



ELEMENTS

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Patti's Ponderings

May is a season to celebrate! Spring transitioning to summer, mothers, accomplishments and graduations, making it through another school year, the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and those who have passed, specifically those who have died in service of our country. The month of May can be a crazy month with all the obligations and parties. In the heaviness and grind of life, it is good to take time to celebrate!

The Jewish calendar is sprinkled throughout the year with festivals and feasts. Opportunities to celebrate harvest, deliverance, success, the faithfulness of God. Jesus was known for celebrating, in fact he got criticized for all the dinner parties he attended. In the gospel of John, the first miracle of Jesus was turning water into wine. Celebrating reduces stress, boosts energy, strengthens community, and cultivates joy.

I often get caught up in the grind of life and forget to pause and celebrate along the way. Let's focus this month on celebrating! What do you have to celebrate? Revel in the joy and hope of celebrating.

~Pastor Patti

Pockets of Peace

Join Pastor Patti on zoom Thursday, May 7th 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. Here is the zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84303559229?pwd=r2iuXCMbX2H3icExDgQtNTTrUx7Fa.1#success>



It's hard to believe but in just a few days we will have our first Good Grief workshop based on the work of Francis Weller.

After decades of work as a therapist, Weller believes that we don't talk about grief as we should.

He believes that community is extremely important for us to process grief and to realize that we just can't ignore how we feel or hurt when grief happens.

His five gates of grief help us to remember that grief doesn't center only on the death of someone we know but also happens when we are not loved as we should be or when events in our life fail to meet what

we expect.

Isaac Dunn, who serves as a Hospice Chaplain, will also join us to discuss his perspective on how grief impacts everyone who must deal with end-of-life decisions.

At the end of our time together, we will participate in a grief ceremony that allows us to name our grief and to collectively understand that grief is not something that is personal but needs to be shared in community.

Please register with Lynne by Friday so we can plan to have supplies and food available. If you would like to bring a brunch item to share, you are welcome to do so. There is no cost for the workshop but donations for the brunch are welcome.

The book we will be using, "The Wild Edge of Sorrow" And "Entering the Healing Ground," Is available on Amazon's website.

We will gather at 8:00 am Saturday morning downstairs in the Celebration Hall. Our time together will end at noon.

Hope to see you there...

Rev Glen...

Good Grief Gathering & Workshop
Saturday, May 2
8:00am - 12:00pm
Join us for brunch and learn how grief
walks with us through our entire life.
All are welcome
Please RSVP 303-690-9816



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

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.**

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.

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

hand-made sodas!

Beer & Theology

non-alcoholic options!

Thursday, May 7th @ 6:30 pm



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

Bent Barley Brewery Company
6200 S Main St, Suite 110
Southlands



Food may also be ordered from Waldo's Chicken and delivered to the taproom

Smoky Hill UMC Young At Heart Luncheon Thursday, May 21 at 11:30 AM



Speaker from the City of Centennial will give us an overview of city services and partnerships with time for questions.

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

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



CHILDREN & FAMILY

Children and Family Ministry



THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH FOR HELPING STUFF THE EGGS.
Thank you to all who donated candy.
SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR FOR MORE CANDY!!

EASTER
EGG HUNT 2026

WEATHER WAS BEAUTIFUL.
WE HAD 65 PLUS KIDS & DONE IN
10 MINUTES.



HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!

To all our Moms, Grandmas,
or parent figures at SHUMC



HELLO MAY

May 3rd - 8:30 am Worship & Children's Church.
 9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir.
 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School.

May 10th - 8:30 am Worship & Children's Church.
 9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir.
 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School. Children's Choir sings.

May 17th - 8:30 am Worship & NO Children's Church.
 9:30 - 9:55 am NO Children's Choir.
 10:00 am Worship & No Sunday School.

May 24th - Start Summer Worship, 1 Service at 10am. Worship as a Family.

May 31st - 9:30 - 9:55 am Children's Choir.
 Summer Worship, 1 Service at 10am.
 We will start in Sanctuary then go outside.




A huge thank you to Susan, Gillian, Virigina, Noelle, Kimberly, Rachel, Len, Jan, Maggie, Ella and Joel for teaching our kids all year. Jim, Samantha, and Dan for teaching our Children's Choir. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all so much for your time to help lead our Children with their spiritual paths.



End of Year Celebration
MAY 17TH AT 10 AM
WORSHIP

We will start in the Sanctuary, then after our move-up celebration we will have some ice cream.



FREE
3yrs old and up

Cokesbury Kids
SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE
FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD

Mark your calendars :
June 22nd to 26th 5:30 - 7:45 pm
June 28th - VBC Celebration Sunday
Want to Volunteer: reach out to Crystal or email at crystald@smokyhillumc.org

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.

NEED MANY HELPERS: Middle and High school can volunteer.

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

You can register your kids here:

<https://forms.gle/iHdiXPoYzXQFqQQUA>

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.

INFO NEEDED BY MAY 13

Graduates & Parents of Graduates!

Let us know who is graduating - high school and beyond - so we can celebrate on Sunday, May 17th !

Send a pic, degree earned, and future plans to churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org

End of Year Celebration!

Sunday, May 17 @ 10 AM Service

5th Graders Moving Up to Youth
Honoring the Graduates
Sunday School
Teacher Appreciation



The past month has been a full and joyful one for our youth group—packed with **service, fun, and meaningful connection with church community!**

We hosted our annual Easter Brunch. **Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the hard work of our youth, we raised over \$700 for our youth mission trip in July!** Our youth and adults handled everything from setup to serving to takedown, and it was a GREAT team effort.

A group of youth attended our church pack at **CO Feeding Kids**. They love to serve others and had a good time together!

6 youth were confirmed in April! Audrey, Elizabeth, Pyper, John, Trinity & Emma were amazing students of learning about – and leaning into their – faith for 10 weeks. They wrapped up the class with a weekend retreat (graciously led by Tom Dosch, Caleb Sizemore, and Crystal) where they visited 2 other churches, wrote creeds about their faith beliefs, made their confirmation stoles, and visited the baby foxes behind church. That retreat is where it all comes together for the confirmation kids. And celebrating them on Confirmation Sunday was a priceless memory.

We are so proud of them for being willing to say “yes” to stepping further into their faith journey!

Youth Group also jumped in to help with the church craft fair—assisting with setup, helping the Grill Team guys with breakfast & lunch ordering, and helping with takedown. It was a crazy busy day, but our youth showed incredible teamwork and willingness to serve wherever needed!

We also had our usual Youth Crafty Community table at the craft fair, where youth and some adult sponsors make their own art / crafts / creations to sell. We LOVE seeing what these kids can create and are willing to put effort into! (Thanks to Jana Jones for bringing some potted plants for us to also sell, further helping our youth fund.)

Of course, **we made time for FUN, too!** We had a board games night filled with laughter and plenty of snacks. And for a little adventure, we took a trip to Monster Mini Golf in Denver on Sunday, where we got away for some good clean glowing blacklight fun!

It's been a month that really reflects who our SHUMC youth are – servant-hearted, connected, and full of life. Thank you for continuing to support and encourage this amazing group of young people! We're excited to see what next month holds. (We know it holds saying “goodbye” to our seniors and more, but we still have some memories to make first!)





FINANCE

SPRING CRAFT FAIR

60 vendors that paid \$ 4,059.50

Bake sale \$ 206

Total \$4,265.50 to General operating budget

Men's Group made over \$ 1,100

United Women in Faith made over \$ 700

Drug Take Back - 10 bags over
200 pounds



JUSTICE MINISTRIES

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

SAND CREEK MASSACRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

On the cold morning of November 29th, 1864, about 750 Cheyenne and Arapaho people were sleeping peacefully by the Sand Creek Site near what is now Eads, Colorado. Most of the people were chiefs, women and children. The tribes were guaranteed safety at Sand Creek by Gov. John Evans after years of broken treaties that severely limited the amount of land the tribes could access. Their peace was shattered when over 700 U.S. Infantry members, led by Col. John Chivington, arrived in a surprise attack that resulted in the murder of over 200 people, including 14 chiefs. This attack became known as the Sand Creek Massacre.

The Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, which opened to the public in 2007, is a sacred place. The legacy of the massacre is alive in the memories and stories of the Cheyenne and Arapaho descendants. These descendants visit the site as a spiritual journey, and it is a place of both trauma and healing. Several members of Smoky Hill United Methodist Church visited the Sand Creek Site recently. For us it was an emotional and solemn experience. We could feel the presence of the victims and survivors of that tragic day in 1864. A visit to the Sand Creek Massacre Site is an opportunity to confront the past while making a renewed commitment to protect the basic human rights of all people.



It is important to note that the United Methodist Church has had to reckon with its past treatment of Indigenous Peoples. Chivington was a Methodist minister, Evans was a prominent Methodist layman, and the Methodist Church at the time failed to address the issues raised by the massacre. The Methodist Church was also involved in the establishment of Indian boarding schools that were responsible for forced assimilation and abuse. However, in recent decades the Methodist Church has been very proactive in supporting Native American tribes by repenting for past harms, supporting indigenous leadership, preserving indigenous culture, and advocating for Native American rights.



RAINBOW ALLIANCE

In June, SHUMC is celebrating Pride month and our theme is *Wonderfully Made* taken from Psalm 139. Chat GPT tells me that "Psalm 139 is one of the most intimate and profound reflections on God's knowledge of the human person. The core idea is simple: we are fully known, fully seen, and never abandoned." As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I've certainly wondered at times if I mattered and if God loved me. Psalm 139 implies that we are all created with love and intention and that every part of us was divinely formed--both our bodies and minds to include our inner essence and knowledge of self. I believe this includes sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Please join us to celebrate all the ways God's children are *Wonderfully Made*.

June 7th -Pride Sunday with Communion and cake after service

June 14th - showing of the 2022 Documentary *1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture* after service. A light lunch will be provided; *please RSVP with any dietary restrictions* with Church Secretary by calling 303.690.9816 or emailing churchsecretary@smokyhillumc.org by June 5th.

Denise Arnold
Leader, SHUMC's Reconciling Ministries team Rainbow Alliance



MEN'S GROUP

MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST MEETING

All SHUMC men are invited to join us for our Men's Group Meeting at 7:30 am on Saturday, May 9th.



MISSION

Paper towels and Toilet Paper

Eight congregation members will spend a week in Alamosa from May 31-June 6th to volunteer with La Puente. The poverty rate in the San Luis Valley is twice the national average, nearly 30% of the children grow up in poverty, the homelessness rate is ten times the national average, and 1 in 10 people struggle with food insecurity. They have asked us to collect paper towels and toilet paper before our trip to be used in their shelter. If you can't go on the trip, this is a great way to help! Please leave your items in the wagons in the entry way.



Colorado Feeding Kids

Thank you to everyone who packed at the Smoky Hill event on April 11th. If you would like to continue to help, they hold public packs on the first and third Saturday of each month. Smoky Hill has a group that volunteers on the first Saturday and you may sign up at cofeedingkids.org. Next pack is May 2nd from 10-12.

The Rummage Sale is Coming — Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30, 8:00am-2pm!!

RUMMAGE SALE Friday, May 29 & Saturday, May 30 8:00am - 2:00pm



Smoky Hill United Methodist Church
19491 E Smoky Hill Rd
Centennial, CO 80015
303-690-9816

Here is your opportunity to finally clean out your closets, basement and garage! Bring your items to church on Tuesday, May 26 from 9am - 3pm and 6 - 8 pm, and on Wednesday, May 27 from 9 am - 3 pm. If you need to drop off items before then, contact Susan Hora (contact info below).

We CANNOT accept: mattresses, large appliances, chemicals, building materials, baby cribs or car seats, TVs, monitors, printers or fax machines. If you are doubtful about an item, please check first.

We will need lots of willing hands to make this a successful event...

Sorters and Pricers before the sale on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 26, 27 and 28 and some days before then.

Cashiers and General Helpers on the sale days, Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30 in 3 hour shifts--8am - 11am, 11am - 2:00pm.

Clean up Crew on Saturday at 2pm. Especially needed are folks with trucks or large vehicles to deliver leftovers to Goodwill and ARC.

This sale will benefit:

Our church! All proceeds will go directly to our church's general budget.

You! Just think how nice your home will be without all that excess stuff!

Our community! They will get some great deals.

Thrift shops who get our leftovers.

Please email Susan Hora to volunteer (It's really a lot of fun and it's a short-term commitment!) or with any questions -- cusaglass@gmail.com or call or text 636-236-6549.

Ushers Needed!



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

May is Mental Health Awareness Month Healing Begins in Community

Silence sounds like...

NO ONE WOULD UNDERSTAND.

I'M FINE.

I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN.

Community sounds like...

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.



#MHAM2026

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. We are in need of a person to help keep items sorted, clean and in good condition. Is that you? Contact Jana at JL.jones@outlook.com.

Yoga at Smoky Hill: Yoga classes are being paused for the summer starting May 5. Planning to see you back in the Fall.

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



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.



The UWF Justice & Joy Readers will meet Monday, May 18th, 1-3pm in the Upper Room to discuss Miss Morgan's Book Brigade by Janet Skeslien Charles.

Please note this is a change from our usual meeting time. For more information, contact Rebecca Mino at rebeccamino@hotmail.com or 303-330-7795.



Worship with Us!
Sundays 8:30 & 10 am
*Livestream at 10:00 on
Facebook & YouTube*
Sunday School 9 & 10 am
**Spanish Service at 10 am
in Celebration Hall**

Enciende Una Luz

Servicio Hispano
Domingo a Las 10:00 a.m.
y Facebook Live

Llame a Pastora Lucia Correa al
303-690-9816

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 United Methodist Church
Summer Schedule
Worship Service 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School 9:00 am
Spanish Service 10:00 am
May 24 ~ Sept. 6

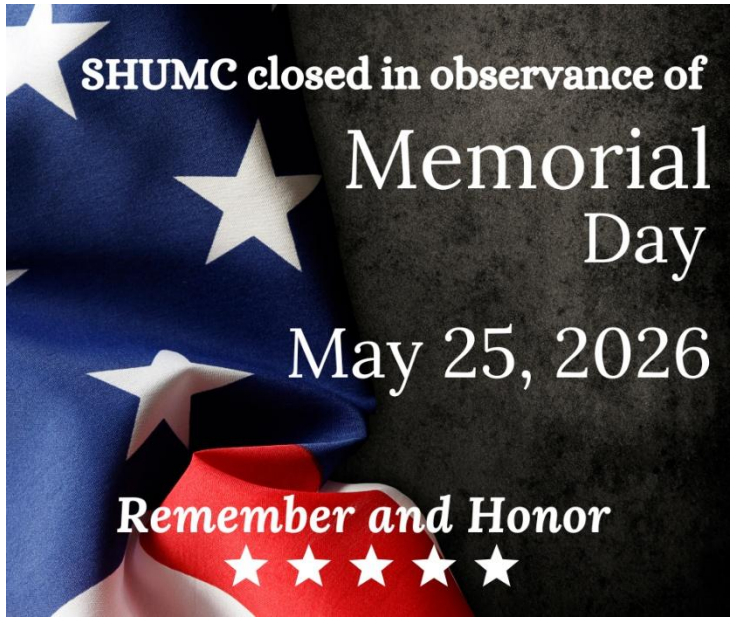
A decorative border at the bottom of the schedule includes a pair of yellow flip-flops, a starfish, and a striped beach towel.

PENTECOST
Sunday
May 24

A glowing dove with its wings spread, set against a background of radiating light rays.

Wear something red!

Summer Worship Schedule
One Worship Service only at 10:00 am. beginning Sunday, May 24th.



Newcomers Connection Lunch
Sunday, May 31 @ 11:15 am
Room 214

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

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



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