

# The Monitor

## December 2023 & January 2024

First United Methodist Church of Salida

“Love, Live, Give As You Have Received”

4<sup>th</sup> & 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](mailto:pastor@salidaumc.org)

Church website: [www.salidaumc.org](http://www.salidaumc.org)

Church e-mail: [office@salidaumc.org](mailto:office@salidaumc.org)



### Reverend's Reflections

*A Happy Advent to you all as we enter this year's Christmas season, grateful for God's light.*

*Let's breathe deep the cold air on these darkest nights sprinkled with the warm glow of Christmas lights around and within our neighbors' homes.*

*Let's lift our thanks to God that the people behind those windows across the street are experiencing the precious moments of their lives, enjoying the love of their spouses and families, or reflecting in resilient solitude on the many years of love which came before.*

*Let's allow gratitude to fill our hearts over the fact that though life changes drastically from year to year, some things stay the same: we'll hear Bing*

*Crosby sing, "White Christmas"; at some point we'll have a chance to cry while watching "It's a Wonderful Life", and here and there our eyes will be filled with the sight of a nativity scene.*



*Most of all, let's have some fun.*

*Joy is the levity of God's spirit within our own, so let's let it lift us to laugh and let go, to smile and be soothed.*

***in God's Hope and Peace,,  
Rev. Laura***





## December 2023 / January 2024 CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

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
January 2	Fred Jackson
January 11	Linda Bergstrom
January 11	Eric Talla
January 16	Christine Richardson
January 22	Karen Yerkey
January 29	Judy Naviaux

### Anniversaries

December 8	Gayle & Jim Greene
December 23	Judy & Eric Talla
December 28	Jeannie & Rob Coe
January 1	Mary & Bill Reeves
January 6	Judy & Ralph Eyer

THE ONE BOARD WILL MEET  
IN DECEMBER ON:  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
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:

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

### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

#### December / January – Liturgists

Liturgist Coordinator: Virginia Imig

December 3	Paul Wilson
December 10	Ed Brummel
December 17	Sue Glasgow
December 24 - 6:00pm	Ed Brummel
December 31	Rosie Bacun
January 7	Paul Wilson
January 14	Jeff Stuyt
January 21	Libby Stuyt
January 28	Robin Fladebo

#### December / January - Ushers

Usher Coordinator Needed - (2 ushers needed each Sunday)

December 3	(2 ushers needed)
December 10	(2 ushers needed)
December 17	(2 ushers needed)
December 24 - 6:00pm	(4 ushers needed)
December 31	(2 ushers needed)
January 7	(2 ushers needed)
January 14	(2 ushers needed)
January 21	(2 ushers needed)
January 28	(2 ushers needed)

#### December / January – Fellowship Host(s)

Fellowship Coordinator Needed

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

December 3	Gratitude Luncheon
December 10	Available
December 17	Available
December 24 - 6:00pm	NO FELLOWSHIP
December 31	Available
January 7	Available
January 14	Available
January 21	Available
January 28	Available

***An Important Message  
from Mary Sandell...***

***Dear Salida United Methodist Church,  
It has been an honor to serve as your  
music director for the past seven years.  
We have experienced so much together  
and worked through all the ups and  
downs to continue to bring beautiful  
music into our worship each week.***

***While my work here has been very  
fulfilling, I feel God's hand leading my  
life in a slightly different direction. I am  
resigning from my position here at  
SUMC so that I can further pursue my  
music education business and better  
attend to the ever-changing needs of  
my family. My last day will be Sunday,  
December 31, 2023.***

***I am grateful for the time I spent with  
Salida United Methodist Church. This is  
a wonderful community and I will miss  
you all very much. And while I won't see  
you every Sunday, I will still be around  
town, singing and playing music as  
always. I know our paths will cross  
again.***

***I wish you all the very best and will  
continue to pray for this congregation  
and its work in our community.***

***With Love,  
Mary Sandell***

***We will be celebrating Mary Sandell on Sunday,  
December 10<sup>th</sup> during Fellowship Time. Please  
plan to attend and join us in this expression of  
appreciation for Mary and her time with us at  
Salida UMC. We give our blessing to Mary as she  
explores the next phase of her personal and  
professional endeavors! We love you, Mary!!!***



**Staff Appreciation! Thank You!!**

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

***Mend It Mondays***

***The next two Mend It Mondays will be  
on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and  
Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 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!***

***WE WILL HAVE A GRATITUDE  
POTLUCK LUNCHEON ON  
SUNDAY, DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup> ON  
COMMITMENT SUNDAY  
Please plan to be there!***

***Be Kind...Be Grateful***



We are now taking orders for poinsettias to to remember and or honor your loved ones and to help beautify our sanctuary during the Christmas Season.

Order forms are available at the church and attached to this newsletter. **The deadline to turn in your order WITH payment will be Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.** You may purchase a poinsettia for \$15/each, "In Honor of..." or "In Memory of..."

## 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 continues to heal following her unexpected triple bypass. The surgery was very successful and she is now at doing her rehab at the hospital in Kearney, Nebraska. She is making amazing progress. We are grateful that Phil keeps us updated 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.

**Sue Glasgow** - Please keep Sue deep within your prayers. Sue hurt her ankle while she and Skip were on vacation in late November. When they returned, she saw a specialist for her ankle they discovered that she needed immediate surgery on her Achilles tendon. She had the surgery on Friday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and the surgery went very well. She will be non-weight bearing for quite some time, so please pray for her speedy recovery. We will keep you posted as we know more.

### **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 for December in Century Hall for you to pick a date to provide a meal! Partner with a friend and make it very easy! More info at the table. Any questions, please see Licia.

## A Delicious Fundraiser for SUMC SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS?



**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....**

### Celebration of Life Service for Jim Rees



Please join us in the sanctuary on **Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm** when we will celebrate this wonderful man and dear friend. A catered dinner will follow in Century Hall. Prayers for Barbara, their family and friends as they gather to celebrate Jim!

May his memory forever be a blessing.



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 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

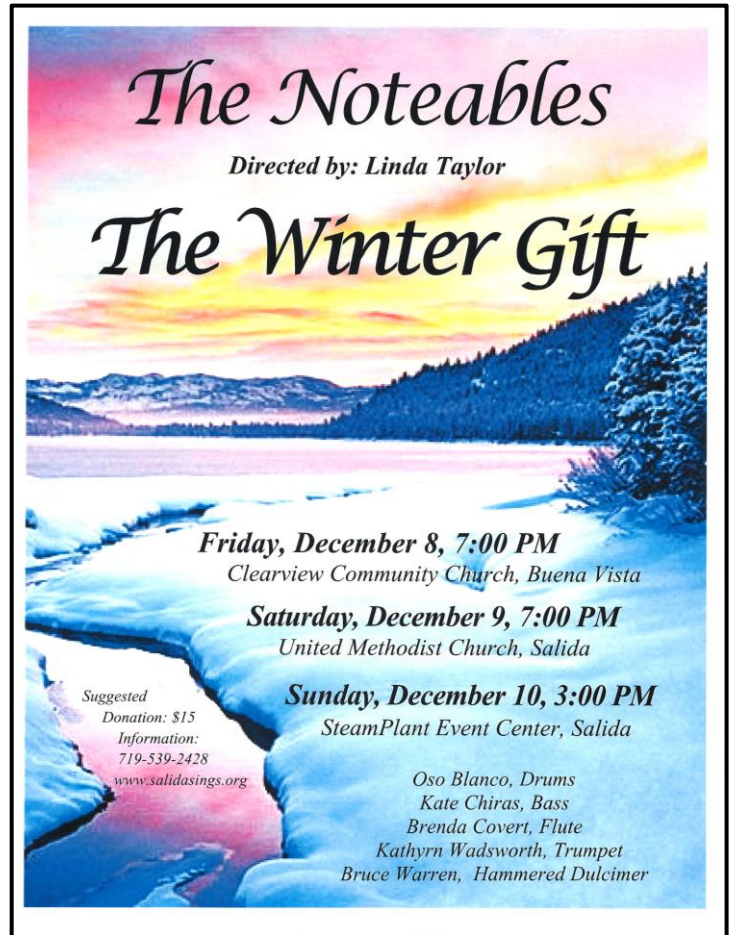
Please know that your pledge information is held in strict confidence. If you have any questions, please speak with our Finance Secretary: Paul Wilson.

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



**GRATITUDE POTLUCK LUNCHEON ON SUNDAY, DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup> ON COMMITMENT SUNDAY**  
**Thank you to all who attended this special day.**

*Please note that Licia will be on vacation December 11-19. The church office will have varied coverage. Please leave a phone message or send an email if you need anything and someone will get back to you!*



## PLAN TO ATTEND....

**The Noteables** will present their winter concert, **The Winter Gift** on **December 9, 7:00pm** in the sanctuary of Salida United Methodist Church.

Under the direction of Linda Taylor, the chorus will perform a wide variety of holiday music, including unusual arrangements of familiar carols, winter ballads, humorous selections and songs of peace and hope.

**The Noteables**, will welcome in the holiday season with *We Three Kings*, Ella Fitzgerald's *Hotta Chocolatta* and *A Celtic French Carol*. Other selections include a powerful arrangement of the hymn, *See Amid the Winter's Snow*, the familiar, *Deck the Halls* and *Winter Wolf* which follows the challenges of the lone wolf through the change of seasons.

Continuing onto the second half of the program **The Noteables** will perform an

unusual version of *Angels We Have Heard On High*, *An Advent Yearning* and *The Winter Gift*, a heartwarming song that celebrates winter treasures: time for silence and reflection, time for peace, hope and joy.

Rounding out the program, a twelve voice ensemble will sing the fanciful *A Star Dances*, *A Child Sings* and Bruce Warren will perform four holiday songs on hammered dulcimer.

The concert will feature guest instrumentalists: Oso Blanco, drums; Kathryn Wadsworth, trumpet; Kate Chiras, electric bass; Brenda Covert, flute; Bruce Warren, hammered dulcimer.

Suggested donation is \$15 to help pay for the cost of music and publicity. For more information, call Taylor, 719 539-2428 or visit [www.salidasings.org](http://www.salidasings.org)



## Music Director Update

*While there are no words to describe how much we will miss having Mary Sandell as our Music Director after the first of the year, we have deep trust in God... to have all of us, and Mary, in His loving care through this time of transition. And in that trust, we are open to finding the best, NEXT Music Director for Salida UMC.*

*Below is the employment ad that will run in our local newspapers and that will be posted on social media. Please keep your hearts and minds open and if you know of someone who might be interested in applying for this position, please encourage them to do so!*

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

“Salida United Methodist Church seeks a part-time director to guide our dynamic music program from Sept. through May. Responsibilities include coordinating pieces with our Pastor and organist/pianist as well as conducting the chancel choir and leading the congregation in song during Sunday worship. Musical knowledge is essential with chime choir experience a plus. Opportunity for individual performances. Compensation is \$4500 or more, depending on qualifications. Position starts in January 2024. Please email your cover letter & resume to [office@salidamuc.org](mailto:office@salidamuc.org) or bring it by the church office at 228 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Salida, CO 82101, 719-539-2755.”



*Please plan to join us on  
Christmas Eve for our beautiful  
Candlelight Worship Service*

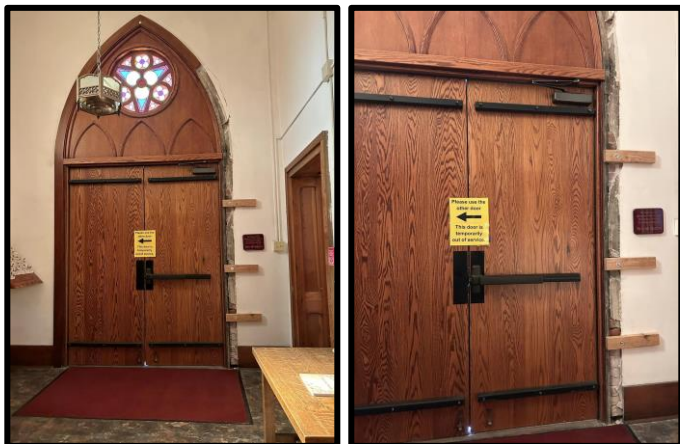


# Thank you

Thank you to all who have donated to our two special projects this fall: The Open Door Project and the Parsonage Deck Project.

**The Open Door Project Update:** The door repairs are complete and we are thoroughly enjoying using them once again! Your donations completely covered the cost of the door repairs! Thank You so much!!

Here are a few photos of the Open Door Project....



## **The Parsonage Deck Project Update:**

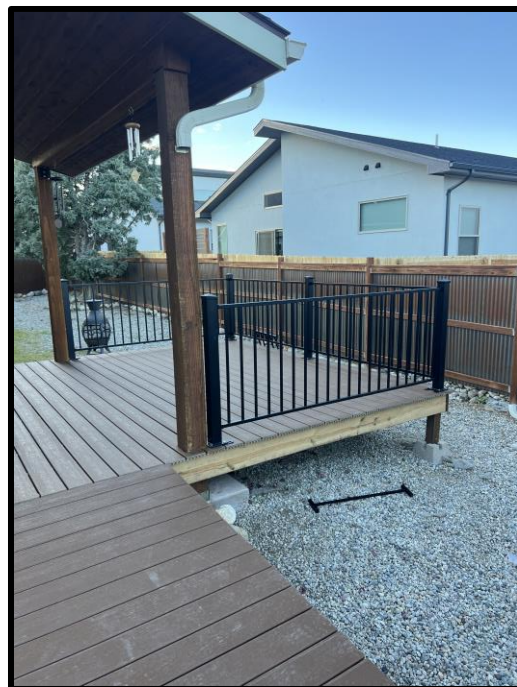
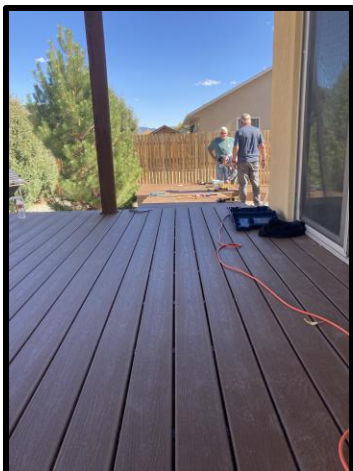
The Parsonage Deck Project is well underway. Tremendous progress has been made...and... there is a bit more to do!

The Parsonage Deck Project, when complete, will provide a necessary second, wheelchair accessible emergency exit for our Pastor's husband, Joe. This deck will also provide an easily accessible outdoor area for Joe to have sunshine and shade.

Thank you to Bart Smith, Steve Boggs and a number of other volunteers who have been involved in this project. We continue to pray for cooperative weather and available work day schedules which will definitely aide the completion of the ramp railings, concrete walkway to the driveway and the installation of the fence. It truly will be a beautiful addition to our Parsonage.

We are still accepting donations to help cover the cost of this unexpected \$5000+ expense. We are grateful for the \$3700 in donations received towards that expense.

Here are a few pictures of the Parsonage Deck Project...



***We will keep you updated on the next steps of completion of this Labor of Love! Thank you to all for your faithful support!***