

ELEMENTS

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



Patti's Ponderings

Summer is a season of senses. The taste of a peach as you slurp up the juices. The sight of giant thunderheads billowing up in the sky. The sounds of children playing in a park. The smell of hamburgers on a grill. The cool refreshing feel of water on tired feet in a mountain stream. Thank God for our senses which enhance our experience of the world in which we live.

Typically, for people with healthy eyes, sight is our dominant sense we encounter the world through. However, sight makes a limited impression and there is so much more to life than what we see.

I listened to a conversation I recommend about a man who traveled to India with a group of both blind and sighted travelers, all equal participants, there to help one another experience the trip more fully. (The Daily: "Sites Unseen" <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/24/podcasts/the-daily/sites-unseen-whats-revealed-by-traveling-with-the-blind.html>) It was fascinating listening to Andy's reflections on his travels in India. As he guided a blind person at the Taj Mahal, describing everything he saw, he slowed down, and experienced it more deeply as he was challenged to find words to do what he saw justice. One blind person he was partnered with, Candy, was not very interested in him describing the physical details of everything. Rather, she wanted him to share about the reality of life in India. So, he described the laundry hanging and the struggles and beauty of what people were doing. A much deeper experience of India than merely looking at all the colorful and unique buildings around.

So, I have a challenge for us this summer. Get out of our comfort zones and find a way to expand our experience via our senses. Maybe sit on your patio or a bench at a mall. Close your eyes. What do you hear? What do you smell? Perhaps partner with someone and go on a walk through your neighborhood. One of you close your eyes, the other guide and describe what you see. The one with eyes closed shares the smells and sounds and other impressions. Then switch. Perhaps, set up some food on a table and eat while blindfolded. I know, that will be messy, but fun! How are the tastes enhanced when you aren't relying on your sight? How do you experience the texture of the food differently?

Engage your senses this summer and see how it expands your experience of the world in which we live.

I will be providing an opportunity to explore this more fully at an outdoor worship service at The Land on Saturday, June 27th at 10:00 am. (840 S. Powhatan Rd.) Dress for the weather, we will gather under tent canopies and share in singing, reflection, and readings out on the prairie as well as engaging all of our senses.

Enjoy your summer! ~Pastor Patti



From the Associate Pastor's Desk



Why June Pride Month Matters...

As many people know, I like to read. And it may surprise you that I like to read books and articles from a variety of authors who have different opinions.

That is why I was surprised when David Brooks, who is a moderate conservative Republican made the statement that diversity makes us better. In a speech made to the Alliance for Responsible

Citizenship, September 2025, he states that the principles of conservative values, which truly do value the worth and dignity of all people, are under attack.

As a moderate Republican, Brooks has come under attack himself for challenging the recent trend to move away from diversity, equity and inclusion. He has also challenged the idea that having compassion and empathy for others is not only an important part of Christianity but also for conservative politics.

Over the last year, LGBTQI+ rights have been facing an unprecedented volume of legislative challenges from federal and state-level actions heavily targeting transgender healthcare, administrative identity markers and educational curriculum. HR 2616 has advanced in the US House, aiming to ban federal funding for schools teaching, "concepts related to gender ideology" while forcing the outing of transgender students to their families. On the state level, there are over 529 Anti-LGBTQ bills that are being considered across the country. From deciding about who can use a restroom or use a chosen gender rather than one assigned at birth, the freedom for individuals to make their own choice is up for vote and the consequences are causing many in the LGBTQI+ people to move and relocate to places where they are understood and welcomed.

So, what does this mean for Smoky Hill?

As a reconciling congregation, Smoky Hill has made the commitment for everyone to be welcome and that God's grace is available to all.

For worship on June 7th, we will listen to the stories of members that have moved to Colorado and who attend Smoky Hill because of discrimination experienced by living in other states or attending churches that are not so welcoming. Our Rainbow Alliance will lead the worship and will host a reception after service to celebrate how Smoky Hill comes together Gay and Straight to care and support each other.

On June 14th, I will be preaching about how the first, "Gotcha" passage in the bible isn't really about Sodom and Gomorrah being "gay" but has been taken out of context. After worship on the 14th, the Rainbow alliance will be presenting a movie about how translations started to interpret passages of scriptures using personal bias in "1946" rather than understanding the true meaning and context of biblical texts.

We will celebrate Vacation Bible Camp June 22-26 and then Pastor Patti will share with us her thoughts as our country moves into celebrating 250 years! What better way than to attend and worship in a church that welcomes everyone?

So, embrace the rainbow and take a moment to learn from and understand each other. Pride does matter, and everyone is welcome to the parade!

Blessings,
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.

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.

Non-alcoholic
options!

Beer & Theology

Pet Friendly!

Monday, June 1st @ 6:00 pm



Join Rev. Glen and friends for
beer tasting and theology talking.

Launch Pad Brewery
884 South Buckley Road in Aurora

Light appetizers available for those who attend!



Please RSVP to 303-690-9816 or churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org

Our 3rd Beer & Theology outing will be June 1st at Launch Pad Brewery at 6:00 pm.

If you haven't made it to our past two gatherings, you are not going to want to miss this one!

Launch Pad Brewery is an award winning local brewery located at 884 South Buckley Road in Aurora Colorado.

If you would like to know more about their history, go to <https://launchpadbrewery.com>

They even have their own app you can download to your phone and if you sign up for their rewards program, free beer can be yours!

Please send an email to Glen or Lynne if you would like to attend. We will have light appetizers available for those who attend, and non-alcoholic beverages will also be available.

While some members will be away for a mission trip to Alamosa, this will be a great opportunity to network with other church members and to continue our discussion on finding grace in Old Testament scriptures.

Hope to see you there!

Rev Glen

associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org



CHILDREN & FAMILY

Children and Family Ministries, June 2026

**KIDS
SUMMER CHILDREN'S
CHURCH**

Worship and Summer Children's Church from
10:00 - 11:00 am. Meet in Gathering Space for
modified lessons and fun, or stay in Worship with
your parents.

4th Sunday of month Worship as a Family.
(will be inside and outside all summer)

Nursery care for all kids up to the age of 5 is available from 9:30 - 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
(if you are attending an adult class, Crystal will have stuff for the kids to do)

June Events

June 7st - 9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir.
10:00 am Worship & Children's Church.

June 14th - 9:30am Children's Choir sound check.
10:00 am Worship & Children's Church.

June 21st - 9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir.
10:00 am Worship & Children's Church.

**We will start in Sanctuary watch our Children's choir sing for Father's day, then off to Children Church.

June 22nd to 26th - VBC 5:30 to 7:45pm.

June 28th - Worship & VBC Celebration at 10:00 am. Kids will be leading Worship. Grill team after for lunch.

Meet Crystal or Team member in Gathering space for Summer Children's Church (CC) or stay in Worship.

Time to register and Crystal is looking for many Volunteers!!!

Middle and High school can volunteer.

June 22nd to 26th 5:30 to 7:45 pm.



June 28th will be VBC Celebration Worship at 10am. Kids will be leading Worship, you do not want to miss this Sunday.

Snowball Mountain Challenge “Find your Strength in GOD”

Vacation Bible Camp June 22nd to 27th from 5:30 -7:45 pm. FREE kids 3 yrs and up.

You can register your kids here: <https://forms.gle/iHdiXPoYzXQFqQQUA>

NEED MANY HELPERS: Middle and High school can volunteer.

Reach out to Crystal or email at crystald@smokyhillumc.org

June 28th – VBC Celebration Sunday

Do not worry, we will have a water ball toss during VBC - Friday, June 26th (could change due to weather) and after Worship Sunday, June 28th. Our grill team will also be out front on the 28th.

FREE & SNACKS PROVIDED!! Thank you to our Men’s group for covering the expenses.

Mother's Day – our Children Choir sang a beautiful song for all our mothers, Aunts, and Grandmas.

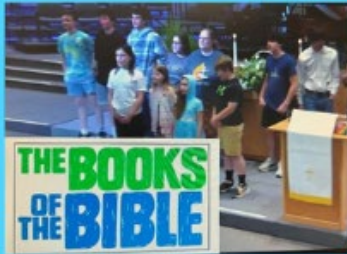


May 17th was a busy day for the Children at Smoky Hill!!

Congratulations to all our kids that have moved up a grade in school. Teacher Appreciation and Ice Cream party!

Remember you all are a blessing to me & Smoky Hill. Have a great summer.

Move up day at Smoky Hill UMC



3rd Grade and Youth singing Books of The Bible.

Thank you Acolytes for all your help in Worship.



Thank you Teachers, we are blessed to have you all.



All kids moving up one grade level.



5th Grade moving into Youth Group.





Here's a look into the amazing 2025-2026 youth year we've had, in pictures. It shows each one of our youth and the JOY this group can bring to one another. [Click here to watch our youth year recap video!](#)

Congrats to our **2026 seniors**, as we watched 3 of you sign your names to the youth room wall on Celebration Sunday. You will be missed, but you'll always be part of our youth family memories!

A special shoutout to our **Youth Sponsors** – Tom Dosch, John Richard, Ashley Duncan, Natalie Fetter, Debbie Kemper, Laura Dosch, and last but not least... Caleb Sizemore. I'm TRULY grateful for all you give to this group in your unique ways. Youth group is much stronger with each of you in the mix! Your commitment is NEVER taken lightly.

Second shoutout to **Caleb Sizemore**, who has also been our leader for youth music this year. We will SO miss him, as his family moves to Ohio this summer. What a gift he has been in so many ways. I'm so so glad God led him to us!

– Jen, Youth Director





JUSTICE MINISTRIES


RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Friday Night at the Movies – Summer Film Series

This summer, the Smoky Hill United Methodist Church Racial Justice Task Force invites you to join us for a special three-part “Friday Night at the Movies” series in Celebration Hall. Together, we’ll watch thought-provoking films that explore justice, compassion, dignity, and our shared humanity.

These evenings are intended to create space for reflection, conversation, and community. We welcome not only our church family, but friends, neighbors, and surrounding churches as well.


Friday, June 19 – 6:00 PM

 *I Was a Stranger*

When a Syrian doctor is forced to flee Aleppo with her young daughter, one desperate choice sets off a chain of events that pulls four strangers together across borders and cultures. This moving story explores displacement, sacrifice, mercy, and the human connections that emerge in times of crisis.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1990352151865?aff=oddtcreator>

Friday, July 17 – 6:00 PM

 *All the Empty Rooms*

This powerful documentary reflects on the lasting impact of gun violence through the preserved bedrooms of children lost in school shootings. Through the stories of grieving families, the film invites viewers into a deeper conversation about memory, loss, and humanity.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1990352403618?aff=oddtcreator>

Friday, August 14 – 6:00 PM

 *Just Mercy*

Based on a true story, *Just Mercy* follows attorney Bryan Stevenson as he fights to overturn the wrongful conviction of Walter McMillian, a Black man sentenced to death in Alabama. The film powerfully examines injustice, courage, and the pursuit of mercy within the legal system.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1990352521972?aff=oddtcreator>

Come for the movies, stay for the conversation, and join us as we seek greater understanding together. All are welcome.

You Are Invited to Be Part of the Work

At Smoky Hill United Methodist Church, we believe faith calls us not only to worship together, but to grow together — to listen, learn, love our neighbors, and pursue justice with compassion and humility.

The Racial Justice Task Force was created to help our church become a place where meaningful conversations can happen, where difficult topics can be approached with grace, and where understanding can lead to action.

This summer's "Friday Night at the Movies" series is one small part of that work. Through stories that explore immigration, gun violence, mercy, and justice, we hope to create opportunities for reflection, dialogue, and connection within our church and community.

But this ministry is about more than movies.

We are looking for people who are willing to:

- Help plan future events and discussions
- Welcome guests and build community
- Share ideas and perspectives
- Participate in thoughtful conversations
- Learn alongside others with open hearts and minds
- Help our church continue becoming a place of compassion, inclusion, and understanding

You do not need to be an expert. You do not need to have all the answers. You simply need a willingness to listen, learn, and care about the people around you.

This work matters because people matter.

If you have ever felt called to help build bridges, deepen understanding, or be part of creating a more compassionate community, we would love for you to join us.

Together, we can continue growing into the kind of church where everyone feels seen, valued, and welcomed.

To learn more about the Racial Justice Task Force or get involved, please contact Adam Kemper (Adam@adamkemper.com) or Kathy Brennan (pakorah@hotmail.com)

Casa de Paz Aids Immigrants

One of the organizations that the Racial Justice Task Force works with to help immigrants is the Interfaith Immigration Network. They in turn support Casa de Paz, an organization that helps immigrants when they are released from the GEO Aurora Detention Center. Click on this link to read about the important work they do.

<https://sentinelcolorado.com/metro/casa-de-paz-aids-immigrants-in-distress-released-from-aurora-ice-detention-center/>

Kathy Brennan (pakorah@hotmail.com)



In 1972, the United Methodist Church added language to the Book of Discipline stating that homosexuality was incompatible with Christian teaching. This decision ignited decades of debate across the Church. It took more than 50 years to remove this harmful language, thanks in part to the tireless work of Reconciling Ministries, founded in 1983, which helped educate others and bring attention to this injustice. Although we celebrate this doctrinal change, progress in local United Methodist churches has been slow. Today, fewer than 7% of U.S. United Methodist churches are part of the Reconciling Network. Our denomination still has important work to do to fully welcome and include the LGBTQIA community.

The Reconciling Ministries Network, of which Smoky Hill UMC has been a member since 2019, envisions a transformed Church that ensures justice, equity, and dignity for all of God’s children in their diverse intersecting identities.

If you would like to support the work of Reconciling Ministries, SHUMC will be accepting donations at our Pride Sunday Service, June 7th. Please make checks out to SHUMC and add RMNetwork to the memo line. Other options to donate anytime include online at RMNetwork.org/donate or use the QR Code below. Thank you for considering a donation to this important Mission.



Sunday, June 14th 11 am



invites you to a free showing of the documentary “1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture”

*Lunch & Childcare provided with RSVP by June 5th
303.690.9816 or churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org*



"A BIG THANK YOU to the many persons who worked so diligently to make our Rummage Sale a success. It would not have been possible without the hours and hours of work sorting and pricing the donated items, the dedication of folks working during the sale itself (including the huge effort of cleanup and transporting unsold items to charities), the tremendous amount of donations received from our congregation, and of course, those who came to buy some 'treasures'. A special shout-out to Sally Pula who volunteered as co-chairperson!"

Ushers & Welcome Desk

Do you enjoy greeting people with a smile and have a desire to help them feel welcome and comfortable? We are looking for folks to staff our Welcome Desk and to serve as Ushers. Our summer schedule of one worship service at 10:00 am will begin on May 24 so this would be an ideal time to 'learn the ropes'. Training will be provided for both positions though they are both easy and enjoyable. For more information, please contact Susan Hora, cusaglass@gmail.com, 636-236-6549 (call or text).

SHUMC Abundant Health

June is Men's Health Month



Make Prevention a Priority! Women are 100% more likely than men to visit the doctor for annual exams and preventive services. Many health conditions can be detected early with regular checkups from your healthcare provider. Learn more at menshealthnetwork.org/

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.

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.

Yoga at Smoky Hill: Yoga classes are being paused for the summer.

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



Summertime Music at SHUMC!

By: Dr. Dan Nebel

With our change to one worship service on Sundays for the summer, SHUMC music ministry are also modifying our schedules; it's the perfect time to consider joining a music group!

Summer Choir will start regular rehearsals in the music room on Sunday, May 31st following the 10:00 service. Summer Choir sings for service once a month (on June 14th, July 19th, and August 16th). Open to ages 11 and up, the music selections are easier than regular chancel choir, and you do not need to read music to participate in summer choir. Contact Dr. Dan at music@smokyhillumc.org for more information or just come to a rehearsal.

Good News Singers (open to ages 11 and up), our unaccompanied choir directed by Tim Davis, will sing throughout the summer (June 7th, July 26th, and August 31st) and rehearse in the music room on the three Wednesday evenings prior to each service 6:00-7:00 PM. For more information, please contact Tim at tcDavis660@comcast.net.

Children's Choir (open to first through fifth graders) will rehearse on Sundays June 7th and 14th at 9:30 AM to prepare to join the Praise Team and celebrate Father's Day on June 21st. Please contact Samantha Nila, our Children's Choir Director, at sjquino@gmail.com for more information.

Praise Team will continue with once-a-month services and our usual 6:30-8:00 PM rehearsals on Tuesday evenings in the sanctuary. We are always happy to welcome new vocalists, guitarists, and could especially use a bass guitarist. We will all miss our guitarist Caleb Sizemore when he moves out of state with his family at the end of July. For more information about Praise Team, please contact Dr. Dan at music@smokyhillumc.org.

Crystal Bells will not be providing music at services throughout the summer, but we will have three handbell choir workshops (6:00-7:00 PM) on Wednesdays, June 17th, July 22nd, and August 12th. We will learn bell ringing technique, try some change ringing, and read some music; you do not need to read music to participate. Handbell Choir assignments take significant preparation, so please RSVP to Dr. Dan at music@smokyhillumc.org if you plan to participate.



Summertime Music at Smoky Hill UMC!

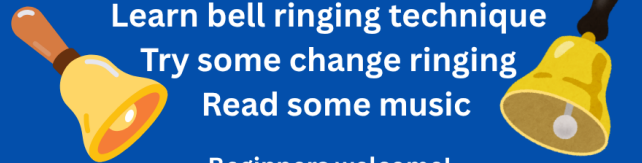
If you've ever wanted to join a musical group, ring bells, or play an instrument, here's your opportunity! Short-term commitments of fun!

- [Summer Choir](#) - Open to ages 11 and up, rehearsals Sundays @ 11am
- [Good News Singers](#) - Open to ages 11 and up, rehearsals Wed. @ 6pm
- [Children's Choir](#) - Open to 1st - 5th graders, rehearsals Sundays @ 9:30am
- [Praise Team](#) - Open to vocalists & guitarists, rehearsals Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
- [Crystal Bells](#) - Handbell choir workshops, Wed. 6/17, 7/22 & 8/12 @ 6pm

Contact Dan at music@smokyhillumc.org for questions and other opportunities to be a part of music at SHUMC this summer!

Handbell Choir Workshop

Wednesday, June 17 @ 6 pm



Learn bell ringing technique

Try some change ringing

Read some music

Beginners welcome!

You do not need to read music to participate!

Please RSVP to Dr. Dan at music@smokyhillumc.org

Smoky Hill United Methodist Church
19491 E Smoky Hill Rd
Centennial, CO 80015



STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

WHATAJEN PARTY! CELEBRATE JEN DAHLEN

Youth Director - Smoky Hill United Methodist Church

OPEN HOUSE:

June 8

6:00-8:00 PM

LOCATION:

Piney Creek Clubhouse

5800 S Joplin Way

*Jen is stepping aside to spend more time with her family - we will miss her!
Join us to celebrate her incredible years of dedication and love for our youth!*



BRING A CARD

Bring a thank you card to celebrate all her gifts and time with our youth!



CAN'T MAKE IT?

Drop cards at the church office with Lynne.



SHARE PHOTOS

Contact Tom Dosch: tomdosch@gmail.com to share your photos!

Please RSVP to 303-690-9816

Celebrating Jen Dahlen — A WHATAJEN Party Open House!

After years of faithful service, dedication, and love poured into the youth of Smoky Hill United Methodist Church, Youth Director Jen Dahlen is stepping aside to spend more time with her family. To honor everything she has meant to our community, we are throwing her a WHATAJEN Party Open House!

Monday, June 8 | 6:00–8:00 PM

Piney Creek Clubhouse — 5800 S Joplin Way

Come and go as your schedule allows! Bring a thank you card to share your appreciation for Jen's many gifts and her years of investment in our young people. If you are unable to attend, you are welcome to drop cards off at the church office with Lynne.

We also want to fill the room with memories! Tom Dosch is collecting photos from previous years featuring Jen's work with the youth — if you have pictures you'd like to contribute, please reach out to Tom tomdosch@gmail.com.

Jen, we are so grateful for all you have given to this church and to our youth.

Welcome Angelique,
our new Youth
Director! She begins
July 6, 2026.

Angelique Airington, New Youth Director



TRUSTEES

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.



UNITED WOMEN in FAITH

We all need a little



Soul Care

Attention All Women

You are Invited to a
Soul Care Mini-Retreat
June 20th from 9-1
at SHUMC
Celebration Hall

Reserve your spot
by June 10th!



Please join us as we invite newer women of our church to meet each other as well as our established members as we spend time together nourishing our souls.

What to expect? Singing. Lunch. Laughter. Table-talk. Exploring. "Me" time.

Cost: Free, but a \$10 donation to cover lunch is appreciated.

Child care is available on request - Contact Crystal at 303-587-5667

RESERVE YOUR SPOT by June 10th - text/call Jana Jones at 303-910-5199 or email JL.jones@outlook.com.

Do you have a female friend that also needs a little soul care time? Please invite her and register her with your RSVP.

Brought to you by Smoky Hill United Women in Faith



CAN'T BE HERE? Join the 10:00 AM English service on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)
To livestream the Spanish service, please contact Pastor Lucia for the link.

Pockets of Peace: Celtic Worship Service

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

Join on Zoom the 1st Thursday of the month.

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

Next Service: Thursday, June 4th at 8pm

Pockets of Peace

Join Pastor Patti on zoom Thursday, June 4th at 8 pm for Pockets 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. Contact church office for zoom link.



19491 E Smoky Hill Rd
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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