

JUNE 2023

Volume 38 Issue 6

Pastor Debbie

As summer approaches, we give thanks for God's grace, beauty and moisture.

I would like to thank Vicki Ratzlaff, Lori Sanchez, and Charleen Schaeffer for their help in making sure Center's teachers felt loved and appreciated every day during Teacher Appreciation Week.

I would like to thank all the ladies who attended Center's Mother's Day tea and especially those who brought guests. It was a lovely afternoon to honor our mothers. I would like to thank Kitty Entz, Sue McClure, Janet Myers, Vicki Ratzlaff, Lori Sanchez, and Cloetta Spearman for providing the delicious refreshments which everyone enjoyed. A special thank you goes to Lewis Entz who graciously donated beautiful bells as table decorations and as favors for this wonderful event. I would like to thank Cloetta for the wonderful entertainment and leading our musical walk through those wonderful songs that remain timeless. I also would like to thank Kitty, Mary, Janet, Cloetta and her cousin, and Lori for helping to set up and clean up for the event. I would like to especially thank the ladies of Anna's Mission for sharing their ministry vision and the invitation to join them as we work to end domestic violence. It was awesome to see Glenda Holcomb, Vicki Ratzlaff, and Lori Sanchez as integral leaders in this ministry. What a joy to see how God has been leading Glenda to realize the desires of her heart as they become reality.

Last month, I shared my self-assessment of Center and Saguache with you and invited you to be part of our annual assessment of both me and the congregations. As we stated last month, since both churches have received their own Table for All grants with different goals and objectives, it made sense that each church would focus on their own issues since our goals and objectives are not combined. Assessments are never fun, but they are an important time for everyone to take an honest look at our efforts in order to move forward in the future with a realistic vision, with integrity, and with clarity.

On May 9th, the Center board shared their results and we discussed what we learned from these results. As part of this discussion, it was asked if I would be open to preaching on sermon topics and/or scriptures that folks felt were burning issues in their faith journey. I definitely am open to such congregational input. Previously, I have asked for such input, but unfortunately at the time only one person shared such a request, which was followed by two sermons to answer that request.

In order to make it easier and available each Sunday, I have placed in the back of the sanctuary a box with slips of paper for folks to place their suggestions for sermons, scriptures, and hymns. These suggestions will be fodder for summer worship planning.

I'm excited and looking forward to viewing, researching, and homiletic study in order to preach on these. Thank you for your participation.

If you would like to see the survey compilation with the scores and comments for Center or for Saguache, please reach out to the church office and we will email or print you a copy to be picked up at the church.

Center's Wednesday Bible Study on Adam Hamilton's *Christianity and World Religions* has changed from 6:30 pm to 5:30 pm and is open to anyone who wishes to join. We changed the time to accommodate the folks who are joining online. We have had great discussions and we are looking forward to many more. We are excited to announce that after this study, we will then move into the series *The Chosen*, where we will view an episode and then have discussion and study on each episode. My granddaughter is expected to make her arrival the end of June and the first of July and my great niece will be graduating from Queensland University in July, which may force some of the Wednesday sessions to be totally online or postponed, but we will continue this study throughout the year, at least through Season One and Season Two.

Center and Saguache Table for All teams are hard at work. I want to thank Kitty Entz, Janet Myers, Roy Ratzlaff, and Lori Sanchez from Center and Noreen Gross, Jeannie and Mike Norris from Saguache who attended the Smokey Hills in-person Table for All retreat May 19-20 in Centennial, CO. The next Zoom retreat is July 11 & 12 from 5:30 – 8 pm.

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)

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/ Newsletter Editor:

Hannah Metzger
Phone: (719) 989-0987

.....
•
• “Dear friends, let us love one
• another, for love comes from
• God. Everyone who loves has
• been born of God and knows
• God. Whoever does not love
• does not know God, because
• God is love. This is how God
• showed his love among us: He
• sent his one and only Son into
• the world that we might live
• through him.”
•
• ~1 John 4 : 7-9
•
•

August Zoom retreat is August 15 & 16 from 5:30 – 8 pm. In September, each church will meet with Jeff at a time suitable to that church. The October Hachathon dates are to be determined. It will be a 2 ½ day retreat, where we meet and work with a team outside of our conference.

There are some wonderful opportunities for our valley. Rev. Nancy Mead's is leading laity and clergy in planning a Chautauqua weekend, June 2-4, 2023 at Beaver Creek with an inspiring weekend of worship, arts and informative lectures. Gene Haning has posted information at www.beavercreekevent.com and registration information. Please put it on your calendar and plan to be part of this exciting event. June 4th during this weekend will be Church in the Wildwood. There is a flyer including in this newsletter. Both churches are invited to participate in worship at Beaver Creek. Hopefully it will also be streamed, but I don't have any specifics right now.

Annual conference in Colorado Springs is June 22-25th with the ordination service to take place at First United Methodist Colorado Springs at 9:30 am on Sunday, June 25th. This is the first time in a long time that ordination is a worship service at a church open to all. At the board meeting at Center, Hannah offered to be present at the Center church and run the online service on June 25th, so both churches are invited to come to Center for worship around 9 am and to worship online with those of us in Colorado Springs.

Sunday, May 21st, we celebrated Heritage/Aldersgate Sunday where we honored our Methodist heritage and our church legacy. We honored Leona Hoag as Saguache's Quiet Disciple and Lori Sanchez as Center's Quiet Disciple. Also at Center, we honored our graduate Hannah Metzger. At Center we also honored our Kids Hope director, mentors, prayer partners, and supporters for an awesome start to a wonderful ministry between the Center church and Haskin Elementary. We especially thank our fearless leader Vicki Ratzlaff for being brave in starting and directing this ministry throughout this school year. At Saguache we honored Noreen Gross for her unwavering dedication to volunteering at Mountain Valley School.

Quiet Disciple

Lori Sanchez (Center)

Leona Hoag(Saguache)



Kids Hope Team

Not Pictured: Sue McClure, Linda Mix, Charleen Schaeffer,



Volunteer

Graduation

Noreen Gross

Hannah Metzger



Brittany and Monty's Baby Shower Saguache



Pineapple Upside Down Cupcakes

Ingredients

- cooking spray
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 ½ cups brown sugar
- 24 maraschino cherries
- 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple
- 1 (18.25 ounce) package pineapple cake mix (such as Duncan Hines® Pineapple Supreme)
- 1 ⅓ cups pineapple juice
- ⅓ cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar for dusting, or as needed

Recipe by: AllRecipes.com



AllRecipes.com

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Move an oven rack to the middle of the oven. Spray 24 muffin cups with cooking spray.
2. Spoon 1 teaspoon melted butter into the bottom of each sprayed muffin cup. Spoon 1 tablespoon brown sugar into each muffin cup. Press a maraschino cherry into the center of the brown sugar in each muffin cup. Spoon a heaping tablespoon of crushed pineapple on top and compact it with the back of a spoon into an even layer.
3. Mix pineapple cake mix, pineapple juice, vegetable oil, and eggs in a large bowl with an electric mixer on low speed until moistened, about 30 seconds. Increase speed to medium; mix for 2 minutes.
4. Pour batter into the muffin cups, filling them to the top; do not overfill.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of a cupcake comes out clean, about 20 minutes.
6. Line a work surface with waxed paper. Allow cupcakes to cool at least 5 minutes before inverting muffin cups onto the waxed paper; serve with pineapple and cherry sides up. Sprinkle cupcakes lightly with confectioners' sugar before serving.

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/220808/pineapple-upside-down-cupcakes/>





Mother's



Center's



Day

Tea!



Kids Hope Report

It was a great first year, and I look forward to an even better second year. On May 21st, I presented our Mentor and Prayer Partners with Thank You gifts for their time and effort this year. On May 25th, I gave the Principal and teachers involved with Kid's Hope Thank You gifts for allowing us into their classrooms. I would not have been able to do this without your faithful support. We are planning a get-together for the Mentor and Prayer Partners to review the End of Year Evaluation and discuss possible ways to make next year better. We still need to set a date; it will be sometime this summer. Your financial gifts are greatly appreciated towards this mission of helping children.

"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children" (Isaiah 54:13).

Yours in Christ,

Vicki Ratzlaff, Director of Kids Hope

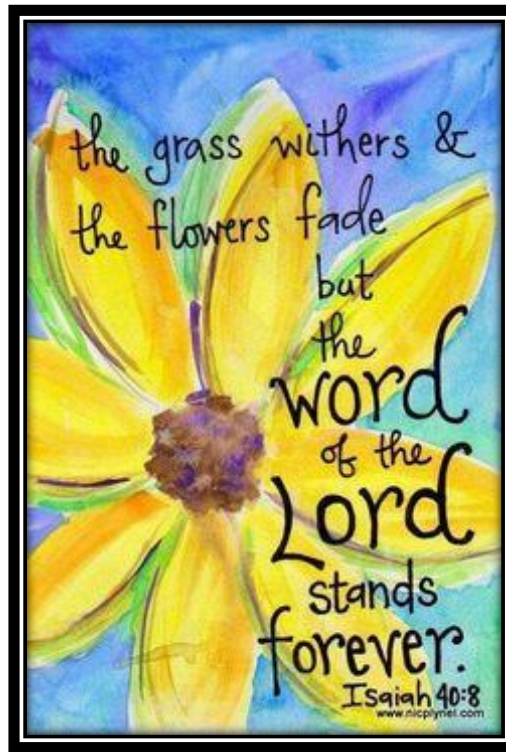
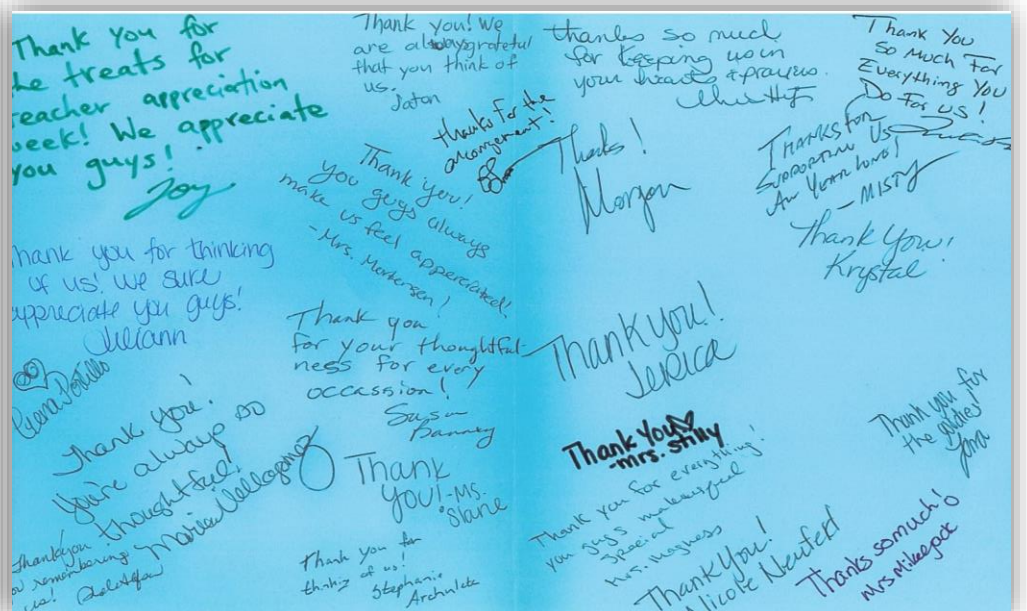


Table for All Grant

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!



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://annasmisioninc.com/>

We appreciate all donations and prayers for Domestic Violence Survivors.

SAGUACHE CHURCH TURNS 150! (1873-2023)

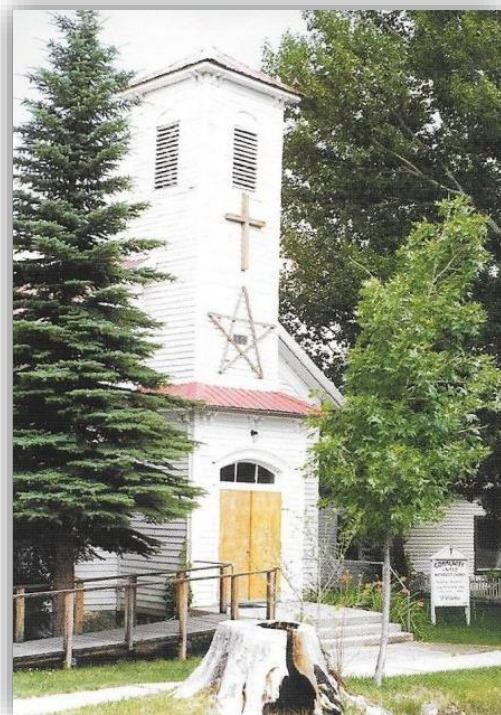
This is a special year for the Saguache United Methodist Church.

This fall the church will celebrate its Sesquicentennial (150th)

Year! Plans are coming along and the date is scheduled for Saturday, October 21. The celebration will begin with a worship service at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by a luncheon in the fellowship hall. All are invited to celebrate with us.

We are looking for photographs of weddings, baptisms, confirmations or other events that took place in the sanctuary to include in a display; also baptismal certificates or other certificates awarded at the church. If you have any of these and would like to share them with us, we would scan them and return to you, or you could scan them and send to us.

Contact Bill Hazard at 719-655-2366 and leave a message if you have anything to share. Thanks!



Something to Think About...

- ❖ Chautauqua Weekend June 2-4, 2023 at Beaver Creek.
- ❖ Annual Conference is June 22-25th and Pastor Debbie will be ordained on Sunday at 9:30am in Colorado Springs. If you cannot join her in Springs, come to the Center Church and we will watch via zoom!
- ❖ Next month Center's July potluck will be a Cook Out! We will be needing people to provide hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, and all the fixings. There will be an email request sent out in a couple weeks, so keep an eye out!
- ❖ Pastor Debbie will be gone starting June 22 for conference and will be away through July 20th celebrating the birth of her granddaughter and great niece's graduation from Queensland University in Australia.
- ❖ New Legacy Concert is July 21st at 7pm. Join us!