



***CELEBRATING, LIVING, AND SHARING
THE DISCIPLESHIP OF JESUS CHRIST***

CIMARRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter—March, 2016

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, Evelyn mentioned that I was headed to Albuquerque for my yearly conference with the Board of Ordained Ministry. Let me refresh the expectations. Last year, I applied for Provisional Elder with the intent of being ordained, a three-year process. I had to submit a sermon with exegesis, an outline of one of the gospels, a reflection on a pastoral visit, responses to the theological questions in *The Discipline*, a summary of leadership successes and failures, and our mission vision. After the year's work, I met with the BOM for the two hour examination responding to their questions on my work. I passed and began work on the assignments for module A – the first year as a Provisional Elder. My assignments included a video of our worship, a sermon manuscript, a Bible study, and an annotated worship explaining when and why we do everything we do. I sent them a bulletin – each page including prayer list and inserts for Sunday, December 20 which I submitted. Barney, our SPRC chair, wrote a letter of recommendation along with Rev. Adrienne Coleman, my mentor and pastor at Raton UMC, and a letter from Rev. Jane Vaughan, our D.S. Monday was the day “to defend” my work.

After the opening prayer, I knew my team, four members of the BOM, had read and thoughtfully considered my submissions. Their questions, critical and thought-provoking, were affirming and encouraging for my ministry in Cimarron and Maxwell. After two hours, I left the room for their decision, and when I returned they said they were delighted to recommend my continuance in the process. After a sleepless Monday night filled with such elation, Scout, Emma and I decided just to get up and get on the road to home. We arrived in Cimarron by 9:30 after driving through two snow storms. I received the phone call Tuesday morning from the chair of the BOM telling me that I had received a unanimous vote for continuing as a Provisional Elder.

When I arrived at church, I had several messages from you offering your concern and interest in my progress, and I thank all of you for your support during this process.

This year, Module B, focuses on pastoral care and administration, and I submit another sermon. There will be much work in demographics of this area so that I may better serve the people of this community as well as the church. Please know how hard the SPRC works with me on this endeavor toward ordination. They will be reading a book on leadership with me through the year, so that we may all better serve you. Members are Roger Smith, Leslie Blakney, Louella Reed, Evelyn Malaney—all under the caring leadership of Barney Coppedge.

Many thanks to all of you for your support and interest in this ministry.

Blessings, Pastor Ellen



VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.CIMARRONUMC.ORG

HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

Our journey to the cross with Jesus is grueling and sad, calling on us to live in the moment and not in the static schedules of our lives. More often than not, we deny ourselves these reflections on Jesus' agony because they make us uncomfortable; they interrupt our every-day lives. Come join us as we lean on each other for comfort and courage walking with Jesus through Jerusalem. A walk Jesus takes for us.

PALM SUNDAY, March 20 – 11:00 worship will include the procession of the palms.

Monday, March 21 – 12:00 worship. This twenty-minute service offers a time of reflection with prayers, scriptures, hymns, and a brief homily.

Tuesday, March 22 – 12:00 worship.

Wednesday, March 23 – 12:00 worship; In Maxwell: THE WAY, 6:00

Thursday, March 24 – **Seder** meal begins at 5:00 **reservations by March 13th** please. This Christian Messianic Seder combines the Passover observance with the new covenant of Jesus Christ. Come and join us! \$15.00

7:30 Maundy Thursday....Tenebrae....Foot washing and a Service of Darkness as we extinguish candles representing the flight of the disciples.

Friday, March 25: Good Friday service at 12:00 noon...This worship will last about 45 minutes as we remember the crucifixion of Jesus.
In Maxwell...7:00

Saturday, March 26: Prayer vigil in the sanctuary. Please come throughout the day to light a candle and say prayers. 9:00 – 8:00

Sunday, March 27: Easter/Resurrection Sunday. Sunrise at Philmont 7:00; Worship at CUMC at 11:00 with communion.

STEPHEN MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Several years ago, I had occasion to read the book, *Antagonists in the Church* by Rev. Kenneth C. Haugh, PhD. The book addressed not only specific problems of antagonism in the church but also gave viable advice for problem solving. The book probably helped save this church! Imagine my excitement when I became interested in Stephen Ministry and noticed that the founder and director is Kenneth C. Haugh. I've spoken to a couple of people in our church interested in pastoral care within the church family. Stephen Ministry is a licensed ministry for laypeople who share Christ's healing love with those who are hurting in the congregation and community. It is Christ-caring for people through people. If you are interested in more information, please talk with Ellen. The next Stephen Series Leader's Training Course (LTC) is in Dallas, TX, July 10-16.

AND AFTER THE RESURRECTION WHAT? RESURRECTION DRAMA – SUNDAY, APRIL 3!

Traditionally, the Sunday after Easter is called Low Sunday. Imagine that! Celebrating Easter, then not! Mark Sunday, April 3 on your calendar, for we are going to celebrate the Resurrection story with characters who lived through the days immediately following the Resurrection, their lives changed forever by the Good News of Jesus Christ. A series of monologues performed by our members will draw attention to the Resurrection promise for us today. This will be a very special worship!



A LENTEN REFLECTION

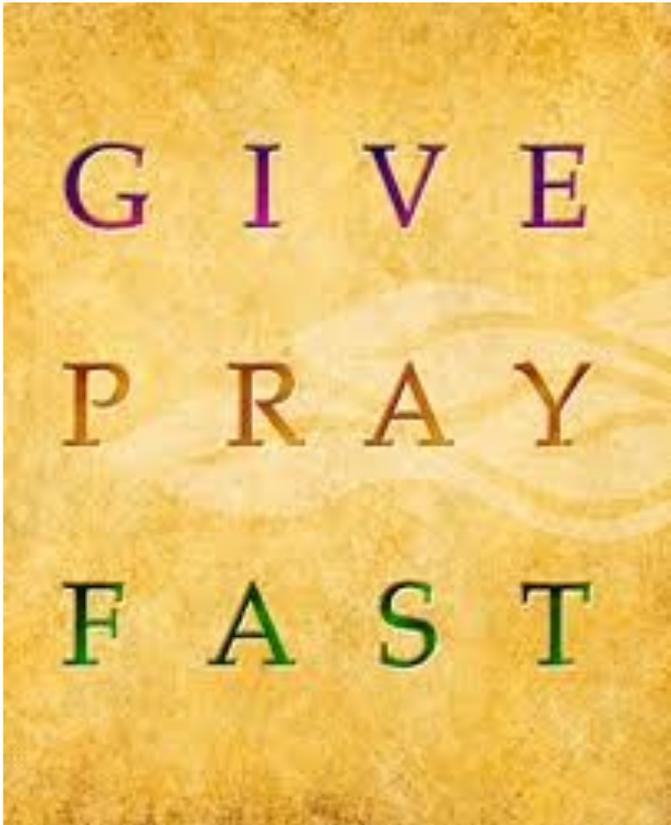
Today in my Lenten devotional time, I read the scripture Jeremiah 17: 5-10. I didn't like it especially, but I know it's important to read the "tough" scriptures, too. After all, it was included in the devotional guide I'm using this year, so I plow through! The scripture is about the dualism between trusting humans and trusting God. It seems to me, for the most part, that we probably treat both trusts about the same way. Do you believe that how we do anything is how we do everything? So...I moved to the Gospel from Luke 16: 19-31, "The Rich Man and Lazarus." From Hebrew folklore, we have an account found only in Luke. It has all the earmarks of old-time storytelling: a nameless rich man and a poor man with a beloved name, Lazarus, with dogs licking at his sores, "the bosom of Abraham" for heaven, and the pagan "Hades" for hell. Then Abraham shouts answers across "the huge abyss that no one can cross."

When I taught literature, my students loved stories with this thematic "reversal" structure. The main sin of the rich man is that he does not even notice the problem of the other man. He is blind and unaware of the pain of the world, while he eats "magnificently every day."

And the response of Abraham to him is this: "If you did not get it on that side of the abyss of life and death, why would you get it on this side?" Luke presents a clear continuity between this world and the next. Or, as some have said, "No one is going to be surprised in eternity!" We will all receive exactly what our lives say we really want and desire: Love is always torment for the hateful, and final torment is impossible for the loving.

I hope your Lenten devotional time is offering you authentic reflection and opportunity to draw nearer to our Lord. Please let me know if you're enjoying the devotional guide we provided. Blessings, Pastor Ellen





J.C. ODYSSEY JOURNEYS TO PHILIPPI

Look forward to a journey to Philippi in December as Pastor Ellen will teach a three session Bible study on Paul's "Letter to the Philippians." Marked with exceeding joy, Philippians is a book for Advent. Included in the study will be remarks concerning the sermons of Advent when Pastor Ellen returns. Pack your bags, think about what might be necessary for a journey of this proportion especially during Roman times in the 1st century, and enjoy exploring the scriptures as we "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4: 4-7).

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOU!

Here's where your announcement, poem, or essay would have appeared. Deadline for the April newsletter is Wednesday, March 30.



Features



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

23	Frances Koble-Chase
28	Becky Owensby
30	Mark Lockridge
31	Karl Sitzberger

Did you know??

A new slate of church officers will be installed in early January, 2016. *Thank you* to those that have willingly served in the past and *welcome* to those of you that have agreed to serve! A complete list of church leaders for 2016 may be found on the table in the Narthex.



**UMCOR offering
SUNDAY, MARCH
6...Don't Forget!**

CHURCH MEETINGS SCHEDULE

- Church Council—
2nd Monday of odd-numbered months
- Finance Committee—
2nd Monday of every month except July
- Board of Trustees—
3rd Monday of odd-numbered months
- S/PRC—
Quarterly at the committee's discretion.
- United Methodist Women—
2nd Thursday of every month except June, July and August

LAY SERVANT SHIRLEY DALE

Congratulations to Pastor Ellen! Her interview with the Board of Ministry went very well. They were pleased with the video of our service, the bulletin, the music, how many people participated and her focus on ministry and leadership. She starts her second year of provisional elder probation with us and Maxwell.

February is on the way out. It's time to get ready for the time change on potluck Sunday, St Patrick's Day, and the Easter calendar.

March is a full month; we have several special dates. Keep the schedule handy so nothing is missed.

The study of "The Way" is most interesting and great discussions of Jesus and his life. There are services each day during Holy Week. And a reservation is needed for the Seder. More about that as time progresses.

Check it all out, see where you can be of service, too.

Shalom, Shirley



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Cimarron United Methodist Church believes that Jesus Christ offers everyone a journey to eternal life, and that the church provides the community for discipleship of love and mercy.

CIMARRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Everyone is invited to worship with us on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.
Visit our website www.cimarronumc.org.