

CUMC APRIL 2021 FRONT PORCH NEWSLETTER

CUMC Administrative Council met on March 21, 2021 via a ZOOM Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Those in attendance for the Admin Council Meeting: Nancy L, Carl F, Carlene B, Bob S. Donna S. Monty W. and Rev MB (taking minutes). Meeting called to order by Nancy L. at 10:03 a.m. Meeting opened with prayer by Lay Leader and UMM President, Carl F. Next meeting: April 18th at noon in person and/or ZOOM if needed.

Trustees: Trustees met on 3/28/21. The Admin Council members cleaned the Church, so all items on the Spring-cleaning list are finished! Still waiting for the bill for the property tax on 574 Denver St property to be sent, so we can pay it. The parsonage will need cleaned once the pastor moves out in June. The parsonage kitchen appliances will be replaced then. Please see the church website for the Trustees March report as submitted to the Administrative Council posted there on the COMMITTEES page.

United Methodist Women: A half-dozen women met on 4/1 at 7:00 p.m. for our regularly scheduled monthly meeting, in-person, with masks. Plans for a May 2021 Mother-Daughter dinner were cancelled, due to pandemic concerns, current rising case numbers in El Paso County, and restrictions. We look forward to when we can host it again in May 2022.

A Yummage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2021 (a summer yard/rummage sale) and our next Fall Rummage Sale at the Fairgrounds in Whittemore Hall is scheduled for October 2, 2021. **We are accepting donations for the Rummage closet.** Bring us your earthly treasures! We will be selling **tickets** during the summer months **for a quilt give-away** to be had on October 3rd, the Sunday after our planned Fall Rummage Sale.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee approved a revised 2021 budget to be presented to the congregation in April. The PPP loan was deposited into the checking account at FSB. \$10,000.00. After July 1, Monty will start the paperwork process for loan forgiveness.

Worship Committee: Plan still is to have in person church services every week starting March 28.

EASTER service will be OUTSIDE at 11a.m. BRING a CHAIR and a PRAYER!

We will meet in May to organize the summer services and decide how to fill the pulpit each week with lay supply or District-wide support thru the summer months. Discussion will also include the necessary technology to livestream or post worship services once Rev. Melinda leaves, and who will begin or continue to administer the church website and Facebook page.

SPRC: Carlene submitted a report on their last two meetings. The District Superintendent, Rev. Thong, said the Conference will be looking for a replacement, but it may be a while, not July 1, that we get another pastor.

Nancy and Carlene spoke with Cheryl about Shorty's health concerns and asked her about returning to her job as administrative assistant. **Cheryl** has decided her need to take care of her family has meant she **cannot return to fill the position of administrative assistant.** We have

posted the new job description for Admin Assistant position on the church bulletin board in the sanctuary. **We are prayerfully seeking someone, preferably a church member, to fill this position and be trained in May. It is for 10 hours a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If you are interested, please contact Carlene Bandt** as soon as possible!

SPRC has submitted a suggested timeline for the next 3 months, in terms of the transition for clergy.

- March 14th first in-door church service planned was cancelled (due to blizzard conditions)
- March 28th Palm Sunday – in-door service
- April 4th Easter Sunday – out-door service at 11a.m.
- The District Superintendent will notify us when the Conference has a good fit
- We meet the new candidate
- We schedule “meet and greets” with the congregation (small groups, home visits)
- June 1st Pastor Melinda takes vacation to start working on the move
- July 1st New Pastor is to start.

United Methodist Men will meet again April 14th at the Western Omelet at 7:30a.m. All are welcome.

The new church website: www.calhanumc80808.org
The new church office email: office@calhanumc80808.org

The Outreach and Evangelism committee has purchased 260 pens for members to have and also to give away. We will have them available in the church office, and will hand them out at our Easter service, and at our upcoming rummage and “yummage” sales. They are high quality, black ink, combination pen/stylus with our Calhan UMC’s address and website address printed on the side. **Please take one** to have for yourself and take one to also give away to someone else as **one way to share your faith in Christ**. To practice the core of our faith is to engage in a genuine act of kindness for someone else. Even when the ink is gone, the stylus part of these pens will still be useful for anyone with a touch screen or smart phone, and our Church information will be at someone else’s fingertips. We pray that God will bless our efforts to shine the light of His love into the lives of others with the simple kindness of giving away a pen. We pray they will help you keep “turning to one another” as Margaret Wheatley has written, and make new friends in Christ along the way.

2021 MSC District Gatherings - brought to you by zoom!

2021 MSC DISTRICT GATHERINGS

WHERE LOVE LIVES.

The theme of the 2021 District Gathering is "Where Love Lives," stemming from the Western Jurisdiction theme of the same name. Peaks/Pikes Peak District Gathering on Zoom on April 17, 2021 at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Each district will host their District Gathering on zoom. Bishop Karen will share a message and Communion. Keynote speaker, Rev. Amanda Henderson, author of *Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times*, will offer teaching moments with breakout rooms. Henderson recently partnered with

Illiff School of Theology to create the Institute for Religion, Politics & Culture as a place for scholarship and research about the way legislative initiatives are shaped by religion.

Deadline to register is April 9, 2021.

Each district will also process business such as election of Equalization Members and presentation of Quiet Disciple Awards. Registration is now open - simply click on this link to register and find your PPP district specific information:

<https://mtnsky-reg.brtapp.com/2021MSCDistrictGatherings>

Click here for more information on **Where Love Lives**:

<https://westernjurisdictionumc.org/where-love-lives-creating-a-fully-inclusive-united-methodist-church-western-jurisdiction-beginning-year-long-campaign/>

The Pastor's Corner of The Front Porch

*It is both April Fools' Day, and Maundy Thursday, as I write this. Both the meaning of the secular day's joyful playfulness, and the Christian tradition's sacred remembrance of this day, as Jesus' last supper with His disciples, are echoing in my mind and Heart. At the end of that Passover Seder dinner, Jesus gave them a new **commandment**, the Latin for which is 'mandatum' from which we get the word '**maundy**'. What was that commandment? "**Love one another as I have loved you.**" (John 13:34) We see in the Gospels, at this Seder, how exactly Jesus loved them.*

In John's Gospel, chapter 13:

¹²After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you?" ¹³You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. ¹⁴If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. ¹⁵I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. ¹⁶I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

Then in Luke's Gospel, chapter 22:

²⁵But Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles rule over their subjects, and those in authority over them are called 'friends of the people.'" ²⁶But that's not the way it will be with you. Instead, the greatest among you must become like a person of lower status and the leader like a servant. ²⁷So which one is greater, the one who is seated at the table or the one who serves at the table? Isn't it the one who is seated at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

In years past, I have taken these words to the local laundromats to do what in our culture today is the equivalent of what Jesus did at that last meal. He did the work of a menial servant, to demonstrate that love as servant leadership. The pandemic has prevented me from sharing God's love with our neighbors in this way, by paying for and doing their laundry, for these last 2 years. I have sorely missed it, and the wonderful people I have met by doing it. Serving others is a source of great joy for me. My intent has been that we have shared that kind of joyful love as the local church with each other and with the Calhan community every day, during my tenure here. Another example of that kind of servant-leadership as love has been the rummage and yard sales that the Church members pull off several times every year. I have enjoyed these, as well, and every opportunity to work alongside you, to share this wondrous love of Christ. Thanks be to God for that grace! May this love of Jesus always continue to reign in your Hearts, whomever the pastor is.

I invite the reader to ponder with me all the ways this can be done!

*In Christ,
Rev Melinda*

April 11, 2021 COLOR: WHITE/GOLD Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31
2nd Sunday of Easter Sermon: "Thomas Was With Them"

April 18: Acts 3:12-19, 1 John 3:1-7
Native American Ministries Sunday Sermon: "God's Cancel Culture"

4/25 Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-24
World Malaria Day Sermon: "Healing, Not Blaming"