

CIRCUIT RIDER



WINTER EDITION 2023

Calendar & Administrative Notes



DECEMBER

12/13 A Little Noon Music FREE Concert
12/15 FUMC FREE Christmas Concert
12/16 Palisade High School Concerts
12/24 Worship at 10 AM with Communion
12/24 Christmas Eve Worship at 4 and 7 PM
12/25 Church Office Closed for Christmas Day

JANUARY

1/6 Program Ministry Council Mtg.
1/7 Exploring FUMC Class
1/10 A Little Noon Music FREE Concert
1/15 Church Office Closed—Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
1/28 Membership Sunday

FEBRUARY

2/14 A Little Noon Music
2/14 Ash Wednesday
2/18 First Sunday of Lent
2/19 Church Office Closed for President's Day

Heavenly Father, I know my passion, my ability, and my potential are all GIFTS You have entrusted to me. You have called me by name, and marked me with purpose. I pray that I walk in this grace with confidence, and steward what You've given me with diligence.



Reminders for all of us

- The people pick-up area is in the Welcome Center just outside the office. Please do not leave items in the work room
- If you aren't using your door access Card or fob let the office know.
- You must sign up to use the front bulletin board.
- If you use cups, dishes, or silverware please wash, dry and put away.

First United Methodist Church
Office: 242-4850 (option 4 then 1)
Email: firstmethodist@fumcgj.org

Circuit Rider and Circuit Rider ENews are published quarterly (November, February, May, August) by First United Methodist Church, 522 White Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501.



Annual Christmas Card Shower

The Agape' Crafters are again collecting cards for our home villagers who are unable to attend worship.

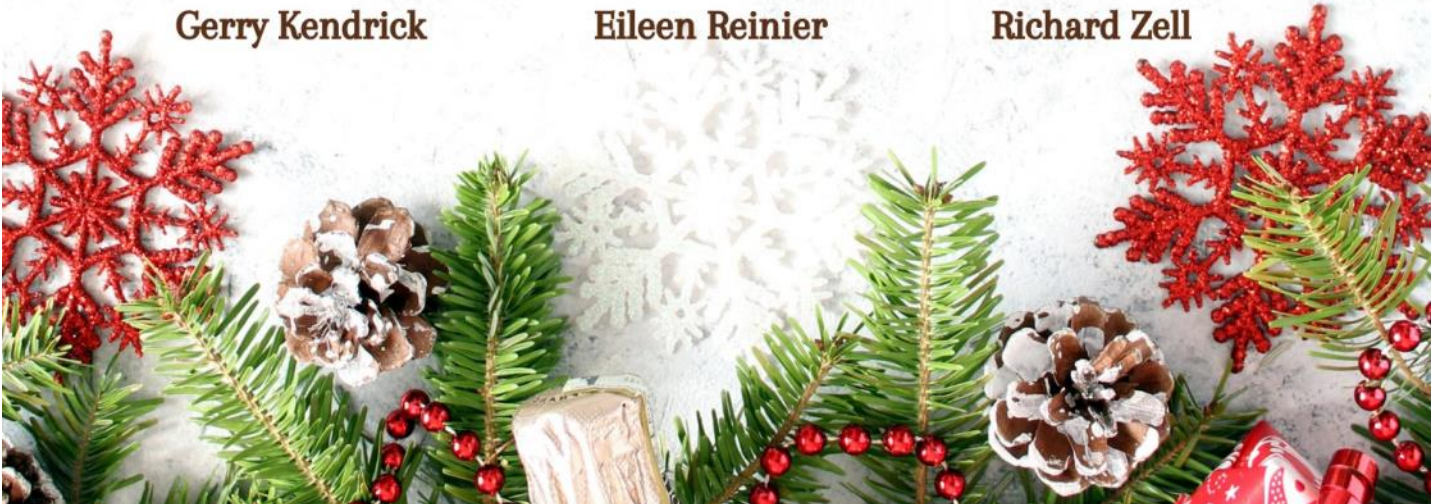


- Write personal Christmas cards and sign your name
- Drop cards in basket located in Welcome Center by Dec. 11
- Agape' Crafters will bundle up in festive bags to be blessed in worship on Dec. 17
- Congregation members are asked to take and deliver 1 or more bags

Norm Ashley
Sherry Blackwell
Iris Brown
Ray Camren
Tommie & Elsie Combs
Marilyn Conn
Dixie Gilbert
Jimmy Godby
Gerry Kendrick

Mary Magos
Alan Mann
Bette Martin
Jeanne Motz
Mary Day Musgrave
Cindy Nail
Phyllis Otto
Verda Patterson
Eileen Reinier

Lucy Reynolds
Betty Rogers
Nell Rozelle
Charles Sours
Liz Thomas
Lily Tunis
Frank Wagner
Pat White
Richard Zell



A Note from Pastor Steve

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory—the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

-John 1:14 [NRSC]



Greetings, Friends, in the Name and Spirit of the One whose Majesty fills the skies!

This Advent and Christmas Season, our worship series will emphasize the majesty of Christ. And why not? I don't know of anything more majestic than the truth we embrace this time of year that the very God who spoke the cosmos into existence with but a word, took on the form of a helpless, wordless infant who would grow up to be the living Word of God!

And the story we tell of this One's birth is full of the earthly trappings of majesty: Roman Imperialism, Jerusalem Royalty, and Angelic Heralds. But it is also full of "earthy stuff": the sounds and smells of cattle, urban hustle and bustle, animal feeding and watering troughs, smoky fires, and unbathed shepherds. Hardly things we'd associate with majesty, much less His Majesty.

Of the witnesses we'll encounter this year in worship, only two are "repeat characters": one of the Magi and Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. The others would surely have been on the scene, but they were in the shadows and did not merit the attention of Matthew and Luke, the Gospel writers who gave us the birth narratives of Jesus. These characters are (1) the mother of Mary, (2) a wife of one of the shepherds, and (3) the son of the Innkeeper. Precisely because they're *not* Biblical characters, we can relate a little more naturally to them. We could have easily been one of

them, obscured by the shimmer and the sheen of the more dramatic characters drawing the spotlight in the story. But these others were still invited to witness the majesty of the Babe in the manger – and then to bear witness to what they'd seen. In fact, their witness may be more moving for us because it is not encrusted with familiarity and time.

We are each invited to take time this season to ponder the majesty of the singular event of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, and then to consider how it is that we might describe the majesty we'd witnessed.

Come! Join us – either in person or through live stream – and be a part of the beautiful and transforming story of the One, who being in very nature God, did not see that as something to grasp and exploit, but who emptied Himself and took on the form of a servant, being born in human likeness, one like you and me. (Phil 2:6-7)

Hoping to witness His majesty with you this Season –

Pastor Steve

><>

Staying Connected when or if you are unable to attend worship (short-term or long-term)

If you would like to receive a home visit from our Pastor while you are unable to attend worship, please call the Church office. A few other ways to remain connected to your Church family are:

- ✚ Request a DVD of worship, sermon notes, and What's Cookin' be mailed to you weekly. Call the church office at 970-242-4850 (option 4 then 1)
- ✚ Request to be part of the "Extend the Table" Ministry which allows our Pastor or a volunteer to bring you communion on the first Sunday of the month. Call Kathy Cherin.
- ✚ Connect with our Care Coordinator, Kathy Cherin at 970-250-2195.
- ✚ If you would like to receive a pastoral home visit, call the church office.

Worship Themes

Advent and Christmas

December 2023

Sundays in Advent, December 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th – Regular morning worship, 10 AM.

Communion will be offered at the 10 AM service on Sunday, December 24th.

Friday, December 15th, 7 PM – FUMC Christmas Concert

Christmas Eve Worship, Sunday, Dec. 24th All services are held in-person AND Live Streamed.



4 PM – Family Christmas celebration with candlelight. Designed for families with young children. Praise Team will lead the music for this service.

7 PM – Our traditional, Choir-led candlelight Christmas Eve service. (No 9 PM service this year because of the extra worship the morning of Christmas Eve)

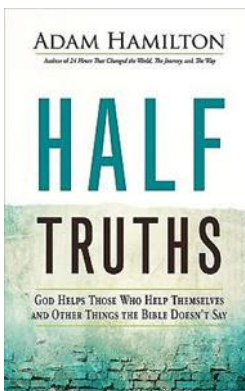
New Year's Eve Day, Sunday, Dec. 31st, 10 AM – This will



be a special service with hymn sing and one styled after the old “Watch Night” service, only during the morning of New Years Eve instead of late at night. We will take stock of all that

we are glad to be consigning to the past as 2023 gives way to 2024 and all that we hope and pray for in the new year ahead.

January—February 2024



We'll begin January (January 7th) with an emphasis on Epiphany, considering what Joseph's epiphany may have looked like, given that Mary and Jesus had quite the spectacular one with the visit of the Magi and the gifts they brought.

Our worship series in the latter half of January and the first half of February will be based on the book by Adam Hamilton *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and*

Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say. After the drama of the Advent and Christmas Seasons, it will be a casual few weeks in worship as we take a breather before heading into Lent on Ash Weds. – Valentine's Day this year! – Feb. 14th.

Lent: February—March



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Valentine's Day! We'll have the customary drive-by distribution of ashes out in front of the

Church but also an evening service, emphasizing the wonderful connection between love that is too often one-dimensional on Valentine's Day and the all-encompassing, self-giving love of God that conquers all.

The first Sunday of Lent is February 18th, and our Lenten theme will be **What R U Up 2?** Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just “giving up” in Lent, this season, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is “up to” and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. What pursuits are we up to in our lives that call us to be our best selves, and our best selves as the church?

Don't be a stranger! See you in and around the Church and the Valley –

Pastor Steve ><>

Coming In January

Exploring United Methodism and Adult Confirmation

January—February 2024

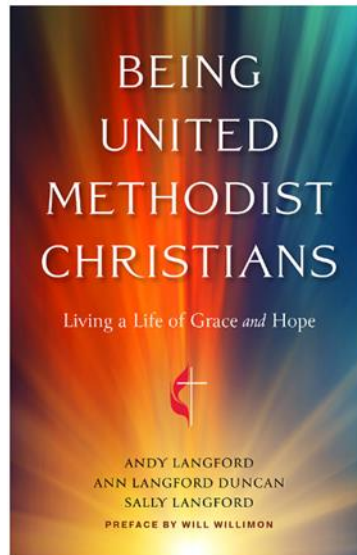
Oftentimes, Confirmation is focused on middle school and younger high school students, but this year, we have had a lot of interest expressed in confirmation by more mature high school students, young adults, and other members of the Church.

At the same time, many in the Church, especially our newer members who may not have been exposed in much detail to the distinctives of the United Methodist Church, have expressed a desire to know more about our denomination and our heritage, particularly in light of the recent breaking away of the so-called Global Methodist Church from the UMC. What makes for the “them and us” differences between these two bodies of faith?

In order to be responsive to these expressed interests, Pastor Steve will be offering a 6-week class on United Methodism beginning January 14th and finishing up on the first Sunday in Lent, February 18th. It will culminate in an invitation to participate in Confirmation in worship for all those who desire to recommit their lives to Christ and FUMC as a result of this journey. Taking part in the class neither presumes nor requires confirmation on the part of the participants; it will just be a natural part of the study for those who are interested in adult confirmation.

Mature high school students, young adults, and the whole range of the adult demographic of our Church are welcome to be a part of this.

In order to maximize the opportunity for folks, we will be holding this class from 12 Noon to 1:30 PM on Sunday afternoons **January 14, 21, and 28** and **February 4, 11, and 18**. You can go to Fellowship after worship and get a snack to tide you over, and then be home for a late lunch – and in time for football or handbells (If either of them is your thing)



The cover of the book we'll be using is pictured to the left with further info here:

Being United Methodist Christians: Living a Life of Grace and Hope. Andy Langford, Ann Langford Duncan, and Sally Langford (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2023).

You're asked to either purchase one for yourself from your favorite bookseller or let Roxie Denning cfa@fumcgj.org know of your interest, so she can order one for you.

In either case, participants/students will be required to have read the introductory material and the first Chapter, “What Is Our Biblical Story?” prior to the first class session on January 14.

Further registration information and a sign up sheet for planning purposes will be available in December.

Please consider taking part in this opportunity to learn more about our Christian faith and our United Methodist distinctives after the Holidays.

Christian Education Ministry

~ Proverbs 18:15- An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

There are many roles and steps when it comes to creating a class for our Christian Education Ministry.

Once a person decides to be a facilitator of a class/study:

1. They should contact Roxie the Christian Education Leader at cfa@fumcgj.org to order books, guides, and dvd's if appropriate and for any questions they may have. Please allow 4-6 weeks for books to arrive. Once the cost is determined facilitator will be notified as well as when the books arrive.
2. **Facilitator is responsible for:**
 - Creating Publicity & Communications (ex: posters, sign-up sheets, What's Cookin' and Circuit Rider articles, social media announcements, etc...)
 - Reserving bulletin board space by signing up
 - Reserving a room by contacting Carolyn in the church office at 970-242-4850 or firstmethodist@fumcgj.org.
 - Unused books/guides must be packed up and returned to Roxie within a timely manner. She will then mail them back to appropriate place so FUMC may get a refund for them.



The following information should be on the posters and communication venues:

Facilitator Name and Contact information, Name of Book/Study, cost, dates & time of the class, and location.

What's New?



A few months back we announced our new ministry name. We were known as the Craft'n Sistas' and now we are the Agapé Crafters!

Agapé is a Greek word meaning the highest form of love, charity, and the unconditional love of God for humans as well as our reciprocal love for God. It is the type of love that Jesus modeled for us and that he wants us to have for each other.

Our motto is: *"Spreading God's love one gift at a time."* We meet most Mondays at 6:30 PM, at the church, where we create cards, baptism gifts, wedding boxes, Christmas Eve gifts for the children, Blessing of the Backpack tags, Volunteer Appreciation gifts, and we organize the Christmas card shower for our in-home worshippers. Our gifts support the ministries of our congregation and we fellowship and care for each other within the group as well.

Our group consists of Carolyn Campbell, GeneAnn Jimmerson, Michelle Huff, Robin Nelson, and Marina Young.

If you would like more information about our ministry, please contact Michelle Huff at [970-260-7999](tel:970-260-7999). We'd love to have you join us!

Family Ministry

Children's Sunday School

Rusty the Construction Foreman (AKA Mary Moore) sharing with our kids the importance of building a house on a firm foundation, just as we build our life on Jesus!

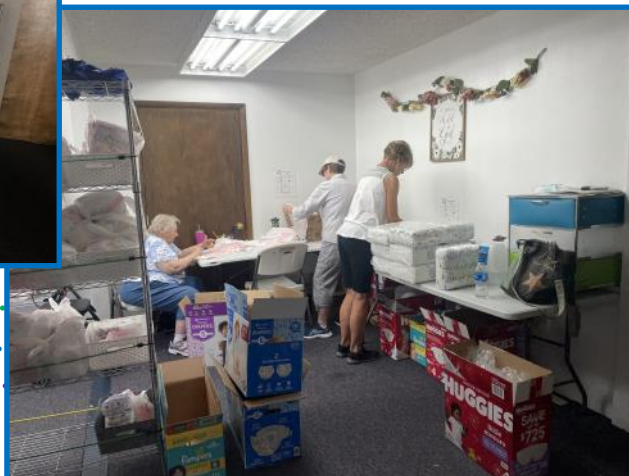
Join us for Sunday school at 11:15-12 after the 10am service! Kids age 4-12!



Diaper Depot

In September Just Serve, an organization from the Church of Latter-Day Saints collected and donated over 6000 diapers of various sizes, 65 packages of wipes and several tubes of diaper rash cream. A huge THANK YOU! To Just Serve in donating, and supporting the missions of our church! It is truly an amazing gift to the Diaper Depot and the families that we serve.

The FANTASTIC ladies helping bag diapers during the Diaper Depot! Thank you, Charlotte Boylan, Maija Freel, and Gale Alves! You gals ROCK! (Picture: Diaper Depot 1)



Parlor and Chapel-room redo

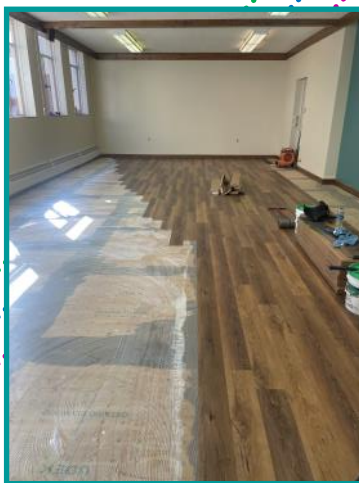
Things have really been in the works with the Chapel and Parlor updates! Such a great improvement! Thanks to the crew at Gallagher's flooring for doing such an incredible job installing the floors in the Chapel and cleaning the carpet in the Parlor. Thank you to Bill Nail for the detailed painting, and Trustees for helping move furniture, and move more furniture, and all the work you guys have done in taking things apart and putting it back together! And thank you to Jody Motz, and Anna Rowcliffe for helping to plan, and get things together for this to happen!

to-
It



seems things
Ayla ap-
proved!

are






YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

FUMC Christmas

CONCERT & SING-ALONG

FEATURING FUMC MUSIC
MINISTRIES & FRIENDS



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023
7PM

522 White Ave., GJ
WWW.FUMCGJ.ORG





**First United
Methodist Church**

Christmas EVE SERVICES



10 AM

Blended
Service

4 PM

Family/ Contemporary
Service

7 PM

Traditional
Service

522 WHITE AVE. GRAND JUNCTION, CO

Visit our website for more info WWW.FUMCGJ.ORG

Hospitality Opportunities



Hospitality Seeking

WINTER GREETERS

- Arrive at least 30 minutes before Sunday service
- Pass out worship handout and flyers
- Welcome people into the church
 - Wear greeter badge
 - Assist with offering

Contact:
Shyann Morrison
Email: hospitality@fumcgj.org



How Can You Help With Fellowship Time?

Donate Baked Goods or Appetizers
-Marked With Date and Item Name
-Place in Parlor Freezer

Volunteer Once a Month
-Help With Set Up and Take Down
-Provide Dessert or Appetizer
-Help Serve Food

SUNDAY
11am to 12pm

Contact:
Shyann Morrison, hospitality@fumcgj.org



A Little Noon Music

December 13 - Palisade High School Choir
January 10 - Scott Betts
February 14 - Jennifer Gary, Flute

First United Methodist Church --- Second Wednesdays --- Free --- 12:15-1:00pm

United Women in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PROGRAM and EVENT CALENDAR



United
Women
in Faith

Dec
13

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

JOIN US AT LITTLE NOON MUSIC AND
LUNCH AT DOS HOMBRES, CLIFTON

Jan
4

OFFICER INSTALLATION

ELLIE YOUNG

Feb
1

LOVE IN ACTION

SPEAKER: TBA

SARAH CIRCLE

fellowship and mission
United Women in Faith

Dec
14

Christmas Party
Location TBD
5-7pm

Jan
18

Planning retreat
Location TBD

Feb
15

Love in Action Can Change the World
5pm
Presenter - Amy

Made with PosterMyWall.com



United
Women
in Faith

Meet at church parlor unless otherwise indicated
Information: Amy Gibbs - gnesiosgibbs@gmail.com



Partnering with Palisade High School

The Choral Music Program at Palisade High School
proudly presents their thirteenth annual

Sounds of the Season



Simple & Cozy

Saturday, December 16, 2023

2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

522 White Ave, Grand Junction, CO 81501

General Admission Seating

Tickets - \$15

(in advance or at the door)

Price includes Performance and Sounds of the Season Ornament

For tickets go to

www.soundsoftheseason.com



Come and Ring those Bells

Bells of Faith



Bells of Faith now has 13 regular ringers which is the ideal number of ringers needed to play FUMC's 5 octaves of handbells. However, they are busy folks who travel a lot so we are always in need of substitute ringers. We are looking for 1 or 2 experienced subs who would be able to attend most rehearsals. These ringers would be needed to fill in any of the positions where a ringer would be missing with the exception of the largest bell ringing position.

Bell rehearsal is at 4:00 PM, on Sunday afternoon. If you have the skill to ring anywhere and would like to join this group of ringers contact Terri Godby at terrigodby@msn.com.

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better do better."

~ Maya Angelou

Visit us on the web—www.fumcgj.org

Circuit Rider is a quarterly publication. Submit all materials for Circuit Rider via email to Carolyn Campbell at firstmethodist@fumcgj.org

First United Methodist Church
522 White Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

NON PROFIT
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
GRAND JUNCTION, CO
PERMIT NO. 75
Change Service Requested

First United Methodist Church
Worshipping God and Loving One
Another by Taking Christ to the
Community and the Community to
Christ



DOWNTOWN | 522 White Avenue. 81501
Sunday Mornings at FUMC
In-Person & Live Stream via fumcgj.org
10 AM Worship
11 AM Fellowship & Classes
Our nursery is fully open for worship service