

December 2019

Center United Methodist Church

PO Box 626
4th & Broadway,
Center CO 81125
Worship Services: 8:30 am
Church Phone: 719-754-2243
E-mail: umcofcenter@gmail.com
Financial E-mail:
CUMCfin@yahoo.com

Saguache United Methodist Church

6th & Christie, Saguache
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Upton

Phone: 754-2243
Cell phone: 504-261-8860
167 W. 4th
Center CO 81125
Email: dupton@iliff.edu

Administrative Assistant/
Newsletter Editor:

Hannah Metzger
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed,
and Thurs.
8:30am-12:30pm

Pastor Debbie

At the writing of this newsletter article, our hearts are heavy with the loss of our precious Bob Felmler. Please continue to lift Betty and the family especially December 2, 2019, at 11 am as we commend Bob into the arms of our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep Vickie and Gerald Myers in prayer as Vickie continues rehab in Colorado Springs. We rejoice and thank God for the continued healing and recovery of Linda Clutter, Marilyn Eagles, and Janet Myers. We also rejoice in the testimony of our sister Isabel Geibel as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday December 3rd which is quite an accomplishment. During these holiday seasons there are many on our prayer list, so let us remember to lift them in prayer daily. With all the loss in both Center and Saguache, this year we will have a Blue Christmas service on the longest night of the year, December 21st. The Saguache service will be at noon and the Center service will be at 5 pm. Our special Christmas Eve service will be at 5 pm in Center and 7 pm in Saguache.

Volume 34 Issue 12

Janet Myers for their help in hosting **November's movie night while I was upstairs** in my online CPE class. Our AA open meeting is in full swing on Saturday mornings at 10 am **and I'm happy to announce that our Community Breakfast with Police Chief Dale Meek will kick off the first Saturday of every month from 8-10 am.** For delicious waffles, coffee, and conversation with our new police chief come December 7th at 8-10. **I'm hoping** that we will be able to start something similar the second Saturday of every month at Saguache.

The UMW is preparing for the holiday brunch on Tuesday, December 3rd at 9:30 am and their Christmas soup luncheon with baked goods and candy sale on December 14th noon. We are also collecting gifts for the youth at LaPuente. You may bring an unwrapped gift that an older middle school or high school student would enjoy or you may make a monetary donation to UMW or the church.

The worship committee has been hard at work planning worship for this holiday season beginning with our Hanging of the Greens service December at both churches. Our Advent Study *Almost Christmas* began at Center Wednesday, November 27th at noon with lunch provided and will continue until the Wednesday before Christmas. The same Advent Study will begin after church on December 1st in Saguache.

Center's Cookin' with Your Neighbor on December 5th will feature Christmas traditional favorites. A roast and ham will be provided. Decorating Christmas cookies will begin at 5:30 pm with the dinner to follow at 6 pm. **Saguache's Dinner with Your Neighbor will** feature Christmas Eve traditional favorites highlighted with a first-ever Christmas Radio

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October and November have been packed with wonderful adventures at Center and Saguache. A special thank you goes to all who helped make the cluster charge conference successful and our church **leadership complete.** **November's Cooking** with Your Neighbor at Center and Dinner with Your Neighbor at Saguache were filled with the wonderful thanksgiving spirit with plenty of food for the overflowing crowds at both churches. Chair Yoga is still going strong on Tuesday mornings and we are benefiting from the expertise of Nancy Skogenson, our Yoga instructor every Friday at 9:30 am. We have been awarded a \$2500 grant for a senior community fitness center which will begin in **the New Year.** **Center's movie night is a** continued success and I am most grateful for

Twelve Days of Love

December 25 – **Call or visit someone you haven't** talked to in a long time to wish them a Merry Christmas.

December 26 – Write a thank you note to your mail carrier or garbage collector or police officer or someone who serves others.

December 27 – Hold the door open for someone or **return someone's shopping cart.**

December 28 – **Bring your neighbor's garbage up to** their house or pick up the litter on the area in front of your house.

December 29 – Feed the birds and/or squirrels or tell a child they are special and loved.

December 30 – **Call or write someone who wasn't at** church and tell them they were missed.

December 31 – Leave a random happy note sharing **God's love somewhere you go in town.**

January 1 – Tell someone how much you love them.

January 2 – Smile at everyone you meet and wish them a wonderful day.

January 3 – Write a letter to a service member or veteran thanking them for their sacrifice.

January 4 – Go through your closets to find clothes and items to give to the thrift store.

January 5 – Collect non-perishable food items for the food bank to bring tomorrow.

Continued from front page...

Show full of nostalgia and Christmas caroling on December 12th with the dinner at 5:30 pm followed by entertainment at 6:15 pm. December 15th **is Center's Brunch after the worship service. Center Movie Night at 6 pm** on December 19th will feature the animated film *The Star*. Join us in an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. The season is full of activities **and we hope you will join us as we celebrate our Lord's birth.**

Those who adopted veterans from Homelake, you make bring your gifts to the church and I will deliver them or you are welcomed to come to the December 1st or December 8th chapel services and bring them. If you wish to be present when the gifts are distributed, you are invited to their Christmas party, December 11th at 2 pm. There will be a special Homelake Christmas Radio Show on December 6th at 2 pm at the Homelake Chapel. All are welcome.

Christmas is the giving season and I would encourage you to join us in giving to our church and its ministries, to Beaver Creek Youth Camp and its ministries, to UMCOR and its ministries, to LaPuente and its ministries, or to whatever the Lord lays upon your heart to give to. If you have been blessed this year, be a blessing to others. Like last year, I also challenge you to join me in the twelve days of love beginning December 25th.

Let's make a conscious effort to share God's love with all we meet, not just our family and friends because our world needs God's love.



bing.com/images

Advent Study

This Christmas season we will be doing an advent study every Wednesday at noon. We will be following *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*. Each week we will explore the themes of peace, hope, love, and joy and how each theme can teach us about being **faithful to Christ and living as "altogether"** Christians. A delicious lunch is provided.

Blue Christmas

Every year we celebrate Blue Christmas, the longest night of the year. We spend this night reflecting on the hardships we faced that year and remembering the loved ones we have lost. Please join us Dec 21st for the service in honor of the many we have lost this year. Saguache's service is at noon and Center's will be held at 5pm.

AA Meeting

We will be continuing to host the AA Meetings Saturdays at 10am as it has been deemed successful and a benefit to the community and this congregation. We are so grateful for this opportunity God has given us to host these AA Meetings and we welcome anyone who wishes to be a part of this group.

Breakfast with the Police

Starting this Saturday, December 7th, we will be having our monthly Community Breakfast with the Police. This event will be on the first Saturday of every month from 8-10am. There will be waffles, coffee, and our new police chief will be also there. This breakfast will help us get to know our local police officers and give us the opportunity to thank them for keeping us safe. We hope to see you there!

Homelake Adopt a Veteran and Christmas Show

Thank you to all of those who have adopted a veteran for Christmas. You are welcome to drop off your gifts at the church and Pastor Debbie will deliver them for you, or you are also welcome to come to the chapel services on the 1st and 8th and deliver them then. The gifts will be distributed at the Homelake Christmas party on the 11th at 2pm. You are most welcome to attend and see your veteran receive your gift. They are also hosting a Christmas Radio Show on the 6th of December at 2pm in the Chapel at Homelake. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Christmas with our Veterans.

Christmas Mission - Gifts to La Puente

There are several ways to do this. There is a box in the back of the church for gifts. Or you can give a monetary gift. Make checks to UMW with La Puente in the memo. Gifts for teens are very appreciated, such as games, throws, puzzles, scarves, footballs, basketballs and volleyballs are great ideas.

Thank you so much for making Christmas a special time of giving!

Gifts will be taken to La Puente on December 16th.





*You are invited to
celebrate the
Christmas Season
with friends!*

December 3rd at 9:30am

The UMW ladies will be hosting their Annual Christmas Brunch. We welcome this time of celebrating the birth of our Savior, with friends, food and fellowship. Bring a cover dish if you wish and a friend for sure.

UMW Christmas Soup Luncheon will be Saturday, December 14th at Noon. See announcement in this newsletter.



Martha Circle Meetings

Martha Circle will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month throughout the year. Meetings start at 9:30.

If you know of anyone that could use a greeting card please call Vickie Myers @ 754-3598. (For the month of October please call Glenda 849-3303) Vickie has a great selection of cards on hand. Amy Uhrich has just sent some beautiful cards for us to use. Thank you so much Amy!! We welcome new members and invite all to attend meetings at any time. For more information of these events call Martha Circle President Marilyn Eagles 754-3704.

Financial Report

The November and December Financial Report will be included in the January Newsletter.

If you have any questions please contact Tony Holcomb at (719) 754-3450.



Martha Circle will meet on December 18th, 9:30 a.m. at the church. We will not go to the Legacy this year as they are doing some remodeling. Bring some goodies to share with everyone.

Sunday Youth Fellowship

Beginning Sunday December 15th Hannah Metzger will be hosting a fellowship for children to meet during the service. This will be a place for kids to come and worship in a way that is exciting and fun for them. Children of all ages are welcome and any help is much appreciated.



Movie Night

This month's movie is *The Star*. It is the story of the Nativity through the point of view of a group of stable animals. It is a family friendly movie filled with humor that can be enjoyed by all. Please join us December 19th for the viewing of this great movie.



The Christmas Problem

Once upon a Christmas Eve, a man sat in reflective silence before the fireplace, **pondering the meaning of Christmas.** "There is no point to a God who becomes man," he mused. "Why would an all-powerful God want to share even one of His precious moments with the likes of man? And even if He did, why would He choose to be born in an animal stall? No way! The whole thing is absurd! I'm sure that if God really wanted to come down to earth, He would have chosen **some other way.**" Suddenly, the man was roused from his reverie by a strange sound outside. He went to the window and saw a small gaggle of blue geese frantically honking and aimlessly flopping about in the snow. They seemed dazed and confused. Apparently they had dropped out in exhaustion from the flight formations of a larger flock on its way from the Arctic Islands to the warmer climes of the Gulf of Mexico. Moved to compassion, the **man tried to "shoo" the poor geese into his warm garage, but the more he "shooed" the more they panicked.** "If they only realized I'm only trying to do what's best for them," he thought to himself. "How can I make them understand my concern for their well-being?" Then, this thought came to him: "If for just a minute, I could become one of them, an ordinary goose, and communicate with them in their own language, they would know what I am trying to do." And suddenly ... suddenly, he remembered Christmas and a smile came over his face. Suddenly, the Christmas story no longer seemed absurd. Suddenly, he pictured that ordinary-looking infant, lying in the manger, in that stable in Bethlehem, and he knew the answer to his Christmas problem: God had become one of us to tell us that He loves us.


Misheard Famous Christmas Carols:

- ◇ Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plane...
- ◇ While shepherds washed their socks by night...
- ◇ Dashing through the snow, on a one horse soap and hay...
- ◇ See the grazing mule before us, fa la la la la la la...
- ◇ He's makin' a list, of chicken and rice...
- ◇ We three kings, of porridge and tar...
- ◇ Bells on cocktail rings, making spirits bright...
- ◇ Joy to the world, the lord has gum, Let earth receive her keys...
- ◇ Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names...
- ◇ Good King Wences' car backed out, on the feet of Steven...

This story was Posted on tonycooke.org

CPE GRADUATES

- Rev. Carolyn J. Barksdale*
CPE Director - Online
 Group 1
- Chaplain Matthew Dussia*
 Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Gerald Jamieson*
 Nondenominational
- A. Lindsey Jeavons*
 Episcopal
- Robert Rutzahn*
 UCC
- Viviana Ruiz*
 Nondenominational Evangelical
- Rev. Carolyn J. Barksdale*
CPE Director - Online
 Group 2
- Pastor Micah A. Cavaleri*
 Lutheran ELCA
- Eric Gonzalez*
 Anglican
- Rev. Sergio A. Ibarra*
 OLOG Corpus Christi
 Communion a Reformed Catholic Church
- Karen Lawler*
 Episcopal
- Pastor Debria L. Upton*
 United Methodist
- Rev. Duane Coy Webb*
 Baptist



THE R.C. FREEDOM MINISTRIES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cordially invites you to the
 Extended CPE Graduation Service

Saturday, December 14th
 Two thousand Nineteen at 10:00 A.M.

Grotto Ministry Center
 (Oblate School of Theology Campus)
 5712 Blanco Road
 San Antonio, Texas 78216

Reception following the
 Graduation Service

Please RSVP
 By the 6th day of December 2019
 (210) 819-5832

CPE GRADUATES

- Rev. Robert Leathers (Ret. USA)*
ACPE Certified Educator - Online
 Group 1
- Pastor Steven Agler*
 Christian Reformed Church of North America
- Rev. Reginald David Bowering*
 Assemblies of God
- Lucian Otmiel Flornt*
 Romanian Pentecostal
- Rev. John W. Heidel*
 Episcopal
- Rev. Robert Leathers (Ret. USA)*
ACPE Certified Educator - Online
 Group 2
- Pastor Troy Renee Albracht*
 Nazarene
- Rev. Charles H. Hendrick*
 Southern Baptist
- Rev. Silvia Neagu*
 Church of God
- Rev. David Tetrauh*
 Evangelical Free Church of America
- Rev. Cindy Graber*
ACPE Certified Educator - Online
- Rev. George Burgess*
 IFCA/Bible Churches Chaplaincy
- Rev. Gordon DeBever*
 Christian
- Rev. Carmen D. TenEyck-McDowell*
 Unitarian Universalist-Association
- Rev. Steve Wilson*
 Southern Baptist

Pastor Debbie's
 Graduation
 Service Invitation

Year End Giving

Your Gift	Your Goal	How It Works	Your Benefits
IRA Charitable Rollover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfy Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) of IRA Receive a tax benefit 	You instruct your IRA administrator to send a distribution directly to your church. You must be 70 1/2 years old and may give up to \$100,000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfy your annual RMD Pay no income tax on the amount you transferred
Donate Appreciated Stocks & Securities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid Capital Gains Tax Receive a charitable deduction 	You donate appreciated securities directly to Mountain Sky United Methodist Foundation. We will sell stocks upon receipt and send the proceeds to your church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You pay no capital gains on the securities donated. You may report the full value of the donation on your itemized return.
Bequest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain control of your assets throughout your life Make a charitable gift upon your death 	You designate your church and/or the Mountain Sky United Methodist Foundation as the beneficiary of your assets by will, trust, or other instrument.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estate tax charitable deduction Life use and ownership of your property
Charitable Gift Annuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive fixed income for life Avoid capital gains tax on the sale of your appreciated property Enjoy the benefit of tax savings from a charitable deduction 	You transfer cash or appreciated property to the Mountain Sky United Methodist Foundation in exchange for our promise (written contract) to pay you fixed income for the rest of your life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charitable tax deduction Fixed income for life Partial bypass of capital gain Possible tax-free payments YOUR CHURCH is the designated beneficiary
Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer your appreciated property without paying capital gains tax Enjoy regular income for life or a specified term of years Receive tax savings from charitable deduction 	You transfer your cash or property to Mountain Sky United Methodist Foundation to establish a charitable trust. You receive income. At maturity, your church or United Methodist organization receives the remainder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charitable tax deduction Income for life or a term of years Possible income growth over time Avoidance of capital gains tax
Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give cash or property to your family in the future Avoid substantial gift or estate tax 	You transfer your cash or property to fund a lead trust that makes a gift to your church or Mountain Sky United Methodist Foundation for a number of years. You receive a charitable tax deduction for the gift. Your family receives the remainder at substantial tax savings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gift or estate tax deduction Asset and appreciation passes to family at a reduced cost
Life Estate Reserved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain in your home for life Receive a charitable income tax deduction 	You give your property to your church or the Mountain Sky United Methodist Foundation and retain the right to use the property during your life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charitable tax deduction Lifetime use of property
Bargain Sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer your property Receive cash or debt relief without paying substantial taxes 	We purchase your property for less than fair market value. You receive the cash and a charitable deduction for the difference between the market value and purchase price.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash from sale Charitable tax deduction Partial bypass of capital gains



Evelyn was 81 and a retired city employee. She wanted to find a way to supplement her pension with a secure source of income. Evelyn also volunteered with her church. She wished to make a gift before the end of the year. She owned stock that was producing a very low return in the market. By transferring this stock to the Mountain Sky United Methodist Foundation to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity, Evelyn began receiving substantial fixed income for life at a rate based on her age. She also received a charitable deduction this year. This reduced her federal tax bill. She lives in Montana and she received a state tax credit because her gift will leave a legacy to a qualified endowment.

The names and images shown here are representative of typical donors and may or may not be actual donors to the organization. Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.



Focus Sessions

We invite you to come to a Focus Session to share your hopes and dreams for the future of the church. During these sessions, we will focus on the pathways to make that future a reality.



If you Look for me at Christmas —

If you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of me
Amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
And all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do
And listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came,
And you'll find me in the stillness
As I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

La Junta UMC



The United Methodist Church
November 21st
6pm

Christ UMC - Sterling



The United Methodist Church
November 24th
3pm

Monte Vista UMC



The United Methodist Church
December 2nd
6pm

Pueblo First UMC



The United Methodist Church
December 3rd
6pm

Wiley UMC



The United Methodist Church
December 5th
6:30pm

White Chocolate and Cranberry Cookies

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon brandy
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 cup dried cranberries



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter, brown sugar, and white sugar until smooth. Beat in the egg and brandy. Combine the flour and baking soda; stir into the sugar mixture. Mix in the white chocolate chips and cranberries. Drop by heaping spoonfuls onto prepared cookie sheets.
3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. For best results, take them out while they are still doughy. Allow cookies to cool for 1 minute on the cookie sheets before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

Joke of the Month

It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of Winter after a heavy fall of snow and only one farmer and the minister managed to arrive at the church for the morning service.

"Well," said the clergyman "I guess there's no point in having a service today."

"Well that's not how I see it," said the farmer. "If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it."



Things to Remember for December!

- * UMC is hosting their Bruch at 9:30am on Dec 3rd. Bring your Friends!
- * Our Advent Study will be hosted every Wednesday at noon. Lunch is provided.
- * The Homelake Christmas Show is Friday the 6th at 2pm.
- * The first monthly Police Breakfast is this Saturday, the 7th. Join us for some delicious waffles and coffee.
- * The UMW Soup Luncheon is the 14th at noon. They are collecting gifts for La Puente so don't forget to bring some!
- * We are having a Blue Christmas service this year on the 21st. SUMC service is at noon and CUMC is at 5pm.
- * Our office will be closed for both Christmas and New years so that Hannah and Pastor Debbie may spend those holidays with their friends and family.

Cooking With Your Neighbor

This month's Cookin' with your Neighbor and Saguache's

Dinner with your Neighbor will have all of your favorite traditional Christmas dishes. There will be a roast and ham provided by the church and Center will be having cookie decorating starting at 5:30p, followed by the dinner. Saguache will be doing its first ever Christmas Radio Show following the dinner, filled with nostalgia and Christmas caroling. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you and your family and friends there celebrating the holiday season.



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Homelake 3:30p Advent Study After Church (SUMC)		UMC Christmas Brunch 9:30a <i>Bring Friends!</i>	Advent Study CUMC 12p <i>Lunch Provided</i>	Cooking With Your Neighbor Christmas Favorites <i>Roast & Ham Provided</i> 5:30p	Homelake Christmas Show 2p	Police Breakfast <i>Breakfast Provided</i> 8a
CUMC Service 8:30a		DVD Yoga 9:30a	Crossroads 9:30a		Yoga With Instructor 9:30a	AA Meeting 10am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Homelake 3:30p	Town & Country 7p	Worship Committee mtg 8:30a CUMC Council 6:30p	Advent Study CUMC 12p <i>Lunch Provided</i>	SUMC Supper With Your Neighbor Christmas Favorites <i>Roast & Ham Provided</i> 5:30p	Pastor Debbie Graduation (San Antonio)	Christmas Soup Luncheon 12p
SUMC Service 10:30a						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday Youth Fellowship CUMC Brunch Homelake 3:30p	Pastor Debbie Returns		Martha Circle 9:30a Advent Study CUMC 12p <i>Lunch Provided</i>	Movie Night <i>The Star</i> 6p		Blue Christmas SUMC 12p CUMC 5p
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday Youth Fellowship Homelake 3:30p		Christmas Eve Service CUMC 5p SUMC 7p	Christmas Office Closed			
29	30	31				
Sunday Youth Fellowship Homelake 3:30p		New Year's Eve Office Closed				