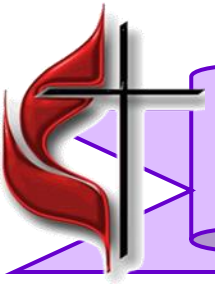


March 2024



THE BANNER

First United Methodist Church of Berthoud Monthly Newsletter

From Pastors Mark and Sandie Johnson

Dear Friends,

During this season of Lent, we are called to consider the essential practices of the Christian faith and I am drawn to several scripture passages. In Micah 6: 8 we find

"... what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

The second is from James 1:27 which says

"... Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

Finally, I turn to Matthew 25: 40:

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

As we consider these passages, we find we are invited into a faith that is deeply personal, inward, and spiritual (love kindness, walk humbly with God, unstained by the world) which flows back and forth between God and ourselves. But this faithful relationship flows from God, through us, and propels us to care for others (orphans, widows, the least of these). Our spiritual forefather, John Wesley writing about the balance of personal and social holiness observed:

"The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."



And so our Christian experience consists of two distinct, yet interconnected movements. The first is growing in personal relationship with God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus through prayer, Bible study, meditation, worship, receiving the sacraments, and other spiritual disciplines. The second is sharing our faith through our witness and care for others.

Practically, and we United Methodists do love practical applications, this Lenten season gives each of us opportunities for both personal growth and to care for others. Please plan to attend worship regularly and to be in prayer.

And secondly, we will welcome many folks in worship between now and Easter that we have not seen for a while. Let us not make jokes about the "Christmas and Easter folks" returning. Rather, let us heartily welcome each person and help them be a part of things.

Studies show that 86% of people come to church for the first time because a friend or

family member invited them. Those same studies show that people “stick” if they are warmly welcomed and find a place in the church family. Over the past several months we have had a number of folks in worship who are wearing masks and seeking social distance because they, or a loved one, are concerned about their health. One of the ways we can be hospitable is to give them space and respect their desire for safety.

Finally, our Lenten disciplines, informed by the above scripture and Jesus’ example, invite us to care for “the last, the least, and the lost.” And you, the people of First UMC Berthoud are really good at this. You raise money for the House of Neighborly Service, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project and other hugely important ministries as well as holding blood drives frequently. And these are only a few of the mission and ministry opportunities you regularly support with your time and money. Well done.

There are a couple of new ministries I would ask you to hold in prayer. In February, Pastor Sandie – with your support – began a virtual Bible study for the Deaf and has had

participants from as far away as Korea. On March 17, Pastor Sandie will preach in American Sign Language (ASL) and we will have an interpreter who will “voice” for her so those of us who don’t sign can understand. You will want to be a part of worship that Sunday, for sure. We already have several Deaf worshippers who participate through our livestream worship.

Also, we are working with several senior care facilities to lead worship each month. Please hold this in prayer and consider if you would be interested in being part of the worship team.

This month, our Bible based Lenten disciplines guide us to a deeper devotional life and invite us into more meaningful ministry with others. Sandie and my prayer for you this month, and always, is that you may grow more deeply in love with God -- our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer – that we may love our neighbor more fully and, in so doing, find the peace, hope, joy, and grace that is our promise in Jesus.

A Look Back At February



Volunteers were back in Boulder on February 1st, serving dinner to the unhoused with Colorado FriendShip.



Your Pastors threw down a Giant Jenga challenge to all who would attempt it on Game Day, February 10th.



On Super Bowl Sunday there were Soups and Bowls of Sundaes. Fellowship and ice cream weren't even the best part. Over 100 cans of soup were collected, and food donations to House of Neighborly Service amounted to 126.7 pounds!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Prayer and Self-Denial Service

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



Daylight Saving Begins on March 10th

Remember, Daylight Saving begins at **2 AM on Sunday, March 10**. **Set your clocks ahead one hour** so you can be to church on time. (Pastor Mark says he is preparing a special two-hour sermon that day so if you show up late, you won't miss a thing. Pastor Sandie is just shaking her head.)



Holy Week/Easter

Please join us in Holy Week/Easter worship March 24-31. Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday, March 24**. On this day, we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with celebratory **worship at 10 AM**. That evening at 6:00 PM we will gather for a Biblical Storytelling Concert of the story of Jesus final hours. (Please see the article in this newsletter issue on the Biblical

Storytelling class to learn how you can participate.)

On **Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 6 PM** we will gather for a Seder meal. A Seder is a traditional Jewish family celebration, dinner, and retelling of the Moses leading the Jewish people out of captivity. Some scholars suggest that Jesus' Last Super was a Seder meal and that our sacrament of communion has its roots in a Seder meal.

On **Good Friday, Friday, March 29, at 6:30 PM** we will gather to remember Jesus' crucifixion.

Finally, **Easter Sunday, March 31**, celebrates Jesus' resurrection victory over death. We will begin with a **Sunrise Worship service at 6:30 AM** at Roberts Lake Park (bring a lawn chair and a blanket) followed by Easter Breakfast at the church (about 7:15 AM). Adding to the fun, kids of all ages are invited to an **Easter Egg Hunt at 9:15 AM**. Finally, at 10 AM we will gather for Easter Worship. Children/ youth will be with us in the sanctuary for Easter worship.

This is a great opportunity to invite your friends, family members, and neighbors to experience the story of Jesus' last week, and our reason for hope and joy.

Birthday Party Potluck



There will be a Birthday potluck following worship on **Sunday March 17th**. Everyone with a birthday in 2024 is welcome to come and sit at the table with those sharing your birthday month. There will be three months sharing each table. We will need someone to provide a dessert and someone to decorate each table. Please sign up on the sheet in Van Amburg Hall. Everyone else, please bring a dish to share.

Church Family Photos



Pastors Mark and Sandie here and, okay, we're going to level with you – we are still having a struggle putting all your names and faces together. And just perhaps, you might be having the same issue. In days past, churches handled this problem by publishing a pictorial directory every couple of years. These directories required a couple things: church family members who would take the time to get their pictures taken and then endure the sales presentation to sell you \$3 million worth of pictures (Ok, maybe that's an exaggeration) and a church committee to design, assemble, proof, and distribute the directory. Whew!

With the advent of digital photography and church management software, things are now much easier. **For several Sundays beginning March 17**, you and your family will be invited to have your picture taken and you will be given a 4"x6" copy of the picture. The photos will be uploaded to the church management software so the Pastors can put names and faces together and, God willing, a simple pictorial directory will be available (sometime in the reasonable future) for your use.

Ideally, as new folks join the church, we will be able to take their photos and easily update the directory just as Karina presently reprints the phone directory. If you have questions, please talk to either Pastor Sandie or Mark.

Biblical Storytelling



Before the stories we know as the Bible were written, they were shared by highly trained storytellers. While our culture relies on written information, and considers oral tradition to be unreliable, in ancient days oral transmission was a very accurate way of passing sacred stories from one generation to the next.

You are invited to participate in a four-session class on Biblical Storytelling led by

Pastors Mark and Sandie. They are both members of the Network of Biblical Storytellers, International and have used this craft in their ministries for over twenty years.

Classes will be at First UMC, Berthoud on Sundays from March 3rd to March 24th. Classes will begin at 2:45 PM and will last two hours (ish). Participants will learn Bible stories by heart and tell them using voice, gesture, expression and movement. The class will culminate on March 24 with a telling of the story of Jesus' passion.

We need a minimum of 12 participants for this class. There is no cost but participants are encouraged to donate to the House of Neighborly Service's senior outreach program.

You may register for the classes on the sign-up sheet in Van Amburg Hall or by contacting either Pastor Mark or Sandie.



The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will convene in Charlotte, NC on April 23-May 1, 2024. There will be 862 delegates representing United Methodists throughout the world, including 34 delegates from our own Mountain Sky conference. General Conference is the only body that is authorized to speak for the denomination and will consider petitions to alter the Book of Discipline and resolutions for the Book of Resolutions.

Typically, General Conference meets every four years, but the upcoming conference is actually the 2020 conference which was postponed several times due to Covid and the difficulty many delegates from outside the US had in getting visas.

At General Conference, delegates will consider over 1,000 petitions and resolutions that have been submitted by United Methodists from throughout the world. Since the last General Conference in 2016 almost 25% of our churches have left the denomination over issues of human sexuality, so in this General Conference, delegates will be grappling with issues regarding the organization and governance of our now smaller denominational body.

After the General Conference adjourns, our Mountain Sky Annual Conference will gather in Casper, Wyoming on June 20-23 and we will consider we will adjust to any changes coming from General Conference. Finally, our Western Jurisdiction will meet July 10-13 in Spokane, Washington to possibly elect and assign several new Bishops.

Many of these sessions will be livestreamed so you can watch. Please chat with either Pastor Mark or Pastor Sandie if you have questions. Please hold the delegates to all these conferences in your prayers.

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 include:

- Mar. 10: "2,000 Years of Christian History in 45 Minutes"
- April 14: "What UM's Believe. No, Really!"
- May 19: "UM's Do What?"



New Member Sunday is Easter Sunday, March 31st

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.

Reorganizing Our Church Governance



At our recent Charge Conference, a motion was passed to explore and possibly begin implementation of a new way of organizing our church governance. Currently we follow a Church Council form of organization with four standing committees (Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, Finance, and Nominating) as well as several ministry and mission related committees. All these committees come together monthly for a

Church Council meeting. For larger churches this works very well and gives a “place at the table” for many church members. For many medium and smaller churches, however, having so many required committees results in 10-15 people each serving in 4-5 committees, and meeting, in many cases, almost weekly. The other problem is that each committee examines only their part of any church issues, and it seems like it takes many months to get anything done. This only adds to the frustration that faithful church workers feel.

For the last ten years or so, UM churches throughout the country have taken advantage of a statement in the Book of Discipline allowing churches to organize to do effective ministry in their context. Any changes require approval from both the District Superintendent and the church’s Charge Conference.

With these thoughts in mind, our church leadership is exploring moving to a One Board model of organization (sometimes called Simple Accountability System or SAS). In this system, a church leadership team of 15-17 people would be formed, and they would do all the work of the Trustees, Finance, Staff Parish and Nominating. The team would also have representatives from the mission and ministry teams and other groups like Women in Faith and United Methodist Men. The team would meet monthly for a maximum of two hours.

Our church leadership still has many questions to answer about how this new system might work in our church but are seeing opportunities for more efficient and effective decision making and freeing people up to spend less time on administration and more time on ministry.

We will keep you informed as we move forward and if you have any questions, please contact Stu Boyd, Kris-Ellen Corzine or either Pastor.

Noisy Bucket Offering



We will have a “noisy bucket offering” after our regular offering during Lent. You can put your change into our metal buckets to make a noisy offering, to benefit the Berthoud HNS Mobile Senior Program. Through this program, HNS staff members will go to the homes of seniors who are unable to get to the HNS office for help. With many seniors living alone, and some without a support system nearby, this program also offers a chance to provide a wellness check.

Your noisy coins are welcome on Sunday, but so are your more silent bills and checks. Startup Cost is \$300 (cooler for perishables, case for files, wagon); Staffing is \$5,200 per year.

Additional program information is available in Van Amburg Hall.



ABC Pastor Meetups at Ko·fē and Rise

ABC – A Beverage (of your) Choice – is happening twice a week with Pastors Mark and Sandie.

- Ko·fē on Tuesdays at 1:30 PM (starting Oct. 3)
 - Rise Bakery on Thursdays at 10 AM (starting Oct. 5)
- Come on down, get a cup of coffee, tea, whatever, and chat with Sandie and Mark. See you there!

CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY



The Mountain Sky Conference has a brand-new Creation Justice Task Force. From [their website page](#): “Our Creation Justice Task force provides resources to local churches to learn how to operate more sustainably... Our Creation Justice Task Force welcomes anyone from the Mountain Sky Conference to participate in monthly meetings and help craft a response to the climate crisis.”

If you are interested in bringing information about sustainability to Berthoud UMC, there will be an online “Greening Your Church Summit” on March 3rd. Please contact Karina in the office to let her know of your interest. The flyer with registration info is in the email.

AED Training – TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024, 6:30 PM



Our church now has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site! Through the generosity of the McKee Wellness Foundation, we have acquired this life-saving device. It is designed to be used by a non-medical person. However, to gain confidence with it, Thompson Valley Emergency Service will come to our church to do a brief training on it as well as CPR instruction. Training will last about an hour. All are invited to attend--the more the better! *Ushers are strongly encouraged.* Sign-up on the round

table in Van Amburg Hall. Questions? Ask Betsy Haskins, 970-232-8915, rghask@aol.com.

Deaf Bible Study



Pastor Sandie recently began a virtual Bible study on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 PM to reach the Deaf community. Participants in the Bible study have come from our local community and as far away as Korea. From now through Easter, the study will focus on the disciplines of the Lenten season. God willing, this will be the beginning of a Deaf Ministry at Berthoud First UMC. Please pray for this exciting endeavor and invite any Deaf friends or family

members you may know. They can contact Pastor Sandie for the zoom link.

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.

HNS Anniversary



HNS is celebrating 35 years of service to the Berthoud community! They are inviting the whole town to a gala event on **March 15 at Brookside Gardens at 6:30 PM**. Tickets are \$50. The House of Neighborly Service provides resources and tangible help to persons and families in need. Our church offers much of our "helping outreach" through this organization. Consider celebrating with HNS! For tickets and information, call 970-532-0161.

Let's Help The Scouts!



An annual scouting event in Berthoud is "Scouting for Food". On **Saturday, April 13th**, Boy and Girl Scouts cover Berthoud's neighborhoods, gathering canned and packaged goods that have been set out on the front porch for them, and delivering them to the House of Neighborly Service. With the growth of our town, the various packs and troops cannot cover all the streets, drives and avenues in one morning, so they are asking for help from organizations and faith groups. Let's pitch in and lend a hand! Sign up on the table in Van Amburg Hall.

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)

The mission of the United Women In Faith is to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

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

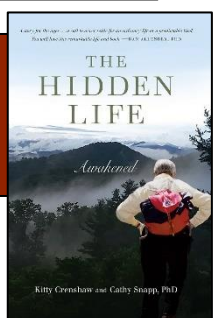
The Wednesday Workers are a group of men and women who maintain the building and grounds, and prepare the sanctuary and Sunday School rooms for Sunday.



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 to discuss *The Hidden Life* by Kitty Crenshaw. See Barbara Boyd for a copy of the book. Due to the Seder this month, stay tuned for time and date.

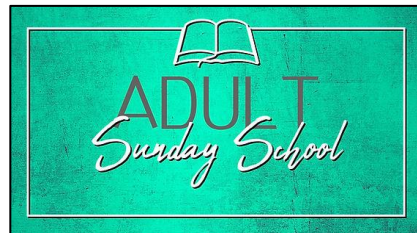


 **Caring Connections** helps to care for the needs of our congregation. All are welcome to join us! Meetings are held in the Library at **9:00 AM on the first Wednesday every month.**

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.

MARCH CALENDAR



Day	Date	Time – Event – Location
Saturday	2	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library
Sunday	3	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
		2:45 PM – Biblical Storytelling, Builder's Room
Tuesday	5	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

Day	Date	Time – Event – Location
Wednesday	6	9:00 AM – Caring Connections, Library 1:00 PM – Lenten Book Study 2:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Thursday	7	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 10:00 AM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Rise Bakery
Saturday	9	1:00 PM – Baby Shower for Laura Landes, Fellowship Hall
Sunday	10	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder's Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School 11:30 AM – Membership Class, Builder's Room 11:30 AM – Faith and Fellowship, Library 2:45 PM – Biblical Storytelling, Builder's Room
Tuesday	12	1:30 PM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Kó-fē House 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wednesday	13	8:00 AM – UWIF Executive Board Meeting, Library 1:00 PM – Lenten Book Study, Van Amburg Hall 2:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Thursday	14	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 10:00 AM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Rise Bakery 1:30 PM – Hope Circle, Library
Saturday	16	8:00 AM – UWIF (UMW) Early Birds, Library 8:00 AM – UMM Fellowship and Planning Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Sunday	17	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder's Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School 11:30 AM – All-Church Birthday Party Potluck 2:45 PM – Biblical Storytelling, Builder's Room
Tuesday	19	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	20	1:00 PM – Lenten Book Study, Van Amburg Hall 2:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice
Thursday	21	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 10:00 AM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Rise Bakery
Sunday	24	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 2:45 PM – Biblical Storytelling, Builder's Room 6:00 PM – Biblical Storytelling Concert, Sanctuary
Tuesday	26	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	27	1:00 PM – Lenten Book Study 2:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice
Thursday	28	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 10:00 AM – A.B.C. Pastors' Meet-up, Rise Bakery 6:00 PM – Passover Seder, Fellowship Hall
Friday	29	6:30 PM – Good Friday Service, Sanctuary
EASTER SUNDAY	31	6:30 AM – Sunrise Service, Roberts Lake Park 7:15 AM – Easter Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 9:15 AM – Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 AM – Worship. NO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 1	Sue Brungardt	March 16	Carolee Kidd
March 2	Nick Corzine	March 18	Robert Kearney
March 6	Craig Corzine	March 21	Helen DeVoe
March 10	Ruben Carillo	March 21	Mike Thoren
March 13	Kiegan Lafferty	March 22	Betsy Haskins
March 14	Mary Penney-Reyelts	March 25	Derek & Whitney Taylor (A)
March 15	Brad Pickert, Sr.	March 27	Carolyn Kiehn
March 15	Robert Towry	March 27	Drew Towles
March 16	Eila and John Green (A)		



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

820 9th Street (9th and Lake) Berthoud, CO 80513

Phone: 970-532-2142

Church email: secretary@berthoudumc.org

Website: www.BerthoudUMC.org

Pastor email: PastorMark@berthoudumc.org

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/berthoudumc/>

PastorSandie@berthoudumc.org

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJqSxMBHmcpSPv5SldlcYAg>

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