



May 2024

First Church Communicator

Monthly Newsletter of Castle Rock First United Methodist Church



Worship Times Change May 25th

On May 25th we begin our summer worship schedule.

8:30 a.m. Outdoor Chapel
10 a.m. Modern Service in Sanctuary.

One May 25th we will just have one service at 8:30 a.m. we will have a brunch and work day following so wear clothes to help clean up our space.

Mother's Day, Help and Hope Collection



Once again, we will be holding a food drive to support the local Help & Hope Center which, in turn, helps those in our community. They are looking for all sorts of baby items, especially diapers and formula. We will be handing out grocery totes to be filled following each service on May 4th with the items to be returned to the church on or before Mother's Day (May 11th). The need continues to be as great as ever and we thank you in advance for any donation that you are able to make.

Youth Mission Trip May 31st-June 6th

The Cookson Hills Center in Cookson, Oklahoma, serves the Cherokee Nation and nearby rural communities by providing food assistance, home repairs, and educational programs to enhance residents' quality of life. It promotes spiritual growth and community development in line with the United Methodist Church's mission.

To support a youth mission trip to Cookson in June, a gift card fundraiser is being held, accepting Walmart or Lowes gift cards of any amount. Donations will be collected every Sunday in May at a designated table outside the church office. Thank you for your generosity!



Prison Backpack Ministry

Blessing

by Mike Vitek

The blessing of our 48 backpacks for indigent men and women being released from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Detention Center was held at both of our worship services on Sunday, April 6th.

Our Prison Ministry responds to Christ's concern for prisoners. Ken Teague, Director of Religious Programs at the Detention Center thanked our Church for its caring and support of these people. Our ministry was successful because over 60 individuals/families contributed by either purchasing supplies and/or providing funds to purchase backpacks and supplies.

Each backpack and supplies is a gift of approximately \$105 dollars and a total of this ministry of over \$5,000.

Leah Circle

Leah Circle, our local United Women of Faith, will meet at 11:45am for a pot luck lunch on May 8 in Fellowship Hall. Come join us for a tasty lunch, devotions, a program, and fellowship. In June and July, we'll meet with our sack lunches in a nearby park and in August will gather for our end-of-summer lunch at a restaurant.

The UWF statement of purpose reflects the values we aspire to:

"As United Women in Faith we connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that we can inspire, influence, and impact our local and global communities."

For more information contact Maryalice McHugh (maryalice3150@yahoo.com)

Senior Sunday May 18 in Both Services

The day we honor our high school, college, and trade school graduates is fast approaching. If you would like to have your son, daughter, or grandchild honored on May 18, please complete the following information and return it by May 15 to Josh Hay at josh.hay@gmail.com

They just need to provide:

- **PICTURE...**
- **Student Name...**
- **Graduating from...**
- **Attending...**
- **Studying...**
- **Related to...**

SENIOR LIFE EXPO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
1-5 PM

DOUGLAS-CO FAIRGROUNDS

Organized by the Castle Rock Senior Activity Center

www.castlerockseniorcenter.org

Senior Life Expo

A note from Phyllis Tumey invites us to drop by the Senior Life Expo on **Wednesday, June 4 from 1pm-5pm** at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Event Center (Castle Rock) for an awesome afternoon of networking and discovery!

With over 90 senior-related local community partners and a wide variety of topics, you're sure to find important information and resources along with tools to strengthen and assist daily life for senior living. Come for exciting presentations, interactive demonstrations, networking, prizes, food concessions, and more.

This is a fantastic way to discover and explore vital resources, all in the same room at the same time!

Admission is free so we hope to see you there! ~ The Castle Rock Senior Activity Center

CONNECT
WITH US

WWW.FUMCCR.ORG



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Beginning May 13, we will be studying the three letters of John and the book of Jude. The Christians of the first century were facing a difficult battle. False teachers had emerged in their churches who were spreading a gospel that was contrary to the one proclaimed by Jesus. The situation was so distressing to John that he wrote a series of letters to call them to remember that Jesus' greatest command was for them to love God and to love one another. Similarly, Jude called on believers to remember the truth of the gospel and persevere in the face of these attacks from false teachers. We welcome new members to our group and encourage drop-ins any Tuesday from 9:30-11am in the church library.

Year to Date: March 2025

	\$
Revenues	<u>298,296</u>
Expenses	
	\$
Personnel	200,286
Conf Apportionment	28,323
Trustees	82,724
Church Office	13,670
All Other	<u>6,507</u>
	\$
Total Expenses	331,511
Net Total	<u>\$ (33,215)</u>



On the mountaintop with Jesus

Annual Conference 2025

MOUNTAIN SKY
CONFERENCE

Volunteer for **Annual Conference 2025**

Annual Conference is a time of worship, connection, and shared ministry—and we need your help to make it all happen! Volunteers are essential in creating a welcoming, well-organized experience for all attendees. Ways You Can Serve: 🛠️ Event Setup & Logistics – Help set up vendor tables, move materials, and prepare spaces on Wednesday.

🍽️ Meal Support – Assist with serving and cleanup for conference meals.

☕ Hospitality & Refreshments – Oversee snack and coffee stations, ensuring everyone stays energized.

🚗 Transportation Assistance – Drive participants as needed between conference locations.

🙏 Ordination Service Support – Help with Saturday's ordination service, including setup and reception.

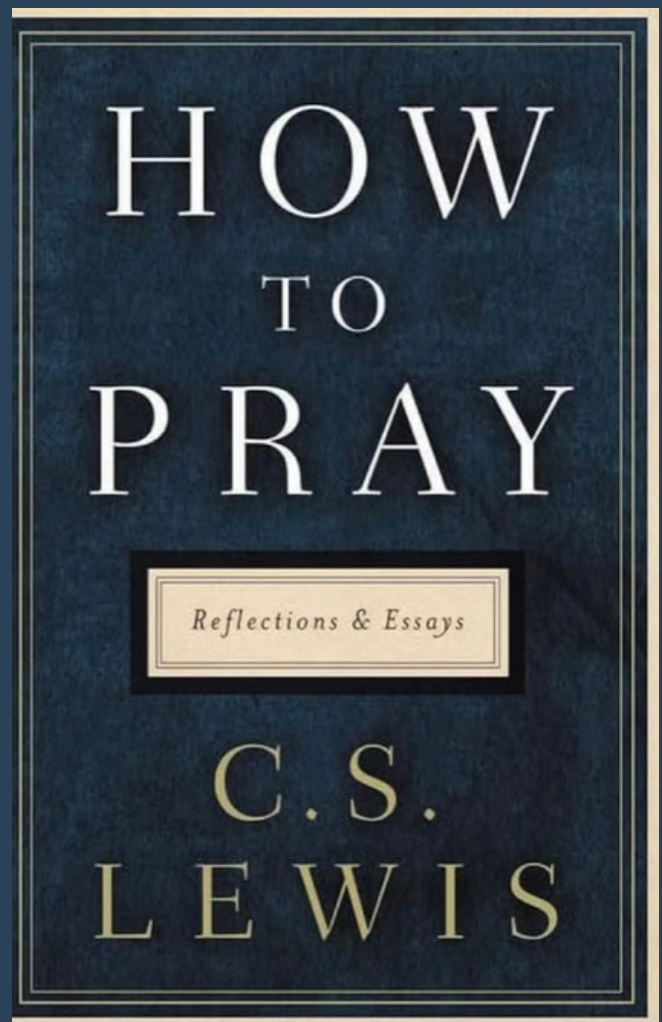
👋 General Hospitality – Provide a warm welcome, offer directions, and support guests throughout the event.

How to Sign Up Use the form below to indicate where you'd like to help and your availability. Remember, you're welcome to serve in more than one area!

Talk to Pastor Matt if you are interested and he will send you a link.

CALLING ALL CANS!

Please save cans for the June Thinking-of-You Bag Project. We are collecting soup, bean, fruit and tomato cans shown here. Place your washed cans in the Thinking-of-You Box across from the name tag boards. Thank you for your help.



Contemporary Studies Group

You're warmly invited to explore C. S. Lewis's insightful reflections on prayer in *How to Pray: Reflections and Essays*. Delve into fundamental questions about prayer and discover practical wisdom to deepen your relationship with God.

Join us for in-person sessions on Mondays
(May 12 – June 23, 2025, 6:30–8 pm)
via Zoom on Fridays
(May 17 – June 27, 2025, 6:30–8 pm)



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Each person's journey to the doorstep of FUMC-CR is a story all its own. The Community Connection space is dedicated to bringing the stories of our on-going spiritual journeys to light. Some months will feature mini-biographies of our brothers and sisters in Christ; other months, we'll share responses to a question. If you have suggestions for the content of this column, please contact Julie Bailey at juliesings@gmail.com.

A week or so ago, I randomly selected a few people and asked them to respond to this question: "During Lent where have you felt the presence of God?" These three responses, or some version of them, will resonate for all of us:

"During Lent I have been more intentional in spending time in prayer. As Holy Week approached, I felt God telling me not to waste time playing games on my phone. I have been amazed by how much time I was wasting. I have used this extra time wisely in His name."

"I felt that he was speaking to me several times during our Bible study of the Ten Commandments. I believe that God was caring for my grandson's wife Bre so that she would be able to deliver their beautiful little girl. He has touched all our lives by allowing that healthy birth."

"My husband and I deliver meals at a senior living community once a week. During the first week of April we also delivered gift bags with treats, little gifts, coloring pages and weekly devotionals from FUMC-CR. God's love was present in all their faces as they expressed their appreciation. This ministry is such a joy."

I was all set to answer this question myself with the moment in the Choir Cantata last month when the haunting chords and the clear solo voices of "Agnus Dei" resonated across the sanctuary. But then, God provided another experience.

When I entered the Narthex for the Easter Sunrise Service, I noticed a couple seated alone at a table. Not recognizing them, I thought perhaps they were newcomers who attended the modern service. I later learned they'd found us online while searching for an indoor sunrise service to attend. Easter morning was the first time they had entered our church.

After the usual introductions, we were soon chatting about mutual interests— dogs, travel, family life. During the service Pastor Matt's posed the question "Where have you witnessed a resurrection?" The second person to share at our table was this man, who —without hesitation— shared his experience with resurrection. Returning from military duty in Iraq years ago, he said he was in a very dark place, but that God had led him to the woman seated beside him, his wife. Taking her hand in the middle of his story, he became emotional, and his emotions reminded me of the sacred love God has for all of us as we struggle to find our way out of dark times. More than that, this man, a stranger to me, had shared what was possibly the most important moment of his adult life.

Clearly, God's presence can be felt in unscripted, unexpected moment such as this. I mean. . . we can meditate in nature and feel the presence of God all around us. We can walk into a candle-lit church on Christmas Eve, and feel God's presence. We can lift up our voices with "Alleluias" on Easter morning and feel God's presence, His love, and His grace. We feel His presence in our prayers, in our spiritual gifts, in our service to others, in the faces of strangers, and in the arrival of a newborn baby.

Indeed, God's love is all around.

"When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me."
Jeremiah 29:13 (CEB)

**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

By Clarence Neal



My journey started long before I became a Stephen Minister.

Dale and LouAnn McGraw would be getting out of Sunday school class at the same time we were getting out of Contemporary Worship service and Dale would always say that I would make a good Stephen Minister, and I always said thank you and that I would think about it (I had no intentions of becoming a Stephen Minister).

He kept after me for probably the better part of 2 years, and I kept the thought in the back of my mind that maybe he was right. In 2008 our small group took a class offered by Ann and Paul Maul called “Serving from the Heart.” In that class I tested that I was destined to serve others. I did not want to go to a third world country to serve others, and I was told you don’t have to go travel to serve others, why not fish in your own backyard?

After three years of thought and prayer, I finally decided to fill out the application and I was going to surprise Dale by handing it to him. When I arrived at church on Sunday, Dec 11, 2011, I found out that Dale had passed away during the night before. I was devastated, but I went ahead and put the application in the Stephen Ministers box.

I took the required course and was commissioned as a Stephen Minister on Oct 19th, 2012. I have enjoyed my time as a Stephen Minister, and I have had several care receivers who I have been honored to help as a care giver during their time of difficulty.

If you know someone who needs a Stephen Minister, or someone who could be a good Stephen Minister, please contact the church office or a Stephen Leader: Cheryl Smith, Maryalice McHugh, Lois Price, or Rose Andrade.

Stephen Ministry Commissioning

On Sunday, April 27, Nancy Twite and Jonathon Cole-Morrison were commissioned as our newest Stephen Ministers.





Rev. Sarah's Space

email:

sms11@mindspring.com



“My son, keep your father’s command and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck.” Proverbs 6:20-21

May can be such a wonderful month as we welcome spring time. Let us enjoy the sunshine, blue sky, flowers, and friendships. I am very thankful for my friends, and for all the beautiful influences which they bring to my life.

The month of May also brings an opportunity to celebrate moms. Whether Mom is still with us or has passed from this world, we pause for a moment and give thanks for all the love and direction. Perhaps we are grateful for the impact Mom had in making who we are today.

In Proverbs, chapter 20, we are reminded not to forsake the teaching of our mother. My mother took her responsibility of teaching me how to do things very seriously. She would tell me I had to learn how to do things because she would not always be around. I would immediately quiz her, “Where ya going?” Little did I realize that my brother was told the same thing when he was being instructed. He would also add, “Oh, can I come too?” We have both come to appreciate the wisdom that she passed down.

How do you remember Mom on Mother’s Day? How do you seek to fasten those memories around your neck, keeping them close? Is there healing that is needed in the relationship? May God help you along your journey. Is there joy that you want to take time to celebrate? May you feel the presence of God with you as you give thanks for that joy. Mother’s Day is a time to honor, cherish, and show appreciation for the incredible mothers in our lives.

Whether you’re showering her with an unforgettable gift or favorite flowers, or sharing a meal together, all of our wishes will be sure to add an extra touch of love to her day.



PASTOR MATT'S SPACE

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



Living the Mission: Walking the Path Together

Last month, we named the pillars that shape our church life: Worship, Grow, Care, and H.O.M.E. These aren't just categories on a website or headings in a newsletter—they are the heartbeat of who we are and who we are becoming as a community of faith. This month, I want to invite us to take the next step. If the pillars define our mission, then how we live them out is what brings that mission to life.

Worship is not just about gathering—it's about encountering. Every time we show up to praise, pray, and hear the Word, we open ourselves to transformation. Worship sends us back into the world with hearts aligned to God's purposes.

Grow reminds us that none of us has arrived. Whether you're just starting to explore faith or have been walking with Jesus for decades, there's always more to learn, more depth to discover, and more grace to receive. Small groups, classes, and spiritual friendships help us stay rooted.

Care is where faith gets personal. It's in the handwritten note, the hospital visit, the prayer offered over coffee. Care isn't only the job of pastors or staff—it's the shared ministry of all who call this church home. Every act of kindness reminds someone that they are not forgotten.

H.O.M.E.—Hospitality, Outreach, Missions, Evangelism—calls us beyond comfort and into compassion. It's about making space for others, reaching out with tangible help, serving wherever we are needed, and sharing the story of God's love not just with words, but with our lives.

As we continue to build on our mission, I hope you'll ask yourself:
Where is God nudging me to step in more fully?

Is it in joining a new study? Volunteering to care for a neighbor? Helping create a welcoming Sunday morning experience? Supporting a mission team? Sharing your faith story?

The church isn't something we attend—it's something we are. Together, let's keep building a church where worship renews, growth deepens, care surrounds, and H.O.M.E. is open to all.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Matt Franks
Sr. Pastor, CRFUMC

Pictures from Easter



Our Prayer List

Loving God we lift up to you

The United Methodist Church
Mountain Sky Annual Conference
Bishop Kristen Stoneking,
Our Pastors and Staff
Little Blessings Families
Leona and Garrett Mathes, sister and
brother-in-law to Chuck Bailey
Maxine Ferguson
Connie Berry, cousin of Denny Pottenger
Anne Shuman
Bill Hurst father of Callie Hurst
Nick Roy, brother of Cheryl Smith
Teresa Kindt daughter of Ken and Gayle
Kindt
Phoebe Brady, friend of Pat and Kay
Jones
Juanita Trujillo, friend of Rose Andrade
Sheldon Lewis, brother of Rose Andrade
Carleen Mendez
Barb Christensen
Perry Joe, Brother of Phyllis Tummy
Terry Tomlinson
Tom Forbes, Pastor Matt's Uncle
Family of Rick Levine

A Celebration of Life for Tom Johnson
will be held in Saturday, May 10 at 11am
in the sanctuary.

Looking for a Good Devotional Book?

Check out

<https://store.upperroom.org/>

Get to know Our Methodist Roots

Aldersgate Day

Aldersgate Day is celebrated on May 24 (or the Sunday closest) to commemorate the day in 1738 when John Wesley experienced assurance of his salvation. Wesley reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening on Aldersgate Street in London.

As he heard a reading from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt his "heart strangely warmed." Wesley wrote in his journal that at about 8:45 p.m. "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Charles Wesley only a few days before had also had a conversion experience in a building that still stands on an adjacent block (John Bray's house on Little Britain). We do not know whether the building where John Wesley's experience took place still exists, nor exactly in which building on Aldersgate Street it may have been if it still stands. A monument at the London Museum on Aldersgate Street marks where some believe the building may have been.

Over time, Aldersgate Street has been shortened by common Methodist usage to simply Aldersgate. The word has come to represent both the place and John Wesley's experience.

from: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-aldersgate-day>

Upcoming Events

May 4: Castle Rock Orchestra Concert, 3 pm; "The Bach Experience!"

May 8: Leah Circle 11:45, Fellowship Hall

May 8: Knot Again, 6 pm, Fellowship Hall

May 10: Celebration of Life for Tom Johnson, 11 am, sanctuary.

May 11: Mother's Day, Help and Hope Collection

May 15: Men's lunch at Pegasus, 11:30am

May 18: Graduate Sunday, honoring children and grandchildren graduating from high school, college, trade school

May 25: Summer Worship Times begin (8:30am/Outdoor Chapel; 10am/Modern)

May 25: One service outdoors, brunch and workday following

May 31-June 7: Youth Mission Trip to Cookson, OK

June 1st Laity Sunday

June 11-14: UMC Mountain Sky Annual Conference, St. Andrews UMC, Highlands Ranch

June 29: One service 10 am with John Redmon leading music

Little Blessings, Teacher Appreciation Day:

Our HOME Team (Hospitality, Outreach, Missions, and Evangelism) is hosting a breakfast for the staff of Little Blessings on Thursday, May 8 at 8 am. If you would like to help provide breakfast items for this event and/or help serve, please contact Julie Bailey (juliesings@gmail.com).

Outdoor Service Assistance:

If you can help with set-up and take-down of materials used during our outdoor service this summer, please sign-up at the welcome center or let Pastor Matt know.

A training session will be held for those interested in helping on May 14th at 6 p.m.

Pop Up Choir Returns

The Pop Up Choir is back for the summer 8:30 service! Join us for familiar hymns. Warm up and mic check in the Outdoor Chapel at 8 am, or simply pop up and sing along with the hymn of the day.

Musicians interested in solos or duets, please contact Rev. Matt or Nancy Docksey to schedule your performance.

Church Cookbook Update:

The church cookbook is taking a bit longer than anticipated to produce. Nearly 40 people have contributed well over 150 recipes. Organizing them, proofreading them, and being creative with the cover and photographs take time.

Our new launch date is August 31, and the book will be available in 3 formats: 5x7, 8x11, and thumbdrive. Watch for more details in future newsletters. If you submitted a recipe, please check the master list posted at the welcome center for these requests:

Does your name appear on the master list?

Is your name spelled correctly?

Please add your name if it is missing and initial the box next to your name to verify it is okay. If you have photos to submit, please send them to Kari Sorah (kasorah@yahoo.com before June 1.

Favorite Hymn?

As we get ready for Outdoor Chapel, we would love to sing your favorite hymns. If you have a few in mind, please share them with Pastor Matt.

The Castle Rock Orchestra

PRESENTS

THE BACH EXPERIENCE!

First United
Methodist
Church of
Castle Rock

3pm SUNDAY
May 4, 2025

www.CastleRockOrchestra.org

RALLY AGAINST ALS, UNITING FOR A CURE

PICKLEPALOOZA II



MEN'S, WOMEN'S & MIXED DOUBLES
ROUND ROBIN - MINIMUM 5 GAMES

\$100 PER TEAM - PER DIVISION
REGISTRATION CLOSES MAY 25TH

Saturday June 7th, 2025
7:00am to 4:00pm
Founders Park, Castle Rock CO