

The Monitor

February / March 2023

First United Methodist Church of Salida

“Love, Live, Give As You Have Received”

4th & D Streets (P.O. Box 945)

Salida, CO 81201 (719) 539-2755



Ministers: Everyone; Pastor: Melinda Roberts 719-539-2755 (O), 505-320-9107 (C);

Office Administrator: Licia Iverson; Lay Leader: Debbie Jackson 719-221-2181

Choir Director: Mary Sandell 970-217-0051; Accompanist: Rod Schleicher;

One Board Chair: Eduardo Brummel 719-293-3492;

Treasurer: Randy Bergstrom 719-539-5305; Finance Secretary: Paul Wilson 630-730-8590

Pastor's e-mail: pastor@salidaumc.org

Church website: www.salidaumc.org

Church e-mail: office@salidaumc.org

Pastor's Ponderings

Greetings Church!

Let me first say that we in the church office are sorry that we are so late getting you the first Monitor of 2023. The start of this year has been a bit crazy already. Late last year the accountant that the church has been using made the decision to close her practice.

Finding a new local accountant who understands the quirks and needs of church accounting was just not feasible. The finance team of the One Board decided that we could manage our accounting in house.

Since then, Licia and I have been on a very steep learning curve that has taken up a great amount of our time in the office. We are figuring things each day but that has, unfortunately, kept us from attending to other things...like the *Monitor*.

The good news is that we are really looking forward to benefiting from the ease of using this new accounting system and we'll save Licia from designing endless spreadsheets.

I share all of this because it reminds me of the topic I have been preaching on, here at the beginning of the year. We have been looking at Spiritual Transformation through the Spiritual Disciplines.

I have, and will be for the next few weeks, talked about the different ways we connect with God. Through silence, solitude, Scripture reading, Lectio Divina, taking care of our physical bodies, Sabbath and examination, we make the connections with God's Spirit that foster change in our lives.

The thing about these Spiritual Disciplines is when we first start to put them in practice, they seem clunky, time consuming or difficult to manage. Not unlike the new accounting software we are using in the office!

But as we practice these disciplines, as we begin to find a rhythm for these practices in our lives, as we lean into to the benefits, we can find, not only growth, but ease within them.

My prayer is that through this series you will find your rhythm of connecting with God for Spiritual Transformation especially as we quickly approach the Lenten Season.

Thank you for your patience with us in the office, as we too, are finding our rhythm for this New Year!

**Be the Church,
Mel**





Celebrate!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February / March 2023

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

February 10	Terry Frank
February 11	Mary Sandell
February 12	Bill Reeves
February 17	Tom Bruenich
February 27	Barbara Rees
February 28	Alvin Edlund, Jr
March 3	Dick Isenberger
March 4	Jim Rees
March 7	Susan Little
March 10	Bob Campbell
March 12	Virginia Imig
March 12	Ginny Cunningham
March 12	Randy Bergstrom
March 13	Debbie Jackson
March 20	Licia Iverson
March 28	Alan Adams
March 31	Judy Talla

Anniversaries

February 11	Sandy & Jack Gordon
February 28	Sherry & Burrell Welton
March 25	Judith & Ed Kinzie

Request from Licia: Please be sure to let the office know about the dates of the birthdays and anniversaries in your family! We love to celebrate such joys!



Ever wondered how you might be of service to the church? Please consider being on the volunteer rotations for one of these three areas of service!

You may sign up to usher or provide refreshments for Fellowship Time on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Century Hall. We are in need of coordinators for these two areas of service.

For more information, please contact the following coordinators:

Liturgists	Virginia Imig	(719) 203-0203
Ushers	Usher Volunteer Coordinator Needed	
Fellowship	Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator Needed	

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

February & March – Liturgists

Liturgist Coordinator: Virginia Imig

February 5	Sue Glasgow
February 12	Ed Brummel
February 19	Rosie Bacun
February 26	Tina Oberheide
March 5	Robin Fladebo
March 12	Karen Yerkey
March 19	Mike Orrill
March 26	Paul Wilson

February & March – Ushers

Usher Coordinator Needed - (2 ushers needed each Sunday)

February 5	(2 ushers needed)
February 12	(2 ushers needed)
February 19	(2 ushers needed)
February 26	(2 ushers needed)
March 5	(2 ushers needed)
March 12	(2 ushers needed)
March 19	(2 ushers needed)
March 26	(2 ushers needed)

February & March – Fellowship Host(s)

Fellowship Coordinator Needed

Sign up with a friend. We have volunteers to help in the kitchen.

February 5	Salida UMC
February 12	The Shively Family
February 19	Available
February 26	Available
March 5	Salida UMC
March 12	Licia Iverson
March 19	Available
March 26	Available



Sharing Our Prayers, Praise, Needs & Celebrations

- **Linda Bergstrom:** Please continue to pray for Linda Bergstrom as she bravely and patiently moves through the healing process of an extended illness. May she feel better soon and begin to have more and more good days! Prayers for Randy too!
- **Fred Harrington:** We recently learned that Fred passed away due to a stroke. He was married to Olivia Harrington, who passed away this last year. Fred & Olivia were faithful summer attendees from Waxahachie, TX, for many years, until they could no longer travel due to Fred's health. Fred & Olivia remained connected to our church and the many friendships they formed while here. Please pray for their family during this difficult time.

Cards may be mailed to:

Family of Fred Harrington

609 Ferris Ave.

Waxahachie, TX 75165

- **Bob Elliott:** We recently learned that Bob Elliott passed away last fall. Please see his obituary on the next page. Bob and his wife, Sally were long time Salida UMC Summer attendees who came annually from Alabama. Sally passed away in 2016 and Bob continued to come to Salida for many years, until he could no longer do so. Please say a prayer for Bob's friends and family as they, no doubt, have grieved this loss over the last many months.

- **Judy Naviaux** has shared with us her new email address: judylnaviaux@gmail.com. She also has a new phone number: 303-947-8995. Please update your contact information for her with this information.

Please continue to hold these prayer requests deep within your heart. We will keep you posted, as we know more:



Volunteers Needed for Shower Ministry-by: Mike Orrill



For almost 3 years, the Salida United Methodist Church has opened its shower facilities every Monday and Thursday afternoon to those experiencing homelessness.

Since they have started this ministry, they have provided thousands of showers to nearly 200 different individuals. Some of these are local residents who use the showers weekly and some are just passing through, but they all say the same thing: "Thank you! This helps us feel human again."

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help supervise the showers. The responsibilities are quite simple and the schedule is very flexible. **Those who are interested or have questions, please contact Mike Orrill at 719-221-5418, or michael.orrill.2@gmail.com.**

Listening Session on Redistricting

The Mountain Sky Annual Conference is realigning the districts and we want to hear from you!



The MSC is currently divided into seven geographical districts and is preparing to reduce to six districts beginning July 1, 2023. The MSC Redistricting Team is exploring different possibilities for this realignment and discussing everything from geographic to affinity districts. The team would like to hear from clergy and laity across our conference about the role and purpose of a district. We will not be discussing possible realignment yet, instead, we want to hear about the role of the district in the life of our local churches and ministry settings.

There will be five listening sessions on zoom - you are welcome to join **one or multiple conversations**. Please register to receive the zoom information. If you have any questions, Jessica Rooks at jrooks@mtnskyumc.org, or any member of the team.

Listening Session #1: January 31, 4:00-5:30pm

https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdO2uqj8oEtNlshC_4pZeGPzxTufPLOCj

Listening Session #2: February 2, 6:30-8:00pm

<https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltce2rpjshHtWtRQKkOk7L1RkkwWhkctPp>

Listening Session #3: February 4, 10:00-11:30am

https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAucumhrjpkEtcQ4vm3QfxL_PqY91iltfAIF

Listening Session #4: February 7, 1:00-2:30pm

<https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsceCtrTsrHtE0Vtx-DPjBMvBwl5sdYAgH>

Listening Session #5: February 12, 1:00-2:30pm

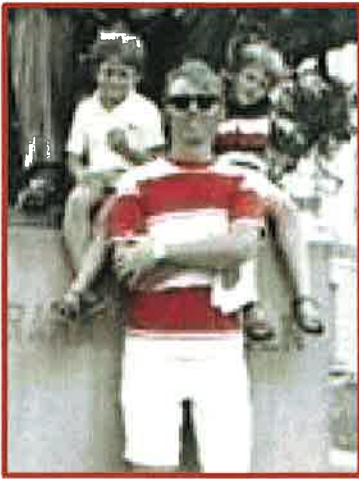
https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kcuioqz0qGdP876hUgua--Ufo0_UJQHhO

We look forward to hearing from you!

Leslie Chamberlin Trinity District Administrator
719-546-1523 (Call, Text or Voicemail)
trinity@mtnskyumc.org HOURS: M-F 8:00am-12:00pm



ROBERT ELLIOTT OBITUARY



Robert Elliott Jul. 29, 1939 - Oct. 21, 2022 Robert Wayne Elliott died in Huntsville, Alabama on October 21, 2022 at the age of 83. He was born in Wichita Kansas on July 29, 1939, the son of a World War I veteran (Paul Emil Elliott) and Grace Darling Elliott (ne Mahieu), who was the daughter of pioneers and homesteaders in western Kansas. Bob, as he was

known to all, graduated in 1967 with a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Wichita University. While in college, he was active in the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, interned at the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita, served in the Kansas Army National Guard, and got his first engineering job working in aerospace control systems for Beech Aircraft. He also played piano for weddings, parties, and other events.

On June 1, 1963, Bob married his college sweetheart Sally Anne Fenn at Woodland United Methodist Church in Wichita, where both were members of the choir and served as youth Sunday School instructors. Bob, a basso profundo, remained an active church choir member for most of his life, first at Woodland, then at the First Evangelical Free Church in Wichita, and still later at Calvary Bible Church in Huntsville.

In late 2019, he retired from singing in the choir at First United Methodist Church in downtown Huntsville, where he and Sally had become members in the early 1990s. Bob and Sally also served their communities as volunteer stroke judges and timers for the Wichita Swim Club and the Huntsville Seahorses Swim Team and as volunteer "Grubbers" at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. After Beech, Bob went to work for the Boeing company, where he spent the rest of his career working on a variety of defense and aerospace projects. Relocating from Wichita in 1981, he led one of the first Boeing teams in the company's "return" to Huntsville prior to the construction of Boeing's Jetplex plant. Major projects he developed or led included: the gimbal control system for the Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor deployed on the B-52 G and H model aircraft flown by the US Air Force; the first automated avionics test systems employed on US Navy aircraft carriers; a number of systems designed to support the effectiveness and safety of US Army Special Operations

forces; and environmental control and redundancy systems for the International Space Station.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife Sally in 2016. They are survived by sons Thomas Robert Elliott and Matthew Wayne Elliott and five grandchildren. At the family's request, no memorial service will be held. In lieu of flowers, volunteer or financial memorials could be made to: Caring for Life Hospice Family Care (Huntsville); Heartspring (formerly the Institute of Logopedics) in Wichita; the Huntsville Botanical Gardens; or any youth education, sports, music, or drama organization.

Published by The Huntsville Times from Oct. 24 to Oct. 26, 2022.

Mend-It Mondays



[Third Monday of Every Month]

Want to get more use out of your clothing, but don't have the skills or equipment to repair them?

Bring your items to Mend-It Monday and we'll see what we can do to give your clothes new life!

Methodist Church basement
228 E. Fourth Street
(enter from parking lot)

1:00-3:00 pm

~ Clothing must be clean ~
Same day repairs only!
(No zipper repair or work on leather accepted)



Even if you don't see yourself as a fashionista, consider this: The fashion industry — all the phases responsible for getting us dressed each day — creates more CO2 emissions than international flights and maritime shipping combined. Repair and Reuse!



Please welcome the following new members to our church:

Marsha & Steve Boggs
Penny Smith-Kerker
BJ Lokey



OUR NEXT ONE BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH AT 3:00PM IN CENTURY HALL



Solvista Health is hiring at the Regional Assessment Center in Salida. Entry level positions available. Join us for dinner and learn more! [RSVP here:](#)



Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Salida Methodist Church, 228 E. 4th St.

RSVP: Register for this free event using the QR code

To learn more about current Job openings at Solvista Health, use this QR code:



Solvista Health 719.275.2351
www.solvistahealth.org

A NEW YEAR... NEW CHURCH LEADERSHIP!

Thank you to the following people who are currently serving on our One Board:

Bart Smith – Trustees
Brad Groom – SPRC
Debbie Jackson – Lay Leadership
Ed Brummel – One Board Chair
Ginny Biglow – Secretary
Libby Stuyt – Member at Large
Licia Iverson – Office Administrator
Melinda Roberts – Pastor
Paul Wilson – Financial Secretary
Phil Harsh – Endowment Fund
Randy Bergstrom – Treasurer
Steve Boggs – Trustees
Sue Glasgow – SPRC
Virginia Imig – Nominations; Trustees

Please read the following important letter from the One Board...



First United Methodist Church of Salida

228 E. 4th St. (4th & D Streets) P.O. Box 945
Salida, Colorado 81201 Telephone: (719) 539-2755
Email: office@salidaumc.org Website: www.salidaumc.org

"Love, Live, Give as you have received."

February 3, 2023

Dear Church Family and Friends of Salida UMC,

This letter is to include you in an important conversation in which the One Board is actively engaged. The One Board is the decision making board of the church which includes all the aspects of leadership in the church, such as Worship & Outreach, Finances & Endowment, Trustees, Lay Leadership and the Staff Parish Relations Committee (also known as the HR aspect of the church). Your voice, as our faith community, is an essential aspect to these conversations.

We celebrate that there are many dedicated attendees each Sunday, and we welcome all our new members and visitors. Our building use is the most active it has ever been, which generates welcomed revenue for us. We host our weekly worship services and church programs, as well as, partner with several community groups to provide a variety of services for individuals and families in need. Many community organizations hold their meetings, classes and services in our building. We are still a destination location for traveling youth groups who come to stay in Salida for skiing in the winter and to enjoy all the summer activities. Last June & July, our wildly successful Summer Raft Guide Dinner Program (now preparing for its 11th year), served over 635 meals to 175 different raft guides, from 38 states and 5 countries, along with 52 hardworking volunteers. These outreach efforts demonstrate our commitment to *"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"*.

Unfortunately, recent economic challenges have brought difficult realities regarding the overall rising costs in all aspects of running the church. We are also aware that when congregation members pass away, move away for personal needs or choose to make changes in their lives that take them away from this church, it impacts our finances.

Last November, we held our 2023 Stewardship Pledge Drive, which resulted in a significantly lower financial projection for us to build our 2023 church budget. The past five years our pledge income has been consistent at about \$120,000 per year. This year our pledged income is currently projected at \$80,000. While pledged income is the most significant building block for each year's budget preparation, we also benefit from non-pledged income, loose plate offering, building use fees, as well as grants and occasional significant contributions, which we call a "Faith Offering".

Our church operates on a very lean budget, with our largest expense being the Pastor's Financial Package, providing for a full-time Pastor. Many churches across our nation are currently in conversation to determine their needs. Is a full-time, three-quarter time or part-time Pastor needed? Many churches are collaborating with other churches to share the services and financial responsibility of a full-time Pastor. A benefit of being part of the Mountain Sky Conference is that the conference leadership is available to provide resources and support during these conversations.

We are being guided to ask these same questions of our church. As faithful stewards of the finances, we are deeply committed to being resourceful and fiscally responsible. The need for this conversation is not in any way a reflection of our current Pastor, but rather a response to the finances of the church.

Each Pastor's clergy year is July to July. By the end of February we must let our District Superintendent, Chris Carr, know if our church will need to make a change in our full-time Pastor status. If we choose to keep our Pastor status as full-time, we must have a significant increase in funding. If we change our Pastor status to three-quarter or half-time, (which would reduce our Pastor expenses significantly), that decision would be reflected in this spring's appointment process for the upcoming year (July to July).

Please Note: Choosing to retain a full-time Pastor does not guarantee that our current Pastor would be staying, nor does changing our Pastor status to less than full-time guarantee that person would be leaving. Each year, every United Methodist Pastor is subject to the appointment process.

We ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help to improve the financial needs of our church. Here are a few immediate suggestions:

- Become a pledged donor for this year
- Increase your pledge amount for the year, if you are already a pledged donor.
- Make an additional significant donation to the church to be considered a "Faith Offering".
- Designate our church to receive your Required Minimum Distributions from your retirement plans.

Please contact Paul Wilson, our Financial Secretary, by Sunday, February 12th to let him know if you can help in any of these ways. Paul's cell number is: 630-730-8590. His email address is: pwilson54@aol.com.

Changes in pledge amounts will help us navigate our decision regarding future Pastor status based on what our church can responsibly afford.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Paul Wilson, Finance Secretary	Cell: 630-730-8590	Email: pwilson54@aol.com
Melinda Roberts, Pastor	Cell: 505-320-9107	Email: pastor@salidaumc.org

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this journey together.

With God's Love and Grace,

Salida UMC One Board

Please read this message from our Bishop....



Mountain Sky Conference – Bishop Karen Oliveto – 1/14/23

I am praying for the laity and clergy of the Mountain Sky Conference as we prepare for worship tomorrow.

A few days ago, I had an interview with Yellowstone public radio. The interviewer, Kay Erickson, wanted to ask me questions about the current events in The United Methodist Church. I steeled myself for her questions but then was delightfully caught off guard by her first question: "What can you say about the reformation happening in The United Methodist Church?" "Reformation". I like that.

Her question had me exploring the meaning of reformation. One source describes it as "improvement (or an intended improvement) in the existing form or condition of institutions or practices etc.; intended to make a striking change for the better in social or political or religious affairs." Synonyms for reformation include "improvement", "betterment", "correction".

Instead of "split", "schism", or "disaffiliation", what if we saw this moment in the life of The United Methodist Church as a reformation moment?

If we were honest with one another, we would note that it is time for a reformation. While the Gospel message of love of God and neighbor hasn't changed, the world around us has. Our communities are filled with "Nones" (those who have had no encounter with the Church) and "Dones" (those that have left for a variety of reasons, including spiritual trauma). In fact, the "Dones" have increased in numbers as studies show that church attendance has dropped off since COVID. How we share this life-saving, life-transforming love of God in Jesus Christ needs reforming in order to reach people outside the walls of our church.

Imagine a church where all people in your community can call home, receive a welcomed embrace, and find encouragement and strength for the challenges they face.

Imagine a church that sees new people as a gift from God, who possess skills and life experiences that can enrich our common life.

Imagine a church that is a community hub, where people come for learning, recovery, recreation, and creating change.

Imagine worship opportunities that are on days and times other than Sunday mornings, so that people can receive spiritual nourishment and a faith community when they most need it.

Imagine a church that centers those lives that the rest of the world shoves to the margins.

Imagine a church where bible study is intrinsically related to service and acts of justice in the world.

Imagine a church that is less interested in building and ministry maintenance and instead with how to best be organized to meet the needs of a hurting world.

Imagine a church whose connective tissue isn't the building but the strength of the community.

Imagine a church that is always open to the Holy Spirit's leading, allowing itself to change in order to remain faithful.

I am ready to engage in the work of reformation. How about you?

With love,
Bishop Karen