

December 2018

Dear Wheat Ridge Family,

On November 4, I preached about the Exile and Psalm 137's haunting words about weeping by the waters of Babylon. In my Time with the Children and Youth, I talked about a wonderful song from the 1970's TV special and subsequent 2008 book and CD, *Free to Be You and Me*. The lyrics I read to the children and youth were sung by burly football player Rosie Grier. "It's All Right to Cry" assures girls AND boys that it is OK to cry—"It might make you feel better."

To my surprise, many folks in the congregation told me that they were unfamiliar with this marvelous collection of songs and poems gathered by **Marlo Thomas** of "That Girl" TV show fame and spokesperson for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. I thought it might be fun to share a bit about it in this newsletter.

In looking online, I found out that there is a 35th anniversary DVD of the original 1970's TV special. I just ordered it and will see if we can have a time when we show it to the church family—anyone who wants to watch it, from age 2 to 102. The 2008 book adds more poems and short stories making a great celebration of boys and girls, men and women and being "Free to Be You and Me."

Turns out that there is a **Free to Be Foundation** (<http://www.freetobefoundation.com>) where you can learn a bit more about how Marlo got the idea to create an album with stories and songs. (Hint, her sister had just had a baby girl and Marlo was disappointed that children's stories still reinforced a lot of rules about **what girls and boys ought to be** instead of offering ideas of what they **could be**.) The web site [freetobefoundation.com](http://www.freetobefoundation.com) has 5 of the best songs to listen to for free, including "Free to Be You and Me" (sung by the New Seekers) and "It's All Right to Cry." One of my favorite skits is Mel Brooks and Marlo Thomas as newborns trying to figure out whether each is a boy or a girl. It is a hoot!

This book is not "religious" but it celebrates the gospel truth that **God creates each person free to be who they truly are**—free to be you and me.

Peace, *Laura*



*There's a land that I see where the children are free.
And I say, it ain't far to this land from where we are.
Take my hand, come with me, where the children are free.
Come with me, take my hand, and we'll live
In a land where the river runs free
In a land through the green country
In a land to a shining sea...
And you and me are free to be you and me*

I Corinthians 15:10 "But by the grace of God I am what I am...."



SESSION: Next meets Thursday December 13th at 7 pm

Count your many blessings, name them one by one, is a refrain that is so meaningful at this time of year, and one blessing is the full agenda the various committees of Session have planned for the coming holiday season. A new web site is in the works along with a new accounting system. Nominating committee is looking for people who have a desire to be church officers. Experience is not needed, only a calling to become involved with the church.



December Calendar of Upcoming Special Advent/Christmas Events

Sat. Dec. 1	9:00 am	Adults arrive for Hanging of the Greens
	10:30 am	Intergenerational Advent Festival Brunch for adults, children, families, and older adults (bring breakfast breads and casseroles to share) followed by crafts, fun, & decorating, carol sing
	1:00 pm	Christmas Play
	1:45 pm	S'mores
Tue. Dec. 4	11:30 am	4-F Christmas Luncheon at LCC
Sat. Dec. 8	5:30 pm	Adult Christmas Party at the Cress home
Sun. Dec. 9	11:45-1:00	Advent Chorus practice
	5:00-8:30	Youth dinner & trip to Zoolights
Wed. Dec. 19	3:00 pm	Highland West Community Party with music by WPC Choir & Ridge Ringers
	4:00 pm	
Sun. Dec. 23	2:30 pm	Caroling Party/Potluck Gather at Niquette home Carpool to sing & give baskets to homebound All are invited!
Mon. Dec. 24	3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Tue. Dec. 25		Merry Christmas! Church office closed
Wed. Dec. 26		Church office closed
Mon. Dec. 31		Church office closed

DEACONS: Deacons Invite a Shower of cards for Homebound or Far Away

Members Help Us Spread the Holiday Spirit! The Deacons will be making Christmas



baskets for many of our church homebound members and friends. But we sometimes feel alone during the holidays. We are asking you to help us shower those who are seldom able to attend WPC with love by sending them a Christmas card sometime during the Christmas season.

Deacons meet briefly after Fellowship Time on Sunday, December 23 to prepare the Christmas baskets for the carolers to deliver.

Property Management Committee

Plumbing repairs completed in north downstairs bathrooms, janitor closet, sacristy sink and outdoor spigot. Narthex light switches were labelled. The court yard leaves were raked up and the fence is being replaced. All repairs from hail damage from 2017 are completed.



DEACONS--A CARING REMINDER FROM THE

DEACONS: If your family suffers a loss or illness, or you would like to request prayer, please contact:

Laura 303-422-2355(church)
or 720-471-0751 (cell)

Church Office, 303-422-2354

Prayer Chain, Charlene Pierce

Deacon Co-Chairs: Linda Johnston & Lori Golightly

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- As the Advent season approaches, we want to take this opportunity to invite children/grown children of all ages from 1 to 100 to WPC's annual **multigenerational Advent Festival**, on **Saturday, December 1st**. Please join us for **brunch at 10:30 am**, in the Fellowship Hall and stay for a **fun filled day of crafts, activities, decorating and carols**. This year's **Christmas play, "A Nativity Press Conference," will be presented at 1:00 pm** Come and listen to those who were there the night Jesus was born. Afterwards we will top off the day eating yummy S'mores!
- If you have a **favorite Christmas bread or breakfast casserole, we invite you to bring it to share**. Please **let Barbara Stimson** know what you plan to bring. Thank you!
- The WPC December **Youth Event to Zoolights** at the Denver Zoo will be on **Sunday, December 9th**. We will **meet at the church at 5:00 pm** and **return at 8:30 pm**. Please **let Linda Valo** know if you plan to attend as we need to make transportation arrangements.

We know the weeks leading up to Christmas are busy, filled with joy, wonder, and excitement as you prepare for this anticipated time of year with loved ones. So, we hope you will be able to take time out of your Christmas schedule to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Grace and peace, Linda

ADULT EDUCATION will meet **Sundays at 8:45 am December 2-23**. There will be **no class on Sunday, Dec. 30**

WHIZ KIDS CHRISTMAS

- Thanks to all who took a slip to give gifts to WHIZ KIDS students and/or their siblings! Please **purchase the gift, wrap it and tape the little slip to the top of the package**. Please have them back to the church office **no later than December 16th** for our tutors to pick the up and deliver. In advance thank you all for your generous caring spirit in helping make sure all the children have a gift for Christmas.
- WHIZ KIDS meets December 3rd and 10th for our usual sessions and December 17 will be the Christmas party. We will be on break until January 14th

Whiz Kids Coordinator, Betsy Smith



SATURDAY A.M. WOMEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY: Saturday, December 8 at 8:30 am here at WPC. All women of the church are invited. Please contact Eileen Gardner ASAP if you're coming so she knows how many are attending.

STEWARDSHIP--Stewardship News

A sincere thank you to all who have turned in their 2019 pledge cards. This helps so much as we plan for the year ahead with hope, faith and renewed commitment to our mission.

Coming Soon: the **Christmas Joy Offering**, on **Sundays, December 16**

and **23** will bring an opportunity to support our church's Christmas Joy Offering which truly celebrates leadership; past, present and future.

First, funds will go to the Board of Pensions which honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. They can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances.

Secondly, the Offering continues its historic commitment to higher learning through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color. Our gifts allow these ministries to continue through support of Menaul School in Albuquerque, Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, TX, and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa AL. Many of the students at these schools and colleges are the first in their families to enroll in higher education. Watch for more of the stories and information in the December bulletin inserts.

From Your Stewardship Committee



MISSION COMMITTEE

- **Meets Wednesday, December 5th at 3:30 pm**
- **Thanks again** to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Mission Fair—to those who baked, canned, crafted; to those who worked at the event; and to those who made purchases
- Mission will have a **Giving Tree** in Fellowship Hall for the clients of **Senior Support Services—suggested items include: warm socks, gloves/mittens, warm caps/hats, underwear, slippers—new items and all adult sizes** primarily for men but Senior Support also helps some women living in downtown hotels.



WORSHIP

- We kick-off this special season with special events starting with the **Hanging of the Greens** and the celebration of the **Intergenerational Advent Festival** on **Saturday morning, Dec. 1** sponsored by Worship Committee and Christian Education Committee.
- **Poinsettias:** Thanks to those who have ordered poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary. The poinsettias will be on display the two Sundays before and on Christmas Eve. Please leave your poinsettia at the church until **after the Christmas Eve Service**. Also, please check with a worship committee member before taking your plant.
- **Christmas Eve Afternoon Service**
The **Christmas Eve service** is **Mon. Dec. 24th at 3:00 PM.**



Church Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 8th at 5:30 pm

This year our gracious hosts are

Pat & Bobbi Cress

Please bring your favorite beverage and an appetizer or dessert to share.

Please call the church office 303-422-2354 if you'd like to attend but need a ride.

For questions please call or email Bobbi Cress.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Bob B.	Dec. 9
Heather J.	Dec. 11
Patrick C.	Dec. 14
Julie P.	Dec. 16
Will F.	Dec. 16
Brenda C.	Dec. 17
Jaime Y.	Dec. 23
Charlene P.	Dec. 29

and if we have missed your birthday please notify the church office @ 303-422-2354.

Denver Presbytery Assembly at WPC 1/22/19



Session unanimously agreed that **WPC** would offer to host a Denver Presbytery Assembly. We are excited to be **hosting folks from all over the Presbytery on Tuesday, January 22nd here at the church!** As part of that meeting, we will be **providing dinner** for the approximately 100 attendees. This is a large effort, not connected to any of our current church committees – but rather as an opportunity for any church member to help make the evening dinner a success. Here is an opportunity to help with one or more of the following jobs: set up for the dinner; centerpieces; preparing food for the dinner; organizing food on a buffet line; kitchen clean up; Fellowship Hall take down and clean-up of tables and chairs; greeting and welcoming the attendees to the church and also to the worship service; participating in the worship service. Thank you! If you're **interested in helping** to provide hospitality for that event (part of the meal may be catered), please **talk to Anne Baker** or **Marcia Hecox**.

WPC Bridge Group meets **Wednesday, December 19 at 1:00 pm** at the home of **Allan & Sonia Hills**. Please **RSVP** so that they know how many tables to setup.



THURSDAY BOOK GROUP: 6:00 pm Dec. 20



The Thursday Book Club will meet for a 6:00 pm Christmas Party potluck on Thursday, December 20th at the home Larry and Gloria Angus, Participants should bring a small dish to share to go with dinner. Reading: *Why Religion?* by Elaine Pagels. Please RSVP to let the hosts know you are coming.



A NOTE FROM KATIE: meet WPC Guest Singer, Nisha

Nisha is a senior vocal major at Denver School of the Arts. She has been taking voice lessons since the age of five and plans to continue pursuing her education in classical voice. She loves to sing many genres of music but her biggest passion is opera. In her free time, she loves to teach music, fly-fish, and eat.





PRAYER REQUESTS & NOTES OF THANKSGIVING

With Concern . . .

Ann K. is receiving hospice care at her home in Brookdale Green Mountain. Prayers are appreciated.

With Sympathy . . .

- **Bob and Nancy R's son, Mike**, died suddenly **Thursday, October 25** during a surgical procedure. **Allan H.'s sister, Madeline**, died **Tuesday, November 6** in **North Carolina**. Prayers for the family as they deal with this sudden loss.

With Thanksgiving . . .

- **Karen W.** gives thanks for making it through 32 radiation treatments.
- **WPC** is so **glad** to have **Julie P.** back making beautiful music here after a month recovering from **hip replacement surgery**.
- **Joyce** "I am a tenant over at the Highland West Community on 38th and I live in the Highlands House portion and I am calling to say a big thank you to the folks who provided the harvest produce on Monday (11/19). That was so generous, and I appreciate it so much and all those who made that possible because it takes many hands and hearts to get that together and package it and bring it over there even young people there and adults.

It was just heart-warming and I'm very appreciative for especially the fresh produce. I wanted you to know that and also thank you for those who come and help serve at our social events also particularly the meals. That's what I'm most aware of and it means so much. Your intentions are so honorable, and it is really kind of you to lighten the responsibility of many folks here but thank you so much. Thank you and a blessed Thanksgiving to you."

MUSIC—A few more notes from Choir Director, Katie Sakanai!

We are excited to begin the Advent season with all the fun that Christmas music brings! Even if you can't join us each Sunday, feel free to participate in a few special events coming up in December.



- **Advent Chorus— Sun. Dec. 9 11:45–1:00**
Have you thought about joining the choir but didn't want to make a big commitment? Did you sing in the past and miss singing in the choir? Consider joining the Advent chorus! Find out what a fun, supportive and environment we have in the choir at WPC by joining us for the Advent and Christmas season. We will **meet on Dec. 9th from 11:45-1:00** to rehearse songs that will be sung **for services on 12/16, 12/23 and 12/24**. Even **if you can't make an 8:30 a.m. rehearsal, join us on the 9th!**
- On **Wednesday 12/19 at 4:00 p.m.** we will carol at the **Highland West community**. We'll meet there at **3:00 p.m.**
- On **Sunday 12/23 at 2:30 p.m.** all members of the congregation **are invited to a Church Caroling and Potluck Dinner. Meet at the Niquette home at 2:30**, then **carpool to carol** for members of our church who are homebound
Blessings to all for the holiday season.

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

- **Christmas week** the **Church office** will be **open 8:30-12:30 pm Mon. Dec. 24, closed Tue. & Wed., Dec 25 & 26, open again 1:30-4:30 pm Thu. & Fri, Dec. 27 & 28.**
- The **week of New Year's** the **Church office** will be **closed Mon.-Tue., Dec 31 & Jan. 1** and **open 1:30-4:30 pm Wed.-Fri, Jan.2-4.**

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY EVENTS:

- **Westminster Choir Christmas Concert at Montview Presbyterian- 4 p.m. 12/2** WPC's own **Tony Domenick** has a debut composition, *The Burning Babe*.

- **(Colorado Gives Day 2018 is Tue. Dec. 4, 2018.**



It is a year-round, online giving website featuring more than 2,000 Colorado nonprofit organizations including:

- **The Action Center**—giving food, support, job training, for the needy in Jeffco
- **Friendship Bridge**—empower women in Guatemala
- **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver**-which also supports The Carpenter's Helpers who don't have their own giving site—Building homes for those in need.
- **Hope's Promise** provides counseling and resources to women and men in crisis pregnancy as well as free training to medical staff, pregnancy centers, hospitals, women's clinics and other front-line workers serving men and women in crisis and educating them about the option of adoption. It gives health care/supplies to families & orphans in Zimbabwe (including **Lomagundi Clinic**), Kenya, Nepal, and Vietnam.
- **Uplift Internationale**
- **Whiz Kids Tutoring**
- **Women's Bean Project**—helps women/needy families sustain themselves.
- **Uplift Internationale Fundraiser: *Paints, Brews, & Smiles* at Great Divide Barrel Bar in RiNo, 1812 35th St., Denver CO 80216 on Thursday December 6, 2018 6:30 pm.** Step-by-step instructional painting while enjoying the latest brews and appetizers. **\$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Register at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/bEf/>.** Need assistance or have a question? Contact UI at 303-707-1361 or info@upliftinternationale.org

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY EVENTS (continued):

- **Blue Christmas Service:** The holiday can be challenging for those who have lost loved ones. The Blue Christmas service is a reflective time to honor your feelings during the holiday season. The service is **Wed. Dec. 5 at 6:00 pm** at **Glory of God Lutheran Church, 12200 W. 38th Ave.,** Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
- **Free Lutheran Chorale concerts—Sun. Dec. 9**
 - At **Lutheran Medical Center- 1:00 pm in Lobby, 3:00 pm** in the **Chapel of the Good Samaritan.**
 - **7:30 pm** at **Ascension Lutheran Church 1701 W, Caley Ave., Littleton, CO.**
- **Christmas Choral Concert & Sing-along at First Baptist Church Denver—Sunday December 16 at 2:30 pm.** (Choir will have a few singers from WPC and is directed by former WPC choir director, Kevin Crowe).
- **Highland West Community invites** members and friends from **WPC** to the **HWC Holiday Party, Wednesday, December 19th at 3:00 pm.** Refreshments are provided first, then at **4:00 pm,** the **WPC choir and the Ridge Ringers** will provide entertainment for the holiday celebration. Highland West Community is one of our oldest missions dating back over 50 some years. Please help support our residents by attending the celebration. These residents are so appreciative of our support and they are such lovely people, so please come and mingle and get to know them better.
- Don't miss ***Too Hot to Handel!*** on **Fri., Dec. 21st & Sat., Dec. 22nd at 7:30 pm** at **Boettcher Concert Hall.** Performed by the Colorado Symphony and an amazing choir **including a few from the WPC choir.** Tickets can be purchased by going to the Colorado Symphony website or you can call the Box Office at 303.623.7876.

December 2018



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1 9:00 am Hanging of the Greens 10:30 am Intergenerational Advent Festival Brunch 1:00- Christmas Play followed by S'mores
2 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for Children 10:00 am Worship/Communion 11:05 am Fellowship Time	3 3:30-5:00 pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	4 Colorado Gives Day 11:30 am 4-F Christmas Party at Lakewood Country Club 4:00 5:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	5 3:30 pm Mission Committee meeting 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers	6 9:00 am Staff meeting	7	8 8:30 am Sat. AM Women's Breakfast/Bible Study 5:30pm Adult Christmas Party at the Cress family home
9 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School 10:00am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship Time 11:45-1:00 Advent Chorus Practice 5:00-8:30 Youth Pizza and trip to Zoolights	10 3:30-5:00 pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	11 1:30 pm Membership Development Committee 6:30 pm Pipers Potluck & Practice	12 6:00 pm Christian Education 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers	13 6:00 pm Personnel Committee 7:00 pm SESSION MEETING	14	15
16 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School 10:00 am Worship 11:05am Fellowship Time 11:40 am Nominating Committee meeting	17 3:30-5:00 pm Whiz Kids Tutoring Christmas Party Happy Holidays! Resumes January 14th	18 4:00 5:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	19 1:00 pm WPC Bridge group at Hills home 3:00 pm Highland West Community Christmas Party. All invited! 4:00 pm Choir & Ridge Ringers perform at HWC 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers	20 6:00 pm Thursday Book Group Potluck at Angus home Reading: <i>Why Religion?</i> by Elaine Pagels	21	22
23 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School 10:00 am Worship 11:05am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Deacons baskets 2:30-5:00 pm Caroling Potluck at Niquette home All are invited! 30 No church school 8:30 am choir practice 10:00 am Worship 11:05 Fellowship Time	24 Christmas Eve 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service No Whiz Kids Tutoring until 1/14/19 31 New Year's Eve Church office closed-(also on 1/1)	25 Merry Christmas! Church Office closed	26 Church Office closed No Ridge Ringers Church office hours Tue. Jan 2- Fri. Jan 4 1:30-4:30 pm	27 Church office hours 1:30-4:30 pm	28 Church office hours 1:30-4:30 pm	29

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