

# First Church Communicator



**Castle Rock**  
First United Methodist Church

**December 2022**  
**Newsletter**



**Stay up to date with us at**  
**[www.fumccr.org](http://www.fumccr.org)**



# Pastor Matt's Space

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

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## **A Small Reflection**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote:

“Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness.” (*I Want To Live These Days with You*, pg. 377.)

In the season of Advent, we are challenged to do just that. To let go and be open to God being with among us, working on us and through us. Be open to letting go of things and letting God in.

## **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>

A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story by Diana Butler Bass  
Table Talk: Rethinking Communion and Community by Mike Graves

## **Keeping up with the Church...**

### **Table for All Sunday Dec. 4th**

Our Table for All Sunday will be Dec. 4th a special offering will be taken up during worship. Click on the link below to watch this video to learn more about the Table For All initiative.

<https://vimeo.com/mtnskyumc/review/758544875/606a0dc8cf>

### **Online Prayer Request**

On our website, you can submit an online prayer request by going to this link.

<https://www.fumccr.org/prayer-request>

### **Blue Christmas Service**

Blue Christmas” service. For some, memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences and situations can become overwhelming. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or New Year’s Eve can be very difficult and a reminder of the challenges in our lives. In this service, we invite you to listen. We invite you to pray. We invite you to sing. We invite you to meditate upon the pain and anguish you may bring—and we invite you to offer your pain to the Christ child. And we trust that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

### **Christmas Eve Services Times**

Modern Worship at 4 p.m.  
Traditional Worship at 6 & 11 p.m.

### **One Service Christmas Day at 10 a.m.**

Wear your Christmas PJ's and come and have a great time of worship.

### **One Service New Year's Day at 10 a.m.**

Celebrate a New Year with us in one worship experience.

## **Church Finances as of Nov. 1**

I am hoping to be able to share these with you each month. I prefer to have transparency when it comes to Church Finances. If you have questions, please reach out I would be glad to help you or connect you with the finance team to answer any questions.

<b><u>October 2022</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>
Revenues	\$104,267	\$150,333	(\$46,066)
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Personnel	\$93,129	\$106,270	\$ 13,141
Conf Apportionment	\$10,804	\$20,000	\$9,196
Trustees	\$25,039	\$32,433	\$7,394
Church Office	\$4,182	\$4,917	\$734
All Other	\$1,427	\$13,436	\$12,009
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$134,582</b>	<b>\$177,056</b>	<b>\$42,474</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>(\$30,315)</b>	<b>(\$26,723)</b>	<b>(\$3,592)</b>





## Being Ready to Welcome the Prince of Peace

from Reverend Sarah

Email: [sms11@mindspring.com](mailto:sms11@mindspring.com)

### Luke 2:11-14

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:  
" Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

As we prepare to welcome the prince of peace, are there things that we need to forgive or we need to be forgiven that weigh down our spirit in a season of joy? The Contemporary Discussion class just finished a book by Adam Hamilton about forgiveness, and a process was suggested that might be helpful. Hamilton referred to this process as RAP, Remember your short comings, Assume the best of the other person and Pray for them.

You are better able to let go of bitterness and anger, if you take a step back to see that you are not perfect. Flaws and all, you can still be assured that you remain a child of God. Allow yourself to embrace this season of joy. Allow yourself to open God's gift of peace.

When you encounter those who do or say hurtful things, rather than allow anger to take over, see if you can let it go. Assume the best of that other person who just might be worn out by the season or is having something else going on in their life that is the cause of the behavior. Our view can change if we take a step back and are able to see them as a child of God. It is amazing how much a smile or kind word can mean. It can bring us more of a sense of peace if we work to assume the best of those we encounter.

When you take a moment to pray for that other person, it might open up the possibility to feel compassion toward them. It frees you from carrying the bitterness and anger you were feeling. This might open you more to experiencing the peace and goodwill that is this time of year. This might make you ready to welcome the Prince of Peace with a heart that has plenty of room for him.

Blessings this Christmas Season!

Rev. Sarah



## Stephen Ministry

As we head into the Advent season, we anxiously await the coming birth of Christ. Perhaps you have lost someone close to you and are not feeling the joy of the season. A Stephen Minister is willing to listen if you need someone to walk with you as you navigate this stressful period of your life. Or perhaps you have other issues, and you need someone to listen. Stephen Ministers have been trained to handle most issues in a loving and Christian way. We have a list of resources references. One of the resources is a list of faith bases grief sharing locations. If this is something that you may consider taking advantage of, contact one of the Stephen Ministers for a copy of the list. Here are the locations currently listed on the **Grief Share** web site:

- Plum Creek Church Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm
- St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church Saturdays @ 10:00 am
- Calvary Castle Rock Tuesdays @ 6:00 pm
- Journey Church Colorado Tuesdays @ 6:00 pm
- Epiphany Lutheran Church Saturdays @ 3:00 pm

Possible other sites:

- Faith Lutheran Church
- Canyons Community Church
- Emmaus Anglican Church

As you can see, there are several opportunities for you to connect with like minded people to help you thru this season of your life. If you feel the need for a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Matt, Rev. Sarah, or one of the Stephen Ministers leaders.

After the first of the new year our Stephen Ministers will be partnering with Christ Episcopal Church's Stephen Ministers for training new ministers. I urge you to pray and ask God if you are being called to this vital ministry. Contact any of our Stephen Ministers for the form to fill out and return.

If you find yourself in need of Christian, compassionate care, contact Pastor Matt or Rev. Sarah.

### In Our Prayers

Please lift up the following people in your prayers:

Jeri and Guy Groves, Joyce Carmella, Betty Grant,  
Sarah McAneny, Tracy Beaman , Betty Grant,  
Patty Claussen, Jan and Bud Richter, Cynthia and Tom Johnson,  
the family of Shirley Spencer, the family of Dave Archer.



### **The Mission Team Giving Tree.**

There are still ornaments available on the Missions Team Giving Tree. As you pick up a tag or two from the tree, you are supporting the Christmas project of the church Mission Team.

Each ornament on the tree represents a gift to be given to a boy or girl associated with Southridge Elementary, or to a resident of Brookside Nursing Home, or Castle Care Nursing Home. All gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church by December 11.

If you would like to give a \$25 grocery gift card, the church has already purchased them and will track all donations accordingly.

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### **The Church Photo Directory is live at this time.**

To view the directory online, go to [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](https://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.

We will have print copies available by December 18th.

**We can still add you if you missed the picture dates. Just let Pastor Matt know.**

For questions or changes, please email Pastor Matt at [matt.franks@fumccr.org](mailto:matt.franks@fumccr.org)

## From United Methodist Women To United Women in Faith



On March 2, 2022 United Methodist women became what is now the United Women in Faith. The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join, to put their love in action on behalf of women children and youth.

The changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women and expand options for membership and engagement. The new name also aims to welcome current members whose local churches may choose to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join.

New and innovative programs will be rolled out through 2022 including a new and easier way to navigate the website, a new "All-Access" National Membership, Soul Care Retreats, and Innovations to Mission (a multi-generational, Bible-focused curricula titled "Mission U" available for small groups, retreats, Vacation Bible School, and other settings).

For more information go to [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)

**Rev. Sarah's text for the Contemporary Studies Group  
Advent Study is *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's  
Voice in Advent*, by Susan Robb.**

This four-week Advent study explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds and how these four angelic appearances hold meaning for listeners both then and now.

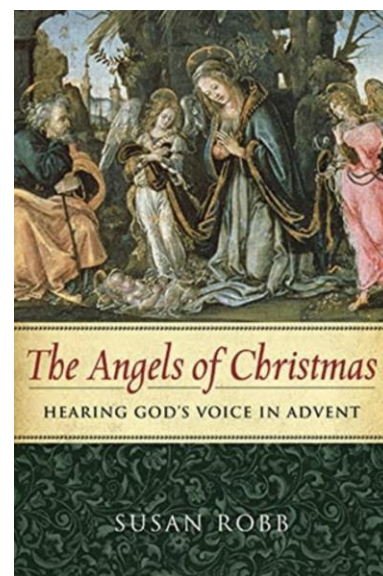
**In Person Sessions:**

**Mondays, November 28 through December 19;**

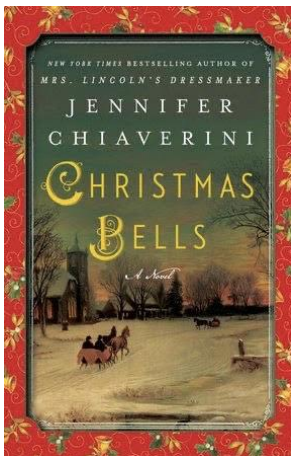
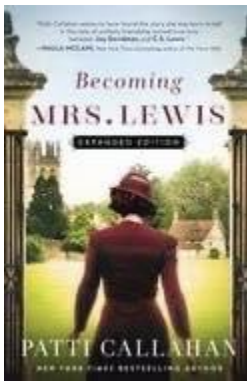
**6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Zoom Sessions: Fridays, December 2 through December 23;**

**6:30pm to 8:30pm**



# The Little Library



## Are you in the mood for some thoughtful and/or cozy Christmas reading?

Check out the new additions to our Little Library just outside the church library.

There are a few Advent studies you can read on your own, an anthology of short Christmas readings, some novels that range from stories about pets to mysteries (like Baldacci's *The Christmas Train*), romance and general fiction

Of particular interest:

1. Jason F. Wright's *Christmas Jars*, a wonderful story that prompted the charitable phenomenon of giving away jars off money.
2. Patti Callahan's *Becoming Mrs. Lewis*, an historical fiction account of the correspondence and later courtship between C. S. Lewis and Joy Davidman.
3. Jennifer Chiaverini's *The Christmas Bells* a dual narrative, one set in Civil War America, when Longfellow wrote his famous poem "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" after experiencing great personal loss alternating with a contemporary narrative about a family with a father MIA overseas.

If you are need of a puzzle or two to bring family around the table during the holidays, check out the few we have on the shelves. If you have a puzzle or a Christmas-themed book to share, please add it to the shelf.

## Our very loose borrowing policy:

Take one, leave one. Take one and pass it on. Take one and bring it back.



## Youth News & Children's News

Thanks again to all the youth that helped set up and clean up Time & Talent. What a fun and successful event!

On November 17, we held our annual *Friendsgiving* at the church from **6-8pm**. And on Sunday the we helped in the *Hanging of the Greens*. Would love to have any able-bodied youth (or adults) willing to help **between the services + a bit after the second service**.

**Our December youth events include:**

**December 4th**

*Cookie Walk + Movie (Wakanda Forever!)*

**December TBD**

*Cocoa & Lights*

**December 22nd**

*White Elephant*

In addition to welcoming us to worship, the **beautifully decorated Toy Shop** (pictured on the cover of the newsletter) is a key part of our children's ADVENTure into Advent. Throughout the season, children will be playing an "I Spy" game involving the Toy Shop and a book titled *I Got the Christmas Spirit*. The book's focus on the joys of the holiday season will be celebrated at the 4 pm Family Christmas. Be sure to encourage your children and grandchildren to join in the fun. Prizes will be awarded! (And thank you, Tammy Klos and Lisa Stead for the Toy Shop's artistic presentation.)

## There's Music in the Air!



**COLORADO BRASS**  
*presents*

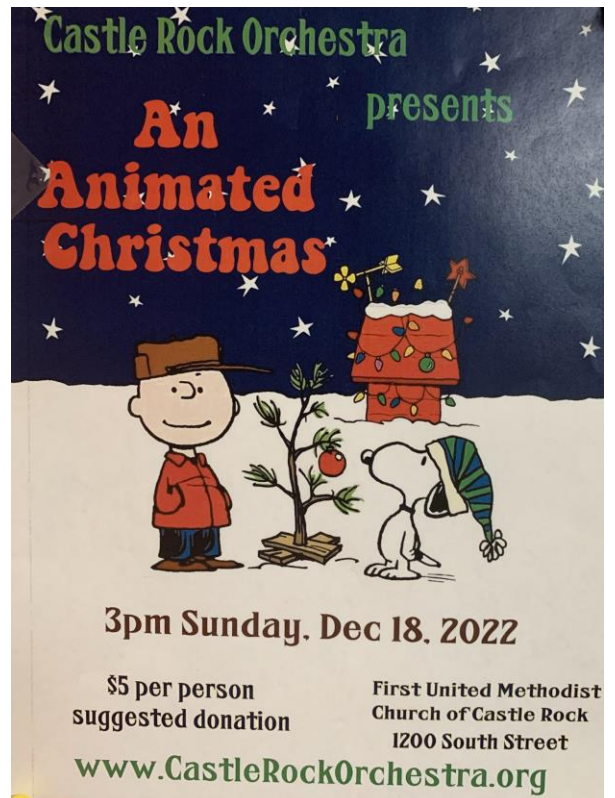
*Sounds of the Season*

**Friday, Dec 9, 2022 | 7:30PM**  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CASTLE ROCK, CO

**Sunday, Dec 11, 2022 | 4:00 PM**  
WHEAT RIDGE CENTER FOR ARTS & MUSIC  
WHEAT RIDGE, CO

**TICKETS**  
Adults \$20  
Seniors & Service Members \$15  
Students & Children \$5

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



**Castle Rock Orchestra**  
*presents*

**An Animated Christmas**

3pm Sunday, Dec 18, 2022

\$5 per person  
suggested donation

First United Methodist  
Church of Castle Rock  
1200 South Street

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



# Save The Date

**December 4: Annual Cookie Walk & Christmas Sweater Sunday**

**December 13: Children's Musical "A Charlie Brown Christmas" 6:30 pm**

**December 18: Castle Rock Orchestra  
"An Animated Christmas" concert  
3 pm**

**December 25 & January 1:  
One service at 10 am**

