

What's Cookin' at FUMCGJ

A Word from Pastor Steve

I wanted to express my deep gratitude for the many expressions of appreciation I have received (and Kim and I have received) for Pastor Appreciation this past week. Your love for me/us is a huge blessing and encouragement to me in a time when church leadership and pastoral ministry are anything but clear, smooth, and well-understood. They never offered a class in seminary about how to lead the church in the middle of a global pandemic! Your patience and understanding would have been enough appreciation for me this month, so much more so, your cards, e-mails, and gifts.

I also want to say how much I understand and share the experience of strife, struggle, and anxiety that seems to pervade our lives these days. It's not just COVID-19; it's not just the social and economic consequences of the isolation, masks, and safe distancing; it's not just the denominational struggle that looms on the horizon; it's not just the election and state-and-national politics to say nothing of health concerns, family issues, and other challenges. It's all of this and, perhaps, more. Any one of those elements would be stress-inducing and upsetting by itself; the combination is truly beginning to take its toll on all of us.

Biblically, this brings to mind how the Hebrew people must have felt as everything that had been stable in their lives began to crumble under the pressure of foreign military power and national collapse. They cried out, "How long, O Lord?" And their lament continued, "Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?" (Psalm 13:1) Like them, we can cry, "How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?" (Psalm 13:2) Our situations can feel overwhelming.

But with them, we can also affirm, "But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me." (Psalm 13:5-6)

Trusting in the unfailing love of God and having faith in the Lord's goodness brings us to rejoicing is critical. Not necessarily because our situations have changed, but because we are reminded of what is of ultimate importance: that God is with us, that God is for us, and that God's love sustains us – and empowers us to "put that love on display" even though struggle and anxiety color our surroundings.

Yours in the difficult journey of faith and affirming God's goodness in our midst,

Pastor Steve

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Worship Happening this Sunday

Today is our Make-A-Change Sunday for October. It will benefit Colorado Discover Abilities.

In-Person Worship gatherings now at **both** the 9 & 11 AM services, up to 50 people. Masks are required to enter and move around the Church building but can be removed once you're seated in the Sanctuary WITH safe distancing between/among others in worship.

Both services continue to be live streamed via our website at fumcgj.org or on facebook live video at fumcgj.

Mission Moment for October - Collecting Kids Costumes

Located in the Court Yard Breezeway is a donation bin for costumes. Above the bin is a poster as well as individual sheets of each costume being requested. The system is like a giving tree, if you take a paper, that is the costume you are taking responsibility for purchasing and donating. Ashley Goldthwaite will keep the congregation informed as to what is still needed. FUMC will be inviting the children to the Fall Harvest Festival as well as invite them to participate in the costume parade.

Family Ministry Happenings

Weekly

- Virtual Sunday school is at a NEW time. Join us via Zoom at **1:30pm** with Ms. Glenna
- Sunday evening prayer around 7pm on Facebook Live
- Bible Blasts on Tuesday Mornings around 10 on Facebook Live



Upcoming

- VOF Night – 10/18 at 5pm-7pm: Carving out Time with Jesus

Check out our Family Ministry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFirstUMC/>

Special Charge Conference

There will be a special FUMC Charge Conference held via the Zoom platform on Tuesday, October 20, at 5:30pm. This charge conference is strictly to discuss and vote on proposed changes to the Church's Permanent Endowment Fund charter per the request of our FUMC Permanent Endowment Fund Committee and FUMC Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A). Rev. Elizabeth McVicker, our District Superintendent, will be presiding. Anyone associated with FUMC may attend and share opinions, but only FUMC CF&A members and retired clergy affiliated with FUMC may vote at this meeting. The Zoom invitation will be put out in the E-blast for the weekend of Oct. 17-18, 2020.

TUESDAYS Brown Bag Sermon Discussion Group

As part of the Fall worship series, Pastor Steve is offering a 1-hour discussion group over the lunch hour on Tuesdays using the Zoom video and calling platform.

For security purposes, the Zoom connect information will be different each week and will be e-mailed out using this E-blast forum. Please make a note of it when the E-blast comes out.

Topic: Brown Bag Zoom Sermon Chat w/ Pastor Steve

Time: Oct 20, 2020 12:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84136874621?pwd=Ym5TbGdrWEdSeDNkUmJvLzlpZWtFUT09>

(*Meeting ID: 841 3687 4621; Passcode: 309547. These should not be needed; they're embedded in the link above.*)

OR...to dial in using any phone:

301-715-8592 US

Meeting ID: 841 3687 4621

Passcode: 309547

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry knits or crochets prayer shawls and lap robes for those who need a reminder that God has His arms wrapped around them all the time – in good times and bad.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in the church parlor.

Please join us for devotions, fellowship & ministry. We have plenty of yarn and knitting needles or crochet hooks available for you to use.

Call Pam Bersch 970-242-3134 for more information.

Display Your Cross

The meaning of the cross can be different for everyone. The cross has touched each of our hearts and lives in unique and beautiful ways. This past week many of us had the opportunity to create our own crosses and connect with God in such a meaningful way with author Ellen Morris Prewitt and the Making Crosses Workshop. In honor of this incredible experience, we are inviting you to bring in your cross, either one you've made or one that has a particular special meaning to you, to be displayed in our gallery hall. Please put your name on it with a tag or label, and if desired include a short/brief description of the meaning of your cross. Bring in your crosses by October 18th (drop off in church library) to be included in the gallery. We look forward to opening our gallery again and what better way than our connection with God through the cross. For more information contact Anna at familyministry@fumcgj.org or (970)946-3179.

Fall Harvest Festival We have created a Fall Harvest COVID Protection Plan that is available by clicking on this link https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kre25Na8BMBEgj_OowjyzWqlGF6oUTFE?usp=sharing. It also is available on our FUMC website (under *Ministries* then *Connectional Ministry* and click on the link) so that everyone can be aware of the precautions we are taking. We want everyone to feel safe. For questions or concerns about the festival, please contact Ashley at connectionalministry@fumcgj.org or 970-210-8916.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST HOLIDAY HOUSE BAZAAR GOES ONLINE!

The United Methodist Women and friends invite you to a new and different way to our annual Holiday House Bazaar – due to the virus concerns this year. Our online website is www.umwbazaar.com and we invite you to join us.

First connect to the website, view the available items (all handmade), choose the item(s) and then you may pay by credit card or Pay Pal only. You will be given the instructions for pick-up at the church (in a safe manner).

DATES OF THE ONLINE SALE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

TIME OF THE ONLINE SALE: MIDNIGHT to MIDNIGHT

DATES/TIMES OF PICK-UP: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 FROM 12:30 TO 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 FROM 5 TO 8 PM

@ FUMC, 522 WHITE AVENUE

We welcome you to join us for a new experience this 2020!!



VOTE NOW!

PARADE OF LIGHTS THEME!

CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING

- WILD WEST
- VICTORIAN
- DO-WAP
- HIPPIE
- RENAISSANCE

Parade of Lights

FUMC needs you! We are beginning the work for the float for the Parade of Lights Dec 5th. The theme this year is Christmas through the ages. We are doing a four scene float. One is the Manger scene and the other is a future scene. Outside of the sanctuary will be a ballot box to choose the other two scenes. Please choose TWO of the options listed on the poster. ACT NOW! Polls close 12 PM Nov 1st.



Our FUMCGJ Boy Scout Troop

Our troop is gearing up for another season of wreath sales. We will be taking pre-orders from October 5th - November 9th. In-person option is being looked at for the beginning of November.

There are two different kinds of wreaths and two sizes:
Fraser Fir & Douglas Fir 20" (typical door size) (\$30) and 30" (\$40)
All hand tied wreaths are made in Aurora, Colorado and are fresh.

Each will come with a red ribbon and 3 pinecones.

We will be picking the orders up in Aurora, Colorado on November 28th, please pray for decent driving weather over our mountains!

If there are no issues going over the mountain and back the plan is to sort/distribute to scouts on November 29th. The boys will be delivering wreaths Nov 30th - Dec 4th.

If you have questions, or if you would like to pre-order a wreath now, please contact Jennifer Ryan at 970-434-9376.