



ELEMENTS

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Advent: A Celtic Journey of Preparation

Advent marks a special time of preparation as we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. This year, our Advent season will embrace a Celtic flavor, drawing from their tradition that extends Advent to 40 days or six Sundays. Accordingly, our first Sunday of Advent will be November 16th. During this season, I encourage you to adopt spiritual practices that help bring focus amidst the busyness and chaos. As we pause and reflect, we may find ourselves surprised by the presence of God, who tends to show up out of the blue in our daily lives.

Jesse Tree: Stories of Faith and Heritage

Each week during our Sunday worship, we will center our reflections around the Jesse Tree. This ancient practice, popularized during the medieval period, offers a symbolic depiction of Jesus' family tree. Every Sunday, we will explore the story of one of Jesus' ancestors, complemented by tales of Celtic saints and contemporary heroes of faith. Through these stories, we bear witness to the steadfastness of God's presence, even within the complexities of human existence and messiness of human families. These narratives invite us to participate in the ongoing flow of God's love and purpose, connecting us with our ancestors and guiding us today.

Contemplative Worship: Awakening to God's Presence

In addition to our Sunday gatherings, I will lead an evening contemplative service Mondays at 8 PM on Zoom (*details will be provided soon*). Inspired by the words of Carl McColman—"In silence we find our souls. In our souls we find the presence of God."—we will gather to read scripture, share Celtic prayers, and listen to soul-stirring music. These practices will help us awaken to God's presence in our lives in this busy season.

~Pastor Patti



Grief, Anger, Forgiveness & Gratitude

So, as we move into November, there is this pressure to be grateful.

Giving Thanks is an expectation.

But how do we do this when things seem so broken?

In the Old Testament, when things become tough for the people of Israel, there is a call for people to dream dreams and to have visions.

Joel 2:28... And afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all people, your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams and your young men will have visions.

These words seem impossible for anyone who is grieving, has lost their job or is dealing with needing to move or relocate. Dream dreams? Really?

And yet, when we stop dreaming, we stop living.

Some of my dreams help me to remember people I love and who loved me.

Some of my dreams remind me that God calls us to think of others.

Some of my dreams are about living in a world where people do care for each other and that all receive justice.

Having a bed, having a room, having food on the table is a dream for too many people... and for us who have those "things" we can be afraid not to have them or that giving to others will mean less for yourself...

And yet, some of us see things differently.

Last week, I took a cup of coffee up to a homeless person who was sitting on a curb.

I'm not sure why I did it. I didn't even know if he liked coffee.

He just seemed cold and alone.

I asked him if he would like a cup of hot coffee and a biscuit I had just bought.

A huge smile came across his face and he said, "Thank you.... I've been so cold and was dreaming about being warm." We talked for a while, and he smiled again as he talked about his dream to find a way to rebuild his life.

Maybe it's time to dream and to work for that dream to become real...

And be thankful for all things.

For those of us who are able...

May you be blessed to be a blessing.

Rev. Glen



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.**

Tuesday Morning Theologians

Join us for a variety of book studies throughout the school year.

Tuesday Morning Theologians meet from 9 to 11 am in Room 214.

For more information or to RSVP contact John Tedrick at johntedrick@me.com or John Richard at jhrcolorado@icloud.com.

This group does not meet during summer months.

Lunch Bunch

All women are invited to join the United Women in Faith Tuesday Lunch Bunch for our next book study and lunch together. Tuesday Lunch Bunch reads various books during the school year. Lunch Bunch does not meet for classes during the summer months.

Join us on **Tuesdays at 11:30 in room 214** during the school year. For more information contact Kathy Tedrick, kathytedrick@me.com

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 second Thursdays 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.

To see all of our Adult Classes and Groups, please see our website or call the church office at 303-690-9816.



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.

Fall 2025 "How We All Get Free" Schedule

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

What to Expect:

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](#)



Here are some pictures from our October 16 Young At Heart Lunch. We were entertained by our musical guests, Larry Pennington and Don Heiser, members of the Blue Sky Mountain Band.

NOVEMBER YOUNG AT HEART LUNCH & PROGRAM



Young At Heart Luncheon Thursday, Nov. 20th at 11:30 am

Join us for a catered Baked Potato Bar lunch and program about Alzheimer's and other diseases that cause dementia.

Our guest speaker is Bobbie D'Addario, Senior Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado.

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

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

We will talk about Alzheimer's and other diseases that can cause dementia. We will cover the most obvious warning signs, preventative measures and behaviors.

Bobbie is the Senior Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado, which is 3rd in the world for research. We will touch on some of the latest research as well.



CARE & PRAYER



Happy Birthday to Jane Isernhagen
It's Jane's 80th birthday on December 1

**Let's all send her a birthday card to
mark her special day!**

Jane Isernhagen
Brookdale Greenwood Village #1205 AL
6450 S. Boston St.
Greenwood Village, CO. 80111

Journeys in Faith-Winter Edition

For those who are needing support with grief, please know we have a resource for you at no charge. Journeys in Faith is a resource for anyone who is experiencing the loss of a family member or friend. This "Winter Edition" will focus on grief as well as provide ways to move through the holidays when you are dealing with loss. Please send Rev Glen an email to request this resource at associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org. Also indicate what email address you would like to receive this resource.

Thanksgiving Eve Dinner

Wednesday, Nov. 26th at 2:00 pm

Join your faith family for a thanksgiving potluck feast!
**Turkey provided. You bring the sides
and desserts.**

**Please RSVP & Sign-Up by
Wednesday, Nov. 19th**
**Look for the link in eblasts
or call 303-690-9816**

Thanksgiving Dinner

The staff invite you to a Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 26th at 2 pm. All are welcome, especially those who do not have family close by to share a meal with. We will cook the turkeys and invite you to bring your favorite side dishes.

Please RSVP and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C49AFAC2DA4F58-60083960-thanksgiving>



Children and Family Ministries November 2025

Worship and children's opportunities on Sunday Morning

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

****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/F2GL8ri3wwU8mvLd8>

We still need some helpers in our Sunday school classes. If you can give a Sunday, please reach out.

Children's Choir



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

Sunday Mornings.

**If you are new and want to join come to the
choir room.**



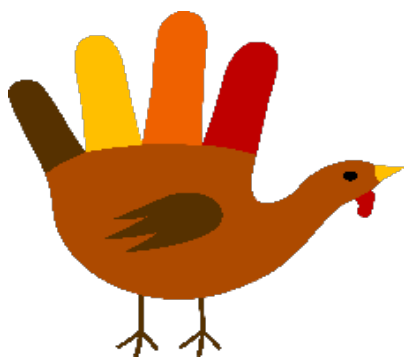
Trunk R Treat, our weather was beautiful. We had over 200 kids/adults come through our Trunk r treat which included 14 trunks.

Thank you everyone for the candy donations, we handed out all the candy.

Our pumpkin patch was open, and they stayed busy, with over \$2,800 in sales for the day.

Our food trucks supplied everyone with some delicious food. Colorado Coney Company and Denver Dough Boy.

Thank you all for your support, it was a wonderful event for our Church and Community.



Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

November Events

- Nov. 2nd - 8:30 am Worship & Children's Church
9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir rehearsal
10:00 am Worship & Sunday School
- Nov. 9th - 8:30 am Worship & Children's Church
9:30 - 9:55 am NO Children's Choir rehearsal
10:00 am Worship & Sunday School
- Nov. 16th - 8:30 am Worship & Children's Church
9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir rehearsal
10:00 am Worship & Sunday School
- Nov. 23rd - 8:30 am Worship & Worship as a Family
9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir rehearsal
10:00 am Worship & Worship as a Family
- Nov. 30th - 8:30 am Worship & Children's Church
9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir rehearsal
10:00 am Worship & Sunday School- fun day



Save the date:



December 24th: Christmas Eve Services:

4:00 pm Family Service – Jesus’ Family Tree. Kids will be leading worship.
7:00 pm Traditional
11:00 pm Communion



FINANCE



Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

Love boldly. Serve Joyfully. Lead Courageously.

I am grateful for so many of you who are part of our vital mission and ministries here at Smoky Hill UMC. This is a church that makes a difference for good in our community and beyond. We have big dreams to continue this work in our world that so desperately needs more love. Each one of you matters and contributes to the work. Your generosity drives our capacity. Please take time to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Smoky Hill UMC and turn in a pledge card. If you did not receive the stewardship letter, you can find it here [Stewardship Letter](#). And here is a QR code for the Pledge card. We will celebrate our ministry and generosity in worship on Nov. 9th.



2026 Pledge Card



JUSTICE MINISTRIES

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

ICE is ramping up and it's getting worse.

ICE Incidents Since Aug 1, 2025

Between Aug 1 and Oct 27, at least **7 distinct press-reported incidents** point to serious harm, misconduct, or oversight failures tied to ICE: **three deaths in custody** (PA, AZ, FL); **two deaths during raids** (Monrovia, CA; Norfolk, VA); a documented pattern of **excessive force** against protesters outside an Illinois ICE facility; and an investigative series revealing ICE's use of a **full-body restraint** ("the WRAP") on deportation flights even when people were already shackled. This is a conservative count focused on incidents with clear documentation in that window.

The picture that emerges is of an agency with rising custody deaths, aggressive tactics during community operations, and persistent oversight gaps—despite repeated warnings from inspectors general, civil-rights units, and watchdog groups. These events aren't isolated; they reflect systemic problems across detention conditions, use-of-force practices, and accountability.

By the numbers

- **7** major press-reported incidents (Aug 1–Oct 27, 2025)
- **20** deaths in ICE custody in **2025** (deadliest year in decades)
- **~60,000** people detained nationwide (multi-year high)
- **1** full-body restraint used on deportation flights (the WRAP), despite civil-rights concerns
- **Multiple** inspector findings this fall: missing CCTV for use-of-force reviews, language-access gaps, legal-access barriers, and grievance/segregation issues

The oversight is only part of the problem. The GAO (May 21, 2025) says DHS/ICE **lack clear performance goals and measures** for detention-facility inspection programs; nearly all facilities "pass," yet recurring **life-, health-, and safety** deficiencies persist.

And based on the trends, things are only getting more intense in this area. Harms rise when racially skewed policing funnels people into custody, and numeric incentives favor detention and speed over safety and due process. Structural racism and numeric detention incentives interact: racially biased pipelines push Black and Brown immigrants into a system financed and measured by headcounts and throughput—conditions that predict more deaths, neglect, and force incidents.

So what do we do? We support our neighbors, we defend our communities and we help organizations like The Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN). They provide free immigration legal and social services to immigrant children and to adults in immigration detention. Their values represent the values we stand with:

We believe that justice for immigrants means justice for all. We respect the needs and celebrate the contributions of the individuals and communities that we serve. We believe our clients are equal partners in accessing justice. We value respect for all human beings, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or legal status. We believe in valuing and respecting the contributions of our board, staff, and volunteers. We believe in a working environment that fosters personal and professional growth and strives for excellence.

Here are some resources to support:

[KNOW YOUR RIGHTS](#)

[DONATE TO RMIAN](#)

[STAY INFORMED](#)

Let's stand with justice and defend those seeking a better life in our community.

Leviticus 19:33–34 (NIV) *"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt."*

Faith in a Future Without Gun Violence

Sunday, Nov. 16th @ 11:30 am

Join us as we learn about the crisis of gun violence and how to take action toward hope and healing.



Colorado Faith Communities
United to End Gun Violence

- The facts beyond the politics
- Faithful responses to violence
- Hope and strength through community

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

Lunch & childcare provided with RSVP to 303-690-9816

✨ Faith in a Future Without Gun Violence ✨

"Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good." – Romans 12:21

♥ The Crisis

Gun violence touches every part of American life—schools, churches, public spaces, even our homes. The headlines can leave us feeling powerless, divided, and afraid.

But as people of faith, we know we are called to something greater.

☀ The Hope

This is a public health crisis—and like crises we've faced before, we can overcome it. With God's help, and with each other's support, we can move from fear to faith, and from despair to determination.

👏 Why You Should Join Us

On **Sunday, November 16 at 11:30 a.m.**, Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU) will guide us through:

- ✓ The facts beyond the politics
- ✓ Faithful responses to violence
- ✓ Hope and strength through community

† Our Call

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds ... encouraging one another." – Hebrews 10:24–25

Together, we will pray, learn, and take action toward healing and safety.

📅 **When:** Sunday, November 16, 11:30 a.m.

🍽 **Lunch Provided**

💡 **Presented by:** Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence

👉 **Come for the facts. Stay for the faith. Leave with hope.**

PLEASE RSVP 303-690-9816 FOR LUNCH AND CHILDCARE IF NEEDED

RAINBOW ALLIANCE

We are highlighting the following important dates in November that raise awareness regarding the Trans Community. Smoky Hill United Methodist Church provides a safe place where all individuals and families can follow Jesus together to make the world a more loving and just place.

November 2, 2025 is TransParent Day. The first Sunday in November honors the relationships between trans parents and their children, as well as parents of trans children. Trans parents and parents of transgender kids face challenges including accessing competent healthcare, dealing with their child's mental health issues and bullying, and navigating social and political hostility, rejection from family or community and their own fears.

November 13 - 19, 2025 is a one-week celebration leading up to the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th which memorializes victims of transphobic violence. Multiple sources, including the Bureau of Justice Statistics, confirm that transgender people are over four times more likely than cisgender people to experience violent victimization and transgender households have a higher rate of property crime. And murders of transgender people have doubled in the past four years with 32 murders in 2024 alone.

We ask that you please raise up the Trans Community with prayers for safety, well-being, acceptance and justice.



MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING
All SHUMC men are invited to join us for
the next Men's Breakfast on
Saturday, November 8th at 7:30 am in
Celebration Hall.

Please email Glen
at associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org
or Tom Dosch at tomdosch@gmail.com
for questions and to RSVP.



MEN'S RETREAT
WILD ^{AT} HEART
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
SMOKY HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Join us for a one-day men's retreat, rooted in Wild at Heart, where we'll explore spiritual growth through the adventure and beauty of God's creation. This retreat is an invitation to connect with nature, experience fellowship, and deepen our faith. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Email Rev. Glen associatepastor@smokyhillumc.org or
Tom Dosch tomdosch@gmail.com for questions and to RSVP



Christmas in the Park (a ministry with AfterHours Denver) is taking place Christmas morning and we are collecting new and gently used men's winter boots and casual shoes that will be handed out on Christmas morning. These items will go directly to those who need them most. Please look for the Boot Bin in the gathering space. If you have any questions or would like to join us, please contact Marta Nielsen (720-271-0691) or Kimberly Carlson (303-519-7127).

The Heifer Project

Are you looking for a different type of gift this holiday season or a gift for that person who has everything? Are you looking for a way to do something good and honor a loved one at the same time? Smoky Hill has supported the Alternative Gift program for the Heifer Project for over twenty years. Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger. Heifer distributes animals along with training to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. Recipients must agree to "pass on the gift" by sharing animal offspring, as well as training with other impoverished families. You may "purchase" an animal in honor of a loved one this holiday season. The Mission Team has holiday cards available indicating your gift. We will be in the Gathering Space starting Thanksgiving weekend and will be there each Sunday until Christmas Eve. Stop by, help a family in need, and do some holiday shopping.

Smoky Hill Abundant Health



November is dedicated to raising awareness about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. You can help. Learn more at [COPD Awareness Month | American Lung Association](#)

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: The weather is changing but keep an eye out for possible coming 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: 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 restriction. 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!

The Rummage Sale is Returning!

Save your "stuff" for our next all church Rummage Sale on May 29 and 30, 2026! This is your opportunity to clear out your basement/ garage/ closets of all those items that you no longer use and help your church with some extra income. We can't accept your things until the week of the sale (May 26, 27 and 28, 2026) but we would love to have them then. Many willing hands will be needed to help sort and price before the sale and many helpers will also be needed on the actual sale days. Please mark your calendars to donate and assist! For more information, contact Susan Hora (cusaglass@gmail.com, 636-236-6549, call or text).



Hello All,

You spoke and we heard you! A new group is coming to SHUMC! Crafts and Fellowship for Men and Women. Bring your current project...whatever you are working on! All crafts welcome! If your craft is messy please be sure to bring something to protect the carpet. Scouts Motto: Leave no trace! We will start meeting in November, the second Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 1 PM! If you would like more information please contact Kimberly Carlson at 303-519-7127 or kcarlson303@outlook.com



Introducing a new weekend group for Men and Women at SHUMC!

Crafts and Fellowship

Bring your current project whatever that may be~ All Crafts welcome!

We will start meeting the second Saturday of the month First meeting November 8, 2025

From 10 AM to 1 PM

Please RSVP to Kimberly Carlson

kcarlson303@outlook.com or 303-519-7128



A BIG Thank you from Smoky Hill UWFaith to all who helped set up, staff, bake, clean up and shop or in any way helped at the Fall Craft Fair. It was a great success and the money that was raised for mission will be put to great use. You can read more about where our mission giving goes at <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/what-we-fund/>



Did you miss the craft fair? Don't worry, we have items left over to purchase! You can still shop by clicking via this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/213197357617160>

By adding your contact information, we can arrange delivery.

All proceeds will go towards United Women in Faith Mission Giving.

JUSTICE & JOY

The Smoky Hill UWF Justice and Joy Readers will have a holiday potluck and book exchange on Monday, December 8th, Noon to 2pm since the group doesn't meet for book discussion in November and December. Contact Rebecca Mino at 303-330-7795 or rebeccamino@hotmail.com.



United Women in Faith December Sneak Peak

Get ready to rock your Ugly
Sweater at our annual
Christmas Party and White
Elephant exchange

December 5th, 7-9 PM





WORSHIP

**SUNDAYS AT SMOKY
HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Worship 8:30 am & 10:00 am
10:00 am service livestreamed
Sunday School for All Ages
Spanish Service 10:00 am

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.

**THANK YOU
VETERANS**

for your service.

**SHUMC closed Tuesday,
November 11th in honor
of Veterans Day**

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

**SHUMC CLOSED
Thursday, Nov. 27
Friday, Nov. 28**



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