



ELEMENTS

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Patti's Ponderings

"Apart, we can do so little. Together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Do you remember Helen Keller's story? She was born into a wealthy family in 1880 and lost her sight and hearing due to an illness when she was 19 months old. She grew into a spoiled unruly child. Her family hired a teacher to come work with Helen when she was 7 years old. Anne Sullivan ascertained that what Helen needed was love and accountability towards good behavior. Anne Sullivan was 20, a graduate of the Perkins School for the Blind who also had vision problems. She had learned to finger spell and set out to teach Helen. Helen learned the letters and learned to spell words, but she was not comprehending what the words represented. Until that fateful day when Anne put Helen's hand under the water while spelling water into her hand. The light bulb went on and Helen came to life! She eagerly learned words and ideas. She had been brought out of the isolation and darkness she had been experiencing without sight and hearing. Helen went on to become an author, educator and activist. She actively challenged any limitation people put on her. And she herself believed in the potential of every human being, no matter the perceived limitations they face. She changed the world for the better for many people. In 1912 she was speaking to The Blindness Society and she said, "I do not like the world as it is; so I am trying to make it a little more as I want it to be." She went on to travel the country and speak to people, inspiring them to make the world a better place for all. She is remembered for her optimism and courage. Helen and Anne traveled the Vaudeville circuit and in their script, Helen said, "My Teacher has told you how a word from her hand touched the darkness of my mind and I awoke to the gladness of life. I was dumb; now I speak. I owe this to the hands and hearts of others. Through their love I found my soul and God and happiness. Don't you see what it means? We live by each other and for each other. Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much. Only love can break down the walls that stand between us and our happiness."

Our theme for October is "Together We Can!" Paul writes, in 1 Cor. 3:9 "For we are God's coworkers, working together." The world, our situations, the challenges we face can feel overwhelming. But you are not alone. We are in this together. Together, we are following Jesus to make the world a more loving and just place for all.

~Pastor Patti

Animal Blessing

On October 3rd from 10-11, we will have an animal blessing! Pastor Patti will be at the Gazebo, at the far end of our building and parking lot. Come anytime between 10:00 and 11:00 am and we will bless your pets. God loves all of creation. This is a special time to offer care to our beloved non-human companions.



Celtic Pilgrimage July 2027



Pastor Patti will be co-leading a Celtic pilgrimage with Kirk Webb, founder of The Celtic Center (www.thecelticcenter.org) We will travel to Inis Mor, one of the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland, next summer in the last week of July. It will be a spectacular week to visit ancient religious sites including stone chapels, circle forts and a portal tomb. We will learn about Celtic Christian spirituality and meet the saints who shaped this tradition. We will pause regularly for reflection and contemplation allowing the wisdom of the ruins and landscape, the

ancestors, and the Spirit of God to inform our faith and life today. If you would like more information as you consider joining this trip, contact Pastor Patti at pattia@smokyhillumc.org

Beer & Theology

Come join us late Sunday afternoon, 5:00 p.m. October 4th at ZoiglBrau!

Folks... It doesn't get any more German than this and if the Broncos win or lose, we are going to celebrate with some of the best made German beer in Colorado!

Located at 15120 E Hampden Avenue in Aurora CO 80014, our topic of conversation will focus on the politics of Christ and 1st Century Rome/Judea.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND

Is it possible that we have made Jesus too personal and that we have ignored the politics in his parables?

Please RSVP by sending me an email to associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org to let me know you will be there.

There will be food to share as well as other non-alcoholic beverages and we will lift a glass to the end of Oktoberfest running from September 18th to October 4 in Munich Germany.

Blessings,
Rev. Glen Wood



From the Associate Pastor's Desk

From the Associate Pastor's Desk:

As we move into the election season, to say that politics has reached a fever pitch would be an understatement!

Gerrymandering districts, the threat of the postal service holding mail, and campaign adds that may or may not be true is cause for concern.

The loss of life from detention centers, the lack of accountability, and the economic conditions that all of us are facing are a concern as well.

The fact that more and more clergy are running for office adds to the intrigue of this year's election process.

Some say that the church needs to stay out of politics. Others say that we need the church to speak out and take a position regarding the impact of legislation that is on the ballot...

In October of 1774, John Wesley offered advice for people called Methodists in regard to upcoming elections:

1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judge most worthy.
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against.
3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.

In addition, the Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church copyrighted in 2024 states the following:

"The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So, we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out of a faith perspective, not just respond to all the other 'mind-makers-up' that exist in our society."

As you walk into the gathering space, you may find artwork that might challenge what you think about ICE as well as the expansion of detention centers.

You may also see groups meeting to discuss issues that will be on the ballot.

Some of these gatherings will be neutral, giving both sides.

As a reconciling congregation, some people may share their point of view regarding the implications of what voting for or against a measure will impact members of our church that are seeking and obtaining gender affirming care.

I would just encourage everyone to keep an open mind and to care for each other as we discuss the implications of what voting for or against a candidate or ballot issue will mean.

On October 11th, I will be preaching about the politics of Jesus and how he shared one of the most controversial parables he preached to those in power.

The fact that Jesus may have taken a side in politics may surprise you...



In addition, I would encourage everyone to pray .

Pray for discernment. Pray for understanding and pray that our spirits are not sharpened by those who vote differently.

Please know that this pastor will still love and care for everyone regardless of how you vote and I hope you will still love and care for me as I try to raise awareness that all of us are children of God and that God loves and cares for all... not just those who are in positions of power.

Peace and blessings to all,
Rev. Glen Wood



ADULT CLASSES & GROUPS

Open Door - Sundays at 9:00 am in Room 218 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 during the school year. This group does not meet during the summer, from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.**

Parenting 20-Somethings Group

We are a group of parents that gather each month to talk through the triumphs and trials of parenting our 20-something old children. We would love for you to join us. This group led by Pastor Patti, mother of two 20-somethings, is open to our congregation and community. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Call the church office to get a code to enter the building if you, or someone you know wants to join us.

Octogenarians: Living into our eighties with grace and purpose

If you are in your 80's, join Pastor Patti for conversation and connection this fall. She is interested in learning from you and exploring what it looks like to thrive in elderhood. We will use Joyce Rupp's book, *The Years of Ripening*, as a guide in our conversation. We will explore topics such as: anxiety and uncertainty, handling loss, physical decline, death, hope and purpose, spiritual transformation, and serenity. You are special people, with much joy and wisdom to share with the world, even as your bodies slow down. Also, life throws us challenges as we age which can be difficult to navigate. We will find a good time to gather and begin meeting in October. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Patti or Lynne in the church office.

Justice & Joy Book Club

The UWF Justice & Joy Readers will meet Monday, October 26th, 1-3pm in the Upper Room to discuss [The Spectacular](#) by Fiona Davis.



Young at Heart Lunch & Program

This group of older adults meets the **second Thursday of the month** at 11:30 am for lunch and then an educational or musical program.

Join us for our next Young at Heart Lunch where we will have a delicious lunch and learn about Victorian Halloween Traditions, presented by the Molly Brown House Museum. Step back in time and discover how Halloween was celebrated in the Victorian era.

Please RSVP for the next luncheon on **Thursday, October 8th at 11:30 am** to 303-690-9816 or churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org

A suggested \$10 donation will cover the cost of the lunch and program, but please give as you are able and know that everyone is welcome!

For more information contact Fran Krech krechf@yahoo.com



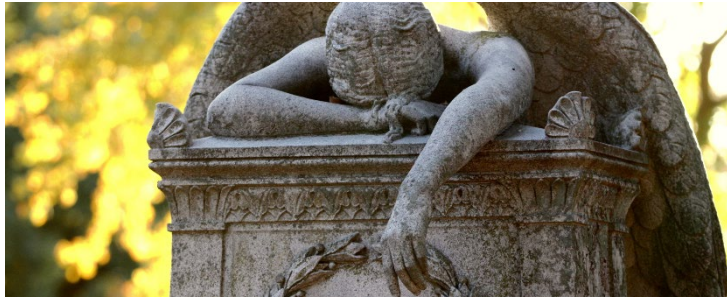
September's Young at Heart Luncheon.



Mary Ellen Armbruster, therapeutic musician, entertained us with her beautiful voice.



A big “thank you” to some of our faithful organizers of our Young at Heart Luncheons: Marleen Carlson, Kim Brice, Linda Galligan, and Deb Brookes.



As the holidays approach, it is not uncommon for those who have experienced grief in the past to find themselves experiencing grief again.

During our last gathering, we discussed Francis Weller's book, *The Wild Edge of Sorrow* and the five gates of grief:

1. Everything we love, we will lose.
2. The places that have not known love.
3. The sorrows of the world.
4. What we expected and did not receive.
5. Ancestral grief.

Rev Isaac Dunn shared with us his experience as a hospice Chaplain how people respond to terminal illness and grieve using the five stages of grief.

We did a short viewing of Anderson Cooper interviewing Dr. Weller as he discussed how the death of his mother triggered the grief he had suppressed with the death of his father and brother.

For this workshop, we are going to examine if it is possible for our grief to actually help us grow into living lives that are richer and fuller than we could imagine.

We will discuss how other experts and psychologists are now viewing grief and explore where we are in our journey walking with grief.

Does a broken heart actually help us to have a heart that holds more?

How do we avoid letting grief keep us from moving forward to love others?

For those who attended our last grief workshop, this is an opportunity to move forward in the process of walking with grief.

If this is your first time to attend, this will be a safe place to find others that are processing grief to talk about ways that are helpful with healing.

Please send in your RSVP along with any type of food requirements you need.

We plan to have good and healthy food and to create a space where we listen and care for each other. We will start gathering at 8:30 and then begin with brunch at 9:00 a.m.

Our time will conclude at noon.

Block off your calendar now and plan to attend Saturday November 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Lynne churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org or myself at associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org.

Blessings,
Rev. Glen Wood



CHILDREN & FAMILY

Children and Family Ministries October

Worship and children's opportunities on Sunday Morning

Back to two Worship hours

8:30-9:30 am Worship, Nursery & Children's Church

10:00 am Worship, Nursery and Sunday School

****Note, the 4th Sunday of the month will be Worship as a family, No Children's Church, and No Sunday School. The 5th Sunday of the month will be a fun day for the kids; details will come out in monthly happenings emails.**

NOTE: drop off and pick up:

Drop off your kids in the Cove (by the front door) and we will take to Sunday school. We will bring them back up to the Gathering space after Worship for pickup.

Please fill out our registration form per family, list all kids:

<https://forms.gle/8p9Dx1V74dmTFmFT9>

Parents, if you can give 1 Sunday a quarter to help in Sunday school that would be appreciated. Here is a sign up to help.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4BAFA923A0FA7-65918625-parent>

Children's Choir



**Open for all kids kindergarten and up,
we will meet from 9:30 to 9:55 am**

Sunday mornings.

**If you are new and want to join, come to the
Choir Room at 9:30 am.**

Save the date: December 12th!



**Breakfast with
Santa
DECEMBER
12TH**

9 am to 11 am

Free to all

Bring your camera for pictures



Sign up to have a decorated trunk in the parking lot. This is a huge community event, and we would love tons of trunks from all our groups within the Church! Contact Crystal, Crystald@smokyhillumc.org or text/call 303-587-5667.



Got a couch you're ready to part with? The youth room needs new-used couches. Contact Angelique to arrange for pickup or drop-off.



RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

How to Vote in a Wesleyan Way

As Colorado voters prepare for the 2026 election, we are going to hear plenty of people tell us how Christians should vote.

Republicans will make their case. Democrats will make theirs. Advocacy groups, campaigns, television commentators and social media will all tell us what is at stake.

But for Methodists, I believe we should begin somewhere else.

Not with a party.

Not with an ideology.

Not even with America.

We should begin with Jesus.

To read the rest of this article, please see the digital October Newsletter or contact the church office at 303-690-9816 to request a copy.

The 2026 Colorado Ballot Through a Wesleyan Lens

As Colorado voters prepare for the Nov. 3 election, I want to suggest something that should be simple for Christians but often is not:

Do not begin with your political party. Begin with Jesus.

John Wesley famously advised Methodists preparing to vote for the person they believed most worthy, speak no evil of those they opposed and make sure political disagreement did not destroy their love for people who voted differently.

That spirit may be even more important today.

The question should not simply be, "Is this conservative?" or "Is this progressive?"

The better question is:

Does this reflect the way Jesus taught us to treat our neighbors?

The United Methodist Social Principles give us useful guidance. They call us to uphold human dignity, protect basic rights, seek justice, care for people who are vulnerable, pursue economic fairness, steward creation responsibly and work for the common good. They also recognize that Christians live in complicated political communities where faithful people will not always reach identical conclusions.

Colorado voters have 14 statewide ballot measures in 2026. What follows is not an official United Methodist voting guide. It is an attempt to look honestly at each question through a Wesleyan lens.

To read the rest of this article, please see the digital October Newsletter or contact the church office at 303-690-9816 to request a copy.



Our Rainbow Alliance had a wonderful showing at the Aurora Pride Festival held at Winged Melody Park August 29th. We represented SHUMC with pride and enthusiasm. Our booth give-away items included frozen Pride Pops, cooling neck wraps, and Reconciling Ministries items. It was a very hot day, and we thank the Men's group for loaning us two of their shade covers. In addition, we thank the UWF Mission Crafters for spending weeks on sewing 200+ beautiful neck wraps, the donor of the Pride Pops, Youth and everyone else who volunteered to staff our booth and to SHUMC whose generosity provides support for our mission.



Interfaith Meditation at Centennial ICE Office

(note: this is NOT at the GEO Detention Center)

The twice-monthly, interfaith meditation sessions at the Centennial ICE office are going strong! Everyone is welcome to drop in and participate. We gather on the first Sunday and third Saturday of every month, 9:30 - 11 am, on the sidewalk in front of the ICE building at 12445 E Caley Ave. in Centennial. We open with a short reading, then have both seated and walking meditation, and close with a reading and group reflections. **Our next gathering days are Oct. 4 and Oct. 17.**

Please bring a chair (or something you'd like to sit on) and water.





MEN'S GROUP

BREAKFAST MEETING

The next Men's Group Breakfast Meeting will be **Saturday, October 10th, at 7:30 am** in Celebration Hall. All SHUMC men are invited to attend. For more information contact Alan Legleiter alanlegleiter@hotmail.com or Lee Honnen honnen1@comcast.net

OCTOBER PUMPKIN PATCH

The Men's Group will be selling pumpkins in October, so please buy your pumpkins here at SHUMC! Help spread the word as this is a major fundraiser for the Men's Group! If you can help with the set up and sales shifts, please contact Lee Honnen at honnen1@comcast.net



MISSION



We Collect Things

There are several items that we collect and donate to local organizations:

- Pop top tabs from cans-these go to the Ronald McDonald house to help families when their child is hospitalized. Put them in the pink container near the Welcome Desk.
- Used eyeglasses are donated to the Lions Club. Place them in the basket near the Welcome Desk.
- Aluminum cans are collected by the Men's Group. Place them by the storage shed near the gazebo.
- Used magazines are collected for use by USO Military and Assisted Living Centers. These are collected in the office in the red bag on the counter.

SHUMC RIDE MINISTRY

Need a ride to church,
a medical appointment,
or to somewhere else?

Call or email the
church office
303-690-9816
[churchsecretary@
smokyhillumc.org](mailto:churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org)



SHUMC Ride Ministry

Need a ride to church, a medical
appointment, or to somewhere
else?

Call 303-690-9816 to arrange it.

SHUMC Abundant Health



October is **Dental Hygiene Month**

Practicing Good Dental Hygiene goes beyond simply keeping your teeth clean and white. It plays an integral role in maintaining your overall health. Poor oral health has been linked to various chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory infections. Understanding the connection between dental hygiene and your body's health is key to protecting yourself from these potential risks. Regular brushing, flossing, and professional dental care are essential for ensuring that bacteria and plaque do not build up in your mouth, which could lead to severe consequences for other systems in your body. Read more at familydentistryonline.net

On the Move with Smoky Hill UMC

Yoga is back every Tuesday morning at – 10:30 AM. Our music director, Dan Nebel, is leading our weekly classes. All levels of ability are welcome and will be accommodated! Donations collected will be given to the music program.

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 upcoming hikes by watching the weekly e-blast or our [Smoky Hill Abundant Health Facebook page](#) or contact Marta at 720-271-0691 with questions.

Medical Equipment Closet: Did you know we have medical equipment that you can borrow for yourself or your neighbor? This includes crutches, walkers, shower seats and more. Contact the church office to arrange borrowing items.

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



Wednesday Work Group

There is a dedicated work group of individuals that meet up at the church on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 12:00 to do all types of maintenance projects to improve the church building. We paint, patch walls, fix tables, clean doors, install lights and many other needed tasks. I would like to invite any other individuals that would be interested in helping out to join us whenever possible. All materials are provided. Please feel free to give me a call (Mark Brinton 303-961-5272) if you have any questions. Thanks.



Doll Ministry Sewing Days October 3 and Nov 21 9-3PM

Rooms L 26 and 27

Grab your sewing machine and join us as we make items for the doll ministry. We have material, patterns and thread. Bring your scissors and pins. Knitters and crochet artists are invited to come make items as well.

All are invited, we'll find a place for you to contribute!

BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch!)

The Craft Fair is almost here! Get ready for a fun day on October 17th when 60 vendors will be showing their goods, ready for you to kick-start your Christmas shopping. Tell everyone you know about this great event. Come support the youth selling burritos, the Men's Group selling pumpkins, as well as the vendors from our community, which includes several of our SHUMC members. Proceeds from the craft sale are used to fund United Women in Faith mission which supports mission in the US and all over the world.

The craft sale takes many hands to happen. Can you help? Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4BAFA923A0FA7-65919861-fall>



We also will have a Bake Sale table! If you can help by baking cookies/brownies, etc., sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4BAFA923A0FA7-65920068-copy>

PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATED GOODIES TO THE CHURCH ON FRIDAY 10/16 OR DROP THEM OFF SATURDAY MORNING DURING THE SALE.

PLEASE PACKAGE ITEMS FOR SALE, FOR EXAMPLE 4-6 COOKIES IN A ZIPLOCK BAG



WORSHIP

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

**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

Enciende Una Luz

Servicio Hispano
Domingo a Las 10:00 a.m.
y Facebook Live

Llame a Pastora Lucia Correa al
303-690-9816

*To livestream the Spanish service,
please contact Pastor Lucia for the link.*

Pockets of Peace

Join Pastor Patti on Zoom on the first Thursday of the month for a Pocket of Peace. This is a Celtic inspired contemplative service for 30 minutes. There is music, Celtic blessings, scripture, and silence. It is a great way to wind down at the end of the day. Life can be chaotic, peace can be elusive, so snag some time and create a pocket of peace for yourself.

Next service will be Thursday, October 1st at 8:00 pm. Contact church office churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org for Zoom link.

Pockets of Peace: Celtic Worship Service

Thursday, October 1st at 8pm

This monthly service on Zoom is a
pocket of peace amidst our
chaotic lives.

For Zoom link see eblasts or contact
churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org



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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