

# The Monitor

## March / April 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

Accompanist: Rod Schleicher; Interim One Board Chair: Sue Glasgow 815-353-7278;

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

Pastor’s e-mail: [revlaurabeth@outlook.com](mailto:revlaurabeth@outlook.com)

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

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



## Reverend's Reflections

### Getting to Know You

Our relationship with God, in many ways, is similar to our relationships with each other, but particularly in this certain sense: when it is nurtured, it grows. Just as it is the case in any relationship, the more you talk—personally, one-on-one—the more familiar you become with the one with whom you’re speaking; the more time you spend together, the more your lives become intertwined and your personal moments become shared experiences of mutual involvement; and the more you listen to one another, the more you both become recipients of the other.

As we’ve been considering in our Lenten sermon series, we too often approach God as we might an oversized set of sandaled feet resting at the base of a Jack-and-the-Beanstalk-sized throne. Flawed religious constructs are often to blame for these isolating notions; but Jesus himself taught us something entirely different, reminding us that God surrounds us fully in every breath we take, coursing through our being more deeply than the blood in our bodies. The teachings of Christ showed us that God lives with and within God’s creation through every moment as we grow.

So talk with God. Often. Because God is always present with you in any and every room. There’s no need to escape to a monastery, or

bend at an altar rail to be in touch with the Life which made you. The presence of God is with you as you read these words, no matter where you stand or sit. Lift your eyes from this page and see God all around you. Close your eyes and feel the presence of God in your soul and in your skin.

This is the essence of prayer.

I hope you will keep in your heart the thoughts we’re sharing with one another in worship as we consider the Lord’s Prayer and how Jesus taught us was the fullest and healthiest way to be with God in conversation. I won’t repeat those thoughts here, but for now, will just list some

suggestions for prayerful practices which might help you set aside some moments each day to share yourself with God more regularly, nurturing your relationship with God through staying more often in touch.

*Simple suggestions for finding a moment...*

- 1) Consider something—*anything*—you do every day (in fact, the more mundane the better). Whether it be starting your car or loading the dishwasher, set in your mind to acknowledge God’s presence in the room as you begin, and say just one thing to God, either silently or out loud. This can be as simple as “I see You,” or as brusque as a complaint about how you don’t like the feel of the new soap you bought from the store. This is simply to open conversation and recognize God’s company through




every and any moment. The more often you do this, the more regularly you will be in touch with God, and the longer and more familiar your communications become with God throughout each day.

- 2) Keep your eyes attuned to the light. If you find yourself in a room in which the light enters in a noticeable way, close your eyes in its warmth, lift your heart to God and clear your mind of the clutter, resting still in silence and appreciation for any one good thing which happened since waking up. Instead of afterward saying "Amen" simply say "Thank You," in doing so acknowledging that your communication with God does not end after once again opening your eyes.
- 3) We're presently surviving through some high-tension times. As a result, there are more times than one throughout the day during which something said, or read, or seen causes our anxiety to rise. This actually offers an opportunity to spend more moments with God. Any time something happens which causes your mind to worry about the state of the world, take a moment to lift your soul to Life and say (silently or out loud) "God help me feel Your peace." As you share these words with God, let yourself envision anything in your life which brings a sense of rest to your heart. Whether it be the smile on the face of a loved one, or the blackness of the space between the stars, let that image rise and stay, so you may enjoy the peace of God's soul in yours through that moment and any similar moment to come before the close of the day.
- 4) Prayer labyrinths are wonderful, but we don't always have the luxury of having one available nearby. You can create one wherever you spend time alone. The only thing a prayer labyrinth does, practically, is provide a space for you to pace slowly and stop at different points to spend a certain amount of time with God in soul. In your own home, or office, or outdoor place of daily-doings, set aside specific spots you can slowly move between, stopping at specific locations in the space (ie if you are

in your family room, you can choose the window, then the lamp, then the doorway) to center your mind in the presence of God, and in each spot pause to either talk with God aloud or simply let yourself be soothed in silence by a sense of the presence of the Holy surrounding. You can practice this daily, once a week, or whenever you feel the desire to connect more fully with God's spirit.

We will, of course, discuss our prayer time with God more in worship throughout the season of Lent. For now, I hope you enjoy this time of spirit-centering as we move each week toward our celebration of Christ's renewal (and our own rebirth!) in resurrection; and I hope you can spend a lot of good time with God wherever you find yourself through the days between Sundays. God bless you on your journey!

***In God's Unending Love,  
Rev. Laura***



**March / April 2024  
CELEBRATIONS**

**Birthdays**

March 3	Dick Isenberger
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
April 2	Mary McConathy
April 3	Danielle Riggio
April 4	Jane Baxa
April 11	John Hanks
April 18	Sherry Welton
April 25	Brad Groom
April 26	Sunny Tingler

**Anniversaries**

March 25	Judith & Ed Kinzie
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THE ONE BOARD WILL MEET  
 IN APRIL ON:  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**AT 1:00PM; CENTURY HALL**  
 IN-PERSON AND BY ZOOM



**TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR ON  
 SATURDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> BEFORE BEDTIME!**

**Mental Health MATTERS**  
 Common mental health challenges and how to respond

With Sarah Briggs from Solvista Health

Monday March 18 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Salida United Methodist Church 228 East 4th St.

Reserve today at 719-539-2755

This 1-hour training is an introduction for non-mental health professionals who might have occasion to be with those experiencing mental health challenges. You will learn potential strategies that may be helpful in your interactions.

**All are welcome! Refreshments will be provided!**



*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:*

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

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS**

**March / April – Liturgists**  
**Liturgist Coordinator: Virginia Imig**

March 3	Karen Yerkey
March 10	Sue Glasgow
March 17	Rosie Bacun
March 24	Jeff Stuyt
March 31	Libby Stuyt
April 7	Paul Wilson
April 14	Jim Oberheide
April 21	Tina Oberheide
April 28	Robin Fladebo

**March / April – Ushers**

**Usher Coordinator Needed - (2 ushers needed each Sunday)**

March 3	(2 ushers needed)
March 10	(2 ushers needed)
March 17	(2 ushers needed)
March 24	(2 ushers needed)
March 31	(2 ushers needed)
April 7	(2 ushers needed)
April 14	(2 ushers needed)
April 21	(2 ushers needed)
April 28	(2 ushers needed)

**March / April – Fellowship Host(s)**

**Fellowship Coordinator Needed**

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

March 3	Debbie Jackson
March 10	Salida UMC
March 17	Licia Iverson
March 24	Available
March 31	Mary Lou McCausey
April 7	Salida UMC
April 14	Available
April 21	Available
April 28	Available

## A Delicious Fundraiser for SUMC



**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.**

Thank you for using our Safeway Gift Card program.

*Your gift cards are waiting for you....*



**Order your Easter Memorial flowers today. Order Form is attached to this newsletter, available in your bulletin on Sundays and may be found in Century Hall.**

**Order deadline is Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Cost: \$15.00/pot of spring flowers. Any questions, please see Licia in the office.**



## Our Search for our Next Music Director

*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.”*

This will be a fabulous part-time job for the right person!

### Our Interim Music Director

**We are very grateful to have hired Steve Tongue as an interim Music Director, while we continue our search for the next long-term Music Director for Salida UMC.**

**Steve brings a wealth of experience and talent to this commitment. Please join us in welcoming him and his wife, Amy, to our church family!**

***The next two Mend It Mondays will be on Mondays, March 18<sup>th</sup> & April 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm in the church basement. Light mending of clean items! FREE Service & Donations appreciated.***

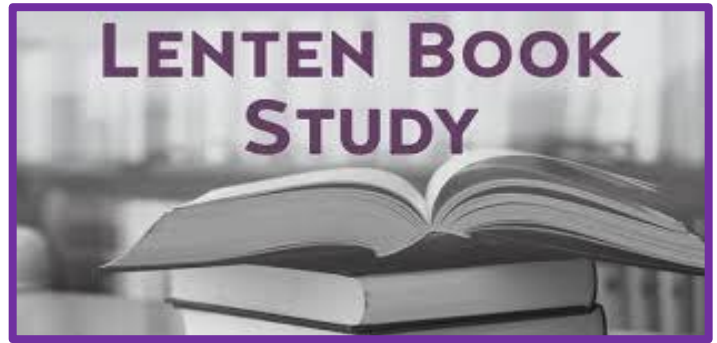
# VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

## FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICE

February 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup> on  
Saturdays, from 8:30am-12:30pm in  
Century Hall - By Appointment Only  
CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

**719-458-0055**



*This year, through the season of Lent, we are reading The Last Week by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan, and would love for you to be with us as we explore and discuss each day of Jesus' last week (Holy Week). Cover to cover, Borg and Crossan examine the historical and cultural background of what occurred each of these days leading to and beyond the cross, and journey us back to Christ's own time and experiences in mind-opening and soul-growing ways. Books are available for purchase online or at the church office for \$12.00, through Licia. Our first discussion was on February 21<sup>st</sup>, and we welcome you to attend anytime. We meet from noon to 1:00pm on Wednesdays at the Parsonage. See you then!*



## **NEED A LITTLE T.L.C.?**

Join us for

## **THE LUNCH CLUB**

*Once a month, there will be an informal gathering of friends at a local restaurant or other named location, for a midday meal and fellowship. Join us for the next T.L.C. gathering on:*

*Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM  
at*

*Osaké Steak and Sushi Bar*

*RSVP by April 21<sup>st</sup> to  
Sue Glasgow 815-600-1917  
(call or text)*



## 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:

- **Ed Brummel** - Please continue to pray for Ed as he continues to make progress during his stay in UCHHealth Memorial Hospital Central in Colorado Springs, following his serious stroke on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Some of the greatest news we received recently, was when a nurse walked into his room, Ed said, "Good Morning!!!" Friends continue to visit Ed when possible and make a point to read him the cards we've received at the church for him. He is very animated with his facial expressions, movement of his head, left arm and both of his legs!! It has been reported that he is talking more and is able to definitively communicate, "yes," "no" and "yeah!" . He clearly indicates that he understands what you are saying, so we give great thanks for that! We still do not know a timeline yet, of his release to a rehab center but will keep you posted as we know more. **If you'd like to send Ed a card, please address it to: Ed Brummel c/o Salida UMC PO Box 945 Salida, CO 81201. We will get your card to him!**

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** Soon, there will be information available about various fundraising efforts in our community to help with Ed's immediate financial needs. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

- **Paulette Sundgren** would like to request prayers for her long time best friend that has just found out that she has stage 4 liver cancer.

# 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)

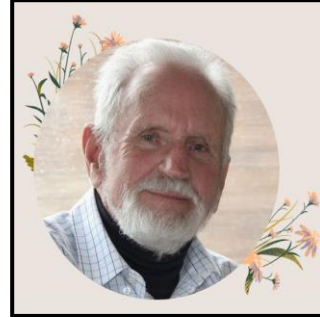



Even if you don't see yourself as a fashionista, consider this: The fashion industry — all the phases responsible for getting us dressed each day — creates more CO2 emissions than international flights and maritime shipping combined. Repair and Reuse!

## Norris Stanford Miller May 2, 1934 – February 23, 2024

*HE LOVED AND HE WAS LOVED*

Norris Stanford Miller, 89, Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Uncle, and a dear friend to countless others, spread his wings on February 23rd 2024. He was at peace in his assisted living apartment in Denver Colorado, under



the amazing care of Hospice, with his loving daughters by his side.

Norris was born May 2, 1934 on a dry land farm in northwestern Nebraska to Clarence and Marcia Miller. His father passed away when he was 8 years old and his mother was pregnant with her 9th child. After his

father's death, the family endured hardship on the farm until his mother moved the family to Englewood Colorado in 1944. The older siblings all worked after school jobs to help support the family. At the young age of 10 years, Norris took a newspaper route to make his contribution for the family, he also worked at a bowling alley setting pins, and as a bagger at a mom and pop grocery store. He was actively involved in the boy scouts and graduated from Englewood High School in 1952.

In 1958, Norris married Donna Mae Brainerd. They had 3 children, Deborah, Angela and Laura. Norris always went above and beyond to support his family. He worked as a floor mechanic installing flooring and countertops in residential homes. He was a dedicated employee for more than a half century, often working 7 days a week at his job as well as helping family and friends with handy man chores in his spare time. Norris dearly loved his three daughters and was an amazing father. He was loving, patient, kind, understanding and a really fun dad. Norris had a special affection for children and would light up when he saw a baby or toddler.

Norris enjoyed improving and maintaining his mountain cabin where his family has shared many happy memories over the past 60 plus years, celebrating holidays, birthdays and family picnics. He built a doll house for his girls on a steep hillside behind the cabin for them to play in. It was an amazing feat considering logistics. The girls enjoyed the doll house for many years. He always had a project going at the cabin, often times followed by a nap in the cool grass after a hard day's work.

Norris remarried in 1978 to Pat Adams. With the marriage he acquired a son Mark, and Daughter, Kim and eventually several grandchildren. Pat was an enthusiastic woman who would be a partner in adventure and charity. Together they traveled to Alaska, China, Japan, Turkey, Greece, Fiji, Italy, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, Africa and Mexico. He helped to build and repair many churches in Mexico, and taught African farmers to install and use drip-irrigation systems for their crops. At home in Colorado he was involved with building homes for habitat for humanity and was always a helping hand at

the church and to countless friends and neighbors. He was an honest man who always undercharged for his labor or simply donated his time in the name of charity.

Norris and Pat opened their home to foreign exchange students from many countries including Japan, Africa, Argentina and Lebanon. Many of those students, now adults with children of their own, still keep in touch to this day. Norris and Pat relocated from Littleton to Salida in 1998 where they lived for 18 years, making many lasting friendships. They joined a square dance club, enjoyed hiking, cross country skiing, fellowship at the Methodist Church and getting involved in community events. Norris continued to work as a handy man and stayed busy even helping with improvements to the United Methodist Church in Salida.

Norris was preceded in death by; his parents; his wife Anne Patience Miller, daughter Deborah Wolfe, His siblings; Alice Breeden, Douglas (Beth still living) Miller, Mona Nani, Fred Miller, Donna Lockwood, Nancy Horner and Lila Stevens. Norris is survived by his sister, Marguerite (James), Valdez of Littleton, CO; daughter, Angela (John) Page, of Dillon, CO; daughter Laura (Dan) Johnson, of Montezuma, CO; Grandson, Kyle Wilkinson of TX; step son Mark Adams, of Putney, VT; step daughter Kim (Ed) Logsdon, of Fostoria OH, and five step grandchildren.

A formal memorial service has not been planned at this time. Please send an email to [angelapage1960@gmail.com](mailto:angelapage1960@gmail.com) to request a tribute to Norris that will be available at some point in the future. Donations can be made to Habitat for Humanity in honor of Norris S Miller.

Norris believed that his faith and volunteer efforts were interconnected. His giving was done as a demonstration of loving one another and he believed if we could all love one another, we would truly have peace on earth.

His favorite quote was his mantra and how he lived his beautiful life. *“Three things in human life are important: The first is to be kind, the second is to be kind and the third is to be kind.”* Henry James



## Joy Findley

December 16, 1938 – February 26, 2024

Joy Rae (Stewart) Findley (b. December 16, 1938), beloved mom, grandma, sister, aunt, and great grandma, passed away on February 26th, 2024. Raised in Fayetteville, Arkansas in the loving home of parents Charles and Mettie Stewart and her three siblings, Charles, James, and June, she graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1956 and the University of Arkansas (BS/BA in Accounting) in 1959.



After college Joy worked as an auditor for the Dallas County (TX) Schools and the Internal Revenue Service. A blind date at a Texas A&M – SMU football game in November 1960 changed everything. Her date Wayne Findley, a persistent farmer from rural south central Kansas, kept coming back to the big city until she relented. They married (six months later) in May 1961. After a short stint on the farm, they moved back to Dallas when Wayne enrolled in the Perkins School of Theology. Joy and Wayne raised four kids—Doug, Stephen, Kevin, and Stacy—who all managed to leave home and make their own way. While the kids were growing up, Joy went back to school, earned a Master’s of Education degree from Wichita State University in 1976, and worked as a public school counselor until 1997.

During this time, Joy was devoted not only to her family but also to the United Methodist churches (UMC) in which Wayne served as minister, including Asbury UMC, Terrell, TX; Douglass UMC, Douglass, KS; Johnson UMC, Johnson, KS; University UMC, Wichita, KS; and First UMC, Hutchinson, KS. When Wayne was asked to serve in the UMC Conference Office, the two of them re-joined University UMC in Wichita, where Joy remained a faithful member to the end. Joy loved to spend her time working puzzles, traveling, reading (especially on contemporary politics), and playing games, very competitively, with friends and family.

Joy is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Wayne, and her brother Charles Stewart, and is survived by her brother James Stewart and sister June Newkirk; children W. Douglas Findley (wife Mary), Stephen Findley (wife Pascale Perraudin), Kevin Findley (wife Lisa), and Stacy Findley; eight grandchildren (Samantha Nelson, Jessica Yang, David McCoy, Allen Findley, Joel Findley, Anna Spradlin, Jonah Findley, and Danny Findley); and two great-grandchildren (Oliver Yang and Graham Findley).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the United Methodist Open Door ([UMOpenDoor.org](http://UMOpenDoor.org)) or St. Anthony Family Shelter both in Wichita, Kansas. Please specify "in memoriam of Joy Findley" in the donation.

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, March 16th at 11 a.m. at University UMC, 2220 N. Yale Ave., Wichita, KS.





*For Your Convenience...*



Consider making your Salida UMC donations online by using this convenient link below or you may use the QR Code to go to our “Give Now” page on our website.

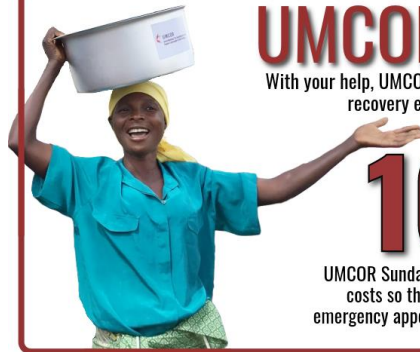
Just put your smartphone camera over the QR code and you will be prompted with a link that says, “easyTithe”. Tap on it, and it will take you to:

<http://www.salidaumc.org/give>

On the Give Now! page you may choose, from the dropdown menu, where you’d like your donation designated.

## UMCOR SUNDAY

With your help, UMCOR supports humanitarian relief and recovery efforts around the world.



# 100%

UMCOR Sunday donations cover UMCOR’s operation costs so that 100% of donations received for emergency appeals go directly to communities in need.

### WHAT IS UMCOR SUNDAY?

This Special Sunday, on March 10<sup>th</sup> is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for the ministry of The United Methodist Committee on Relief – otherwise known as UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR’s administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable.

Your gift by check can be made out to: Salida UMC and write “UMCOR Sunday” on the memo line of the check. Place in the offering plate or turn in to the office.

Checks may also be mailed to the church office at: Salida UMC PO Box 945 Salida, CO 81201. You will receive credit for your tax deductible check and we will be sure your payment is made to the conference. Thank you!

Any Questions, please see Rev. Laura or Licia Iverson.

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

## SAVE YOUR STUFF!!!

We will once again, host our  
*“Treasure Sale”*

A one-day indoor, yard sale for your clean items in good condition to find their new home!!! MORE INFORMATION TO COME ABOUT THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR SALIDA UMC.

**TREASURE SALE DATE:  
SATURDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Items will be able to be dropped off during the week prior to the sale date.