

Parker United Methodist Church

Cross & Flame

September 2015

back² school prayer

Dear Lord, use my eyes to *see* new friends.

Open my ears to *hear* my teacher.

Open my mind to *learn* new things.

Let my heart *remember* YOU are near when I'm afraid.

Help me to *love* others like you do.

I want to *shine* your light so bright in my school.

Amen



Little Blessings
Preschool & Kindergarten

11805 South Pine Drive - Parker, CO 80134
303.841.3979 - www.parkerumc.org

“Looking Forward” by Randy Jessen, Senior Pastor



The season of back-to-school is in full swing! Parents, teachers, staff, and even kids are gearing up for a new school year. It is the season of starting fresh with new hopes and dreams.

The same is also true for our church. The Little Blessings preschool is back in swing with a full scale operation at the church and now a new extension location off Plaza Drive and Parker Road. We are praying that we will be able to provide quality ministry for many more families and children as the outreach of our Christian preschool continues to move forward.

While Little Blessings is gearing up for a season of growth...the Tapestry United Methodist Church launch is well under way as well. Tapestry is a daughter congregation of the Parker Church that will also provide great blessing and extended ministry to a whole new gathering of people. It is an exciting adventure that is led by Pastor Pat Bell and a solid core team of leaders. It too is a bundle of hope that is surrounded by our prayers!

As Pat shifts his attention to the launch of the Tapestry new church plant, Cody Anderson will also be moving forward in her ministry career. Cody has been appointed by Bishop Stanovsky to serve as a Licensed Local Pastor in the role of Associate Pastor on our ministry team. We are excited about that transition and blessed by Cody's natural gifts for ministry. You will be hearing much more about how Cody's new role will unfold as we step into the future together.

That means that we are continuing our search for a new person to join our team to provide ministry to children and their families along with a new person to lead our middle school and senior high discipleship ministries. In case you are wondering, I just identified at least six areas of prayer that are needed for the life of our church. I hope you are joining us in prayer as we lift this exciting time of change before the Lord.

You may have noticed that people have different responses to change. Some people thrive on new events and a more spontaneous lifestyle. Others find change to be a bit of a stress point in life. Some enjoy being on the front line

of change while others tend to hold back a bit. I understand all of those view points and the anxiety of blessing that accompanies each experience. The real joy in this season of change is the reality that all of these shifts are very positive since they all represent growth and forward movement in the life of the church.

lated to growth and expansion. Let's pull together and pray together so we can arrive at the place where God is leading!

I am looking forward to seeing you in worship!

Yours in Christ

Randy Jessen

God has been very good! We are moving forward with the Lord leading the way. We all know congregations that would love to be dealing with issues re-

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTE LIST

	8:00 am	9:30am
	RED ROBES ON THE FIRST SUNDAY	
6th	COLTON WARNER HAYDEN CASSEL	CLAIRE BUNTEMAYER MAYA STROMAN
13TH	HANNAH THOMAS JOSIE THOMAS	BEN SHIER MAX SHIER
20TH	HANNAH REYNOLDS RACHEL REYNOLDS	CONOR PALMQUIST GRAYSON HARDY
27TH	BELLA BYINGTON CHLOE LENTZ	ANDREW HUEY McKENNA GEORGE

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR CROSSES WHEN YOU ACOLYTE

Cody Anderson, Children & Family Ministry



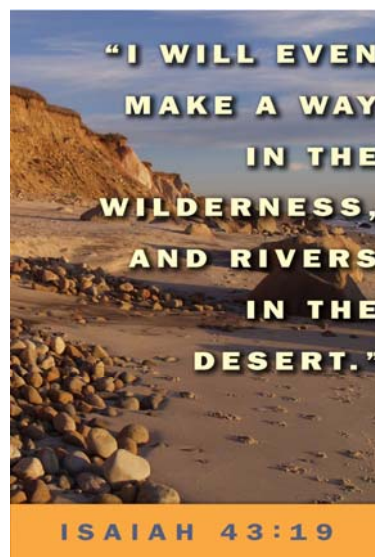
I love new beginnings, and it seems that fall is full of them. Today my boys started school. Matthew started 3rd grade and Jackson started Kindergarten. While other moms in Jackson's class were having a hard time dealing with their kindergartener going to school for the first time, I was so happy for him. He is going to have so many amazing moments, meet so many new friends and have so many new and fun experiences. I am so grateful for this new beginning for him and know that God will bless his life through it.

I am also experiencing a new beginning of my own. For the past 12 years I have worked with youth and children. While I have loved every minute of it, I am excited to see where God leads me on this new journey as I become a pastor. And I am excited to service you in this new capacity, and trust God to continue to guide me through this new beginning.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible comes from Isaiah 43:19. It says "Behold, I am do-

ing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." God is always at work, bringing new things before us that bring life into our lives. Are we ready to embrace the new beginning that is before us? Will we say yes to something new that will bring us out of our "desert"?

This is a great time to have a new beginning in your life as well! New Bible study groups and small groups are starting up, and I hope that you will join one and get connected. Not only will you be growing in your faith, but you will also be making new and wonderful connections to people who will support you in your faith journey.





As many of you know, we have been looking at ways to expand Little Blessings. For 5 years, our preschool has been expanding at about 10% per year, and we have had with that a continued wait list. It truly is an amazing ministry within our walls to so many children and families! We wanted to be good stewards of all that God has blessed us with and not turn any child away that walks through our doors, knowing that not only are we setting these children up for educational success, but that this might be the only time that they hear about the love of God.

As of August 15th, we are now leasing a new property to expand Little Blessings Preschool. Our new site is located at 10421 S. Parker Road, right off of Plaza Drive behind the shopping center.

Our goal is to open up 2 classrooms with 12 children in each session (that would mean 48 children a week) and have them full by January 1st. The starting in January, our goal is to open up a third classroom. The wonderful thing about this property is that we also will have room for a community room for small groups and Bible studies that would like to meet off-site.

This truly is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out into our community and continue this amazing ministry to children and families. If you would like more information or would like to get involved, please contact Tricia Woods at tricia@parkerumc.org



For many of you, you are reading this just before Tapestry has its initial worship service. For many, it is right after-ward. Either way, we at Tapestry and you at Parker UMC should be celebrating the day of August 30 as the formal beginnings of worship of our new church plant. Praise be to God!

For everyone involved in this new church plant, Tapestry UMC is considered a “child” of PUMC’s “parent.” This parent-child relationship is a funny metaphor but one that really seems appropriate.

As I write this, my daughter Rachel is home visiting for the weekend. She lives out in the Washington DC area and doesn’t get home often so when she does we enjoy the time together. Sometimes Jen and I will go out to visit her as well. Either way, it is always good to get together and reconnect as a family. The same is true for PUMC and Tapestry. I hope that you all understand that you

are always welcome to come and pay us a visit. We love seeing friendly faces and the encouragement you bring.

I am reminded also of the time I went away to college. I couldn’t wait to go and in the first semester I think I only called my mother 3 times! (Sorry, Mom.) Some of you may feel like we kind of suddenly disappeared too. Similarly, some of you are getting ready to send your own kids off to college. Be prepared that you may not hear from them very often. Except when they call needing money. (FYI, it is my hope and plan that Tapestry doesn’t ever have to call home for money. Of course, care packages never hurt!) I will try to do better at keeping you all informed about how things are going, at least better than I did for my mom.

And just like when college kids bring home their dirty laundry for mom to do, we are blessed and grateful that Parker UMC wants to support us by helping with those tricky administrative tasks that the team here is so good at. If you haven’t checked out the Tapestry website, www.tapestryumc.org, you should take a look at the results of Jason Anderson’s incredible talents. To have that kind of

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support is invaluable.

The thread that runs through all of this is that we are family and as in our United Methodist tradition we are connected in a way that cannot be easily broken. Tapestry is planning to “come home” to take part in the Feed My Starving Children event coming up at PUMC and we will keep you in-

formed about events that we plan. Please know that you are welcome to join us as we look for new ways to serve the Parker and Lone Tree communities.

God bless you all!

Pat



The Gospel Of John:

A Guide for Spiritual Growth

(Based on the draft of the new book by Rev. Kenneth Neal, retired.)

Rev. Kenneth Neal wants some help in completing his 115 page commentary on The Gospel of John: A Guide for Spiritual Growth. That is what he is using for his eight week Sunday course for the Open Circle class, which will be open to everyone beginning Sunday September 13 in Room 138 at 11am.

After Ken's early years of earning degrees at the University of Oregon, Northwestern University, and The Iliff School of Theol-

ogy, two years in the U.S. Army, and teaching three years in Oregon high schools, he served churches in Wyoming and Colorado for 29 years and taught at Iliff for nine years.

After retiring from active ministry in 1992, he kept busy with several interests, including Biblical study which focused mainly on the Gospel of John.

Copies of the first draft of the book will be available to all in the class for reading, comments, and suggestions.

Little Blessing Preschool & Kindergarten Update

Little Blessings is off to another great school year start. We have over 250 kids enrolled in our program between the preschool and Mom's Day Out. This is an exciting year for us as we continue to grow and provide a wonderful early edu-

cation experience in a nurturing Christian setting. Please email Tricia at tricia@parkerumc.org or Candi at candi@parkerumc.org to learn more about Little Blessings Preschool and Kindergarten at the church main campus and our new location at Plaza Campus.

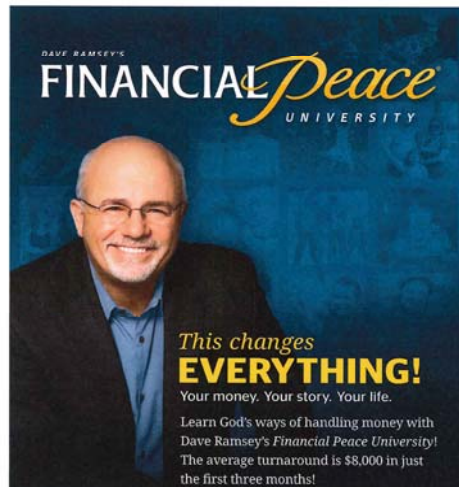
Financial Peace University

Sunday, 10:50 am—12:30 pm. Room 216. Dates: About 9 weeks, starting September 7. Frequency: Weekly. For: Both men and women. Childcare: Available

We all need a plan for our money; Financial Peace University (FPU) can be that plan! FPU teaches God's ways of handling money. Through videos, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents Biblical, practi-

cal steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! This class will teach you to become debt-free, God's way. Fee for FPU materials; scholarships available.

Contact: Brian and Cheryl Hardy at Brian@1networkservices.com, 303-840-3784





A MESSAGE FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN. THANKS!!!! We would like to thank our generous congregation for supporting the UMW Annual Pie sale on August 23rd. Thanks to all the bakers and to all of you who bought the delicious pies. The funds collected were used to meet our units annual Pledge to Mission with any remaining funds to be used for the 2016 Women's Retreat.

RECENT EVENTS: This has been a busy summer for UMW events at the district and conference level and a Women of Faith event. In June, 3 women attended the Mile High District Ubuntu Work Days by serving at Café 180. In August, 3 women attended Mission u (School of Christian Mission) 2015 at Smoky Hill UMC and focused on

the following Mission studies: Created for Happiness; Latin America, People and Faith; and The Church and People with Disabilities.

In August, 20 women attended the Women of Faith Loved- The Farewell Tour at the Pepsi Center where over 9,000 women of faith gathered from all over the country.

COMING EVENTS: You are invited to attend the following events:

Mile High/Pikes Peak Annual Meeting-September 12th - 8:30 to 2:30 at Calvary UMC in Colorado Springs, CO.

Rocky Mountain UMW Annual Conference Meeting - October 23-24, in Alamosa, CO.

A mission luncheon on November 1st – save the date!

For more information on these events, on joining UMW, and/or serving on the UMW board, please contact Ruth Wills, Marsha Weber, Pat Chase or Caroline Lynch.



Thanks to everyone who helped in any way preparing for the July 4th Popcorn and Fireworks Viewing in our parking lot. Your help was much appreciated, and the lot was full of folks enjoying the food and the fireworks show. The Hospitality Committee

Lay Leader - Ruth Wills



Greetings Everyone,
As we move into the fall months with back to school activities, business schedules filling up, warm days and cooling evenings, there is still time to enjoy what is left of our quickly vanishing summer. Sometimes we get so busy, we don't take time to just enjoy the sunlight filtering through the leafy trees, the cooling breeze as we spend time outdoors or watch children at play. I encourage you to take some time to just be still and wonder at the beauty around you.

The Nominations and Leadership committee is beginning to check with committee heads to learn which committees are wanting more members and if

there is a need to find new leadership for a committee. This is a time to show your interest in being on a committee, as we will have our annual church conference in the fall where all the committee memberships are approved by the members of the church. Please let one of us know if you would like to be more involved in the ministry of the church! Our committee members are: Marcia Bader, Sarah Blankman, Mel Bond, Cori Fitzpatrick, Randy Jessen, Katie Karp, George Stoll, Shari Quackenbush and Ruth Wills.

May God's blessings surround you every day!

Ruth Wills, Lay Leader
ruthmwills@aol.com, 303-693-7365

Prayer Ministry Update

Are you needing time to be still? Do you long for God's Presence as the summer ends? Perhaps you desire time to just re-group your

thoughts before a busy fall schedule. Please join us for some contemplative moments at our Taize Service, Thursday, September 10, from 7-8 PM.

Ready for diving lessons this fall?



That is, deep diving in your study journey in the Bible! Parker UMC has been traditionally a Church with strong participation in the Disciples Bible Study program. Disciples is a series of yearly progressive in-depth studies that last about 35 weeks each starting in September.

- Do you want to have a disciplined study where you read the Bible in a year?
- Do you want to draw richer meaning from stories and lessons of the Bible?
- Do you want to be able to draw on Biblical verse to apply to life's moments?
- Do you want to enjoy and learn from others' interpretations, experiences, reflections and learnings of the Bible?
- Do you feel God is calling you to a new destination in your Christian journey?

Then consider a Disciples study program this fall! Based on interest, any number of these different Disciple classes will be offered. Disciple I is a pre-

requisite for the other Disciples series, but after you have been through 80% of the Bible in Disciple I, you can then take any other series where you have interest and desire!

Disciple I Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Disciple II Into The Word / Into The World (Genesis-Exodus-Luke-Acts)

Disciple III Remember Who You Are (The Prophets-The Letters of Paul)

Disciple IV The Tree of Life (The Writings-Gospel of John-Revelation)

To sign up or express your interest in a study, contact the Mel in the Church office (mel@parkerumc.org) or Rich Oppmann at rich.oppmann@mho.com; 303-663-1825. And look for signup tables that will be in the Gathering Area during late July and early August. Classes will begin as early as the second week of September, and could be in the day or evening, depending again on interests and leadership. We hope that God will speak to you and give you encouragement to become a Disciples graduate! Learn how to dive in the Bible! And dive some of the greatest treasures you can find!

DEALING WITH LOSS SUPPORT GROUP:

Sometimes working thru a significant loss in your life can be very difficult on your own, whether it be the death of a loved one, a job loss or a divorce. Maybe talking with others who are in the same circumstances could help. We meet the 1st. and 3rd. Wednesday of the month at 6pm. For information, call Maureen Oppmann at 303-663-1825 or e-mail at Maureen.oppmann@me.com

**Fall Reading with the
Contemporary Christian Book
Group**

Please join the women of the Contemporary Christian Book Group for our fall reading! We meet on the first Wednesday evening of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Room 216. If you have any questions, contact Susan Gustin at sjgustin@comcast.net or [303-324-1226](tel:303-324-1226)

September 2 (Back-to-school): *Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West* by Dorothy Wickenden (Non-fiction). In the summer of 1916, Dorothy Woodruff and Rosamond Underwood, bored by society luncheons, charity work, and the effete men who courted them, left their families in Auburn, NY to teach school in the wilds of northwest Colorado. The book is written by the granddaughter of Dorothy Woodruff and is based on letters the women wrote home.

October 7: *The Prayer Box*, by Lisa Wingate (Fiction). When Lola Anne Poole, an old-timer on Hatteras Island, passes away in her bed at ninety-one, the struggling young mother in her rental cottage, Tandi Jo Reese, finds herself charged with the task of cleaning out Lola's rambling Victorian house....Running from a messy, dangerous past, Tandi never expects to find more than a temporary hiding place within Lola's walls, but everything changes with

the discovery of eighty-one carefully decorated prayer boxes, one for each year, spanning from Lola's youth to her last days. Hidden in the boxes is the story of a lifetime, written on random bits of paper--the hopes and wishes, fears and thoughts of an unassuming but complex woman passing through the seasons of an extraordinary, unsung life filled with journeys of faith, observations on love, and one final lesson that could change everything for Tandi.

November 4: *Jesus without Borders: What Planes, Trains and Rickshaws Taught Me about Jesus*, by Chad Gibbs (Non-fiction). Chad Gibbs has lived his entire life in Alabama, the buckle of America's Bible Belt, where Christianity is a person's default setting. In *Jesus Without Borders*, Gibbs steps outside of his very comfortable existence, to learn what it's like to be a Christian anywhere else in the world....Over the course of many months, Chad and his Alabama worldview spent time with believers from Beijing to Rio de Janeiro, worshiping with them and observing not only how their faith influences their daily lives but also how their daily lives influence their faith, in hopes of learning which parts of his faith have been compromised by the American Dream.

December 2: *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, by Kathleen Norris (Non-fiction). Struggling with her return to the Christian

church after many years theology, storytelling, etymology, away, Kathleen Norris found it was and memoir, Norris uses these words the language of Christianity that as a starting point for reflection, and most distanced her from faith. offers a moving account of her own Words like "judgment," "faith," gradual conversion. She evokes a "dogma," "salvation," "sinner"— rich spirituality rooted firmly in the even "Christ"—formed what she chaos of everyday life—and offers called her "scary vocabulary." Norris believers and doubters alike an illuminating perspective on how we can found she had to wrestle with these embrace ancient traditions and find words and make them her own before they could confer their blessings faith in the contemporary world. and their grace. Blending history,

Missions:

Thank you Parker UMC for your continued support of our various missions! We're transitioning into our next Missions theme of 'Poverty' and we'll focus on some of the following organizations where you can get involved in many ways:

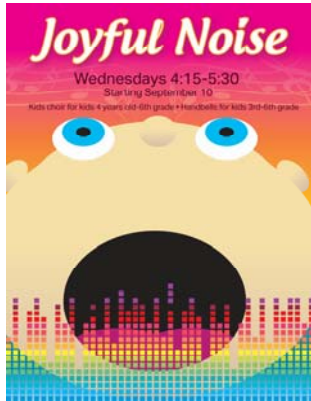
La Puente - Donate items to support the homeless and community members in crisis in Colorado's San Luis Valley. At the table near the Missions monitor in the Narthex you'll find more info on items to build hygiene bags for ladies & men who require support from this shelter.

Crop Walk – join your friends and members of the community and walk in the annual Parker Crop Hunger Walk. It will be held on Saturday, September 19 right across the street from the Church at McCabe Meadows Trailhead. You can learn more at the missions table in the Narthex.

Pine Ridge – consider participating in a short-term Mission trip where you can work side-by-side members of the Oglala Lakota Native American reservation located in South Dakota. This reservation is one of the poorest areas in the U.S. The team typically works on a variety of projects including building repairs, well repairs to ensure clean water, and working with the children daily to share God's love.

Red Bird Mission – learn about and provide financial support for their spiritual, educational and outreach ministries. This is one of the four mission institutions of the Red Bird Missionary conference providing ministries & support to this region of the Appalachian Mountains since 1921.

You can contribute towards any of these missions by writing your check to Parker UMC and noting the organization name in the Memo and putting it in the offering or leaving it at the church office.



Joyful Noise

Joyful Noise children's choir will begin on September 9th from 4:15-5:30 and the children's handbells will begin on Sep-

tember 16th. Please make sure to pick up a registration form on the Welcome table in the Narthex. Then on September 9th, please make sure to bring the completed form with the registration fee attached and join us for a year of music and fun! Auditions will be September 23rd, so make sure to mark your calendars. For questions, more information or to volunteer to help make this year a huge success, please email Cody at cody@parkerumc.org

L.O.I.S (Loving Others in Spirit)- A group for Moms. L.O.I.S will start on September 8 and will meet every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30. We will be starting with Jen Hatmaker's book, For the Love. If you are a mom that is in need of meeting other mothers and having a time to grow in your faith then this group is for you. Throughout the year,

we will be doing weekly Bible studies and discussions as we provide an environment where we can grow together in God and support one another through being a parent. Childcare will be provided in the nursery. For questions or more information, please email Cody at cody@parkerumc.org.

✓ Sunday School REGISTRATION!

Make sure that your child is registered for this year's Sunday School. Simply pick up a registration form in your child's Sunday School class and give it back to their teacher.

Preteens

Attention 4th, 5th and 6th graders : Preteens will be starting up again in September! Most months, we will be meeting on the 2nd Friday of each month from 6-8pm. This month there is a change: Our first meeting will be on the 3rd Friday, September 18th. Make sure to not miss all the fun! Any questions, please email Cody at cody@parkerumc.org

Hop-on Hop-off Tours of the Christian Life

40 Days of Community

Starting August 30

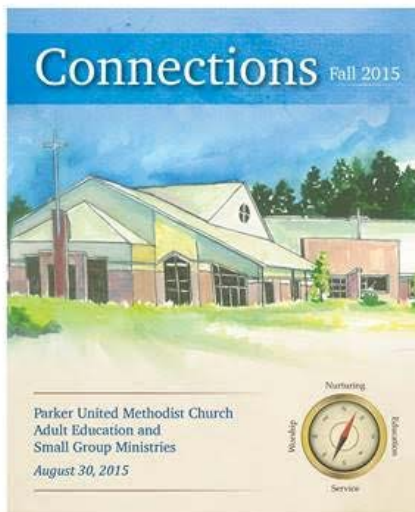


Want to see how you can fulfill your purposes in life together with other people around you – in Church family, small groups and in the world? Come to our next Christian Life tour stop, 40 Days of Community. This study is a practical “how-to” guide following the Purpose Driven Life and will increase our understanding of how God uses other people for our good and growth and how

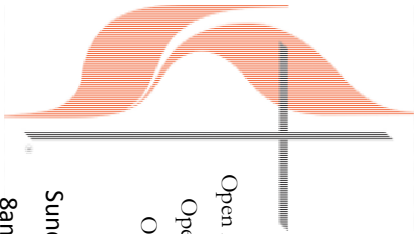
God can use each of us to bless others, cultivate deeper relationships and fulfill God’s purposes in community. It will emphasize that through community-knowing and loving others-our lives can be richened and allow us better to fulfill our purposes.

This will be a 6 week study, starting Sunday August 30. The classes will be held at 9:30 am in Room 216. The study can be enriched by daily reading and devotions, and an optional study guide, which will be available at the first group meeting.

Contact Rich Oppmann for more information (303-663-1825; rich.oppmann@mho.com), and we hope to see you there for a purposeful 6 weeks-together!



Coming August 30th! The new Fall 2015 edition of the Parker UMC Connections...More classes, more studies, more fellowship, more arts, more creations, more service! Pick up your copy between 1st and 2nd and between 2nd and 3rd services on Sunday August 30. And meet and talk with the Connections leaders in the Gathering area. “Welcoming all to discover and share the joy of Jesus’ love” ...through Connections together!



Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

Parker United Methodist Church

11805 S. Pine Dr. Parker, CO. 80134

303 841-3979

www.parkerumc.org

Sunday Worship Times

8am, 9:30am & 11am

Holy Communion at 9:10am

September 2015

