

The Monitor

November / December 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: Rev. Laura Blackstone 719-539-2755 (O), 720-635-9172 (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



Reverend's Reflections

Gratitude 1883

(And a Brief History of House Churches)

There were some things my husband said which stand out in my mind. Returning home from the hospital after over five months of driving to and from beeping rooms, I rolled into the house with Joseph only to find kindness after kindness, care after care, entering and exiting the parsonage door. He saw these acts of love consistently come and go over the threshold (the many meals brought, the wheelchair van retrieved, the broken glasses mended, the house-adjustments made, the genuine conversations shared, the cats loved and still living), and he said he was astounded by the things he's witnessed the congregation do for him, a stranger. His exact words were, "Wow! What amazing people!" (Quite a rare statement from my husband!) Then Joseph went on to express the fact that he'd never before received such acts of selfless, unadulterated compassion even from his own biological family; and I could see that he was learning the light of love that comes from being a part of a family in God.

We want to share our thanks and grateful hearts with you all as we enter this November season of gratitude. As the church, we are the beating heart of God in the world, moving as God's hands and feet, speaking words we hope will echo the love in God's voice, as our own lives intertwine with the life around us, creating miracle after miracle in the experiences of others.

We do this both inside and outside our church doors, bringing the church with us wherever we go; carrying the sacred scent of the sanctuary on our skin, and the light of the altar in our eyes, in all reflecting the peace of the presence of God in the world.

gratitude
CHANGES
every
thing

In each of these moments, I'm reminded of the earliest days of the church—those days of its purest essence just after Christ spoke and walked over the dirt of the earth. Long before spires and cathedrals, the church was only a community of people bound together in love, sharing each other's lives and thoughts, and mutual care, in the rooms of each other's houses.

From "Mapping the Footsteps of God" by Clifford M. Yeary: *In early Christianity, there were no church buildings. Eucharist was celebrated by the Church—that is, the Body of Christ—assembled together in private homes. Referred to as "house churches" today, in their own time, these Christians would have thought of themselves as the Church and the place where they assembled as someone's house. Note how Paul greeted the Christians in Corinth: "The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca together with the church at their house send you many greetings in the Lord (1 Corinthians 16:19).*

The sacredness of these places did not arise from their architecture, it resided in the presence of those gathered—the assembling of the local Body of Christ—and in what they had gathered together to receive, the Body of Christ in the signs of bread and wine.

Joseph and I felt this in your presence at the parsonage, both through your acts of kindness and through our moments gathered in fellowship and study in the family room and over the kitchen table. And I look forward to us experiencing more words and more moments as a community here, and there, and anywhere we are blessed to be together as a church family dwelling in the heart of God.

***in God's Love and Light,
Rev. Laura***



Birthdays & Anniversaries

November / December 2023 CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

November 2	Connie Cole
November 3	Gayle Greene
November 4	Ken Callahan
November 19	Jean Hanfelt
November 22	Ed Kinzie
November 22	Jerry Cunningham
November 23	Donna Henning
November 30	Elaine Adams
November 30	Judith Kinzie
December 1	Julia Moss
December 2	Larry Williams
December 6	Susie Brown
December 8	Gayla Dunning
December 11	Cynthia Hearn
December 13	Gloria Mattix
December 14	Ed Brummel
December 14	Janice Montgomery
December 22	Kay Cheaney
December 27	Janet Murphy
December 30	Meryl Ann Giles

Anniversaries

November 30	Kay & Tom Breunich
December 8	Gayle & Jim Greene
December 23	Judy & Eric Talla
December 28	Jeannie & Rob Coe

**THE ONE BOARD MEETS AT
3:00PM ON THE 3RD TUESDAY OF
EACH MONTH.**

**IN NOVEMBER WE WILL MEET ON:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21
AT 3:00PM; CENTURY HALL**

IN-PERSON AND BY ZOOM



*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:*

<i>Liturgists</i>	<i>Virginia Imig</i>	<i>(719) 203-0203</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Usher Volunteer Coordinator Needed</i>	
<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator Needed</i>	

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

November / December – Liturgists

Liturgist Coordinator: Virginia Imig

November 5	Tina Oberheide
November 12	Paul Wilson
November 19	Jim Oberheide
November 25	Ed Brummel
December 3	Paul Wilson
December 10	Karen Yerkey
December 17	Sue Glasgow
December 24	Ed Brummel
December 31	Rosie Bacun

November / December - Ushers

Usher Coordinator Needed - (2 ushers needed each Sunday)

November 5	(2 ushers needed)
November 12	(2 ushers needed)
November 19	(2 ushers needed)
November 25	(2 ushers needed)
December 3	(2 ushers needed)
December 10	(2 ushers needed)
December 17	(2 ushers needed)
December 24	(4 ushers needed)
December 31	(2 ushers needed)

November / December – Fellowship Host(s)

Fellowship Coordinator Needed

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

November 5	Salida UMC
November 12	Available
November 19	Available
November 25	Available
December 3	Gratitude Luncheon
December 10	Available
December 17	Available
December 24 - 6:00pm	NO FELLOWSHIP
December 31	Available

FAITH ✿ HOPE ✿ LOVE



**Sunday,
December 31st
will be our 5th
Sunday Giving
Opportunity.
Additional
donations on
this day will be
dedicated to**

Staff Appreciation! Thank You!!

Mend It Mondays

The next two Mend It Mondays will be on Monday, November 20th and Monday, December 18th 1:00-3:00pm in the basement. Light mending of clean items! FREE & Donations appreciated.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED!

Please consider signing up with a friend to provide light refreshments for Fellowship Time after worship, on a Sunday. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Century Hall. We have volunteers to help you in the kitchen with set-up, serving (if needed) and clean-up! Thank you!



PASTOR'S HOURS

REV. LAURA IS AVAILABLE FROM 10:30AM-6:30PM* FOR OFFICE, HOME, MEAL, PHONE, OR VENUE APPOINTMENTS

PLEASE CALL/TEXT
(720) 635-9172

OR E-MAIL
REVLAURABETH@OUTLOOK.COM
TO SET UP A TIME TOGETHER



UNAVAILABLE UNLESS IN EMERGENCY:
THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS (OFF)

NO APPOINTMENTS:
SATURDAYS (HOME OFFICE, SERMON-WRITING DAY)

*HOURS WILL OCCASIONALLY VARY RE: EVENING MEETINGS, PASTORAL CARE APPOINTMENTS, OR SPECIAL EVENTS



We will be taking orders in early December for poinsettias to help beautify our sanctuary during the Christmas Season.

Order forms will be available December 3rd and the deadline to turn them in will be Wednesday, December 13th. You may purchase a poinsettia for \$15/each, "In Honor of..." or "In Memory of..."

Watch for more details to come....

Sharing Our Prayers, Praise, Needs & Celebrations

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

Marti Harsh – Please keep Marti in your prayers as she recovers from an unexpected triple bypass. Marti was visiting her sister in Nebraska when she had a medical event. Responding to the event led to the discovery of surgery needed. The surgery was very successful and she is now at doing her rehab at the hospital in Kearney, Nebraska, where she will remain for an estimated two weeks. Phil is keeping us posted on how she is doing and is giving her all our love.

Due to the nature of their travels they are requesting NO cards and NO flowers. Phil said if you are wanting to send something on behalf of Marti, please mail a donation to the church for the “Parsonage Deck Fund”... even \$5.00 would be appreciated! Please make checks out to: Salida UMC and write “Parsonage Deck Fund” on the memo line of your check.

Donations for the Parsonage Deck Fund may be mailed to:
Salida UMC
PO Box 945
Salida, CO 81201

We will keep you posted as we know more about how Marti is doing.

Beth Urban – We recently learned that Beth Urban passed away in late August this year. Please keep Beth’s family and friends in your prayers. Thank you Beth for the many years of friendship with those of us at Salida UMC and your many Colorado friends. You will be missed by many. May your memory forever be a blessing.

Here is the brief obituary that was listed online in the Rockwall Herald Banner.



“Beth passed away on August 27th of natural causes. She taught high school and junior high courses for 35 years, then spent many years of retirement traveling and volunteering at the public library and church. An avid reader, her greatest joy was curling up with a good book and a hot cup of coffee. Beth is survived by her loving daughters, Cindy and

Anna, their spouses, and two grandchildren. Those wishing to honor her life can donate in her name to the Rockwall County Library.”

<https://obituaries.rockwallheraldbanner.com/obituary/clara-urban-1088741824>



Helpers Needed on Saturday, December 2nd at 9:30AM-11:30AM, to help decorate the church for this holy season!

A Delicious Fundraiser for SUMC

SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS?



SAFeway.



Remember ... Using our Safeway cards, raises money for our church. Get your cards today.

This fundraising program is year round. But especially as we approach this time of the year, when many of us are planning delicious meals for family and friends, please consider using our Safeway gift cards for your purchases at Safeway.

You may pick up a reloadable gift card for **FREE**. Take it to Safeway, and then, before scanning your items, just have the cashier add your desired amount to the gift card and you’re ready to go! **You can also do this at the Customer Service desk before shopping!**

We also have Safeway Gift Cards in denominations of \$25, \$50 or \$100, which make fabulous gifts!

Your Safeway card can also be used at the Safeway pharmacy and their gas stations at stores that provide that service.

Our church receives 5% of your purchases. This is a very convenient fundraiser for our church and your participation is greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, please see Allison Groom, or Licia in the office.

Your gift cards are waiting for you....



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Adult Piano Lessons

For beginner and intermediate players

Have you ever wanted to play the piano but never had the time?

Maybe you took lessons earlier in life and want to get back into playing.

I have over 20 years of experience teaching adults to play the piano. Sign up for lessons today!

Register online at:
www.sandellstudio.com

OR

Call: 970-217-0051

Email: mary@sandellstudio.com

Mary Sandell, MM, MMEd



Our Stewardship 2024 letters and pledge commitment cards will be mailed out in mid- November. If you do not receive yours in the mail, please let us know and we will get one to you. Information is also available in our church office and on the information table in Century Hall.

This year's Commitment Sunday will be held on Sunday, December 3rd. Please plan to attend on this day, as we bless our 2024 pledges and participate in a Commitment Liturgy during our worship service. Pledge cards will be turned in during worship that Sunday.

We will also have a Gratitude Luncheon on that day for give thanks for our church and faith community!

If you are unable to attend on Commitment Sunday, you may mail your pledge card in the self-addressed stamped envelope in the mailing you would have received, or feel free to mail it to: **Salida United Methodist Church, PO Box 945, Salida, CO; Attention: Paul Wilson, Finance Secretary.**

Thank you for your prayerful consideration regarding your financial support of our church for this next year. It is through your generosity, that we are able to do God's work through this beautiful community of faith.

Please know that your pledge information is held in strict confidence. If you have any questions, please speak with our Finance Secretary: Paul Wilson.

You may reach Paul via email at: pwilson54@aol.com or call on his cell: (719) 221-1923.

**I give you a new commandment:
Love one another as
I have loved you.**

John 13

Advent



please make checks out to Salida UMC and write "Open Door Project" on the memo line of your check.

The Parsonage Deck Project is still underway and we are so excited for it to be completed. We are grateful for the \$1200 we have received already in donations towards this \$5000 unexpected expense.

Both of these projects are listed on our [Give Now!](#) Page of our website for those who want to donate online! Go to: www.salidaumc.org

PICTURES COMING SOON

MEAL CALENDAR AVAILABLE TO HELP JOE AND LAURA

Please sign up today to help us provide meals for Rev. Laura & Joe – There is a meal calendar in Century Hall to pick a date to provide a meal! Partner with a friend and make it easy! More info at the table. Any questions, please see Licia.

TWO IMPORTANT PROJECTS THAT NEED YOUR HELP!

We are still accepting donations for the 2 unforeseen essential projects at Salida UMC...The Open Door Project (front door repairs and the Parsonage Deck Project creating a second wheelchair accessible exit for Joe, our pastor's husband. Please consider giving. You may write checks to Salida UMC and indicate which project on the memo line of the check or you may give online on our website.

Open Door Project UPDATE – We are happy to announce that the repairs on our front doors have been completed. We are still raising funds to help offset this unexpected (and necessary) \$8778 expense. We are grateful for the \$2000 received in donations on our October 29th 5th Sunday giving. If you would like to contribute to this project,

LET YOUR FAITH BE BIGGER THAN YOUR FEARS