AM Worship

27 28 29 30

11AM Worship

CURTIS GAY
BIRTHDAY

KATHY CAUGHRAN
BIRTHDAY

Lectionary Readings

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Psalm 114
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Liturgists

September 6, 2020

Eva Staley

September 13, 2020

Lataine Shaw

September 20, 2020

Kathy Caughran

September 27, 2020

Eva Staley

Pilgrimage to the Land of Love

from our Bishop

Humankind throughout the ages have taken pilgrimages to sacred sites, often unknown and foreign, to go in search of new or expanded meaning about themselves, others, or a higher good. It can lead to transformation which the pilgrim integrates into their daily life when they return.

Christians, when they were unable to make a pilgrimage to the holy land, even used labyrinths as a pilgrimage tool.

I am inviting all the laity and clergy of the Mountain Sky Conference to join me and others across our area on a pilgrimage. You don't need to leave home for it. All you need to do is set aside some time each day so that together, we can take a Pilgrimage to the Land of Love.

We stand at an important moment as we are brought to a deeper awareness of the high price of racism. We are seeing the toll it takes on persons of color and how racism defiles the beautiful image of God each person possesses.

As disciples of Jesus, it is time for us to address this, first by beginning with ourselves.

It is written in Psalm 139:

**Investigate my life, O God, find out everything
about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear
picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether
I've done anything wrong — then guide me on the
road to eternal life.**

For me, the imperative to doing an inward inventory of not only the ways I sustain racist systems and structures, but the ways I benefit from them and especially how I, too, am a racist, even unwittingly, is a demand of discipleship: I follow a Jesus who was a boundary crosser, exposing racist, sexist, classist ideologies and commanding us to overturn them by calling us to increase our love of God and neighbor. Not some of our neighbors. But everyone in every place on this earth.

Starting on Sept. 6, when we will all gather as pilgrims, we will journey together each day as we receive text or email messages — one a day — to help us engage more deeply with anti-racism resources in order to see our world in fuller ways.

Undergirded by the power of scripture, we will hear songs of struggle, read prophetic words, and view powerful videos. These will help us broaden our worldview as we hear the voices and experiences of others. Together, we will share insights and new learnings and integrate these into our daily walk with Jesus. And then, we will allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit to a Land of Love.

I hope you will join me on this pilgrimage. You can find information for it on the Mountain Sky Conference website. Please sign up by Sept. 4. Invite others to join us by posting on social media. My hope is that every United Methodist in the Mountain Sky Conference will join this pilgrimage

I look forward to journeying with you!

Bishop Karen