



ELEMENTS

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



From John 14:27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you: not as the world gives, give I to you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid.

Peace seems hard to find lately.

The conflict in the middle east, the escalation of ICE targeting Spanish speaking populations for deportations, the uneasiness of social programs being cut or dismantled, the constant attack on cutting PBS, Planned Parenthood and gender affirming care to transgender people is enough to make all of us uneasy and afraid. And yet I hear these words... Let not your heart be troubled... Do not be afraid.

As kids run up and down the hall for our Compassion Camp, I do find a strange sense of peace.

There are volunteers putting together boxes of food for our Spanish speaking members that are in need.

Our youth are getting ready to travel for several mission trips.

On Sunday morning, you can smell BBQ as our men work to raise funds to support church ministry.

Our music department is planning an ice-cream social and concert to cover increased building insurance costs...

We have many people praying for each other for many needs... from surgery, to new jobs and to support each other.

Our members are attending protest marches... not damaging property or doing vandalism but walking with each other in peaceful protest.

There is no question that the work that we do together as a congregation matters.

Our care, compassion and work for justice can give all of us a sense of inner peace that is needed now more than ever.

For everyone who volunteered to help with our Camp Compassion... for everyone who helps the grill team, sings in the choir, plays an instrument, participates in United Women of Faith, marches in Pride parades through our Rainbow Alliance or leads a book study or takes time to make sure our Spanish ministry is safe by patrolling the parking lot. We are a community of faith that seeks peace and justice for all.

Peace I give to you... Peace from a box of food... Peace from words of encouragement... Peace from having a moment of prayer... Peace from coming together to worship.

Join us Sundays if you are able and may the peace of Christ be with you.

***Blessings,
Rev. Glen Wood
Pronouns: He, Him, His
Associate Pastor
Smoky Hill UMC***



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.

JUNE SENIOR LUNCHEON

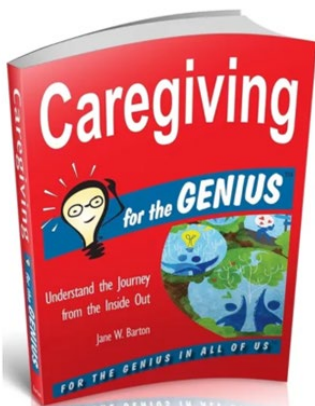
It was a successful June senior lunch.
It wouldn't have happened without all your help and ideas.
I thought the menu was very tasty and enjoyed the entertainment.
John (Tedrick), your help and expertise in the kitchen is appreciated and Marleen (Carlson) and I relied on you. Thank you.
Just know each of you were so helpful.
We can do this as a team and spread duties, meal planning, and programs around.
We can see and are hearing that there is interest in this senior lunch program.
Fran Krech



Fun entertainment from Tom Yook and his wife, Shirley for our June Luncheon.

JULY SENIOR LUNCHEON **RSVP by July 14!**

Jane W. Barton is a passionate speaker, writer, and listener. As the founder of Cardinal, LLC, Jane provides educational programs, books, blogs, videos, and podcasts about issues related to aging, caregiving, and the end of life.



Caregiving for the GENIUS

Caregiving is a universal concern today. Sooner or later, you will be called to care for a loved one. An aging parent. An ill spouse, partner, friend, or child. And ultimately, you, too, will need additional care. Are you prepared to provide care? To receive care? These are important questions to consider before the caregiving crisis lands on your front porch. *Caregiving for the GENIUS* offers you the motivation, inspiration, and education necessary to be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to caregiving.
Prepare to care—pure genius!

Smoky Hill UMC Senior Luncheon **Thursday, July 17th at 11:30 AM**



**Our guest speaker will be
Jane Barton
who will be presenting
"The Journey of Aging"**

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

A donation of \$10 is suggested but come and give what you can!

Jane is the author of Caregiving for the GENIUS.
To learn more, go to her website: <https://cardinallife.com>



CHILDREN & FAMILY

Children and Family Ministries, July 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

July Events

July 6th - Worship & CC at 10:00 am.

July 13th - Worship & CC at 10:00 am.

July 20th - Worship & CC at 10:00 am.

July 24th to 29th - Crystal will be on Vacation.

July 27th - Worship as a Family, No CC at 10:00 am.

Children start in Sanctuary, after Children's Message, kids come to Summer 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 @ crystald@smokyhillumc.org.

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.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP



We had 50 Kids!!!

Could not have done without my
volunteers.

Church kids - 17 over 1400 snacks were
Volunteers - 39 prepared
Community kids - 33

Thank you to the Men's
Group for funding VBC





**See you all next
year.**

June 22-26, 2026!!



JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Know Your Rights — Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

<https://coloradoimmigrant.org/our-work/know-your-rights/>

POSITIVE CHANGE

The United Methodist General Conference met and adopted the new United Methodist Church Social Principles. These apply to us at Smoky Hill and the entire United Methodist Church. We at Smoky Hill generally don't hear about these, unless you're a nerdy type like me. Just know that they reflect what we believe at SHUMC.

Also, four new Church and Society position statements were released in May.

*Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

*A just peace in Israel and Palestine

*LGBTQIA+ Human Rights

*Eliminating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Colorado Village Collaborative

We appreciate the continuing donations to CVC. We know it seems that Smoky Hill is always asking for donations for something. Please know that everything is truly appreciated.

Some of the things that CVC always needs are: men's clothing, including tee shirts, jeans, unused men and women's underwear, socks (just clean) and items for those who are being transitioned out (the goal of CVC) including towels, sheets, kitchen items. When they leave, they have a job and they go to a furnished apartment that doesn't necessarily have these items. They appreciate the "hand up".

~Sue Ricker

RAINBOW
ALLIANCE



Smokin' Pride BBQ **LGBTQIA+**

**Saturday, July 12th from 4 p.m. to
until the cows come home**

Denise Arnold and Alisa Bishop's home
5482 S. Coolidge Court in Aurora

**Please RSVP by Wed July 9th to Denise 303-514-3859 and include
any dietary requirements; a side dish is welcomed but not necessary**

Allies sit this one out. Thanks

GUNS TO GARDENS - SATURDAY, JULY 19

The next Guns to Gardens event is coming up at Cure D'Ars Catholic Church from 10 am - Noon.

If you want more information, please contact Kathy Brennan at pakorah@hotmail.com or visit <https://rawtools.org/events/>

Guns to Gardens Metro Denver has surpassed 600 guns destroyed, including semi-automatic weapons!

TURN YOUR GUN INTO A GARDEN TOOL! **



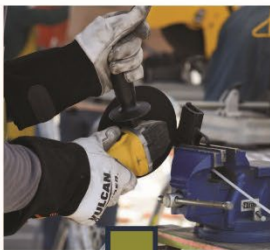
As a thank you for your choice to surrender your firearm, you'll receive:

\$50* FOR YOUR
LONG GUN/
SHOTGUN

\$150* FOR YOUR
HANDGUN OR
SEMI-AUTOMATIC

\$250* FOR YOUR
ASSAULT
STYLE RIFLE

**In the form of grocery store gift cards, while supplies last*



**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025
10AM-NOON**

**AT MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH
2200 S HARRISON ST, DENVER**

AND

**SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2025
10AM-NOON**

**AT CURE D'ARS CATHOLIC CHURCH
3201 DAHLIA ST, DENVER**

HOW IT WORKS

- No reservation needed; Just come to the parking lot to voluntarily surrender your unwanted firearm!
- Arrive with your UNLOADED firearms(s) in your trunk
- Remain in your vehicle
- Skilled personnel remove your gun(s)
- Volunteers destroy firearms in your presence
- **Destroyed firearm parts are transformed into garden tools, jewelry, and art separately from this event
- You remain anonymous
- No ammunition accepted
- Homemade guns will be accepted and destroyed, but not compensated for



Learn more at www.gunstogardensdenver.org
or @gunstogardensdenver on Facebook/Instagram

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Racism in Our Own Backyard

What would you do if going to church put your family at risk? Imagine wanting to worship on Sunday, to find peace and healing in your faith community, but feeling too afraid to walk through the church doors. This is the reality for some of our own neighbors—and some of our own church family.

As a longtime member of Smoky Hill United Methodist Church and a participant in our Rainbow Alliance and Racial Justice Task Force, I've always believed in combining Jesus' ministry of love and compassion with the hard work of justice. I know I carry my own biases and flaws—none of us is perfect—but I try to meet people, even those who do harm, with love. Still, a recent injustice has made me mad like no other issue has before: that members of our Spanish-speaking congregation are afraid to attend worship because of the threat of ICE raids and deportation.

It breaks my heart—and makes my blood boil—that in 2025, in the United States of America, people are too frightened to go to church. For many of us, Sunday worship is where we come to be uplifted and reminded of God's grace. But our Hispanic brothers and sisters, who may need that comfort even more right now, often feel they cannot safely attend. This is not the country I believed I was growing up in. Religious freedom is a foundational value. How can we sit comfortably in our worship while others stay away out of fear?

Latinx people make up at least 60% of ICE detainees. Black immigrants, while only 5% of the undocumented population, make up 20% of those detained. As of June 2025, nearly three-quarters of those in ICE custody have no criminal record. This is a moral failure. And as followers of Christ, we cannot look away.

So, what can we do?

- **Contact your elected officials.** Demand policies that uphold dignity, family unity, and religious freedom.
- **Bring food or supplies** to support our Spanish-speaking congregants who may be too frightened to go to the grocery store or even work.
- **Volunteer for parking lot duty.** While it's unlikely ICE would target a church, your presence can offer a sense of safety and solidarity.
- **And most importantly, pray.** Pray for wisdom, courage, and compassion—for ourselves, our leaders, and every neighbor made to feel like a stranger in their own community.

Let us be the church we claim to be: one rooted in love, justice, and the fearless welcome of Christ.

Please contact the Racial Justice Task Force with any comments or ideas: Kemperac@gmail.com or pakorah@hotmail.com



MEN'S GROUP

PALISADE PEACH ORDERS

It's time to order peaches!



**PRE-ORDER by July 28
and SAVE \$**

Thank you for supporting SHUMC Men's Group Ministries

MEN'S GROUP



SALES

Palisade Peaches Pre-Order Form 2025

Support the SHUMC Men's Group

Order by Monday July 28 to get these prices

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------------------------------|-------|
| NAME: | | | |
| PHONE: | | | |
| EMAIL: | | | |
| TYPE | # CASES | Pre-Order PRICE | TOTAL |
| 18lb #1 | | \$52.00 | |
| ½ Box #1 | | \$32.00 | |
| Grand Total | | Circle: Check Cash Credit | |

Palisade Peaches

- #1 peaches are larger and great for both eating and baking.
- #2 peaches are not available for preorder as the grower does not know if they will have any to sell.
- Peaches are expected sometime in early August for Pick Up.
- We will contact you when an exact delivery date is received.

Checks should be made payable to Smoky Hill UMC – Peach Sales.

If paying by cash or check, please include a copy of your order form.

Credit card orders can be made at: www.smokyhillumc.org.

or at the Church Office. Questions? Call 303-690-9816

Smoky Hill UMC 19491 E Smoky Hill Rd., Centennial, CO 80015



Mission Team News

Aurora Interfaith

Smoky Hill has supported Aurora Interfaith for many years. In 2024, they supported 40,880 individuals. This included 436,095 meals provided, \$90,071 in utility assistance, 184 holiday food kits, and 107 homeless emergency kits. Come learn more about the work of Aurora Interfaith when Christina Stimson, the Executive Director of Aurora Interfaith, speaks during the service on July 6th.

Outreach of Love

Billi Little has organized a sandwich making crew at Morning Star Holly Park (Reflections Neighborhood). Billi's mom, Betty Little, is a resident of Morning Star, and they make 60-80 sandwiches for our Outreach of Love program several times a month. Thank you to Billi, Betty, and the residents for helping those in need!



Looking for Used Magazines

If you are looking for a place for magazines you no longer need, you can bring them to the church office. The magazines are donated to USO Military and assisted living centers.



Sunday, August 3rd | 1-5 PM

Centennial Center Park | 13050 E Peakview Ave, Centennial, CO 80112

ATTEND



VOLUNTEER



DONATE



LIVE MUSIC!



FREE BACKPACKS!



FOOD TRUCKS!



COMMUNITY RESOURCES!



IRONSHARPCOMMUNITY.ORG | (303) 351-2021 | INFO@IRONSHARPCOMMUNITY.ORG

thankyou

Thank you to all our volunteer gardeners who care for and make the grounds so lovely! Michael Hawk captured this spectacular show. It's out by the gazebo if you want to admire it in person!





MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SUNDAY, JULY 20, 4 P.M.

FREE CONCERT AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE SUMMER FOR ALL AGES presented by the musicians of SHUMC.

(Donations to help offset the predicted SHUMC building insurance policy deficit will be accepted at the reception)

The Denver Concert Band will present their Summer Pops Series Concert and will include members of our Chancel Choir joining in a special arrangement during the performance. Following the concert, enjoy ice cream and treats! Diana Cable, who plays French horn, flute and handbells here at SHUMC is also the vice president and librarian of this non-profit organization and has graciously sponsored the band to come to SHUMC July 20.

The Denver Concert Band is comprised of 90 musicians who love instrumental music. These musicians are volunteers who rehearse and perform year-round throughout Colorado. Approximately 59 players will take the stage on July 20. Jacinda Bouton has been the band's Music Director since 1997. She is also the founding Conductor of the Lone Tree Symphony Orchestra and is an active conductor, clinician and adjudicator throughout the Rocky Mountain Region.

The DCB has four formal concerts, currently in the Lone Tree Arts Center. One of these concerts includes a guest artist, and another concert is dedicated to the year's Young Artist Scholarship winner. The band also has an active summer season, performing at venues such as Levitt Pavilion, the Historic Tabor Opera House, and Perry Park Country Club. Smaller groups perform in additional events like the Race for the Cure, and DCB's annual holiday performance at the Denver Health downtown campus.

As a non-profit organization, the DCB is also dedicated to musical education and enthusiasm. Our annual Young Artist Scholarship competition gifts a high-school senior with \$5000 towards their college education. The DCB's Show & Tell Band also performs at elementary schools to teach and promote interest in musical instruments.



SAVE THE DATE

SHUMC's Music Program Concert Series
presents the Denver Concert Band
and Ice Cream Social

July 20, 4:00 p.m.

A concert and ice cream social fund
raiser for children, youth and adults!

****If you enjoy making homemade ice cream or would like to make some goodies, please contact Deborah Stanley at 281-389-7607 or dee_weis@yahoo.com**

Donations will go towards the predicted insurance policy cost deficit

Join in the summer fun with great music and an Ice cream social for all ages!

Sadly, the Chancel Choir lost a special and wonderful choir member in June. Sandy Drumm lost her battle to cancer on June 12. Her memorial service was held in the sanctuary on Saturday, June 28. The Chancel Choir sang two beautiful anthems: "Praise to the Lord with Jubilant Song" and "Song of Farewell" as we shared in her Celebration of Life with her family and friends. It's hard to say goodbye to one and even sadder to lose two choir members in a year's time. Sandy sang alto for many years and was so dedicated to the choir even during the past two years as she went through chemotherapy treatments. Her "choir buddy" was Jean Clarke who also sadly passed away the end of January this year. It leaves a great hole in our hearts but we know through our faith in God that both Jean and Sandy are now singing harmony together in a great choir. We continue to pray for the families and friends, our church family and our choir as we journey through the loss of these two beautiful and wonderful women.



My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73:26

Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) was a blast! A HUGE THANK YOU to NOELLE HORNE who helped with music! Noelle's energy and connections with all the kids was energizing, musical and FUN!!! Noelle sang and played her guitar, but it was getting down on the floor with the little ones and dancing with the bigger ones that made those so wonderful connections we had with all the VBC campers (kiddos)! If you missed our VBC Celebration in church on June 29, I encourage you to check out the service on Facebook or YouTube. What a blessing it was to participate in a SUPER GREAT WEEK! We had tons of fun making music together





UNITED WOMEN in FAITH



July 20
11:15-1:30

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

Middle Eastern Food available!
(donations accepted to help cover the costs)
RSVP to the church office

Sponsored by UWFaith and Racial Justice

Women's Fall Retreat

Save the Date Oct. 3-5, 2025

Allenspark, CO

Registration opens August 1st

Sponsored by United Women in Faith

**Get ready to register! No
cooking! No housework!
Spend time nurturing your
soul with your sisters in faith.**

Fee of \$160 covers 4 meals,
accommodations, and
programming.

First time retreaters get a
discount!

Open to 32 participants. Look
for registration to open on
August 1st



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](#)



19491 E Smoky Hill Rd
Centennial, CO 80015
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