MARCH 2023

Center United Methodist

Church
PO Box 626
4th & Broadway,
Center CO 81125
Worship Services: 9 am

In person and Online (Zoom) Church Phone: 719-754-2243

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Saguache United Methodist Church

6th & Christie, Saguache P. O. Box 184, Saguache, CO 81149

Worship Service: (11 am)

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Upton

Phone: 719-754-2243 Cell phone: 504-261-8860

167 W. 4th Center CO 81125 Email: dupton@iliff.edu

Administrative Assistant/

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"I have told you these things, •

so that in me you may have

peace. In this world you will

have trouble. But take heart!

I have overcome the world."

~ John 16:33

"Be joyful in hope, patient in

affliction, faithful in prayer."

~Romans 12:12

Pastor Debbie

Volume 38 Issue 3

I want to thank all of you who have been so gracious helping me during my recuperation with cards, meals, and extra help. I deeply appreciate it, especially since I found out how badly I damaged my left arm. It greatly warms my heart, especially when I had to postpone the reading team because of my accident.

We have much for which to be thankful the Center church and the Saguache church both were accepted into the Table for All program and will receive their Table for All grants. Each church has been tasked to form teams to lead each church into the possibilities of opportunities for the future of each church. Teams of 6-10 are needed. We are blessed to have thus far Center Kitty and Lewis Entz, Lori Sanchez, Janet Myers, Sue McClure, and Charleen Schaeffer and for Saguache Jeannie and Mike Norris, Leona Hoag, Noreen Gross, and Bill Hazard. Both church teams have room others who wish to be a part of this exciting time in our church land our community lives.

Several of these folks joined the district Zoom meeting last Sunday evening to begin learning about what lies ahead. We are so excited for our future.

I will be gone to Cheyenne, WY Monday March 6-10th for Board of Ordained Ministry meetings and Resident in Ministry workshop. The Trinity District Zoom Gathering are at 6:30 pm each third Sunday of each month. There will be a district retreat in Wiley April 21-22 more details will follow. The online District Meeting will be May 6th from 9-11.

Mountain Sky Annual Conference will be held in Colorado Springs this year June 22-25th. I'm hoping since it is so close, we will have folks join us there.

Rev. Nancy Mead is planning a Chautauqua weekend, June 2-4, 2023 at Beaver Creek. A team of folks from our local churches are helping Nancy to plan an inspiring weekend of worship, arts and informative lectures. When full details are given, I will let everyone know. For now, please put it on your calendar and plan to be part of this exciting event.

We have entered the season of Lent, a time of reflection and repentance. Our Lenten Study by Matt Rawle *Jesus Revealed* at 6:30 pm both in-person at Center and virtually. If you are interested in joining us, please call the church office or sign up at church, so we can get you the study book.

Don't forget Friday, March 3, 2022 is the World Day of Prayer and pray for our world.

As we approach a time of reflection on the life of our Savior leading up to Passion Week, let us take this time to reflect on our lives with honesty and intent to be transformed by God's abundant love. During Lent, I will be asking you to express your gratitude for our Lord and those around you, as well as commit to getting rid of the things in your life that keep you from the Lord. Lenten daily devotions will be available the last Sunday of February. I pray this will be a meaningful time. April 9th is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. We will be hosting our Community Easter Egg Hunt, April 15, 2023 @ 2 pm. We will need a lot of help so please consider volunteering to help in this event. Easter sunrise service at Center will be 7:30 am. Both Center and Saguache will have their regular service times.



Chautauqua Weekend Proposed Schedule

Friday Night: Worship & Camp Meeting

Saturday Afternoon: Recreation Time (Jeopardy, Scavenger Hunt, Nature Trails, Baseball, Metal Work)

Friday & Saturday Night: Arts (Creede Theatre, Society Hall, Big Band in Monte, Peter & the Wolf Community Orchestra)

Saturday Morning: Education (Birds & Owls, Elk Management, Rio Grande Museum, Hispanic Culture in the Valley, Shady Ladies Reenactment)

Sunday Morning: Religious Education (Circuit Rider Reenactment, Walking through the Bible Lands, Holy Land History)

Rainbow's End/ LaPuente

Make clothing, household items, and furniture donations to Center's Rainbows End. Make canned food donations to Center's Rainbows end or LaPuente in Alamosa. Make monetary donation to LaPuente though the church or online at: https://lapuentehome.org/

donate/

Kids Hope USA

(Haskin Elementary)

Art Supplies: paper (manila, construction, cardstock, notebooks), crayons, washable markers, pencils (colored & #2), scissors (child safe), glue sticks, yarn or string, child friendly magazines, stickers, stamps and stamp pads, rulers, watercolors, pipe cleaners. **Games:** board games, chess, checkers, dice, dominoes, etc., child friendly card games (Spot it, Uno, Phase 10, Go Fish, Old Maid, basic playing cards)

Outdoor Activities: balls, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk **Books:** for Kindergarten and 1st Grade.

Anna's Mission Inc.

(Ready to Go bags for domestic violence victims).

Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Body soap, Shampoo/ conditioner, Body lotion, Deodorant, Comb/brush, Razors, Small box of tissues, Gift cards to Family dollar or Dollar General. https://annasmissioninc.com/

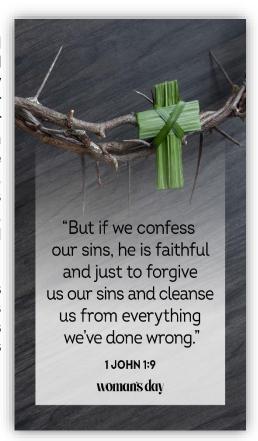
We appreciate all donations and prayers for Domestic Violence Survivors.

Kids Hope Report

Our Kids Hope program is up and running. We have four Mentors and five Prayer Partners who meet weekly with their students. Several other students are begging to go with our mentors each time they meet with their students. So if you were on the fence before about volunteering, please visit with one of our Mentors and let them tell you about the smiles, excitement, laughter, happiness, and fulfillment they experience each week.

Thank you for all the fabulous donations we have received for this program. Contact me if your heart is moved to become a part of this amazing program.

Yours in Christ, Vicki Ratzlaff, Director of Kids Hope



Anna's Mission

Anna's Mission, Inc. is making strides to be of more assistance to more DV survivors all the time. We met with the Saguache and Rio Grande County DV Advocates, who were very receptive to our program. We have given both counties supplies of our "Ready to Go Bags." In Pueblo County, we are partnered with the YWCA to assist them in any way we can.

We are working on setting up a meeting with the Otero County DV Advocates/Sheriff's Office. And have been in contact with the Alamosa County DV Advocate and will meet with her Friday, February 24th.

We greatly appreciate your donations to fill our "Ready to Go Bags." and monetary gifts that help us provide the survivor's immediate needs (housing, utilities, food, and personal belongings).

We appreciate your dedication to our community.

Ravioli with Creamy Squash Sauce

Ingredients

- 1 Package of Refrigerated Cheese Ravioli (9 oz)
- 3 Garlic Cloves, minced
- 2 Tbsps Butter
- 1 Package of frozen cooked winter squash, thawed (10 oz)
- 1 package of fresh baby spinach (Goz)
- 1 Cup Heavy Whipping Cream
- 1/3 Cup Vegetable Broth
- ¼ tsp Salt
- 1 Cup Chopped Walnuts, toasted



Recipe by: TasteOfHome.com

Tasteofhome con

Directions

- 1. Cook ravioli according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a Dutch oven, saute garlic in butter for 1 minute. Add squash and spinach; cook until spinach is wilted, 2-3 minutes longer. Stir in cream, broth and salt. Bring to a gentle boil; cook until slightly thickened, 6-8 minutes.
- 2. Drain ravioli; add to squash mixture. Toss to coat. Sprinkle with walnuts.

2023 Directories are Available!

The Directories for this year are available and can be picked up at both Center and Saguache churches. If you live out of the area, contact the church office and we can email you a copy of it.

Table for All Grant – Accepted!

We are celebrating Center and Saguache for receiving the Table for All Grant! The next step for both churches will be to form a team that will lead their church through the process. Some members of the team will be invited to attend three in-person retreats and all members of the team will be invited to attend the online gatherings (at least one every other month). This team will share discoveries with the congregation and help leaders of the church to facilitate conversations and decisions needed to make short-term decisions for sustainability and ideas for neighbor-centered ministries. We are looking for people who are: devoted to the health of the church, committed to its mission to your community, and exhibit a willingness to consider new ways of being church. They ask that we select a team of 6 to 10 to participate. The conference will cover the costs of four from each church to participate in the gatherings. More may attend, but the individual will need to cover the costs for travel and lodging. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining the team!





THE NEED

sometimes kids need a little extra support to build resilience and hope. All children face challenges, but some hurdles are bigger than others, and

cheerleaders. one-on-one relationships with students, to walk alongside them as friends and Our local elementary school needs people willing to build positive, caring,

THE OPPORTUNITY

spend one hour per week talking, reading, playing, and listening to a child at school. Research shows that by helping a child feel loved and valued, the child can better learn, grow, and succeed Kids Hope USA mentors (supported by behind-the-scenes prayer partners)

JOIN THE MOVEMENT 1

love with a child? Will you be that someone who shows up once a week to share unconditional

Kids Hope USA Program Director. _earn more by visiting kidshopeusa.org/volunteer or contacting our church's (719) 588-3579



MENTOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Consistently visit one student for one hour each week during the
- Commit to maintaining program rules. confidentiality and following
- Attend our church regularly
- and training process. Successfully complete the screening



purple. Vic 30 @gmail. Com PRAYER PARTNER QUALIFICATIONS Believe in the power of prayer.



student each week.







Greetings Members of the Mountain Sky Conference,

technology provided by GNTV. needs of the conference. After meeting with various stakeholders, we have soon as possible with considerations of budget, church availability, and shared that the session information for AC 2023 would be announced as Near the end of the October session of the 2022 Annual Conference, we participate virtually, will be able to via the experience set up through CO. We will also host the conference online, assuring those who wish to decided AC 2023 will be in-person, hosted by First UMC, Colorado Springs,

Save the Dates for Annual Conference 2023: June 22-25

- In-person Location: First UMC, Colorado Springs, CC
- Ordination Worship Service will be Sunday, June 25th, 2023

Please be on the lookout for more information in the early spring Options for special meals and childcare will be available Registration will open after Easter and will be open for a six-week period

Peace to you during this Advent season

Rev. Annie Arnoldy

Director of Connectional Ministry

Superintendent of Leadership Development