

Mountain Community Mennonite Church Celebrates Retirement of Pastor Paul Johnson

By Mary Gardner, active in Mountain Community Mennonite Church



Paul Johnson, Pastor at MCMC for the last nine years, is retiring January 24, 2021. His service began as Transitional Pastor. A year and a half later the church congregation called him to be their half-time pastor. Paul has enjoyed his years as Pastor for this small Mennonite Church, located in Palmer Lake Colorado. Prior to becoming a Pastor, he had a long career in education.

When Paul decided to make a career path into ministry and was led to MCMC he, along with church leaders, made a commitment that the church was not “owned” by the people, but they were co-owners of God’s house. The church building was viewed as a place to share God’s work and love.

Many partnerships and outreach programs grew from there. Palmer Lake’s art group began having quarterly art shows which were free and open to the community. The church sanctuary was transformed into an exhibit space with a glorious demonstration of beauty of God’s creations. Partnerships with support networks in the area were also made. Tri-Lakes Cares provided food and housing assistance along with job counseling. Silver Key Senior Nutrition Services served hot nutritious meals to 40-60 seniors five days a week at the church. Paul was instrumental in partnering with an existing ministry called Mountain Community Senior Transportation and Handyman Services. This outreach provided home repairs for seniors living at home along with transportation services to appointments, social events and shopping.

Planting churches has been one of Paul’s passions. During his tenure, Temple Alyiah Messianic Church began worshipping every Saturday Sabbath in the sanctuary. Another church, Cathedral Rock, held youth church Wednesday evenings and recently, MCMC has temporarily welcomed an interdenominational church while they build their new building.

Paul has been deeply involved with Mennonite Disaster Service for many years. MCMC members responded to the Black Forrest fire and Paul helped designate the church as an official Disaster Red Cross Shelter. Most recently he has been involved with the development of a faith initiative referred to as [Prayerstreaming](#) along with Boulder Mennonite. Two airstream trailers have been retrofitted to be spiritual support refuge centers. These trailers are taken to disaster areas to help support victims during very difficult times.

Along with other members of MCMC Paul has helped partner with a black church in Aurora, “Mean Streets Ministries”. This church ministers to Street people and those experiencing homelessness. “MCMC chooses to support those most in need as Christ has called us to do”. Members of MCMC help serve food, provide clothing and minister to these folks once a month or as needed.

Although Paul will be retiring, he and his wife Mary, with the support of the church, plan to continue attending Mountain Community. They consider this their home church and want to go forward with the outreach programs that are dear to their hearts.