"Our purpose is to love God, care for others, and be Christ's witness to the world" VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

May/June 2021

CELEBRATING 150 years OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!

Valmont Community Presbyterian Church Fellowship



Pastor Eric

."So, then, if you wish to gain victory over passions, abide within yourself by prayer and with God's help, and descending into the very depths of your heart discover there these three strong giants: forgetfulness, laziness, and ignorance. These act as supports to intruders of the mind, who bring back other evil passions to act, live, and grow strong in the souls of lovers of lust." - Abba Mark to Nicholas

So long ago, and in such a different world than our own that we might as well begin "once upon a time," Christians fled to the deserts. They didn't leave their cities and towns because of persecution, but rather because Rome sanctioned their beliefs, eventually making it the official religion of the empire. These ancients followers of Christ saw a danger in discipleship becoming too easy... too convenient. Were they right? In a letter to a young believer, the wisened Abba Mark counsels defending himself against passions by the prayerful awareness of his own forgetfulness, laziness, and ignorance. These inner attitudes are described as hidden monsters who'll allow other beasts to run rampant through our souls if they are not vanquished and expelled. Forgetfulness both prevents us from remembering God's past faithfulness and our past sin. Laziness prohibits us from enduring hardships along the path to holiness. Ignorance encourages us to accept the easy path of not encountering the truth. Abba Mark, in his choice for the desert, saw these three giants crouching at the doors of a church that was asked to promote the empires theology and interests. Was he right?

I find myself asking questions like these in a world that would have us comply with the political machinations of a two-party system and the social order that we learn from our social networks. Are we remaining alert by challenging the monstrous tendencies towards forgetfulness, laziness, and ignorance? Are we willing to turn towards the deserts of the world so as to resist the evil passions of our present age?

I am not endorsing a flight from the world, nor choosing to insulate your-

self within a small Christian community. I am, however, drawn to the notion that (with God's help) we can descend into the very depths of our hearts to discover the things that endanger us most. It is not the world that will destroy us, but rather the sin lurking at the door of our own hearts.

So let us strive to live holy lives in our neighbors' midst. Let us be a people of prayer who are willing to step away from the systems and practices that are harmful to the soul. Let us lean wholly upon God's grace, so as to be freed from that within us that would destroy.

In Christ, Eric

Ask a friend to join you. You Have A Friend At Valmont! Sunday School 9:00

Worship at 10:30 For June, no School and Worship at 9:30

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

303-442-2135 www.ValmontChurch.org

Bulletin Board

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Elders: Cheryl Craig	Doug Myers	<u>Calendar</u>	
Debbie Greever	Anne Harris-Cross		
Debbu green	Juni Juni (1033	5/2 - Worship at 10:30am,	
Clerk of Session:	Joyce Glazer	Adult Education at 9:00am	
	jojet guzer	5/3 - Deacons at 10:30am	
Deacons:			
Cindy Sexton Pearline Toney	Marilyn Howard	5/4 - Worship Team at 10:00am	
Feature Toney		5/5 - Zoom Fellowship at 6:30pm	
Treasurer:	Ruth Lewis	5/0 W. 1: / 10.20	
		5/9 - Worship at 10:30am, Adult Education at 9:00am, Mother's Day	
Church Administra	tor: Ella Travis	Adult Education at 9.00am, Momer's Day	
		5/12 - Zoom Fellowship at 1:00pm	
Choir/Worship Dire	ector:	5/17 W. 11 10 20	
	Dr. Andrew Brown	5/16 - Worship at 10:30am, Adult Education at 9:00am,	
• •		Communion Sunday, Ascension Sunday	
Accompanist:	Stella Pradeau		
		5/17 - Session at 5:30pm	
		5/19 - Women's Association at 10:00am,	
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Pig Roasts and Potlucks

Rhubarb Custard Cake from Bon appétit

Ingredients

- 4 Tbsp melted unsalted butter, cooled, plus more room-temperature for pan
- 1 cup all-purpose flour, plus more for pan ٠
- 2 large eggs
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar, plus more for sprinkling
- 13 oz rhubarb stalks, halved lengthwise
- **Preparation:**

Preheat oven to 350°. Butter and flour pan. Whisk baking powder, salt, and 1 cup all-purpose flour in a medium bowl. Whisk eggs, egg yolk, and 1¹/₂ cups sugar in a large bowl until very pale and thick, about 1 minute. Whisk melted butter, sour cream, rum, and lemon zest in a small bowl. Whisk butter mixture into egg mixture just to combine. Add dry ingredients and fold in until batter is smooth; scrape into prepared pan. Chill 10 minutes to let batter set .

* $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp baking powder

* 1 large egg yolk

* ¹/₄ cup sour cream

Arrange rhubarb over batter however you like, trimming as needed. Don't press fruit into batter—just place over top and let it rest on the surface. Sprinkle with more sugar and bake until cake is golden on top and browned around the sides, 45-55 minutes. Transfer pan to a wire rack and let cake cool in pan 10 minutes. Slide a knife around sides of cake to loosen and unmold. Slide directly onto rack and let cool completely.

Cake can be baked 1 day ahead. Store tightly wrapped at room temperature

4 garlic cloves, smashed

Ingredients

8 lg basil leaves

Preparation:

1. Cook pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water, stirring occasionally, until al dente. Drain pasta, reserving 1¹/₂ cups pasta cooking liquid.

* $\frac{2}{3}$ cup extra-virgin olive oil

* 4 3" long strips lemon zest

* 2 lemons, halved

2. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large Dutch oven or other heavy pot over medium-high until shimmering. Add asparagus, season with salt, and cook, stirring often, until just beginning to take on color, about 1 minute. Add garlic, lemon zest, and red pepper flakes and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Remove from heat and let sit until pasta is done.

3. Add pasta and basil to pot with asparagus mixture and return to medium-high heat. Squeeze juice from both lemons into pot and add 2 oz. Parmesan and 1 cup reserved pasta cooking liquid. Cook, tossing vigorously and adding more pasta cooking liquid if needed, until sauce is creamy and emulsified and pasta is coated, about 1 minute. Taste and season with more salt if needed. Remove and discard garlic

4. Divide pasta among bowls, placing a lemon strip in each, and top with more Parmesan.

- * $\frac{1}{2}$ twp kosher salt
- * 2 Tbsp dark rum
- * 2 tsp lemon zest (fine)

* 1 lg bunch asparagus-trimmed

* $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Crushed red pepper flakes

* 2 oz. Parmesan, finely grated (1 cup)

* Special equipment: 9" spring form pan



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1 lb spaghetti





Renovation Progress and Update

At long last it appears that the end is in sight for completion of the work in fellowship hall. The electrical rough-in work is done, the framing for the new windows is complete, and the inspection has been scheduled. Once the work is approved by the inspector, the new ceiling will be installed and the whole room will be painted. A big celebration or thanks will hopefully take place soon after the final walkthrough.

Thanks to all of you who have helped in so many ways to make the much-needed improvements at Valmont happen. Let's hope and pray that we'll be able to use the beautiful new space in the kitchen and fellowship hall soon!

One other word ...

In case you didn't know, the pastor from Iglesia, Damian Montes, donated his time and labor to install the new lighting. He was assisted in this big job by Iglesia's former pastor Arnrarn Delgado. Damian mentiond that not only is he a licensed electrician but also has crews that can do all kinds of "handyman" type jobs. So, if you need work done around your home give Damian a call at Montes Electric.

Ruth T.



HIGHLANDS HIGHLIGTS



Highlands – A Sanctuary for the Spirit, a School for the Mind,



a Joy for the Heart and a Shelter in the Storm.

Highlands is looking forward to spring!! They have been getting a lot of snow. This s has been greatly appreciated as it helps with the water level in the wells. It is hoped that we will begin to welcome guest groups starting in June. Maria has been working on hiring staff for the kitchen and housekeeping.

If you might be looking for a family get away in a safe location, consider a few days at Highlands. It can be done without contact with staff members. There are two cabins with fully equipped kitchens where you can prepare family meals. Equipment such as sleds and snowshoes are provided for you to enjoy winter activities. These cabins are being advertised on websites such as Air B and B. If interested, call Highlands for details. The number is 303-747-2888.

Several family camps are scheduled for June and July. These would be held in the retreat center with activities for the adults and children. There will be a limit of 4- 5 families which would work with the COVID regulations.

The state is planning on closing part of Highway 7 for approximately one year. They are going to reconstruct the highway from Lyons to Highway 72. This will increase commute times for staff and guests.

The Highlands committee continues working on developing a transition plan for key employees who might plan on retiring in the next few years. Committee members have been contacting other camp locations to see if any of them have such a plan.

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!!



Blessings!! Ruth Lewis Highlands Camp Committee

Deacons' Basket

The plans for the Deacons Basket for the Year are: June, July— Teacher-- donations for student supplies for under privileged schools August, September—Mother House---donations for non-profit shelter for at risk pregnant women October, November, December— Operation Christmas Child and TGTHR (formerly Attention Homes) Gifts.

Submitted by Pearline

Also, the Deacons would like to resume gathering cookies for TGTHR (formerly Attention Homes). I will collect them at noon on the first Monday of each month at the church. - Marilyn

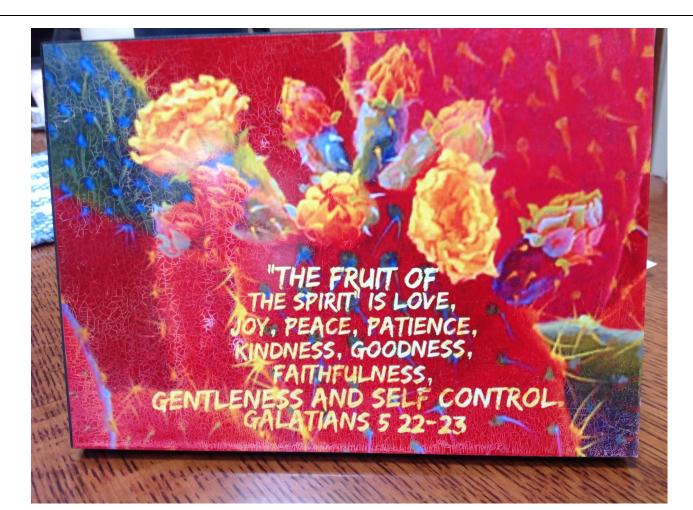
Fruit of the Spirit

The Fruit of the Spirit sermons were very great to hear. The picture below listing them is on my counter and I say and pray them to be active within me everyday. I specifically have needed them in my journey these last years. I want to thank my Valmont Church community for all the cards, prayers and calls. I did not send Christmas, Easter or Birthday cards so I am doing this note as a blanket card to everyone. My Buddy is in God's hands and timing, and I thank God everyday for that. It was a hard year to not be able to

communicate more in person with him. But, Juniper made up for it in other ways.

Again Bless God all of my sisters and brothers in Christ as we all have our own journeys and may the Fruits of the Spirit Bless you.

Joy





An incredible way to look at GOD submitted by Ruth L

When GOD solves our problems, we have faith in HIS abilities. When GOD doesn't solve our problems HE has faith in our abilities. God's accuracy may be observed in the hatching of eggs.

-those of the canary in 14 days;
-those of the barnyard hen in 21 days;
-eggs of ducks and geese in 28 days;
-those of the mallard in 35 days;
-The eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days.
(Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!)

God's wisdom is seen in the making of an elephant...

-The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction.

- No other quadruped is so made.

- God planned that this animal would have a huge body too large to live on two legs.

- For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily.

-The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first.

- A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.

How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation!

-Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind.

-Each orange has an even number of segments.

-Each ear of corn has an even number of rows.

- Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains.

-Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

Amazing.

-The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather. -All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks.

God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed.

The lives of each of us may be ordered by the Lord in a beautiful way for His glory, if we will only entrust Him with our life. If we try to regulate our own life, it will only be a mess and a failure.

Only God, who made our brain and heart, can successfully guide them to a profitable end.

I pray God blesses you in ways you never even dreamed.

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

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Eric's Preaching Schedule

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Sermon Series	Church Calendar
May 2	Mark 4:26-29	Botany Lessons	Parables	
May 9	Luke 11:5-13	With Friends Like These	Parables	Mother's Day
May 16	Luke 12:13-21	Unexpected Estate Planning	Parables	Ascension Sunday, Commun- ion
May 23	Luke 18:1-8	Inconvenient Justice	Parables	Pentecost Sunday
May 30	2 Corinthians 13:11-14; Ephesians 3:14-17	1+1+1=1	[Fifth Sunday]	[Fifth Sunday], Trinity Sunday
June 6	Genesis 25:1-34; Malachi 1:1-5	A Grasped Heel	Jacob & Esau	
June 13	Genesis 26:34-27:29; Deuteronomy 23:7-8	A Bowl of Stew	Jacob & Esau	
June 20	Genesis 27:30-28:9; Mark 3:7-12	A Pyrrhic Blessing	Jacob & Esau	Communion, Father's Day
June 27	Genesis 33:1-20; Romans 9:6-15	A Possible Reconciliation?	Jacob & Esau	

Adult Education

Through the end of May, the Adult Ed. class on Sunday mornings will be exploring Biblical passages and theological principals that elicit questions and confusion (or at least will afford some rollicking conversation). If you have any topics that you'd like to explore with our lively group, please come with a Bible and a willingness to converse at 9:00am on Sundays in May.

Who is ready to start meeting in the church building?



Be part of the VCPC prayer chain! Contact Stella May or Cindy.



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.