

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Every Sunday we pray as Jesus taught us, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Forgiveness is perhaps the most difficult ethic Jesus invites us into. We are born with an innate sense of fairness that sometimes conflicts with the practice of forgiveness. If a kid on the playground breaks a rule, our sense of fairness wants them to suffer a consequence for that. Jesus comes along and teaches us to forgive, even those who hurt us. As Jesus is suffering on the cross he prays, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." This is not forgiveness of the playground variety. This is challenging. It goes against our nature. And yet, it is the path Jesus laid out to new life, healing, and wholeness. During the month of September in worship, we will explore this practice of forgiveness; what it is and what it is not. We'll ask hard questions and may not have all the answers. But together we'll forge a way through this difficult life-giving practice. Remember our worship times go back to 8:30 am and 10:00 am for the English language worship. I hope to see you in-person or online. ~Pastor Patti





From Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence and a time to speak; a time to love and a time for hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been amazed at the number of parents who have been posting pictures of their kids going to their first day of school.

In addition, I've enjoyed pictures of last year's high school graduates moving into their dorm rooms or settling into their new apartments and starting their new vocations.

There have also been other changes... Several members have discussed about having to move a family member into assisted living or are dealing with a medical diagnosis that will have life-changing consequences.

Even the weather is starting to change as well as the heat of summer passes and the great Northern wind kisses the leaves that have grown all summer... changing them into brown, yellow and red.

Smoky Hill is changing as well.

We will soon welcome a new music director, and we are adding more ushers and Sunday School teachers to meet the needs of additional Sunday School classes as well as having two worship services.

George Bernard Shaw writes, "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

As all of us deal with the changes that are happening in our lives, in our church and in our world, I hope that all of us may find a way to change in ways that help each other grow and care for each other.

For those who don't like the changes, I hope and pray for peace.

For those who are ready for change to happen, I hope and pray you have courage to make your dreams come true.

For those who are scared of what change will mean, may the promise of God's love hold you and keep you.

Blessings to all, Rev. Glen

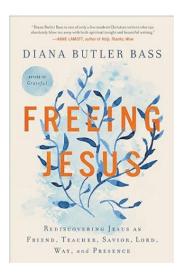


Adult Open Door - Sundays at 9:00 am in Room 218

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.



Tuesday Morning Theologians invite you to join us for a journey through renowned author Diana Butler Bass's book **Freeing Jesus-Rediscovering Jesus**. From the book's description: *How can you still be a Christian?* This is the most common question Diana Butler Bass is asked today. It is a question that many believers ponder as they wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership. But while many Christians have left their churches, they cannot leave their faith behind.

In *Freeing Jesus*, Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

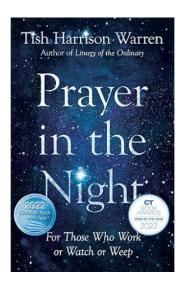
We'll begin September 9th at 9 am in Room 214 and for six weeks discuss this book. To rsvp or if you have questions, contact John Tedrick at johntedrick@me.com or John Richard at jhrcolorado@icloud.com.

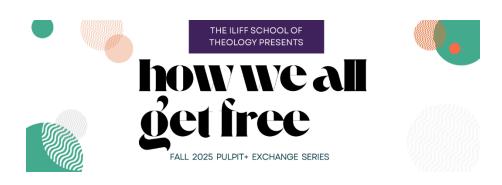
UWF Lunch Bunch Fall Book - Prayer in the Night

You are invited to join Lunch Bunch in the fall for our discussion of <u>Prayer in the Night</u> by Tish Harrison Warren, led by Joan Hodges.

This book offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives at work, at home, and in a world filled with uncertainty. Tish Harrison Warren explores a season of doubt and loss, navigating themes of human vulnerability, suffering, and God's seeming absence.

We will start the book on Tuesday, September 9, and will discuss it for 7 weeks ending on October 21. We meet on Tuesdays in room 214 at 11:30 and share lunch together. For more information contact Kathy Tedrick, kathytedrick@me.com





Join the Iliff School of Theology this fall for *How We All Get Free*—a Pulpit+ Exchange series exploring justice, faith, and collective liberation, inspired, in part, by Fannie Lou Hamer, community organizer and co-founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and the 1971 National Women's Political Caucus. The series is in person or online.

In Hamer's speech delivered at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in January 1971, she emphasized how three Mississippi civil rights activists, black and white, were murdered because of their efforts to ensure everyone could exercise their right to vote. Later that year, in July 1971, at the founding meeting of the National Women's Political Caucus, she addressed the challenges black and white women faced around gender equality. It was here that she proclaimed, "nobody's free until everybody's free," a message that Iliff continues to carry forward in this series by inviting activists, scholars, ministers, thought leaders, and journalists to share their stories of hope and advocacy.



We're kicking off the series with Ericka Huggins, a former Black Panther Member, Human Rights Activist, Educator, and Poet, who will be in conversation with Iliff's COO, Caran Ware Joseph. Huggins will share more about her upbringing in Washington, D.C.; her awakening to her ability to impact social justice as an undergraduate at Cheyney State and then Lincoln University; her meditation practices she learned while imprisoned and how they influence her spirituality today; her work as a prison abolitionist; and her experiences as a mother, grandmother, and educator. Register Here

Fall 2025 "How We All Get Free" Schedule

September 8, 2025 – **Ericka Huggins** in conversation about her life with some practical examples of how we all get free.

September 15, 2025 – **Rev. Dr. Jamie Eaddy** returns to continue our work on "Grief in a New World." September 29, 2025 – **Paula Yoo** will share on her book *Rising from the Ashes: Los Angeles, 1992.* October 13, 2025 – **Keith Richotte, J.D.** - Author of *The Worst Trickster Story Ever Told - Native America, the Supreme Court, and the U.S. Constitution.*

November 17, 2025 – **Rev. Adriene Thorne**, Senior Pastor, Riverside Church in New York City, on envisioning a new world.

What to Expect Each Evening:

5:00 - 5:45 PM (MST): Light meal and connection

5:45 PM: Lecture begins, followed by Q&A and deep discussion

Location: In-person at Iliff *or* online via livestream. Unable to attend in person? Register to receive the livestream link.

Why Attend?

Because change starts in community. This is a space to be challenged and inspired, while meeting others who share your passion for faith-rooted justice, equity, and collective liberation.

Come for one evening or all. Stay for the conversation. Leave with new energy, new insights, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Learn more and register here









Pictures from August's Senior Luncheon where we played Bingo!

Smoky Hill UMC Senior Luncheon Thursday, September 18th 11:30 AM

The 3 OGs will be our guest musical entertainment!



A suggested donation of \$10.00 will help cover the cost of the lunch. Please give as you are able and know that everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP for this lunch 303-690-9816 churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org



Children and Family Ministries September 2025

Reading the Pencil parable



Blessing of our backpacks & school year. Luke 6:31



Sunday, September 7th (Kick-off Sunday) –

Back to two Worship hours

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

10:00 -11:00 am Worship, Nursery & Children's Sunday School

6 weeks to 2 yr old - Nursery

3- & 4-year-olds Room L 30

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Room L 32

3rd Grade Room L28

4th & 5th Grade Room L27

Join us after 10 am Worship for some fun. Bring a dish to share.

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 them to Sunday School. We will bring them back up to the Gathering Space after Worship for pickup.

Men's Group will be grilling. This is a potluck, so please bring something to share. We will have cotton candy, popcorn, giant Connect 4 game, corn hole, giant Jenga, ladder ball game and other outdoor games.

During our Sunday School at 10:00 am we will start in our classrooms with a get to know each other, go outside to play, come in for communion and then take the kids back outside. You can pick them up out front.



We need helpers for our classes starting September 7th at 10:00-11:00 am.

We need at least 1 adult (over 18), and the second person can be 6th grade and up for each class. You do not need to commit to every week.

If we have enough volunteers, we can share the time! 4th Sunday of the month we will not have Sunday School or Children's Church. The 5th Sunday of the month will be a fun day.

Please help us teach this year! It is rewarding. If you can only do 1 Sunday, that would be extremely helpful. Contact Crystal if you are interested (crystald@smokyhillumc.org)

During the 8:30 Worship hour we will have Children's Church. Kids 4/5 yrs. and younger will go to the nursery and Kindergarten to 5th Grade can come to Children's Church or stay with parents during Worship. **We are looking for helpers for this class.**











Save the Date:

October 25th – Trunk r Treat 11:00-1:00 pm, Food Trucks, and Pumpkin Patch.

We need trunks, let Crystal know if you would like to do a trunk.



December 13th - Breakfast with Santa, 9:00-11:00 am



RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Hello, Juli Zimmerman with the Racial Justice Committee here. This month, I am bringing you the story of my amazing son-in-law, Bryan. He is from Venezuela and has been in the United States since 2018. He and my daughter moved from Texas to lowa last year. Bryan was working in a school in Johnston, Iowa, that he loved. He is personable and a hard worker, but he hasn't been granted his new work visa yet, so he is dealing with frustration from not being able to return to the school and the students he cared for. He has a unique perspective that I enjoyed learning about. I had to stop and listen to his story to appreciate and understand where he is coming from. It surprised me. Not everyone listens with an open mind; people hear what they want and immediately feel angry if they don't believe what he believes. Once I heard without bias, what he said made sense. I respect his perspective, and I hope you will find his story enlightening. Here is a link to an Animoto video he made for us. He has awful allergies and a heavy accent, so sometimes it is hard to understand him. There are hurt feelings in the family between my children and their political beliefs. One is ultra conservative, one is independent, one doesn't know what to think yet and the other is very liberal. I tend to run more liberal, but as the matriarch, I need to stay neutral so everyone can agree to disagree or just not talk about it. Now that Bryan has been unable to secure his work visa, I think he is finding out, neither political side has all the answers. Bryan is a wonderful person, and I am proud to call him my son. He has some unbelievable stories. I hope he and Annie can come to visit soon, and you can meet them.

Bryan's Story 8/12/2025

My name is Bryan Martinez and I am from Venezuela. My life in Venezuela was beautiful. I miss every aspect of it. My family was wealthy. We had five businesses. My life was amazing. I had a lot of friends. I had my neighbors, my cousins, everybody. It is hard for me that the socialist government stole my life. Having everything there and having to come here and starting from zero. What happened to my family is that they owned all these businesses, so we were a target for the socialist government.

When I came here my first week, I was in Miami. We stayed at my aunt's house for a week. Then we got plane tickets to Texas because we had more family in Texas. We moved to Texas. We stayed with my aunt for a month and slept on an air mattress while we figured out how to get an apartment. After two months, we got our first apartment. It was a one room apartment. I had to share a room with my dad, my mom, and my twin brother. It was hard. My dad had to get a terrible job in construction after being a businessman. I had to see my dad crying a lot, and my mother crying too. It was rough because dictators stole everything from us. And in the years [since coming to the United States], we were getting stronger and better. My dad got a better job, and my mom did too. It was a slow process.

I didn't speak any English. I went to high school. It was hard for me because my friends in Venezuela had graduated, but I had [to take] two more years of high school because of the language.

When I first came here, we were invisible. Nobody knew about the Venezuelans or what we were going through [in our home country]. I came here in 2018. It was during Trump's first administration. It was hard. We did the immigration the right way. We had to pay the lawyers. We had to file all the papers. My parents did the work. But now I'm an adult and I am doing it. Anyone who came here in those years came here legally. We came in planes. No one had to do any crazy stuff. Our reputation started going down after Biden because he changed the border policies, and a lot of criminals/people from my country came and they started doing crazy stuff. Killing people and doing horrible stuff to American citizens. And that's when we started getting targeted by some people, like even between Hispanics, like I used to get comments from Mexicans that used to work with me, like, "Oh, did you see this happen? What do you think about it?" In my heart I wanted those people to go back to where I'm from because they were affecting me, they were affecting my community. They were making us look bad.

It's funny because already, people here think we are all Mexicans. One of them does something bad, so we are all the same. That's just how it works. So, seeing that, it really bothers me. I feel like a lot of the problems we have now, Venezuelans, are thanks to the Biden administration because of that.

I come from a socialist/dictatorship country. My country and culture are what Americans call conservative. When I first came to America, I didn't have the right words to describe my thoughts. I was still traumatized by what my family went through. I experienced a lot of hate from some co-workers, people in my life that say we have socialist values. It is easy to say you have socialist values when you haven't lived in a socialist country, and you have lived in America your whole life where everything is basically perfect compared to the rest of the world.

Another thing that triggers me is when people speak about immigration without having any knowledge about it. The other day, I got this comment. Someone told me that if I have a kid in America, that kid will be a US citizen, and that is so wrong. My wife is from here and I came here legally. Stuff like that, it makes my day a little bit sour. Some coworkers get mad at me because I am really strong in my belief. It is hard what I went through and have people try to change my mind.



All SHUMC men are invited to join us for the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 13th at 7:30 am in Celebration Hall.

Attention King Soopers Customers

King Soopers Community Rewards Program Benefits SHUMC

at No Additional Cost to You

- Swiping/scanning your Sooper Card is an easy way to benefit the church
- But you must register the card and elect the 5% benefit to go to Smoky Hill UMC
- This has no impact on what you pay.
- The church has no visibility into names or proceeds from individual participants.



For details, see **Tim Davis** in the Gathering Space after worship. Or email him at tcdavis660@comcast.net for an instruction sheet.

Attention King Soopers Customers

Did you know that, by swiping your SooperCard at checkout at any King Soopers or Kroger retail store (including the King Soopers gas stations), you could be helping Smoky Hill UMC? All it takes is to identify Smoky Hill UMC as your Community Rewards beneficiary. This is a one-time election you can make using your PC, laptop, phone, or tablet. You can access instructions here. You may also call King Soopers Loyalty Card Hotline at 1-800-677-5464, menu option 1. Our Community Rewards organization code is WS802. (Please note: the Customer Service counters at King Soopers stores cannot help with this process.)

King Soopers (Kroger) donates up to 5% of what you spend directly to SHUMC. There is no cost to you above your normal grocery cost. The church has no visibility into individual participants or the amounts generated by individuals or families. We just get a check from King Soopers every quarter. If you have questions or need help signing up, corner Tim Davis in the Gathering Space, or email him at tcdavis660@comcast.net.

Thank you, as always, for your support of SHUM



Free Paint Recycling Event in Aurora - Oct 4th, 2025

Easy drop-off and no fees. Sponsored by GreenSheen Paint, The City of Aurora, and Smoky Hill UMC.

Get rid of your old, unwanted paint. Clean up your garage and basement and keep paint products out of the landfill!

Join us for a fun and eco-friendly event where you can safely dispose of your unwanted paint! Our Free Paint Recycling Collection Event is happening at Smoky Hill

United Methodist Church. Don't miss this opportunity to declutter your space and contribute to a greener environment.

Register today! Simply sign up and secure your spot. We will accept all types of paint, from latex to oil-based, so bring them all! Our team of experts will be on hand to guide you through the process and ensure everything is properly recycled. REGISTER HERE

Voluntary donations will support multiple church mission activities, including: youth mission trips, local food banks, community Easter Egg Hunt, community Breakfast with Santa, community Vacation Bible Camp, Colorado Feeding Kids, immigrant support, Outreach of Love and Colorado Village Collaborative.

Spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join in. Together, let's make a positive impact on our community and the planet. Don't forget to mark your calendars for this exciting event!

Items we accept:

- Interior and exterior architectural paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel (including textured coatings)
- Deck coatings, floor paints (including elastomeric)
- Primers, sealers, undercoaters
- Stains
- Shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes (single component)
- Waterproofing concrete/masonry/wood sealers and repellents (not tar or bitumen-based)
- Metal coatings, rust preventatives
- Field and lawn paints

Items we don't accept:

- Paint thinners, mineral spirits, solvents
- Aerosol coatings
- Auto and marine paints
- Art and craft paints
- Caulking compounds, epoxies, glues, adhesives
- Paint additives, colorants, tints, resins
- Wood preservatives (containing pesticides)
- Roof patch and repair
- Asphalt, tar and bitumen-based products
- 2-component coatings
- Deck cleaners
- Traffic and road marking paints
- Industrial Maintenance (IM) coatings
- Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) (shop application) paints and finishes

For all events, we ask that attendees stay in their cars. Event staff will direct you to drop-off lanes where we will unload everything for you. This ensures a safe and efficient process.

For questions, please email events@greensheenpaint.com

SHUMC MEN'S GROUP FOOTBALL GAME OUTING



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 10:00 AM

AIR FORCE FALCONS VS. ARMY BLACK KNIGHTS



Tickets are \$82 (25% savings) Pay SHUMC



Men's Group will help coordinate carpools to the game

The Men's Group is sponsoring a group to attend the Air Force vs Army football game on November 1st at 10:00 AM.

We have purchased a block of 15 seats in Section M9 at about the 45-yard line.

Tickets are \$82 per seat (about 25% savings over single seats). This event is open to all members of the church. The Men's Group will help coordinate carpooling to the game to make sure that everyone can get there. To purchase a ticket, pay online or pay at church office.





Did You Know?

Every week, the Cookie Company, located in Southlands, donates cookies for our Outreach of Love lunches. If you need cookies, please consider purchasing cookies at the Cookie Company.



Colorado Feeding Kids

The next pack will be October 4th. If you would like to join us, please sign up at https://www.cofeedingkids.org/.

Smoky Hill Abundant Health



National CHOLESTEROL

Education Month
—— September——

National Cholesterol Education Month is a time to focus on heart health and learn about the role of cholesterol in our overall wellbeing. Cholesterol levels meaning can be confusing. Is my high density too high? What is LDL? Is it too high? Which meds are a good option for me? Can I control my cholesterol without medications? Find information at CDC.gov/cholesterol

On the Move with Smoky Hill UMC

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: Spring has sprung! Keep an eye out for upcoming hikes by watching the weekly e-blast or our <u>Smoky Hill Abundant Health Facebook page</u> or contact Marta at 720-271-0691 with questions.

Yoga at Smoky Hill: Yoga resumes on September 9th! Join us every Tuesday at 1:45-2:30 PM in Celebration Hall to stretch and improve your health. Zachary Horan, our yoga instructor is an expert at working with your personal needs and restrictions. We ask for a donation of \$7-\$10 in appreciation of his time.

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



TUG FOR MISSION!



A Move-for-Mission Event!

On Rally Day, 9/7, Smoky Hill UWFaith will sponsor our first Tug for Mission! Get ready to help sponsor your favorite team competing for bragging rights. All money raised will be split between SHUMC and United Women in Faith to be sent directly to mission. Every \$20 sponsors a team member. Get ready to compete and join the fun!

September 7, 2025 Kickoff Sunday



Potluck Brunch September 21 11:15-1:30

Special movie Presentation of Kobane:

the story of female Kurdish fighters who defend their city from the deadly threat of ISIS. Shereen Murad will help facilitate questions and discussion.

Join us by bringing a dish to share as we learn together about the Kurdish people.

All are welcome!

Sponsored by Smoky Hill UWFaith and Racial Justice

For more information about the Kurdish people, watch the YouTube presentation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iLe11Vz9FE

This is a video recording of the Aug 17th event on the topic of Rojhilat: The Kurdish Movement in Iran, featuring guest speakers discussing the past, present and future of the Kurdish people and their struggle for freedom in Iran / East Kurdistan. The conversation covers topics such as women's resistance, colonialism, ecology, and the geopolitics of the Middle East.

The Craft Fair is Coming! Get ready to bring all your friends to this fun annual event where you can get a start on all your Christmas shopping with loads of unique gifts. Proceeds from the booth rentals benefits United Women in Faith's Pledge to Mission, which helps support mission institutions in the US and abroad. We will be seeking help to make this event happen, so stayed tuned for opportunities.

Are you, or someone you know, a crafty person looking to sell your wares? There are still some booths available. Sign up at https://forms.gle/LtiCqJTEeaLb14xW7



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GALLERY TEAM

Calling all art lovers, creators, and appreciators! I'm Alyce Duckworth, your new SHUMC Gallery Team chair, and I'd love for you to join me Saturday, September 20 at 1:00 PM in the main church gathering space. Together, we'll dream up fresh ways to celebrate art in all its forms and bring new inspiration to our church community this year!

USHERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Do you enjoy greeting people with a smile? Are you committed to helping people feel welcomed and comfortable in our sanctuary? Ushering on a Sunday morning is a simple but vital part of hospitality at Smoky Hill UMC. It is more than handing out bulletins and collecting the offering. It is also noticing folks who aren't familiar with our church and possibly introducing them to an established member and taking action in the unlikely event of an emergency. Ushers generally volunteer for one Sunday a month or a whole month at a time -- it's up to you! When we return to two services each Sunday in September our need will be great as we must be able to depend on people to fill these important positions. Can you please help? Training will be provided. For more information, please contact Susan Hora (636-236-6549 call or text) cusaglass@gmail.com





We are back to two services beginning Sunday, September 7

Can't BE HERE? Join the 10:00 AM English service on <u>Facebook</u> or <u>YouTube</u>
For the Spanish MInistries Facebook link please contact Pastor Lucia







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www.smokyhillumc.org

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