

# JULY 2023



## First Church Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of Castle Rock First United Methodist Church



...maz-ing grace... you like me! I  
was grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re-lieved; How  
ro' man-y dan-gers, toils and snares, I have al - read - y come; 'Tis  
hen we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shin-ing as the sun, We've

CRFUMC JULY SERMON SERIES  
**THE HYMNS WE LOVE**

...but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.  
...that grace ap - pear The hour I first be-lieved!  
...t me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.



**The Hymns We Love  
Sermon Series**

**In The Month of July, we  
will be looking at some  
famous hymns and talk  
about how they still speak  
to us today.**

Connect with us at [www.fumccr.org](http://www.fumccr.org)



# SUMMER FUN!





# MISSION TRIP





**NO ONE HAS TO FACE LIFE'S CHALLENGES ALONE.  
OUR STEPHEN MINISTERS CAN HELP.**



**Find out more info.**

**<https://www.fumccr.org/stephenministry>**

## **Stephen Ministry**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philipians 4:6-7

*It is not weakness but strength that allows us to put our struggles in God's hands.*

Upper Room June 16,2023

Just as that statement is true, neither is it weakness to seek help from a Stephen Minister. A Stephen Minister will walk alongside you if you find yourself struggling with an issue. Maybe you are experiencing depression, grief or a myriad of problems. What ever is your situation, a Stephen Minister will be available for you to listen, guide and pray for you and maintain confidentiality.

A Stephen Minister can best be described as God's love in action. We provide one on one, Christ-centered care for anyone experiencing life difficulties. We have each started with 50 hours of training and have continuing education. Recently we studied a book, "What I Wish I Had Known" by Laura Wiktorek. This was written by a mother who's son suffered from PTSD as a result of his time in the service and had committed suicide. We learned many insights into this problem.

If you need the service of a Stephen Minister please get in touch with Pastor Matt, Rev. Sarah, or any of us with a blue name tag. We will be blessed to serve you.

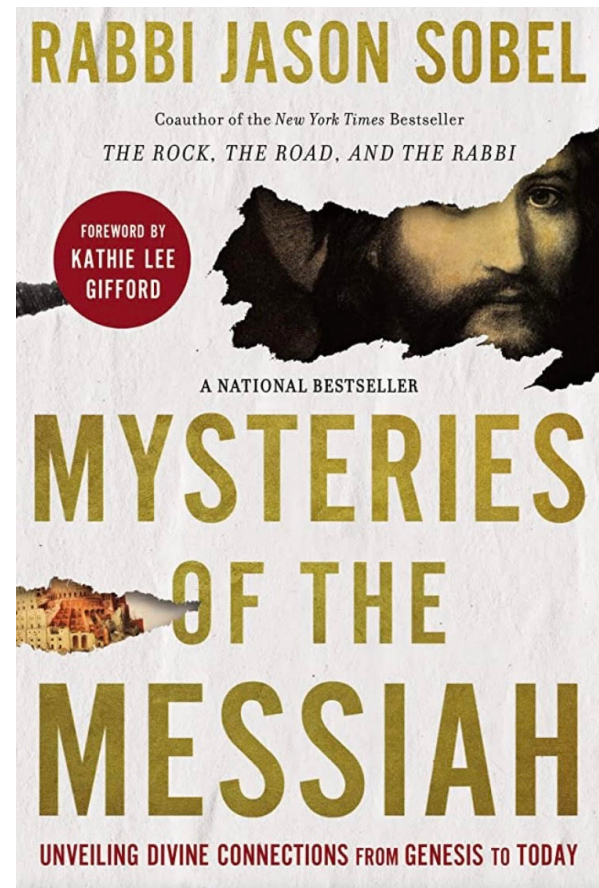


## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our Tuesday Morning Bible Study group will recess for the month of July and reconvene on August 1 (9:30 - 11:00 am) in the church library to begin a study of *Mysteries of the Messiah* by Rabbi Jason Sobel.

In *Mysteries of the Messiah*, Rabbi Sobel reveals the many connections in Scripture hidden in plain sight. Known for his emphatic declaration “but there’s more!” he guides us in seeing the passion and purpose of the Messiah. Written with the unique perspective of a rabbi with an evangelical theological degree, this book bring fresh perspective and insight to the Jewish roots of Christianity.

New members and drop-ins are always welcome. Books and an accompanying study guide may be purchased at [cokesbury.com](http://cokesbury.com) [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com) for approximately \$15.

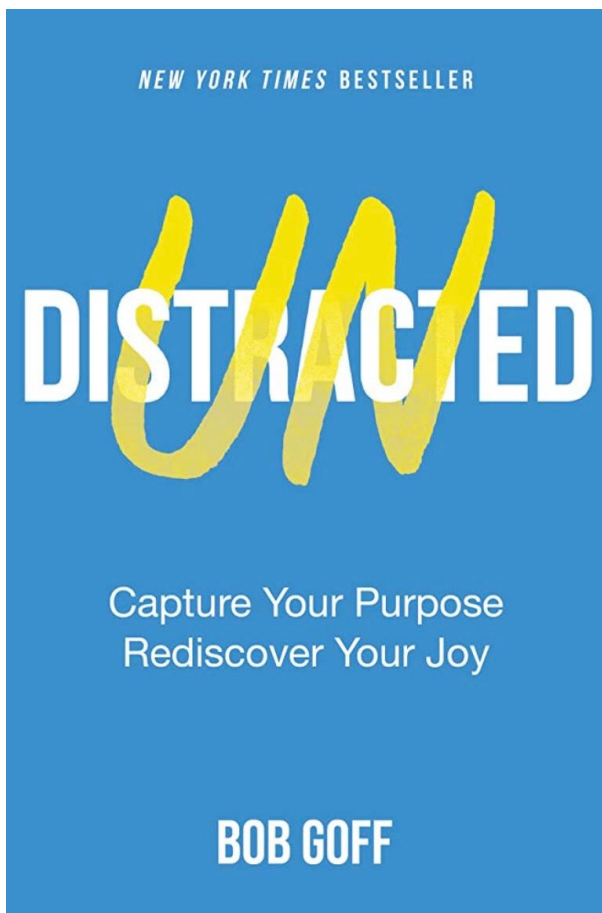


## Contemporary Studies Group

The signup sheet for Rev. Sarah’s next study is at the welcome desk with a sign-up by July 2 appreciated.

The book discussed will be *Undistracted: Capture Your Purpose. Rediscover Your Joy* by Bob Goff. The author reassures readers that they can harness today's distractions, follow Jesus' example, and find focus, purpose, and joy. In the author’s words: “The world has never been more distracting — joy has never been more possible.”

The group will begin meeting in person on Monday, July 24, and on Zoom Friday, July 28 with the 6:30-8:30 time frame. The class continues through September 22 and September 28 respectively.





## Celebrating 150 years of our Church

2024 marks the 150th anniversary of the Methodist Church in Castle Rock. A steering committee to begin planning our Sesquicentennial Celebration will convene in September. We will need all kinds of talent and help from print materials, and publicity, researchers, special celebratory events,, teeshirt design, and locating former pastors.

While the kick-off for the sesquicentennial celebration will be January of 2024, the key dates for our church history fall in the summer months and it's most likely the grand celebration will occur next summer. Moments in our church history will appear in future newsletters, but here is a preliminary overview.

- On July 11, 1874, Castle Rock Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church was proposed.
- On August 13, 1874, a Certificate of Incorporation was filed and Rev. A.C. Brooks, who had preached his first sermon on May 17, 1874, was officially named as the first minister.
- On August 7, 1887, Dr. De La Matyr preached the dedicatory sermon at the church on 3rd and Wilcox.
- On August 4, 1974, a Centennial Celebration was held.
- On September 11, 1977, the current church building was consecrated (the first service was July 31, 1977).

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please sign up at the welcome center or contact Julie Bailey at [juliesings@gmail.com](mailto:juliesings@gmail.com).





## Deadlines for Church Publications

- The monthly newsletter articles or pictures are due on the 21st by 9 a.m.
- Weekly Eblast Tuesdays by 9 a.m.
- Weekly Link Wednesdays by 9 a.m.

August Newsletter deadline is July 21. You are invited to send photos of any summer events your group has enjoyed—from tea room visits, to picnics in the park, pool parties, or informal potluck lunches. August events will be included in the September newsletter. Send your photos and a brief write-up to Julie Bailey at [juliesings@gmail.com](mailto:juliesings@gmail.com).

## Summer Worship Times

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Chapel

10 a.m. Modern Service

Begins May 28th

For More Info Go To

[www.fumccr.org](http://www.fumccr.org)



Castle Rock

First United Methodist Church

Don't forget to hit like or share on our social media post.



## WAYS TO GIVE TO CRFUMC



### Offering Plates

In-person offerings may be dropped in the offering plates



### Mail or Dropped off

Offerings can also be mailed or dropped off at the church office  
1200 South Ave.  
Castle Rock, Co. 80104



### Online/Text

Web Site  
[www.fumccr.org/give](http://www.fumccr.org/give)  
or  
Text GiveTo FUMCCR to 73256

*The Upper Room is available at the Welcome Center.*



**Picture To the Right: Rev. Matt and Sarah's appointments being fixed by our new District Superintendent Rev. Jessica Rooks (Left) and Bishop Karen Oliveto (Right)**





## Rev. Sarah's Space

Romans 12:2 NRSV:

*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

As I head into week two of my renewal leave in June, I share this reflection on renewal.

The apostle Paul urges each of us not to let the values and practices of the world shape our thinking or have influence over our actions. Instead, he encourages us to allow our minds to be renewed by God's truth, so that they can take up with joy a path God wants them to take.

Renewal time helps us to cultivate a consistent prayer life. This can be a challenge in the day to day demands we face. Hopefully renewal time can provide space and allow prayer to be a priority. When we pray, we open ourselves up to God and seek his guidance and direction for our lives. Prayer is an act of submission. We lay down our lives before an almighty God. By making time for these conversation with God, we experience a deeper sense of God's presence and be more attuned to his leading.

We are not meant to journey alone through the process of renewal. God made us for community. We are not self-sufficient. We need one another to experience the fullness of creation and to become all that God intended us to be. It is important to surround ourselves with other believers who will use their spiritual gifts to offer support, encouragement, and accountability as we grow in our faith. I have been blessed by encouraging emails and text messages while on renewal leave. Through these words from family and friends, I came to realize I was not alone but rather surrounded with the love of friends and family.

There are certain practices that can help us to cultivate a deeper relationship with God. These practices renew our minds and refresh our spirits. In addition to prayer, times of silence and solitude, there is our service to others. These important spiritual disciplines can help our faith grow. Incorporating these spiritual disciplines into our lives on a regular basis can bring about amazing spiritual transformation.

Finally, experiencing a spiritual renewal calls for a willingness to let go and let God, a willingness to surrender our plans to God. This may involve letting go of certain personal ambitions and listening to God's voice present with us and guiding us through this journey of life. By following these steps we will discover the renewal we have been seeking in the craziness of this world. Blessings to you on your journey.



## A Prayer for Renewal

*Dear God, I come before you today seeking your guidance and transformation in my life. I seek to align my thoughts and actions with your will, and I recognize the need for change and growth. I ask that you would renew my mind and help me to see things from your perspective. Help me to let go of old patterns of thinking and to embrace your truth and love. Amen.*

---

**Church Grounds Mowing:** With the summer months upon us we need people to assist with mowing the Church grounds. If you are interested, we will have a signup sheet located at the welcome desk.

**The Little Library has been refreshed** and invites you to “escape into reading” this summer with beach reads, mysteries, and some new fiction titles. If you’ve recently read something enjoyable and would like to pass it along, please consider adding it to the shelf. (Reminder: please do not bring more than one book at a time.)

**The Bell Choir**, under the leadership of Nancy Docksey is adding names to those interested in being a part of this music ministry. If you haven’t yet signed up, contact her in person at the 10:45 service welcome time or by phone or text (303-877-9085).

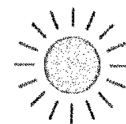
**Grocery Story Card Update:** Currently we have over 50 families participating in this program. We receive about \$450/quarter from King Soopers. Check the welcome center for directions for signing up for the first time with them. The Safeway Cards are now available. Contact the church office to pick one up.. We have received approximately \$250/quarter from Safeway. There is no dollar amount on them this time so folks will just pick up a card and head to Safeway to load the amount they choose to have on it . NOTE: You may use the money you have remaining on the old card, but you will not be able to reload it.

**Digital Photo Directory:** To view the directory online, go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](http://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in. There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “Instant Church Directory” to get the download. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app. If you want to add your picture or make changes please email Pastor Matt

**To find our live stream** go to [linktr.ee/castlerockfumc](http://linktr.ee/castlerockfumc) and click on either the YouTube or Facebook option.



## **IT'S A BEACH PARTY**



The First United Methodist Church of Castle Rock is excited to host a splish-splash of a time for our Community Kids!

There will be a Water Slides, Food, Music, && Fun!

Ages: Kindergarten & UP

When: Sunday, July 16th 11:30am-1:30pm

**To register fill out below and to return to FUMC's front desk or go to this link:** <https://forms.gle/4qb4uzGdtYzfNPHX7>



JOIN US

**4TH  
ANNUAL  
WALK  
TO END  
ALS  
CASTLE ROCK, CO**



**PAUL'S  
MYSTERY SHIP  
TO END ALS**

#RIDECAPTAINRIDE

**1:30pm • September 24, 2023**

Walk Starts/Ends at 105 West Brewing Co.

After Party > 105 W. Brewing Co. • 1043 Park St

FRIENDS • FAMILY • LIVE MUSIC

SILENT AUCTION • FOOD TRUCKS

ALL WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



To REGISTER FOR THE WALK,  
become a sponsor, donate  
or get more info go to:

[PaulsMysteryShip.com](http://PaulsMysteryShip.com)

Honoring the memories of  
those who have lost their  
battle with ALS, promoting  
advocacy through awareness  
of ALS, and offering support  
for families facing ALS together:

**Keeping, HOPE, KINDNESS  
and LOVE Alive.**







# Pastor Matt's Space

email: [matt.franks@fumccr.org](mailto:matt.franks@fumccr.org)  
social media @mattdamethdoist

## Hope for the Yet To Come...

"Hope is the fuel that ignites the fires of resistance and keeps us pressing forward, even when the odds seem insurmountable." - Emilie M. Townes

This quote feels very fitting for me as I reflect upon my experiences over the last few months attending the Oklahoma Annual Conference and the Mountain Sky Annual Conference. I left both conferences with much hope for what is to come.

We still have a lot of work to do and finding our way forward will be rough and bumpy but if we work toward clearing a path forward, we can be the United Methodist Church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and be a place where All Belong.

While it is sad to say goodbye to some Churches that have voted to leave the denomination. The one thing that we have that makes us United Methodist is our connection. I will be working with other Methodist Churches in our area to come up with ways we can share ministries to be more connected and work more like the body of Christ instead of separate parts of the body. So, stay tuned for opportunities that will arise.

Last week at the Mountain Sky Annual Conference a redistribution of the districts was approved, and we will be now known as the Colorado Front Range District. I will have more information to share as soon as I have it. I will include a map of the new district in this newsletter along with a map of the Annual Conference.

Also last week our Church Admin. Council also approved the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget for Little Blessings and the Operations Budget for the Church. You will also receive a copy of this in this month's newsletter.

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development are searching for people to serve in the following positions:

- Staff Parish Relations Committee Co-Chairs (2 Spots)
- Missions and Service Ministry Co-Chairs (2 Spots)

If you are interested in serving in these positions, please contact me at [matt.franks@fumccr.org](mailto:matt.franks@fumccr.org)

I am excited to be reappointed to serve as your Pastor for the next year. I am filled with hope for yet to come, and I also hope that we lean into our new mission. *To share the light and love of God within our community and beyond.* As we look forward, we will be guided by *the vision of creating diverse relationships, service, and worship to achieve our mission.*

Our three big rocks for our congregation will be..

- Sharing Our Stories: Improving communications inside and outside of the Church.
- Improved Hospitality and Outreach.
- Community Events.

I have hope!!! See You Sunday.  
Pastor Matt Franks



## What Am I Reading?

I have an Amazon Idea List for books I like to suggest you can find that here: <http://a.co/9fQNdWz>

- Freeing Jesus by Diana Butler Bass
- American Methodism: By Ashley Boggan
- The Letter to the Philippians

## What Is Going on at the Church?

**July 2nd Sneaker Sunday!** One Worship Service Outdoors at 8:30 a.m. In honor of Pastor Matt's July birthday and his first complete year at CCFUMC, we are suggesting congregants wear their favorite sneakers to church. In the words of author Barbara Johnson: "The attitude of kindness is everyday stuff like a great pair of sneakers. Not frilly. Not fancy. Just plain and comfortable."

**July 30th One Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.** Food and Fellowship after the service.

**Hospitality Team Meeting: July 12th at 6:30 p.m.**

**Outreach Team Meeting: July 13th at 6:30 p.m.**

**Catch me for Coffee** Most mornings Monday-Thursday from about 7:45 a.m. until about 9:30 a.m.ish. I am working at Crowfoot Valley Coffee on 734 Wilcox St. Feel free to swing by and grab a drink of choice and talk to me you will not be bothering me if I have my laptop up and typing away. If you want to meet me there to chat just give me a heads-up to make sure I am going to be in the coffee shop. You can always text or call me to make sure I am there. (405)-919-8567

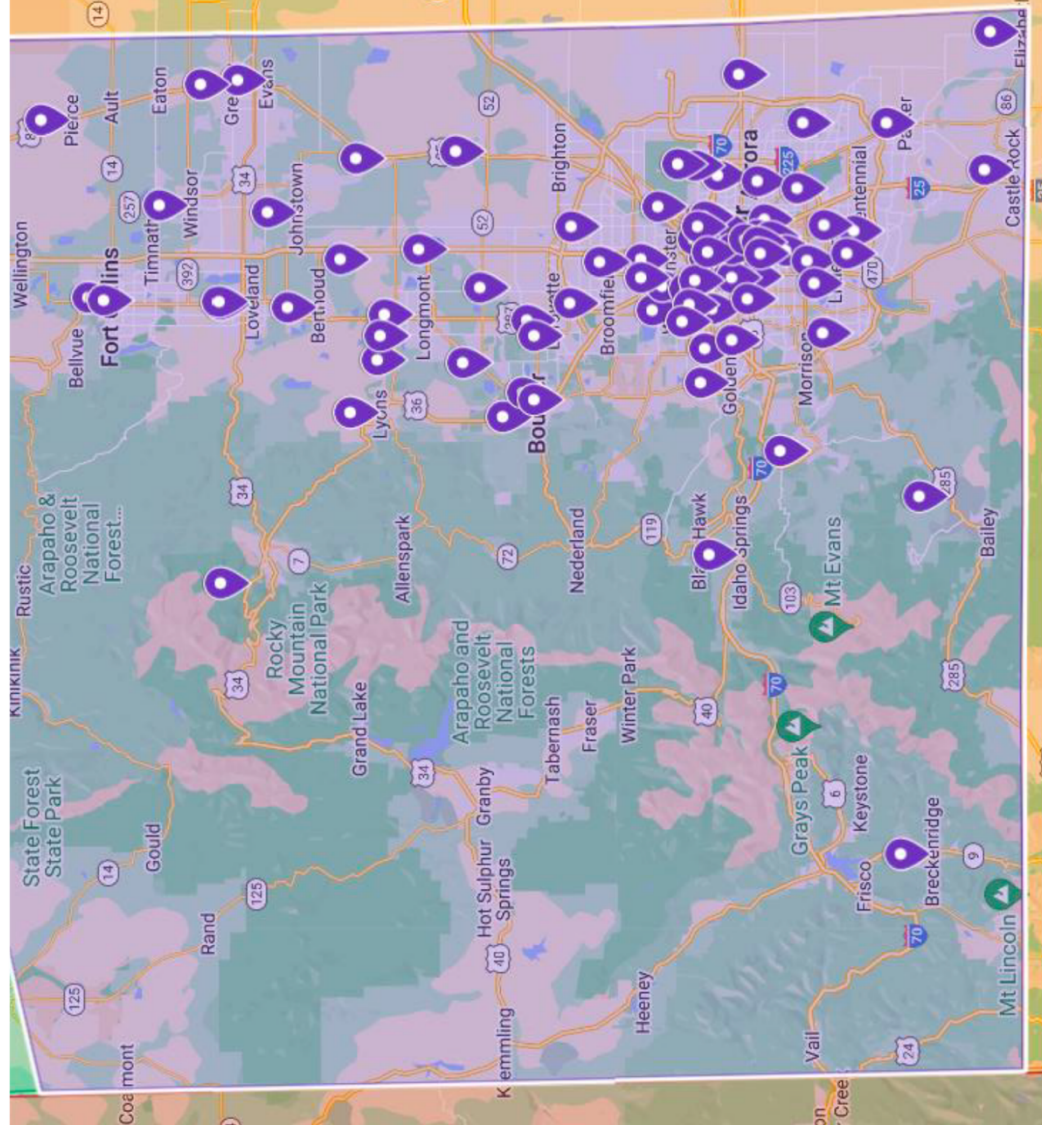
**Cell Phone Text Group:** Join Pastor Matt's Text Group this is to help communicate things like outdoor chapel and other important info. You can join it by clicking this link <https://www.remind.com/join/mattcrumc>

<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>May 2023</b>
Revenues	<u>\$ 367,945</u>
Expenses	
Personnel	\$ 254,487
Conf Apportionment	37,690
Trustees	81,801
Church Office	11,830
All Other	10,512
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 396,319</u>
Net Total	<u>\$ (28,374)</u>

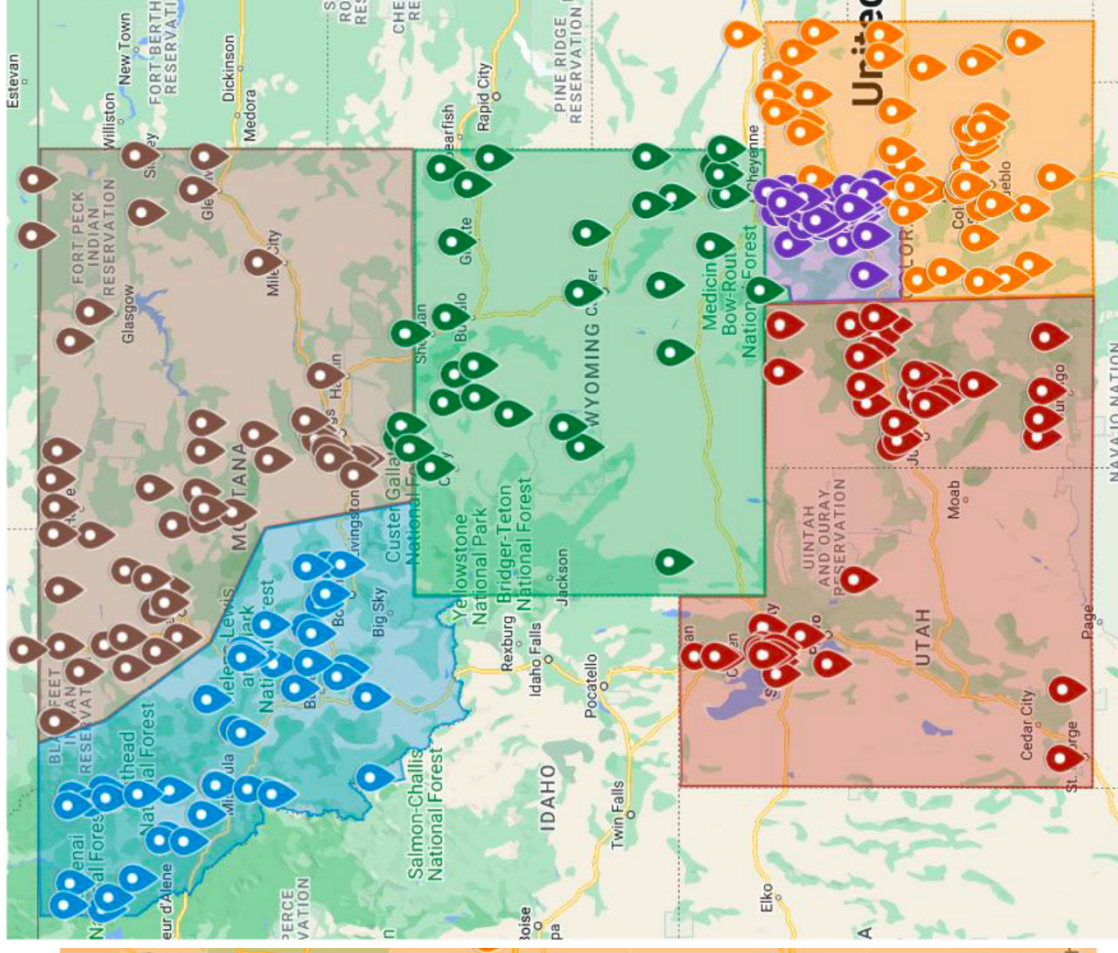


# Our New District

## Colorado Front Range District



# The Mountain Sky Annual Conference



**First United Methodist Church of Castle Rock**

**Annual Budget 2023-24**

**Accounts**

**Revenues**

4000 - Pledges & Identified Giving	320,000
4010 - Offerings - Loose Plate	6,800
4060 - Income - Edward Jones	10,000
4067 - Interest Foundation Parsonage	1,800
4068 - Interest Foundation Investment Fd	480
4070 - Income - Building Use	85,530

**Total Revenues** 424,610

**Expenses**

<b>Total Personnel</b>	305,629
<b>Total Worship</b>	3,500
<b>Total Wider Mission</b>	42,484
<b>Total Outreach</b>	4,000
<b>Total Admin Council</b>	500

**Education**

<b>Total Education</b>	5,410
<b>Total Finance-Stewardship</b>	4,200
<b>Total Trustees</b>	98,400
<b>Total Missions</b>	6,150
<b>Total Stephen Ministry</b>	2,800
<b>Total Church Office</b>	12,450

**Total Expenses** 485,523

**Net Total** (60,913)



## Little Blessings

<b>Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Budget FYE 06/2024</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	
3050 - Tuition	730,000
3053 - Summer Camp	80,000
3055 - Drop in	10,000
3058 - Extended Care	25,300
3060 - Enrollment Fees	10,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>855,300</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<u>647,242</u>
<b>Education</b>	
4100 - Classroom Supplies	4,000
4107 - Teacher Supplies	4,000
4110 - Events	1,000
4116 - Staff Appreciation	500
<b>Total Education</b>	<u>9,500</u>
<b>Utilities</b>	
4200 - Fair Share Building expense	85,530
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<u>85,530</u>
<b>Outside Services</b>	
4125 - Nurse Workshops	1,600
4300 - Insurance	1,920
4310 - Dept. of Human Services	1,000
4315 - Background Checks	600
4320 - Copier	3,600
4350 - Brightwheel	3,600
4395 - Credit Card Expenses	8,500
<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<u>20,820</u>
<b>General Expenses</b>	
4111 - Repairs & Maintenance	1,860
4405 - Cleaning Supplies	2,200
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<u>4,060</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>767,152</u>
<b>Net Total</b>	<u>88,148</u>