



ELEMENTS

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



I'm not going to lie to you...

It's been a tough summer.

When my brother was diagnosed with cancer years ago, all of us took it very seriously.

We prayed... We had the tough conversations. My sister-in-law, niece and my sister made many doctor and hospital visits as my brother was in and out of hospitals for many different procedures.

There were good days, and there were bad days...

We still thought we had 5 or maybe 10 more years.

But what we had was only 2 weeks after his last surgery this summer.

This summer, I'm not the only one that has lost someone they loved to cancer.

Sometimes cancer goes into remission... and sometimes it doesn't.

Sometimes we think we have avoided a situation only to find out that a complication happens.

Too often, we may assume too much.

Earlier this year, I became certified to be a presenter with Five Wishes.

Wish 1: Designate a person to make care decisions for you when you can't make decisions for yourself.

Wish 2: What kind of medical treatment do you want or don't want?

Wish 3: How comfortable do you want to be?

Wish 4: How do you want to be treated?

Wish 5: What do you want your loved ones to know?

If you have attended this workshop, but still have not completed your forms, please take the time to do so in order to let others know how you want to be treated when you are not able to speak or use motion for yourself.

If you would like to have assistance in reviewing the questions or need a notary to witness your signature, I can help with that.

As a presenter, it is not my place to tell you how to fill out your own wishes... only to advise regarding what the implications are for what you choose. You must use someone other than a family member to witness your signature. We do not need to know what your wishes are, we only need to witness that you sign the papers, and we have several notaries registered with the State of Colorado to help.

Also, please remember to think of your family and friends regarding what they need to grieve.

I'm really grateful that my brother and I talked before he was not able to talk for himself.

We held a celebration of life that allowed people to come together and remember who he was before the cancer took over so much of his last days.

For others in our faith community who are grieving, please know we grieve with you, and we do have resources to help with grief.

If you are also fighting a battle that is hard to discuss with others, please let me know... My email is associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org

I always believe that prayers are answered.

Some are big asks... some are small asks...

Yet, we will never receive an answer if we don't first ask the question.


Blessings,

Rev. Glen Wood

Pronouns: He, Him, His

Associate Pastor

Smoky Hill UMC



Celebration of Life
Sunday, August 3, 2025
3:00pm
Reception to follow
John P. Timmerman
September 26, 1984 ~ June 15, 2025
Smoky Hill United Methodist Church
19491 E Smoky Hill Rd
Centennial, CO 80015



Newcomers Connection Lunch

Sunday, Aug. 17 @ 11:15 a.m. Room 214

We are hosting a lunch for anyone new to Smoky Hill UMC or wanting to learn more about our church. Join lay leaders and staff for lunch and learn about the mission and ministries of Smoky Hill.

**RSVP 303-690-9816 for lunch
and childcare if needed**





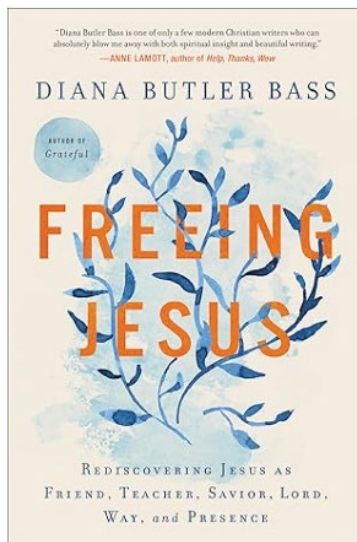
ADULT CLASSES & GROUPS

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.

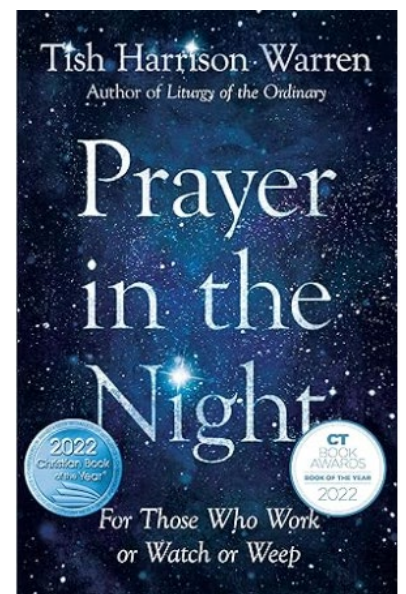
We'll begin September 9th at 9 am in Room 214 and for six weeks discuss this book. To RSVP or if you have questions, contact John Tedrick at johntedrick@me.com or John Richard at jhrcolorado@icloud.com.

UWF Lunch Bunch Fall Book - Prayer in the Night

You are invited to join Lunch Bunch in the fall for our discussion of Prayer in the Night 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



Smoky Hill UMC Senior Luncheon Thursday, August 21 @ 11:30 AM



Senior Luncheon

Save the Date: Our next Senior Luncheon will be Thursday, August 21 at 11:30 am. We will be playing BINGO!

*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 register for this lunch 303-690-9816 churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org



**Children and Family Ministries, August 2025
Worship at 10:00am**



Nursery care for all kids up to the age of 5 is available from 9:45 - 11:00 am every Sunday morning.

Adult Sunday School Classes from 9:00 to 9:45 am

Will meet every Sunday: The Way of the Faith and Open Door

**Back to School Blessing:
August 10th during Worship.**

Kids & Teachers bring your backpack to Worship Service for your blessing for a wonderful school year.





August Events

August 4th - Worship & CC at 10:00

August 10th - Park Day at Red-Tailed Hawk Park 11 am - 1 pm

August 11th - Worship & CC at 10:00

August 18th - Worship & CC at 10:00

August 20th - Ice Cream Social / Park Day at Piney Creek Hollow 5:30-7:30pm

August 25th - Worship as a Family,
No CC at 10:00
Children start in Sanctuary, after Children's Message, kids come to Children's Church (CC) or stay in Worship

ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



- Loose Leaf Paper & Spiral Paper
- Pencil Bags & Backpacks
- Pink Eraser & Crayons
- Glue & Glue Sticks
- #2 Pencils & Color Pencils
- Ink Pens & Markers

Drop in the wagon by the Front Doors

We will be collecting school supplies until August 10th. Backpack blessing on August 10th during 10 am Worship. You can drop off supplies on Sunday mornings during Worship. You can also drop off during church office hours Monday – Friday 9-2 pm or you can contact Crystal @ crystal@d@smokyhillumc.org.

LOOKING FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & HELPERS

Teach the young children the message of GOD. You will have all the supplies you need and the Curriculum in advance if you need to make any changes. We need 2 people in each room. 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!

Reach out to Crystal if you can give your time.
We will start September 7th.



Children's Choir



Attention: Children's Choir will be starting back up around end of August.
Watch your email for details.
If you are new and want to join let us know.

Save the Date:

July 13th to August 10th - School Supply drive

August 10th - Backpack Blessing during Worship.

September 7th – Kick off Sunday, back to full Sunday School with fun after church. Sorry no bounce house - but I promise we will have other fun stuff.



CARE & PRAYER



Are you good at listening?

Do you have a strong sense of empathy?

Do you have time to call and visit people who are in assisted living or pray with someone who is in need?

Maybe you are a cancer survivor and are able to be mindfully present for someone else experiencing the same diagnosis?

If so, we are looking for you!

Our congregational care team allows laity in our congregation to visit, pray and actively listen to church members that are experiencing life-changing events.

On Saturday, August 16th, our congregational care team will be having a retreat to discuss what it means to be mindfully present and pray with someone when a pastor just isn't available.

Topics of discussion include:

What is good congregational care?

What should I keep confidential and what am I required to share?

How do I listen and pray with someone?

What are the stages of grief and how should I respond when someone is hurting?

Before attending a congregational care team meeting, please make sure you reach out to Rev. Glen Wood or Rev. Dr. Patti Agnew. Rev. Glen's email is: associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org or you may call the church office and request to visit with Pastor Glen.

Please know that both men and women are needed for this group and diversity is welcome!

Blessings,

Rev. Glen Wood



JUSTICE MINISTRIES

RAINBOW ALLIANCE

Come join Smoky Hill UMC's Rainbow Alliance and celebrate Aurora Pride on Saturday August 30th!

We will have a booth close to the main stage!

Please call the church office or reach out to Denise Arnold if you would like to help staff our booth!



Celebrate Aurora Pride



Even if you just want to stop by and visit, please stop by and let us know you are there! All are welcome!

For more details about the fair, please check the following

[Home | Aurora Pride | Aurora, CO USA](#)

2025 Details Saturday, August 30, 2025 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM Fletcher Plaza, 9899 E. Colfax Ave FREE- We hope you join us! www.aurorapride.com

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

A lot of people are throwing around the word woke these days, and it has become a polarizing word for political purposes. Have you ever wondered what it meant? Have you ever wondered about its origin?

We often hear woke in a political sense. Right wing politicians tend to use it as a term of disrespect towards liberal beliefs that they feel are unserious and should be talked down to. We see people referring to the woke mob. But that term has a rich history and once again we see systemic racism in action.

The term has evolved from its origins in the African American vernacular to become a widely used and often contested term referring to awareness of social and political issues.

The words "Wake Up" and "Woke" have served as a call to action as conveyed by social activist Marcus Garvey who stated, "Wake up Ethiopia! Wake up Africa", and the Negro Mine Workers who in 1940 issued the statement, "We were asleep. But we will stay woke from now on," in advocating against discriminatory pay.

The term "Woke" was first highlighted in the 1962 essay, "If You're Woke, You Dig It", featured in the "New York Times" by Harlem-based writer William Melvin Kelley who documented the cultural appropriation and distortion of language, resulting in certain idioms being abandoned by their original Black creators.

Six decades later, anti-Black racists have engaged in an exercise of cultural appropriation to weaponize and misdefine the term "Woke", as evidenced by the "Stop W.O.K.E. Act", specifically targeting the teaching of American history and Black educators:

The manipulation of woke has been key to effecting policies that, when looked at plainly, reveal a foundational hostility to values most Americans share. This includes recognizing and honoring icons who toiled to bring our nation closer to living up to its ideals of justice and fairness, where everyone can thrive and live without fear of being targeted for who they are. Read more here: [How Woke Went From Black to Bad](#)



MEN'S GROUP

All SHUMC men are invited to join us for the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, August 9th at 7:30 am in Celebration Hall.

PALISADE PEACHES FOR SALE!!!



FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

3:00-6:00 PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

9:00-6:00 PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

9:00-6:00 PM

Thank you for supporting SHUMC Men's Group Ministries!



MISSION

Smoky Hill Abundant Health



News

**August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month
at Prevent Blindness**

School is starting! You will want to make sure your child is able to see well and learn. Learn more at <https://preventblindness.org/your-childs-sight-seeing-for-school/>

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: 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.

Yoga at Smoky Hill: This class will not be meeting now through the summer. Zachary may try to work out a monthly date if he is available. Stay tuned.

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

Funeral Reception Team

The Funeral Reception Team is looking for a few more people who are willing to provide food when a funeral is held at the church. We typically ask for sandwiches, salads, fruit, cheese and crackers, and cookies. You would be added to an email list and when there is a funeral, a message is sent out with our requests. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact Sharon Davis at stdavis21@comcast.net. Thank you for your support!

Mission Team

Ways to put your faith into action:

- Bring nonperishable food items for Aurora Interfaith.
- Make bologna and cheese (no condiments) sandwiches for Outreach of Love.
- Volunteer to deliver lunches on Monday mornings for Outreach of Love.
- Join the packing event for Colorado Feeding Kids.
- Sign up to be part of the team that provides food for the Spanish food boxes.
- Donate your old magazines to be used by USO Military and assisted living centers. (Drop off at the office).
- Donate your old eyeglasses (bin by front doors).
- Donate the pull tabs from cans for Ronald McDonald House (bin by the front doors).
- Make financial donations to the Mission Team to help us continue our work.
- Join the Mission Team-we meet the first Sunday of each month at 11:15.

Questions? Contact Sharon Davis at stdavis21@comcast.net or Wendy Hanson at ghanw2@aol.com.

THANK YOU!

Outreach of Love

Billi Little, Dale Hanson, Betty Little, and the residents of Morning Star Holly Park Assisted Living (Reflections Neighborhood) made sandwiches for our Outreach of Love program twice this month and plan to continue providing sandwiches several times each month. We love that this program allows them to participate in helping others and provides us with much needed sandwiches! Thank you to everyone involved with this program!





2025 Women's Soul Care Retreat

Cultivating Joy!

October 3-5
Allenspark, CO

Registration opens August 1

Calling all women! Come spend a relaxing weekend in the mountains, worshiping God, making new friends, and nurturing your soul at our annual Soul Care retreat. We only have space for 32 women, so act fast to reserve your place. The cost is \$160 which includes 4 meals, accommodations, and all materials. First-time attendees get a discount! We have partial scholarships available if needed. Register online at [Retreat Form](#) and pay at [United Women in Faith | Smoky Hill United Methodist Church](#). We will also have a registration table available following Sunday service. Questions? Contact Jana Jones at JL.jones@outlook.com or nan.friday@gmail.com.

Your soul will be happy you came!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COUNTERS NEEDED

WE NEED HELP COUNTING THE
MONEY THAT HAS COME IN
THROUGH THE WEEK AND
DURING SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP.

WE NEED 2 PEOPLE COUNTING EACH
SUNDAY. YOU CAN COME AFTER THE
OFFERING IS COLLECTED.

REACH OUT TO CRYSTAL IF YOU
CAN HELP!!

USHERS NEEDED

Can you help?

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 important part of hospitality at Smoky Hill UMC. It is not just handing out bulletins and collecting the offering, but, for example, 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. Can you please help? Training will be provided. For more information, please contact Susan Hora (636-236-6549 call or text), cusaglass@gmail.com

Kairos Prison Ministry – Volunteers Needed

Would you be interested in sharing God's unfailing love and grace in a place where a lot of hurt people are? Kairos Prison Ministry connects with those incarcerated and those impacted by those incarcerated – inside and outside the prison walls. An ecumenical volunteer team partners together to bring the healing love of Jesus to those who often feel thrown away. (Kairos is similar to other 4-day retreats like Walk to Emmaus and Cursillo.)

Kairos Colorado will be hosting Kairos Outside #9 Retreat
Fri, Sep 26 (1pm) to Sun, Sep 28 (4pm)
Highlands Retreat Center, Allenspark, CO

We will welcome women who have been impacted by incarceration through a family member, spouse, and/or if they were incarcerated.

Would you be interested in serving on the team to bring God's loving and healing grace to the guests who will attend?

There are 2 ways to serve:

1. Part of Core Team – where you serve throughout the weekend in some kind of direct capacity with guests. 3 Saturday Team trainings are required. They are held at Smoky Hill UMC: Aug 9, Aug 23, Sep 13 – 8am-4pm. I realize that team trainings are a time commitment, but it is important to build team cohesion and learn all the details of the weekend. Only women can serve as a core team member. Please consider it. And you become part of a community that loves and supports each other as we do this ministry. There is no cost to be a core team member.
2. As a Day Angel during the retreat – serve for a few hours, all day, or even multiple days at any time during the weekend for what time you have available. This work is behind the scenes, setting up rooms for meetings or meals, whatever is needed. Angels are an essential part of making the weekend work. Men and women are welcome to be angels. There is some interaction between our men volunteers and guests; they play an important role in showing positive Christian male representation as part of the weekend. There may be a cost if you stay at the retreat center to volunteer from day to day instead of driving to/from home.

Also, do you know someone impacted by incarceration who could be our guest? Would they perhaps be interested in attending the weekend? There is no cost. Transportation assistance can be offered. Please let me know so they can be contacted and invited.

Want to volunteer on Core Team?

Want to be a day Angel?

Know anyone who could be a Guest to attend?

Contact Natalie.

Please reach out to Rev. Natalie Marionneaux at nmarionneaux@mtnskyumc.org and (720) 688-9006. She is glad to answer any questions, provide more details. She has applications to be a team member, angel, and guest. She will put you in touch with the weekend's leader, who happens to be a member of Deer Park UMC in Bailey.

I have volunteered on Kairos teams Inside (in Louisiana) and Outside (in Colorado). It is a powerful experience for those attending as well as volunteers. It is a life-giving experience for all who attend/volunteer.

Be a blessing and be blessed. I welcome the opportunity to share this powerful ministry with you.



WORSHIP

Worship with Us!

Sundays 10:00 AM

Livestream on FB & YouTube

Adult Sunday School 9 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**

For the Facebook link please contact Pastor Lucia

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



**Spanish English
Combined Worship
Sunday, August 24th
10:00 AM**

**Potluck after service ~ bring a dish to share!
Grill Team will provide burgers and hotdogs**



SMOKY HILL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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