

# 150



150 YEARS 1874-2024

## First Church Communicator

### March Newsletter

Church Address: 1200 South Street  
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Scan the qr code for all of our social media presence



## Holy Week

MARCH 24

Palm Sunday During Both Services

March 27th

Online Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.

March 29th

Good Friday at 6:30 p.m.



Castle Rock  
First United Methodist Church

## EASTER MARCH 31ST

6:30 A.M. SUNRISE SERVICE

9 A.M. MODERN SERVICE

10:45 A.M. TRADITIONAL SERVICE



Castle Rock  
First United Methodist Church

### Volunteer Opportunities in Hospitality: Usher

If you are interested in serving as an usher, please sign up at the Welcome desk. There will be a training meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 pm as well as follow-up information for those unable to attend.



### 2024 Backpack Ministry

On Sunday, April 14th, there will be an opportunity for our Church family to participate in our backpack ministry program. Our backpack ministry program responds to Christ's concern for prisoners (Matthew 25: 36, 39, 43). At this time, our Church is the only organization that provides backpacks to indigent men and women being released from the Douglas County Detention Center.

Prison ministry goes back to the beginning of Methodism. Eight years before John Wesley's heart-warming experience of God's grace on Aldersgate Street, he had already begun practicing acts of mercy as an essential part of faith. One of his acts of mercy was to visit prison five days a week.

When Mike Vitek informed Kenny Teague, Minister at the Douglas County Sheriff Detention Center, that our Church was going to do our Backpack Ministry again this year, he asked Mike to thank the members for this ministry and to let them know how much the Detention Center staff appreciate it.

After consultation with Kenny, we want to provide 48 backpacks (36 for men and 12 for women). We purchase the backpacks and then fill them with a wide variety of personal items, such as toothbrush, toothpaste, socks, towel washcloth, razor, socks, wallet, and other personal items. There is also devotional material in each backpack to help these men and women get their life on track with spiritual help.

Please stop by the table in the narthex and choose a card listing an item or items to be purchased or give a cash donation for the purchase of the backpacks and/or the needed supplies and toiletries. The supplies for the backpacks need to be returned to the Church by Sunday, Math 5th.

## Adult Ed, Discipleship, and the Opportunity to become a “VIPP”

Throughout the year, but especially during Advent and Lent, many adults in our church are called to be a part of a discussion group, to study Scripture more closely, to discuss contemporary issues confronting us, and to grow as disciples of Christ. Our Monday evening, Tuesday morning, and Friday evening groups provide varied opportunities for spiritual growth.

But is that all there is for the adults in our community?

The six practices of discipleship call us to worship, serve, give, learn, and pray, and play. We do a great job of 5 of these practices, and our small group dinner/lunch groups have been re-introduced to increase socialization beyond our church doors. Breaking bread together over dinners originating at the Time and Talent Auction likewise provide an opportunity to relax and enjoy learning more about each other.

Following the Administrative Council’s discussion of *Fresh Expressions of People over Property* by Audrey Warren & Kenneth H. Carter (Abingdon Press, 2020), the leaders of our adult ed groups discussed some ways to gather outside the walls of 1200 South Street and in more casual ways. Individual leadership would arise from those interested in a particular one-time activity — no year-long commitment to a study group or chairmanship. We talked about outdoor events, museum excursions, community concerts, and day trips. Leadership for such activities would be a **one-time commitment** on the part of a single person or couple. That person would become a “point person” or a V.I.P.P — **Very Important Point Person**.

## Healthy Plate of Discipleship



WAYS TO LINK INTO CASTLE ROCK  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

If you are interested in participating in any of the events listed below, perhaps you could be the VIPP for that event. You would schedule the date and time, consider the options of car-pooling or using the church bus, and coordinate with the person at the park or venue.

*Here are just a few possibilities:*

Places & special events: Chuck Wagon Supper at the Flying W in Colorado Springs, wine tasting at the Carboy Winery in Littleton, the Denver Art Museum, Colorado History Museum, Lone Tree Arts Center, PACE in Parker; a day trip to Sand Creek, author events at the DC Library, tours of the Castle at Cherokee Ranch, the Hammond Candy Factory, the Rambler Ranch in Elizabeth.

Outdoor Events: hiking at Castlewood Canyon, Roxborough Park, or any of the many trails in and around Castle Rock; community concerts at Festival Park or the Miller Amphitheater, the Indian Paint Mines near Calhan, Hudson Gardens, Garden of the Gods, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Fourth of July in Monument, an aspen-viewing trip in September.

Based on the success of last year’s game night, our youth will be sponsoring a second round in Fellowship Hall. Watch the Wednesday Blast for details. Be sure to save the date of July 7th for the all-church, “old time” ice cream social, part of our Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Building relationships within our congregation and within the larger community of our town reinforces the power and purpose of leading a Christ-centered life. Contact Rev. Matt if you would like to be the VIPP for any one of these events or similar outings.



People sharing ideas in our Mission Committee meeting.

## Get To Know UMCOR

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, **the United Methodist Committee on Relief – UMCOR** – assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

Find out more by going to <https://umcmission.org/umcor/>

## **WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY RETREAT** **May 3-5, 2024**

Sign-ups are now available at the Welcome Center for this year's **Women's Spirituality Retreat, *When Change Comes Knocking at the Door***. The cost is \$140 which includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. The retreat will begin with dinner Friday evening and conclude after worship on Sunday. Led by Revs. Sarah and Brenda, the retreat will be held at Ponderosa Retreat Center in Larkspur. Let's match the attendance we had a few years ago at the Mother Cabrini Retreat Center.



## **Volunteer for Our** **Sesquicentennial Service Project**

As part of the special events our Steering Committee has planned for the church's 150th anniversary, our all-church service project is only 3 months away. You'll want to wear your commemorative church t-shirt on **Saturday, June 15**, when we help fill the food pantry at Help & Hope. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour shifts greeting shoppers at King Soopers, transporting food to Help & Hope, and sorting and shelving food at Help & Hope. Watch for the sign-up sheet at the welcome center and check with Phyllis Tumey ([ptumey43@gmail.com](mailto:ptumey43@gmail.com)) if you have questions.

## Moments in Methodist History

Be sure to save the **April 17 date for “History Night at CR-FUMC,”** and bring friends to learn more about our local history and how the Methodist movement arrived in Colorado.

Before our founding in 1874, Methodists were already establishing churches in the Colorado Territory mountain towns, sending out circuit riders to deliver the Gospel. Our connection to the lovely little country church south of Sedalia on 105, St. Philip in the Field Episcopal, is an interesting one.

“In 1872 trustees of the newly formed Bear Canyon Methodist congregation, commissioned Newton S. Grout, a former drummer boy for the Union Army, to construct this first church of Douglas County. Grout chose to model it after his childhood memories of New England churches, particularly one he frequented in Maine. With volunteer labor and money, construction of the outside of the church was quickly achieved, but a lack of funds prevented completion of the inside. Nonetheless, the church opened that same year furnished with pews of plank, supported by boxes, and was used by various faiths.

“In 1884 long-delayed plans for completion of the interior began, but these efforts were again thwarted when a man posing as a Methodist minister disappeared with most of the money fundraisers had collected. In 1886 Bishop Reverend William Spaulding of the Episcopalian Diocese of Colorado, traded Saint Mark’s Church in Bergen Park for the unfinished church in Bear Canyon. Funds were immediately raised for a complete renovation of the church, and William Curtis and John Harris were hired to supervise the construction.

“Christened the church of Saint Philip in the Field after an event in the life of Saint Philip, the church held its opening services on December 23, 1888. It was further honored on April 11, 1973, by becoming by being entered on the National Register of Historic Places and is still in use as an Episcopal church.”

(Source: *Fading Past: the Story of Douglas County, Colorado*, by Susan Concola Appleby, 2001.)



## Castle Rock First United Methodist Church

# History Night

## April 17th at 6:30 p.m.

in the CRFUMC Fellowship Hall

Desserts and Beverages will be served

Come learn more about our Methodist roots  
and the people who settled in our county  
and town in the late Nineteenth Century

Featured Speakers: John Berry,  
Joe Gschwendtner, Rev. Matt Franks

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



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

Find out more info.

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

## **Stephen Ministry**

by Clarence Neal

As I was discerning (praying for God's guidance) about what to write for this month's Stephen Ministers article, I was listening to my Bible in One Year app by Nicky and Pippa Gumbel. I had been discerning whether to write about one of the books we are studying for our continuing education session of each meeting, or the new book I was just gifted dealing with the lost art of listening. I will save those ideas for a future article.

Today's reading was dealing with "Intimate Friendship". Nicky has been using the Book of Job for the last several days and today's session referenced Job 25:1-29:25. In her "Pippa adds" section Pippa said, "We all want to comfort our friends when they are in need, and at least Job's friends went to him. Sometimes, in our desperation to try and understand their suffering or to help, we say things that aren't helpful at all! It is very difficult to know how to help someone when they are facing something really terrible.

Some people get it absolutely right, but often the best thing we can do is to often just listen, be there and pray." When I heard that last phrase, I said "thank you God, that's it". That is what Stephen Ministers do, we just listen and pray. We don't try to solve anything; we just listen, be there and pray for our care receivers.

If you, or anyone you know, need a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Matt, Rev. Sarah or any of our Stephen leaders.

You can also find the Videos that the Stephen Ministers put together here: <https://bit.ly/4bY4gt3>



## ***Finding peace in the midst of life's storms***

**By Rev. Sarah**

Where is it that we find peace in the midst of life's storms? Perhaps we have come to think peace is when the kids are in bed, the house is clean and quiet, and our favorite movie is on for the evening, but that is not peace, that's calm.

The disciples became angry and impatient with Jesus being able to sleep in the back of the boat when a storm had come and put them in great danger. How was it possible for Jesus to do that? He knew that God was with them and had faith that the small boat would make it to safety.

How do you respond with the storms of life that flare up in life? Do you try with all your might to hold on to control? Do you try to resolve the situation according to how you think it should be resolved? Jesus calls us to have faith and in those times turn things over to God. This is truly a letting go. This isn't like we sometimes are tempted to do. It does not mean that we let go with one hand and take the situation back with the other.

As we make our way through this Lenten season may we reflect on ways we can let go and let God. May we welcome the presence of God with us as we weather storms and challenging times. May we find that place of safety and peace, thanks be to God.

# ***New Beginnings Reflection***

**By Pastor Matt**

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This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

This excerpt features the opening verse from hymn #383 "This Is the Day of New Beginnings," which sets an exciting tone for Easter with the idea of a fresh start emerging from the tomb. As Easter approaches, here are three reflective questions for you:

- What new beginnings are on your horizon?
- What pain do you need to release to God?
- What are you open to receiving through love?
  
- May this month bring you closer to experiencing the love of God.

**Peace be with you,**

**MF**

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## **New Membership Class on April 7th at 6 p.m.**

If you're new to the United Methodist Church or Castle Rock FUMC and want to learn more, join me for a New Membership class starting April 7th at 6 p.m. at the Church. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or reach out with any questions via email at [matt.franks@fumccr.org](mailto:matt.franks@fumccr.org).

## **Significant Events in the Methodist Church:**

This year is crucial for the United Methodist Church, with three major meetings ahead. I will host a gathering on **April 21st at 2 p.m.** to pray and discuss the upcoming events. Here are the key dates:

- April 23 – May 3, 2024: UMC General Conference
- June 20-23, 2024: Mountain Sky Annual Conference in Casper, Wyoming
- July 10-13, 2024: Western Jurisdictional Conference

## 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](http://www.fumccr.org/give)  
or  
Text GiveTo FUMCCR to  
73256

Year to Date	January 2024
Revenues	\$ <u>248,973</u>
Expenses	\$
Personnel	156,091
Conf Apportionment	25,626
Trustees	49,084
Church Office	9,208
All Other	6,013
Total Expenses	\$ <u>246,022</u>
Net Total	\$ <u>2,951</u>

## Upcoming Events

- March 10: Begin Daylight Savings Time — “Spring Forward!”
  - March 12: Usher Meeting, 6:30 pm
  - March 14: Leah. Circle Luncheon, 11:45 (sack lunch)
  - March 21: Men’s Luncheon at Pegasus, 11:30
  - March 24: Palm Sunday
  - March 29: Good Friday Worship at 6:30 p.m.
  - March 31: Easter Sunday
  - April 14: Backpack Ministry Begins
  - April 17at 6:30 p.m.: Sesquicentennial History Night with speakers and dessert
  - April 23-May 3<sup>rd</sup> UMC General Conference May 3-5: Women’s Retreat;
  - May 5: Backpack Ministry Concludes
  - June 20-23<sup>rd</sup> Mountain Sky Annual Conference in Casper Wyoming
  - July 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Western Jurisdictional Conference
  - July 7: Sesquicentennial “Old Time Ice Cream Social”
  - August 25, 2024: Sesquicentennial Special Worship Service celebrating FUMC 150th Year in Castle Rock
- Looking for contact information** for your church friends?  
Go to [members.InstantChurchDirector.com](http://members.InstantChurchDirector.com). You can also edit your own profile on this site. To Access this information you must be in the system. If you have log-in issues reach out to Pastor Matt at [matt.franks@fumccr.org](mailto:matt.franks@fumccr.org)

## 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.