

# The Lyons Community Church

## Mid-Week Message

Friday, April 29, 2016

### Just keep breathing

Last January at the United Methodist Young Clergy Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., I heard multiple speakers encourage us pastors to move beyond our church's acts of mercy to ministries of justice. I had no idea what they were talking about. The Gospel commands us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless. Haven't we done that by creating the Town's first food pantry in 2008? By spinning that pantry and the meager financial assistance program into the prospering non-profit called LEAF (the Lyons Emergency Assistance Fund)? By partnering with the OUR Center, the Inn Between, and the Boulder Homeless Shelter? Aren't we feeding our seniors once a month at a fabulous event? Aren't we offering weekly a warm cup of coffee and something nice to eat at fellowship time? Aren't we doing enough?

Maybe we are. And maybe we're not. Those are incredible and important first steps - but they are also just that: first steps. With time, energy, a growing sense of the Holy Spirit's call, and the building of faith, trust, and relationships, Jesus Christ wants more from us. We are not only called to meet someone's physical needs, but also pray for them. Invite them into the fold. Love them enough to look past the exterior and begin to speak to their spiritual and emotional and mental needs. Be a community, be the church (the "Beloved Community" as theologian Howard Thurman wrote). Jesus not only healed the sick, he invited them to take up their mats and follow him. He not only dined with tax collectors and the riff raff of society, he challenged them to change, to be better versions of themselves - and he treated them as if they already were.

Our founder John Wesley set a high bar in term of doing the acts or works of mercy - he visited prisons and hospitals, he preached in the countryside and he traveled hundreds of thousands of miles. But he also knew that his works alone would never save him - it takes both a personal spirituality and a social gospel to change the world. Wesley once said, there is "no holiness but social holiness." In other words, the modern focus on cultivating a deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ is important, but if that does not alter the outward way in which we live, it brings us nothing. I like to think of mercy and justice



350 Main Street, PO Box 44  
Lyons, CO 80540

To contact Rev. Emily Flemming:  
[Emily@LyonsCommunityChurch.org](mailto:Emily@LyonsCommunityChurch.org)

To contact the office:  
[LCCOffice@LyonsCommunityChurch.org](mailto:LCCOffice@LyonsCommunityChurch.org)

Office Phone: 303.823.6245

### Sunday, May 1, 2016

**Sermon:** When Enough is Not Enough - Moving from Works of Mercy to Justice - Pastor Emily Flemming

**Scripture:** James 2:14-18 (MSG)

**Reader:** Martin Soosloff

**Flowers:** Amy Brett

**Refreshments:** The Littles

**Children:** Tanya Daty & Holly Beck

### *Pastor's Message* (continued)

in terms of breathing: personal holiness is the way we breathe in God's love and presence. Social holiness (or social justice) is the way we breathe out God's holiness. The key is - just keep breathing!

So short-of-breath, breathless, or breathing deeply, I hope to see you at 11am this Sunday,

Blessings,

*Pastor Emily*

## Prayers

**Joys:** birthdays of Christine Boys and Byron Curton (5/1), Tristan Dady (5/5), Jeff Appleby (5/6); new babies expected by the Curton and Brighton families; April as Autism Awareness Month (let us reach out and embrace everyone!); congrats to Geoffrey, our 1st Class Pipe Major, on his new title; Brian's father's 87th birthday

**Concerns:** Pam's niece Olivia's mono; Jennifer, the beck's sister-in-law; the PTO fundraiser on May 7th at the Ax & Oar; Lyons Community Foundation (LCF) and all the good they do in our town; Mary Beckstrom; ongoing construction issues at the church and the Trustees who are working hard for completion soon; possible merger of Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conferences (changes in our regional church structure) and this summer's General Conference in Portland (global church meeting that takes place every 4 years)

**Requests?** Kitty Keim, Chair: [kathkeim@earthlink.net](mailto:kathkeim@earthlink.net), tel. 303-823-6586 **Prayer team:** Pastor Emily, Holly and Steve Beck, Mark Boys, Pam Browning, Sandi Fikes, Janet Freeman, Vance French, Alyssa Frideres, Ellen Hine, Jani Little, Steve Mikesell, Jerry & Jean Peila, Carol Pranschke, Richard and Deborah Salmon, Debbie Tabor and Sandra Willis.

## Announcements

**Bible Study** will be May 3rd at the home of Mark & Christine Boys (529 Goranson Ct, Lyons) at 7pm. Contact Mark Boys at [mlboys1@yahoo.com](mailto:mlboys1@yahoo.com) or call [303-823-5885](tel:303-823-5885).

**Worship Committee** meeting in Wesleyan Hall (downstairs at church) on Tuesday, **May 3rd** at 1:00pm.

**Sunday, May 15th is Pentecost**, the literal birth day of the church. Please consider wearing red to celebrate the fire of the Holy Spirit which helped to create us.

**Zumba** has moved to 8:15am on Tuesdays, and 9am on Fridays in Wesleyan Hall downstairs (first class is always FREE!) See Holly for details.

**Mark your calendars!** We are planning to clean up around the church yard on **Sunday May 22nd** from 9:00-11:00am. We will then celebrate a worship service in our work clothes (maybe even outside if the weather and yard are nice?). Bring your garden tools, work gloves, and water bottles.



## Host Families Needed

I work with a non-profit organization that is in search of families willing to serve as host parents to high school cultural exchange students this fall. Here is a link to some stories from previous host families that detail the positive impact that hosting a student can have on a family <http://usa.international-experience.net/hosting/meet-our-host-families/>. Also, a link to the current students available can be found under "Meet our Students" via a PDF or a search function. <http://usa.international-experience.net/>

International Experience (IE) works with students who are generally one year students who have good conversational English skills. Although our students primarily originate from Germany, Austria and other European countries, we also have students from Thailand, Spain, and Italy. We are CSIET certified and have a paid local coordinator in place for every student who is responsible for vetting the host family and supervising the student with monthly check-ins.

Kristin Pagel  
[507-581-8432](tel:507-581-8432)