

SEPTEMBER 2023



First Church Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of Castle Rock First United Methodist Church



VELVA BAINS 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Our dear Velva Bains will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Wednesday, September 13. Join us in a salad luncheon in Fellowship Hall from noon to 2 pm.

WANT TO BE A LITURGIST?

We are looking at starting up having a liturgist being a part of the traditional service.

There will be a signup sheet on the Welcome Desk.



WORSHIP TIMES CHANGE

Our worship times will change starting September 10th 9 a.m.

Modern Worship
10:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship
Both services in the Sanctuary.

DINNER GROUPS

Dinner for 8 has a new name "Dinner Groups"

The Purpose of Dinner Groups is to gather for a time of food, fellowship, and fun. We have a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk. Dinner groups will have a Core Group Leader who will help the group plan and direct the group. You will be assigned a group by the first of October. We are looking to put together groups of 6-8 people. If you have questions, please ask Pastor Matt.



GET IN TOUCH WITH US

www.fumccr.org

office@fumccr.org



CHOIR PICNIC

Choir members gathered in the beautiful backyard of Judy Crenshaw's home for a potluck picnic on Saturday, August 26. We were happy to see our organist and pianist Donna Murray on the road to recovery. The food was exceptional and the homemade ice cream sundaes we assembled for dessert were out of this world.



Chancel Choir Director Nancy Docksey looks forward to welcoming new and returning singers at our 5:30 pm rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6 in the sanctuary. As you can see, our fellowship is not limited to singing; breakfast and dinner potlucks are sometimes part of the fun.

CRAFTING GROUP

The Crafting Group that creates the thinking-of-you bags meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month to make "thinking of you" bags for older adults in assisted living homes and anyone in our own community dealing with challenges.

For the September craft, the group assembled a faux apple with a green worm and a leaf bearing the Psalm 17: 8 scripture: "You are the apple of my eye."

Julie Curran hosts the group that meets at 9:30 am in her home. Contact her at jcurran29@gmail.com and text at 443-326-7957 if you would like to help with the creation or distribution of the bags.

Upcoming crafting dates are September 27 and October 25.



What are Stephen Ministers?

According to the Stephen Ministries website, the organization was named for St. Stephen, one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to distribute food and charitable aid to the poorer members of the community in the early Church (Acts 6:5).

It is a nondenominational Christian organization that cares for people in distress. It was founded in 1975 by Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk in St. Louis, Missouri, and is still headquartered there.

We care for those facing some crisis in life, for instance, illness, death of a loved one, divorce, relocation, or financial setback.

If you or a loved one is experiencing any of these issues and are in need of the services of a Stephen Minister, please get in contact with Pastor Matt, Rev. Sarah, or any of us with a blue name tag. We will be blessed to serve you.



Sesquicentennial Steering Committee

The committee planning our Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2024 will meet on Monday, September 18th at 6 pm in the church library.

Co-chaired by Julie Bailey and Linda Pottenger, this team of people includes Rose Andrade, Lisa Andrews, Joyce Morales, Laryce Nitsch, Brenda Ryan, Kari Sorah, and Phyllis Tumey.

Many others in our church community have volunteered to help with details and we welcome their support. If you have ideas to share, please pass them along to any of those on the team.

Grocery Story Card Update:

The Safeway Cards are now available. Contact the church office to pick one up.

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.

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.

Moments in CRFUMC History

The spiritual life and outreach of the church.

It was a time of beginnings. Castle Rock was a struggling community in 1874. When, in competition was Sedalia and Franktown (then called Frank's Town), it was decided to locate a new courthouse here. Douglas County, a part of Colorado territory, had previously extended to the Kansas line and was included in Kansas territory. It was not until 1876 the Colorado became a state.

Into this primitive situation came Rev. C. A. Brooks on May 17, 1874, to preach the first sermon in Castle Rock. He preached in a carpenter shop and appropriately his text was Matthew 13:55: "is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And his brethren and James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?"



After the establishment of the Castle Rock circuit in August, Rev. Brooks returned as the first minister. He preached here every Sunday. Monthly services were held in Sedalia, Spring Valley, Hilltop, Glen Grove, Greenland, Parker, and Founders, some on Sunday afternoons or even on Saturday nights.

Rev. Brooks wrote in his report, "the religious condition of the circuit was terribly discouraging, but God was with us at some points and helped us in the work. At Castle Rock and Bear Canyon, Sunday schools and class meetings were put underway. In January of 1875 a protracted meeting at the former place, resulted in a number of conversions, both in and out of the church and seven accessions to our membership on probation and two by letter."

Mission: Why Do We Exist?

At Castle Rock First United Methodist Church we share the light and love of God within our community and beyond.



Vision:

Where are we going?

We live into our mission by creating diverse relationships, service and worship.

Big Rocks: Goals for 23/24

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

Prayer Request

If you have a prayer request you can go to

www.fumccr.org/prayer-request





Rev. Sarah's Space

Proverbs 19:8: *The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.*

This is the time of year when we watch as college students pack the car to head back to school. They are excited to start another year of learning and searching for knowledge. Younger students put on new school clothes and gather up their backpacks and head out the door for another year of learning and growing. It is a very exciting time, and perhaps it can be just a little scary. As adults who have finished their education, do we still include things in our daily schedule that help us be lifelong learners, things that help keep us open and growing?

The learning we are called to do in the Book of Proverbs takes place when we push ourselves to stretch. When people work on tasks that aren't entirely comfortable, they find opportunities for growth appear. Do you have a certain task that puts you in your learning zone? When do you

acquire new knowledge? When do you find opportunity to practice new skills? Where in your daily routine do you find opportunity for growth?

People spend 40 to 50 years in the workforce. Perhaps this will be in several work settings and include changes in occupations. A great deal of our waking hours are spent at work. Work has a huge impact on our health and wellbeing. As life-long learners it is important that we do what we love.

The goal of life-long learning demands of us that we make self-care a top priority. We grow best when we are paying attention to exercise, nutrition, sleep, and relaxation. We must find balance between what the world demands and what we need to be fully functional. It is at that place of balance that wisdom comes and our search for understanding is successful.

May you find your own path to life-long learning. Continue your search for knowledge and embrace the gifts of wisdom and love that it brings.

Blessings
Rev. Sarah



Pastor Matt's Space

email: matt.franks@fumccr.org

social media @mattdamethdoist

People plan their path, but the Lord secures their steps.
Proverbs 16:9 CEB

Proverbs 16:9 teaches us that while we make plans for our journey, it's ultimately the Lord who guides our steps. Often, our intentions take us on unexpected paths, especially evident in times like the COVID era, where the term "Pivot" has become integral to our lives. Embracing change can be beneficial if we maintain a spirit of flexibility by...

- **Embracing Openness:** Approach change with an open heart, an open mind, and open doors. Rather than seeing it as a disturbance, let's view it as a chance for personal development. God's designs often surpass our own, leading us to unforeseen opportunities.
- **Fostering Community Support:** As a united church community, we can stand by one another during life's transitions. By lending an empathetic ear, offering encouragement, and praying together, we can make the journey more manageable.
- **Walking in Faith:** When God calls for a change in direction, let's be prepared to step out in faith, even when it feels uncomfortable. Remember that the disciples left their familiar lives to follow Jesus, resulting in transformative changes.
- **Persevering:** Although navigating change can be demanding, persistence is vital. By keeping our focus on God's promises, we can continue progressing forward.

Whenever life demands a pivot, remember that God stands beside you and loves you through every twist and turn of the journey.

See You Sunday,
Pastor Matt

Worship Schedule Starting September 10th

9 a.m. Modern Worship

10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship



CASTLE ROCK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.fumccr.org



JOIN US

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



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

#RIDECAPTAINRIDE

REGISTER NOW



1:30 pm • 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 PaulsMysteryship.com



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

