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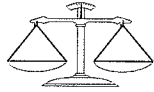
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First Church Communicator

February 2012 Monthly Newsletter

First United Methodist Church of Castle Rock

Touching people and changing lives through the love of Jesus Christ.

From Our Pastor....

What is spirituality? How do we know we have a spiritual connection?

I like to look at it like this... Say you blow up a balloon and hold it untied in your fingers. Is there anything particularly dynamic inside the balloon? Well yes, air. The stuff that keeps us alive (among other things) is inside the balloon... Yet when one thinks about it, the air in the balloon, though necessary for life does not cause life. So it is not particularly dynamic until you let go of the balloon. Then it takes off with a power, explainable physically, but still, a power.

There are lots of words related to human beings and air. Like inspire. Inspiration is a process of being filled with an energy we did not previously have. An energy that can be harnessed. Like the energy of a compassionate community. Looked at in this way, spirituality is a sharing of energy that comes to us, which can be harnessed by us for a specific purpose. Spirituality then is any kindness offered to another and when renewed, produces an energy that was previously absent. For Christians, our teacher on compassionate community is Jesus of Nazereth, whose whole life was compassion in community.

Every time I see a balloon I wonder, who put that energy inside, and how will it be used...

Blessings,
Rev Rob

First Church Communicator

is produced by:

First United Methodist Church
of Castle Rock
1200 South Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104
Voice: 303-688-3047
Fax: 303-663-9763
Email: info@fumccr.org

Submit your articles, photos,
poems, coming events,
stories, and news items to:

secretary@fumccr.org

Or bring them to the church office.

We reserve the right to edit or
omit any material submitted
to the church for publication.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
 YOUR ARTICLES
 EARLY!**
 R E M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
 NEWSLETTER
 ARTICLES IS**
 February 20TH

In Our Prayers

Carl Christianson
Carole Erickson
Jenny Luallen
Margaret Miller
Kerry Jones
Kent Milius
Julie Carlson
Roberta Moore
Sandra Brush
Bonnie Lindemood
Bill Howard

In the Military

Joshua Martin

Entered Into Rest

The Family of Sylva Spring
The Family of Dale McGraw
The Family of Martha Werner

Saturday Evening Non-Traditional Service

EVERY SATURDAY, 5:45 PM TO 6:30 PM

Come experience an innovative evening service open to everyone, led by Rev. Rob White. Kids, joins us for crafts, games, making of special treats, hikes, karaoke, and much more! It isn't the same without you there! Nursery care is also available during the service!



Remember to buy fair trade coffee AND TEA sold in the Narthex (right next to the church office). The purchase of fair trade coffee and tea supports individual farmers rather than huge coffee companies.

February Birthdays

February 1

Jeff Schwartz
Sam Levine
Neko Mendez

February 2

Jim Wambach

February 3

Roger Bumgarner
Kara Leachman

February 5

Tracy Beaman

February 7

Linda Nuss
Jodi Green

February 8

Ron Claussen
Tina Cannon

February 10

Carly Kangas

February 12

Leah Howard

February 14

John Kirkpatrick

February 16

Gary Carlson
Sarah Ward

February 17

Al Leachman
Sam Meeks

February 19

Bernie Funk

February 20

Genny Newton
Jody Smith

February 22

Ila Krier
Linda Funk

February 24

Margie Smith
Josh Martin

February 25

Teresa Reed

February 26

Kim Levine

February 27

Norma Cousins

February 28

Ann Vitek
Evelyn Fox (Vlasman)
Julie Casten

Congratulations to anyone celebrating an anniversary or other special event in the month of February. If your birthday isn't listed but should be, notify us so we can add your birthday to our file.



Lonny Sivetts General Manager www.rent.net/ads/parkstreetstorage

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Sat: 10-4

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Sat: 10-5
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STEPHEN MINISTRY

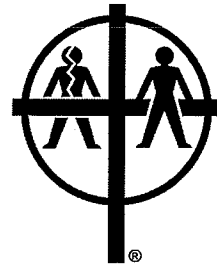
The Stephen Ministry team of your church needs prayers. We are continuing to serve more and more people who are in great need of Christian Companionship and we are looking for more care-givers to add to our small, but mighty, team. Stephen Ministry is an outreach program in thousands of churches throughout the world. There are many hurting people, even in our congregation and community, and not enough ministers, pastors, and priests to take care of them all! That's where lay people such as Stephen Ministers come in: volunteers willing to be trained in bringing Christ's healing love on a one-to-one basis to people who are suffering. This is where your prayers are desperately needed. Please pray that we will have an abundant group of people who feel the calling to serve in this worthy capacity!

We are looking forward to hosting a class in March in order to train and equip people who are called to this type of ministry. Stephen Ministers focus on spiritual as well as emotional and psychological hurts as we minister to our care-receivers.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Stephen Ministry or if you are feeling nudged by God to pursue an opportunity for bountiful blessings as a Stephen Minister, please see Reverend Rob, Reverend Sarah or any Stephen Minister wearing a blue name badge. The apostles asked Stephen to care for the needs of the early congregation (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen Ministry is a continuation of this wonderful ministry which benefits both care-giver and care-receiver. We would love to hear from you and we also appreciate how you equip us with your continued prayers.

God bless you all!

For an application, feel free to contact Stephen Leaders:
Maureen Oppmann 303-663-1825 or Cheryl Smith 303-660-5568.



STAYING CONNECTED

We have begun our new form of communication of upcoming events/opportunities for service at the church. A weekly email will be sent out to those that have provided us with their email address. If you have not yet received an email but would like to be added to our list, please let us know and we will be happy to add you. You may note your email address in the friendship pad during the worship service or you may send an email to secretary@fumccr.org. Please also note the other great ways of keeping up on the events happening at the church in addition to the bulletin and the newsletter which are our presence on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FUMCCR and Twitter at www.twitter.com/FUMCCR. The Outreach Team is also actively working to enhance our website www.fumccr.org.

ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Login today and take a look at our Online Directory! Visit our First United Methodist Church website (www.fumccr.org) and click on *Member Directory* link.

Update both your *User Name* and *Password* to something you will remember. To do so on the upper left side of the screen, click on *My Profile* and then *Edit* to change your information. Be sure to click on *Save* at the bottom of the screen.

Update your family and individual contact information. For example, the initial information in the Online Directory is the just the name of the head of household.

Add your e-mail address if it is not already included in your profile. We will use your e-mail address to send you our monthly *First Church Communicator* and other important information in the life of our church.

Have fun with your profile – update your hobbies and interests and share them with other members.

If you would like to add to or update your families' photo in the Online Directory, you can click on *Update Your Photo*. After 15 people/families have requested a photo, Lifetouch will arrange a portrait session at the Church.

If you have not received the letter from Rev. Rob, have problems logging in, or forgot your password, please contact our Online Directory administrator, Leslie Spencer, at 303-885-1828 or mrsuperk@msn.com.



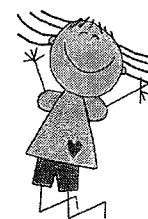
BUS DRIVERS NEEDED



Have you ever thought about getting your CDL and driving the church bus? We are currently seeking Bus Drivers to drive for the Youth Group on outings, Mission Trips, Retreats, etc...

If interested, please contact Teresa Reed and she will get you the information. We will pay for your license.

We really need your help. We have events but no drivers available. Please consider spending time with our amazing Youth!!



Little Blessings/Parents Day Out Program

NOW ENROLLING

Ages 12 months to 6 years



Monday thru Friday program with two, three or five day options.

We provide age and developmentally appropriate curriculum ensuring the development of the social, emotional, cognitive, creative and physical self within a child.



For more information

Call (303) 660-2170

First United Methodist Church

1200 South Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104



Little Blessings is proud to announce that we received the highest inspection rating from the Department of Human Services.

All children and parents are invited to join us for our PJ & Storytime on Wednesday, February 29th from 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

Castle Rock Center for the Arts

a Community Outreach Project
of the First United Methodist Church

Classes now forming for...

Tutoring (group or private) - No charge

Group Guitar Lessons (ages 5-12) - \$75/month

Group Mandolin Lessons (ages 5-12) - \$75/month

Group Banjo Lessons (ages 5-12) - \$75/month

Group Violin Lessons (ages 5-12) - \$75/month

Private Piano Lessons (ages 5-12) - \$90/month

Creative Movement (ages 5-12) - \$30/month

Multi-Media Art Lessons (ages 5-12) - \$35/month + \$10 for supplies

Scholarships available for those who qualify, siblings are 1/2 price! Classes are held at the church. Please visit our website at www.castlerockcenterforthearts.org for more information or to register.

FUMY's

The FUMY's have been really busy. Last summer they attended Water World and Elitch's and had a mini fiesta night. They have had game nights and Karaoke. We had a movie and munchies night to break in the New Room - which everybody loves! They went to Zombie Town and McDonalds where some of the Boy Scouts joined them. They have gone out to dinner at Jack in the Box, I-Hop, Scoreboard Pizza, and Village Inn (free pie). They helped Children's Ministry with Trunk-or-Treat which was a lot of fun followed by a Murder Mystery Party at the church. They all had a great time trying to figure it out. They went Christmas Caroling and then had our White Elephant Christmas Party. Brighten got the "RAT" for the 3rd year in a row. This year we went to Starbucks for hot cocoa and then went on a Christmas Light Bus Tour. They went to the Smith house where they were treated to cookies. They had a wonderful time and want to do it again next year.

They had a great time baking cookies and decorating them. They made enough cookies to take two large plates to each of our 9 people that were homebound. They were very happy to receive them. They collected Thanksgiving boxes for South Ridge Elementary. They had a lot of fun helping with the Time & Talent again this year. It was a lot of fun helping and playing Bingo at Family Bingo Night. They really want to do this again.

They have been doing Reflection on Saturday evening at 6:45pm and Sunday 10:45am after the service. Julie Bailey and Sheri Kangas are co-teaching confirmation class. They have 8 Youth. They are following a prescribed Methodist curriculum called Credo. It offers 18 lessons from November through the end of April with the Youth confirmed on May 6th.

Wednesday evening has been busy. They have Study Buddies from South Ridge Elementary from 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Then UMPS practice when they will be performing at the Services. The first 3 Wednesdays of the month FUMY's social is from 6:00pm - 7:00pm and Study Tables from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. The last Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm - 8:00pm they have a guest speaker. They have talked about Relationships, Depression/Suicide, Family Conflict/Divorce, and Drug/Alcohol Abuse.

They had a great time doing a fundraiser at Surf Shack Yogurt. They have worked a couple of times doing concessions for the Castle Rock Orchestra concert here at the church. They had a lot of fun talking to people, listening to the concert and making popcorn. They will be helping out again March 4th for their Spring Concert.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Youth Leaders.

Chris Cox - Missions

Christinecox5011@comcast.net

Kris Herbon - Social

krisherbon@rocketmail.com

Angela Anderson - Education

Anganderson12@yahoo.com

Teresa Reed - Administration

Busymom1963@msn.com

ALL MY THANKS

Since 2004, the Alexander Family has faced many challenges. All through these difficult times, my church family has been there to support us.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP, YOUR KIND WORDS AND YOUR PRAYERS.



Melanie Alexander
Sons - Spencer and Marcus

Christian Fellowship

The February Christian Fellowship potluck dinner and meeting will be held on Saturday, February 11th, at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a presentation by Rebeca Harcharik about Compassion International. Rebeca is a member of First United Methodist Church Castle Rock and has worked for Compassion International for nine years. Compassion International is a Christian child ministry that has been helping impoverished children for more than 50 years.

For more information on Christian Fellowship, contact Mike Vitek, Bonnie Thompson, Tom Johnson, or Leah Howard.



Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Come enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast brought to you by the Boy Scout Troop 261. Sunday, February 5th is Boy Scout Sunday and we would like to say thank you to the FUMC for sponsoring and supporting our troop. Breakfast is free. We'll start flipping pancakes at 7:00am until 11:00am.

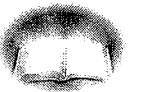


CONTEMPORARY ISSUES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

On January 8th, the Contemporary Issues Sunday School class began their 24-week series, "The Terror of History: Mystics, Heretics, and Witches in the Western Tradition." We will be pairing that with "The 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct." We meet in the library on Sunday mornings from 9:30am - 10:30am. Please join us!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

All are welcome to come! This group meets 9:30-11:00 AM in the library every Tuesday morning and is lead by Rev. Jackie. Just bring your Bible!



RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle invites you to come to our monthly meeting on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30pm. We are a group of United Methodist Women who meet to have Fellowship and prayer. We also support a young lady in Ethiopia through Compassion International. For more information, please call Lisa Andrews at 720-272-4719 or email at lisajean150@netzero.com, we are looking forward to meeting YOU!

Children's Ministry

Children are always welcome at the Saturday Evening Worship 5:45-6:30 PM. Nursery programs are also available during this time.

The Children's Ministry Team meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:45 PM.



LEAH CIRCLE

Please join us for Leah Circle, for food and fellowship.

We meet the second Thursday of each month, September - May.

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: 2nd Thursday of each month
11:45am (potluck)

Why: Fellowship, a program, devotions, mission projects

I THINK YOU'LL LIKE US!

Leah Circle Contact: Angela Galliford—(303) 807-9022



Staff Parish Relations Team

At the December meeting of the Staff Parish Relations Team, staff salaries for the next fiscal year were discussed, as this is a major responsibility of the team. The team recommended no increase for staff in fiscal year 2013, which begins July 1st. This decision is connected to the present sluggish economy.

The team will post the position opening of Little Blessings Parents Day Out Director in March with the position starting June 1st.

On January 27th, the team hosted a staff appreciation dinner for the church staff and spouses at the home of Vince & Louise Moleri.

Nikki Hoy, Co-Chair

Stewardship Team

It seems hard to believe, but another Christmas season has come and gone and left behind it many great memories. Although we spent part of our time away with family in New Mexico, I often thought of Castle Rock and what was happening at the church. I was sure there was music, celebration and special time for reflection about how fortunate we are. When we exist in a world where so many struggle with the daily issues of poverty, hunger, and sickness, every time I looked at my family and considered the family we have become a part of here at FUMC -- I better understand why I have been called to focus on the stewardship of our membership. It's all about maintaining the magnificent outreach our small church with a big heart is able to provide. This is a critical time of year for the church and as all mission leaders are currently developing their plans and subsequent budgets for the coming year. Therefore, in the coming weeks, we will all once again be called to re-commit to the mission of FUMC through our annual "Living the Vision" stewardship campaign. In my short three years here at the church, I am always amazed at the wonderful group of people who congregate here each week and how this family continues to grow. Sometimes it is hard to explain why things happen but when you see all the positive outreach activities that exist at FUMC, it is easy for me to see that something really special is going on. What do you think?

John Saunders



MISSION TEAM



The Missions Team would like to thank the congregation for their tremendous support of the Giving Tree Project again this year. Fourteen families, most from South Ridge Elementary (46 people), and thirty nursing home residents were provided with Christmas gifts. The families also received \$100.00 in food gift cards. Many caring, generous people in our congregation made this a better Christmas for all these folks. The Mission Team thanks you for making this a better Christmas for all these folks.

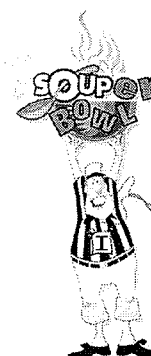
BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

A single box top doesn't stay that way for long. The minute it's donated it joins another, and another, and another. And eventually, they all add up. From markets to libraries, Box Tops For Education has been helping schools earn money to buy the supplies they need - more than \$375 million worth, and growing. So let's see what you can do! You can put your donated box tops in the jar above the coat rack in the Narthex. We thank you for your help!



HOW TO TURN A CAN INTO AN ADOBE BRICK

Did you know that you can drop off aluminum cans under the stairs behind the church or in a box under the coat rack in the Narthex? Bring them from home, from your workplace, or from your friends. In the past years we have received over \$6,000 in recycling money which goes into our Habitat fund. This has bought enough adobes to build two houses in Alamosa! AND...if you want to see how nice an adobe home is, join us in Alamosa the week of June 11th. No building experience is necessary.



"Souper" Bowl Sunday Food Drive

The Mission Team, in conjunction with the Youth, will be holding a food drive for "Souper" Bowl Sunday on February 5, 2012. Plan to bring canned or packaged soups for this food drive which will benefit the Douglas/Elbert Task Force.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women held a successful Cookie Walk in December. \$368.01 was raised. We want to thank all those who donated cookies and those who purchased them. Funds raised are used to pay our conference pledge to World Missions and to make upgrades to the kitchen and its equipment. The participation of the congregation is greatly appreciated!

