



First Church Communicator
January 2024 Newsletter
Church Address: 1200 South Street
Castle Rock, Co 80104
Office Phone 303-688-3047
Office Email: office@fumccr.org
website: www.fumccr.org
Scan the qr code for all of our social media presence

BECOMING PEOPLE OF GOD EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERIES



Musical Celebration

Worship Times

Modern Worship 9 a.m.
Traditional Worship 10:45 a.m.

All Services Livestreamed on our
Facebook and Youtube Channel

Scan the QR code to link with
Castle Rock First United
Methodist Church.



Castle Rock
First United Methodist Church

On May 20th, 1874 - Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis received a U.S. patent for blue jeans with copper rivets. The price is \$13.50 per dozen.

The inaugural event of our church's
Sesquicentennial Celebration of Music
and Musicians on
January 21 at 10:45 a.m.

Soup and Salad Lunch after Worship

If you would like to share your gift of
music
Please fill out the form on the 150th
Website

www.fumccr.org/150thcelebration

The deadline to sign up is Jan. 14th

If you have an old hymnal, please
consider displaying it fill out the form
available at the Welcome Center and
place it with your hymnal. It will be
helpful if those hymnals can be brought
to the church office by January 18th.

Women's Christmas, January 6.

As a follow-up to the December 2 mini-retreat, those who participated in our Women's Christmas event are reminded that we'll gather again for a potluck lunch at 11:30 on January 6. Bring a dish to share as we engage in conversation on how we experienced Christmas this year.

Youth Valentines

Youth will once again be making and selling Valentines to encourage sharing our love and appreciation for others. Your support will help our youth's expenses for their June Mission Trip.

As an incentive, there will be a drawing for a very amazing Chocolate Lover's Basket. Your name goes in the drawing for each Valentine you purchase. Watch the blast for details concerning the Valentines.

History Photographs:

If you have any church-related photographs from 1974- present, please bring them to the church. There will be an envelope/file in the office for you to place them in. Please identify people, events, and dates if you have them. If you would like these photographs returned to you, please place them in your envelope and put a "return to" name on the envelope. Louise Molieri will be scanning these photos for our history book and slide shows beginning now and through the first few months of 2024.

Current Photos:

If you have any photos to share from Star Lighting, church scenes/events, or Small Group Dinners and Lunches, please send them digitally to Rev. Matt. We would like to include them in upcoming newsletters.

Helping with Our Church History:

The church's Sesquicentennial Committee is looking for help with updating the history records of our church for the anniversary celebration planned for next summer. Folks can work independently or with a partner on small segments of history. Please reach out to Laryce Nitsch if you have questions or would like to help.

Church Directory:

One of the nice things about the program we are using for the photo directory is that we can update it at any time. I would like to update it so we can print the updated adenum mid. January. If you have questions speak to Pastor Matt.

Event Reminders:

January 11: Leah Circle 11:45 am Fellowship Hall

January 18: Men's luncheon at Pegasus

January 21: One Worship Service, 10:45 am celebrating our Church's Music and Musicians
Dinner Following Service

February 14: Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m.

March 24: Palm Sunday

HOLY WEEK SERVICES TBD

March 31: Easter Sunday



The Tuesday Study Group was able to meet with our Advent Book Author Rev. Matt Rawle

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
or
Text GiveTo FUMCCR to 73256

Year to Date	November 2023
Revenues	\$ 160,128
Expenses	\$
Personnel	111,854
Conf Apportionment	15,270
Trustees	32,154
Church Office	6,119
All Other	4,427
Total Expenses	169,825
Net Total	<u>\$ (9,697)</u>

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.

Moments in CRFUMC History

Although the women's groups of our church have evolved over the past 150 years, they have always been a vital presence in our church history. From the 1974 history pamphlet, we read:

"In addition to numerous dinners and bazaars held, and cultural events sponsored, the activities of the women have ranged from wielding mops and paintbrushes to using their artistic skills in crafts and needlework. Individuals have contributed their talents by teaching Church School and Daily Vacation Bible School, doing clerical work, and taking part in the vocal and instrumental music for worship services and programs."

The Ladies' Aid formed in 1885 and began keeping records in 1888. Over the next 20 years, 119 members are listed in the record books of that time.

"Sociables" were held on holidays and on other occasions, at which games and such pastimes as sewing bees, apple-paring bees, spelldowns, and speaking pieces provided the entertainment. These social events were well attended since they were usually the only diversions of those days, other than neighborly visits and lodge meetings."

In the early years, **"Many custodial duties of the church were performed by the ladies before there were paid janitors, and a number of improvement and redecorating projects were undertaken [including] putting Christographs on church windows, cleaning the well at the parsonage, and helping pay for installing acetylene gas lights in the building. The society sometimes contributed to the salary of the pastor and paid bills for repairs to church property."**

Beginning in 1940, women's groups across the country embraced a new title: **Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS)**. In 1972-73, **The United Methodist Women (UMW)** came into being, followed by a new name in 2022, **United Women in Faith**.

Within the walls of our own church, various circles and small groups continued to support missions, participate in worship and Christian education, and create fellowship and support for one another. These groups have included circles for **Service, Worship, and Friendship** as well as the **Today Circle, the Morning Circle, and the Study Group**. Over the past 25 years, our women's groups have met as **Leah Circle and Love Circle**.



Photos From The Women's Retreat





Leah and Love Circles gathered for their Christmas potluck on December 14. It was an afternoon of delicious food, happy conversations, December birthday celebrations, and Christmas Carols sung with Geri Groves at the piano. Toys and birthday cake bags were collected and taken to Help and Hope.

VARIOUS PICTURES



The Chancel Choir Decked out for Christmas Sweater Sunday



The Bells Ringing



Praying during Young People's Moment in Modern Worship

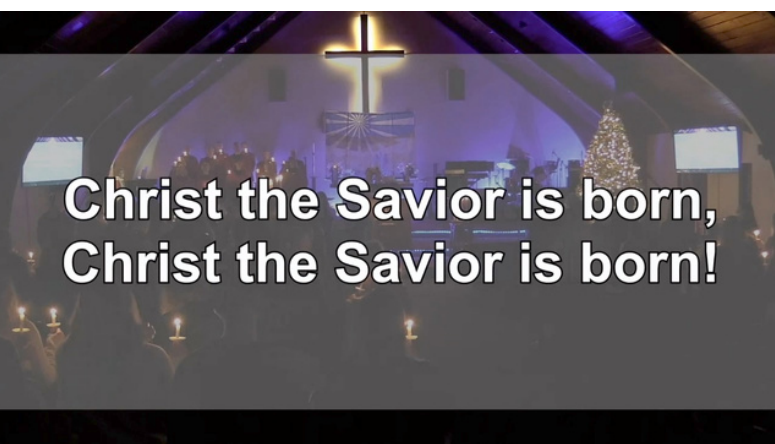
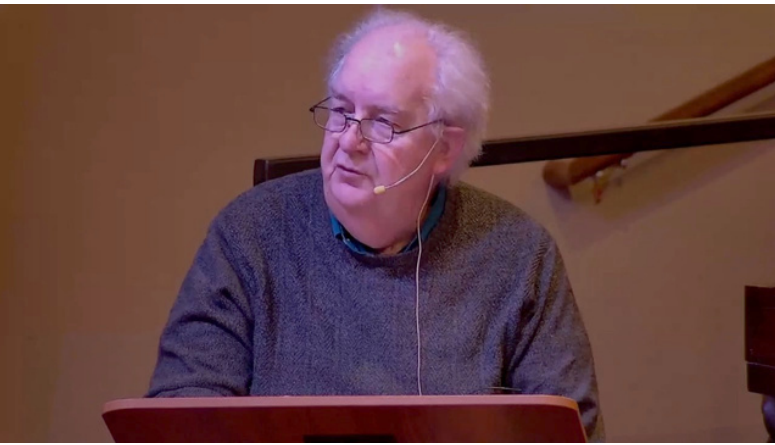


The Chancel Choir During Christmas Eve Worship



Colorado Brass in Worship

Pictures Below from Christmas Eve



Pictures Below from Dec. 31st Worship

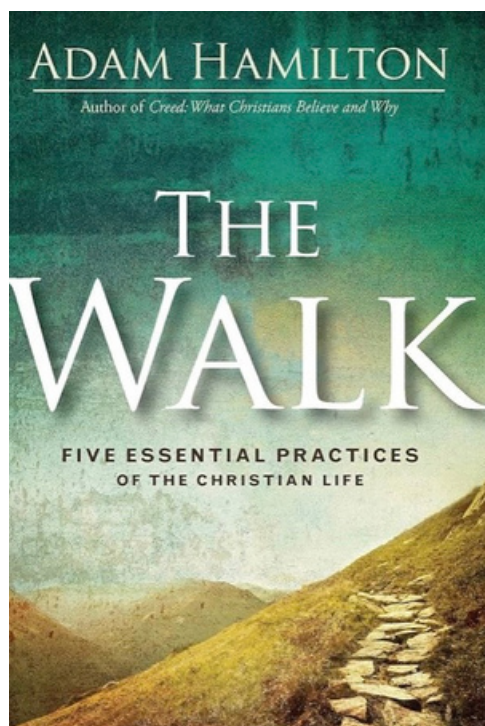


Tuesday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Begins Jan. 9th at 9:30 a.m.
a 6-week study of Adam Hamilton's
The Walk and welcomes anyone new
in search of a small group to discuss
scripture with us.

Deepen your walk with Christ as we
explore the five essential practices
of worship, study, serving, giving,
and bearing witness to our faith.

This book can be ordered from Thrift
Books, Amazon, Hoopla, or
Cokesbjury. Prices vary.



Next Contemporary issues book

Question Jesus Asked
A Six-week Study in the Gospels
Magrey R. DeVega

In Person Sessions, Mondays February 12,
2024 to March 25, 2024; 6:30PM to 8:30

Zoom Sessions, Fridays February 16, 2024 to
March 29, 2024; 6:30PM to 8:30PM

What does Jesus want to know about us?
Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of
which cut right to the heart of what it means
to be human. Why are you terrified? What do
you live for? Who do you say that I am? In
Questions Jesus Asked, author Magrey
deVega explores six of the most provocative
questions Jesus posed to others and guides
us in answering them for ourselves.

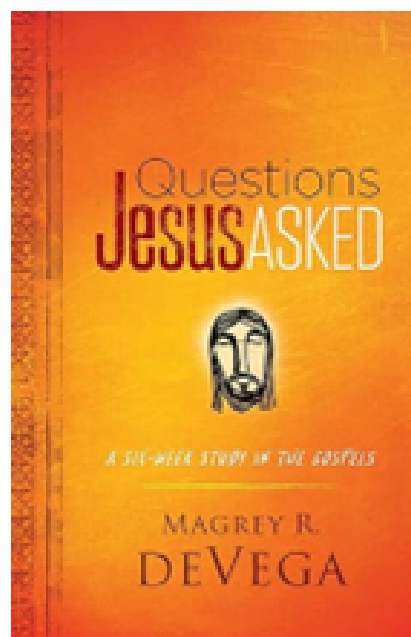
Asking these questions takes courage. Not
only do they reveal what Jesus really cares
about, they open a window into our hearts.
We all have questions for God, but growth
happens when we turn things around and ask
what Jesus wants to know about us. When we
dare to raise them, these questions bring us a
fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power,
and presence of God in our lives. Are you
willing to step out in faith? Are you ready to
answer the questions Jesus asked?

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY RETREAT May 3-5, 2024

The new location for our Women's Retreat is
Ponderosa Retreat Center in Larkspur
(15235 S. Furrow Road).

It's a beautiful location set among Ponderosa Pines
with
sleeping facilities and gathering spaces within the
same building.

An extra plus: a chef who presents wonderful meals!
Mark your calendar now!



Stephen Ministry

A Stephen Ministry Story

I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts. When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me. We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it.

Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too. After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended.

A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister. It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you. If you know someone who needs a Stephen Minister, contact the church office or call Maryalice McHugh, Lois Price, or Cheryl Smith

(Some details in this story have been changed to preserve confidentiality.)

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



Find out more info.

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

Prayer Request

If you have a prayer request you can go to

www.fumccr.org/prayer-request





Rev. Sarah's Space

email:

sms11@mindspring.com



And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."~Revelations 21:5 NRSV

As I start out the new year, I walk through the house making a list of work that is needed, those cracks that need to be patched areas that need to be organized. I take note of the rooms that need painting and the carpet that should be replaced. Perhaps to bring balance to this list I need to also go through the rooms of my life... not looking for flaws but for places that have potential.

Can the New Year's resolutions we make also guide us to focus on the positive areas of our life? Can staying positive be a guide into this new year? A guide that helps us see abundance and joys rather than just the low points?

We are reminded that this work is done with the help of a God who wipes away tears and is our loving guide through the pain and grief that comes our way in life. One who can provide strength when we feel weak. A source that is making all things new in our lives if we open our hearts and take the time to listen.

May this year bring good things your way and may God's presence make all things new for you in the days ahead.

Blessings

Rev. Sarah

Oh God, thank You for making all things new! As another new year begins, help me live each day for You. May I continually have a new song in my heart to sing to You, no matter what comes my way. I trust in You because I know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of me will take You by surprise. Amen



PASTOR MATT'S SPACE

email: matt.franks@fumccr.org
social media @mattdamethdoist



Did You Know?

You can find a brief history of the UMC on this website:

<https://bit.ly/3vk9Gh7>

I am still updating my Amazon Book List for suggestions to read. You can find that here:

<http://a.co/9fQNdWz>

The Season of Lent Begins February 14th here are the events know to this point.

February 14:
Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m.
There will be a downtown lenten gathering in the morning. More info to come.

March 24: Palm Sunday

HOLY WEEK SERVICES TBD

March 31: Easter Sunday

Be Still and Know God.
~Psalm 46:10

Phew, friend! Give yourself a pat on the back! We made it through the rollercoaster of holiday madness! The hype, the rush, the shindigs - all wrapped up and done with!

Here's a gentle reminder to take a breather for a moment and connect with God. The words from the Psalm are some that I rely on when life gets too crazy.

Pausing and being still lets us look back and ponder on what we've been through. But, we can't let those experiences hold us back. We need to let the good Lord take the wheel and guide us forward. Our community and the world need us to be the shining beacons of God's love and light!

Now, let's get excited about all the fantastic things lined up for us this year, from the 150th Celebrations to Lent. I am thrilled to share the joy and love of God with you, our community, and even beyond.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Matt



WE Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



One of my favorite parts about Christmas Eve



It was good for the Bishop to visit us during our Blue Christmas Service