



First United Methodist Church
420 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
www.fumc-cs.org

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July 23, 2010

Encounter Youth Choir Performs Sat. July 31

In 1972, the choir director of Main Street United Methodist Church in Alton, Illinois started a small choir made up of eleven youth from the church. They called themselves "Love Eleven." The following year the membership grew to 36. That year, they prepared a musical entitled "The Encounter," which ultimately became the official name for the group. The Methodist Annual Conference invited the group to perform that year. A Navy captain heard them sing at the conference and extended them an invitation to sing at the naval base in Orlando, Florida. Suddenly, the group was on its way to Florida, where they sang at the base before an audience of 1500 service men and women. As part of the tour, they performed at several churches along the route and in the Orlando area.



Encounter is a group of Christian youth from 9th through 12th grade that represents over 25 churches in the Alton area. Traditionally, rehearsals have begun each year in January, with the first performance on Easter Sunday at Main Street United Methodist Church, their sponsor church. Currently, there are 95 youth in the choir!

Encounter is open to any denomination and auditions are not required to become a member. However, a member must have written permission from his/her parent to join.

Encounter has 15 adult sponsors in addition to the music director and staff pastor. *Encounter* is self-supported, earning money through fund-raisers, contributions and gifts from individuals, businesses and organizations in the area.

Encounter performs 10 to 15 times a season; including a 10-day performance/service tour each July and August. This year, the group will tour Colorado Springs, Denver, and Kansas City, Missouri.

Encounter is not merely a place to sing and have fun. It is a place where young Christian people can grow and mature in their relationship with one another and in their walk with God.

Encounter's concert is **Saturday, July 31, at 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary.** They will also be participating in services on Sunday, August 1. Please come and show your support of this wonderful, Christian youth choir.

First Sunday Food for ESM

As one of the founding congregations of Ecumenical Social Ministries (ESM) we partner with ESM in many ways. One way in which we support the vital services of this downtown outreach organization is with gifts of non-perishable food items. **On the first Sunday of the month** we ask all of our members to bring non-perishable food items to church, and to place them in the brown boxes located in various places on the main level. These donations are taken to ESM and are distributed by volunteers to those in our community who are facing hunger and serious financial constraints.

Please mark your calendars now to bring your food donations to church on Sundays August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7 and



December 5. If you are unable to attend worship on the first Sunday then you can place your donation in any of the boxes during the week, or on an alternate Sunday, and we will ensure that they get with the other items and make their way to ESM. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Your gifts make a tremendous difference in the lives of those who most need our help in Colorado Springs.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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Thanks, Lavonne!

Over ten years ago Lavonne Beedle agreed to move from being a volunteer to being the receptionist at our church. For all of those years she has been the face, the voice, and the first impression many people have of our congregation. She has fielded thousands of calls. She has helped hundreds of people find their way around our facility. She has helped the pastors find people in the hospitals, nursing homes, hospice centers, rehabilitation centers and other places where they needed to know that God cares, and the church cares. She has organized Goldenweds events and talked to people who needed help... well the list goes on and on. But, most importantly, she has done it with class and grace and warmth.

She has been the face of hospitality of First United Methodist Church!

Lavonne has decided that it is time for her, and her new husband Rex, to spend more time together. So after ten years she has asked to step down from her position of ministry here at the church. We are thrilled for Lavonne, but saddened that she won't be at the front desk to greet us when we arrive at work anymore! She will officially "retire" at the end of this month, or as soon as we can get someone trained to take over her many duties.

On **Sunday, August 8**, we will recognize Lavonne for her commitment and devotion to the church she loves. We will recognize her in the services and between the services we will have a reception in the

Hospitality Center so you can express your appreciation. A basket will be made available so you can bring cards and gifts if you would like.

In the meantime we are rearranging some administrative staff and looking to hire a new person in that area. We will move ahead quickly to make sure that the ministry of the church continues ahead with few glitches.

Lavonne and Rex will still be an important part of our church! But be sure to tell Lavonne how much you have appreciated her hard work on our behalf.

Thanks, Lavonne!

Kent

WELCOME to First United Methodist Church!

First United Methodist Church
420 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-471-8522 • www.fumc-cs.org

Sunday Worship Service Times

7:30 am Early Riser in the Chapel
8:00 am Traditional in the Sanctuary
9:30 am Contemporary in the Sanctuary
11:00 am Traditional in the Sanctuary
Sunday School Classes are at 9:30 & 10:45 am

Live broadcasts of the 11:00 am service on FOX, channel 21.2 (cable 7) and CW 57.

Communion Worship is held at all four service times on the first Sunday of each month.

Considering Membership at First UMC?

If you are interested in membership at First United Methodist Church or have questions, please call 719-471-8522 x237 for more information.

Baptisms

Please call 719-471-8522 x246, Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley, for information or scheduling of Baptisms.

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COME HEAR ABOUT STEVE'S SABBATICAL

On **Sunday, August 15**, at 2:00 pm, in the Theater, I will be giving a report on my Sabbatical Leave, showing slides and giving some commentary. This is the best way for me to give the report to all those who are interested, and your chance to hear details and ask questions! The presentation will last about 90 minutes.

~ Rev. Steve Harter

MISSION ARTS CENTER PROJECT MOVES ON!

The Tiffany Keith Study Group continues painting walls and trim at 324 N. Nevada Ave, the FUMC Mission Arts Center building. They've transformed the street level room from a cranberry red to a welcoming light tan with teal trim. The peach colored walls and trim in the main upper level room are becoming a tasteful combination of light gray walls with white trim. In the lower level, Rick Johnson is preparing the art and pottery studio area. The carpet's been removed and work begun to install sinks, power outlets, and storage needed by the artists and potters. He also had the street level room carpeted with carpet from the lower level.

All this work has been possible through generous donations of materials and time by the volunteers of the paint crew, the deferral of billing by Rick Johnson for the studio work, and \$1,060 in cash donations.

If you would like to visit the building or have questions about the project or fund drive contact Ron Fox, 719-963-1020 or by e-mail, foxjron@comcast.net.



PIE BAKING CONTEST

The NOAH group is sponsoring a "Pie Baking Contest" for our **Church Block Party, Sunday, August 29**. This is a "just for fun" contest as all you can win is a ribbon and "bragging rights." Anyone may enter a pie, but you have to bake it from scratch yourself. We will have a table set up for the pies and some "Pie Connoisseurs" to do the judging. After the judging is done, any remaining pie will be sold at \$1 a slice. Proceeds will be used to help with needed scholarships for NOAH trips. NOAH people, we will need some of you to volunteer for shifts at the table.

Please call Rev. Jerry Hurst, 719-471-8522 x209 if you wish to help at the table or enter a pie.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 3RD ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY!

Invite friends and family to join us **Sunday, August 29, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm!** This will be a festive day as we say good-bye to summer and kick-off our fall programming. Watch future publications for events taking place and opportunities to sponsor activities booths.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are in great need of volunteers to prepare communion for Sunday worship services. We serve communion on the first Sunday of every month, except July. In order to serve communion, we need people who will come on Friday or Saturday before communion Sunday and prepare the bread and juice to be served. We also need people willing to come at 7:30 am on communion Sunday to help bring the communion to the Sanctuary and get it ready to serve.

We have some very dedicated people serving in this area, but we need more. We aren't asking you to do this every month, but perhaps give two or three days a year. That isn't much in service of our Lord and church. If you are willing to answer this call to ministry, please call Rev. Jerry Hurst, 719-471-8522 x209 for more information.

AARP WORK ASSISTANCE

Free work assistance is offered for Seniors 50+, to include training and referrals to job openings in the area. Call the AARP Foundation, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, 719-635-3579.



"IMAGINE"

Imagine yourself at a Women of Faith Weekend. *Imagine* what it would be like if the God who created us was willing and able to provide exactly what you need. Why would He do that? Because He loves us. He loves you!

Join us for a Women of Faith weekend and let your imagination soar. Because the God who loves you can do far more than you can ever "*Imagine*."

September 24 - 25

Pepsi Center, Denver, CO

Friday, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm; 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm;
Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

The \$89 price includes all day Friday, all day Saturday, and two box lunches.

For information visit www.womenoffaith.com, or contact Gail Merritt, 719-634-2466 or Stefanie Hecht, 719-471-8522.





EVERYONE LEADS – EVERYONE SERVES

The 2010 Annual Conference was one of the best and most interesting Annual Conference experiences that I have had so far. This year brought many new experiences to the setting, from Covenant Groups to a Rockies game. There were about 700 of the Conference members at the Rockies game on June 20, most of whom were wearing purple Rethink Church t-shirts!

June 17, 2010 was the 307th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, so in true Methodist style all present were invited to be a part of a Covenant Group. With twelve members to each group, there were more than one hundred of these groups, each meeting to share in the manner of the original class meetings. We shared in pairs, around a particular scripture, in different ways for each of the three days of the Conference and were invited to take the Covenant Group back to our churches.

Did you know that 2010 is the 75th Anniversary of *The Upper Room* devotional periodicals? For me, using these resources is the best way to start my day. If you haven't tried these various materials, they are available in the Church Library or the Gate.

As a lay member of the Conference, I like to participate in whatever comes along for the Laity. Judy Hill, Conference Lay Leader, gave her annual address and stressed that as lay people: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go out and do it!" Herb Brown, from Pikes Peak UMC, was presented the Quiet Disciple award for the Pikes Peak sub-district. Laity had the option of attending various workshops about Wesley's way of singing, greening our churches, social principles, Men's Ministry, United Methodist Women, Rethinking Church, leading from a spiritual center, and connecting the church through missions. Generally the laity each goes to a different workshop so if you want to know more, ask Deb Walker, Stefanie Hecht, Cindy Bair, Jill Meider or me what our workshop was about.

We found out that our Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) may be combined with the Yellowstone Conference, and we may lose a bit of Utah to the Desert Southwest Conference as the Western Jurisdiction (WJ) is realigned when the Jurisdiction loses a Bishop. As a Jurisdiction, we had some goals with response to Haiti – to raise \$100,000 and give 23,000 health kits. But the WJ gave more than two million dollars and the RMC gave \$596,000 and 26,500 kits! Denomination-wide over \$37.2 million was raised and more than 700,000 kits have been received at both depots. At Conference, another 2075 kits were collected. It is wonderful to see the church make such a difference!

This year I was part of the notorious legislative committee B. While much of the legislation that is handled at Annual Conference is the same from year to year, a couple of petitions were "burning issues." AC15 dealt with being "inclusive" as leadership is chosen within churches on an annual basis. My group dealt with AC14A: "At every church or charge conference in the Rocky Mountain Conference there shall be discussion and commitment to confront bias against the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered community through the affirmation of the following statement: We affirm that all people are children of God and of sacred worth and because of the mystery of human sexuality people differ in how they express it." As the Conference chose to pass this petition, I place it before you as a point of conversation.

The highlight of the Conference was getting to hear Adam Hamilton speak on leadership based on his book *Leading Beyond the Walls: Developing Mainline Churches With a Heart For the Unchurched*. During his talks he said that leaders set the tone for the organization, clarify its mission, cast the vision, and hold the organization accountable. They also celebrate its victories and help the organization to overcome its shortcomings.

Rev. Hamilton said that the church's first mission is to those outside its walls. "What are you doing to find the Zaccheuses of your community?" We need to ask ourselves: "Why do people need Jesus Christ? Why do people need the church? Why do people need our particular church? Why are we United Methodist?" And we need to have the answers for those who are seeking.

Have you discovered what makes you "come alive?" Everyone leads – everyone serves.

Thanks for all that you do,
~ Susan Wheeler, Lay Leader



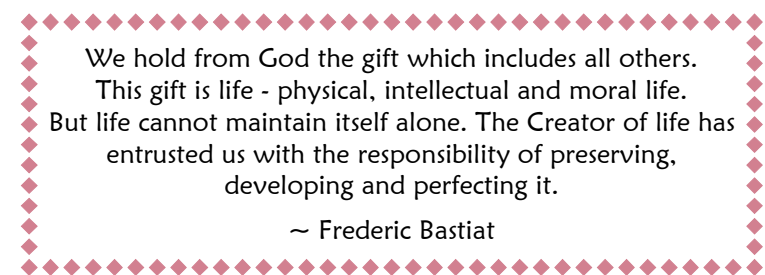
HELPING THE HOMELESS IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Good things are happening for those people who find themselves homeless in El Paso County. Much of that is due to Homeward Pikes Peak. This organization, which is housed in the United Way building, works in partnership with various agencies, including El Pomar and local faith-based organizations.

There was recently an informational gathering at Woodmen Valley Chapel where faith-based organizations of all sizes were asked to pitch in and raise money to support the work of getting homeless persons into homes and into jobs. According to Bob Holmes, Executive Director of Homeward Pikes Peak, there are around 500 chronic homeless persons in El Paso County and around 2,000 crisis homeless persons (many families) at present. Bob was instrumental in working with the City Council and the El Pomar Foundation to find alternate, safe housing for those persons who were living in the tent communities throughout the city. This is what he continues to do in a way that is helpful and successful.

Homeward Pikes Peak just celebrated its *100 jobs in 100 Days*, and as of this writing, they have found jobs for 120 persons who were homeless; jobs where they continue to work. Three hundred eighty-seven El Paso county residents have been helped in substantial ways by Homeward Pikes Peak and its partners throughout the city. As one of those vibrant faith communities in the city, we at FUMC were one of the organizations asked to help match a \$50,000 gift by the city toward the work of Homeward Pikes Peak. We have agreed to help, and would like to ask the members of our congregation to donate what you can to this powerfully life-transforming work.

Consider what you might give to help our neighbors find a home and a job through the services of Homeward Pikes Peak. Make checks payable to FUMC and write "Homeward Pikes Peak" in the memo line. Your contributions will be wisely used and greatly appreciated!



~ Frederic Bastiat

JULY MISSION FOCUS: INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK



We can't wipe out homelessness in Colorado Springs, but we can make a difference for the families who will be our guests. First United Methodist Church (FUMC) participates in a cooperative program with other churches in Colorado Springs, called the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) or just The Network. Each congregation in The Network provides overnight lodging and meals for up to 16 people (three or four families) for one week, two to four times each year.

Our guests are families who are temporarily without a home, due to accident, illness or other emergency. Each family has been screened by social workers before being accepted into the program. Families stay in our church for seven nights, starting on Sunday evening through the following Sunday morning. Families arrive "home" each day around 5:00 pm and leave by 7:00 am the following morning. Families go to the IHN day center each morning to prepare for school or jobs or pursuing employment and/or affordable housing. They receive counseling and support from licensed IHN social workers. Most families regain economic stability and are able to leave The Network within two to three months.

Volunteers in the IHN program provide homeless families with basic human needs – shelter, safety and sustenance – with a spirit of warmth and hospitality. In addition to setting up rooms, furnishing meals, and overnight hosting, volunteers do simple but immeasurably important things. They talk to guests. They listen to them. They treat them with respect. Volunteers can be a source of hope, when hope has been lost.

The Network is your opportunity to share God's love. You'll experience the satisfaction of contributing in a very real way to easing the pain of homelessness for children and their parents.

Our congregation has one more host week scheduled in 2010: the week of October 17 – October 24. Our largest volunteer need is for overnight hosts; we are required to have two overnight hosts for each of our seven host nights. The volunteer sign-up is scheduled for Sunday, October 3 in the Hospitality Center. As the dates approach, look for IHN information in the *Encounter* and *First News*. If this mission is of interest to you, please contact Teri Stephens, 719-487-0180 or Katy Adams, 719-471-3484 to volunteer or get more information.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**"Samaritan's Purse" Shoe Box Project**

We asked for shoe boxes and we received! This summer the children built the wall of Jericho in Kingdom City out of the boxes that the congregation so generously offered. We are now sending these same boxes home with all of the children to fill in support of "Operation Christmas Child." We ask that each child fill the box with Christmas gifts and items that will go to a child in need in the world. We also invite anyone else in the congregation to participate in this important mission. Together, with a simple shoe box, we have taught our own children an important Bible story in a bigger than life way, and will send God's love to the furthest corner of the earth. Please return all filled boxes by Thursday, August 19!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: READING THE BIBLE A-Z

We are offering a summer reading program for children and the adults in their lives. Participants will be given a special program and bookmark to help them navigate their way through 26 Bible stories. This is a great opportunity to read the Bible with your child. Grandparents of children living far away are encouraged to send a copy of the program and participate with them by phone. Children will receive a special prize after completing the entire alphabet of stories.

Children's Ministries on Vacation

After a fun-filled and exciting summer, and Vacation Bible School, we will be gone from July 19 - August 2, and the Children's Ministries offices will be closed during this time. Please be patient while we get some much-needed rest to gear up for the fall! Sunday morning programming will be staffed by our loving volunteers and occur as scheduled.

2010 - 2011 Children's Ministries Registrations

The upcoming school year is only a few weeks away. **Beginning Sunday, August 1,** we will begin to accept 2010 - 2011 registration forms for all children birth-6th grade. Please pick up a form for your family. It is very important that we have current information on all of our children. Your help with this ensures that you will receive Children's Ministries communications as well as maintaining accurate allergy, special needs, and sign-in information. Registration forms are available on the FUMC website and in Kingdom City.

**YOUTH MINISTRY****No FUMC Youth****Wednesday, July 28**

Come on the John Wesley Ranch Mission Trip!

Ropes Course Day!**Wednesday, August 4****8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Cost: \$35**Registration Deadline: Sunday, August 1.

(\$\$, Adventure Guild Release form, FUMC Med form, FUMC Behavior form). Download All Forms at: www.fumc-cs.org under Youth pages. Wear/Bring: closed-toed shoes, water bottle, sack lunch, hat, sunscreen. Meet us at the north entrance to FUMC and we'll travel to the beautiful La Foret Retreat Center (www.laforet.org) for a full day on their high and low ropes course in Black Forest! How might God desire to stretch you and help us all grow closer in meeting new challenges together? Ropes challenges are great life and spiritual metaphors. No matter what physical shape you're in, there will be something wonderful in store for you. We'll be guided by one of the best outdoor educators, The Adventure Guild, (www.theadventureguild.com).

**The FUMYs: Third Annual FUMY Picture Awards**
Wednesday, August 11**6:30 - 8:30 pm (meal included) in The Zone**
Bring: Your pictures from this summer!

After dinner and some games we'll put all of our summer pictures (personal and from our youth ministry activities) out on tables to share. Then we'll vote for the following awards: *Funniest Picture, Most Representative of Our Youth Group Picture, Most Artistic Picture and Best Picture.* Let's share great memories of Summer 2010.

Small Group Leader Training**Wednesdays, August 11 and August 18****5:00 - 6:00 pm, Room 50; Rising 9th Graders - Adults**

Do you want to help our youth ministry continue to grow into all that God intends it to be? If so, you are invited to this meaningful two-part leaders' training. Call Todd Spencer, 719-884-2502 for more details!

FUMC YOUTH IN NEW ORLEANS

Our FUMC Youth had an amazing mission trip to New Orleans last month. Thirty-one senior high youth and adults served 80 children of the Tremé community and over 160 homeless with the North Rampart Community Center and St. Mark's UMC of the French Quarter/Vieux Carre'.



Thank you FUMC for supporting our youth as they meet and serve Christ in the world!

ADULT MINISTRY**Fall Compass Deadline**

Don't forget to turn in your information for classes, events and programs that will happen from September through December, 2010. The fall *Compass* will be distributed in late August so that you may have time to sign up for classes before September. **The deadline for submitting information to be included in the *Compass* is this Sunday, July 25.** Be sure to give the information to the staff person who relates to the area of your ministry.

**SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY****AARP Driver Safety Program**

This is an eight hour classroom refresher for motorists aged 55 or older. **The class will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 10 and 11, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, in Room 135S.** Cost is \$ 12 for AARP members (bring your AARP card) or \$14 for non-AARP members. This will give you a reduction for most automobile insurances.

Contact John Graves, 719-632-6132 or 719-661-9198 or email, gravesj1@comcast.net for more information and to sign-up.



NOAH Rocky Mountain National Park Trip
Don't forget that Sunday, August 8, is the deadline for registration and payment for our next NOAH trip scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, August 30 and 31. We'll spend some time in Estes Park, enjoy an



overnight at Peaceful Valley Ranch, drive over Trail Ridge Road in the park, and see Grand Lake and Tabernash. This *Purple Mountain Majesty* trip is one you won't want to miss! The cost is \$105 per person. Call Rev. Jerry Hurst, 719-471-8522 x209 for more information and to register for the trip.

SACRED CONCERT SERIES FUNDRAISING TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT 2010

Many, many thanks to those of you who have contributed/donated to the Sacred Concert Series during 2010 either through the TurnarounTen Campaign or via other fundraisers. Your generosity is most appreciated! As with all budgetary challenges, the Sacred Concert Series will continue to require further funds to keep finances on an even keel. We are streamlining our costs and working diligently to stay in line with our financial projections for 2010.

Your contributions have made a world of difference! Again, thank you!

YOUTH SINGERS WORKSHOP

On **Saturday, August 21, from 8:30 - 11:15 am, in the Choir Room,** the Youth Singers will gather for their fall workshop. All youth from 7th - 12th grades are invited and encouraged to attend this event.



There will be donuts, juice, friends and music waiting for you! Following the workshop, you are invited to join the FUMC Youth Group and go to Elitch Gardens (see www.fumc-cs.org under the Youth pages for more information).

For information on the workshop please call Steve Harter, 719-471-8522 x222.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIRS START AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER**

"How Can I Keep From Singing?" "I Sing Because I'm Happy." "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above." Do you recognize any of these phrases? They come from songs of our faith, straight out of our Methodist hymnal!

On **Wednesday, September 8, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm,** our Children's Choir program will get underway for the year. All children, ages 4 through 6th grade, are welcome whether you have sung in a choir before or are joining for the first time. We would like to see our program grow and what a great way to give of your time and talent and be leaders in worship.

We offer three choirs: Cherub (4 and 5 year olds), Chorister (1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders), and Cathedral (4th, 5th and 6th graders). Our directors will be Janice Kinsley and Jeanne Stiles for Cherub and Cathedral Choirs, respectively. *We are still in need of a director for Chorister Choir.*

Look for future articles in the *Encounter* and circle September 8 on your calendar. That is when we will "make a joyful noise to the Lord." Also, look for the postcard coming your way in August. If you have any questions, call Susan Loring, Children's Choir Coordinator, 719-593-8802.

FIRST COMPANY'S 2010 - 2011 SEASON

- *Anne of Green Gables* with six shows: October 29, 30 and 31 and Nov 5, 6 and 7.
- *My Fair Lady* with six shows: March 11, 12, 13 and 18,19, 20.

Be a part of all the fun! **Auditions for *Anne of Green Gables* are August 31 and September 1, from 7:00 - 9:30 pm, in the Theater.** Callbacks are on September 2. Come prepared to perform your favorite monologue.

If you prefer to be the wind beneath the cast wings, ample opportunities exist to help with the productions from costuming to set building. Call Katie Harmon, 719-338-0699 or Marty Fennewald, 719-210-5299 for more information.

