



ENCOUNTER

Newsletter | January 2026

FINDING THE HOLY IN THE SHADOWS

We often treat faith like a bright, polished room where everything is in its right place and the shadows are kept at bay. But if we are honest, the history of Christianity—and our own personal lives— isn't always a straight line of light. Over the centuries, the Church has frequently traded the radical way of Jesus for the power of empires, used shame to silence those struggling with mental health, and marginalized the very voices, like Mary Magdalene's, that first carried the Gospel. This January, we aren't going to look away from these difficult truths. Instead, we are stepping directly into them with our new series, *God in the Shadows: Rediscovering the Holy in the Dark Side of Christianity*.

By confronting the ways the Church has been used to control or exclude, we clear the path to rediscover a God who meets us in our complexity, our addiction, our doubt, and our humanity. We are looking for the "Holy" that doesn't require us to pretend we are perfect, but instead invites us to be honest so that we can finally be free.

Whether you are navigating your own "shadow season," deconstructing what you were taught as a child, or simply looking for a faith that is big enough to handle the truth, there is a seat for you here. We will explore how Jesus calls the church to be holier than the world's power structures and how his grace bridges the chasms we thought were permanent.

No matter your doubts...

No matter where you are from...

No matter the mistakes you've made...

You are welcome here.

See you Sunday,



Rev. Eric Strader



~ SUNDAY WORSHIP ~

8:00AM | TRADITIONAL SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL

9:00AM | CONTEMPORARY SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

9:00AM | LIVE SOCO-CW

11:00AM | TRADITIONAL SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES

BEREANS | 9:30am | N2 Rm210

Wesleyan Vitality or Vile-tality?

Vile-tality is the idea that we "submit to be more vile" refers to John Wesley's decision to preach outside of established churches, even if it meant facing criticism and being seen as "vile" by some. This act, which occurred in 1739, symbolized his commitment to reaching all people with the message of salvation, regardless of social standing or religious affiliation. It's not about enjoying being vile, but about being willing to be unconventional and uncomfortable to spread the love of God. Plus, we will use the Wesley Covenant Prayer as a spiritual framework for the month. Devotions will be provided.

Taught by Rev. Eric Strader

EARLY BELIEVERS | 9:30am | NB Rm10

Early Believers is a small group discussion class with shared leadership, using Bible themed study books and amplify videos.

PAIRS AND SPARES | N2 Rm205

Human Morality - What Would Jesus Do In 2025?

This month's study focuses on human morality. Exploring what it means today and how Jesus's teachings guide our moral choices in 2025.

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PARENT CLASSES

PARENTS | 10:10am | N2 Rm203

Choose the Chosen Series

See page 6 for more details.

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NURSERY

NURSERY CARE

7:45am - 12:15pm | Birth - PreK age 5

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CHILDREN CLASSES | N2 KID CITY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

9:20am-10:00am | Preschool - 2nd grade

Meet in the Sanctuary

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:10am-11:00am | Preschool - 5th grade

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YOUTH CLASSES

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL | N2 Rm 201

10:10am-11:00am | 6th grade - 12th grade

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

January 4

Mental Health & Identity

Too often, the church has used "sin" as a label to shame people struggling with mental illness, addiction, or their identity. We're calling a timeout on that. This Sunday, we're exploring how to close the gap between us and God—not through shame, but through the radical grace that meets us in our deepest struggles.

January 11

Empire & Sanctuary

For centuries, the message of Jesus has been tangled up with power, politics, and the desire to control. But Jesus didn't come to build an empire; he came to flip the tables of one. On Jan 4, we're kicking off our new series "God in the Shadows" by looking at how we reclaim our faith from the machinery of the world.

January 18

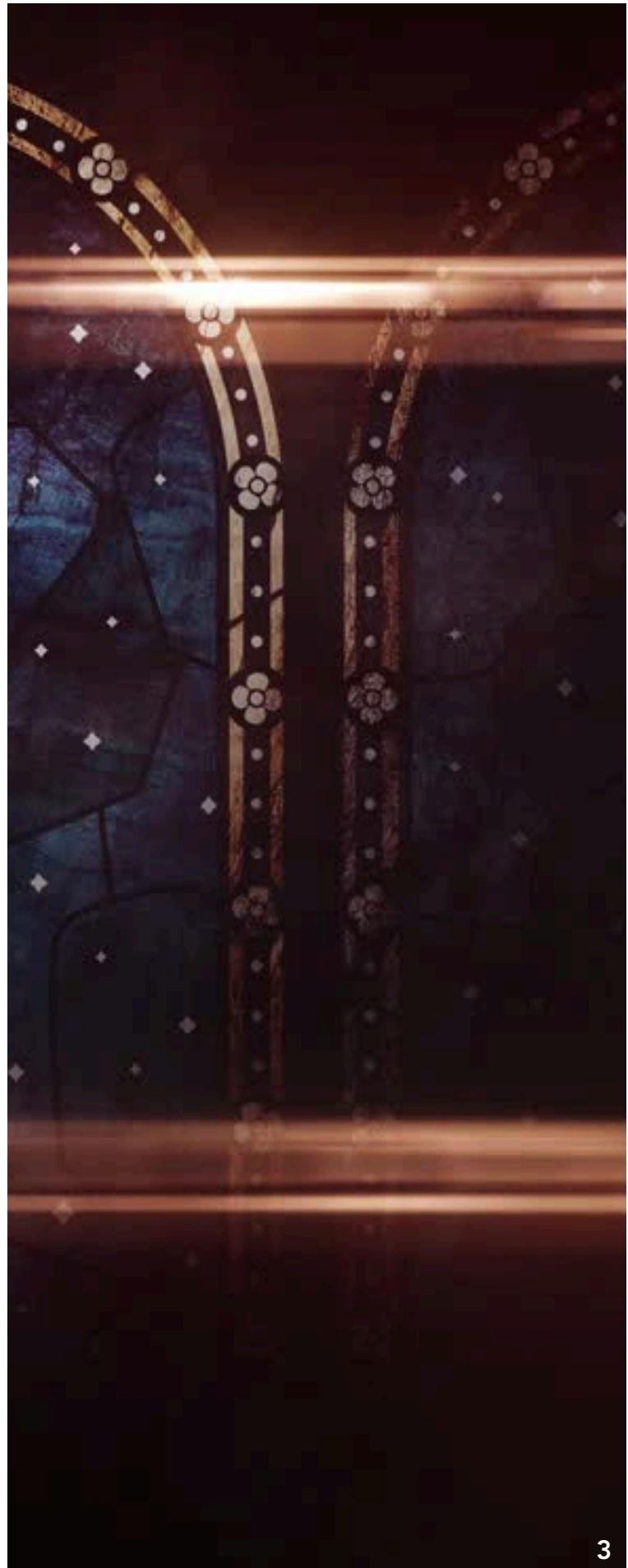
Mary Magdalene & Women

Mary Magdalene wasn't who the history books (or the patriarchy) said she was. She was a leader, a witness, and the first to carry the news of the resurrection—so why did the church spend centuries trying to silence and shame her? We're digging into the "shadows" of church history to restore the voices of the women who helped lead the way.

January 25

Reformation in the Rubble

We all have a "dark side," and every church has its hypocrisies. But we can't heal what we won't acknowledge. This Sunday, we're looking at the "whitewashed tombs" of our own lives and our history. Instead of painting over the cracks, we're finding God in the rubble and building something more honest for the next generation.



THE WELCOMING — JOURNEY - NEW MEMBER

STARTING TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH
FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
6:30PM | N2 The Commons

Choosing a spiritual home is a significant step, and at First United Methodist Church, we welcome you to discover a community rooted in grace and service. On the first Tuesday of each month, we host an introductory gathering designed to help you understand who we are and where we come from. Please attend three of these sessions and then join on any Sunday that is convenient for you.

During this session, you will learn how our Wesleyan heritage shapes our inclusive mission today and why that foundation matters in a modern, changing world. Beyond the history, these monthly meetings provide a personal bridge to the heart of our congregation. You will have the opportunity to meet our key lay and staff leaders, hear firsthand about our diverse programs—from youth initiatives to local outreach—and find the specific activities that resonate with your passions. We don't just want you to fill a pew; we want you to find a place where your unique gifts can flourish. Whether you are looking for a deep dive into theology or a hands-on ministry to serve our neighbors, we invite you to join our ministries and become a vital part of the First United Methodist story.

Sign-Up at go.fumc-cs.org/newmember



WINTER FEST 2026! —

JANUARY 31ST
10:00AM - 1:00PM
John Wesley Ranch | 21285 CO-67

Chili, Cocoa, and Olympic Gold!

There is something truly special about John Wesley Ranch in the winter, making it the perfect setting to slow down and enjoy our church community at our upcoming Winter Fest.

The main attraction is the Great Chili Cook-off, and we are looking for contestants to enter! We need a variety of pots—spicy, mild, white chicken, or vegetarian. If you would like to enter your chili, please be sure to let us know we can “Count You In.” If you’d like to be a judge, bring your appetite.

In celebration of the upcoming Winter Olympics in Italy, we'll host our very own Winter Olympics featuring events for all ages and skill levels. You can choose to participate in the games or join the cheering section.

If the weather cooperates, sledding will be in full swing! But even if the snow is light, you'll be able to build your dream cup of cocoa at the Hot Chocolate Bar, and you can guarantee the fireplace will be ready to warm up your toes.



HELP INVITE OTHERS TO EXPERIENCE FUMC!

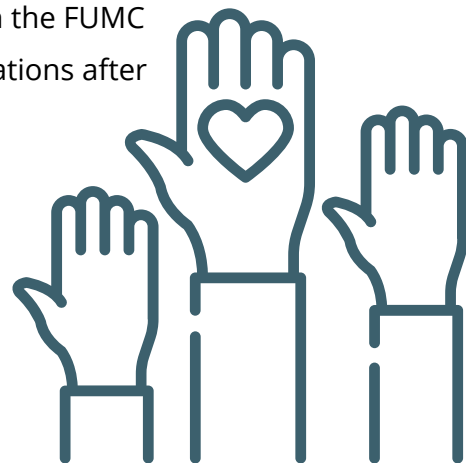
Our sanctuary continues to frequently be sought out as a venue for musical groups to share their gift because of our central location, seating capacity, acoustics, and our magnificent organ. With all of the improvements made in and around the building, we expect this to continue, and likely increase, which will provide our church wonderful opportunities to invite those attending other events to connect with the FUMC community. I am looking for eager volunteers who would like to pass out invitations after events - this is our most common interaction. These unique opportunities are generally evening or matinee events, and usually only require you to be on-site for approximately 30 minutes.

Each time there is an outside event, this specific group (still in the process of creating a name for this team) will receive an email about the task, how many volunteers are needed, and what time commitment is. That's it! Very simple!

By the way, there is no requirement to serve on the regular Sunday Welcome

Team. However, I am always look for great candidates to add to our wonderful group of volunteers.

If you are interested, please email Douglas Grogan and he will add you to the team. (dougg@fumc-cs.org)



2026 - 2027 FUMC SCHOLARSHIPS

The FUMC Scholarship Committee announced the application process for the 2026-2027 academic year opened on December 15, 2025. For more than twenty years the Scholarship Committee of FUMC, in conjunction with the Foundation and First Company, have presented scholarships to active members, both youth and adults, who wish to pursue advanced education at technical schools, colleges, or universities, as well as theological seminaries. Over this time the scholarships for academics as well as youth choir and youth mission trips have totaled more than \$243,000.

The application process is entirely online, with the brochure information and application available on the church website: fumc-cs.org/news. Please read the brochure carefully to determine your qualification for the available scholarships. Applications need to be completed online and returned to: scholarships@fumc-cs.org - no later than 5:00 PM on February 28, 2026.



If you wish to endow a scholarship or contribute to one of the existing scholarships, please contact the chair of the FUMC Foundation.

8AM COMMUNION CHANGE

Beginning Sunday, January 4th, our 8:00 AM worship service will return to the weekly practice of celebrating Holy Communion. This transition marks a meaningful return to a tradition of grace, providing a consistent opportunity each week to gather around the Table and find spiritual nourishment as a community. Whether you are a longtime attendee of our early service or looking for a new way to center your week in prayer and sacrament, we invite you to join us for this intimate and restorative service.



SHEBREWS WOMEN'S DINNER GROUP

JANUARY 7TH | 6:00PM

José Muldoons | 222 N Tejon st.

This is a fun gathering of women of all ages, whether new to the church, visiting, or a long-time member. Gathering around the table for food, laughter, and some learning are marks of the fellowship activity. Please register with this link. go.fumc-cs.org/shebrews.

SHEBREWS 2.0

JANUARY 28TH | 6:00PM

The Best Coffee & Lounge | 401 N Tejon St.

A small-group study for women exploring theology and the female experience of God through Womanist Theology. Limited to 10–12 participants.

Sign up at go.fumc-cs.org/shebrews2

CHOOSE THE CHOSEN – YOUR NEW YEAR'S BIBLE STUDY

JANUARY 18TH

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 10:10AM (IN PERSON)

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 5:30PM (ONLINE)

Have you ever wondered what life was really like for those who walked with Jesus? The Chosen tells the story of Jesus' life through the eyes of the disciples, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, and other biblical figures. We'll explore the historical context and how these human portrayals can deepen our understanding of Jesus' revolutionary ministry, showing how thoughtful research and "plausible fiction" bring the first-century world to life.

1. When: Beginning January 18th.
Sundays at 10:10 am (in-person) and 5:30 pm (online).

1. Watch: Students will be asked to watch the assigned episode on their own time before class (it's free on The Chosen app).

2. Discuss: In class, we will discuss the episode's themes, character development, and compare the show's narrative choices with the biblical texts they are based on.

Sign up today! Visit go.fumc-cs.org/choose or contact Pastor Amy (amys@fumc-cs.org) to register and receive the full class schedule and viewing instructions.



WOMENS STUDY GROUP

MONDAYS

9:30AM – 11:00AM | N2 Rm204

What we study is constantly changing, but is always based on a Spiritual Life. Most of our studies require participants to purchase their own book.

Please contact Lori for more information.

All are welcome!

Lori Smith at

LAS2735@outlook.com.



WHEREVER THEOLOGY

JANUARY 9TH

6:00PM – 8:00PM

This is a men's theology group. All are welcome to join us. Please note that this is a BYOB event. If you are in recovery and still wish to be part of the community, please reach out to Rev. Eric to discuss options for support during these events as well as for location.



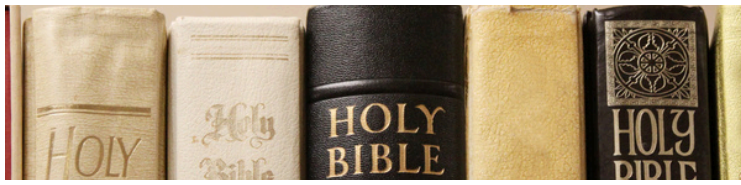
TABLES OF GRACE WINTER/SPRING 2026

GROUP POTLUCK – JANUARY 25TH

We make some of the best connections with people when we share our stories around a common meal. Over the last year, our Tables of Grace program has helped many of our fellow members make new friends and expand their participation in our church's ministry. Our next semester begins in January 2026 with a gathering potluck on January 25th. At the time, dinner groups will be announced and these groups will meet in February, March, and April for monthly gatherings. Groups will consist of about 8-10 people, and we are especially encouraging families with children and teens to participate, furthering intergenerational bonds within our church family.

Sign up at go.fumc-cs.org/tablesofgrace

Contact Deb Teagan (adulthooddiscipleship@fumc-cs.org) or Danae Hoekstra (danae713@aol.com) if you have questions. We look forward to dining with you!



BASIC THEOLOGY - UNDERSTANDING THE APOSTLES CREED

STARTING JANUARY 6TH

5:30PM | N2 RM 204

The questions of life are often complicated - where do we begin to look for the answers? As we read Adam Hamilton's book, *Creed*, we will look to the Apostle's Creed for the answers to the Christian faith's most pressing questions. This is not just a study about what Christians believe, but also why we believe it and why it matters. If you want to understand more about God, Jesus, and the historic beliefs of the Church, join Deb Teagan as she leads this 6 week book and video study.

Sign-Up at go.fumc-cs.org/basictheology.



READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER - A CHRONOLOGICAL PLAN

STARTING JANUARY 7TH

6:30PM | N2 RM 206 PRAYER ROOM

There are many ways to read the Bible. Some have read it from cover to cover. Others have read the whole collection of books within a year.

What we are offering in 2026 is a new way to read through the biblical story. We will be reading the story chronologically and discuss it weekly in a small group setting. We will start with Genesis 1 and end with Revelation 22, but everything in the middle will attempt to put the stories of the Bible in the historical order that we believe they happened. Hopefully, this will help us see the story of God's people in a whole new way.

This group will be led by Jan Caffey and Becca Miller, and will be ongoing for the whole year. A good study bible will be very helpful for having the best experience in the class.

Sign-Up at go.fumc-cs.org/readingthebible

INTRODUCING THE OLD TESTAMENT

STARTING JANUARY 12TH

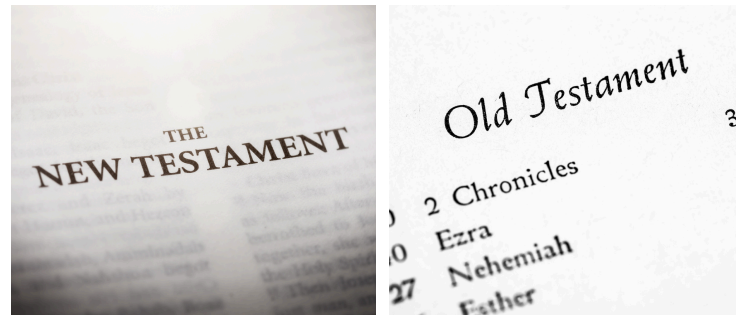
5:30PM | N2 RM 204

Explore the Old Testament's most influential stories, themes, and characters while gaining insight into ancient Hebrew literature and the world that shaped it. Led by Rev. Carrie West.

Sign-up at go.fumc-cs.org/oldtestament

A testimonial from Pam Franklin:

"The Introduction to the Bible class was fun and exhilarating. It was enlivening to read, study, participate in class discussions and learn about these ancient texts that comprise the Bible. The insights of the many behind-the-scenes stories in this humorous and oh-so-readable scholarly missive whet my appetite for the next two books in the series. I'm excited."



DISCIPLE 1 BIBLE STUDY- NEW TESTAMENT

STARTING JANUARY 7TH

6:00PM - 7:30PM | N2 RM 204

Our Disciple 1 Bible Study continues with a 12-week dive into the New Testament to start the New Year. Students will read 3-5 chapters each day, journal your impressions, and participate in a weekly meeting to discuss what you have learned each week. Join us to learn more about the New Testament story as a whole, and how this story calls us to live out our faith journeys as reflected in the stories of Jesus and the disciples, the letters of Paul, and the Book of Revelation.

Class will meet on Wednesday nights from 6:00 - 7:30pm in N204 beginning January 7, 2026. Doug Grogan is the class leader. The Book, Disciple Fast Track Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study: New Testament are available in The Gate. Please sign up using the link: go.fumc-cs.org/disciple1



NOAH | NEVER OLD AT HEART



JANUARY 28TH | 11:30AM

Black Bear Diner | 1340 Garden of the Gods Rd.

NOAH is a group of folks who meet monthly for breakfast and/or lunch at a local restaurant. If you would like to sign-up or RSVP you can go to go.fumc-cs.org/noah.

CARING MINISTRIES

Stewardship of the Soul: Caring for Yourself So You Can Care for Others

As we turn the page to 2026, the air is often filled with talk of "resolutions"—demands we place on ourselves to do more, be more, and work harder. But in our Caring Ministries, we see a different need. We see hearts that are weary, hands that are tired from serving, and spirits that need the same gentle care they so freely give to others.

This year, we invite you to view "self-care" not as a modern luxury, but as a spiritual discipline of stewardship.

The Theology of Rest

Scripture reminds us that we are not infinite; we are beautifully, intentionally human. Jesus himself frequently "withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16). He recognized that to pour out love, he needed to be filled by the Father.

Self-care is an act of worship. When we honor our need for sleep, healthy food, and quiet, we are honoring the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19). We are acknowledging that the world rests on God's shoulders, not ours.

Putting it into Practice

Our Caring Ministry team suggests these three "Soul-Care" shifts for the New Year:

- The Sabbath Heart: You may not be able to take a full 24 hours, but can you find a "Sabbath Hour"? A time where productivity is paused and your only "job" is to enjoy God's presence.
- Holy Boundaries: Saying "no" to one more commitment is often a "yes" to your family, your health, and your spiritual clarity.
- Receive as You Give: If you are a natural caregiver, it can be hard to be the one receiving help. This year, allow someone to bring you a meal or sit with you in prayer. Vulnerability is a bridge to community.

How Our Caring Ministry Can Support You

You don't have to carry your burdens alone. Whether you are navigating a difficult season or simply feeling "stretched thin," our team is here to walk beside you.

SERVICE	HOW IT HELPS
Stephen Ministry	One-on-one confidential Christian care for those facing life's challenges.
Prayer Group	A dedicated group lifting your specific needs to the Lord daily.
Visitation w/ the Homebound	Short, monthly visits for companionship, prayer, and sharing with a member of the church.

LONGEST NIGHT - MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE UNHOUSED



Five members of our FUMC family attended a memorial service on Sunday, Dec. 21, the longest night of the year. This memorial is organized by individuals every year to remember the precious lives lost who were part of the unhoused community in Colorado Springs. There was beautiful music shared, candles lit and lifted, and the singing of "Silent Night". It was a moving and sacred experience.

Friends, the list of deceased (including the name of our dear FUMC friend, Daniel Parsons) was unusually long. These unique and unrepeatable children of God were honored by the reading of their names, followed by the reverent crowd proclaiming, "We will remember."

This memorial is held every year on Dec. 21 at Evergreen Cemetery, just inside the front entrance.



JANUARY FOOD COLLECTION



Westside CARES food pantry is a vital resource for neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Each month, we'll share their most-needed items.

January donations: small peanut butter, small jam/jelly, canned chicken, canned pasta, canned pasta sauce, canned soups, juice or shelf-stable milk, and canned fruit.

Westside CARES serves more than 22,000 neighbors each year. Please donate only unopened, unexpired non-perishable food items. Drop donations in the marked bins in the new Mission Depot (next to the first-floor elevator).

Thank you for your continued support!

Contact: Lynda Reid | jlynreid@yahoo.com



RIDES FOR RUBBISH

JANUARY 18TH | 1:00PM

Marion House | 14 W Bijou St.

Every third Sunday of the month, volunteers walk with clients of the Marian House to pick up trash in downtown parks. The clients earn bus passes to help them for the next month; our friends often express their gratitude for this much needed assistance. Please come walk with us!

~ Dave and Lorna Lohmann | (719) 636-3277



MARCH 25, 2026
7:00PM



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
420 N NEVADA AVE.

RUNA
IRISH CONCERT
TICKETS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1ST

SUNDAY MICRO MISSIONS - SMALL MOMENTS, BIG IMPACT

EVERY SUNDAY | 8:30AM - 11:00AM | N2 Conference Room



When we hear the words "mission work," we often imagine trekking through remote jungles or committing to month-long service trips abroad. While those journeys are vital, the heart of a mission is simply service in action. Believe it or not, you can fulfill a powerful mission right here at church—and it only takes 30 minutes on a Sunday morning/afternoon.

Beginning in January, you can participate in micro mission projects for 15-30 minutes, as your energy level and time allow. Each week, we will provide supplies and space for you to engage with outreach and service to our community. Projects include, but are not limited to:

Make and Take Care Bags for the Unhoused. These care bags can include a variety of items that you can then take with you when you leave and hand out from your car whenever you see someone asking for help.

Food Bags. These bags are distributed through the welcome desk here at FUMC. When our unhoused guests come in, they are offered a food bag to help sustain them throughout the day.

Encouragement to Others. This micro mission project includes making cards to encourage various other organizations who serve in our community. Throughout the year we will focus on nursing home employees, those who work with hospice, families being supported by suicide prevention centers, and young people who are marginalized or struggling.

Every 3rd Sunday, we offer a hands-on mission experience called Rides for Rubbish. We partner with some of our unhoused friends in doing our part for the environment by picking up trash.

Our impact in this community is vital and needed. Contact Rev. Carrie for more information regarding these opportunities. Your continued financial support of our mission work is always greatly appreciated.

MICRO MISSIONS LINE-UP JANUARY 2026

January 4 - Make and Take Bags for personal distribution. These bags are designed for individuals to keep in their cars for handing out to those who may be seeking help at stoplights and street corners.

January 11 - Food bags for Front Desk. These bags provide extra nourishment for our unhoused friends who stop in for coffee and the restroom during the week.

January 18 - Rides for Rubbish. Meet at the Marion House parking lot, 14 W Bijou St., at 1 pm for trash pickup, sharing in communion, and bus pass giveaways.

January 25 - Cards for clients at Inside Out Youth Services.



JUSTICE LEAGUE FORMATION COMING

JANUARY 25TH

12:15PM | N2 Conference Room

In 2025, we offered opportunities for learning and discussing different injustices experienced in our society. We have now determined that the time for action is upon us. If you are interested in helping to plan and implement a program of actionable tasks/events to guide FUMC forward in our social justice activity in 2026, please attend this initial meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 12:15 in the N2 conference room (next to the N2 kitchen). Lunch will be provided. Please register so we have a count for lunch. For more information, contact Rev. Carrie.

Sign-Up at go.fumc-cs.org/justiceleague



HUMAN RELATIONS SPECIAL SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH

Human Relations Day is a special Sunday across our denomination, focused on fostering better relationships and supporting community and youth outreach. On the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, we take up a special offering to help bring his vision of a "beloved community" to life, making these ministries possible:

- Community Developers Program (57%)
- This program helps churches serve their neighborhoods—especially communities of color—by focusing on local needs like education, employment, and empowerment.
- United Methodist Voluntary Services (33%)
- This program equips volunteers and congregations to tackle injustice through hands-on projects, community organizing, and service-learning opportunities.
- Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs (10%)
- These church-supported programs help young people rebuild their lives through mentoring, leadership training, and positive, faith-based community experiences.

For over 50 years, United Methodists have observed this special Sunday to honor the message Jesus lived out: that every one of God's children matters. One of the beautiful things about The United Methodist Church is that, together, we can accomplish far more than we could on our own. Our collective gifts help build "the beloved community." On Sunday, January 18, 2026, we invite you to help us continue this vital work by giving during the Offertory or online at fumc-cs.org/give (please note Human Relations on your donation). Please prayerfully consider a special gift on this special Human Relations Sunday.

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8

UWF ANNUAL MISSION MEETING

JANUARY 31ST

10:00AM | NB Rm 10 Community Room

Mission is possible through giving. UWF members strive individually and collectively to give as much as we can using our talents, time, energy and financial means. All ladies are welcome to join us at our Mission Unit Meeting on January 31st at 10:00 am in the Community Room to learn more about United Women in Faith opportunities to support missions locally, nationally, and internationally.

You may ask, "Does membership in United Women in Faith require dues?" Our funds come from a

combination of donations, some given by individuals who give according to their ability, listening to what their heart and soul call them to give, and some funds collected during various events, like the Fall Bazaar. In January, all the circles make financial pledges, the foundation that supports the purpose of United Women in Faith. These funds are used to encourage and support missionaries, deaconesses, and the nearly 200 establishments supported by United Women in Faith. These individuals and organizations around the world nurture women and children's spiritual growth, leadership, education, and personal health. They empower women and children by offering safe places to work, play, live and grow. Within our circles, we do the same for each other. Join us January 31st.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

ALL CIRCLES WILL HAVE PLEDGE MEETINGS

SUNSHINE CIRCLE

JAN. 14 | 9:30AM | COMMUNITY ROOM

JOY I CIRCLE

JAN. 8 | 1:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

JOY II CIRCLE

JAN. 8 | 6:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

JAN. 20 | 1:00PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

NIGHTINGALE CIRCLE

JAN. 15 | 1:30PM | COMMUNITY ROOM



COMING SOON! FOOTHILLS CAMPUS WORSHIP EXPERIENCES



Exciting news!

The Foothills campus will be kicking off our new worship/gathering experiences in February. The location for our gatherings are still being worked out, and will be communicated through the website, emails, bulletins, and weekly news. Please invite people you know who are re-engaging with faith after spiritual wounding or who are curious about the Christian life. Each month will offer the same rotation of the following:

1st Sundays of each month - Healing Through Arts - an opportunity for connection with one another and the Spirit through artistic expression.

2nd Sundays - Worship experience with music, scripture, prayer, and a message.

3rd Sundays - Justice education/action - These events will help us answer, "What would Jesus say/do about the injustices we see in our community?"

4th Sundays - Worship experience.



FUMC PRESCHOOL – COLORADO SHINES



We've been rated by Colorado Shines! FUMC Preschool is happy to announce that we have been rated Level 4 by Colorado Shines, the state's new quality rating and improvement system for early care and learning programs. We are committed to providing a high-quality learning environment that supports your child's development and gives him/her a strong start on the path to lifelong success. Our Colorado Shines rating is one way that demonstrates our commitment to quality and continually improving the services we offer. Why Colorado Shines? The early years are a very important period for a child's learning and development. Quality early learning programs prepare children for kindergarten and success in school. About Colorado Shines Colorado Shines rates Colorado's early care and learning programs, connects families with quality programs, and helps early care and learning programs improve quality. This is how the Colorado Shines quality rating scale works:

Level 1: The program is licensed with the State of Colorado, is regularly monitored and follows the requirements of Colorado's Early Learning & Development Guidelines (earlylearningco.org).

Level 2: The program is meeting the requirements of Level 1 and is taking steps to improve quality.

Level 3-5: The program is licensed, has achieved high quality and is rated based on how it: * Supports children's health and safety. * Ensures staff are well-trained and effective. * Provides a supportive learning environment that teaches children new skills. * Helps families to become partners in their child's learning. * Uses strong leadership and business practices.

If you have questions about our Colorado Shines rating, please contact director Stacy McLeod at stacym@fumc-cs.org. For more information about Colorado Shines, visit www.ColoradoShines.com. We are currently enrolling students for 2026-27 Pre-K and will open registration for all other classes in March. If you would like a tour please reach out.



NO SCHOOL CAMP

8:30AM - 4:30PM

Parenting Is Hard:

FUMC Can Help...School Camps

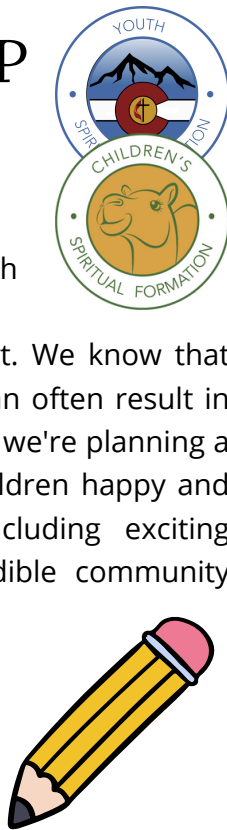
FUMC believes raising children in faith and love is a community effort, and we're here to offer tangible support. We know that non-holiday days off from school can often result in missed work for parents. That's why we're planning a few fun-filled days to keep your children happy and engaged while out of school, including exciting STEAM activities led by our incredible community partners!

D11: January 6, April 24

D 20: January 6, March 19

Registration is required.

Sign-up at go.fumc-cs.org/noschool



CHRISTMAS TREASURES!

We had lots of fun at this year's Christmas Treasures! Kids of all ages took time to make heartfelt (and adorable) gifts for their loved ones. It was a great time for our kids and youth to do an activity together, and quite a few adults were hard at work as well. A HUGE thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who helped make this such a success.



Parents Night Out!

Drop Off | 4pm
Pick-Up | 7pm
Registration required.
go.fumc-cs.org/pno

JANUARY 3RD

2/14		3/14
4/18		5/16

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT



Disconnect to Connect at John Wesley Ranch

Have you ever heard someone say, "Our church doesn't have young adults."

We know that's not true— it's just that you're never all in the same place at the same time! This is your official invitation to change that.

The Vibe: This is a low-key, high-connection weekend.

Settle in: Find your spot by the fireplace.

Warm up: Find your mug, an endless supply of hot cocoa, and some mediocre coffee.

Connect: Time for laughter, deep conversation, and building genuine community that often gets lost in our busy weekly schedules.

Play: If the weather cooperates, we'll be strapping on our boots for some sledding!

WHO: Young Adults (however you define that word is fine with us)

WHERE: John Wesley Ranch

WHEN: February 6th - February 8th

WANT THE INFO?

If you'd like to be contacted directly when more information is available, please email Lyn Huff today (lynh@fumc-cs.org).

This is the chance to actually meet the other young adults who call First UMC their church home! Let's fill the ranch with our amazing young adult community!



ADMINISTRATION REPORT



LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

TRUSTEES

MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH | 4:30PM

STAFF PARISH

MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH | 6:30PM

FINANCE

MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH | 4:30PM

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

JANUARY 10TH

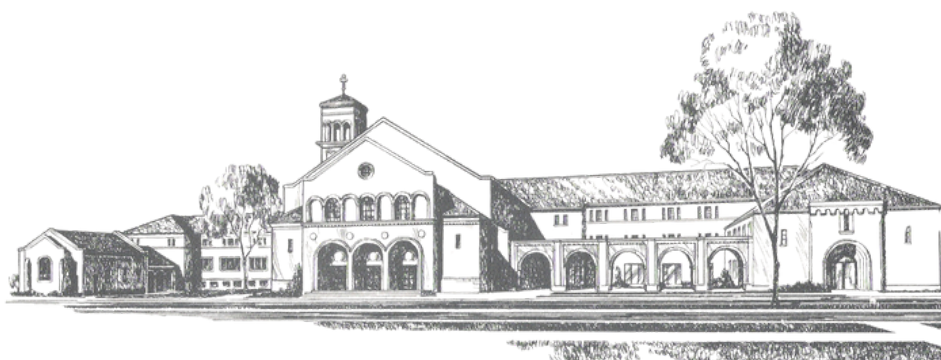
9:00AM - 12:00PM | N2 The Commons

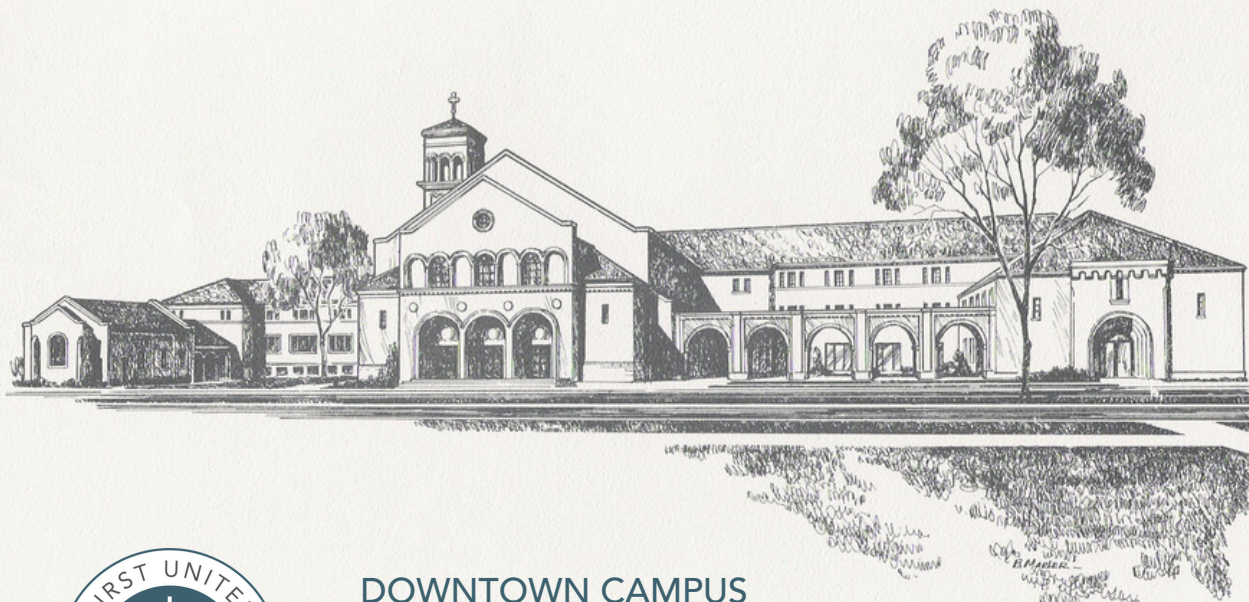
All leaders are invited to a leadership summit on January 10th, 9-12 in the Commons. Join us at 8:30 am for Breakfast Burritos from a local restaurant, followed by leadership training and dedicated time for all our leadership teams to put action steps in place for their 2026 goals. RSVP to katb@fumc-cs.org

LIMITED OPERATIONS

JANUARY 5TH - 8TH

As we step into the New Year, FUMC is taking a dedicated week to refresh and steward our historic building. During the first full week of January, our church will be operating on a minimal schedule as we undertake a major cleaning and organizing project. This initiative is focused on clearing out clutter, streamlining our resources, and ensuring our space is organized and ready for a vibrant year of ministry ahead. By focusing our staff and volunteer efforts on this project now, we can better serve our congregation and community throughout the rest of the year. While our offices will be focused on this project, we remain available to you. If you need to visit the church for any reason during this week—whether for a scheduled meeting, to drop off a donation, or to speak with a staff member—the building may appear quiet, but we are here! Simply ring the doorbell at the entrance, and a member of our team will be happy to assist you. We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work together to polish our "home" and prepare for the wonderful things the coming months have in store.





DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

420 N Nevada Ave | Colorado Springs CO 80903
(719) 471-8522 | fumc-cs.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00am Chapel Service

9:00am Contemporary Worship Service

9:00am TV broadcast on SOCO-CW (pre-recorded service)

11:00am Traditional Service

Livestreaming available at fumc-cs.org/streaming.



PRAIRIE CAMPUS

Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy
9433 Vista Del Pico Blvd | Colorado Springs CO 80927
(719) 471-8522 | fumcprairie.org

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:00am

*Streaming available at 12:30pm at facebook.com/FUMCPrairie,
Prairie Campus YouTube Page, and at fumcprairie.org.*

CONTACT STAFF | 719-471-8522 | fumc-cs.org

CLERGY:

Rev. Eric Strader x101
Rev. Amy Strader x102
Rev. Patty Walker x103
Rev. Carrie West x104
Minister on Call x109

MUSIC & ARTS:

Douglas Grogan x111

FINANCE:

Kim Monjesky x161
Kat Brandenberger x162

BEREAVEMENT & FUNERALS:

Sharon Harter x142

PRESCHOOL:

Stacy McLeod x200