



First Church Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church,
Castle Rock, Colorado
1200 South Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104

November 2022



All Saints Day Sunday, November 6

November 1st is the Traditional Date

The ribbon banner is available at the Welcome Desk. If you wish to honor a loved one who has died in the last year, please consider writing their name on the paper and attaching it with a bell and ribbon before November 6th.



The Time and Talent Auction and Luncheon Sunday, November 6th at 12 Noon Fellowship Hall

As our Church's annual fundraiser for our Youth, our Trustees, and our Missions Team, our goal this year is to raise \$7,250.

Reminder:

Green pledge forms need to be returned by Thursday, November 3, and can be placed in the offering plate this Sunday or returned to the Church office before Thursday.



And don't miss the --
Chili Cook-Off at Time and Talent
We just ask that folks bring their favorite chili to share and everyone in attendance will vote on our favorites. Youth will help serve.

Hello Church, On October 23rd in worship, we utilized called *Renewal: A Repentant, Hopeful Litany for A Changing Church* by Sandra Maria Van Opstal. The response part is my prayer with all that is going on in the United Methodist Church.



**ALL: Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image.
Revive your church.
Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.**

So what is going on in the United Methodist Church as a denomination? It is fracturing. Fracture as a verb means to break or cause to break. Groups with progressive theologies and groups with conservative theologies are leaving the denomination over the United Methodist stance on human sexuality and I would contend a few other issues as well. I have been asked lately about this fracturing happening what does this mean for us at Castle Rock First United Methodist Church? I will share with you a few thoughts on this.

Thought One: This fracturing is not a bad thing. There are Churches that feel they can no longer be in the connectional system that is United Methodist. Human Sexuality is the main issue for most churches leaving but there are others such as the itinerant clergy, apportionments, and just realizing that they are not United Methodist. Fracturing is not a bad thing, painful yes, but through this fracturing, we can grow back stronger by discerning what it means to be United Methodist.

Thought Two: Do we have to vote? Short answer is No, we do not have to vote on whether to stay or go. I like to over-inform, so as we head into the 2024 United Methodist General Conference I will keep you updated on what is happening as I understand it.

Thought Three: What about those left if another United Methodist Church votes to leave the denomination? The thing I love about the UMC is that we are all connected. It's like the degrees of separation game. The Mountain Sky Conference has an initiative called "A Table For All." You can find information about this here: <https://www.mtnskyumc.org/atable4all>. It is going to work to help those who are left if the Church leaves the denomination. We will have a Table for All Sunday on Dec. 4th to take up a special offering to support this conference initiative.

Thought Four: We have work to do. In the United Methodist Mission statement, Castle Rock FUMC is called to provide the most significant arena for discipleship making to occur. With a town growing like Castle Rock it means we have our work cut out for us to do just that. So let's do that work and let the chips fall where they fall and be led by the Holy Spirit to share God's love with all people and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of ourselves and the world. So will you pray this response with me:

**ALL: Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image.
Revive your church.
Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.**

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Looking Forward to Giving Thanks

From Reverend Sarah

Email: sms11@mindspring.com

The “Thanksgiving” Psalm

¹ *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

² *Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before Him with joyful songs.*

³ *Know that the Lord is God.*

*It is He Who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.*

Psalm 100:1-5

I look ahead to Thanksgiving and making the house perfect for our guests, the table set with the best china and silver. May I be reminded to take time as I prepare to see what is in my life that makes me want to shout for joy and praise God.

As I anticipate those who may be joining us at table — those who share my views and those who don’t and are challenging — let me remember that we are all the sheep of his pasture. Help me to find the path of peace and dig deep for patience. May I let go of the need to be right and seek instead an attitude of gratitude that will see me through the most difficult of conversations.

As I feel anxious and want the house to look perfect and worry that all parts of the meal will turn out, may my thanks not be lost in all the busyness.

As my mind turns to all that is going on in the world today, may the chaos of the now not be a distraction from having a thankful heart, a heart that listens as grace is said. May I seek a way to turn over those worries to God.

After the pie has been enjoyed and the dishes cleared, washed and put away, God will be a presence with me as I make my way through the ending of this Thanksgiving Day, and as I journey forth with faith and courage.

Blessings

Rev. Sarah



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is compassionate care, the act of putting yourself in your care receivers shoes, of feeling what he or she is feeling. We are listeners, not judges and committed to confidentiality.

This is the time of the year we start preparing for Thanksgiving. A time to gather with family and friends to give thanks for our blessings. Not feeling it this year? Are you trying to figure out things happening in your life, feeling depressed or overwhelmed? Maybe what you need is a listening ear. Sometimes just having someone to be with you to listen helps. That is what Stephen Ministry is all about. If you find yourself in need of Christian, compassionate care, contact Pastor Matt or Rev. Sarah.

We are going to be partnering soon with Christ Episcopal Church for training new Stephen Ministers. I urge everyone to pray and ask God if you are being called to this vital ministry. Talk to any of us with a blue name tag. You too can earn your very own special blue name tag!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever. -- Psalm 107:1



The light of understanding
shines within you, and can be heard
within the most subtle
portion of your heart.
So stand tall and continue
to move forward,
for your inner warrior is more capable,
more wise, and more brave
than you think.
So even as you have faith
in Your God, so too must you have
faith in yourself, and soon you will
realize that you have always been
in His loving embrace.

--Edward Hanania in *Spirit of the Heart*

Reminders . . .

The UMF Cookie Walk Returns!

On Sunday morning, December 4th Fellowship Hall will be filled with tables of festive and delicious cookies to purchase. To make this a successful event, UMF is also looking for donations. Donating a few dozen of your favorite cookies is a wonderful way to share your tasty recipe with others while filling your own box with various cookies for your holiday gatherings. Whether purchasing, donating, or doing both, United Women of Faith appreciate your participation.

Youth Butter Braid Sale

During the first few weeks of November, our youth will be selling delicious Butter Braids to raise funds for this upcoming summer's mission trip. Please follow [this link](#) to make an order online or email/text Josh Hay (josh.hay@gmail.com) if you'd like to place an order and pay by check. All orders will be delivered and ready for pick up either Saturday, November 19th or Sunday, November 20th. Deliveries can be arranged as well as needed. Thanks so much for your support!

King Soopers/Safeway Grocery Cards: We are so appreciative of those who continue to use the Grocery Cards at King Soopers and Safeway! If you would like to have one of these cards, we have loaded cards available at the church for #10. If you would like instructions on how to register your card, let us know.



About the Little Library:

Just a reminder that our Little Library, sponsored by the Leah Circle of UWF, works just like the little library in your neighborhood: take one, leave one or just borrow one without leaving one.

The purpose of the Little Library is to pass along books of interest that you have personally enjoyed reading in the genres of popular fiction, compelling nonfiction, poetry, travel, and children's literature. You will find a number of books written by Adam Hamilton and other contemporary spiritual leaders because we have members who have read them and wish to pass along these guiding lights. During Advent, you may find some seasonal selections to warm your heart and share with your loved ones.

The Little Library is located on the shelves just outside the church library. On the church library shelves you will find many books and atlases on theology, Christian history, Christian DVDs, and our own church's historical archives. Feel free to browse there as well.

Save these dates:

- *October 29: Harvest Dinner; 4:30-7 pm*
- *October 30: Collecting for Help and Hope Food Drive*
- *October 30: John Redmond, guest musician, both services*
- November 2: Pastor Matt's monthly coffee hour at Crowfoot Coffee, 7:45 am
- November 6: Time and Talent Auction, immediately following the 10:45 service.
- November 10: Leah Circle 11:45 Fellowship Hall
- November 16: Crafting "Thinking of You Bags" at Julie Curran's
- November 16: Charge Conference
 - **11/16 6:30 p.m. On Zoom A registration link has been emailed out and added to our website.**
- November 19: FUMY Butter Braid delivery
- November 19: Castle Rock Star Lighting
- November 22: Love Circle 1 pm Church Library
- November 27: First Sunday of Advent
- December 4: Annual Cookie Walk, sponsored by United Women in Faith



"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

Melodie Beattie

First Church Communicator

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Our church links in one place:

<https://linktr.ee/castlerockfumc>

Website: www.fumccr.org

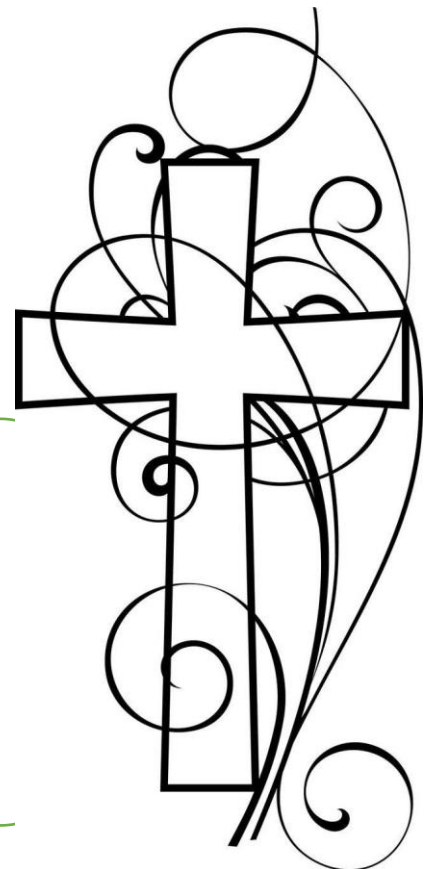
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Submit your articles, photos, poems, coming events, stories,
and news items to: firstchurcher@gmail.com

You may also bring them to the church office.

December NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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