

# The Messenger



University Park United Methodist Church  
Denver, Colorado

January 2016

**Our Vision: To be a community of Disciple leaders who practice stewardship and hospitality as we engage each other and the world around us.**

**The UPark Core Values:  
Inclusive, Intergenerational, Interfaith, International**

## “I’ve Been Thinking...”

I have my January rituals. I get about two dozen file folders and label them neatly for committees and boards, weekly and monthly reports, programs and events that will be coming up. I recycle an expansion file where I collect bills and bank statements, receipts and other financial data that I’ll need at tax time in a year. If I have time, I’ll delete a lot of emails that I don’t need any more. I’ll clear 2015 out of the way as much as I can. It’s a bit like a reboot of the computer, only it’s a reboot of my life. I need that once in a while.

I like to make a fresh start on my soul, too. I’ll take the week of Christmas off and snowshoe if the weather’s right. Tromping through the mountains in the snow *“restoreth my soul and leadeth me in the paths of righteousness.”* I will attend worship at my home church. It will be good to sit in the pew. We have a new pastor who I haven’t even met! I have a couple of books I’ve been waiting to read. I’ll spend

some time planning worship for the first few weeks of the new year. That is soul work for me.

On the first Sunday of the new year I’ll be back in Denver and we’ll celebrate Holy Communion in worship. That is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas. January 6 is King’s Day when we celebrate the arrival of the magi. On January 10 we will celebrate the baptism of Jesus with a service of baptism renewal. I sometimes make new year’s resolutions, but it is good for my soul to remember the primary allegiance and identity of my life represented by baptism. It’s a beautiful service. The new year brings new beginnings. I hope that you will make worship one of the “reboots” for your new year and be running smoothly for the new things that God will be bringing to this church in 2016.

- Dale



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## Our Church Family

### Concerns

Members and friends who have been ill or hospitalized since the last Messenger: JimClaire Clipson and Marcia Benesh.

We extend our sympathy to the Rohs Family at the death of Stephen's mother, Betsy Rohs; to the Gonnella family at the death of Tom's father, Tom Gonnella, Sr.; to the Harold Roberts family at the death of his mother, Alice Roberts on October 14<sup>th</sup>; to the Dean Rollins' family at the death of Dean's mother on November 22<sup>nd</sup>; to the family and friends of Lyle Heimerich who died on November 26; and to the family of Clarice Lubchenco who died December 7.

*Our hearts are open to all church members, friends and family, as they experience the concerns and celebrations of life.*

## Loaves & Fishes

As of this writing the house is complete and the new owners were hoping to be moved in by Christmas! Of the \$85,000 goal, that Loaves & Fishes committed to raise, we were only able to reach about \$65,000. While this will not affect our homeowners, the members of the coalition are determined to reach that goal for this year!

Our new house is to be built right across from College View Elementary, with a start date of middle August again. If you can't commit to a work day, how about a monthly donation? There are several ways to achieve this, so find me and ask how you can be a part of funding our newest building! Thanks to all who worked on this home and blessings to those who made Alternative Gifts for Loaves & Fishes.

— Barbara Philipp





# Advent at UPark





## The Annual Burmese Ecumenical Christmas Party

Late November the Christian members of the Karen Tribe of Burma had lost their reserved room for the Annual Christmas party. As an at large Board Member of the Burma Community Rangers, I was requested to help locate another location. After many calls, I was stunned at the anti-refugee sentiment. I called Diane Felt and was greeted with such concern and help that I was overwhelmed with joy.

The Burmese Ecumenical Annual Christmas Party was held at UPark December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. So many folks joined in the rapid planning to include, Dr. Carey, his wife Marcia, employees at Denver Health, Lowry location, UPark folks, Green Mountain UMC and immigrants/refugees from China. Over 200 gifts were donated as primary, Marcia Carey and her husband Dr. Carey provided about 600 more as a backup since the potential numbers attending could not be calculated. The surplus back up gifts were then donated to Family Lutheran Services.

Since the Burmese are shift workers, most adults could not attend. About 46 children attended. 75% were Buddhists, 5% were Muslims and 20% were Christians. We have a lot to learn from these beautiful people as they do not share the negative feelings towards different religions as some folks do. It was a joyful event with games, raffles, food and presents. The surplus presents from UPark went to a tribal leader's home for further distribution. There was not enough but they were grateful for UPark's and team's generosity and thus a small Christmas miracle happened.

They all thank God for this wonderful miracle. The Buddhists joined in with wonderment. All felt God working through us to show hospitality, love and acceptance. Is this not the world we want?

A small miracle happened at UPark December 5, 2015 and was felt by all.

— Carol Cotter



## Guatemala Mission 2015

Our ten member team had a wonderful experience in Guatemala. We treated 574 patients. Thank you all for your prayers, love, and donations. We stayed well and loved to be with the people of Guatemala.

Some have asked about the background of our missionaries, so here (from my viewpoint) is what I have to say.

**Dr. Jeremy Long:** Jeremy is an internist at Denver Health. He is a Texan, and he and Amy have three children. Jeremy is blessed to have understanding parents for child care while we are away. **THIRD** mission trip for him (and Amy).

**Linda Schuyler** is a registered nurse. She has been on **all four** of our mission trips and we are always happy to celebrate her birthday during the trip. Linda does triage and very capably so!

**Bob Wilson** was a first-timer. Bob is an international lawyer and has traveled extensively, but this was his first mission experience. After playing soccer with kids for two days, he settled into a role of notating triage for patients. Bob brought soccer balls for all of the sites we visited.

We all know **Rev. Debby Lawrence**. In Guatemala she had become an expert with crayons and sidewalk chalk. A grandmother herself, she loved every young child who came to the clinic with their mother and entertained them while Mom and perhaps a sibling were seeking care. **Second** trip to Guatemala,

**Dr. Heidi Moyse Seaborn** is another of our skilled physicians. This was Heidi's **second** mission trip. Heidi is always bubbly and pleasant, we respect her medical capabilities (and the fact she has a sister who is an Olympic Gold Medalist).

**Jean Kottke** is well known to the UPark community as the better half of Paul. Jean is a nurse practitioner and she was skilled and wonderful in that role in Guatemala. This was her **second** mission.

**Mike Eglinton** is Jean Kottke's brother-in-law. This was his **second** mission, Mike did triage and saw half of our patients over the five days of mission. We are thankful that he again chose to come on mission with us.

**Dr. Amy Long** is full of energy 24/7. She is a pediatrician and saw all our patients 21 and younger. "Her writing may not be the best" LOL, but she is a delightful friend and this was her **third** trip.

**Phyllis Ward** did great -- she had kids to contend with, and she did wonderful on her first mission trip. Bubbles, sidewalk chalk, stickers, and Phyllis!

**George Gramer** has led all four of our Guatemala missions and went on six Honduras missions with his church in Maryland before moving to Denver.

Thanks to all! George, Team Leader





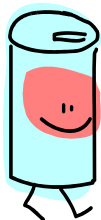
## Announcements

### PEGS

**The Post Employment Group Seniors:** This monthly meeting of seniors who gather for lunch, conversation and a program will be suspended for January and February due to the uncertain weather conditions often encountered during this time. The group will reconvene on March 9, 2016 at noon in the East Fellowship Hall. Watch for more information in subsequent Messengers and Sunday bulletins.

### UPDATE - Kids Cans for Kids—Bring Those Aluminum Cans!

Thus far for 2015 we have recycled approximately **942** pounds worth of aluminum cans and other miscellaneous metals; for a total of **\$409.24**. We hope 2016 is as successful!



**NOTE:** Contributors, please separate different types of metals as Atlas Metal & Iron Corp—the recycle establishment we use—requires that the different types are separated, weighed and valued individually. This relieves the volunteer (Sharon Sanita—thank you very much) who delivers the metals to Atlas of having to do the separation before delivery. Thanks to all who cooperate with this request.

We will continue to send these funds to the Children's Hospital Chaplaincy department to supply Bibles for patients and their families, including Spanish Bibles, and to supply other reading materials for their mobile interfaith book cart.

### Annual Meeting 2016: New Year, New Beginning

The Annual Meeting for UPark United Methodist Church will be held January 31 from noon to 2 pm. This year District Superintendent Melanie Rosa will convene us as a Charge Conference for the formal organizing work for the year 2016. We will spend time in conversation with Rev Rosa and each other on the shape of our ministry and mission for new beginnings as the year for interim ministry draws to a close and the church anticipates new settled leadership.

In-between times are sometimes messy, and often uncomfortable. During the interim time we want to more clearly define what challenges and opportunities are present. Interim ministry will conclude on June 30 and new pastoral leadership will then be installed. At this meeting we will talk about particular ways that we can be intentional about creating a welcoming space for new pastoral leadership and to position our church for the challenges of the next five years and beyond. Please plan to be present at the Annual Meeting and be a part of the future that we, by God's grace are creating together.

### Save the Date for the Candlelight Dinner

The Annual Candlelight Dinner is Saturday evening, February 13, at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$15 and will be available in February. This annual dinner is for the ladies and served by the gentlemen.



### UPark Bowling League

Our bowling league starts on Sunday, January 10. We bowl on Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm. All ages and abilities are welcome. The league runs from January through early May. This year we will likely bowl at the AMF Bowling Center near the corner of Bellevue and Federal. More details will be coming. Anyone interested in joining the league or with questions, please contact either Rob Eulenstein at [rob.eulenstein@hpe.com](mailto:rob.eulenstein@hpe.com) or Larry Roggensack at [4roggies@comcast.net](mailto:4roggies@comcast.net).



# Evanston Center for Spiritual Wholeness & Healing

The Evanston Center for Spiritual Wholeness and Healing is proud to be the home of The English Learning Center. Included with this brief introduction are 3 photographs from the ELC End-of-Semester party, held on December 10. They are illustrations of how lives are being changed for the good through teaching and fellowship experiences at Evanston. The pictures are of the Level 1 class, the world map of their former countries, and the students sharing a delicious meal together. English conversation classes are held weekly, Monday through Thursday, with 80 students currently enrolled, taught by a faculty of 10 ESL-educated volunteers. The gathering featured presentations by each of the 5 classes and a potluck meal of home-cooked international foods. The fall semester student body represented 17 countries and 10 languages. The upcoming winter semester will again offer 5 levels of English proficiency as well as a new US Citizenship education course. Registration begins on January 11. It's an amazing outreach to newcomers in our country, a ministry of University Park United Methodist Church.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016!

Rev. Linda Bibb, Director of the Evanston Center for Spiritual Wholeness and Healing.



# United Methodist Women

## Circles

*New Members Always Welcome*

- **UMW Bible Study:** Wednesday, January 20, 9:30am in Osborne Parlor. Coffee and conversation and continuation of the study "I Bought a House on Gratitude Street," led by Richard Nelson.
- **Knitting or Knot:** Monday January 4 & 18, 1:30pm in the Cornerstone II Classroom (at the bottom of the ramp by the North Entrance). Bring a handicraft and join in the conversation!
- **Crosspoints** will have their January meeting at Spirit of Hope UMC on Thursday, January 14 at 10:00 am. We will have a BRUNCH (egg casserole with coffee, tea and rolls). While we enjoy our food, we will have our business meeting followed by a program. Program presenters: Hope and Les Law with an update on "Sierra Leone after Ebola." Hope to see you there, as this is an open meeting!



## Metropolitan District Leadership Training

UMW will have their Leadership Training on Saturday, January 23, 2016.  
Wheatridge UMC, 7530 W. 28th Ave.

## Western Jurisdiction UMW Meeting

April 22-24, 2016, Salt Lake City. Plan to Come! Friday, April 22 6:15 to Sunday April 24 (11:30am. with activities earlier on Friday if you want to extend your trip! More as the time nears!! Info on bulletin board.

## Southeast Suburban Church Women United

26th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, Friday, January 15, 11:30am - 2:00pm, Littleton United Methodist Church (5892 S. Datura St) Fashions will be modeled by UMW members (one from University Park) and will be chosen from *Renewed Treasures*. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available from Dorothy Musil. A fun event that benefits Love, INC of Littleton and the National Division of Church Women United. Reserve a table for all to enjoy!!

## Thank You — Warren Village

The basement at Park Hill was filled with gifts for the families at Warren Village on December 12, and we added some great gifts for the children to pick out for their parents and the parents to pick out for their children. Each recipient is allowed to choose one large gift and one small gift. Thank you to the UPUMC members that "gifted" children and adults with a Christmas gift!

## Other UMW News:

- In December we received \$16.50 from Safeway and \$476 from King Soopers - Keep it coming!
- Remember to save the "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education" for McCurdy School. A basket is in the donation area near the reception desk.
- *UMW Reading Books* -Check them out! Under the bulletin board.



## Christian Education

**Adult Forum** will offer presentations from many speakers on diverse and interesting topics. Jim Fleet and Cal Neptune work together to facilitate this class which meets in Bryans Room.

January 3 – No Sunday school classes

January 10 – Emad Hussain – RAFT- A Muslim Perspective

January 17 – David McDaniel – Estate Planning

January 31 – Rev. Linda Bibb – The State of Evanston

**Journeys in Faith** will meet in the East Parlor. Come join us for some interesting and lively discussions. "Head and Heart Discussions" making Christianity relevant in today's culture combined with inspirational stories from *Belief*, a groundbreaking seven-part documentary series exploring humankind's ongoing search to connect with something greater than ourselves. The facilitators will be Les Law and Tony Winger.

**Cornerstone II** is a class that is geared to the parents of young children although anyone can join us at anytime. The goal is to offer insights into parenting issues and to build relationships among parents and families. Class will be facilitated by Jeremy and Amy Long and meets in the Cornerstone II room. Come join us in January as we discuss whether science has eliminated humanity's "need" for God? Would the world be better off without organized religion? Adam Hamilton's **God? Conversations with an Atheist**.

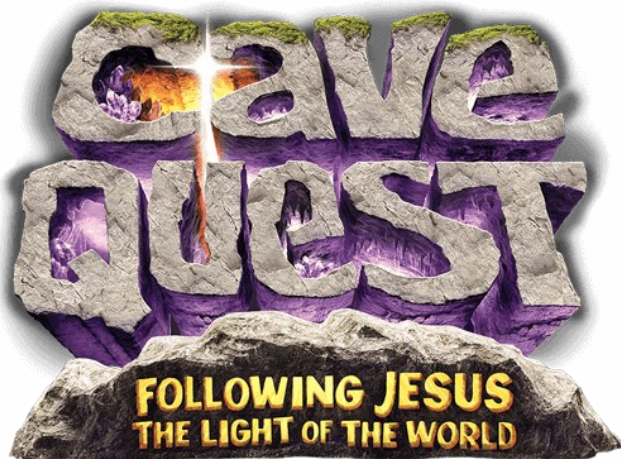
January 3 – No Sunday school classes

January 10 – Science and God

January 17 – When Religion Goes Bad

January 24 – Religion, Violence and War

January 31 – The Bible's Disturbing Passages



### For 2016 Cave Quest Vacation Bible School:

Please let us recycle your Christmas wrapping paper tubes. You will find a box labeled "Wrapping Paper Rolls" in the donation area next to the desk in main entry. We need A LOT of tubes to create stalactites and stalagmites for that cave experience. The children will really love it. Thank You!

— Jane Rogers

# Children's Programming

*From Christina Pacheco*

Please note that there is no Sunday school on December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The new Sunday school year kicks off January 10<sup>th</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup> when the children of University Park will be participating in a four week Sunday school rotation entitled “Beatitudes.” Each Beatitude will provide children with a way to be like Jesus, a way to walk in Jesus’ path, and a way to relate to others, as Jesus would want. Each workshop will focus on one to two Beatitudes and provides children with experiences to understand them.

In the art workshop, children will focus on Beatitudes 1 and 3. Children will learn that being “poor in spirit” and “meek” are words that describe a Christian who depends on God and not their self. Through a demonstration with play dough they will see how we are shaped in God’s way when we depend on God. God is like the potter and we are like the clay. Children will make Kingdom Cups from model magic clay, embellishing the outside of the cups with plastic mirror tiles representing how they can reflect God’s love in the world. The inside of the cup will be empty of our pride and have room for God’s wisdom, knowledge, strength and love.

Get ready ... start your engines ... take off! In the computer workshop, children will play an interactive CD game, Galilee Flyer, where they fly over the Sea of Galilee and the surrounding countryside. Children will learn the topography of Galilee as they fly around searching for the Beatitudes in their bright red antique triplane. When they fly into a spinning Beatitude icon, the icon will pop open to reveal the beginning of a Beatitude that they are challenged to complete. Their mission will be to collect all eight Beatitudes and return to the landing strip. Children will also encounter question icons, Jesus preaching, ancient ruins with discussion questions, and a videocam of Galilee.

In the science workshop, children will focus on Beatitude 6 and discover through everyday objects what “pure” means. Children will learn that God wants their hearts to be pure and God centered. Children will experiment with a glass mason jar by adding ingredients representing good works and actions to it. They will discuss the reasons that they do good works and right things. A second experiment will have them reexamining their glass jars filled with good works. They will discover that they left no room for God in their jars. They will experiment with reordering the ingredients in the jar by putting the largest ingredient (God) in first followed by the remaining good works and amazingly discover that there is room for all if you put God in first. They will learn that through a pure heart that is God-centered, they have the power through Jesus and Holy Spirit to do right things for the right reasons.

In the game workshop, children will learn what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness. They will learn that righteousness means living in God’s right way. It means doing right things according to how God wants them to live. They will learn that in God’s right world, all people are valuable and all people deserve justice of rightness. Children will learn that God wants them to hunger and thirst for righteousness in such a way that it leads to action. A shoe survey will help children realize how many shoes they own. After plotting their shoe ownership on a bar graph, children will learn the disturbing fact that 300 million children in the world do not have shoes. Putting Jesus’ Beatitude in action, children will reflect on what they can do to help the poor.

Thank you to the volunteers of the Beatitudes rotation! Thank you to our teachers Nicole Laydon, Celeste Paranjape, Angie Turek, & Tony and Judy Winger: and shepherds Marilyn Meredith, Jane Gonnella, and Janet Wolfer.

Many thanks to the volunteers of the past Reaction to the Promise rotation! Thank you to our teachers Kevin and Julie Johnson, Jamie Nahil, Barb Philipp, and Amber Rundle-Kahn: and shepherds David Rankin, Jennifer Robinson, Andrea Bobotis, and Connie Beauchamp!





### United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The youth group (all 6<sup>th</sup> graders through 12<sup>th</sup> graders) will continue meeting every other Sunday at 12:15 in room B03 and various locations. Steve & Diane Felt, Larry Roggensack, and Duane will be the interested adults.

### Youth Sunday School Class

The 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders will meet in room B03 at 9:30 am with Bethany Hader while the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders will meet in the Wesley Lounge with Barb Eulenstein.

## Administrative Corner

*From Diane Felt, Administrative Assistant*

### 2015 Reports Due by Monday, January 11

Please mark your calendars to submit 2015 reports to me by January 11. This request is meant for staff, Committee chairs, UMW, event coordinators (bowling, softball, Church Camp, Buffalo Creek Campout, etc.), and Charge Conference Clergy. Statistics are also reported to the Rocky Mountain Conference at the end of January. I will reach out to committee chairs and other individuals to acquire 2015 statistics should they not appear in the reports. Your timeliness is appreciated. Please send your reports to me: [dfelt@universityparkumc.org](mailto:dfelt@universityparkumc.org). Thank you.

### Sanctuary Flowers for 2016

The flower sign-up chart is on the kiosk in the foyer. This is a thoughtful way to honor or remember someone or acknowledge a special occasion. Price is \$50 per week. Checks made payable to UPark UMC or pay using the website: <http://universityparkumc.org/> and click on the "Giving" tab. Donors have the option of taking the arrangement home after the 11am service or having Deacon Debby pass them along to one of our homebound members.



**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLINE**

The deadline for the February Messenger will be Thursday, January 14th. Please submit them to Diane Felt at [dfelt@universityparkumc.org](mailto:dfelt@universityparkumc.org) to pass along to Elizabeth Boyer, our Messenger Editor.

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**Deadline for the February *Messenger*:**

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