

# January 2022

Volume 37 Issue 1

## Center United Methodist Church

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## Saguache United Methodist Church

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## Pastor Debbie

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for the beautiful birthday and Christmas cards and sweet gifts from both Center and Saguache. This was a difficult Christmas for me and all of your kindness really helped to lift my spirits. I am very appreciative of those of you who helped Jeanne Lewis and her family, Thelma Martinez and her family during this time of need. In looking back over the past year, Center has been involved with community outreach even through COVID with a Longest Night Service and beautiful Candlelight service in-person and virtually, and God has answered Saguache's prayers for strength and endurance and revival with a glorious candlelight service with many familiar faces we hadn't seen in a while. God is working through both communities and know that we need every one to answer the call to serve as we begin 2022. We don't know what the future holds, but we know God goes before us, just as he has during these last two years of uncertainty.

I also want to thank several generous donors who gave large donations to both Center and Saguache helping both churches to end the year in the black. Thank you so much for your generosity to help continue the ministries of our churches.

As we begin a new year, let us recommit to the Wesleyan Covenant "Dear Lord, I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing: I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in **heaven. Amen.**"

If we truly commit ourselves to this covenant and agree to "Do Good," "Do No Harm," and "Stay in Love with God, then our new year will be a testament to God's grace and mercy revealing God's salvation for all.

As we resume activities keeping a watchful eye to follow those three rules, then we have nothing to fear.

**There is no Cookin' with your Neighbor in Center, but Center's One Church Board** will meet January 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm in-person and virtually as we plan out our coming year. Saguache will resume lunches after the service beginning January 9th. The Center senior fitness center will reopen January 3, 2022 and yoga will resume January 7, 2022. Remember we are Christmas people all year long and **we've been given the task to Go Tell Everyone about our Savior.**

*The Lord himself goes  
before you and will be  
with you; he will never  
leave you nor forsake  
you. Do not be afraid;  
do not be discouraged.  
Deuteronomy 31:8  
(NIV)*

## Women of the Bible

### Patron of all humanity—Feast Day January 1

Mary, also known as St. Mary the Virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Mary, Mary Mother of God or the Virgin Mary is believed by many to be the greatest of all Christian saints. The Virgin Mother "was, after her Son, exalted by divine grace above all angels and men."

Mary is venerated with a special cult, called by St. Thomas Aquinas, hyperdulia, as the holiest of all creatures. The main events of her life are celebrated as liturgical feasts of the universal Church.

Mary's life and role in the history of salvation is foreshadowed in the Old Testament, while the events of her life are recorded in the New Testament. Traditionally, she was declared the daughter of Sts. Joachim and Anne. Born in Jerusalem, Mary was presented in the Temple and took a vow of virginity. Living in Nazareth, Mary was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who announced to her that she would become the Mother of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit.

She became betrothed to St. Joseph and went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who was bearing St. John the Baptist. Acknowledged by Elizabeth as the Mother of God, Mary intoned the Magnificat.

When Emperor Augustus declared a census throughout the vast Roman Empire, Mary and St. Joseph went to Bethlehem, his city of lineage, as he belonged to the House of David. There Mary gave birth to Jesus and was visited by the Three Kings.

Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, where St. Simeon rejoiced and Mary received word of sorrows to come later. Warned to flee, St. Joseph and Mary went to Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod. They remained in Egypt until King Herod died and then returned to Nazareth.

Nothing is known of Mary's life during the next years except for a visit to the Temple of Jerusalem, at which time Mary and Joseph sought the young Jesus, who was in the Temple with the learned elders.

The first recorded miracle of Jesus was performed at a wedding in Cana, and Mary was instrumental in calling Christ's attention to the need. Mary was present at the

Crucifixion in Jerusalem, and there she was given into John the Apostle's care. She was also with the disciples in the days before the Pentecost, and it is believed that she was present at the resurrection and Ascension.

No scriptural reference concerns Mary's last years on earth. According to tradition, she went to Ephesus, where she experienced her "dormition." Another tradition states that she remained in Jerusalem. The belief that Mary's body was assumed into heaven is one of the oldest traditions of the Catholic Church.

Pope Pius XII declared this belief Catholic dogma in 1950. The four Catholic dogmas are: Mother of God, Perpetual virginity of Mary, the Immaculate Conception and Assumption of Mary. The feast of the Assumption is celebrated on August 15. The Assumption was the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.

According to Pope Pius XII, the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

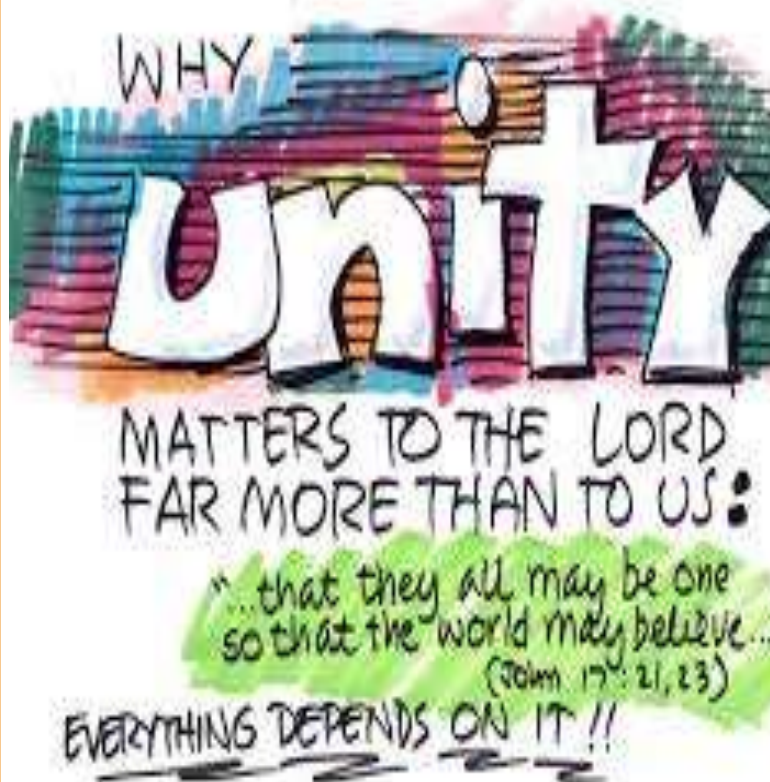
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### Finance Report

*Thank you for your generous donations to help us end t2021 in the black. God is good all the time and all the time God is good.*

## Joke of the Month

There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven. The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"



## Winter White Soup

Recipe by: Simone Stevin (Allrecipes.com)

### Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic (chopped)
- 2 shallots (chopped)
- 1in piece of ginger (minced)
- 3 green onions (chopped)
- 1/3 small head cauliflower (chopped)
- 10 sm button mushrooms (chopped)
- 1 pear (peeled, cored, & diced)
- 1/2 c cannellini beans
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp chopped fresh dill
- 3/4 c Chardonnay wine
- 6 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can chicken broth
- 1/3 c heavy cream
- Salt & pepper to taste



Allrecipes.com

### Directions

1. Heat the butter and olive oil in a large saucepan over low heat. Stir in the garlic, shallots, and ginger, and cook until fragrant but not brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in the green onions, cauliflower, parsnip, and mushrooms, and cook and stir an additional 5 minutes. Add the pear, beans, mustard, and dill, and stir just until heated, about 1 minute.
2. Stir in the wine and thyme, and turn up the heat to high. Boil, stirring constantly, until the wine is reduced by half and is syrupy, about 5 minutes. Pour in the chicken broth. Return the mixture to a boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer, partly covered, until vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes. Allow the soup to cool slightly.
3. Pour the soup into a blender, filling the pitcher no more than halfway full. Hold down the lid of the blender with a folded kitchen towel, and carefully start the blender, using a few quick pulses to get the soup moving before leaving it on to puree. Puree in batches until smooth and pour into a clean pot. Alternately, you can use a stick blender and puree the soup right in the cooking pot.
4. Stir in cream, and, if needed, thin with additional chicken broth; serve hot. You may wish to serve this soup the next day. It will improve in taste with time.