

THE GOOD NEWS



First Presbyterian Church
110 W 4th Avenue
Yuma, CO 80759

Vol. 10 Issue 6

June 2024



I have been thinking about baptism. I am also thinking about road maps. They are great to have to give us direction. In June we are going to place the baptismal font in the front of the sanctuary. We will begin worship every Sunday by pouring water into our baptismal font and remember our baptism, for baptism can significantly orient us in the life of our church.

Indeed, this practice can be a map for us that can direct our journey together in the church's life. Over the years, I've learned a great deal about baptism from theologian Gordon Lathrop. In his book, *Holy Ground: A Liturgical Cosmology*, Lathrop observes that in Mark's gospel, when Jesus emerges from the waters of his baptism (1:10-11), something happens that remaps the world, that entails nothing short of what Lathrop calls a remapping of the cosmos.

Mark tells us that as he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being "ripped apart" and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him—identifying and empowering Jesus as one who maps the very trajectory of God in the world and as one in whom God is decisively at work to reclaim and restore God's good creation. It is important to note that the heavens do not simply "open," for something that opens can close.

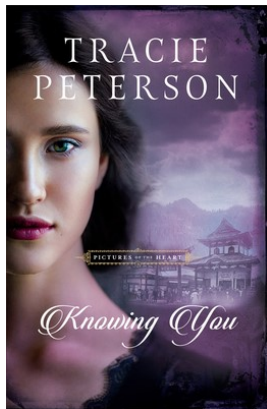
Mark tells us that the heavens were ripped apart—that reality was irreparably altered as a fissure in the heavens appeared—a permanent elimination of the boundary between heaven and earth. Gordon Lathrop speaks of it as the hole in the cosmic map of the universe. And as Jesus' baptism prefigures our own baptism, it is this hole in the map of the universe that orients our lives.

This means that for us at First Presbyterian, the center of our life together is not so much a neighborhood or a geographical location like the capital, or a political or financial center. The center of our lives is the baptismal font, over which there is a symbolic hole in the heavens. This is where we hear a voice that tells us the truth about ourselves, claiming us as God's own beloved children, and where God's own Spirit claims us and anoints us for service.

Isn't it exciting to think about this? That God's transforming power is on the loose in this world, challenging everything that distorts and disfigures human life and God's good creation, and empowering us to lend our energies to God's project of healing what is broken.

But let us not forget that our map—for the time ahead is our baptism font over which there a symbolic hole in the heavens that reminds us that God has called us and is forming us to be the body of Christ in this corner of the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Michael

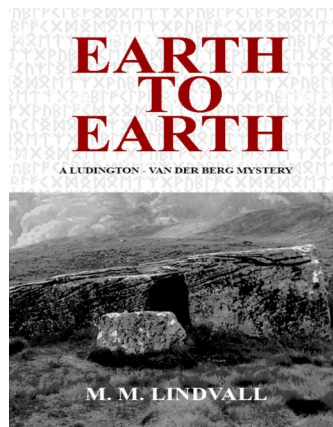


Budding artist May Parker is captivated by the Japanese exhibits at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and longs to know more about her mother's heritage--which her mother refuses to speak of because of the heartache she left behind in Japan. Wanting to experience more of the exhibits,

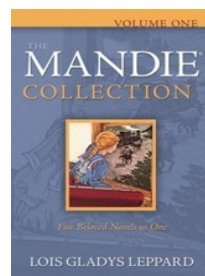
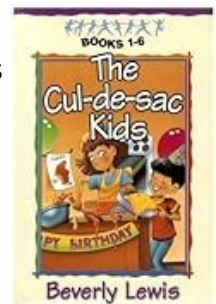
May works as a Camera Girl--but her curiosity leads her into danger when a suit of samurai armor becomes the target of an elusive art forger.

After ten years apart, May is reunited with her childhood friend Lee Munro, a police detective assigned to keep a watchful eye on the exposition. Their friendship immediately begins to blossom with hints of something more, but when they become entangled in a dangerous heist involving the samurai armor and their love is threatened, can they overcome the odds against them?

While on a remote island in Orkney to the north of Scotland, a member of a tour group reluctantly led by a young minister is found dead in a Neolithic tomb. The police suspect the death to be the work of a serial killer who has murdered two clergymen on the same date—the summer solstice—in the last two years. The Rev. Seth Ludington and his sharp-tongued sidekick Harriet van der Berg, agree at first, but come to suspect otherwise and find themselves pulled into another investigation, leading them into danger and the darkest moral terrain.

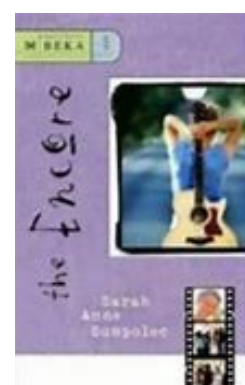
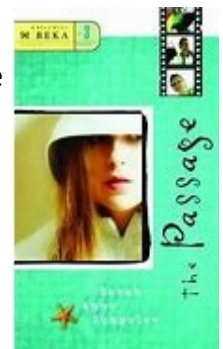


For the summer, books for younger readers and teens will be included. Let's start with Abby Hunter and her friends as they solve mysteries in their neighborhood for young readers.



The Mandie series takes you back in time. This series is for pre-teens and full of mystery and adventure.

In *The Passage*, it's springtime in Bragg County and love is in the air. A church retreat allows Beka to get to know Josh better; but she learns that even though she likes him, his college choice may put a wrench in their relationship. Confused about her relationship with Josh, Beka seeks out Mark for solace. When Mark tries getting physical with Beka, she ponders issues of purity



In *The Encore*, Beka returns for the final semester of her senior year and quickly finds herself in trouble. The song she wrote and performed offended a fellow student and the principal blames Beka and her teacher Mr. Thompson. Meanwhile, she's torn between two different guys, Mark and Josh. And as she prepares for her father's upcoming wedding, Beka is devastated to learn

the family will be moving out of their house and into her dad's fiancée's house. Soon Beka is overwhelmed with decisions, including the option to sign a record contract and move to LA after graduation.

While these books are more directed to the girls, there are lots of books for the boys in children's library and the senior high room downstairs.



EARTH CARE NEWS

The Pill Bottle Collection continues. Thank You!!

It's gardening time—Do you compost? Have you ever thought about composting? Maybe now is the time to give it a try.

The [Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov) has called composting “one of the most powerful actions we can take to reduce trash in landfills, address climate change and build healthy soil.”

“By turning our food scraps and yard trim into compost, we transform our waste streams into a beneficial, value-added soil amendment and use it to protect the environment and create resilient communities,” according to the EPA.

Composting involves minimal effort, equipment, expense, expertise, and can be fun. You save money by producing a free, high-quality soil amendment—which reduces your use of fertilizer and pesticides. You can use your compost to build healthier soil, prevent soil erosion, conserve water, and improve plant growth in your garden and yard.

Visit [epa.gov/recycle/composting](https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting) home to learn more about how to start composting.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN FIFTH SUNDAY

FOOD DRIVE

LET'S FEED THE HUNGRY



UNEXPIRED & NON PERISHABLE FOOD ONLY

June 30, 2024

Food is a Human Right

RCRC Food Pantry

A Gift of Giving

MISSION TRIP

TAOS, NEW MEXICO
JUNE 24-28, 2024



Pray for our Mission Group as they travel, build relationships, host VBS, and have fun while working to spread & share the love of Christ.

Pastor Mike; Vicky, Hadley & Logan Glanz; Lori Kaufman; Miles Rutledge; Becky, Maurine, & Andrew Smith; Grant & Sean Smith; Arlene & Lauryann Vetter; Marie Wenger

Fellowship & lock up for this month: Dan Snelling and Bev Wenger Deacons will not be meeting until September—Have a great summer!

Be A VBS VOLUNTEER

Now is the time to volunteer to help with VBS. There will be lots of fun with water, playing games, doing science experiments, hearing stories about water from the Bible and of course crafts.

Don't forget about saving those 2 liter bottles to be used in a variety of ways at VBS.

VBS Fun With Jerry Can & Water



July 8-12, 2024 - 8:30-11 am
Yuma Methodist Church & First Presbyterian Church

Fun for 3 years old - 6th grade
Classes at Yuma Methodist
For more information/volunteer
Contact: Ronella Noble 970-630-8778
or Carol Heltenberg 970-630-4632



Thanks to everyone that helped with the clean-up and making the building secure and weather tight once again.



After two or more years of work by Property & Grounds—in three short days—we finally have new front steps. Many thanks to Keith Malchoff and his persistence in finding a company willing to do the work. See more pictures on firstpresyuma.com and look under More-Facilities. You can also see pictures of the repair to our water main—Sat. May 25th.



Pastor Michael demonstrating the fire of Pentecost.

Pastor Michael's surprise 70th birthday party—which we all enjoyed.










On behalf of Presbyterian Women, Marie Wenger presented Carol Heltenberg an Honorary Life Membership from Presbyterian Women



Even though it wasn't quite the surprise Presbyterian Women hoped for, the award was still much appreciated and I am thankful. Thank you—Carol Heltenberg

JUNE 2024

BBH-Baby Bear Hugs
 CE - Christian Education
 CL—Congregational Life
 CC—Connections Committee
 HH—Harmony Home
 MH- Memorial Hall
 P&G - Property & Grounds
 PW—Presbyterian Women
 SD—Sacred Dance
 SS-Sunday School
 W/M—Worship & Music
 WS-Worship Service
 YMA—Yuma Ministerial Assoc.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each & every Sunday 10:30 Worship	Pastor Michael will be on vacation June 1-14, 2024					1
2  PW Leading Worship	3 1 pm Personnel 7:00 pm Lion's Club	4	5 5:15 pm W&M	6	7	8
9 	10	11 2:00 pm YMA 2:00 pm P&G	12 8-4 pm BBH 5:15 pm Finance	13	14 	15 11-2 pm Lion's Club Training
16  : HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!	17 7:00 pm Lion's Club	18	19 	20	21	22
23  CC after worship 2 pm HH	MISSION TRIP to TAOS, NEW MEXICO					29
30  5th Sunday Food Drive		Newsletter Deadline				



Sunday, June 2 2024 10:30 am

Worship Leaders: Arlene Vetter, Marie Wenger, Linda Clark

Greeters: Presbyterian Women

God's Kids Time: Ardith Frazer

Organist/Pianist: Leslie Woody/LuAnne Hoch

Sunday, June 9 2024 10:30 am

Worship Leader: Julie Rahm

Greeters: Becky, Maurine & Andrew Smith

God's Kids Time: Jenna Zahller

Organist/Pianist: Leslie Woody/LuAnne Hoch

Sunday, June 16 2024 10:30 am

Worship Leader: Jody Rogers

Communion Servers: Bill Glanz, Kristi Mekelburg, Kenny Rogers & Jody Rogers

Greeters: Kiera & Jayden Hess

God's Kids Time: Jordan & Logan Glanz

Organist/Pianist: Leslie Woody/LuAnne Hoch

Sunday, June 23 2024 10:30 am

Worship Leader: Deb Higgins

Greeters: Grant, Wesley, & Sean Smith

God's Kids Time: Dave Hoch

Organist/Pianist: Leslie Woody/LuAnne Hoch

Sunday, June 30, 2024 10:30 am

Worship Leader: Terrill Gardner

Greeters: Ron & Deb Higgins


God's Kids Time: Pastor Mike

Organist/Pianist: Leslie Woody /LuAnne Hoch


- 1 Carter Massey
- 4 Katy McCracken
- 7 Boone Seward
- 8 Roger Woody
- 10 Ardith Frazer
- 12 Adam Beauprez
- 13 Jordan Glanz
- 15 Rachel Seedorf
- 15 Marge Snedeker
- 22 Tim Cullen
- 26 DJ Snelling
- 26 Becky Hendrick
- 28 Abby Frihauf
- 28 Ryan Robson
- 28 Nathan Glanz

- 2 Kenny & Jody Rogers
- 5 Bill & Vicky Glanz
- 10 Jim & Mary Ann Cavender
- 12 Earl & Vicky Bachtel
- 14 Roger & Leslie Woody
- 17 Ron & Patti Tribbett
- 18 Rob & Jenna Zahller

**June
Candlelighter:
Rex Vetter**




PW
Leading
Worship
Sunday,
June 2, 2024
Plastic Jesus
Real Faith in a
Synthetic World



Dear FPC deacons,

Thank you for the gift card and for thinking of me! I'm excited for finals to be over and to be back in the summer for church!

Thank you again and see you in church soon,

Rylie Robson

Church Family,

Thank you so much for the \$25 gift card. I appreciate your thoughtfulness this year and the last two. Finals are never fun, but I am looking forward to completing my last finals EVER!

Thanks Again,
Emma Gish

Thank you for the \$25 gift card! As I finish up finals and this years stressful school year I am getting anxious to get back home and see everyone in the community. Thank you again for your continuous support!

-Lea Richardson

Thank You for the \$25 gift card, it helped me get through finals week. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. Thanks again

-Nash Richardson

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e-mail: fpcyuma@gmail.com
www.firstpresyuma.com
www.facebook.com/fpcyuma

STAFF:

Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Michael Fitzsimmons
Church Administrator.....Carol Heltenberg
Treasurer.....Jody Rogers
Custodian.....Connie Vallier

DEACONS:

Vicky Glanz
Dave Hoch, Moderator
Sarah Seedorf,
Dan Seedorf
Kristi Rutledge
Becky Smith

SESSION:

Clerk of Session.....Julie Rahm

ELDERS:

Christian Education:LuAnne Hoch & Bev Wenger
Congregational Life:.....Kristi Mekelburg
Connections:.....Saralynn Vetter
Finance & Endowment:....Julie Rahm & Brett Rutledge
MissionLuAnne Hoch
Nominating:.....Kenny Rogers
Personnel:.....Becky Hendrick & Kenny Rogers
Property & Grounds:.....Dan Snelling
Worship & Music:.....Julie Rahm

Our Mission Statement

As God's children we will: Worship God with open hearts;
Share Christ's love with open arms and open doors;
Serve God's world guided by the Holy Spirit.