

JANUARY 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
E-mail:
umcofcenter@gmail.com
Financial E-mail:
CUMCfin@yahoo.com
Website: umcofcenter.com

Saguache United Methodist Church

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

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

Administrative Assistant/
Newsletter Editor:
Hannah Metzger
Phone: (719) 989-0987

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• "Arise, shine; for your
• light has come, and the
• glory of the LORD has
• risen upon you. For
• darkness shall cover
• the earth, and thick
• darkness the peoples;
• but the LORD will arise
• upon you, and his glory
• will appear over you."
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• ~ Isaiah 60:1-2
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Pastor Debbie

Volume 38 Issue 1

As we begin a new year, I would like thank all of you for the beautiful birthday and lovely birthday gifts. Thank you for the lovely Christmas cards as well as the very generous monetary gift from Center.

This is the time we Methodist recommit ourselves to the Lord. As we join with the saints of the past, the present saints, and those who come in the future in "Dear Lord, I am no longer my own. 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.



Our charge conference will take place at Center United Methodist Church January 14, 2023 at 1:30 pm and will also be via Zoom for those who are unable to drive to Center. I pray everyone will be able to attend in person or via Zoom.

As we begin this new year, let us be willing to yield ourselves to serving the Lord in our community and the world through our time, talents, and offerings.

<p>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 through the church or online at: https://lapuentehome.org/donate/</p>	<p>Kids Hope USA <i>(Haskin Elementary)</i> 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.</p>
	<p>Anna's Mission Inc. <i>(Ready to Go bags for domestic violence victims).</i> 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/ We appreciate all donations and prayers for Domestic Violence Survivors.</p>

Kids Hope Report

Unfortunately, sickness is going through the Hasken Elementary School, and I have been unable to get the necessary forms from our last teacher to start our program. The teacher herself has been out sick for almost two weeks.

I have taken Pastor Debbie, Kitty, and Sue on a school tour and shown them where we will work with our students.

Diane, in the cafeteria, will pay for the Mentor's lunch so we can eat with our students.

Chris Hintz, in the Library, donated books for each of our students from the book fair held this year.

We hope to get the paperwork back in the first week after the break and start the program the second week. I will send you a form for the student, Mentor, and prayer partner groups you are assigned to as soon as possible.

People in the school are excited that we will be coming in and working with these exceptional students and are eager to help us.

Please continue to keep our Kids Hope USA program in your daily prayers.

~ Vicki Ratzlaff, Director of Kids Hope



Center's Boar's Head Festival



Traditional French Galette des Rois (Epiphany Cake)

Recipe by: Rebacca Franklin (The Spruce Eats)

Ingredients

Almond Cream Filling:

- ½ cup almond meal
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 3 Tbsp unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 Tbsp all-purpose flour

For the Cake:

- 17 oz puff pastry, thawed
- 1 dried fava bean (optional)
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2 Tbsp confectioner's sugar



TheSpruceEats.com

Directions

1. Combine almond meal, sugar, egg, softened butter, vanilla extract, and flour in the bowl of a food processor. Blend to a smooth, creamy paste. Feel free to make this cream a few days in advance, then refrigerate in an airtight container.
2. Position a rack in the center of the oven and heat to 425 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll out 2 sheets of puff pastry and cut into 2 (11-inch) discs. Place one disc on the prepared baking sheet. Spread an even layer of almond cream, leaving a 1-inch border around the edges.
3. If you wish to include a dried fava bean, you can do so at this point. Simply nestle it in the almond cream. Brush some of the beaten egg over the pastry border.
4. Place second puff pastry disc on top of filling, and crimp edges with a fork to seal the cake. Using a sharp knife, score a decorative pattern into the top layer of pastry without cutting through to the almond filling. Brush galette with the remaining beaten egg (this will create a golden crust).
5. Bake cake for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and dust cake with confectioners' sugar. Return to oven and bake until the puff pastry becomes a deep golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes more. Allow cake to cool for 20 minutes before serving.

Tips:

- The almond paste can be made up to 3 days in advance and refrigerated in an airtight container.
- It is best to eat the galette the same day it is made, as the crust tends to get soggy. If there are leftovers, wrap them loosely in a plastic wrap and store for up to 2 days, refrigerated.

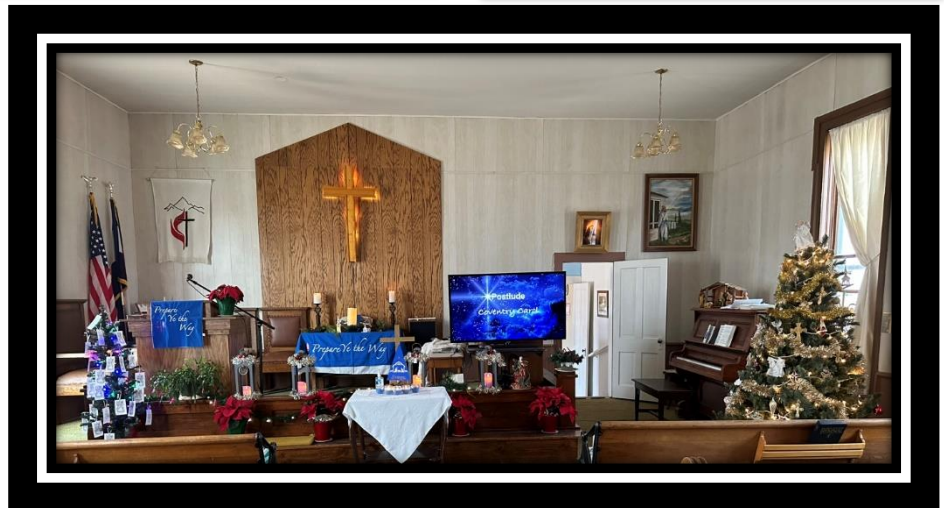
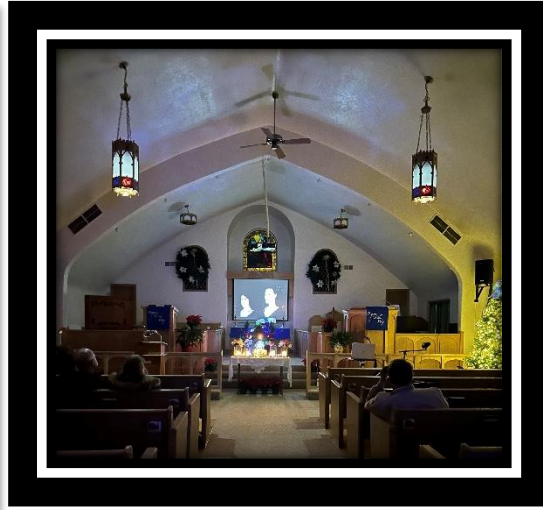
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Angel's Among Us

*I believe there are angels among us
Sent down to us from somewhere up above
They come to you and me in our toughest hours
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give
To guide us with a light of love*



MERRY CHRISTMAS

from BRENT VERNON & Sam



Merry Christmas, friends-

Here we are again, gathering in familiar places, wherever it is our hearts call home. I cherish the moments we have to celebrate each other, to renew friendships and strengthen family bonds. It's deeply meaningful and so important.

Each year, we have the opportunity to look back with gratitude for the faithfulness of God, knowing that He will remain faithful in the new year with all its uncertainties. We also have the opportunity to look back and learn from our stumblings and disappointments, knowing that—because of Jesus—nothing is beyond redemption.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

That's the best thing about Christmas: Hope realized. Just as the promise of a savior was fulfilled, the promise of a transformed life is being fulfilled today. And, with joy, we anticipate the fulfillment of yet another promise: eternal life.

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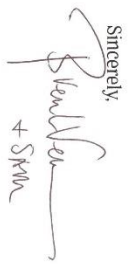
I want to thank you for the kindness you've shown to me. I value your friendship and look forward to the next time our paths cross, be it in a concert setting or otherwise. I have been the recipient of such warmth and hospitality over the years. I think of this often and am humbled by it. In coming months, you feel your church or community might benefit from a visit with me and my pal Sam in concert. I would love to talk with you about that. With Covid-19 mostly in the rear-view mirror (hopefully), my itinerary has been picking up and I could not be more grateful.

In addition to the regular concert dates, my schedule has included more elementary schools this year, many of them public schools, where I've introduced my storybooks and characters in an interactive program called Storytime+. These assemblies are a combination of good clean fun and character-building messages. It's been wonderful and I am grateful for the open doors.

Along the way, I've had the joy of illustrating several children's books for other organizations. I also released another children's book of my own this year called *Audrey & The Nutcracker* featuring characters from my first book *Neckless: The Audrey Amaka Story*. It was great fun to revisit that world again. *Audrey & The Nutcracker* is a heartfelt story that celebrates the joy of giving. It's the seventh book I've written and illustrated and I am extremely happy with it!

Next year, I plan to release new music and be involved in a potpourri of new projects for children and adults alike. Of course I look forward to traveling quite a bit as well. If you think about it, please pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint these efforts and make them fruitful. That is certainly my prayer.

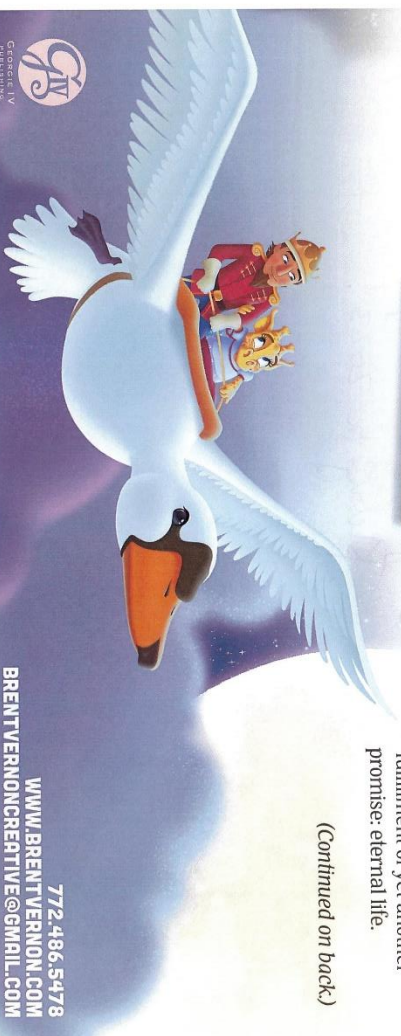
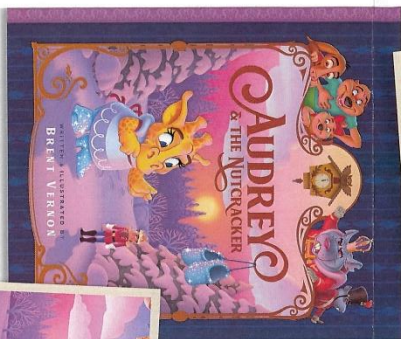
Again, I hope you have wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations! All the best to you and your loved ones. I appreciate you!

Sincerely,

 + Sam

*So good to be with you earlier this year!
 Blessings in 2023!*



THE RELEASE OF BRENT'S NEW BOOK *AUDREY & THE NUTCRACKER* WAS CELEBRATED ON OCTOBER 15 WITH A SPECIAL PARTY FEATURING RODNEY BINKA, BENJEL, AND A FEW SPECIAL GUESTS.

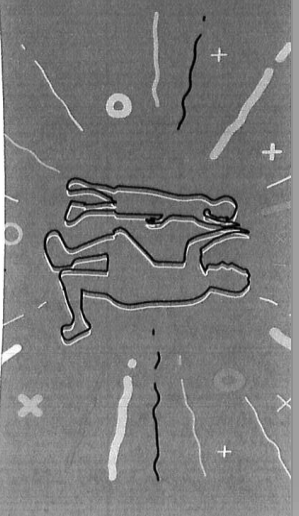


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WALKING TOGETHER

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:

Vicki 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.



Greetings Members of the Mountain Sky Conference,

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

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

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

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

Peace to you during this Advent season,

Rev. Annie Arnoldy

Director of Connectional Ministry

Superintendent of Leadership Development