

February 2024



THE BANNER

First United Methodist Church of Berthoud Monthly Newsletter

From Pastors Mark and Sandie Johnson

Dear Friends,

John 12: 21-22 tells the story of a couple people who came to Philip, Jesus' disciple, and said 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Interestingly, the people asking Philip about Jesus were identified in the scripture as Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the observance of Passover. Perhaps Philip was surprised that "outsiders" would be interested in meeting Jesus. But he was more interested in bringing people to Christ than worrying about cultural differences, so Philip told Jesus about the people.

Are there "outsiders" we can introduce to Jesus? Scholars who study religious identity in the United States have noted an interesting phenomenon. A significant (and increasing) number of people, when asked about their religious beliefs, indicate they are "spiritual, but not religious." I doubt anyone knows precisely what "spiritual, but not religious" means, but I think it describes folks who have a yearning for a deep connection with our infinite, mysterious, gracious God, but are not interested in what they fear they will find in the church: self-righteous, hard-hearted folks who are interested only in judging others.

And this leads me to two thoughts. First, the people of First UMC of Berthoud are not like those stereotypes. Pastor Sandi and I have found you to be delightful, dedicated, faithful disciples of Jesus. Well done. Our problem is in helping others find out about our Church.

And second, hard as it seems, our mission is to share Jesus with everyone. The question is how we share or witness. Often, we think witnessing (or its dread cousin,



evangelism) is about having all the answers and arguing people into the Kingdom of God. Knowing why your faith is real is important, but rarely will others find that, by itself, persuasive. Witnessing, and evangelism, is about relationships. First, having a personal life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. And second, building deep, authentic relationships with others. When that happens, witnessing to your faith is nothing more than introducing one friend to another. What a blessing you can be.

Not everyone describes themselves as "spiritual, but not religious." There are people who know, or are coming to know, that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" but for one reason or another have not found a worshipping community. They are like the people in John 1 who were seeking Jesus and when they asked where he lived, Jesus answered "Come and see." Are there people you know that might like to follow Jesus but need the invitation "come, and see?" Perhaps these are folks who are new to your neighborhood, people who have fallen away

from church and want to come back, or those who have suffered a loss and are looking for love, grace and a community of support.

Christian artist, Steve Green writes “People need the Lord. At the end of broken dreams, He’s the open door.” Our privilege is to help others find the peace, joy, hope, grace and love we have found in a relationship with Jesus. One of the most significant ways to help others begin or grow in their spiritual journey with Jesus is to invite them to church with you. As we invite others to share in worship and to connect with the Berthoud UMC family it is as if we are responding to those first Jesus seekers by saying, “Come, and see.”

Churches grow in size and vitality as its members embrace a “culture of invitation” in which people are consistently inviting others to join in worship, study, and ministry. These weeks leading up to Easter are a perfect time to begin inviting people to share worship with you. I would invite you to pray about how you might share your heart and your faith with others who are seeking what you have found – Jesus.

See you in Church on Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastors Mark and SandiE

A Look Back At January

Here we are in liturgical “ordinary time”, so no one is sending photos because everything is so ordinary. But this is a busy place, and a lot happened in January, so here’s an abridged recap, in no particular order:

1. The Christmas decorations were put away.
2. The Book Club had their monthly meeting.
3. The Wednesday Workers maintained the place every week.
4. The Pastors attended a spiritual retreat.
5. There was a Charge Conference and Finance Meeting.
6. The Craft Group met every week.
7. The Spanish group met every week.
8. The Pastors met with many, many members of the church.
9. The Bell Choir resumed rehearsals.
10. The Choir rehearsed and performed every week.
11. There was a training for Sunday Worship Helpers.



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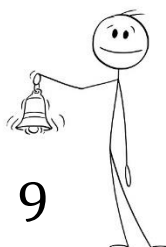
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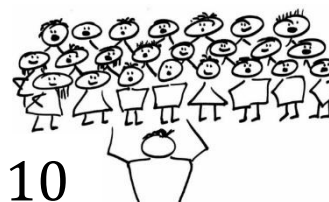
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ALL PRAYER ANGELS



We hope you'll be a prayer angel during Lent! You may recall that, as a prayer angel, you pray for another member of our church family every day, and someone else in the congregation prays for you. You pray for them beginning Ash Wednesday (February 14th) through Easter (March 31st). Please sign up on the clipboard in Van Amburg Hall by Sunday, February 11th, or contact Karina in the church office by Friday, February 9th. Karina will let you know whom you will pray for during Lent. She will be the only person who knows the identity of each person's prayer angel. You may want to send a card of encouragement (anonymously, of course!) to your person during Lent and perhaps as the "Big Reveal" give a card or small gift on or after Easter so that the person knows that you were their prayer angel.

MEMBERSHIP

- **Classes**



Pastors Sandie and Mark will be offering a series of classes on Exploring Membership for persons who wish to join the church and/or want to know more about United Methodism. We will be meeting after worship in the Builders' Room (11:15 AM-ish). Bring your cup of coffee, a goodie, and your questions. Topics will include:

- Feb. 11 "2,000 Years of Christian History in 45 Minutes"
- Mar. 10: "What UM's Believe. No, Really!"
- April 14: "UM's Do What?"

- **You Are Invited To Join Berthoud First UMC**

Please talk to either Pastor Sandie or Pastor Mark if you would like to join Berthoud First United Methodist Church. Of course, you are welcome to participate in worship and other ministries of the church regardless of Church membership but for many, church membership is an important step in their spiritual journey. As one becomes a Professing Member (sometimes called a full member), one declares that the people of the church are the ones with whom one will journey, grow, serve, and live in Christ.

Beginning in February, worshippers will be given an opportunity to join the church at the conclusion of worship each Sunday. More information will be forthcoming and if you have questions, please talk to either of the Pastors.

Lent begins On Ash Wednesday, February 14



Lent is the forty-day period leading to Easter and for many it is a time of reflection and repentance. During Lent, you are invited to read *Restored* by Bishop Tom Berlin and participate in a book study on Wednesdays at 1 PM beginning Feb. 14. A sign-up sheet is in Van Amburg Hall. Please talk to either of the Pastors if you have questions.



UMM FELLOWSHIP TIME CHANGE

The United Methodist Men have been enjoying their Fellowship and Dinners for a while now, but starting in February they'll be enjoying breakfasts instead. Join the UMM in the Builder's Room at 8:00 AM on the 3rd Saturday of every month for Fellowship, Planning, and Breakfast. The first meeting will be February 17th at 8:00 AM.



Prayer and Self-Denial Service

Join the United Women In Faith for a Prayer and Self-Denial Brunch and Program on March 2nd, 2024 at 9:30 AM in Van Amburg Hall.



Handbell Choir

The Bells ring again!! Rehearsals for the bell choir are on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 PM. It's a great time to join. We are starting with the most elementary music. Requirements include a love for music and the ability to count to 4 (well, sometimes 6 or 8...). Questions? Just ask someone and they will point you to a ringer!

All-Church Game Day



Who's in for lunch and games with your church family? Who dares to accept the Pastors' Giant Jenga Challenge? Are you ready to prove that you are a Scrabble Master? Who will be crowned the Corn Hole King and Queen? Bring your favorite game and your appetite (Pastor Sandie is making lunch) and get set for a great time. Game Time is **Saturday, February 10th, from 11 AM - 2 PM**. See you there!

Super Souper Soup'fer Sundae – February 11th



It has long been a tradition at 1st UMC Berthoud to serve up sundaes after church **on Superbowl Sunday**. This year we will change it up a bit: the "admission" to this fun event is one (or more) cans of soup. These will be donated to House of Neighborly Service, whose pantry is short on soup during these winter months. Attendees can enjoy a quick soup lunch (prepared by master chefs) and then build their own ice cream extravaganza. Ice cream provided; bring toppings to share.

Garage Sale Preparation



The church will be having a garage sale this summer. The exact date will be announced in a few weeks. Please start setting aside items that you can bring to be sold. If you need to get them out of your house right away, you can bring them to church and store them upstairs in the classroom at the south end of the hall. Please mark it for garage sale.

Mattresses, televisions, computers, and computer equipment cannot be accepted. If you are able to help organize this event or have questions, please contact Barb Howell.

SMALL GROUPS

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men is a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to daily seek His will. Our primary purpose is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships. If you would like to be involved with the Berthoud United Methodist Men, please e-mail Ric Haskins at rghask@aol.com.



United Women In Faith (Formerly United Methodist Women)

UMW Executive Board Meeting: Every Second Wednesday – 8:00 AM in the Library

Hope Circle: Every 2nd Thursday – 1:30 PM in the Library

Early Bird Circle: Every 3rd Saturday – 8:00 AM in the Library



Wednesday Workers

The Wednesday Workers are a group of men and women who maintain the building and grounds, and prepare the sanctuary and Sunday School rooms for Sunday.

Hola!

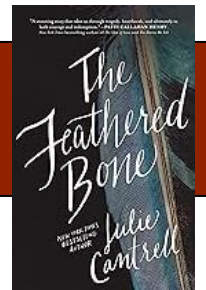
Craft
and
Chatter



Craft Group meets every Thursday at 9:30 AM in the library. Bring your favorite craft, sewing, crochet or embroidery project to work on while enjoying the company of other crafters and seamstresses!

Spanish Classes will meet in the Library on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM.

The Book Club will meet at 7:00 PM, February 29, to discuss *The Feathered Bone* by Julie Cantrell. See Barbara Boyd for a copy of the book.



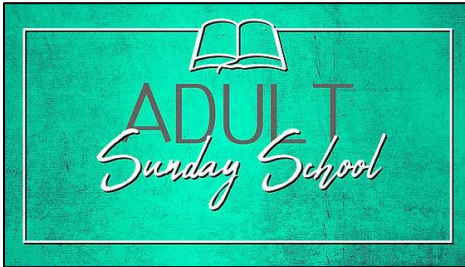
Caring Connections helps to care for the needs of our congregation. All are welcome to join us! Meetings are held in the Library at 9:00 AM on the first Wednesday every month.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY



Youth and Children Sunday School

Kindergarten through 5th grade will meet in the 3rd Floor classroom. Youth in middle school will also meet for fellowship, activities, and study.




Exploring the Bible, led by Keith Henderson, meets Sundays at 8:30 AM in the Builder's Room; all are welcome to join us!

Faith and Fellowship meets in the Library at 11:30 AM each Sunday.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR



Day	Date	Time – Event – Location
Thursday	1	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library
Sunday	4	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder's Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School 11:30 AM – Faith and Fellowship Adult Sunday School, Library
Tuesday	6	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 1:30 PM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Kó-fē House 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wednesday	7	9:00 AM – Caring Connections, Library 6:30 PM – Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Thursday	8	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 10:00 AM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Rise Bakery 1:30 PM – Hope Circle, Library
Saturday	10	11:00 AM – All-Church Game Day

Sunday	11	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder's Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM – Souper Super Soup'fer Sundae 11:30 AM – Membership Class 11:30 AM – Faith and Fellowship, Library
Tuesday	13	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 1:30 PM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Kó-fē House 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7:00 PM – Missions Meeting, Library
Wednesday	14	8:00 AM – UWIF Executive Board Meeting, Library 1:00 PM – Lenten Book Study, Van Amburg Hall 6:30 PM – Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Thursday	15	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 10:00 AM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Rise Bakery
Saturday	17	8:00 AM – UWIF (UMW) Early Birds, Library 8:00 AM – UMM Fellowship and Planning Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Sunday	18	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder's Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School 11:30 AM – Faith and Fellowship Adult Sunday School, Library
Monday	19	
Tuesday	20	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 1:30 PM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Kó-fē House 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wednesday	21	1:00 PM – Lenten Book Study, Van Amburg Hall 6:30 PM – Choir Practice
Thursday	22	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 10:00 AM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Rise Bakery
Sunday	25	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder's Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School 11:30 AM – Faith and Fellowship Adult Sunday School, Library
Tuesday	27	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 1:30 PM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Kó-fē House 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 PM – UMM Fellowship and Dinner
Wednesday	28	1:00 PM – Lenten Book Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice
Thursday	29	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 10:00 AM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Rise Bakery 7:00 PM – Book Club Meeting, Van Amburg Hall

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

February 6 Megan Pickert
 February 8 Steve and Eugena Spaur (A)
 February 11 Christina Thoren
 February 12 John Green
 February 12 Dave Keagle
 February 15 Rob Howell
 February 21 Robert and Anne Talley (A)

February 21
 February 23
 February 24
 February 25
 February 25
 February 27

Anne Talley
 Simon Ellarby
 Joseph Spaur
 Sondra Chatwell
 Mason Smith
 Leigh Bercaw



Please keep us informed about your joys and sorrows. Many are in need of prayer (both in public and in private). Call the office and we will notify the appropriate contact and add your name to the Prayer Corner of the Sunday bulletin. We are here to serve God, and we want to share your burdens and joys. Phone: 970-532-2142. Email: secretary@berthoudumc.org, pastormark@berthoudumc.org or pastorsandie@berthoudumc.org.

First United Methodist Church of Berthoud

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIqSxMBHmcpSPv5SldcyAg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/berthoudmethodistchurchon9th>

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