

PASTOR'S REPORT-March 2018

Greetings! Whew-there's a lot going on in the life of the church! Below are a few highlights:

TEAMS

Adult Christian Ed- This Summer's Sermon and Film Series will be based in the theme, "Unlikely Pairings." If you have any films that fit this category, please let me know.

Assn & Conference- The Conference "So That" Team on Boundary Training reforms has met and begun its work. I lead this Team and Al Thompson serves on it as well. On Saturday July 14th, the STT will be meeting at our church for an all-day work session. On **Sunday, July 15th**, the Team will be leading our UCCPH worship service designed by them around Ministry Boundaries Awareness.

Following the service, the church will be asked to help us in our work by participating in a World Café discussion/process about boundaries. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this important session. We will be hosting folks from all around the Conference and our Conference Minister, Rev. Sue Artt. Martha and her daughter, Mary, will be catering the meal (paid for by the Conference!)

Building & Grounds- The new well permit has been issued. We will be digging down 500 feet into the Lower Dawson Aquifer. Work will start in late April or early May. Our All-church Work Day is March 24th. We are asking for sign-ups; all hands needed! Projects include: indoor painting, painting the cross on our rooftop, highway cleanup, kitchen cleanup, storage rooms cleanup, and window washing.

On March 31st, the youth classroom will be painted, and student chairs will replace the couch and beanbag chair. Call the church office if you want them—they go out the door on March 30th!

Thank you to Randy Mann for providing new office furniture for Karen!

Thank you to Angie Law for the new mural decorations for the church nursery.

Children & Youth Education- We have had new volunteers for our children's school, so we are set for the remainder of the school year. **We need a Youth Ministry leader to coordinate education with social and mission's events.**

Community Outreach- I am very excited to tell you that we have landed a private concert at church **on Saturday, June 16th by nationally-known singer/songwriter, Bobby Jo Valentine.** We will have an all-church BBQ and patio concert (hopefully outdoors!) on Saturday (we will charge \$10 per person, \$20 for families to cover his fee.) On **Father's Day Sunday, June 17th,** he will provide the music for our worship service, and I will preach a narrative sermon from his stories. You can listen to his wonderful musical stories at bobbyjovalentine.com

Memorial Garden- Our second set of 8 pavers have been laid in our Memorial Garden. Thank you, Gene Eliassen!

Missions- We are collecting items for the Women's Homeless Initiative in partnership with other Metro area UCC churches. **We are putting together Easter Baskets for children to be delivered to Parker Task Force on March 20th.** Please bring candy and small toys (but not small enough to be swallowed!) to church this Sunday, March 18th.

New Members- We have several folks who have expressed interest in becoming members. The Spragues will again be hosting an interest dinner in their home on April 27th.

Pastor-Parish Team- Melissa Birdwhistell has been approved per the church Bylaws process to join PPT. The other members are: Gary Dordahl (lead), Eileen Enterline, and me.

Sophias- Women's Sunday was March 11th. We had 23 women and teen girls participating this year. The theme was taken from the gospel story, "The Samaritan Woman at the Well." By all reports, this presentation and worship was fabulous! Special thanks to J.J. Chontos (lead narration & concept design), Julie Robuck (music design), Desi Galloway (dance design & concept), Grace Albright (stage management), Martha Sprague (costume design), Ardie Thompson (reading the New Testament's longest scripture passage), and Susan Neal

(musician). Thank you to all the actors, singers, liturgists, writers, and dancers. It was a great team effort!

Visioning- Gus Burkard has joined this Team. Rumbblings have started in the belly of the church that we need to start planning for our growing, wonderful future! The Team can use more folks—visionary, creative, inspired persons who are members or close associates of the church. See me if you are interested. Our work will begin soon.

Worship Planning- Holy Week Worship Schedule-

Palm Sunday—Parade of the Palms for children and adults.

Maundy Thursday--6:30 Communion service, pie and coffee following. Joe Narracci and an Ensemble will be singing. Theme: The Humanness of Peter. I will be preaching a split narrative sermon.

Good Friday: The Sanctuary will be open for your personal meditation from 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Easter: 8:00 and 10:15 Worship Services, with potluck brunch and a children's Easter Egg Hunt in between. We will flower and raise the cross at each of the services. Voices United will sing at both services as well.

As always, I am available to you during regular office hours each week or by my cellphone or email as needed: 303-725-1494 or pastortracey@uccparkerhilltop.org. Your ideas are always welcome!