

Open your heart

Do you have a spiritual practice? Maybe it's devotional reading or daily prayer but it could just as well be yoga or gardening. One of mine is a bit unusual. I talk to strangers — and I'm hoping to encourage you to give this a try, as well.

Forget for a minute what your mama taught you about speaking to people you don't know. Turn instead to Genesis 18 and consider the story of old man Abraham being visited by three strangers. When these three random travelers make themselves known, Abraham can't do enough for them — he scurries to offer up water and bread, and even roasts a calf to fortify his famished guests.

It's from these three visitors that Abraham and his wife Sarah learn that their many decades of barrenness will soon end. Within a year, the strangers say, elderly Sarah will give birth — something that has her burst out laughing because it's so absurd. (When he is born, Abraham and Sarah will name their baby Isaac, Hebrew for laughter.)

In my spiritual practice of speaking with strangers, no one has ever hinted at anything as wild as what Sarah and



Pastor's Perspective

By The Rev. Karen Winkel

Abraham were told. But throughout my life, conversations with people I didn't know have certainly given rise to unexpected new life. My most dramatic example? More than 20 years ago, a conversation with a stranger started me on a path to ordained ministry.

Jesus spoke to strangers all the time. The gospels are full of examples but perhaps the most moving is found in the fourth chapter of John. Traveling through Samaria, Jesus' thirst had him seek and then find water. Sitting near the well in Sychar, Jesus was joined by a woman who came to draw water. Jesus dared speak to her even though she was off-limits on two counts: she was a woman and belonged to a people his people had long been at odds with. The two had an exchange that was at once risky and rewarding; because of it, the Samaritan woman's life changed drastically (and maybe Jesus' did too, just a little).

I don't know about you but these days I find myself grieving the increasing divisions and hostilities among the people of this great nation. I grieve too the quiet ways we are turning ourselves into walking gated communities, carefully sealing ourselves off from others as we go about our daily

lives. We were born for far better than this.

The call to engage those we don't know is embedded in both the Jewish and Christian traditions. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it," writes the author of the Book of Hebrews.

Maybe the person in line behind you at the grocery store isn't merely a stranger but also an angel God has sent your way; you won't know unless you initiate a conversation. Or maybe, just maybe, you're the life-giving angel that God has sent into someone else's day.

Nudged and supported by the Holy One, I encourage you to risk doing what Jesus did that day at the well — reach across a man-made divide to affirm the humanity of a stranger. Like Abraham, I invite you to open your heart to someone new who might just have an unexpected blessing to impart.

"Good things happen when you meet strangers," the world-famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma asserts. I am confident that those good things are waiting to happen in your life, too.

The Rev. Karen Winkel is the pastor of Community Spirit Church (United Church of Christ), a progressive congregation worshipping at Signature Event Center in Montrose.



Pexel

Church Directory

IGLESIA HOREB CHURCH

(Next to Office Depot)
2305 S. Townsend
Montrose CO 81401
Sunday service at 11:30am
(720)323-9619

THE JOURNEY

Currently meeting at 36 Selig Ave.
thejourneymontrose.com
Pastor Mike Mills, 417-4350
Sunday: 9:30am

LIFE CHURCH

Sunday worship 10 a.m.
Thursday Bible study 7 p.m.
Pastor Todd Truitt (970) 712-4700
16367 S Townsend, next to Genesis Christian Marketplace "Preaching the cross, reaching the lost, healing the sick, breaking strongholds!"

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

WI Evangelical Lutheran Synod
2820 Peyton Drive • 249-4405
livingwordmontrose.com
Pastor Matthew Frey
Sunday Worship Service: 9am • Bible Study/Sunday School: 10:15am • Wed. Bible study: 7pm • Free Mostly Music activities for parents and toddlers - Fridays at 9:30am • Women's Bible Study - Fridays: 10am

MENOKEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Menoken - a Ute term meaning "your home"
Hwy. 50 North & Jay Jay Rd.
Ordained Minister Keith McCay
Lord's Day Worship: 10-11:30 am • Wed. Evening Bible Study: 7-8 pm with Fellowship Dinner preceding at 6pm

MESA VIEW MENNONITE CHURCH

6151 55.50 Rd., Olathe
Sunday School: 10 am • Worship: 10:50am • Service: 7pm

MONTROSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2351 Sunnyside • 249-5432
montrose-christian.org. Pastor Steve Shaw
Sunday Worship Service: Sunday at 9:30 am.
Family Awana Registration is Tuesday, August 30 at 6:00 pm and will meet each Tuesday at 6:00 pm thereafter.

MONTROSE CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

16673 Woodgate Rd.
East Congregation: 249-1044 • West Congregation: 249-2965

MONTROSE FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

705 S. 12th • Pastor Buddy Cook, 249-9213
Worship: 9:30am • Bible Study: 11am • Wed. Night: Family Night 6pm

MONTROSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

19 S. Park • 249-3716 • montroseumc.org
Rev. Lisa Petty
Sunday Worship: 8:15am (blended); 9:45am (contemporary); 11:15am (traditional) with fellowship following. *Infant/toddler care available for services.*
Sunday youth group: 12:30-2:30 pm
Sunday School 9:45 (meet at church service)-10:45 am

NATIONS FELLOWSHIP

Pastor: Charleah Woodward
970-208-3462

NEW LIFE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

15 W. Main Street • (970) 497-6009
Pastor Michael Moran
Sundays: 10am • Wed. Bible Study: 7pm

OLATHE HOUSE OF PRAYER

323-5655 or 323-5002
Meets for Prayer & Worship at the Olathe Community Center. Mondays: 9-10:30am • Thursdays: 6 to 7:30pm

OLATHE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6th & Hershum, Olathe • 323-6465
Pastor Monte Baker
Sunday school for all ages at 9 a.m.
Worship: 10:30am, infant and toddler care provided.
Pastor's Bible study at 9 a.m. Wednesday

ORCHARD VALLEY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Meeting on Saturdays
2900 Sunnyside Rd (at corner of 6700 Rd)
Learn to discern God's character of love as we come and reason using webcast and followup discussion at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

207 Main Street, Olathe • 249-3319
Sunday Mass: 1pm

QUAKER SILENT WORSHIP GROUP

Meets at Zion Lutheran Church, 701 S. Junction, rear entrance (handicapped access through front door).
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.
Call Bill at 874-8979.

THE ROAD HOME

Pastor Ed Sparks (970-275-4632)
Assistant, Ed Douglas (970-209-4334)
Wednesday Night Bible Study only

ROCA DE REFUGIO

543 N. Ute Ave. Montrose • 240-6142 or 249-1195
Services (Español) - Sunday School: 10am
Sunday Worship: 11am • Wednesday 7pm

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

1598 E. Niagara • 970-249-4887
Pastor: Rolland Kenneson
Sunday Bible Study: 9:15am • Worship: 10:45am
Small Groups: 6pm • Wednesday prayer meeting: 6pm

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

1551 Valley View Road (Off Niagara near Townsend)
249-4942
Pastor Fritz Krieger
Saturday Services: Sabbath School 9:15am-10:35am; Worship 10:50am-12:00pm
Bible Study hour: Tuesdays 7 pm

SPANISH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

North 6th & Ute

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS SCHOOL

Traditional Catholic Latin Mass
59350 Carnation Road, Olathe, CO • 323-5057
Sun. Masses: 8 & 10:30am • Rosary & Confessions: 1/2 hour before each Mass • Daily Masses as scheduled

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

145 W. 5th St., Delta, CO 81416
874-9489.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

1855 St. Mary's Drive (Off of Niagara)
(970) 249-3319
Fr. Mark Bettinger, Pastor
Daily Mass: Mon. - Fri. 8am
Sat. English Mass: 5:30pm
Sun. English Mass: 9am • Sun. Spanish Mass: 11am,
Sun. Mass - Our Lady of Fatima Mission (Olathe): 1pm. Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday/Sabado: 4-5pm

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

A parish of the Reformed Episcopal Church using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
Making disciples for Christ in the classical Anglican way.
2504 Sunnyside • 249-4868
ststephensmontrose.com
Fr. Jerry Kistler, Rector
Sunday School: 8:45am • Holy Communion: 10am

SUNNY VIEW MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

6060 57.50 Rd., Olathe
Pastor Geigley, 323-5691

TRINITY REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2705 Sunnyside Road • 249-1053
www.trinitymontrose.org
Pastor Jeremy Cheezum
Sunday Worship: 10:30am • Sunday School: 9am
Weekly small home groups

KSYF RADIO
107.5 FM
Christian Lifestyle Radio
KSYF107.5fm@gmail.com • 970-591-1075
PO Box 777 • Olathe, CO 81425

MONTROSE
FORD • NISSAN, INC.
100 Merchant Dr. • MONTROSE, CO • 970-249-4576
Se habla Español
e-mail: montroseford@montrose.net Website: www.montroseford.com

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&
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4690 N. Townsend 240-1720

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Collision Specialist
Computerized Damage Analysis and Repair Verification
429 N. 1st Street (970) 249-9120

CONOCO
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Parish Oil Co.
1910 N. Townsend 249-4984

Rainbow Garage
Myron Mitchell Owner
Gary Piatt Owner
315 N. First • Montrose • 249-3904

SCOTT'S
printing & graphic design
315 South 12th Street
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 249-2611
fax (970) 249-7068
www.scottsprinting.com
Scott Beyer, Owner

SNIPPS
HEAT & AIR
custom sheet metal
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Fax: 240.8162
www.snipps.com

STANDARD TIRE & SERVICE CENTERS
"more than just a tire store"
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Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 249-2461
www.MontroseStandardTire.com

UNITED CHRISTIAN WORD MINISTRIES

1520 Dover Road • 252-9187
Pastor Chris Millikin
Sundays: 10am
UNITED CHURCH OF THE SAN JUANS
295 N. Lena, Ridgway • 626-5803
Reverend Leslie Wood
Worship Service & Sunday School: 10am

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CENTER

Lions Park • 602 N. Nevada • www.spiritaware.org
An inclusive metaphysical community
Rev. Arlyn Macdonald, 252-0908
Sunday Celebration: 10:45am • Youth classes: 10:45am • Adult discussion group: 9:30 am
Lunch served followed by programs. Spiritual Development Institute classes.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

2890 N. Townsend • 249-6874
Jim Welch, Pastor, 249-4135
Sunday School: 9:30am • Worship Service: 10:30am
Sunday Bible Study: 6pm • Wednesday Service: 6:30pm

WAVES OF MERCY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

30 Colorado Ave., Montrose
252-0674 • 249-4262
Rev. Richard & Shelle Sirokman

WEST SLOPE CHURCH

Sunday Worship 10am, Quality Inn Conference Room (2751 Commercial Way, behind McDonalds on S. Townsend Ave.) • 765-8028
Expository preaching of the whole Bible; Singing of Psalms and Godly Hymns; Weekly Lord's Supper • Mid-week 1-1 discipleship
WestSlopeChurch.org • Biblical doctrine, Reformed worldview, Family-integrated ministry.

WORD OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP

500 Main St., Olathe • 970-596-1453
Pastor Jim & Judi Greenfield
Services: Sat 6pm • Wed 6:30pm

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. Junction • 249-9828
Pastor Michael Rime
Sunday Worship: 9:30am • Sunday School: 9:30am
Confirmation classes available
www.zionlutheranmontrose.org

For changes to the Church Directory email
csr3@montrosepress.com or call 970-249-3444