SMOKY HILL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ELEMENTS

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Patti's Ponderings

Blessed are you, autumn,
with your flair for drama
you call the poet in our hearts,
"return to the earth, become good soil:
wait for new seeds."

Blessed are you, autumn,
season of surrender,
you teach us the wisdom of letting go
as you draw us into new ways of living.

These stanzas of "An Autumn Blessing" by Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr have captured my imagination. Fall is a beautiful season that truly has a flair for drama! It is a threshold between summer and winter. A time to change out our wardrobes, putting sandals and t-shirts away and getting out our boots and sweaters. Food changes from berries to apples and all things pumpkin and spice. Gardens are put to rest. All with gratitude for what summer gifted us with, and with anticipation of what winter will bring.

Fall is a season of surrender. The leaves remind us to pause and to reflect on what we need to let go of. What in your life is no longer serving you? What resentments or fears can you let go of? What can you put to rest? As you let these "leaves" go, as you surrender, you are preparing the soil of your heart for new life.

The squirrels in my backyard have been especially busy scurrying around, preparing themselves for winter. As we transition from summer to winter, what soul work do we need to do to prepare for the holidays? Maybe set an intention to carve out space for your soul. Maybe set intentions and boundaries around family/social gatherings and gift giving traditions.

"Blessed are you autumn,
You draw us away from summer's hot breath.
As your air becomes frosty and cool
You lead us to inner reflection."

I encourage you to take some time for inner reflection in this threshold season to put summer to rest and to prepare for the winter ahead in your spiritual life. ~Pastor Patti

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, November 5th at 8:00 pm. Contact church office churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org for Zoom link.

Pockets of Peace: Celtic Worship Service

Thursday, November 5th 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

Celtic Spirituality Pilgrimage to Ireland



Join Pastor Patti and The Celtic Center on a pilgrimage to the island of Inis Mor this summer in late July (exact date hasn't been set yet.) Each day we will take a bus to an ancient site walk from ¼ to 1 mile to see a chapel, a well, a circle fort, or a portal tomb. At each site we will learn the stories of the saints who lived there and how they viewed God and the world. The Celtic perspective is renewing and inspiring. You will have time for reflection and contemplation. And your afternoons are free to shop or explore. This is a unique opportunity to grow deeper in faith and make new friends, as we retrace the steps of these ancient Celts. There is something about this island off the west coast of Ireland that will capture your soul. If you are interested, contact Pastor Patti pattia@smokyhillumc.org or come to her presentation on Celtic Saints on Wed. Nov. 18th at 7 pm in the Upper Room.

Deconstruction-Reconstruction Conversation
Are you inspired by Jesus, but struggle with the church? Were you taught a version of Christianity that you no longer resonate with, but you long for faith community? Then this group is for you! Pastor Patti will lead this conversation on Sunday, Nov. 22nd at 11:15. This week we will focus on Methodism 101. What makes the Methodist tradition unique? If you are interested in joining Smoky Hill UMC, then this class is for you! Please RSVP and let us know you're coming. Snacks will be provided.

Thanksgiving Eve Dinner Wed. Nov. 25th at 2:00
Join your church family for a Thanksgiving feast. Some of us don't have family to gather with on Thanksgiving, others just want another opportunity to eat! Turkey will be provided, you bring the sides: stuffing, potato dishes, cranberry options, veggies, and of course pies. Share your favorite Thanksgiving dish and join in fellowship. Please RSVP and let us know what you can bring. All are Welcome! (See eblast for sign up link.)





In 1633 a Dutch painter named Willem Claesz Heda did a series of still life paintings of objects that would never have been placed together on a table before Columbus discovered the Americas. While the series of paintings varied, the one picture here features a partially pealed lemon that was imported… olives, nuts, wine and beer also imported served in Venetian glass along with tobacco from West Virgina and several pipes… with one pipe broken.


This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

In addition to the messed-up tablecloth, there is an expensive serving tray overturned along with the broken pipe. The lit rope was used to light the tobacco after it was placed in the pipe.



For many of us today, we think, "So what… what is so innovative or surprising about this picture?" Heda painted this series of pictures to not only illustrate his talent in painting but to also raise a moral question. In a world of wealth and abundance what price did we pay? In some of his paintings, the expensive Venetian glass was also turned over spilling out its contents with the glass broken.

Slavery and trade after Columbus discovered the Americas brought a level of abundance and wealth Europe had never seen and yet there was no sense of peace about how some would have much while others would have little.

As we move into celebrating Thanksgiving as well as Christmas, we move into a time of celebrating abundance and being thankful… but if you are like myself, maybe you're just not feeling it.

While some of us maybe exchanging gifts that are rare and expensive, some of us will be fortunate to have a new pair of shoes or a new sleeping bag if they are homeless. The death of a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister or loved one… The loss of a job or the struggle to figure out how to pay for gas, the rent, mortgage, and the heating bill may make buying a Christmas gift… well, perhaps a nice thought.

The uncertainty with our economy and politics can also add to the stress we are feeling. The sour taste of citrus may overshadow those things that are sweet.

So, what are we to do? Do we cancel the holidays? No… but we can pull together to help all of us get through them.

For those who have lost someone they loved or who are grieving, I would like to invite you to brunch where we will gather together to talk about what we have lost and to talk about what we are grieving. Even if you are dealing with a job change, being estranged from family and friends or find yourself dealing with a lifestyle change, you may find something here to learn from.

For this workshop, we are going to talk about the work of Dr. Mary-Frances O'Connor who is a renowned neuroscientist who will share with us the science behind grief and how we can move forward with grief being a part of our life. Please save the date of Saturday November 7th from 9 to Noon. Please call Lynne (303) 690-9816 to RSVP and advise if you have any special dietary needs.

As we move through the holidays, please let us know how you are doing. If you would like prayer, please reach out to Pastor Patti, myself or anyone that is on staff. Pastor Lucia Correa, Dr. Dan Nebel, Crystal Duncan, Lynne Kersten and Angelique Airington are all here to help or will find a way to lead you to resources that can help. Please know that we seek to walk with you in your journey… and we know that not everyone will find the holidays a great place to be… but God does walk with us and works within us and that we are following Jesus to make the world a more loving and just place.

Hope to see you for brunch on November 7th or in worship on Sunday… in person or on the internet.
Peace and blessings, Rev. Glen Wood associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org

Good Grief Gathering



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

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

Beer & Theology

Please join us for our last Beer & Theology gathering for 2026!

We are currently booked to taste beers 5:30 on November 15th at the Bent Barley Creeks Location located at 15416 E Orchard Road, Unit D1 in Centennial.

Election results will either bring us together to celebrate or to cry in our beer!

We will have a tray of sandwiches and chips to bless as we do a recap of what we are thankful for this past year. Our topic of conversation will relate to how gratitude and thanksgiving is a part of our Christian faith.



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For 2027, we will also try to book dates, times and hosts for our future Beer and Theology events. If you are a beer or wine brewer, please let us know if you would be open to hosting in 2027!

A special thanks goes to the Stanleys for hosting this last year and for Steve's help in booking locations this last year.

So, let's lift a glass and give a toast for what we are grateful for!

Please RSVP to associatepastor@smokyhillUMC.org to let us know how much food to plan.
Blessings,
Rev. Glen Wood

Young at Heart Luncheon

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.

Please RSVP for the next luncheon on **Thursday, November 12th 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



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

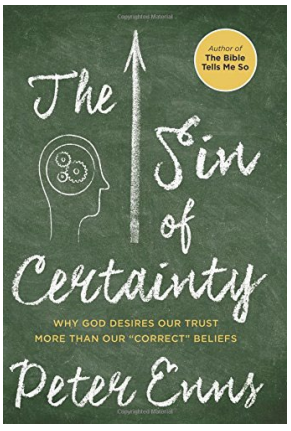
The Way of Faith – Sundays at 9:00 am in the Upper Room & on Zoom
This is an inclusive and open group whose focus is on God's love in our world today and how we can do better to live God's will in our lives. We start each class with a video that includes such authors and theologians as Richard Rohr, 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.

Justice & Joy Book Club
The UWF Justice & Joy Readers won't be meeting in November but will gather on Monday, December 21st, noon to 2pm in the Gathering Space for a Christmas potluck and book exchange.

Tuesday Theologians
You are invited to join **Tuesday Morning Theologians*** on November 3rd at 9 am as we begin a new 6-week book discussion (with a break for Thanksgiving) of **The Sin of Certainty– Why God Desires Our Trust More Than Our "Correct" Beliefs** by Peter Enns.



Peter Enns asks a question that sounds simple until we take it seriously: **What if faith is less about being sure we have the right answers and more about learning to trust God?** Many of us learned Bible stories and Christian teachings at an age when answers were often clear and reassuring. With passing years, the picture becomes more complicated. We meet good people whose beliefs differ from ours. We experience losses we cannot explain. We notice Bible passages that seem to disagree with one another. We may find that an explanation that helped us at age twenty no longer quite fits at seventy.

Enns thinks that none of this has to bring faith to an end. Our understanding of God can change without our relationship with God disappearing. In fact, a willingness to admit the limits of our understanding may be one of the ways faith grows.

*Don't be put-off by the name of our group: *Tuesday Morning Theologians*. We're probably more Pilgrims on a Journey than Theologians! It's a name we picked up a long time ago in a group that goes back 25 years. We're open and accepting of everyone, we have great discussions and we have great snacks, too! Contact John Tedrick at johntedrick@me.com to rsvp or for any questions.

Children and Family Ministries November

Worship and children's opportunities on Sunday Morning

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 help in a Sunday School class that would be appreciated. Here is a sign up to help.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4BAFA923A0FA7-65918625-parent

Trunk or Treat



Our weather was cloudy, windy and cold, but that did not stop the kids from coming! We had over 180 kids/adults come through our Trunk r Treat which included 12 trunks. Thank you everyone for the candy donations! We handed out all the candy.

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Our Pumpkin Patch was open and they stayed busy, with over $2,300 in sales for the day.

Our food trucks supplied everyone with some delicious food. Colorado Coney Company, Tacos El Jefe and Electric Bean Espresso Bar.



Thank you all for your support! It was a wonderful event for our Church and Community.

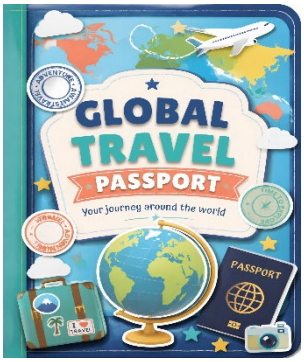


Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Save the Date:



December 24th: Christmas Eve Services:



4:00 pm Family Service – Global Travel Passport. Kids will help lead Worship and singing songs.

7:00 pm Traditional Service

11:00 pm Communion Service

YOUTH



FOOD FOR ALL

Help the SHUMC YOUTH feed local families!

Through Sunday, 11/8 we're collecting **300 cans of evaporated milk (12oz)** and **20 - $25 grocery gift cards** (Walmart, King Soopers, or Safeway).

FINANCE



2027 Pledge Drive

It's not too late to turn in a Pledge Card!

Reminder to turn in your pledge, if you haven't already. Thanks to everyone who has turned theirs in. We appreciate your faithfulness and generosity. Together we can!

JUSTICE MINISTRIES

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING FROM A NATIVE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

There are many versions and myths surrounding the origin of Thanksgiving. A common story of the first Thanksgiving suggests that Native people (the Wampanoag) and Pilgrims came together to celebrate the survival of the fragile Plymouth colony. It is true that the Wampanoag did interact with Europeans for many years before the Pilgrims arrived and taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn, beans and squash. But in this version of history, Native people play a supporting role to the Pilgrims who "paved the way for American prosperity." This story is a myth. Most historians document that in 1621 there was indeed a First Thanksgiving, but Native people were not invited guests to this feast. The Wampanoag soldiers heard celebratory gunshots and thought the Pilgrims were under attack. They showed up as part of a mutual defense treaty between the Wampanoag Nation and the Pilgrims. It wasn't until after the formation of the United States that narratives of a joyful celebration were created to justify "manifest destiny." We know today that this westward expansion led to the theft of Native land and sought to eliminate Native languages, cultural practices, and food systems. But Native nations are still here, and Native people are strong and resilient. They continue to preserve their culture and protect their communities.

It's important to know that for many Native Americans, Thanksgiving is a day of mourning since it commemorates the arrival of settlers in North America and the centuries of genocide and oppression that followed. While some Native Americans have chosen to reject Thanksgiving entirely, many embrace the holiday because giving thanks is central to Native heritage. Long before settlers arrived, Native tribes celebrated the harvest and the gift of the earth's abundance. Native American spirituality emphasizes gratitude for creation, care for the environment, and the human need for communion with others.

Thanksgiving is a chance to appreciate God's blessings and enjoy the gifts of family, community, and nature. Together, let us pledge to remove the barriers between us and honor the resilience of Native Americans. As we gather this Thanksgiving, we wish the hearts of all people to be filled with gratitude, hope, and peace.

~Jeff Rasp

MEN'S GROUP

BREAKFAST MEETING

The next Men's Group Breakfast Meeting will be **Saturday, November 14th, 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

GRILL TEAM THANKS YOU!

Thank you to all the people who supported the SHUMC Grill Team throughout the summer season! Your support of the Grill Team, in turn, supports many activities of SHUMC as the Men's Group shares proceeds with many SHUMC programs!



MISSION

Christmas in the Park

This year the Smoky Hill UMC Giving Tree will benefit Christmas In The Park. This is an interfaith event that takes place Christmas Day and benefits the unhoused in Denver. We are collecting new and gently used adult, warm shoes and boots. We will also collect adult size socks, laces, insoles and foot powder. The tree is yet to come, but please keep an eye open for these items as you clean your living space or shop for the holidays. Questions? Would you like to join us on Christmas? We would love to have you! Contact Marta Nielsen: 720-271-0691 or martanielsen@yahoo.com

Christmas in the Park News Clip:
https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/interfaith-volunteers-spend-holiday-helping-hundreds-of-coloradans-who-are-homeless-or-in-need/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKZeW1leHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETExeUc5ZnFXQ2lvZXVScks0AR6yVgx_AkldfR4Gpx2g-_srwNqPn4hipfx9CCNYWeIiNutLs4rdD9PYuV88IA_aem_kTkwe2YJ6bmsTDfbVa5F2A

MARCH 3-11, 2027
ECUADOR MISSION TRIP

David and Shari Nelson from the Broomfield UMC are planning a Mission Trip to Ecuador to build a school for a week in March 2027. They are taking a group from their church and have opened it up to SHUMC. The Nelsons are experienced United Methodist Volunteers in Mission and it's a great opportunity to experience meaningful service, cultural immersion, and spiritual growth. If you would like the application, please contact churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org



SHUMC Abundant Health



Are you or a loved one living with Alzheimer's disease? Help is available! Contact the Alzheimer's Foundation of America toll free at 866-232-8484 or visit their website at Alzheimer's Awareness Month | Alzheimer's Foundation of America for information about resource services, healthy aging tips and even a free virtual memory screening.

On the Move with Smoky Hill UMC

Yoga with Dan 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 to learn about hikes, bowling, kayaking, fishing, and new recipes!



Please help spread the word about Yoga with Dan on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. This is open to the church and the community. It is a free class, but Dan will take donations for Music Ministries here at SHUMC.

Dan is a professional yoga instructor with lots of experience. All levels are welcome, including beginners.

Questions?
Contact Dan music@smokyhillumc.org

MUSIC

As we move into our celebration of *Advent Around the World* and the holiday season, there are a few exciting upcoming music events and services in December.

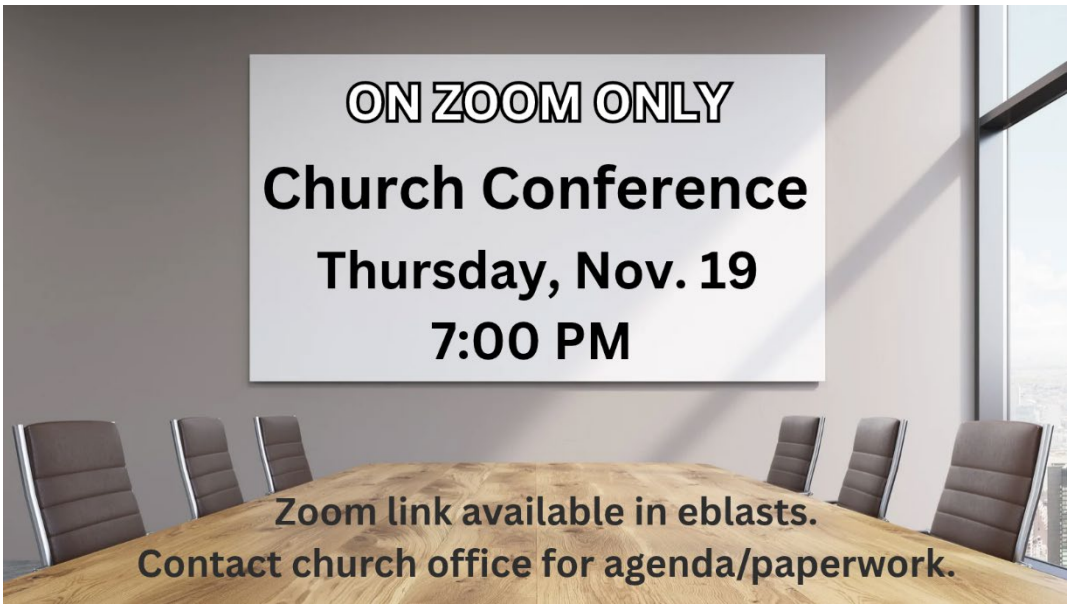
Start off your holiday season with a free concert of holiday music, including a holiday sing along, presented by Dr. Dan Nebel in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 PM. Donations will be accepted and support the music programs at Smoky Hill. Dan will also be presenting the music program for the Young at Heart Luncheon on Thursday, December 10th.

The following Sunday, December 13th, will be the music department's Christmas Cantata (in conjunction with the annual cookie jamboree), featuring all of our different ensembles celebrating holiday music traditions from around the world. We are already rehearsing for the Christmas Cantata, but it's not too late to join an ensemble and participate!

Each of our three different Christmas Eve services will feature different musical groups and styles. Our 4:00 service is wiggle-friendly and features the Sunday School Children's Christmas Pageant and Children's Choir. The 7:00 service is a traditional service with the Chancel Choir, Good News Singers, and our handbell choir Crystal Bells. It will be preceded by 20 minutes of holiday music. The 11:00 service welcomes Young Adults for a pre-service social hour and brings in Christmas Day with our Praise Team and Youth Choir.

Dr. Dan is still collecting Tidy Cat buckets (empty and clean please) for use as drums in next summer's Vacation Bible Camp; drop them by the church music room or office anytime.

Church Charge Conference
On Zoom Only
THURSDAY, NOV. 19



Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83262981793?pwd=anpiOHNBdnNjN0M4bXA1YmMvZ3Zrdz09
Meeting ID: 832 6298 1793
Passcode: aH4jPQ

Agenda and paperwork available week of conference.

TRUSTEES

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.



UNITED WOMEN in FAITH



Many thanks to all who helped set up, bake cookies, sell items, invited their friends, shopped, cleaned up or in any way helped make the craft fair a success! Our annual Craft Fair helps us raise and send money to United Women in Faith Missions benefiting women, children and youth in the United States and around the world!

Sunday, November 15
Smoky Hill UWFaith Program and Potluck Brunch

Please bring a soup or salad dish to share. Please register using the QR Code above or use this link: or RSVP to 303-690-9816 or churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org



Saturday, November 21
Doll Ministry Sewing Day



Help needed!

Doll Ministry Sewing Day

Saturday Nov 21 9-3PM
Rooms L 26 and 27

Christmas is around the corner and we want to have the dolls dressed and ready!

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.

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

BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch!)

WORSHIP

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.

SMOKY HILL
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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