

NOVEMBER 2022

Center United Methodist Church

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Saguache United Methodist Church

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Pastor Debbie

Volume 37 Issue 11

Where has this year gone! The holiday season is upon us. It is so easy to push our Lord and our church aside because of all the things demanded of our time. As we begin this holiday season, let us take at least five minutes a day to center ourselves with God and thank God for all the many blessings we have. It is a time of gratitude to the Lord as well as those around us who do so much for us, especially those folks we seem to overlook or take for granted. Let's commit to be a grateful people here at Center and Saguache.

As always we are so grateful for those folks who have supported and continue to support the ministries of our church with their time, talents, and their gifts. We would ask that you pray about giving a special offering as we close out this year toward the ministries of our faith communities.

Saguache's October Dinner with Your Neighbor featured chili and a delightful surprise with Mary and Ed attending. What a joy to see Mary doing so well after having been on our prayer list for so long. God is still in the Miracle Working Business. Amen. Center's November 3rd first Thursday dinner will be the Oyster Stew and Chili Fall Dinner.

Center's One Church Board voted to participate and apply for the Table for All grant as we commit to the next three years in connection with the United Methodist Church exploring new ways to transform our community for the Lord. As a commitment to this endeavor, Center has begun a new ministry with Center Consolidated Schools with Kids Hope USA which requires a \$500 initial commitment and a \$500 commitment yearly to cover the cost of set up, initial and ongoing training, resources in several languages; just to name a few of the things the cost covers. I am so grateful that Vicki Ratzlaff is our Kids Hope Director and is so qualified to lead this exciting new ministry. Pray about your support for this ministry to succeed and for your place in this ministry. We are in need of mentors and prayer partners as well as ongoing financial support and need for supplies for our mentors. We have four mentors, yet there are six children who need mentors, so maybe the Lord is calling you to give an hour a week to this worthwhile ministry.

As we grow, it is necessary that if you are sending anything like reference checks, or checks to church ministries, or anything personal to church offices, we are requesting that you mark the envelope CONFIDENTIAL so that it is only opened by the person or area designated.

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"To you, O God of my

fathers, I give thanks and

praise, for you have given

me wisdom and might, and

have now made known to

me what we asked of you,

for you have made known

to us the king's matter."

~ Daniel 2:23

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As many of you know I have returned from month long travels. Only three of those days were personal where I celebrated my aunt's 100th birthday in Murphysboro, Illinois. It was great to visit with so many of my family I haven't seen in over 10 years, because very few of them were able to attend my mom's funeral. Then I traveled to Lander, WY for ordination and clergy required events before returning to briefly share the Fanny Crosby story and celebrate World Communion with you all and then to return to Denver to leave very early the next morning to Mexico for participation in the Spanish Immersion with Cilac Freire School. It was a life changing experience which I wish to share with you all throughout the following weeks.

Sunday, October 23 we began our four-week sermon series A Wonder-Full Life and next Sunday, October 30, 2022, we will honor our loved ones by setting up a Dia de los Muertos/All Saints Altar. If you are worshipping with us October 30th, we invite you to bring a picture of dearly departed loved one to place on the altar.

October 21 and October 22, Charleen and Jeannie represented our churches in doing the Mountain Sky Conference business. It was very sad on October 21st as we voted on the petitions from Mosca and Monte Vista United Methodist Churches to disaffiliate with the United Methodist

Church and on October 22, the closure and sale of the Walsenburg UMC. As of this vote, Center and Saguache, Alamosa, and Salida are the only remaining United Methodist Churches in our area of the valley. We prayed for these churches and their success as we grieve the loss of our sister churches. Bishop Karen shared this poem to close this sacred section of church business with disaffiliation.

Blessing for the Brokenhearted BY JAN RICHARDSON

Let us agree for now that we will not say the breaking makes us stronger or that it is better to have this pain than to have done without this love. Let us promise we will not tell ourselves time will heal the wound, when every day our waking opens it anew. Perhaps for now it can be enough to simply marvel at the mystery of how a heart so broken can go on beating, as if it were made for precisely this—as if it knows the only cure for love is more of it, as if it sees the heart's sole remedy for breaking is to love still, as if it trusts that its own persistent pulse is the rhythm of a blessing we cannot begin to fathom but will save us nonetheless.

There is no remedy for love but to love more. – Henry David Thoreau

Conference business concluded on Saturday, October 22 with the approval of a very trim budget and the decision that the district will be reformed in order to remove one of the seven district superintendents, lowering the district count to six. It was explained that due to so many churches failing to pay their fair share of apportionments, that in order to have a responsible budget, those cuts would have to be made hoping that giving would increase in the future. The district superintendents already have so much territory to cover, this will put a strain on them, so keep them in your prayers. Many things in the conference and district will rely on technology platforms to offer connection throughout our large conference.

We have had wonderful Methodism 101 class where we have looked at what it means to be a Methodist and why a Methodist and the future of Methodism and our church. If you have missed this study, we do have recordings of the classes which are very informative. Our new study begins Wednesday, November 2, 2022 in person and online. It is a study on financial responsibility and stewardship and features Adam Hamilton's book *Enough* and Saving Grace worksheets.

Below, I have listed links to five videos recorded by Adam Hamilton. Please consider making time to view them yourself, and then consider if there are others in your orbit who may find them helpful.

- Video #1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62qtzyBVCv8>
- Video #2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us12L0Tsw_c
- Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK7-cTdawU>
- Video #4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y10Keo9h5E8>
- Video #5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbNchQ-V4GE>



We will be having our Table for All Sunday on November 13th. This day will offer a conference-wide celebration of God's love and our connectional ministry as we support the work of all of our congregations.

Like the Bishop shared in the Annual Conference October 22nd homily, there came a point in time when the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness for forty years where parents and grandparents had died and now Moses was asking them to make a decision to move forward and live or to remain in the wilderness and die. It is my prayer that we continue to choose to move forward and live in our communities. To not make a decision is to decide, so let us come out of the wilderness and decide. Let us remember John Wesley's words, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?" May those who come behind us find us faithful.

Oyster & Chili Stew Fall Potluck

We will be hosting our Oyster & Chili Stew dinner this year as our community dinner on November 3rd at 5:30pm. Please bring your famous chili or stew and your favorite side dishes this night to share with the community.



Joke of the Month

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked the stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy answered, "No ma'am, they're dead."

Asked to write a composition entitled, "What I'm thankful for on Thanksgiving," a student wrote, "I am thankful that I'm not a turkey."

French Apple Tart

Ingredients

Recipe by: French Apple Tart (Foodnetwork.com)

Pastry Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1Tbsp sugar
- 12 Tbsp. cold unsalted butter, diced
- ½ cup ice water

Apple Mix Ingredients:

- 4 Granny Smith Apples
- ½ cup sugar
- 4Tbsp cold unsalted butter, diced small
- ½ cup apricot jelly or warm sieved apricot jam
- 2 Tbsp. Calvados, rum, or water



FoodNetwork.com

Directions

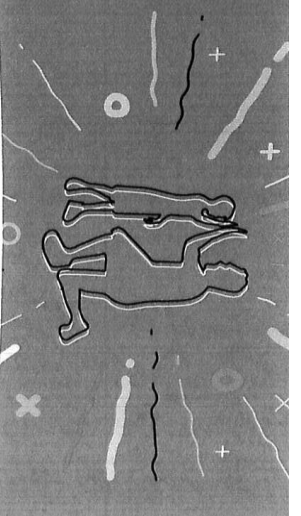
1. For the pastry, place the flour, salt, and sugar in the bowl of a food processor fitted with the steel blade. Pulse for a few seconds to combine. Add the butter and pulse 10 to 12 times, until the butter is in small bits the size of peas. With the motor running, pour the ice water down the feed tube and pulse just until the dough starts to come together. Dump onto a floured board and knead quickly into a ball. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.
3. Roll the dough slightly larger than 10 by 14-inches. Using a ruler and a small knife, trim the edges. Place the dough on the prepared sheet pan and refrigerate while you prepare the apples.
4. Peel the apples and cut them in half through the stem. Remove the stems and cores with a sharp knife and a melon baller. Slice the apples crosswise in 1/4-inch thick slices. Place overlapping slices of apples diagonally down the middle of the tart and continue making diagonal rows on both sides of the first row until the pastry is covered with apple slices. (I tend not to use the apple ends in order to make the arrangement beautiful.) Sprinkle with the full 1/2 cup of sugar and dot with the butter.
5. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour, until the pastry is browned and the edges of the apples start to brown. Rotate the pan once during cooking. If the pastry puffs up in one area, cut a little slit with a knife to let the air out. Don't worry! The apple juices will burn in the pan but the tart will be fine! When the tart's done, heat the apricot jelly together with the Calvados and brush the apples and the pastry completely with the jelly mixture. Loosen the tart with a metal spatula so it doesn't stick to the paper. Allow to cool and serve warm or at room temperature.

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/ina-garten/french-apple-tart-recipe-1946083>



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 hour
a week

one child

mentor



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.

DELIVERY DEADLINE DEC 16, 2022

BLACKFEET UNITED
 METHODIST PARISH

Christmas

SHOEBOXES

BUMP

124 US HWY 89

BROWNING, MT 59417

Boxes are filled with gifts, typically no more than \$50 worth. The age groups are: 0-5 6-12