

Castle Rock FUMC

FIRST CHURCH COMMUNICATOR

June 2026

Summer Worship Schedule Starting June 7th

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Chapel

10 a.m. Modern Service

If you are interested in helping with setup/teardown let Pastor Matt know we will have a training session in May. We will also need people to help drive the golf cart. Starting in May we will be having a sign up for all of these and for favorite hymns suggestions for our pop up choir to sing.

Mother's Day Food Drive Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed to the food drive. We were able to give 708 pounds of items. We are at 1,714 pounds for the year and only 786 away from our goal of 2,500 pounds to Help in Hope in 2026.

Photo Directory Update

May 31st is the last Sunday for Directory Picture Members can log into the Online Member Directory website at members.instantchurchdirectory.com

If you are having issues with the app or the web site reach out to Pastor Matt.

Blast and Link Submissions

If you have church photos, a related project or event to promote, or a card of thanks or invitation to share with our church, please email your copy no later than Tuesday morning to Julie Bailey at juliesings@gmail.com

Water Bottles for the Parade

The Douglas County Fair & Rodeo Parade will take place on July 25th, with CRFUMC providing water bottles for spectators for the fourth year. To improve on past efforts, assistance is needed in the following areas:

- Donating 500 water bottles
- Adding CRFUMC stickers to each bottle July 19th
- Providing 4 wheeled cargo totes/wagons on parade day
- Recruiting 8-10 volunteers to distribute bottles.



Pastor Matt's Reflection

"To infinity and beyond" ~Buzz Lightyear

Buzz Lightyear doesn't say it quietly. He doesn't whisper it to himself in a corner. He throws his arms wide, points toward the sky, and shouts it with everything he's got. To infinity and beyond. Buzz's quote is symbolizing boundless ambition, limitless potential, and chasing the impossible. As followers of Jesus we too are called to disciple to infinity and beyond. Matthew 28:16-20 reminds us of this.

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. 18 Jesus came near and spoke to them, "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."

For us to GROW ourselves and our Church we must be willing to go to infinity and beyond following the teachings of Jesus every step of the way. I have enjoyed walking with you as we have done this together. Be willing and open to go to infinity and beyond to share God's love and light with our community and beyond.

Serving alongside you these past four years at Castle Rock First United Methodist Church has been one of the deepest joys and greatest privileges of my ministry. As I prepare to transition to Arvada United Methodist Church beginning July 1, 2026, I want to speak to you with honesty, gratitude, and love about this season of change and the covenant that guides us as United Methodists. Before anything else, I want to celebrate what we have built together.

When I arrived in July of 2022, we stepped into a season of rebuilding, reimagining, and renewing together. We did not simply maintain a church — we cultivated a community rooted in grace, hospitality, compassion, and discipleship. Through worship, service, study, laughter, grief, and countless ordinary holy moments, we lived into our mission of sharing God's love and light with the community and beyond. And the clearest way I know to tell that story is through the framework we embraced together: G.R.O.W.

Gather: You chose to show up — for one another and for God. Around the Communion Table, in worship, in studies, in meal groups, over coffee, at mission projects, and in moments of celebration and sorrow, you gathered. You made room for new people, honored long-time members, and created spaces where people could encounter belonging before belief. In a world shaped by division and isolation, you became a people committed to connection, compassion, and radical hospitality. That is holy work.

Reflect: We explored what it means to follow Christ in ways that are thoughtful, compassionate, inclusive, and love learning. In our studies, through Wednesday Wisdom, sermon conversations, and hallway discussions after worship, you practiced a faith that engages both heart and mind. That willingness to reflect deeply is part of our Wesleyan heritage — a faith always being formed by Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Offer: Your generosity has been extraordinary. You offered your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness — not simply as membership vows, but as a way of life. You gave financially with faithfulness and courage. You embodied the love of Christ in tangible ways, and this community is more compassionate, more hopeful, and more connected because of you.

Walk: You understood that the church does not exist only within sanctuary walls. You carried the love and light of Christ into our community. You practiced discipleship not as performance, but as presence. You walked alongside one another through grief and joy, uncertainty and hope, always trusting that God was still at work among us. That is the kind of church the world desperately needs.

I am deeply proud of who you are becoming. Not perfect, but faithful. Not finished, but growing. You have not simply talked about sharing God's love and light with the community and beyond — you have lived it. Please keep living it: Keep gathering. Keep reflecting. Keep offering. Keep walking. Keep growing.

As this transition begins, I want to honor our connectional covenant with clarity and care. Beginning July 1, I will no longer serve as your pastor. In moments of celebration and grief — weddings, funerals, baptisms, or spiritual need — the pastor appointed to this church will be your pastor. Open your hearts fully to them and give them the sacred space to lead faithfully among you.

Out of love for you and for the health of this church, I will not attend worship services or congregational gatherings for a minimum of one year following my departure. If you reach out regarding pastoral concerns, I will gently encourage you to contact your appointed pastor. One of the greatest gifts a departing pastor can offer is the freedom for a congregation and a new pastor to fully become a community together.

What I carry from this season is beyond words. You have shaped me into a better pastor and a more faithful follower of Jesus. The Spirit that has moved among us — through gathering, reflecting, offering, and walking — will continue guiding this church into its next chapter.

Trust the Spirit. Trust your community. Trust the covenant. Trust the God who makes all things new. I love you deeply, I thank God for you often, and I release you with joy, gratitude, and hope into the future God is preparing for you.

May you continue sharing God's love and light with the community and beyond.

Pastor Matt Franks

Rev. Sarah's Reflection

Philippians 4: 4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What is it in your life journey that makes you rejoice? What is it that helps you understand the peace of God?

Do the relationships with family and the love and support bring joy? Do the smiles of your children, nieces and nephews enrich life and keep you going? Do those dinner conversations give needed energy and keep you going through good times and challenging times?

Did a recent project at work bring joy and satisfaction? Did you feel yourself getting excited about heading into work or in finishing another day? Does the encouragement of coworkers bring needed comfort and joy?

If you have reached retirement, do you ever reflect back on the joys that came your way during your career?

We can not be certain what is ahead of us, but I do know that God tells us to be anxious for nothing. If we can keep our heart and mind centered on God, :by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, His peace through Christ Jesus will guard our heart and mind. Taking that critical time to rejoice can keep our faith alive.

Looking at the world it is hard to know where it is heading. We do know that His Word promises all of us, that as the faithful believers in Christ Jesus, beyond all understanding, our hearts and minds will be protected.

So today as you look out on life..."rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. "

A Heart Joyful

by Deborah Ann Belka

A heart joyful, is a good thing when life's hardships begin to burn and sting.

It will lift you up, when you are down it'll help you to mend heal and rebound.

A heart joyful, is a good feature it is one of life's adversity teachers.

It will show you how, to rejoice and sing when tests and trials to you life brings.

A heart joyful is a cure all when you let praise from your lips fall!

By Julie Bailey

Rom-com author, Beth Reekles writes: “People pass through our life; some of them fade into memories, but some become a part of who you are.”

It goes without saying that in a faith community, each pastor becomes a guiding force for each one of us as we work with, serve with, pray with, and socialize with them.

As we bid farewell to Pastor Matt and his family, I’ve chosen to devote this column of Community Connection to acknowledge the many ways in which Matt has contributed to the spiritual expansion of our church and each individual who worships here. We have much to be grateful for.

So, thank you, Pastor Matt, for all you have given us— your time, your talents, your energy, your thoughtful sermons, and the personal interaction you take so seriously with each of us. We are a stronger congregation because of you.

Thank you for bringing us together in new ways, through Community Faith Time, the HOME team, the GROW team, the renewal of meal groups, the rodeo-fair parade water bottles, Marvelous Mondays, and not least of all, an increase in the number of potlucks, we all enjoy so much.

Thank you for your guidance and support of existing programs and the 2024 year-long delivery of our Sesquicentennial Celebration. Our outreach to the community has expanded and very much renewed our commitment to serving others.

Thank you for your fiduciary skills, your leadership skills, your technical skills and your remarkable ability to provide visual enhancements to worship, and not just with new screens and altar lighting but with your tennis shoes, colorful socks, and vibrant stoles.

On behalf of all of us who have found our church home in FUMCCR, we wish you well as you step into this next chapter of your pastoral career. Of course, it is so much more than a career; it is a lifetime commitment to love and light.

The opening verse of the hymn “Blest Be the Tie that Binds,” by 18th century preacher, scholar, and poet John Fawcett speaks well of our love for each other: “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”
Amen!



Thanks to all who helped clean up the church grounds on May 16. It was an industrious crew who trimmed trees, cleaned gutters, and provided snacks for the workers.

Upcoming Events

May 31st - June 7th - Red Bird Mission Trip

June 7th: Summer Worship Schedule returns
- 8:30 am in the Outdoor Chapel; 10 a.m. modern service

June 11th - 11:30 a.m. Leah Circle sack lunch, Fairgrounds Regional Park.

June 11th-13th - Mountain Sky Annual Conference in Billings Montana

June 17th - 6 p.m. - Knot Again

June 20th - 19 a.m. Keith Bramer Celebration of Life

June 20th - 5:30 p.m. Farewell Party for the Franks family

June 21st - Pastor Matt's last Sunday
Marvelous Mondays

10 a.m. @ Coff33 in Downtown Castle Rock

Year to Date April 2026

Revenues	\$	<u>311,204</u>
Expenses		
Personnel	\$	179,478
Conf Apportionment		34,280
Trustees		81,007
Church Office		16,608
All Other		7,149
Total Expenses	\$	<u>318,522</u>
Net Total	\$	<u>(7,318)</u>

Fiscal Year End Giving

We operate on a fiscal year for our budget. We are coming to an end of the year on June 30th. We will have giving statements and pledge cards available in the welcome area. We will have commitment Sunday on **May 31st in worship**. If you will not be here on that Sunday please drop your card in the offering plate or leave it in the office. If you have any questions please reach out to Theresa at office@fumccr.org

King Soopers/Safeway Gift Cards:

Did you know that 5% of your grocery purchases can be returned to our church if you have a Safeway gift card to load and reload OR have signed on with King Soopers and designated FUMCCR as your nonprofit organization? Did you know these funds help fund projects in and around the church? Would you like to help bring us back into the \$2-3K column?

If you frequent Safeway, simply purchase a grocery card from Theresa Kepple and add money. That card becomes the card you use to purchase groceries. If you wish to use King Soopers, go to [KingSoopers.com/CommunityRewards](https://www.kingsoopers.com/CommunityRewards) and follow Step #1 to create an account and Step #2 to register our organization (FUMCCR). You will need to add our NPO number which is NPO#QM168.

VIPP - Very Important Point Person

Volunteers are needed to spearhead activities that take groups to museums, concerts, the mountains, educational events, etc. It is a one-time commitment. Previous events have included the Colorado History Museum, Indian Paint Mines in Calhan, viewing the fall colors, Flying W Ranch. Is anyone up for a trip to Breckinridge to visit the Father Dyer sites?

Meal Group Final Gathering Pivot

The Meal Groups will be pivoting from one large gathering to one more meal group meeting. We are inviting you to talk to each other about their own expectations when the change of minister takes place. Being open about fears, expectations, etc. Check with your meal group for info.

Senior Life Expo

Castle Rock Senior Activity Center invites you to attend the Senior Life Expo at the Douglas County Events Center on Wednesday, June 3rd from 1-5 p.m. This event is free to the public and offers senior resource booths, demonstrations, and door prizes.

Bell Choir and Chancel Choir Taking a Break

Bell Choir and Chancel Choir are on hiatus for the summer. Join the Pop-up Choir at the 8:30 outdoor chapel service to sing a favorite hymn.

Don't forget to like and share on our social media

Facebook, Instagram, Youtube

@castlerockfumc



Leah Circle & Friends
will gather at 11:30 pm
on June 11th at Fairgrounds Regional Park.
Brings a sack lunch and join in the fellowship.

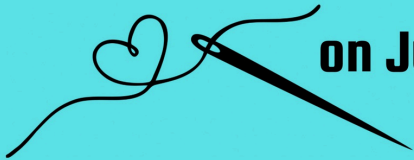
@www.reallygreatsite.com

@125-456-7890

**BELL CHOIR AND CHANCEL CHOIR
ARE ON HIATUS FOR THE SUMMER.
JOIN THE POP-UP CHOIR
AT THE 8:30 OUTDOOR CHAPEL SERVICE.**



**Knot Again
meets at 6 PM
on June 17th**



Annual Conference 2026

June 10-13th Billings Montana

Follow the event at

<https://www.facebook.com/MountainSkyUMC>

LIFE LESSONS BIBLE STUDY SERIES

OVER
2 MILLION
SOLD

MAX
LUCADO

LIFE LESSONS *from*

1 SAMUEL

The Importance of Finishing Well



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 a.m.

Beginning June 2, Tuesday Morning Bible Study will begin Max Lucado's book on 1 Samuel. First Samuel is a book of good starts but bad finishes. Samuel was a prophet of God who anointed kings, but his sons turned away from the Lord. The most dramatic example is Saul. He seemed to be the perfect choice for Israel's first king. But success led to disobedience, and he slid from prominence to paranoia to suicide. This group meets every Tuesday at 9:30 am in the church library. Please join us or drop in anytime.

A Time for Change by Nancy Twite



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3:1 "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Stephen Ministers spend a season with their care receivers. That season may be a few months, a year or even longer. The reason for the relationship is typically precipitated by a major life change that presents challenges in moving forward in life for the care receiver. Some of the most common reasons are the loss of a job, the break-up of a family, serious illness of self or family members, and the death of someone dear to them.

As Stephen Ministers we provide a sounding-board, a safe space for expressing difficult feelings, and an opportunity to explore ideas or coping mechanisms. We help our care receivers to realize they are not alone by truly listening and acknowledging their feelings. We meet our care receivers where they are spiritually and walk alongside them in their journeys.

Sometimes major life changes happen to care receivers who are already paired with Stephen Ministers. In recent months, two Stephen Ministers providing support to individuals who were primary care givers have been required to shift their focus from care-giving support to grief support when the family members passed on. So even within care giver-care receiver relationships there may be a change of seasons.

So if you are experiencing a change of seasons and could use the support of a caring Christian relationship, reach out to Pastor Matt, Reverend Sarah or any of the Stephen Ministers. We are here to help our care receivers adjust to those seasonal changes.

Our Stephen Ministers: Whether you are navigating a difficult life transition or simply need a compassionate, listening ear, our Stephen Ministers are here to provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to walk alongside you. We invite you to reach out to the church office to request a Stephen Minister or to learn how you can be trained to share this gift of presence with others in our community.

Prayer Request: If you have a prayer request you can fill out a green card and give it to one of our Pastors or fill out the form online through our connection point on the website.

THE FRANKS FAREWELL PARTY

Join us for a Farewell Party honoring Pastor Matt, Ashley, Laura, and Emily on **June 20 at 5:30 pm** at the church. The SPRC Team will host a Taco Bar potluck to celebrate their ministry and friendship. Sign up at the Welcome Desk; a basket for cards and notes of encouragement will be available. Afterward, interested attendees can continue the celebration at Alidade Brewing (680 Atchison Way, Castle Rock).



Hold The Red Bird Mission Team in your prayers. The team departs on May 31st and will return on June 7th. Next newsletter we will have stories from the team.



CONNECT
WITH US

WWW.FUMCCR.ORG

