

DECEMBER 2022

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Center United Methodist Church

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4th & Broadway,
Center CO 81125
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In person and Online (Zoom)
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Saguache United Methodist Church

6th & Christie, Saguache
P. O. Box 184, Saguache,
CO 81149
Worship Service: (11 am)

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Pastor Debbie

As Advent begins, we will talk about angels. The Bible Study focuses on the angels in the Christmas story. Our sermon series will inspire us to see Angels Among Us. Our Angel Tree will motivate us to be an angel for the needs of our community. You are invited to take a tag from the Angel Tree and meet the needs of that Angel tag. We have opportunities to help our brother Rev. Calvin Hill and the children of the Blackfeet Nation, to help our Center Ministry of Kids Hope USA, to help Anna's Mission who seeks to stop violence, especially domestic violence in our community, to help Beaver Creek – our youth camp and retreat center, to help Homelake Veterans Center, to help the orphanage in Mexico, to help Rainbow's End, or to help LaPuente in its work with the poor and homeless. Each tag has information of how you can help. So that our newsletter folks can participate as well, we will post those needs in this newsletter.



At Center, we will set up an outside Nativity and Christmas lights that we hope will invite the community to visit and enjoy. There will be an avenue of Christmas trees which we hope can be decorated. Both Center and Saguache churches will have an outside set of angel wings displayed where community folks can take selfie pictures. At both churches, folks are invited to bring their nativity sets to help us build a nativity display. Since we are focusing on the Angels of Christmas, we are asking anyone who would like to share their personal ceramic, crochet, wooden, or any type of angel with us to add to the nativity display at each church. We hope this will open up conversations during this holiday season. Both churches will host open houses for the community to visit our displays during the holiday season. Center sanctuary open house will be on Saturdays, December 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th from 11 am – 2 pm. Saguache whole church open house will be on Wednesdays, December 7th, 14th, 21st, and 24th from 11 am – 2 pm. This is an opportunity for our community folks to enjoy our decorations and spend some reflective time. We hope to have coffee and hot chocolate and cookies available during these open houses. Anyone wishing to help during these open houses in any way, please contact Pastor Debbie or the church office.

We will begin Advent, November 30th with our first week of Angels of Christmas. Then Thursday, December 1st, Center folks are invited to a special Community Potluck we are calling the Boar's Head Festival. This evening will feature food, fun, and fellowship. The main meat will be ham and wild game which is already provided. You are invited to bring traditional sweet breads which are organ meat with smooth texture, mild and creamy or more palatable strudel, and mincemeat pie, fruit or vegetable pies including shepherd pie, puddings, Figgie pudding, Yorkshire pudding, fruit cake, rum balls, and the famous Yule Log. There will be music, games, and stories. If you or someone you know is willing to share their musical talent, magical talent, storytelling talent, or comic talent with us that evening, please let us know. We will sing some of those famous carols especially from Medieval and colonial times. Saguache will have their Boar's Head Festival on their Dinner with Your Neighbor evening, Thursday, December 8th, so we hope the folks in Saguache will share their tasty treats and talents that evening.

Our sermon series Angels Among Us will surprise us each Sunday with guests and beautiful Christmas music. There will be a Blue Christmas service for those who are not in the holiday spirit on December 21st. Saguache's Blue Christmas service will be at noon that day and Center's Blue Christmas service will be at 6:30 pm that evening. This service is a quiet reflective

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• *"The Word became*
•
• *flesh and made his*
•
• *dwelling among us. We*
•
• *have seen his glory, the*
•
• *glory of the one and*
•
• *only Son, who came*
•
• *from the Father, full of*
•
• *grace and truth."*
•
• ~John 1:14 (NIV)
•
.....

time to focus hope in the midst of darkness. Saguache Christmas Eve service will begin at 5 pm and Center's Christmas Eve service will begin at 7 pm. Since we are blessed this year for Christmas to be on Sunday, there will be a short Christmas service at each church at regular service times, with a promise of Christmas treats. We hope that everyone will join us. Even if you live far away or you are just not able to attend, we hope you will join us online as the Advent Study and Center services will be streamed.

As we end the year, we ask that you pray about making a special gift to the ministries of each church. Our economic strain on all of us has perhaps caused the dip in financial support to the church. We have lost loved ones and several folks have moved away, but the ministries of both churches continue. Please consider giving a special offering in honor or memory of someone as a Christmas gift this year. Most of us have more stuff than we will ever use, so this investment in the continuing of the ministries of both churches can make a difference in the lives of those in our community.

It's hard to believe that this is my fifth Christmas in the San Luis Valley, but I have been very blessed and I look forward to what God has for us in the future. I wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season, a beautiful Christmas, and a hopeful New Year.

2022 Charge Conference is set for Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 1:30 pm at Center for both Center and Saguache. It will be in person and on Zoom as well. A link will be sent out in January.

Pastor Debbie

Our Angel Tree Opportunities

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.

Deadline: Ongoing.



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://annasmisioninc.com/>

Deadline: Ongoing.

We appreciate all donations and prayers for Domestic Violence Survivors.

Colorado, USA

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/>

Deadline: Ongoing.

Center & Alamosa, CO

Homelake Veterans Center

300-500 new or used puzzles with all the pieces, art supplies, coats, gloves, caps, socks are needed. Please do not wrap.

Deadline to bring to church: December 18.

Monte Vista, CO

BUMP Mission

Blackfeet Reservation

Fill a shoe box with gifts no more than \$50 and wrapped. Ages are: 0-5, 6-12, and 13-17.

Deadline to be received by Rev.

Hill is December 16.

Address: 124 US HWY 89
Browning, MT 59417

Santa Maria del Mexicano

Make a monetary donation to the orphanage to the church and Janet will cut a check to them.

Deadline is December 25.

Colon, Mexico

Beaver Creek

Make a monetary donation to the Beaver Creek in honor or memory of someone.

You can write a check to Beaver Creek or the church then a church check will be cut to Beaver Creek.

Deadline is December 25.

South Fork, CO

Buche De Noel (Yule Log)

Ingredients

Recipe by: TyráRachele (Allrecipes.com)

Chocolate Whipped Cream:

- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ cup confectioner's sugar
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 ½ tsps vanilla extract
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 6 egg whites
- ¼ cup white sugar

Cake Batter:

- 6 egg yolks
- ½ cup white sugar

Topping:

- Confectioner's sugar for dusting



FoodNetwork.com

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Line a 10x15 inch jellyroll pan with parchment paper. In a large bowl, whip the cream, 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar, 1/2 cup cocoa, and 1 teaspoon vanilla until thick and stiff. Refrigerate.
2. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat egg yolks with 1/2 cup sugar until pale in color, light and frothy. Blend in 1/3 cup cocoa, 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla, and salt. In large glass bowl, using clean beaters, whip egg whites to soft peaks. Gradually add 1/4 cup sugar, and beat until whites form stiff peaks. Immediately fold the yolk mixture into the whites. Spread the batter evenly into the prepared pan.
3. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the cake springs back when lightly touched. Dust a clean dishtowel with confectioner's sugar. Run a knife around the edge of the pan, and turn the warm cake out onto the towel. Remove and discard parchment paper. Starting at the short edge of the cake, roll the cake up with the towel. Cool for 30 minutes.
4. Unroll the cake, and spread the filling to within 1 inch of the edge. Roll the cake up with the filling inside. Place seam side down onto a serving plate, and refrigerate until serving. Dust with Confectioner's sugar before serving.

Decorating Options:

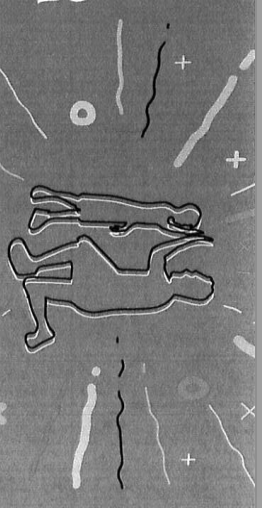
This recipe calls for a simple dusting of confectioners' sugar over the yule log cake, but you can decorate your bûche de Noël more elaborately if you like. Try icing the cake with chocolate ganache for a more log-like appearance. You can also garnish the cake with chocolate curls, candied cranberries, rosemary, and marzipan shapes (like mushrooms).

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/17345/buche-de-noel/>



WALKING TOGETHER

Mentoring makes a difference



THE NEED

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

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

THE OPPORTUNITY

Kids Hope USA mentors (supported by behind-the-scenes prayer partners) 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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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

Learn more by visiting kidshopeusa.org/volunteer or contacting our church's Kids Hope USA Program Director:

Wicki Patzlar (719) 588-3579
purple.vic30@gmail.com

MENTOR QUALIFICATIONS

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

PRAYER PARTNER QUALIFICATIONS

- Believe in the power of prayer.
- Faithfully pray for a mentor and student each week.
- Contact the mentor on a regular basis for prayer requests.



one child
 mentor
 one hour
 a week



For over two decades, Kids Hope USA mentors have been trained and equipped to build and sustain caring and safe relationships with children. Volunteer today! Contact our church's KHUSA Program Director or church office.



Thank You!!!
 Center United Methodist
 Church and Pastor Debbie
 For your kind
 donation of Bibles
 These will be placed in Ready
 to GO Bags for
 Domestic Violence Victims
 We appreciate your
 thoughtfulness!!!
 Anna's Mission Inc.

La Puente Home, Inc. 2022 Fall Update

Regardless of where we have been in life or where we are now, the truth remains that each of us have faced hard times. Whether it be grief, the loss of a job, an unexpected medical diagnosis, divorce, a car accident, or broken bones, we have all dealt with something in our life that was difficult to experience at some level of wellness.

Imagine now if you faced this same difficulty but without a support system or a home. Many of the people we serve have faced these exact crises without support, prior to the introduction of La Puente's Street Outreach program.

Street Outreach is one of many direct services offered by La Puente. Formed to address the needs of those facing unsheltered homelessness, Street Outreach offers people basic need items (food, winter gear, etc.) and, through relationship with Street Outreach staff, an opportunity to work towards becoming stably housed.

As fall rapidly comes to a close and winter settles in, many people are facing yet another crisis, the harsh weather ahead. Armed with coats, gloves, hand warmers, and connections to local resources, Street Outreach is ready to help those in need – to survive and hopefully thrive as we seek to restore people's independence and dignity.

With all the work that needs done, we thank you for your financial partnership! We cannot offer services like Street Outreach without your belief in our mission to serve those with the least. On behalf of La Puente staff and volunteers, I wish you serenity and warmth in the winter days ahead.

Megann Silver (La Puente Development)

"One kind word can warm three winter months" Japanese Proverb