



First Church Communicator

June 2024 Newsletter

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Scan the qr code for all of our social media presence

Methodist On A Mission

June 22 Service Project - Volunteers are needed Saturday, June 22 for our all-Church Food Drive for Help and Hope, in particular for greeters at the Highlands Ranch King Sooners. If you can help, please sign-up at the Welcome Center. More complete details will appear in the June newsletters. Chairperson Phyllis Tumey (ptumey43@gmail.com) will graciously answer any questions you may have.



Sesquicentennial Teeshirt Orders

If you ordered teeshirts on History Night (April 17), either in person or via email, they will be ready for pickup on Sunday, June 2 between services. Joyce Morales-Caramella asks that you have your payment ready (cash or check). If you have already received your teeshirt but have yet to pay for it, please do so on Sunday, June 2. If you missed ordering one, when we have an order for ten more, we'll place an additional order this summer. Thanks yo all who have purchased a teeshirt and worn it to promote our celebration in the community.



**Pictures from Prison Backpack work.
Thank you for all your support.**



Dates and Things To Know



Who can resist the siren call of Ice Cream, Ice Cream! It's a full-on ice cream fiesta! If you've got an ice cream-making contraption and a generous spirit, we need your magical touch to whip up some delicious scoops for our July 7 Old Time Ice Cream Social!

Drop your name at the welcome center to join the sweet squad. For any brain freeze moments, our ice cream social gurus Lisa and Rose are here to scoop up your questions!

Quilts and Old Photos

Do you have old family photos or an heirloom quilt you'd like to have on display as we celebrate our Sesquicentennial in August? The kiosk at the back of the church already contains photos from previous historical celebrations, but we'll be adding more as we move through the summer months. We'll make copies of these precious photos and return them to you. See Linda Pottenger or Julie Bailey for more details. Your ancestors may not have settled in Douglas County before or since statehood, but their lives somehow initiated your journey to our church.

June 20-23rd

Mountain Sky Annual Conference in Casper, Wyoming

June 23rd Laity Sunday

This Sunday some of our Laity will lead the worship service.

June 27th

Administrative Council 6:30 p.m.

July 7th One Worship Service 150th Ice Cream Social Celebration

July 10th-13th

Western Jurisdiction Conference

July 28th,

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

10 a.m. Brunch Church

Brunch Church: This would be the Summer alternative to our Modern Service. This service would be held in the fellowship hall with tables set up in a way that would provide a space to eat, fellowship, and worship together. If you want to help with Brunch Church let Pastor Matt know.

August 25th 150th

Worship Celebration One Service at 10 a.m.
Potluck to follow

September 1st Last Sunday Outdoors

Blessing of the Animals at 8:30 a.m. Service & Brunch Church at 10 a.m.

**The History Night video can still be viewed on our YouTube Channel.
If you would like a copy, please let Pastor Matt know.**

A Sesquicentennial Summer

There is something for everyone as we move into the summer season celebrating the 150th year of our church. Even our building has donned a new “dress” with her newly painted walls and new carpeting. The Outdoor Chapel has been refreshed and the surrounding landscape is sprinkled with spring flowers that will soon give way to the hearty blossoms of summer. Our commitment to service, fellowship and worship is ongoing, but this summer, we have three opportunities to come together as we stay in love with God.

We still need a few volunteers to help with the collection of food for our local Help and Hope Center on June 22. Three King Soopers locations (Ridge Road, Castle Pines, and Highlands Ranch) provide the space, and Help and Hope the list of food items to be requested as shoppers pass through their doors. Volunteers are encouraged to wear the sesquicentennial teeshirt and sunscreen and to bring a portable chair and a bottle of water for their two-hour shift.

Next up will be the Old Time Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 7, complete with a lunch of hot dogs, chips, drinks, and several tasty options of ice cream following the 10 am worship service. There will be games and contests for the young folks and a quilt display in the Sanctuary. You may take a place around the table and tie knots with the Knot Again quilters as they prepare a blanket for their ongoing project. Watch for details in the July newsletter and our regular communication spots.

We will once again be providing water bottles to the Douglas County Fair parade watchers on Saturday morning, July 27. Volunteers (encouraged once again to wear the commemorative teeshirt) will be needed to prepare the bottles ahead of time and to distribute them along the parade route. Both activities promise a time of fellowship and outreach.

On August 25 we will honor the church founding with a rededication worship service at 10am. This is a date close to the origin of FUMC-CR: 150 years ago, 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. We will honor the day by inviting district leadership and former members to join in the celebration. Post cards will be available for members to invite their family, friends, and neighbors. A community pot luck follows this service.

August 25 is also the target date for completing the updated history of FUMC-CR, being gathered and compiled so thoroughly by Laryce Nitsch and her history committee (Donna Murray, Brenda Ryan, Marcia Noble, Joe Gschwendtner and Theresa Packard). While a booklet of the first hundred years already exists, the new booklet will cover church history from 1974-2024.

But wait! There’s more! Moving into the fall, all groups within the church, from Little Blessings and Community Kids to youth and adult, will be involved with our “Star Project,” decorating small stars to hang on a tree in Festival Park at the Annual Star Lighting in November. We’ll even have a table ready at the ice cream social to inaugurate this project.

But wait, there’s even more! Photographs! Our needs here are two-fold. We want as many photographs from this year’s events as possible – not just these special events, but the seasonal celebrations of Easter, Advent, Christmas, and activities like the Youth Mission Trip, Time and Talent, small group dinners, and other outreach and mission projects. A book containing a pictorial history of our sesquicentennial is being planned for January of 2025. It will sit alongside our printed updated of the past 50 years of our church, a visual reminder of who we were in 2024 as we move forward as a church. When you take photographs during these events, please share your best with our sesquicentennial team.

Secondly, we would love to have you share any photographs of your ancestors, whether they were pioneer settlers in the territory or not. Each of us has traveled various routes to come into this particular community of faith. Your ancestors paved the way for you to be here now. We’d like to add these photos to the history kiosk that sits at the back of the sanctuary and keep them up through All Saints Day. We will copy your photo and post the copy for all to see, returning the original to you undamaged. Simply place your photo(s) in a protective envelope with your name and a brief description of those in there photo and leave it at the church office, or you may scan your photo and send it to Julie Bailey at juliesings@gmail.com. The roots of our church family tree reach far and wide.

The Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, as you can see, has been busy, but we could not present these events without the support of all who have volunteered. Check with Pastor Matt or Julie Bailey if you have ideas you’d like to share or projects you’d like to participate in.

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

Are you struggling with your faith? Has life's everyday ups and downs getting to be overwhelming? Are you grieving the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, or facing an empty nest? Our church lovingly provides a Stephen Minister prayerfully chosen for you.

Having a Stephen Minister to walk alongside means you will have a listening ear. Your Stephen Minister wants you to feel understood, valued, believed, encouraged, accepted, cared for, and not alone.

Having a Stephen Minister means you can be assured of complete confidentiality. We are trained to listen and to judge or give advice. We will pray for you and with you as you need. A Stephen Minister with a short time or however long you need us.

Please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Matt or Rev. Sarah if you have a need.

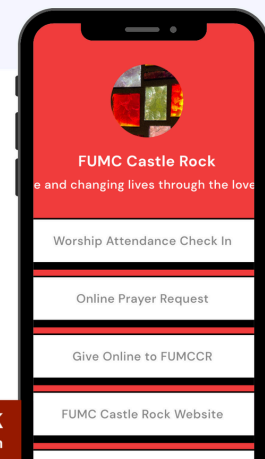
Prayer Request

If you have a prayer request you can go to

www.fumccr.org/prayer-request



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



Castle Rock
First United Methodist Church



Rev. Sarah's Space

email:

sms11@mindspring.com



**“He made the great lights—His loving devotion endures forever;
the sun to rule the day—His loving devotion endures forever.”**

Psalm 136:7-8

As you share your light in this early summertime, notice how your light wants to expand and follow its lead. When you smile at others or invite them to do something fun, they also feel inspired and come alive. It is helpful to others to spend time with them doing absolutely nothing or even something simple. Having a good conversation, laughing as you sit in a park, or walking down a dirt road are simple yet profound ways to feed your soul this summer. Remember, the more you awaken your own ability to expand your light by being excited, passionate, fun, and playful, the more you remind others how to also enjoy life. Permit yourself and invite the good times in.

Your intention has great power and now that you see your projects started at the beginning of the year coming to life, you see you are connected to God who created the universe. Take notice of God's presence in your life and how the one who created you and the world around you conspires to help you. Keep yourself in a positive state, expect good things to come your way, and be ready to try new things. If you find yourself feeling negative, come back to this meditation or focus on what you're grateful for in your life. You begin to discover that you can experience wonder and joy all summer long.

May this summer bring many blessings your way.



PASTOR MATT'S SPACE

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



As we start our six weeks looking at the Gospel of Mark I was reading Mark 1:40-45 CEB

“A man with a skin disease approached Jesus, fell to his knees, and begged, “If you want, you can make me clean.” Incensed, Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do want to. Be clean.” Instantly, the skin disease left him, and he was clean. Sternly, Jesus sent him away, saying, “Don’t say anything to anyone. Instead, go and show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifice for your cleansing that Moses commanded. This will be a testimony to them.” Instead, he went out and started talking freely and spreading the news so that Jesus wasn’t able to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, but people came to him from everywhere.”

~<https://bible.com/bible/37/mrk.1.40-45.CEB>

I always like to ask myself what can I learn from this reading? Here are three things that perked up for me.

- **Compassion over convention:** In Jesus' day, touching a person with a skin disease was taboo, as it rendered one ritually unclean. In the scripture we noticed that Jesus prioritizes compassion over convention, demonstrating that love and human dignity transcend societal and religious boundaries. Has there been a situation where you have shown compassion in the last week?
- **Spreading the Good News:** The healed man can't contain his joy and spreads the news of his healing. Similarly, we are invited to share the transformative power of God's love and justice with the world. In doing so, we share the love and light of God with our community and beyond. When was the last time you shared your faith with someone?
- **More than healing:** The story of Jesus healing a man with a skin disease is more than a miracle; it is a call to action. It challenges us to embody radical compassion, break down barriers of exclusion, and actively engage in the healing and transformation of our world. Could you imagine if Jesus did not heal the man or if the man did not share his healing?

Notice the cost of Jesus caring for the man meant that he could not enter towns unnoticed from this point on, yet people still sought him out for healing and teaching. Was it worth it, I think so...

Single Board Governance Model

Dan Hotchkiss in his book *Governance and Ministry* wrote: “*Governance is holding the whole institution and its work in trust, voicing its intentions, and taking responsibility for its performance. Ministry is the rest of what a congregation does—the daily work of building a community, managing resources, and transforming lives.*”

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development has approved a plan to adjust our governance structure to what is known as a single-board model. There is a copy of the proposed plan on the Website under the Virtual Office.

The single-board model helps with transparency and accountability. I have experienced it in my last two churches and have found the structure very healthy for churches to function. It was the change in the Single Board that helped the Tahlequah Church pivot when COVID hit. In essence, it will be like a non-profit board. We will still have a space for the personal team to operate in the fashion of the SPRC. I am working on a date to have a town hall meeting about this change.

What About the General Conference?

This website <https://bit.ly/4c2Z8mS> has a good list of what passed and when it goes into effect. I will host a Zoom meeting on **June 26th at 6 p.m.**

Upcoming Celebrations of Life

June 29: Lois Burgener at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

July 3rd: Phil Ferguson at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

July 17: Betty Grant 11 am in the Sanctuary

Pledge Cards: Please return your pledge cards to the office ASAP this will help us craft a budget for the 2024-2025 Program year. You can find the cards on the registration desk in the sanctuary. You can also email [Theresa](#) your commitment for the year as well.

Fun with Music: Summer Pop-Up Choir: During the traditional services at 8:30 am this summer, you're invited to “pop in” at 8 am in the choir room to run through the hymns before the service begins. It's going to be a fun summer of sweet and simple old hymns. If you're a musician/singer who would like to share your talent in a solo or duet, please let Nancy Docksey or Rev. Matt know ahead of time.

Thank you

As year two is winding down, thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. I have enjoyed being your Pastor this last year and looking forward to our next year together as we share God's light and love with our community and beyond.

Peace and love light your way,
Pastor Matt Franks



From Bishop Karen Oliveto



May 30, 2024

To the members of the Mountain Sky Conference,

On May 30, 2024, former President Donald Trump was found guilty in a legal case of falsifying business records to influence the outcome of the 2016 election. It is the first time in the history of the United States that a president has been convicted of a crime. The jury's decision will undoubtedly further highlight the political divide that has fractured our nation in recent years. Its impact will be felt in our communities and in our relationships with co-workers, friends, and family.

In a nation where civility is already in short supply, what are we who follow Jesus called to model? What values shall we embody that can offer a healing witness in the face of such brokenness? What words shall we speak, what actions shall we take?

Jesus calls us to a life of love. Love is not an easy out. In fact, it is the hardest work we can undertake. Love invites us to enter into relationships of mutual accountability. When others disappoint us--when we disappoint ourselves--love keeps us moving in the direction of repentance and reconciliation. Love calls us to remain openhearted to those who have transgressed. Love always leads to greater justice, deeper wholeness, and healthier communities.

How we live in response to former President Trump's conviction can either strengthen integrity, service, and the democratic foundation of this country, or it can further erode it.

Heed these words from Galatians 6: 1-2:

"My siblings, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

In a world that defaults to simple soundbites, easy answers, and divisive politics, may we in the Mountain Sky Conference bear witness to the God who perfects us through Love. In the face of the complexities of our current age, may we remember that we are followers of the Prince of Peace, who invites us all into a life of Love.

It is the only pathway that can lead us all to Beloved Community.

Blessings,
Bishop Karen P. Oliveto

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS

A daily practice of Castle Rock FUMC

For the next month. Incorporate this practice into your daily spiritual routine.

1st Step: Begin with Prayer

Holy Spirit, as I read the scripture reading today may it speak to me and through me as I am attentive to the scriptures. Amen.

2nd Step: Daily Readings from the Gospel of Mark

Week One

May 27th: 1:1-28

May 28th: 1:29-45

May 29th: 2

May 30th: 3

May 31st: 4

Week Two

June 3rd: 5:1-20

June 4th: 5:21-43

June 5th: 6:1-29

June 6th: 6:30-56

June 7th: 7

Week Three

June 10th: 8-9:1

June 11th: 9:2-29

June 12th: 9:30-50

June 13th: 10:1-34

June 14th: 10:34-52

Week Four

June 17th: 11:1-11

June 18th: 11:12-33

June 19th: 12:1-17

June 20th: 12:18-27

June 21st: 12:28-44

Week Five

June 17th: 13:1-4

June 18th: 13:5-27

June 19th: 13:28-36

June 20th: 14:1-31

June 21st: 14:32-72

Week Six

June 24th: 15:1-15

June 25th: 15:16-47

June 26th: 16:1-8

June 27th: 16:1-9

June 28th: 16:1-19

3rd Step: Reflect

Use the questions below as prompts to reflect on.

Action in the Face of Jesus: Many passages in Mark depict Jesus' powerful actions and teachings. Today, in Mark (Chapter # you just read), what did Jesus do or say that struck you? How does this action or teaching challenge you to act differently in your own life?

Seeing Through New Eyes: Mark's Gospel is known for its fast pace and vivid descriptions. Today, in Mark (Chapter # you just read), was there a particular detail, character, or event that stood out to you? What new perspective does this detail offer on the story or Jesus' message?

Relevance in a Modern World: The Gospel of Mark was written for a specific audience, but its message remains timeless. Today, in Mark (Chapter # you just read), is there a particular teaching or story that feels relevant to your life today? How can this message from the past be applied to the challenges of the modern world?