

Sept/Oct 2020

Valmont VINTAGE

CELEBRATING *150 years* OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!



Valmont Community Presbyterian Church



Pastor Eric

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans." -Romans 8:26

Throughout August, I was blessed by a series of theological conversations I had with some friends and colleagues, which translated into our sermon series for the month. These conversations varied in scope, but all focused on how our God calls to follow after Jesus in every aspect of our lives.

The nature of these conversations sent me musing about the word "theology," which can be broken down into its Greek origin as *theos* (God) and *-logia* (word), literally meaning *a word about God* or *speaking of God*. I have often

understood theology in this way as *that which we say about God*, meaning what we speak to one another about God. While this is a noble aspiration, I'll admit that it does feel a tad anemic from a Christian perspective.

The whole conceit of August's sermon series (as well as this year's exploration of Hebrews) is that ours is a God who speaks. God makes known God's own plans for the world and for each of our lives. The very idea of having a calling means that there is someone who has called us to it. The fact that we can discern a calling means that the one who calls desires to be known, understood, and followed. So our theological endeavors are not simply speaking about God but also listening to the God who speaks.

Perhaps in this way we are actually participating in a *theo-dialogue* — that is, we are engaging in conversation with God so as to learn about God and discern what is right and proper speech about our Lord. This happens when we invite the Lord to participate in our theological conversations with others; it takes place when we ask for God to direct us in our action in the world; it occurs when we join with God in prayer, worship, and praise. Essen-

tially, I believe that we have the best chance of speaking rightly about God when we make it our practice to listen for God.

And this is exactly what God desires of us. As Paul points out in the magisterial chapter 8 of his letter to the Romans, God is speaking through the life of Jesus and the ministry of the Spirit in ways that go beyond our human capacity for language. As we engage in theological conversation with God, God will do the heavy-lifting and speak for Godself to shore up what is lacking in us as conversation partners. All that is required of us is that we faithfully listen, and then share with the world the good words that we receive from our Lord. (*Continued on page 3*)

Ask a friend to join you.

You Have A Friend At Valmont!
Sunday School starts 9/20
Worship at 10:30 on 9/13
Worship Service: 9:30

3262 N. 61st Street,
Boulder
(61st Street & Valmont Road)

303-442-2135
www.ValmontChurch.org

Bulletin Board

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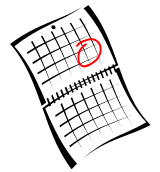
Dr. Andrew Brown

Accompanist:

Stella Pradeau

Calendar

All annual reports are due on November 1st?



9/1 - Worship Team at 10:30am

9/2 - Zoom Fellowship at 1:00pm,
Deacons at 4:00pm

9/6 - Worship at 9:30am; No Adult Education

9/9 - Zoom Fellowship at 6:30pm

9/13 - Worship at 10:30am

9/15 - Women's Association at 10:00am,
Session at 5:30pm

9/16 - Zoom Fellowship at 1:00pm

9/20 - Adult Education at 9:00am,

Worship at 10:30am, Communion Sunday

9/23 - Zoom Fellowship at 6:30pm

9/27 - Adult Education at 9:00am,
Worship at 10:30am

9/30 - Zoom Fellowship at 1:00pm

10/4 - Adult Education at 9:00am,
Worship at 10:30am

10/6 - Worship Team at 10:30am

10/7 - Deacons at 4:00pm,
Zoom Fellowship at 6:30pm

10/11 - Adult Education at 9:00am,
Worship at 10:30am

10/14 - Zoom Fellowship at 1:00pm

10/18 - Adult Education at 9:00am,
Worship at 10:30am, Communion Sunday

10/20 - Women's Association at 1:00pm,
Session at 5:30pm

10/21 - Zoom Fellowship at 6:30pm

10/25 - Adult Education at 9:00am,
Worship at 10:30am

10/28 - Zoom Fellowship at 1:00pm

Summer schedule ends on Sunday 9/13 when we re-
sume Education Hour at 9:00am and Worship at
10:30am.



Pastor's Schedule:

Sunday: Worship

Monday - Thursday: In the office and responding to email

Friday - Saturday: Weekend

Weekly Activities

Sunday: Iglesia meets 3:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday: Women's Association meets
Third Tuesday at 10 am

Session, third Tuesday at 5:30 pm

Iglesia meets 7-9 pm

Wednesday: No Choir until September

Every Thursday: Iglesia meets 7-9 pm

Every Friday – Valmont Victors 8-10 pm

(continued from page 1) This is my prayer for all of us. May we all respond to God's call on our lives to listen and speak good news. May we open ourselves to converse with God so as to learn the right things to say. Yes, let us lean into the blessed life of hearing from the God who speaks.



Pig Roasts and Potlucks

Roasted Mushroom and Green Bean Farro Salad

From ClosetCooking.com

Ingredients:

- ◆ 2 cups water
- ◆ 1 pound green beans, trimmed and cut into bite sized pieces
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon thyme, chopped
- ◆ 1/4 cup feta, goat or blue cheese, crumbled
- ◆ 1/4 cup balsamic vinaigrette
- * 1 cup farro
- * 8 ounces mushrooms, quartered
- * 1 tablespoon oil
- * salt and pepper to taste
- * 1/4 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped and toasted
- * 1/2 teaspoon thyme (chopped)



Instructions:

1. Bring the water and farro to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, covered, until the farro is al dente. about 20 minutes.
2. Toss the mushrooms and green beans in the oil, thyme, salt and pepper and place them on a baking sheet in a single layer.
3. Roast the mushrooms and green beans in a preheated 400F/200C oven until they start to caramelize, about 20 minutes, flipping them half way through. Mix everything and enjoy.



Prep Time: 10 minutes **Cook Time:** 20 minutes **Total Time:** 30 minutes **Servings:** 4

Eggplant Pizzas

Ingredients:

- ◆ 1 large eggplant, cut into 1/4 inch slices
- ◆ 1 tablespoon oil
- ◆ salt and pepper to taste
- ◆ 1 cup mozzarella, shredded
- * 1 tablespoon coarse salt
- * 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning or oregano
- * 1 cup pizza sauce
- * 1 ounce pepperoni

Instructions:

1. Sprinkle the eggplant with the coarse salt, let sit on paper towels for 20 minutes and wipe dry.
2. Brush the eggplant slices with oil and season with Italian seasoning, salt and pepper.
3. Roast the eggplant in a preheated 400F/200C oven until it just starts to turn tender, about 15-20 minutes. (Do not let them become too soft or mushy.)
4. Top the eggplant with sauce, cheese and pepperoni and broil until the cheese has melted, about 3-5 minutes.

Option: Grill the eggplant instead of baking them.

Note: Eggplant can get bitter with age and salting it helps draw out that bitterness. If you are using younger eggplants you can skip the salting.



Women's Association

Women's Association will be changing meeting date to 3rd Wednesday of each month September, still at 10a. Meetings will be via Zoom until we get the ok to move back into the building. Cindy



Deacons' Basket

A reminder to be shopping for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes September & October. If you're not comfortable shopping during this time, you can ask Ruth Tisdale or me (Cindy) to do it for you and/or help pay shipping costs, \$9 per box—remember to note on your check what it's for. Submitted by Cindy



HIGHLANDS HIGHLIGHTS



**Highlands – A Sanctuary for the Spirit, a School for the Mind,
a Joy for the Heart and a Shelter in the Storm.**

There is great news from Highlands despite the pandemic and economic situation that the country is in. The mortgage on the retreat center has been paid off thanks to many generous donors. An official mortgage burning celebration was held on the deck of the retreat center. This also eliminates a major expense each month of the interest on the mortgage.

The retreat center is now open on a limited basis for family groups. If you want to go for the day for a hike, there is a charge of \$5.00 per person. There is limited overnight accommodations. If you are interested, please call the camp for details. The number is 303-747-2888. A great deal of work has gone into preparing the facility to comply with restrictions issued by Boulder county.

Income has been greatly reduced due to the limited number of guests. The maintenance crew has been tackling some large projects during the slow periods. The door on the walk-in freezer has been replaced, the roof of the retreat center has been repaired and some of the cabins and staff houses have been repainted. A new computer server is being installed along with equipment to increase internet coverage within the camp.

Please keep the ministry of Highlands in your prayers along with the many generous donors, the hard-working staff, the volunteers and the Highlands Camp Committee!! They are doing amazing job to keep Highlands running during this difficult time!!

Blessings!!
Ruth Lewis

Highlands Camp Committee





Daily Bible reading: Job 40-42 and Romans 11

“The Blessing of Forgiveness”

Job 42:10 MKJV “And Jehovah turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends. Also Jehovah added to Job all that had been his, to double.”

Job had lost almost everything – including himself – in his dark season. He had no support from family or friends. Jehovah was Job’s one True Comforter while everyone else was attacking him or trying to convince him to go against his faith.

When it came time for the Lord to address Job at the end of his seasons, the Lord only lifted Job’s captivity once Job forgave his friends, humbled himself, and prayed for them. Job recognized that his friends had repented and were in need of forgiveness. He responded to this holy moment in the way of healing and spiritual prosperity. After, not only was Job restored, but his resources were also multiplied.

Have you ever wondered how to prosper in your spiritual life and how to receive healing? We need:

Forgiveness

Luke 17:3-4 “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother trespasses against you [...] And if he repents, forgive him. (4) And if he trespasses against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turns again to you, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him.”

Humility

1 Peter 2:22-24 “He who did no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth, (23) who when He was reviled did not revile in return. When He suffered, He did not threaten, but gave Himself up to Him who judges righteously. (24) He Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that dying to sins, we might live to righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.”

Serve God and others

James 5:16 “Confess faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous one avails much.”

Pride, bitterness, obstinacy, and unwillingness are all things that can keep someone from growing and going new places in God. When we release our hurts, egos, and comfort unto God and allow him to operate in us and through us as He desires, He uses it all for His glory and blesses us. We can expect healing and freedom; we can expect growth and change.

Calling?

What is a calling? Who is calling me? The sermon this morning was very poignant and close to home.

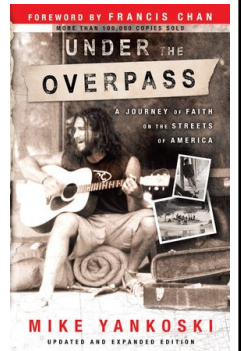
I have long been interested in working from a distance with the homeless. I have been providing a little assistance to the Denver Rescue Mission for years. I contributed a little to another, the Pacific Garden Mission, though not for a few years now. They broadcast a program on Christian radio. Recorded live every week from the Mission, "Unshackled" is the longest running radio drama in history.

I recommended the book, "Under the Overpass" by Mike Yankoski, to the church some time ago. This is a great look at the homeless from two Christians as they lived with and exactly like homeless. They found out that most Christian churches do not like the homeless. Closer to home we have created bags of grace for a few years, distributing needed items to the homeless. We could get closer but you have to be committed to it.

Now for several years I have tried to be a positive influence on an American Indian. He occasions the bike store where I work part time. Because he is both homeless and an alcoholic, it is a particularly sad story. He was raised in a Christian home after being adopted. He can quote you scriptures, various poems he has learned, spent some time in the military. At some point alcoholism overtook him. The police in Longmont and probably Boulder have given up on him. He has spent a couple of times in 30 days in jail. Comes out dry and in a few hours has succumbed to alcohol again.

I have gone through several steps trying to realize a change in him. From washing clothes, spending some time, providing meals, and attempting counseling. He has a meager amount of income from reservation royalties, but it is insufficient for daily support. He has probably purchased 10 cell phones, but he loses everything. I used to dole out small amounts of money from his account but recently have started not giving any money, only gift cards for fast food restaurants. He still finds a way to get as much alcohol as he wants as people help him out that way. I know but do not want to admit that until he wants to change there will be none. So, I still work with him and just desire that you pray for Cody and me as we work with his desire to change.

Don Lewis



An Outdoor Service in the Summer of 2020



Adult Education

As we move towards the November election we will surely see escalating tension and divisive rhetoric within our country. This will likely leave many of us questioning exactly how to be faithful witnesses to Jesus' way of governing the world, which eschews coercive and hateful speech. At the same time, we know that we've been called to speak and are free to hold opinions and views of our own, since Jesus alone is the Lord of the conscience.

How might we speak with love while also holding firm to our convictions and beliefs?

Earlier this summer Kathy McMullan raised this important question, which feels more and more timely with each passing day. While I cannot claim to have a definitive answer to this question, I will attempt to address it this fall as we collectively explore how the nature of our speech (specifically when expressing our beliefs) must shift depending on the relationship we have with the person to whom we're speaking. We will at least engage with this topic for four weeks in September and October, each of which will include a Biblical passage and a selection from a non-biblical text.

9/20 - First Order Relationships with God and Self

Psalm 139

Romans 12:1-8

Johanne Baptist Metz, *Poverty of Spirit*

9/27 - Second Order Relationships with Fellow Christians in Our Worshipping Community

John 13:34-35; 14:15-31

Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-32

Francis Spufford, *Unapologetic*

10/4 - Third Order Relationships with People We Know Intimately Who Are Not Christians

Matthew 5:43-48

Romans 12:9-21

Rowan Williams, *Holy Living*

10/11 - Fourth Order Relationships with People We Do Not Know Well or At All

Leviticus 19:1-18, 33-37

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

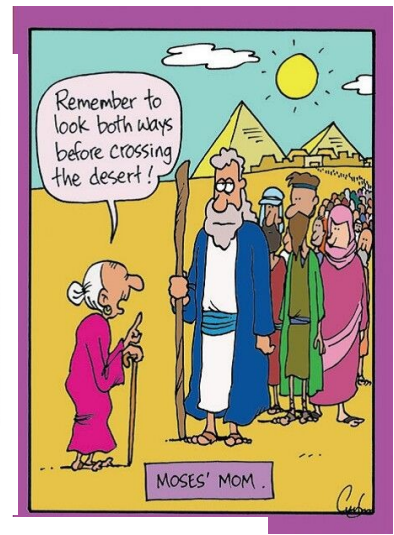
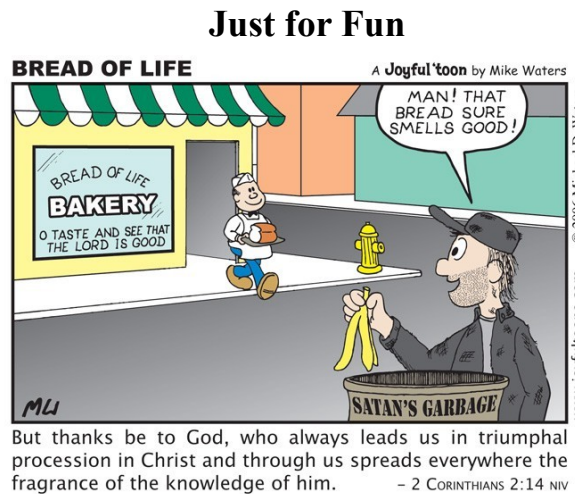
I hope you consider joining us for this important time of reflection and discussion.

Peace,
Eric

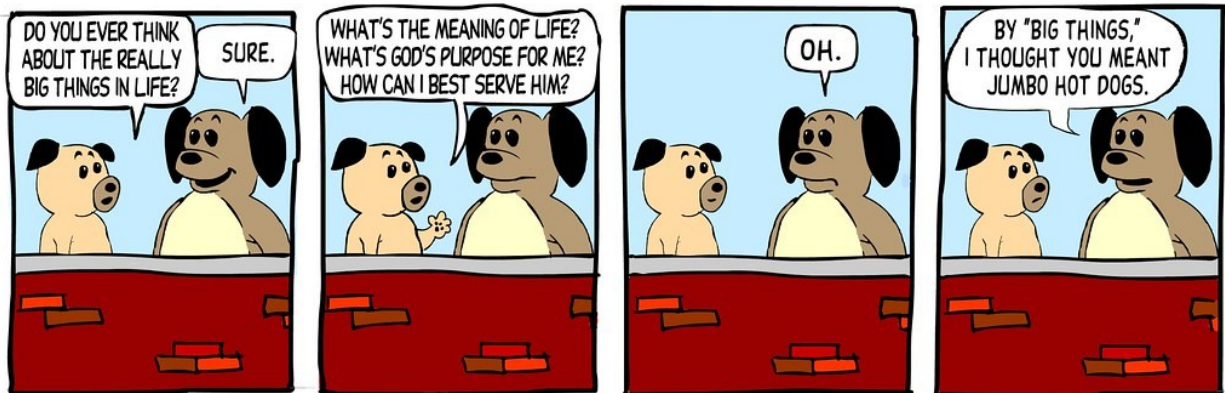


Eric's Preaching Schedule

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Sermon Series	Church Calendar
September 6		The Rev. Mike Garner	[guest preacher]	
September 13		The Rev. Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol	[guest preacher]	
September 20	Hebrews 11:1-40	The Goal of Faith	Hebrews Pt. 3	Communion
September 27	Hebrews 12:1-13	Our Founder and Perfection	Hebrews Pt. 3	
October 4	Hebrews 12:14-29	The Unshakeable King	Hebrews Pt. 3	World Communion Sunday
October 11	Hebrews 13:1-25	The God of Peace	Hebrews Pt. 3	
October 18	Jeremiah 29:4-14; Romans 12:14-21	Being A Blessing	Christians in America	Communion
October 25	John 14:25-31; Revelation 1:4-8, 17-18	Living Without Fear	Christians in America	Reformation Sunday



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It's your Vintage

Anyone who would like to contribute articles, pictures, recipes or anecdotes, please submit by the 20th prior to publication month to **Mike Greever** via email at mgreever53@gmail.com or give to **Ella in the office**

Publication Months: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov.