

# The Messenger

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February 2023

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## Stewardship

### What did you get for Christmas?

I'm certain that many of you have either asked the question of another, or your children, friends, or family have asked it of you. *What did you get for Christmas?* Was it something that you have hoped for, asked for, or expected; or was it another of those items which your still trying to figure out how to use it, or get rid of it?

*Every day of every year is actually a gift.* I'm certain that some of you may have received one of those 'gifts' which are still in the container it came in; or, perhaps it 'accidently' got misplaced - heaven forbid, it wound up missing! But, the gift that's always with us is the love of our Lord and Savior. The decision many of us have to make is how to use the gift we received, or the gift we possess.

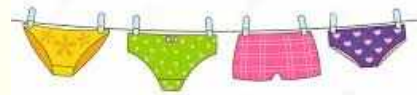
Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) has many generous people. Some are challenged by problems, whether it be financial, mobility, or personal issues. Some have to provide care to others which takes an incredible amount of time and energy. Still others have family problems which challenge them in different ways. One thing I believe we have in common, if you are reading this article, is that we are connected to CUMC in some way. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we THANK YOU for your contribution to the church. Whether your gift is attendance, inviting others to attend, providing food for special events, financial donations, visiting others, helping take down Christmas decorations, or phone calls to check on someone, those actions are all part of ministry. If you haven't checked the Sunday Bulletin recently, look at where it states "ministers" and note that it says "All the members of the congregation." Never take that for granted; you are important!

It's not always what we get for Christmas. Quite often, it's much more important to consider what we 'give for Christmas.' If we give from our heart and our actions, that's some of the most valuable things we can offer.

-Robert Rummel, Stewardship Committee.



# FEBRUARY MISSION FOCUS



## *Bundles of Love*

There are families in our neighborhood who send their children and youth to school wearing only the bare minimum of clothing. When money is scarce, sometimes the choice is made to wear outer clothing that can be seen and go without underwear because no one will know. School counselors at Mitchell HS, Swigert MS and Wilson Elementary have told us that their students would be happily surprised if they were given new underwear and socks.

It's Valentine's month, and let's share God's love by bringing "Bundles of Love" on **Sunday, February 5th**, and each Sunday after that. There will be a basket at the sanctuary entrance where you can place your 'bundles.' A **bundle of love** can be a pair of socks, underwear, or several items ... whatever you can afford to give. Especially needed are elastic-waist pants for children (K-3<sup>rd</sup>) to put on if they have an accident at school. There will be a list in Sunday bulletins in February to help with your shopping.

You also may contribute coins or cash in the basket in hall or by check made payable to Central UMC, designated "Bundles of Love."

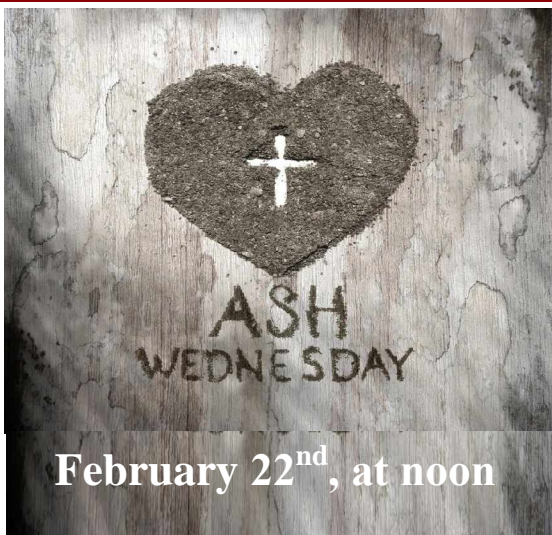
**Let's celebrate Valentine's Day with Bundles and Bundles of Love!!**



In Remembrance,

It is with much sadness that I write to let you know my Mom, Mary Wagoner, has passed away in November 2022. There was a grave site service on November 27<sup>th</sup>, but no funeral per her request. She is now with her husband whom she had missed so much. I'm so sorry to have to be the one to let you know this and to be so late but it rather took us all by surprise. She had just made the decision to move to an assisted living as her eyesight was virtually gone. And we had started the sorting and packing for the 'downsizing' when she had a stroke.

Cindy Wagoner



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, the 40 days (excluding Sundays) that lead up to Easter. While there is no mention of Ash Wednesday in the Bible, the Old Testament records acts of repentance or mourning accompanied by symbolic ash and sackcloth. Ashes are a biblical reminder of our mortality: "*You are dust, and to dust you shall return*" (Genesis 3:19). The spreading of ashes on foreheads is a visible reminder of "the dying of the old self and the coming to life of the new" The way to Easter is the way of the cross. New life with Christ involves a daily surrendering of the old life. I invite you to **Ash Wednesday Service**, the first step of this Lenten journey, **on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12 pm in the sanctuary.**



To the family at  
Central United Methodist Church,

Every now and again something comes across my desk that inspires me. This Lenten Program *Walk to Jerusalem* is one of those things. It is a program to pull together United Methodists from around our Conference. As a pastor, I know perfectly well that most of our churches in the Mountain Sky Conference would love to know that they are not alone in this big world.

That they are not the only voice praising the name of Jesus and working in his name to glorify God's Kingdom.

So, you say, are we really going to walk to Jerusalem. Yes, sort of. Anytime from January 15-April 8, 2023 we can participate with our conference to walk from Denver to Jerusalem, as a means to increase the health of our own and collective body, mind, and spirit. This is a journey of 8,394 miles which we will work together to accomplish. Our church will start on Ash Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

It's pretty simple really. We have a team at our church who will make sure the program is a success. All we need is for each of us to keep track of how many steps you take each week and report your mileage or steps to an appointed person in our church (Central UMC). They will then record your steps on the conference step calculator. We will then pray that all who are participating will record enough steps to make it to Jerusalem by Easter!

Collecting steps is supposed to be as easy and we need it to be. But, before I get to that here's the really fun stuff about this program. It is more than just counting your steps. It is a Lenten Devotional. The overall focus of the devotional is kindness and each week we will receive via email a one-page devotional. There are several dimensions to the devotional, including

#### **Scripture and Message and a kindness challenge**

We hope you will read the weekly offerings and also take part in some of the kindness challenges.

#### **If you access this online, a link to a children's book YouTube video**

We hope that families will watch the story together and discuss it afterwards.

and for those who like some back-ground music for their devotional time,  
**a list of recommendations and link to the Spotify playlist**  
put together specially for each week's scripture and message.

Now, about counting your steps. Some of us have watches, or cell-phone that automatically count our steps, but for those of us who don't, counting can be easy. Estimate, or calculate how many steps you think you've done each. Or, have someone else in your extended family doing the walking for you. It would be a great way to engage our families living afar. It will be fun to see how far Central can make it to Jerusalem on her own. We hope to see you on the trail and remember to put your hiking boots on and bring some water for the journey to Jerusalem.

Rev. Deb and Program Team

(Walk to Jerusalem is compliments of Smoky Hill United Methodist Church Abundant Health Team Centennial, CO; Written by Sharon Davis; Kindness challenges selected from Random Acts of Kindness Foundation; Song choices by Tim Davis; Jerusalem graphic by Jana Jones)





# February

*Anniversaries*

15 – Roger & Vicki Sams

22 – Bill & Diane Black



# February

BIRTHDAYS

2 – Anita Hanson

17 – Julean Heyns

2 – Rose Simon

19 – Macie Shannon

3 – Lee Scheierman

21 – MaKenzie Hawkins

10 – Barb Watson

22 – Diane Black

14 – Brad Murdaugh

23 – Cerne Rieves

14 – Joe Straws

24 – Krystal Shannon

15 – Suk Cha Disney

26 – Leo Laryea

15 – Melissa James

28 – Tori Dudgeon

16 – Mike Wheat

**LOVE** is patient  
is kind.  
It bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.  
**Love never fails**  
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

## Emmaus May Be in Our Future!



WALK TO  
EMMAUS

A new 4<sup>th</sup> Day/Reunion Group will hold its first meeting (mostly organizational) on Saturday, **February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM** in **Room 33** at Calvary United Methodist Church. Our Unauthorized Clergy Circuit group is promoting and leading this event. Rev. Deb will be leading the first meeting and invites any from our church to join in as we begin a new chapter of Emmaus. Folks with "Walk to Emmaus" or "Cursillo" background are encouraged to come.

People with interest in Emmaus or **Face-to-Face** (the senior version of Walk to Emmaus) are especially welcome.

### United Methodist Men

*You're invited!*

The Central United Methodist Men meet the second Saturday of every month. They offer fellowship, a chance to be involved, and support for Central United Methodist Church and the surrounding community.

Starts at **10:00 am**; at Gunther Toody's.

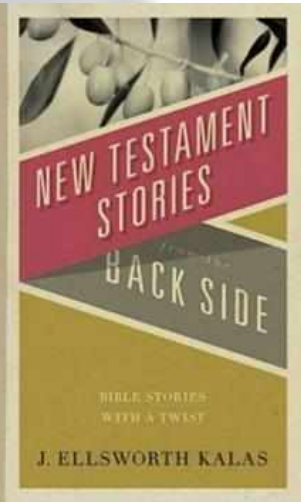
All congregation members and guests are welcome on **Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Naomi Circle** will meet Thursday, **February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am,** in Fellowship Hall

Delores Neal will Host..

All congregational women members and guests are welcome.

**New Testament Stories from the Backside**  
**A study written by Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas**



*Begins on Tuesday morning, February 7<sup>th</sup>.*

Using an approach similar to his other "Back Side" books, J. Ellsworth Kalas opens up new possibilities of insight into selected New Testament stories (12 familiar stories) by entering them through the "back side" -- through a unique starting point, a creative retelling, a new "lens," or the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character.

YOU are invited and encouraged to join the lively group who will be reading and discussing this fascinating book in person or online, on **Tuesdays at 9:30**. No Bible knowledge required! Come as you are and learn along with the others, led by Rev. Judy Owsley.

Book price to be determined in class and available in the office. No need to pre-register.

## Calling all Volunteers!

### Our Nursery Needs You!

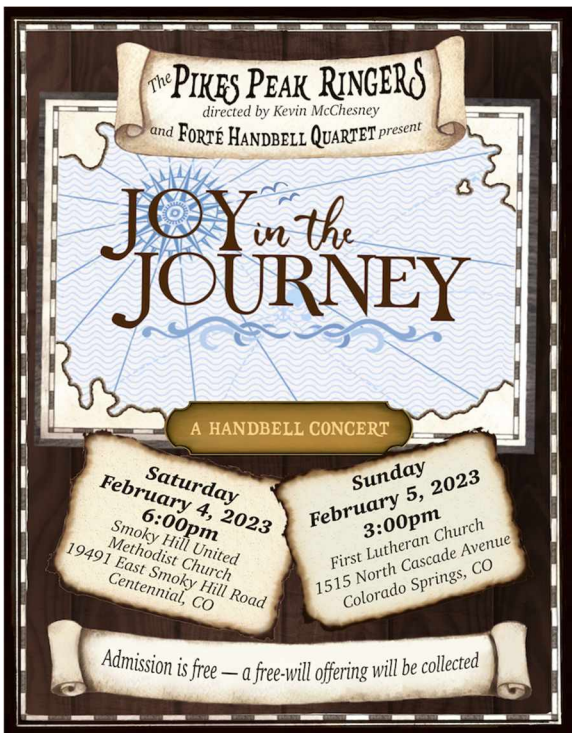
We are creating a volunteer calling list for back-up help.

If you can volunteer on occasion, please help Lani and Chelsey out by adding your name to the list.

We're hoping to cut back on the **Surprise!** You're it on Sunday morning.



VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED



The **PIKES PEAK RINGERS**  
directed by Kevin McChesney  
and **FORTE HANDBELL QUARTET** present

# JOY in the JOURNEY

A HANDBELL CONCERT

**Saturday**  
February 4, 2023  
6:00pm  
Smoky Hill United  
Methodist Church  
19491 East Smoky Hill Road  
Centennial, CO

**Sunday**  
February 5, 2023  
3:00pm  
First Lutheran Church  
1515 North Cascade Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO

Admission is free — a free-will offering will be collected



# SAVE THE DATE

## PEAKS PIKES PEAK DISTRICT GATHERING

Date: March 18, 2023  
Time: 9 am - 12 pm  
Location: Zoom



belong  
MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE



January 2023

- ◆ Heard “God At Work” as we experienced “Remembering Our Baptism” in a meaningful way.
- ◆ Learned December 2022 Gifts of \$30K, Expenses of \$27K with an Excess of \$3K.
- ◆ Learned Year to Date through December 2022 Gifts of \$259K, Expenses of \$267K with a Deficit of \$8K
- ◆ Passed a motion to proceed with the current budget with requests the various teams submitted.
- ◆ Bob Morris reported a successful Work Day in October.
- ◆ Learned team evaluating Policy Manual to determine any needed updates.
- ◆ Found out the Marque has been remodeled to use LED lights.
- ◆ Learned Furnaces in Cry Room and Youth Room replaced because of higher than acceptable CO values.
- ◆ Pursuing BuyBack insurance to help us cover our \$50K deductible.
- ◆ Learned about a “Walk Thru Jerusalem” program done by Smoky Hill UMC. Done by tracking steps doing activities. They are inviting others in conference to take part.
- ◆ Pastor Deb reported still looking into redoing our website. There will be a team meeting to lead effort.
- ◆ Youth Director Position is being put out in employment ads.
- ◆ Learned about some upcoming trainings being held by conference; “How to Get Involved in Community”, “Setting Up a Preschool”, “Training for Positions within Churches”.
- ◆ Learned Backpack Project is struggling this year due to increased costs of food and hygiene items.

Greetings from not so sunny Arizona,

We have had 1.7” of rain since Christmas. Things are looking up now. Lots of little things to repair on the travel trailer we live in here. Thank goodness Herb can fix most of them, but we are on a first name basis with our RV repairman. Hope all is well there. Know you got some snow, hope it was good moisture. Haven’t started our Bible Study yet. Our leader has not arrived from Idaho. Weather issues are responsible. There were 21 people at our Christmas pot luck at Mary’s and food enough for 50 so we are off to a good start pound wise.

Love to all, Herb and Lee Scheierman

M e n t a l h e a l t h

### **Virtual Mental Health Fair resources**

Last September, our conference (Mountain Sky) held a Virtual Mental Health Fair. I wanted to share this with you in the hope that the information and opportunity will help us live out our faith. All of the recorded videos and resources can be found at the MSC Abundant Health

website at [Mountain Sky UMC | Mental Health Fair Resources \(mtnskyumc.org\)](https://mountainskyumc.org/mental-health-fair-resources).

This includes three session videos.

"Everyone Needs a Good Listening To" with Bren Hardt, CNVC-certified trainer

"QPR" Suicide Prevention Training with Tauna Groomsmith,

Certified Prevention Specialist, Fremont County Prevention Program, WY.

"Becoming a Welcoming Church for Mental Health" with Rev. Amy Petre Hill,  
JD, Mental Health and Inclusion Ministries



# PLANNING AHEAD



**Wednesday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm: Bells practice**

**Thursday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am: Naomi Circle**

**Thursday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm: Rev. Deb's Bible Study**

**Sunday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:am: Worship—Choir meets at 8:45 am**

**Sunday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am: Sunday School**

**Saturday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am: Walk To Emmaus (Calvary Methodist Church)**

**Tuesday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am: Rev. Judy's Bible Study**

**Tuesday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm: Trustees Meeting (Conf Room)**

**Tuesday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm: Council Meeting (Conf Room)**

**Wednesday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: Bells practice**

**Thursday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm: Rev. Deb's Bible Study**

**Saturday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am: United Methodist Men at Gunther Toody's**

**Sunday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:am: Scout Sunday—Choir meets at 8:45 am**

**Sunday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am: Sunday School**

**Tuesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>: Valentine's Day** 

**Tuesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am: Rev. Judy's Bible Study**

**Wednesday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: Bells practice**

**Thursday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm: Rev. Deb's Bible Study**

**Sunday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:am: Worship—Choir meets at 8:45 am**

**Sunday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am: Sunday School**

**Tuesday, Feb 21<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am: Rev. Judy's Bible Study**

**Wednesday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon: Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm: Bells practice**

**Thursday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm: Rev. Deb's Bible Study**

**Sunday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:am: Worship First Sunday of Lent  
—Choir meets at 8:45 am**

**Sunday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am: Sunday School**

**Tuesday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am: Rev. Judy's Bible Study**



Central United Methodist Church  
4373 Galley Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80915

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



For Our



Central United Methodist is still Hiring!  
A Youth Ministries Director  
KNOW ANYONE?

We are looking for an individual to lead our  
Youth and Children's Activities

The job is part-time at \$20/hour. Must be 25 years or older.  
Experience with youth required.

### How Many Cans Can a Food Cart Contain If Each Can Can Contain Some Fruit??

A silly tongue twister ... or a serious call for help? The pantry at Mercy's Gate needs **canned fruit**, and other non-perishable food and hygiene items. *Let's see how many cans a cart can contain!!* (We'll publish the count in the Messenger next month,) You may bring donations to the cart in the entry on any Sunday or weekday.



Thanks for caring!

