

October 2021

Pastor Debbie

Volume 36 Issue 10

Center United Methodist Church

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Saguache United Methodist Church

6th & Christie, Saguache
Worship Service: 11 am

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It's fall already. The colors are beautiful and as we head into harvest again this year, we still have COVID to contend with. I know there are some Center and Saguache folks who are concerned about gathering together especially when we hear about those vaccinated getting the Delta variant. If there's one thing we have learned from the scientific data is that this disease's main desire is to survive so it adapts. Several countries have had better control of the virus because of their mass masking and high vaccination rates. As I prepare to go on my educational trip with my New Testament professor's group, we are discovering that Italy that had been so hard hit before, did what they needed to do and are back to inviting tourists into their country if they are vaccinated, so it is possible to get COVID under control.

This week during bible study at Homelake we were studying Matthew 10 and verses 38-39 reminded me about following Christ. **"³⁸ Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them."** Perhaps this scripture will give us food for thought and encouragement to do what is necessary with no judgment but with love.

We have been studying Randy Alcorn's book *The Treasure Principle* and only have a few more weeks looking at those treasure principles. I hope you will join us for the continuation of this sermon series and our Wednesday evening 6:30 bible study. This week Luke 14:12-14 gave me pause for us to use this scripture for our monthly community dinners. ¹² Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, "When you host a lunch or dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. ¹³ Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they can't repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected." It's great to gather together and fellowship, but the eternal rewards of offering room at the table for those who we don't know, those who have nothing to bring to the table, or those we haven't seen in a long while are so much greater. Compelling them to come, offering to bring them to the dinner or bring the dinner to them offers much greater outreach than a simple fellowship. We can still fellowship together but extending that fellowship further has eternal rewards we may never know on this side of heaven. This pandemic has been hard on everyone. In a day when we are willing to give up two or three hours to go out to eat, go to a movie, go to a fair or public event, can't we be willing to give up a few hours for a community dinner, even a morning in God's beauty at Beaver Creek? If there is something that is important to us – a wedding, a funeral, a birthday party, a football game, a birthday party, a rodeo, a family event, or concert, we make time – we rearrange our schedule because it's important, so can't we be willing to do the same for the Lord?

Most of you have gotten an invitation to a special event planned for the morning of October 9th at Beaver Creek Youth Camp from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. You can enjoy the drive through the beautiful changing colors to and from the camp, enjoy a breakfast and even a lunch that can be "to go" if needed. You are free to leave when your schedule compels you to leave, but I encourage you to stay for the whole time. It's not a workshop. It's not a lecture or sermon. It is a worship experience and a time to reach out to God and others in a safe space of God's grace and beauty. I'm so pleased to announce that Jeff Wahl will be with us sharing his God-given gift of music with a community in which he grew up. What a blessing. Another blessing is our spiritual guide for the morning will be Rev. Nancy Mead, who has graciously agreed to join us and share some insights and lead us in this experience. And of course we are blessed to enjoy Beaver Creek's facility and beauty as well as it's amazing director Gene Haning who is hosting this event. This event is for anyone whether they go to Center or Saguache churches or any other church United

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"Have I not
commanded you? Be
strong and
courageous. Do not
be frightened, and
do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your
God is with you
wherever you go."

- Joshua 1:9 (NIV)
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Methodist or other church or even not connected with any church. These last twenty months have placed a physical and emotional and spiritual strain on everyone, so this time is set aside to reconnect to the source of your strength. Jeff has also agreed to share his musical talent with the Center community the evening of October 9th at 5 pm with a donation toward Center and Beaver Creek Youth Camp that will be taken.

We do plan on our Cookin' with Your Neighbor October 7th, 2021 featuring chicken and a baked potato bar. We hope everyone will join us that Thursday evening as well as invite neighbors and friends and those you meet to join us. I will be asking you to prepare a take-out meal to share with someone, so being praying and thinking about who that might be. We have several folks from **our previous weekly meal delivery who would welcome a meal and a smile from you if you can't**

think of anyone.

Center's One Church board will meet October 12, 2021 at 6:30 pm both virtually and in person. We need everyone's help as we prepare for our Charge Conference December 15th. As we evaluate our ministries and efforts for 2021 and look forward to 2022, you are very important in this process. Everyone's voice is needed.

Saguache's One Church board will be meeting throughout October and November as we continue the conversation and brainstorming evaluating our ministries and efforts of 2021 looking forward to 2022. Again everyone's voice is important. Saguache will gather after every Sunday morning worship with soup and salad or sandwiches as we share a meal and discuss these important issues.

Both churches will focus on ministries, attendance, outreach, finances, and best use of resources. This is holy work and we pray that both churches will participate in this important decision making.

Center will host its traditional Oyster, Chili, and Soup Appreciation Dinner on October 24th, 2021 at 5 pm filled with good food, good fellowship, door prizes, and appreciation for support especially during these difficult and uncertain times.

Center has also begun a new outreach effort to meet the needs of Center community. On Friday evenings from 7-10 pm, Center is open for Teen Night so the community teens have a safe space to gather, play games, have fun, eat, and just be kids. We have had a wonderful start. We are always looking for adults who wish to come by on **Friday evenings and be available for the kids. Our Methodist safe sanctuary requires a minimum of two adults. You don't have** to do anything but be present. Some of us have decided to work on puzzles as our entertainment. Another outreach is in connection with the LEAD program our Center police had begun that works with first time offenders with counseling and other aspects of the program. So Center has opened Soulful Sweets and Sips Coffee shop Mondays – Fridays 2-5 pm. There is no charge for the coffee, tea, and sweets, but monetary donations are welcome. If any folks are interested in donating sweets or breads for the coffee shop, please feel free to do so. We invite anyone to come by and enjoy the quiet Wi-Fi and delicious refreshments especially as our weather begins to get colder.

Because of the increase of COVID, Mountain Sky Annual Conference has been changed to virtual October 22-23. Because of that, I am asking that Center and Saguache folks consider being part of annual conference virtually. You may do this from home or come to Center where a computer and Wi-Fi will be provided. Both churches have not had any representation for years many times using travel as the excuse. We have an opportunity to change that. Please consider being part of that change. You may notify the church office or Pastor Debbie for details.

Because we are not meeting in person, my commissioning as a provisional elder will not take place at conference. I will be commissioned on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at Colorado Springs United Methodist Church at 4 pm. I have to notify the conference office as to guest from my church who will attend as soon as possible, so you think you would like to attend my commissioning, please let me know as soon as possible so I can let the conference know. Thank you in advance for supporting me in my journey toward ordination.



Oyster Stew, Chili, and Soup Dinner

Join us as we have our annual Oyster Stew, Chili, and Soup Dinner this year! You are encouraged to bring veggies, fruit, and desserts for an evening at the church to show out thanks for the gracious support of the church during these hard times. The event will begin at 5pm and everyone is welcome to join!

Charge Conference

We will be having our charge conference on December 15, the time will be announced at a later date.

The Twelve Disciples

Who were Jude and James the Lesser?

Everyone knows St. Jude is the patron saint of lost causes or hopeless cases. He has become so ingrained into our culture that even those who grew up without religion know of him. But who was he? Jude the apostle was one of the twelve and is credited with authoring the epistle that bears his name. He only has one spoken verse in the bible, and it prompts Jesus **to speak, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them"** (John 14:23). **While that is his only spoken line, he still played an important role. After Jesus' Ascension, Jude went to Abgar to spread the lord's message,** and when he laid his hands upon the ailing king he was **instantly healed. Jude's healing of the incurable king is what** has ultimately led him to be the patron saint of hopeless cases and has led so many to pray to him for healing. Jude is also known by the name Thaddeus, possibly to avoid confusing him with Judas Iscariot, and is also listed as Jude of James. Many believe this marks him as the brother of James the Lesser. James the Lesser was the author of the first epistle which instructed the Jewish converts about how to live a holy life. He was also among the church leaders who said that gentile converts to Christianity did not have to follow the Jewish laws. It is widely believed James and Jude were the **half-brothers of Jesus. In the gospel John writes, "for even his own brothers did not believe in him"** (John 7:5). Jude and James may not have believed in Jesus originally, but they came to believe in him and eventually follow him as a part of the twelve and what better way is there to showcase **Jesus' love for us all than by having his brothers, who did not believe in him, become part of his closest followers.** Better yet, their relationship should be a guide for our own as we try to lead by example and with love like Jesus did.

Finance Report

As the end of the year draws near our ever growing need for your financial help increases. We are -\$22,676.76 in the hole right now. However with our faith in God we will make it through these rough times. And our little church will rise above these financial needs.

Oh Lord, mighty in power, I thank you in advance for the financial blessings that are coming to us! I know that you will meet all our needs according to your glorious riches. Father, we put our trust in you. Amen.

Donations can be mailed to Center UMC at P.O. Box 626, Center, CO 81125. and for the Saguache UMC at P.O. Box 184, Saguache, CO 81149 For your convenience you can make your donations by text at 719-628-1830 (then just follow the prompts). Or online at our website www.umcofcenter.com the link is on the front page.

Vicki J Ratzlaff

Center Finance Chairman



Movie Night

Join us for some Halloween fun on October 21st when we show the Addams Family. The Movie starts at 6pm and there will be snacks! Please join us for this family fun event.



Google.com/images



10-30-2006

SOME COSTUME CHOICES RESULTED IN VERY AWKWARD EVENINGS FOR MANY A GUARDIAN ANGEL

Joke of the Month

A boy asks his father to use the car and the father replies "No, not until you cut your hair!"
The boy replies "But father...Jesus had long hair!"
To which his father says, "Yeah, but Jesus walked everywhere."

Tres Leches (Milk Cake)

Recipe by: Stephanie Watts (Allrecipes.com)

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 2 cups white sugar
- 5 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsps vanilla extract
- 2 cups whole milk
- 14oz sweetened condensed milk
- 12oz evaporated milk
- 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream



Allrecipes.com

Directions

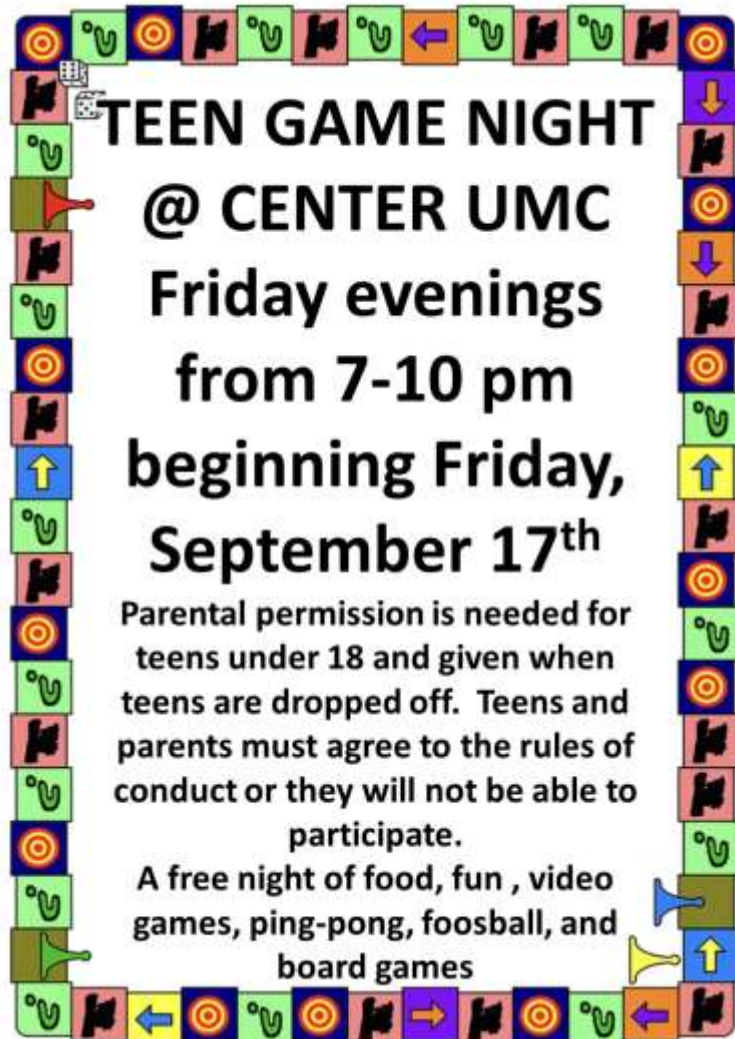
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour one 9x13 inch baking pan.
2. Sift flour and baking powder together and set aside.
3. Cream butter or margarine and the 1 cup sugar together until fluffy. Add eggs and the 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract; beat well.
4. Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture 2 tablespoons at a time; mix until well blended. Pour batter into prepared pan.
5. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 30 minutes. Pierce cake several times with a fork.
6. Combine the whole milk, condensed milk, and evaporated milk together. Pour over the top of the cooled cake.
7. Whip whipping cream, the remaining 1 cup of the sugar, and the remaining 1 teaspoon vanilla together until thick. Spread over the top of cake. Be sure and keep cake refrigerated, enjoy!



**Center United
Methodist Church
invites you to our
Drummond Hall for
SOULFUL SWEETS &
SIPS COFFEESHOP
MONDAY-FRIDAYS 2-5 PM**

**Sweets and coffee and tea
will be available along with
WIFI access**

Donations will be accepted to
help the continuation of this
ministry, but they are not
required. There is also access
to our fitness room



**TEEN GAME NIGHT
@ CENTER UMC
Friday evenings
from 7-10 pm
beginning Friday,
September 17th**

Parental permission is needed for
teens under 18 and given when
teens are dropped off. Teens and
parents must agree to the rules of
conduct or they will not be able to
participate.

A free night of food, fun , video
games, ping-pong, foosball, and
board games



*“The Gospel is not about humanity
searching for GOD but GOD reaching out
to humanity!”*

- Lou Engle

You are invited to join us for a time of
discovery
and safe sanctuary for God’s Presence.

Saturday, October 9, 2021

9:30am—12:30pm

Beaver Creek Youth Camp

Please RSVP to umcofcenter@gmail.com
or call the church or message Pastor Debbie.

*If you need to carpool, please contact the church or Debbie.



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disaster Recovery Ministry

Center UMC
387 S. Broadway Street
Center, CO 81125

August 18, 2021

RE: Donation for Surfside Response

Dear Congregants,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$700 in gift cards to assist those impacted by the Surfside Condo collapse. We continue to be humbled by how our amazing God moves through his people to provide for those who have experienced the heartbreak and devastation of this unforeseen disaster. Your generosity supports the recovery of not only survivors, but families and loved ones of residents. Everyone affected needs the hope and strength that comes from being blessed by sacrificial kindness during difficult times like these.

The Florida Conference Disaster Recovery Ministry has been able to support and aid over 121 families/survivors and loved ones of residents thus far and is committed to partnering in these efforts until all those in need have been assisted.

Through your financial support, you are a part of a bigger story of bringing God's love, grace, and light to hundreds of our brothers and sisters in need. On behalf of all of those impacted by this tragedy, thank you for reaching out your hands in support.

Sincerely,

Trish Warren
Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

450 Martin Luther King Junior Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33815

Tel. 863-688-5563 ext.148
Mobile: 863-661-4939

pwarren@flumc.org
<https://www.flumc.org/disaster-recovery>

Your financial donation was received by The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church which is a 501 (c)(3) organization. We acknowledge that you received no substantial goods or services in exchange for this gift. This letter serves as your receipt.