



First Church Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church,
Castle Rock, Colorado
1200 South Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104
February 2023 Edition



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sins before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Holy Communion will be served and all are welcome to join us for this experience. More Ash Wednesday Info in Pastor Matt's article.

6:30 p.m. Feb. 22nd

Knot Again Group

Knot Again will meet on Wednesday, February 1 & 15th, from 6 pm to 8:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Anyone that can make a knot is welcome to join us. Those with really good eyesight thread the needles for all. We always have great conversations. This group welcomes donations of

- regular thread for the sewing machine - any and all colors are accepted.
- blankets of any size and shape, can have a hole or 2 and still be useful for us
- old sheets (all sizes) we have found very useful to use on the inside of quilts can be thin but maybe not have actual holes.
- material - again any excess from sewers, maybe not super small pieces from ACTUAL quilters as these are time-consuming for me to sew together.

If you are interested in connecting with this ministry, please call
Kari Sorah 717-817-3991



Souper Bowl Food Drive

The Missions Team is sponsoring their "Souper Bowl" Food Drive on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th. We are looking for donations primarily of canned soup, chili, and other non-perishable food items. These donations will be given to the Help & Hope Center in Castle Rock to benefit those in need in our community.




SCAN QR CODE TO
CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

Connect With CRFUMC

 firstchurchcr@gmail.com

 www.fumccr.org

 (303) 688-3047

 1200 South St, Castle Rock, CO 80104

A background image of a stained glass window with various colored panes in shades of red, blue, yellow, and purple.

CRFUMC Worship Times
9 a.m. Modern Worship
10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
For more info about CRFUMC
go to fumccr.org

A graphic of a scroll with a dark red background and a light beige scroll itself, held by two white rings.

*The Upper Room is available
at the Welcome Center.*

First Church Communicator March Newsletter

Please note that the March newsletter will be published earlier than normal on February 23. If you have articles or photos you wish to have included, please submit them no later than February 20.

**Don't forget
to hit like or
share on
our social
media post.**



Youth Ministries February Events!

Sunday, February 5th

8:30am-10:30am

Mission Possible

Thursday, February 23rd

6:00pm-8:00pm

Matilda @ DCHS





Pastor Matt's Space

email: matt.franks@fumccr.org

social media @mattdamethdoist

Psalm 51 is sometimes used as a confessional liturgy during the season of Lent. Confession with God helps us let go of those things that are holding us back from a closer relationship with God. This is one of the reasons why I love the season of Lent. It calls us to recenter our lives, to let go of those things that are holding us back.

What is Lent? The United Methodist Book of Worship tells us that Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.

We all have something that we need to confess to God. How do we begin to confess to God? Start with Psalm 51:1a

"Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!" ~Psalm 51:1a (CEB)

As we prepare for Easter during the season of Lent I invite you to center yourself with the Lord's Prayer daily. Set an alarm to pray it, not just say it. This can be a prayer of confession and prayer that leads you closer to God.

Hip Replacement Surgery Update: I am hoping to have left hip replacement surgery on Feb. 27th in Tulsa. I will be staying with family while I recover and hope to be back within two weeks of surgery. Ashley will stay with me for a couple of days while I recover and then come back to Castle Rock later in the week. I will be available via email or text after March 6th.

What Am I Reading? I have an Amazon Idea List for books I like to suggest you can find that here:

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

- *Start with Hello: (And Other Simple Ways to Live as Neighbors)* by Shannan Martin
- *Gather Us In: Leading Transformational Small Groups* by Angela D. Schaffner
- *Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life* by Stanley Hauerwas & William H. Willimon

Mission, Vision, Plan: Below Are the Mission and Vision Statements the Ad. Council discerned on the 29th of Jan. on the next page you will find our Big Rocks graphic. We will have time for the congregation to respond to this in March.

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 do this through diverse relationships, service and worship.



Reflection on the Recalculation Meeting: Mission, Vision, Goals By Kari Sorah

On Sunday, Jan 29th we had an Administrative Council Meeting. Pastor Matt had emailed us all asking us to answer 3 questions.

1. **“Mission”** answers the questions why do we exist? If you had to answer why does CRFUMC exist what would be your one sentence answer?
2. **“Vision”** answers the question where are we going? Where would you like to see the Church go in response to the mission statement you wrote?
3. **What three "big rocks" would you like to see CRFUMC tackle this year?**

Theresa was able to fill us in on the history of our current mission statement. It took 6 months for a committee of people to come up with the statement that has been our mission statement for nearly 20 years.

Most of us answered these questions prior to the meeting, which was super helpful. It provided a basis to start our meeting. We began by saying the things we liked about each response. Then we started putting words together on a whiteboard (thank you Courtney Hay for your board penmanship). We had something we all liked within a very short period of time. We spent the next hour or so picking over each individual word and trying to make it relevant to EVERYONE today. It was great having Delaney Peterson there to help us (older people) make sure we're keeping the younger generation in mind, too! There were 10 of us there and all of us worked together for the common goal of improving our church.

I cannot speak for everyone, but I can tell you how I felt leaving the meeting –

- It felt good leaving the meeting (earlier than expected) knowing that we accomplished what we wanted to.
- I felt good about changing our mission statement. Something about the words “touching people” has seemed weird to me for the 9 years I have been at this church.
- I felt like we were working together towards the common goal of making our church not only good but GREAT!
- I am excited to see where we go as a church in the next couple of years.

Please be on the lookout for when Rev. Matt puts out the rough draft of our new mission and vision statements. We will be looking for your input on ways to make it better.

P.S. Have you downloaded the new pictorial directory app? It is amazing. Fun (but embarrassing) Fact about me - I am a very visual person and not one that remembers names easily. In the last few months, I have been able to call people (that I have known for years) by name with confidence. Love the app and the hard copy! They turned out great! Thank you Rev. Matt and anyone else that helped make this happen!

Blessings,
Kari Sorah

What Is going on at the Church?

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd Options:

- “Ashes To Go” an ecumenical gathering. A few local Churches will be on the corner of Wilcox and Fourth Street from 8:00-10:00 AM, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, and 4:00-5:30 PM. Join us as you can to start off your Holy Lent with prayer and the imposition of Ashes.
- Ash Wednesday Service will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Share the Love with a Valentine! Stop by the Welcome Center this Sunday or next and consider purchasing one or two of the handmade Valentines the Youth are selling to raise funds for their 2023 Summer Mission Trip. A single card costs only \$5, but for \$15, you can add a Perk Up coffee drink coupon. You are encouraged to use our new print directory to send out love to fellow congregants in celebration of Valentine’s Day.

Photo Directory Update: There are copies of the printed directory at the welcome center in the red folders. To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “Instant Church Directory” to get the download. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

If you want to add your picture or make changes please email Pastor Matt at matt.franks@fumccr.org

Catch Pastor Matt for Coffee: Most mornings Monday-Thursday from about 7:45 a.m. until about 10 a.m. I am working at Crowfoot Valley Coffee on 734 Wilcox St. Feel free to swing by and grab a drink of choice and talk to me you will not be bothering me if I have my laptop up and typing away. If you want to meet me there to chat just give me a heads-up to make sure I am going to be in the coffee shop.

Could a Bell Choir be in our future? Chancel Choir Director Nancy Docksey is inviting anyone interested in relaunching the bell choir to contact her in person at the 10:45 service welcome time or by phone or text (303-877-9085). A rehearsal time will be determined by those interested in forming a new bell choir.

Church Finances

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

December 2022

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues	\$ 196,007	\$ 225,500	\$ (29,493)
Expenses			
Personnel	\$ 138,619	\$ 159,405	\$ 20,786
Conf Apportionment	18,502	30,000	11,498
Trustees	40,101	48,650	8,549
Church Office	7,041	7,375	334
All Other	3,446	20,154	16,708
Total Expenses	\$ 207,709	\$ 265,584	\$ 57,875
Net Total	\$ (11,702)	\$ (40,084)	\$ 28,382



Rev. Sarah's Message

email: sms11@mindspring.com

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

As you go on a journey in search of love, a love that will last and not be gone in a flash:

Seek a love that is patient with all the flaws we see in the other, as well as those we see in ourselves. May that patience allow love to deepen.

Seek out a love that is kind in both word and action. Allow it to be a reflection of the kindness that God has supplied to you. May it be what is needed to talk the talk and walk the walk.

Seek out a love that is not envious, but shows you how to be happy with what you have instead of focusing on what is missing. May it provide a path to living in the present moment.

Seek out a love that does not insist on its own way. Take in the lessons it provides on compromise.

Seek out a love that isn't irritable or resentful. With love on our side we are able to find truth, even in a world where it is hidden and hard to find.

This is a journey that will lead us to something that will help us to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things and endure all things. Strength and hope is very much needed as we walk through each day.

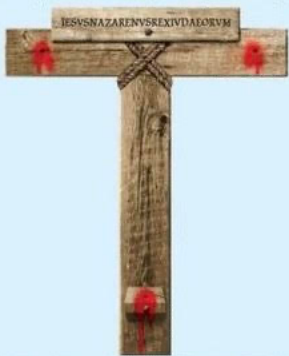
Now as you prepare to send and receive a Valentine Day message,

Blessings

Rev Sarah

Contemporary Issues Group

#1 Bestselling authors of *Killing Kennedy* and *Killing Lincoln*



BILL O'REILLY
& MARTIN DUGARD
Killing Jesus
A HISTORY

Millions of readers have thrilled by bestselling authors Bill O'Reilly and historian Martin Dugard's *Killing Kennedy* and *Killing Lincoln*, page-turning works of nonfiction that have changed the way we read history.

Now the anchor of *The O'Reilly Factor* details the events leading up to the murder of the most influential man in history: Jesus of Nazareth. Nearly two thousand years after this beloved and controversial young revolutionary was brutally killed by Roman soldiers, more than 2.2 billion human beings attempt to follow his teachings and believe he is God. *Killing Jesus* will take readers inside Jesus's life, recounting the seismic political and historical events that made his death inevitable – and changed the world forever.

The Group will meet In Person Sessions on Mondays (02 20 2023 to 04 03, 2023; 6:30 PM to 8:30) in Fellowship Hall.
Zoom Sessions run on Fridays (02 17 2023 to 03 31 2023; 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM)

Castle Rock Orchestra
presents



Sounds of
Scandinavia



3pm Sunday, March 5, 2023

\$5 per person
suggested donation

First United Methodist
Church of Castle Rock
1200 South Street

www.CastleRockOrchestra.org



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Find out more info.

[https://www.fumccr.org/
stephenministry](https://www.fumccr.org/stephenministry)

Stephen Ministry of Castle Rock FUMC helps our community provide care for individuals going through a time of transition or difficulty. Stephen Ministry trains people to give one-to-one care for others who desire a caring Christian presence to walk alongside them during a challenging time.

Stephen Ministers receive 50+ hours in faith-specific caregiving skills including listening, assertiveness, boundaries, confidentiality, and awareness/resources for specific situations. Stephen Ministers are:

- Confidential
- Trustworthy
- Skilled
- Compassionate
- Continually receiving training and learning through supervision and continuing education

With individual care, a Stephen Minister is assigned to walk alongside a specific individual. Stephen Ministers provide Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge. People who need care receive quality, Christ-centered, confidential care for their hurts and needs. They find hope, healing, and a new sense of self-worth through the support of a Stephen Minister.

Contact Pastor Matt (matt.franks@fumccr.org) if you think a caring, listening ear may help you through a hard time, or if you think that you would make a good Stephen Minister.

