

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

John 8:36

As July arrives and fireworks light up our skies, we find ourselves once again celebrating Independence Day. For generations, people have gathered in town squares and backyards, sharing food, laughter, and stories with one another.

Yet as followers of Jesus Christ, we know there is a deeper freedom. It is the freedom that comes from knowing and trusting Jesus—the freedom that no earthly power can grant or take away. In John 8:36, Jesus tells us, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” This freedom is inscribed on our hearts through grace.

In Christ, freedom means living unbound by fear, guilt, or shame. It means we are **freed for** something, **not just from** something. We are freed to love our neighbor, to forgive our enemies, to stand for justice, and to serve others in Christ’s name.

This July, I invite you to look around your life and ask: How is Christ inviting me to live more freely? Are there burdens I’ve carried too long? Are there relationships that need healing? Are there new acts of courage and compassion God is calling me to offer? The beauty of our faith is that Christ’s freedom is not a single moment in history, but an ever-present promise that meets us right where we are.

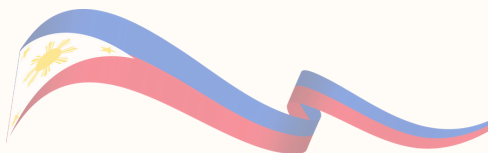
Let us give thanks for the freedom that binds us together as the Body of Christ: the freedom to be forgiven, to start anew, and to proclaim good news to a world that still longs for true liberation.

I pray you find time this holiday to rest and rejoice. May the crackle of fireworks remind us of the Light of the World who breaks through every darkness. And may we, as the people called Methodist, continue to live as free people—bearing witness to a grace that sets captives free, lifts the weary, and brings hope to all.

Blessings for a safe, joyful, and meaningful Independence Day. May you be free indeed!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah





Mountain Sky Annual Conference 2025 CUMC Report

Beloved Belong Becoming

Mountain Sky Conference 2025 Christ United Methodist Church Lay Member to Annual Conference Report

The 2025 Annual Conference was held at St. Andrew's UMC in Highlands Ranch, June 11 – 14. Participating from CUMC were Reverend Leah Coleman, our pastor and Conference Secretary, Laurel Kubin, CUMC Lay Member to Annual Conference, and Sue Ptacek and Carma Zimmerman, Front Range District Equalization Members.

Prior to the opening session, Laurel, Sue and Carma participated in Mission Engagement plenary sessions on Creation Care, Disaster Preparedness, Accessibility as Belonging, and Volunteer Missions. In these sessions we learned about the opportunities, initiatives, and support available from the Mountain Sky Conference.

Bishop Kristin Stoneking gave the Episcopal Address during the Opening Plenary. She introduced guest speaker Israel Maestrado Pinit, Resident Bishop of the Davao Episcopal Area in the Philippines, who invited us to step into a future made possible by regionalization, which is one of the four pieces of ratification legislation we voted on. We will not know the results of the votes until November when all the votes from throughout the world are tallied together.

The first worship service was also the memorial service. Rev. Sr. Valerie L. Jackson reminded us that God meets us where we are on this journey toward the beloved community, and while affirming our current reality, God calls us into the 'now then'. She called us to always be stepping into our future with God by our side.

Annual Conference is a time of learning and decision making. We learned of efforts of various initiatives such as Abundant Health, Mission Volunteers, and Sand Creek Commitments. We interacted with vendors/exhibitors including Church Mutual Insurance, Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation, various seminaries, and many aspects of the United Methodist Church. Offerings were taken to support North Littleton Promise, and the East Angola Ministries. Numerous short videos introduced us to our church camps, sponsors, and more.

We voted on several petitions that included closures of four churches, Resolutions condemning Genocide in Gaza and West Bank, and one regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons, and petitions for the establishment of a Queer: LGBTIA2S+ Matters Committee, and Asbury Korean UMC's Use of Building Sale Proceeds. All votes passed.

Cont. from previous page

Mountain Sky Conference 2025
Christ United Methodist Church Lay Member to Annual Conference Report

Laity met separate from clergy on Friday morning starting with a panel of youth members from whom we gained many insights. We divided into small groups to discuss our hopes and concerns for our family or community, and where we find belonging. The man I visited with told me he didn't feel like he belonged in the church he'd been attending for several years because he was never hugged, like others were being greeted. Hmm.

In the share-out follow up, one of the ideas I found most interesting was taking snacks and quarters to a laundromat to help pay for people's laundering while creating relationships with them. We were reminded that "When we're not helping out, we're missing out!"

Another church group goes to a pool hall to create Christian relationships, and yet another hosts a three day Senior Vacation Bible School.

On Friday afternoon, Rev. Lisa Greenwood began a presentation based on Isaiah 43:18-19a . She reminded us that the church rooted in the Wesleyan tradition is the rootstock and the grafts that are spliced in produce more fruit, create new varieties, and produce more hope, love and diversity. She asked "What is the Holy Spirit grafting into the existing church from which new things are possible?" She also discussed the importance of 1) Tending grief, 2) Discerning purpose, 3) Loving neighbor, and 4) Expanding imagination.

The closing session was followed by the Ordination Worship.

Thank you to Christ United Methodist Church for supporting our participation in the 2025 Annual Conference. These conferences are informative, inspirational, and filled with the Holy Spirit and we appreciate your prayers for us as we attend on your behalf.

Pastor Leah Coleman

Laurel Kubin, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Sue Ptacek, Equalization member

Carma Zimmerman, Equalization member

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHEDULE



07/26

THU

SEWING BURP CLOTHS
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. - UWF
(FELLOWSHIP HALL)



09/12-14

FRI-SUN

UWF SPIRITUAL
RETREAT
UWF



10/09

THUR

Blood Drive



10/05 **WORLD COMMUNION**

SUN

SUNDAY



Bible Study

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

In July, the Tuesday afternoon Bible Study will finish up the study "Praying in the Messiness of Life" by Linda Douty. Then we will begin a new study: "Questions God Asks Us" by Trevor Hudson. Come join us on July 8th & 22nd at 2:00 pm in the Lounge for interesting insights and discussion.

Contact Carma at Mynacee@aol.com for materials.

Adult Sunday School:

Adult Sunday School has begun a new study from Max Lucado entitled "The Checkered Heart" The study follows the journey of young David, a shepherd, chosen to providing King Saul with harp music (to relax his troubled soul). The story then follows David as he hides from King Saul for many years to David's crowning as King. Join us for this interesting study Sunday mornings in Room 107 from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. as Lucado provides us with great background for each session to put us right there with David on his journey! Sue Ptacek 970-218-8701.

MONDAY 9:30 A.M. BIBLE STUDY:

The Monday Morning Bible Study is a Monday Morning Hymn Study during this summer. The group meets at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room downstairs. Select hymns from "The Faith We Sing" become more memorable and meaningful as we read, sing, pray and chant. All are welcome.



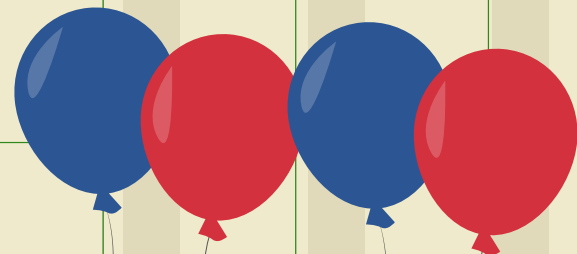
Seekers Bible Study

Seekers Bible study will be taking a Summer break and will be back in September.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Clayton Bell	3 Jacquelin Rice	4 Linda Walker	5 Emily Turner
6	7	8 Liz Roths	9 Landon Yarrington	10	11	12 Gary Turner Pip Sam
13	14	15 Sherry Butler	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Gen Maul	24 Kevin Braun	25	26
27	28	29	30 Sue Ptacek Susan Thelen	31		



THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

2025

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 26 – SEWING BURP CLOTHS
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

We will be sewing Burp Cloths for Northern Colorado Stork Support. Saturday, July 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your sewing machines and have fun sewing with the ladies.



Buckhorn United Women in Faith Spiritual Retreat

Caring for Body, Mind, and Soul, facilitated by Corinna Crandall

September 12–14, 2025

All women of the church are invited to a Spiritual Retreat to be held September 12th through the 14th at Buckhorn Methodist Camp.

Accommodations are in the Retreat Hall that sleeps 3 people to a room with a bathroom. We will start off the retreat weekend with dinner Friday evening and conclude with breakfast Sunday morning followed by a worship service.

Enjoy a weekend of fellowship, spiritual renewal, and inspiration in a beautiful mountain setting with great accommodations and food.

5 meals: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday breakfast

2 nights lodging: Friday and Saturday

Total weekend cost– \$250.00 per person



Congregational Care Team

The goal of the Congregational Care Team (CCT) is to reach out to those in our community of faith who have special needs and to help make our church a friendly, nurturing faith community.

When the Care Team is made aware of someone who needs a little extra encouragement, they do their best to be there with cards, phone calls and visits. During the past month CCT members sent 37 cards and emails, made 3 calls and 5 visits.

The Congregational Care Team (CCT) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the church lounge to update, review and to assure that the known needs of those in our community of faith are being met. You are invited to join the Team!

For more information, please call Linda Glover, 970-481-1415.



PLEASE
HELP

MGPS is Partnering with Realities for Children

for a Back-to-School Collection of school supplies. Realities For Children provides for the emergency and ongoing support needs of children in Northern Colorado who have been abused, neglected, or are at-risk. Some of the items needed are, new 17" backpacks, new School supplies (Kindergarten to high school). The drive began June 11th and runs through July 23rd. There will be a table in the Narthex for dropping off your donations. For additional information or ways to donate visit the website realitiesforchildren.com.

INTRODUCING SPIRIT CACHING AT CUMC

A FAITH-FILLED ADVENTURE FOR ALL AGES

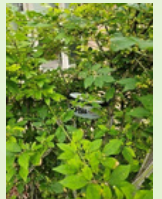
GEOCACHING IS A WORLDWIDE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY WHERE PARTICIPANTS USE CLUES OR GPS TO FIND HIDDEN CONTAINERS CALLED CACHES. THIS SUMMER, CUMC IS LAUNCHING OUR OWN UNIQUE TWIST ON THIS TRADITION: SPIRIT CACHING—A FUN, FAMILY-FRIENDLY WAY TO EXPLORE, CONNECT, AND DISCOVER MORE ABOUT CUMC, OUR PASSIONS, AND OUR MINISTRIES!

WHETHER YOU'RE A LIFELONG MEMBER OR A FIRST-TIME VISITOR, SPIRIT CACHING IS A CREATIVE WAY TO INTERACT WITH OUR CHURCH, LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MINISTRIES, LEARN WAYS WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND ENJOY A LITTLE SUMMER-TIME ADVENTURE ALONG THE WAY.

HOW IT WORKS:

CLUES ARE WRITTEN

WE'VE CREATED A SERIES OF 12 CLUES LEADING TO VARIOUS LOCATIONS—SOME OUTSIDE AND A FEW INSIDE THE CHURCH. CLUES WILL BE POSTED ON THE FRONT DOORS, ON OUR WEBSITE, AND ON OUR ELECTRONIC SIGN.



A CACHE IS HIDDEN

EACH CLUE LEADS TO A HIDDEN CACHE CONTAINER. SOME CACHES WILL BE IN TUPPERWARE BOWLS TO KEEP THEM WATERPROOFED. INSIDE, YOU'LL FIND A PLASTIC BOTTLE (THE CACHE) THAT CONTAINS A LOGBOOK TO SIGN AND SOMETIMES SMALL TRINKETS OR ITEMS TO TRADE.



SEEKERS FOLLOW THE CLUES

PARTICIPANTS—AKA SPIRIT CACHERS—USE THE CLUES TO EXPLORE CUMC AND LOCATE THE HIDDEN CACHES. CACHES MAY BE CLEVERLY TUCKED UNDER LOGS, PEWS, OR BESIDE ONE OF OUR MANY LIGHT POSTS. HAPPY HUNTING!



LOG YOUR FIND

WHEN YOU FIND A CACHE, SIGN THE LOGBOOK AND SNAP A PICTURE! SHARE YOUR ADVENTURE ON CUMC'S FACEBOOK PAGE OR SEND THE PHOTO TO THE CHURCH OFFICE (INFO@CUMC-FC.ORG) TO SPREAD THE JOY. ONCE YOU FIND A CACHE, PLEASE REPLACE IT EXACTLY WHERE YOU FOUND IT SO FUTURE SPIRIT CACHERS CAN ALSO ENJOY THE FUN.



LEAVE SOMETHING, TAKE SOMETHING

SOME CONTAINERS ARE HIDDEN IN WATERPROOF TUPPERWARE BOWLS AND MAY INCLUDE SMALL TOKENS OR ITEMS. YOU'RE WELCOME TO TAKE ONE AND LEAVE ONE OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE—A SPECIAL PART OF THE FUN, ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS!



NEW BOOK IN THE CUMC
LIBRARY

United Women In Faith have many books in their section of the Library. Those shelves are at the far east end of the Library. Current books (fiction and non-fiction) on Social Action, Nurturing for Community, Leadership Development, Education for Mission and Spiritual Growth give many choices for every reader. You will see the checkout instructions on one of the shelves.

PLEASE RETURN ANY BOOKS
YOU CHECK OUT IN 3 WEEKS
OR LESS.

Other readers are waiting.

Library News



Barbara L. Peacock
MINISTRIES

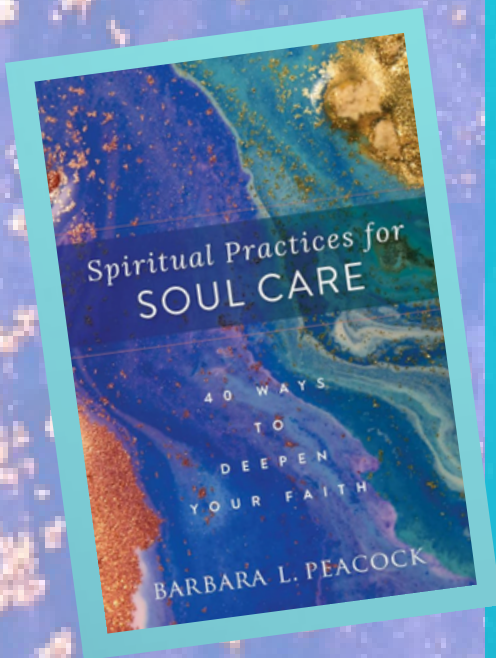
Here is a short review of a book from the
"Spiritual Growth" category.

Spiritual Practices for Soul Care, 40 Ways to Deepen Your Faith by Barara L. Peacock

Experience the richer spiritual life you long for when you read this book. In this world of frantic activity and constant entertainment, it can be hard to identify and embrace the rhythms that lead to true flourishing. Your spirit longs for a stronger connection to the divine, a clearer sense of personal spiritual growth, a closer relationship with your creator and redeemer. But how do you integrate this kind of inner growth into the realities of your outer life?

If you long for a deeper experience of God as you journey through this life, *Spiritual Practices for Soul Care* offers 40 ways to help you put the spiritual disciplines into action each day. From prayer and meditation to serving and socializing to resting and healing, these simple, restorative practices will help you develop the kind of Christian walk you desire.

If you have been frustrated by slow or stalled progress, or if you simply yearn to go deeper, now is the time to pause, take a breath, and awaken to your transformative soul care journey--starting today.



From Finance**Monthly Review of Gifts and Expenses for the Church's Operating Fund**

Monthly Review	Givings	Expenses	Difference
March, 2025	20,154.60	26,488.71	-6,334.11
April, 2025	29,617.00	27,903.55	1,713.45
May, 2025	19,913.00	23,396.00	-3,483.00

The Finance Committee wants to say thanks for the gifts you give and continue to give each week, each month, each year. As of the end of May, however, we are still needing to borrow from other funds to pay all of the bills. This is not the first year this has happened and, in the past, we have been able to make up this shortfall by the end of the year. Please keep the church's financial picture in your prayers. If that leads you to give an additional, gift, it will be appreciated and put to good use.

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Christ United Methodist Church
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Ft. Collins, CO 80525

Return Service Requested



JULY 2025
VOLUME 28, #7

Want your article featured next month? Submit your proofed work to info@cumc-fc.org, or drop by during office hours.

Articles are due the third Monday of every month.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Closed from noon to 1:00 pm for lunch

Phone: 970-226-2341

Fax: 970-207-4030

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