



November 2025

First Church Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of Castle Rock First United Methodist Church

Get Ready for the Time and Talent Auction & Luncheon!

November 9th after Worship

Mark your calendars! Our annual Time and Talent Auction and Luncheon is just around the corner, and it's our biggest and most fun fundraiser of the year. Following worship on the 9th join us in the Fellowship Hall for a great meal and the exciting chance to bid on amazing items donated by our church family. This crucial event directly supports our Trustees, Missions, and the Youth Mission trip, and we are aiming high to raise at least \$10,000 collectively!

Your Time & Talent Powers Our Success!

We need your generosity to hit our goal! Please consider donating your unique time, special talents, or items. Past favorites have ranged from homemade meals and gift certificates to gardening services and vacation weeks. Remember, in addition to the main live auction, there will be a Silent Auction in the Narthex. If you are donating an item specifically for the silent auction, please mark your green pledge form accordingly.

Back by Popular Demand: The Chili Cookoff!

Get ready to fire up your stoves! The Chili Cookoff is returning, and we want to taste your best recipes on November 9th. If you plan to enter your signature chili, please let Josh Hay know by emailing him at josh.hay@gmail.com.

CRITICAL DEADLINE: Green Sheets Due THURSDAY!

This is essential: All Time and Talent pledge forms (green sheets) must be returned by Thursday, November 6th. We need all donations finalized by this date to prepare the auction catalog! You can find the sheets at the Welcome Desk.

We're making checkout easy—we accept cash, check, and credit/debit cards for all winning bids.

Thank you for your incredible generosity! We can't wait to celebrate this success with you on November 9th!

Connect with Castle Rock FUMC

If you go to

www.fumccr.org/connectionpoint

You can find ways to connect with us, share a prayer concern, find the Sunday bulletin, give online, join the email list, or find our Youtube content all in one space.



Conflict Resolution

On October 9th, Senator Newell presented her documentary "The Last Bill, A Senator's Story" in Fellowship Hall. A vital skill for personal well-being and professional success, conflict resolution is a guide to transforming conflict from a source of stress into an engine for positive change. Each participant left with actionable strategies and renewed confidence in their ability to navigate disagreements constructively.



Pictures from Around The Congregation



Fire Pit Fridays at the Currans in September and October featured Carolina barbecue and German potato salad, fostering fellowship among attendees.



Sue Hurst at the Blessing of the Animals Service at the Walking Dog Park downtown.



Rosie and Lisa ready for the Little Blessings Trunk or Treat



Women's Christmas

Our third annual celebration of Women's Christmas is Saturday, December 6, from 10 am – 2 pm. The theme for this year's Women's Christmas is "Wise Women Wonder." There is a custom from Ireland of women coming together to pause and step back from whatever traditionally keeps them busy and hurried during this season to spend time in reflection before diving into what the new season holds. In that spirit, you are invited to come rest, reflect, refocus, and renew.

Feel free to invite a friend. The day will be led by Ashley Franks and Rev. Brenda Lear. Lunch will be provided.

Sign up at the Welcome Center or by emailing Rev. Brenda at b.clear.72@gmail.com.



The All Saints Banners up During Worship



You may know her best as the chair of Knot Again or the mastermind behind our Sesquicentennial cookbook, but Kari Sarah has also served on the 150th Celebration Team, on the Trustees and Finance Teams, and next month will be stepping down as chair of Administrative Council, a volunteer position she has held for nearly 5 years. Her energy and enthusiasm for FUMC-CR are an inspiration to all who have worked with her. As we place her in this month's spotlight, we thought you would appreciate knowing a little more about her and what connects Kari to her community.

Kari grew up in Castle Rock and joined the Navy at 18; twelve years and three babies later, she and husband Chris moved to Lewisberry, PA. After 25 years living outside of Colorado, they returned. Now their family has blossomed to include two grandchildren. Their oldest daughter's family lives in central Pennsylvania; their middle son is in the Air Force and has lived in Hawaii for three years, but is now headed to Maryland where he will be close to his sister. Their youngest son got married one year ago and lives in Centennial, CO.

Kari and Chris enjoy camping in the middle of nowhere and in National Parks. They enjoy hiking, trekking the open spaces in their jeep or side-by-side, as well as spending time on their deck. Whenever they can, they enjoy Sunday dinner with their son, daughter-in-law and her mom. Kari's own special pastimes include cross stitch, crocheting, making decor for around the house, and crafting with kids and grandkids,

Kari says that when visiting various churches as adults, she and her husband always felt at home in a Methodist Church. In her own words:

"People come to church for multiple reasons. I was not raised in church but went occasionally with friends. When we had children, we wanted them to be raised in the church. We went to a large Methodist church in Ft Worth, TX for 4 years. When we moved to PA we tried a couple of different denominations, but settled once again on the Methodist Church. We quickly became a part of the church and the community in PA. I realized that when we left Texas, the people of the church there didn't even know our names. That was not a feeling I liked. It taught me that I liked to be involved in what the church was doing within the walls and outside of the walls of the church. This in turn helps me be a better version of myself and helps me grow in my faith journey. We really love our church and community."

Kari encourages people to take part in the dinner/lunch groups as it was the avenue that opened up new and lasting friendships for her and Chris. As this year's groups formed, she was happy to see more individuals than couples signing up. Anyone needing a ride could easily find someone in their group to pick them up. If you missed signing up, Kari encourages you to contact her and she will find a group for you

Thank you, Kari for your many talents that have served our church and for the many ways you encourage connection.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

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



Find out more info.
<https://www.fumccr.org/stephenministry>

November Reflection

By Nancy Twite

When I started Stephen Ministry training last fall, I knew I would be preparing for new adventures and new challenges. Having been assigned my first care receiver just a few weeks ago, I am only getting a glimpse of what is yet to come.

During training we learned about truly listening, responding with empathy, exploring feelings and the common kinds of life challenges people experience that may cause them to seek the support of a Stephen Minister. We focus on prayer -- for ourselves, our care receivers and our fellow Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. Stephen Ministry is simply building a caring, confidential, Christian relationship designed to provide a safe, non-judgmental sounding board through which difficult feelings can be expressed, and hope restored. You may also have heard that in Stephen Ministry, we walk alongside our care receivers in their journey.

Due to confidentiality, I cannot tell you about my care receiver, but we meet regularly, in person and, mostly, I just listen to whatever is on her mind. I enjoy our time together and while we're still just getting acquainted, I believe our time together helps her process all that is happening in her life. We always end our time together with prayer, so I'm becoming much more comfortable praying out loud. I truly feel God is working through me more than using any particular skill or having the right words to say. I look forward to continuing the care giving journey wherever it may lead.

Do Good Fall Food drive:

Last Sunday in worship you were given a bag to help collect for food drive to help support our ministry partner Help and Hope. Please return the bags by Nov. 23rd.

Help and Hope and King Soopers Food Drive

On Saturday November 15 our church will be collecting food for Help and Hope at the King Soopers at Promenade (note the change from Founders location). We are still seeking one more volunteer for the 9-11 shift, and 2 for the 1pm-3:15pm. If you are interested please sign the clipboard at the welcome center. If you are grocery shopping that day, we encourage you to pick up a list of suggested donations provided at the volunteer table and contribute as you choose.

Contribute to Little Blessings Staff Treat Bags:

Our HOME team will be showing appreciation for the Little Blessings staff with a treat bag just before Thanksgiving. If you would like to contribute to these bags, there is a sign-up sheet at the welcome center with items to sign up for. Items should be brought to the church by Sunday, November 16.

What is Community Faith Time? While some may think of Sunday School as formal classes, we see this as something more—an intentional space for connection and spiritual growth. Our faith grows best when we journey together, and our three unique settings create room for everyone:

- Nursery (ages newborn–4): A caring space where our youngest members are loved and nurtured, giving parents and older siblings the opportunity to participate in other groups.
- Living In Faith Together (LIFT Group, ages 5+): In the Fellowship Hall, all ages gather to learn, play, and share wisdom together, strengthening the bonds of our church family.
- Soul Café (Adults): A relaxed, conversational space to reflect on the day’s sermon and dive deeper into what it means to live out our faith in daily life.
- Common Grounds (For anyone at the tables in the coffee area): Grab a snack and coffee or tea and just fellowship.

If you’d like to join a group or volunteer, especially in the Nursery, please email Pastor Matt.



Fiscal Year End September 2025	
	\$
Revenues	132,496
Expenses	
	\$
Personnel	61,988
Conf Apportionment	11,763
Trustees	20,024
Church Office	5,040
All Other	1,360
	\$
Total Expenses	100,174
Net Total	\$ 32,321

Coffee Doughnut Assistance Needed

Two volunteers are need for the third Sunday of the month to set out doughnuts and prepare the coffee and hot water at 8:30 am. These volunteers also clean up after people have gone into their spaces or after they have finished with class. Please contact Lisa Andrews lisajean1954@gmail.com if you can help.

November Events

November 13: 11:30am, Leah Circle

November 20: 11:30am, Men’s Lunch @Pegasus

Marvelous Monday’s 10 a.m. @ Coff33 in Downtown Castle Rock

Love Gifts

As Christmas and the end of the year draw near, we will once again offer the opportunity for our church members to make a donation to our Celebrations Fund, which provides love gifts for our three staff members – Rev. Matt, Rev. Sarah, and Theresa. All donations will be divided equally among the three. Please make your donation by December 15 and tag it “celebrations.” You also have the option of offering your own, more personal gift to these individuals.

Advent Begins on Nov. 30th

Advent is a sacred season starting four Sundays before Christmas, marking the Christian year and inviting us to await Christ's coming with hope, peace, joy, and love. United Methodists view it as a time for spiritual renewal and justice-seeking, preparing hearts and communities for Christ's presence. Through worship, prayer, scripture, and compassion, we acknowledge God's light entering darkness. Special events include the Hanging of the Greens Service with musician John Redmon on November 30th.

Contemporary Issues Group Study

What Do You Want for Christmas?:

An Advent Study for Adults

By James W. Moore

In Person:

December 1 to December 22 6:30 to 8:00PM

Zoom:

November 28 to December 19 6:30 to 8:00PM

Author James W. Moore invites you to explore these deeper longings in his enriching four-week study. Designed for both groups and individuals, this program gently guides you through the season of Advent with weekly lessons that focus on the gifts Christ brings into our lives.

Blue Christmas Service

For many, the holiday season can be a time of reflection, longing, or quiet sorrow. If you're carrying heavy burdens or simply need a moment of stillness amidst the holiday rush, we invite you to our Blue Christmas Service on **Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:30 p.m.**

This intimate, contemplative service is designed to bring comfort, hope, and healing for those facing challenges or grief. Come as you are, and find a space where your heart can be held and your spirit renewed.

Tuesday Morning Advent Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study will begin their Advent study on November 25th in the church library at 9:30. Materials for "Messages of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace throughout the Bible" will be provided. Per usual, we will use our own various Bible translations in seeking understanding. Bring your Bible and join in our discussion.

Cookie Walk & Carol Sing

The annual United Women in Faith will once again be offering cookies for sale on December 7th

Cookie bakers and cookie purchasers will be needed.

Let's make this the best one ever. Contact Julie Bailey for more info.

During Community Faith Time we will have a time for Christmas Carol Singing and fellowship as you buy cookies for the season.

December 11: 10 am and 6 pm, Little Blessings Christmas program in the Sanctuary

December 13th Colorado Brass 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service Times December 24th

4 p.m. Modern Service

6 p.m. Traditional Service

11 p.m. Midnight Candle Light

From Rev. Sarah

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” – Colossians 3:15

When it comes to life, we often focus on the bigger things such as our careers, our education, and our relationships. However, if we take the time to step back and appreciate the little things in life, we can truly be blessed. God created us with so many special gifts and blessings that are often overlooked or taken for granted.

Take time to pause and savor something simple like watching a flower bloom or listening to birds chirping. Take time to acknowledge the small victories in life that add up over time — like completing a project at work or learning something new. These moments should be cherished and celebrated!

The truth is that life is short, and every moment matters. Don't let important moments pass by unnoticed because you're too busy focusing on “bigger” things. Take the time to recognize all of the beauty around you – even if those moments are small ones. Do this regularly and your life will become more meaningful and purposeful. After all, it is these little things that make up your life story!

As we enter this Thanksgiving season, look for ways to send greetings as a simple but powerful way to show appreciation and connect with the people who matter most in your life. Whether you're writing a card, texting a friend, posting on social media, or sharing a toast at the table, the right message can lift spirits, strengthen bonds, and be a way to show others they're valued. In the midst of the worldly chaos we each could use words of comfort and thanks. This is work God has given us to do to as people called to be thankful. May this work bring us peace.

From Pastor Matt

November is a month of vision and anticipation at Castle Rock First UMC! We'll spend the first part of the month continuing our Vision Board sermon series, reflecting on how we can live into God's dream for our lives and community. Together, we're imagining what good we can do and who has shown us how to do good, building a faithful future grounded in gratitude and grace.

Then, on November 30, we'll begin the sacred season of Advent with our new series, “Generation to Generation.” This Advent, we'll explore how God's story of hope, peace, joy, and love is passed from one generation to the next—through stories, songs, and the shared work of faith.

Join us as we continue to dream, give thanks, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, whose love connects us all across the ages.

See you on Sunday at 9 a.m. for Worship and 10 a.m. for Community Faith Time