



ELEMENTS

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



Patti's Ponderings

The heart of Christianity is following in the way of Jesus. In my experience this is a lifetime practice, always learning more about who Jesus was and how he lived. Then figuring out how to interpret that to my life and context. This lent season we will grow deeper in faith by looking closer at encounters people had with Jesus and how they responded. Some are healed, others are empowered, some are transformed, others don't seem changed at all. We will discover what those encounters teach us about who Jesus is and reflect on how we are invited to respond. We will be pulling from the wisdom of John Indermark in his book *Gospeled Lives*. Our lives continue the unfolding stories of those who encounter Jesus.

I am so proud of the people and leaders of Smoky Hill UMC! Thank you to Rev. Glen who organized the *Know Your Rights* trainings and all of you who participated. It is important information that we will continue to communicate. You all are stepping up to the plate to offer meaningful support for the members of our Spanish congregation and community. In collaboration with Pastor Lucia and her leaders, Ad Council has identified 5 ways we all can get involved. As we get organized, you will be hearing more about practical things you can do to make a difference making the world a more loving and just place for all.

*May the Lord bless you and keep you,
Pastor Patti*

Sunday, March 2nd
**Dr. Seuss's
Birthday
Party**
Join us after worship
Smoky Hill UMC



Self-Guided Prayer Stations & Labyrinth



**Come any time on March 5th, 2025
between 12:00 - 8:00 pm**

Did you Know?

Did you know that when you pass away, we count it an honor to offer a Celebration of Life Service and reception in memory of you? Do your loved ones know that? We have had several experiences in the last few years when the surviving family members were unaware that we offer services. They often feel pressure from funeral homes to do a service there or are just at a loss as to what to do. It is always my goal to work with family members to create a service that reflects and honors the one who has passed away. The first step is for a family member to contact the church and let us know the circumstances. Then the pastors will take it from there and help them plan a meaningful event. Please pass this information on to your loved ones, so that they are aware. ~Pastor Patti



From the Associate Pastor's Desk

On Sunday, April 6th at 11:30 a.m., I will have the honor and privilege along with the assistance of Crystal Duncan to host a workshop called "Five Wishes," that will begin a conversation on advance care planning.

Though we don't like to think about it, a change in health or an accident can happen to any of us. That's why it's important for all of us, regardless of age or health, to make important decisions before a health crisis and have a plan that documents our wishes in case we become unable to make important treatment decisions or communicate our choices.

A valuable resource to help start, guide and document this discussion is "Five Wishes." More people have used "Five Wishes" for their living will or advance directive than any other document because it is presented in easy-to-understand language to help you express your wishes in the areas that matter most—the persona, emotional and spiritual, as well as the medical and legal.

If you would like more information regarding "Five Wishes" you can visit www.FiveWishes.org

Registration for this workshop is limited to 25 people.

We will provide a light lunch and have packets available that include: Your Five Wishes Directive, Power of Attorney, Medical Durable Power of Attorney, Advance Directive for Surgical/Medical Treatment (Living Will), and your Colorado Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST).

In addition to providing resources for advance care planning, we will also provide information about how to consider leaving a legacy gift to Smoky Hill. Such a legacy gift could be used to pay down the church mortgage or leave an endowment for future church projects or departments that will enhance the ministry of the church.

Please sign up and register today: [Five Wishes Registration](#) or call the church office 303-690-9816.

There is no charge for this event but donations to cover the cost of materials and the luncheon will be gladly accepted.

Blessings to all...

Rev. Glen



ADULT CLASSES & GROUPS

Adult Open Door - Sundays at 9:00 am in Room 214

This class is a welcoming, inclusive environment, inviting individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate, whether you're new to Bible study or have been participating for years. Come as you are! No need to prepare or do homework - just bring yourself and an open heart. We use various forms of media to stimulate thoughts and ideas and focus on meaningful conversation and spiritual growth rather than formal lessons. No need to RSVP - just drop in whenever you can. For more information contact Kim Brice kbrice227@gmail.com

The Way of Faith – Sundays at 9:00 am in the Upper Room & on Zoom

This is an inclusive and open group whose focus is on God's love in our world today and how we can do better to live God's will in our lives. We start each class with a video that includes such authors and theologians as Richard Rohr, Diana Butler Bass, AJ Levine, Adam Hamilton and many, many more. Each Sunday is a standalone teaching and conversation allowing people to attend when possible. We hope you will join us as we gather to discern the way of Christ in our lives today and seek to be deeper rooted in the love of God.

Grounded Sunday School Group offers an open space for sharing, support, fellowship, and spiritual growth for adults. Discussions may include family faith formation, parenting, marriage, and living as Christians in today's world. Specific studies and/or topics are determined by the group on an ongoing basis depending upon needs and interests. Grounded also typically joins in the church wide studies during both Lent and Advent. **Feel free to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM in Room 210.**

Parents of 20 Somethings

Parenting our children post-High School is full of blessings and challenges. Join our group of parents on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00-8:30 pm as we discuss the dynamics, share in our celebrations and support one another through the difficulties. Contact pattia@smokyhillumc.org for more information.

SOUP & SERMON SUPPERS

You are invited to join Pastors Patti and Glen one or every Tuesday evening during Lent (Mar. 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1, 8) for a soup supper and conversation about the sermon from 6:00-8:00 pm. Lent is traditionally a season to go deeper in your faith. Bring your questions, convictions, and responses. Each week, as we craft our sermons, there is a lot we learn but leave out. So, you can also hear about interesting things that didn't make the cut. These suppers will also be great opportunities to connect with others as we walk together on this journey of faith. Please RSVP to help us plan for food by contacting Lynne in the church office churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org.

SOUP & SERMON SUPPERS

Tuesdays in Lent March 11 - April 8

6:00 pm in Celebration Hall



Contact 303-690-9816 to register!

Click here for more offerings: [Discipleship Opportunities](#)



CHILDREN & FAMILY

Children and Family Ministry March 2024

February 23rd was an amazing day!!!

Our Children's choir started by singing "God Made the Mountains." They did a fantastic job.



We then presented our prayer shawls to our 2nd graders and Pastor Glen.

Thank you, Yarn, on a Mission, especially Kimberly and Erin for your time making these.



Thank you to everyone who brought in new underwear and socks, we have collected **1,948** pairs of underwear/socks. They will be given to schools in Denver, Arapahoe, Adams, and Aurora. Thank you all so much, the schools, parents, and kids appreciate you all.

As Debbie shared, some of the kids only come to school with pants and shirts as families cannot afford underwear and socks. All the families in the schools appreciate the support of Smoky Hill.



We finished with all kids singing
 “I wonder Where’s My Underwear Song.”



March 2nd - Children’s Choir 9:30 am,
 Sunday School at 10 am



March 9th - Children’s Choir 9:30 am,
 Sunday School at 10 am

March 16th - Children’s Choir 9:30 am,
 Sunday School at 10 am

March 23rd - Children’s Choir 9:30 am,
 No Sunday School Worship as a Family

March 30th - Children’s Choir 9:30 am,
 Sunday School at 10 am

Join us after Worship for Bingo & Brunch



Mission Team & Children &
 Family invite you to:

BINGO & BRUNCH

Join us on March 30th at 11:15
 am in the gathering space.

Bring something to share.



Fun for all
 ages
 fun prizes

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CANDY DONATIONS CHURCH & COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

YOU CAN PLACE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY IN THE WAGON
 BY THE FRONT DOORS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS OR DURING CHURCH
 OFFICE HOURS, MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.
 OUR YOUTH KIDS WILL BE STUFFING PLASTIC EGGS WITH CANDY ON THE 5TH



SMOKY HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER EGG HUNT

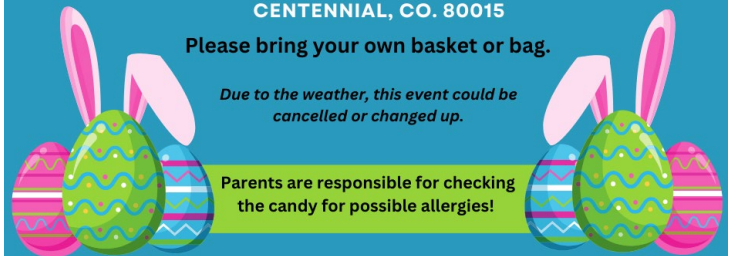
SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH
 11 AM - 12 PM

Invite all Friends and Family to come!
 19491 E. SMOKY HILL RD.
 CENTENNIAL, CO. 80015

Please bring your own basket or bag.

*Due to the weather, this event could be
 cancelled or changed up.*

Parents are responsible for checking the
 candy for possible allergies!



Save the date:

SMOKY HILL UMC VACATION BIBLE FREE CAMP



JUNE 23RD-27TH
5:30-7:30 PM
storytelling, games,
science, snacks and more

Want to Volunteer: reach out to Crystal or email at crystald@smokyhillumc.org

More details about our theme will come out soon.

You can register here:
<https://forms.gle/MYHkGKdifaFMyEzX8>

June 29th – VBC Celebration Sunday

We are looking for many Volunteers.
If you can help, please reach out to
Crystal: Crystald@smokyhillumc.org
Open to all kids ages 3 yrs and up



YOUTH

YOUTH PANCAKE Supper



FREE EVENT
(Donations appreciated)

- FAT TUESDAY! -
TUES, MARCH 4 • 5:30-7PM

SMOKY HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
19491 E SMOKY HILL RD // SMOKYHILLUMC.ORG

Scholarships for College

Smoky Hill UMC has funds available for scholarships for our graduating high school seniors who will be attending college.

If you are interested in applying, contact Crystal Duncan (crystald@smokyhillumc.org) for the application.

Deadline to apply is April 13th.



FINANCE

Finance Report

It's tax season. To reduce your tax burden and to support Smoky Hill UMC, you may want to consider supporting Smoky Hill UMC via an IRA Charitable Rollover. An IRA Charitable Rollover can satisfy your annual Required Minimum Distribution, and you pay no tax on the amount transferred. If you are 73 years old, you may give up to \$100,000. To give, instruct your IRA Administrator to send a distribution directly to Smoky Hill UMC. For additional information, please contact Crystal Duncan, Finance Secretary at financesecretary@smokyhillumc.org.



JUSTICE MINISTRIES

POSITIVE CHANGE

Colorado Village Collaborative

We paused our donations to CVC because the Safe Open Space at 38th and Steele was closed while it was being upgraded for the past few months. It is now complete, and they are moved in with a whole new look thanks to a substantial grant. There are now palette homes with heat, air conditioning and locks. I appreciate the dignity it provides.

The needs we are going to address for the next few months are reflective of dignity and needs of the facility. They are asking for warm clothing---gently used, please. New underwear, men and women.

Since they are not allowed to buy these with the funds provided through the grant they receive, they need over the counter drugs. For example, aspirin, Sudafed, Mucinex, Ibuprofen. If it would be easier, you can write a check to SHUMC with the memo line to CVC and I can make a run to Costco to try to get the best deal. They always need milk and fruit, and I can buy those and deliver them also.

I so appreciate what we have been able to provide over the years. You are supporting those who get help to transition out to get jobs and a furnished apartment. Unfortunately, there will always be a need for a food pantry so continue to contribute there, but this is a different donation. Please help these men and women with a "hand up".

The location to drop off has changed. It is next to Marti's Pantry on the education level. **Sue Ricker**

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

A Women's Month Letter to All the Men.

First, let me wish all the women a warm Women's Month greeting. I wish for you all to feel more empowerment and feel more seen.

Now men... We need to talk. Women are under attack in ways that we have not seen in decades. Body autonomy is controversial. Reproductive health is politicized. More aspects of women's lives are under greater attack, and I will be the first to say I cannot relate to what they are going through. Most of us can't.

As a husband and a father of daughters, I see the pain and stress in their eyes as they suffer with fear and worry over basic women's health decisions. As a man I have never had to contemplate these things. It is hard to imagine someone telling me if I can or cannot pursue medical treatments for say a prostate issue. And instead of seeing the people who are hurting and struggling with their options and health as human, our society has turned them into nameless, faceless political avatars who don't have feelings.

THEY AREN'T AVATARS... THEY ARE PEOPLE! They are your wives, your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your grandmas... the women you love. And the debate is not helping. It is hurting.

So, what can we do? How do we become advocates? I can't and shouldn't try to answer that. We all need to ask the women in your lives how we can support and advocate for them. Find out how you can help create the safety and autonomy for the people you love as best as possible and fight for the causes that matter to the women you love.

We are not here to be the white knight on the high horse. This Women's Month, take time to ask and listen and love. Not judge and take your opinion and force it on others. That is the first step to change. Listen, seek to understand and elevate their voices.

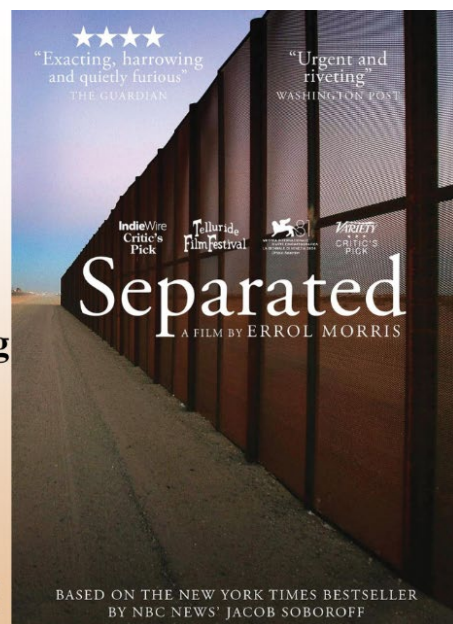
Adam - RJTF

Sunday, March 16

11:15 am Room 214

**SHUMC Racial Justice Task Force
invites you to a free showing of the
documentary "*Separated*," a jaw-dropping
picture of the state-sponsored crisis of
cruelty - family separations.**

**Please RSVP 303-690-9816
churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org**



RAINBOW ALLIANCE

Are you an adult (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, teacher, coach, pastor, other role model) **in the life of an LGBTQ+ young person?** Please know you can make a world of difference. Due to stigma, discrimination, bullying and other factors, LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to experience mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation. But research shows that the prevalence of suicide for LGBTQ+ youth who have at least one affirming adult in their life is reduced by 40%.

SHUMC's Rainbow Alliance is sponsoring **Q is for Questioning**, a free 2-part interactive in-person workshop led by licensed clinicians and LGBTQ+ community members. These workshops provide adults in the lives of LGBTQ+ youth education on LGBTQ+ identity and mental health. Participants receive tools and resources to better support and affirm the LGBTQ+ youth in their lives. We want to support YOU in a judgement-free environment; if you're not yet sure how you feel about the LGBTQ+ community or your child's identity, this is a space for you. The free workshops will include a light dinner and childcare, if requested. The schedule is:

Workshop Part	Date	Time
1	4/24/25	6-8:30 p.m.
2	5/01/25	6-8:30 p.m.

If interested in navigating the ins and outs of how to help LGBTQ+ youths to talk about their thoughts and feelings, develop a positive self-image and live authentically, please complete the registration form [here](#). Registration forms are also available at the Church Secretary Office or call 303.690.9816. Thank you for wanting to make a difference.

TURN YOUR GUN INTO A GARDEN TOOL! **



As a thank you for your choice to surrender your firearm, you'll receive:

\$50 * FOR YOUR LONG GUN/ SHOTGUN **\$150** * FOR YOUR HANDGUN OR SEMI-AUTOMATIC **\$250** * FOR YOUR ASSAULT STYLE RIFLE

*In the form of grocery store gift cards, while supplies last

¡CONVIERTE TU ARMA EN UNA HERRAMIENTA DE JARDÍN!



Como agradecimiento por su elección de entregar su arma de fuego, recibirá:

\$50 * POR ESCOPETA O ARMA LARGA **\$150** * POR PISTOLA O SEMI-AUTOMÁTICA **\$250** * POR TU ARMA DE ASALTO

*En forma de tarjeta de regalo de supermercado, hasta agotar existencias



**SATURDAY
MARCH 22, 2025**

**DRIVE
THRU**

**AT DENVER
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
1595 PEARL STREET, DENVER

**10AM
TO
12PM**

HOW IT WORKS

- No reservation needed; Just come to the parking lot to voluntarily surrender your unwanted firearm!
- Arrive with your UNLOADED firearms(s) in your trunk
- Remain in your vehicle
- Skilled personnel remove your gun(s)
- Volunteers destroy firearms in your presence
- **Destroyed firearm parts are transformed into garden tools, jewelry, and art separately from this event
- You remain anonymous
- No ammunition accepted
- Homemade guns will be accepted and destroyed, but not compensated for

Learn more at www.gunstogardensdenver.org



**SÁBADO
22 DE MARZO 2025**

**EN DENVER
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

1595 PEARL STREET, DENVER

**AUTOSERVICIO
101AM A 12PM**

CÓMO FUNCIONA

- Reserva no es necesaria; ¡Solo ven al estacionamiento!
- Llego con tus armas DESCARGADAS en tu cajuela
- Quédate en tu vehículo
- Personal calificado retirará tus armas
- Los voluntarios usaran una sierra para desmantelar tus armas
- ** Las piezas de metal sobrantes serán transformadas en herramientas de jardín, joyas y arte por separado de este evento
- Permanecerás anónimo
- No se aceptan municiones
- Las armas caseras serán aceptadas y destruidas, pero no compensadas

Aprender más en www.gunstogardensdenver.org





MEN'S GROUP

Dear Friends,
Thank you
for supporting our
**Wing Sales
Event**

Sincerely,
SHUMC MEN'S GROUP

Our next Men's Group Breakfast Meeting
will be on Saturday, March 8th at 7:30 am.
All SHUMC men are welcome!



MISSION

Mission Team News

Aurora Interfaith

Thank you for your continued support of Aurora Interfaith. In 2024, Aurora Interfaith served 40,800 individuals, providing 436,095 meals. Our weekly donations helped make that possible. They also contributed \$90,971 in utility assistance which was an increase of \$20,000 from 2023. The need continues to be great. Please drop off nonperishable food items in the red wagons by the front doors. What you do does matter and it makes a difference!

Colorado Feeding Kids



You too can wear a lovely hairnet! Come volunteer with us at Colorado Feeding Kids. We have a SHUMC group volunteering the first Saturday of most months. If you would like to be added to our email list so you know when a group is attending, let Sharon Davis know at stdavis21@comcast.net.

UMCOR Sunday-March 30, 2025

Imagine you wake up one morning and a man-made or natural disaster has occurred. Lives in your community have turned upside down. What do you do? When disaster strikes, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) goes into action to help alleviate suffering and express the love of Christ to those involved. When you give on UMCOR Sunday, you underwrite the “cost of doing business” which allows UMCOR to keep its promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative costs. We hope you will plan to give on March 30th and continue to allow UMCOR to be one of the first organizations to respond when disaster strikes.

[UMCOR Sunday - Global Ministries](#)

Did you know that UMCOR supports global migration ministries and migration-focused organizations, such as the [Immigration Law & Justice Network \(ILJN\)](#) or [Church World Service \(CWS\)](#), which reach migrants with programs in the U.S. that help them attain legal status, litigate asylum claims and resettle in U.S. communities. Such ministries seek to welcome people into the community without condition and regardless of church affiliation or membership. Alba Jaramillo, who spoke at SHUMC about "Know Your Rights" is from the ILJN. Learn more about UMCOR' Migration response at [Global Migration and Refugees - Global Ministries](#).

Smoky Hill Abundant Health



NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK MARCH 17-21

Every year, America's 54 poison centers receive millions of calls, the majority of which are about people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances. The rest were calls for information. Here is a link to prevention tips that can help you or your loved ones avoid poisoning.

[Prevention](#)

Poison emergency? Call 1-800-222-1222 or visit [Poison Help](#)

On the Move with Smoky Hill UMC

Yoga at Smoky Hill. Certified yoga instructor, Zachary Horan offers Yoga every Tuesday afternoon from 1:45 to 2:30 in-person at church in Celebration Hall. Zachary is very careful to meet your specific needs and challenges. All are welcome! We offer donations to Zackary (suggested \$7-\$10) to thank him for his time and expertise.

Group Exercise on Zoom: Looking for exercise that requires no money, no travel, and fast access to your shower? Join the Zoom exercise community on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9:30. Contact Susan Hora at cusaglass@gmail.com

Hiking Group: Keep an eye out for future hikes by watching the weekly e-blast or our [Smoky Hill Abundant Health Facebook page](#) or contact Marta at 720-271-0691 with questions.

Join us on Facebook! [Smoky Hill Abundant Health](#) This is the place to connect about hikes, bowling, kayaking, fishing, and new recipes!



STAFF PARISH RELATIONS



We would like to introduce your Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) for 2025. Top Row: Debbie Kemper, Laura Dosch, Jim Grismer, Tim Davis, John Richard (Chair)
Inset: Matthew and Virginia Specht (Spanish Congregation), and Siobhan Kelley

The SPRC is the liaison between the congregation and the church staff. Any questions compliments or concerns can be directed personally to one of the members or we now have an email address to communicate with our committee at: SPR@smokyhillumc.org

We look forward to serving SHUMC in 2025!



TRUSTEES

Thank You!!!!

For all the work in completing our brand new all gender ADA bathroom on the Sanctuary level.

To our anonymous donors who funded the entire project.

To our Volunteers who put in many hours:

Mark Brinton, Lee Honnen, Ron Hora, Joe Korte, Crystal Duncan, Bob Kerbs, Travis Glatther (all the electrical work), Michelle Rubio (architect), Chris Marosy (tile work), Jonnathon Campos (plumbing), & Brian Nelson (painting)



The total cost of this bathroom came in around \$ 34,500.



UNITED WOMEN in FAITH



Lenten Call to Prayer and Self Denial

United Women in Faith invites all members of Smoky Hill to participate in the 2025 Call to Prayer and Self Denial during our 2025 Lenten Season. You can use this link [here](#) that helps to remind us of the daily blessings we have and perhaps take for granted. It is a great tool for helping children as well. This year the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will support economic development and microenterprise projects, vocational training, life skills, and livelihood training internationally. You can learn more about it at [here](#). At the end of lent, you can submit your donation via check to Smoky Hill UMC with the notation "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" or via the Venmo link on the PDF.



WORSHIP



**SUNDAYS AT SMOKY
HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Worship 8:30 am & 10:00 am
10:00 am service livestreamed
Sunday School for All Ages
Spanish Service 10:00 am

Can't BE HERE? Join the 10:00 AM English service on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)



Enciende Una Luz
Servicio Hispano
Domingo a Las 10:00 a.m.
y Facebook Live
Llame a Pastora Lucia Correa al
303-690-9816

For the Facebook link please contact Pastor Lucia



19491 E Smoky Hill Rd
Centennial, CO80015
303-690-9816

www.smokyhillumc.org

Following Jesus together to make the world a more loving and just place.

Email all information and updates for church communications to churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org