

April 2024



# THE BANNER

First United Methodist Church of Berthoud Monthly Newsletter

From Pastors Mark and Sandie Johnson

Dear Friends,

Just what does a Pastor do, anyway? Sometimes, after putting in a full day and realizing that I haven't even touched my "To-Do list", I wonder that myself.

The old joke is that Pastors only work one hour a week. Invariably, some jokester adds "And then all they do is read the sermon the Bishop sends them."

United Methodist Elders are ordained to the ministries of Word (preaching and teaching), Sacrament (celebrating Holy Communion and Baptism), Order (administering church business and guiding ministry teams in achieving church business) and Service (sharing the love of Jesus Christ in word and action.)

A big part of a Pastor's responsibility is caring for the congregation, community and the pastor's self. We often think of Pastoral Care taking place in a hospital room or the pastors' study and the care is focused on someone in need, pain and/or crisis. And the care itself consists of prayer, deep listening and helping the person in need find a path forward. Pastoral Care is that and more.

A very wise colleague once told me that the most significant act of Pastoral Care is leading worship and preaching. In worship our souls are formed, we find our place in God's Kingdom, and experience the very breath of God in the movements of the Holy Spirit.

Pastoral Care also takes place in leadership meetings and ministry team meetings as we translate our understandings of God's will into concrete, loving action.



Book studies, Bible study, and classes of one sort or another are also important parts of Pastoral Care. In these situations, both teacher and participants draw closer, we feel more freedom to share how God is moving in our lives and we have permission to explore/try out new ideas. This is even more true as the Pastors consult with congregants about how to care for each other.

Even informal gatherings at church (like fellowship time after worship and potlucks), at the coffee shop, or in people's homes give both pastors and congregants a chance to get to know each other, build trust and relationship, and share life together.

Let me go back to the idea of building trust and relationships. Without trust and relationship, many people are reluctant to share much about what is really going on in their lives. That's the reason Sandie and I have encouraged games days, potlucks and asked to meet with people. We don't want to be "unknowns" if and when members of the Berthoud First UMC family find themselves in difficult times. We want to know you well

enough that you feel comfortable enough to call or stop by the church to chat.

“How does meeting with the Pastor work” you may ask. Well, it’s best to call, text, or email to set a time to get together. While we are often at church, sometimes we are working off-site. Sandie and I nearly always have our cell phones and can get your texts, calls, and email.

When Sandie and I meet with folks to help iron out whatever is on their mind, we have somewhat different approaches. Sandie has two seminary degrees as well as degrees in Social work and Marriage and Family Therapy. She uses short term therapeutic techniques to help folks see how God is moving in their lives and to move forward. I (Mark) also have multiple seminary degrees and am trained as a coach. Like Sandi, I listen deeply and ask a lot of questions that help folks find their own answers. Neither of us use the Bible to make anyone feel guilt or shame.

What is the purpose of all this? As a community of Christ followers we are continually being spiritually formed in the image of Christ. We are moving away from the sin that has trapped us and moving toward the unconditional love that is being offered to us in Christ. As Pastors and fellow travelers on Christ’s path, Sandie and I are called to guide the God’s beloved people of Berthoud First UMC. Together, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are being restored to the ones God has created us to be. In a nutshell that is Pastoral Care. And, by God’s grace, that is what a Pastor does.

See you in Church.

Blessings,  
Mark and Sandie

## A Look Back At March



The United Women In Faith had their annual Prayer and Self-Denial event on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There was a baby shower for Laura Landes on March 9<sup>th</sup>.



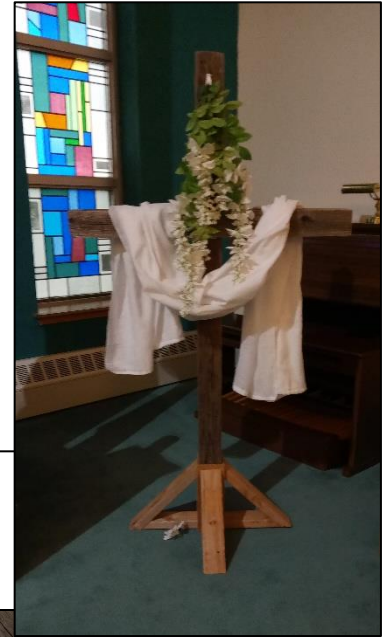
Holy Week kicked off with some great music on Palm Sunday.



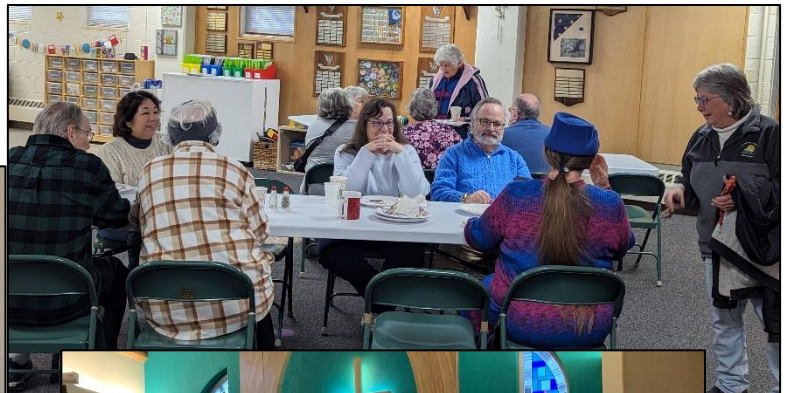




This year there was a Passover Seder on Holy Thursday.



On Easter morning the Sunrise Service was perfect, breakfast was delicious, the Easter Egg Hunt was fun for the kids, the sanctuary was beautiful, the pews were full, and the celebration was full of glorious music! Alleluia!





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastor Chat Time



Pastors Mark and Sandie are swapping the coffee house and bakery drop-ins for regular Wednesday office hours at the church. You can stop by any Wednesday from 10:00 AM to Noon and visit with either one or both of them. If this doesn't work with your schedule, they're always happy to arrange a visit that works better for you. Just call or email.

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### Scam Presentation

Please join us on **Sunday, April 28th** for a potluck with a presentation about how to avoid frauds and scams. Barbara Bennett, the "Chief Scambuster" of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, will tell us how to identify things that are suspicious in emails, texts, internet, social media, online shopping, and more.

(Like Pastor Sandie supposedly asking dozens of people for gift cards for women with cancer?) She'll also explain what to do when you identify fraudulent and criminal activity. The potluck and presentation will follow worship.

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### Reorganization Update



Our church leadership continues to learn about, and plan for, a possible church leadership reorganization. Using a book by UM church consultants Kay Kotan and Rev. Blake Bradford, *Mission Possible*, our planning team is considering the experience of dozens (if not hundreds) of United Methodist Churches across the country in streamlining leadership, improving communication and increasing accountability.

Leadership will be meeting in April to begin making recommendations for our leadership structure and how to communicate these possibilities to the congregation. Stay tuned.

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### Where in the World are Pastors Sandie and Mark?

Pastors Mark and Sandie will be attending a spiritual retreat in Alabama Monday, April 8 through Saturday, April 13. Please hold them in prayer during that time (and always). If you have any pastoral care needs during that time, please call the Church office.



## United Methodist General Conference April 23-May 3, 2024

There will be 862 delegates representing United Methodist Annual Conferences throughout the world will gather in Charlotte, NC to consider over 1,000 petitions and resolutions submitted by United Methodist members, churches, conferences, and agencies. Typically, the General Conference meets every four years to consider and amend the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions. However, COVID and the resulting difficulty in getting Visas to travel to the United States, made it necessary to postpone General Conference several times. Actually, the upcoming Conference is the “2020 Conference.”

General Conference delegates will be called upon to resolve many thorny issues. The General Church budget must be downsized to reflect the disaffiliation of nearly 25% of our pre-2020 UM churches. The church continues to have unresolved issues regarding human sexuality. Also, there will be petitions to allow the Jurisdictions in the United States to have the same flexibility that the Central Conferences outside the USA have in organizing ministries to meet the needs of their specific context.

The Mountain Sky Conference (UM churches in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana – and one church in Idaho) will meet in Casper, WY June 20-23 and the Western Jurisdiction will meet July 10-13 in Spokane, WA. Many of these sessions will be livestreamed so you can watch and learn firsthand what is going on.

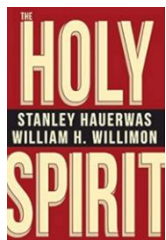
As always, please contact either Pastor Mark or Pastor Sandie if you have questions.

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## 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:

- April 14: "What UM's Believe. No, Really!"
- May 19: "UM's Do What?"



## You're Invited To A 4 Week Book Study

Pastors Sandie and Mark will lead a study of *Holy Spirit* on Wednesday afternoons at 1 PM beginning May 1. This book was written by eminent UM theologians, Bishop Will Willimon and Rev. Stanley Hauerwas. Please sign up by April 14 so we can order enough books. Please chat with the Pastors if you have questions. Hope you can join in.

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## Pastors' Office Hours



Pastors Mark and Sandie are swapping the coffee house and bakery drop-ins for regular Wednesday office hours at the church. You can stop by any Wednesday from 10:00 AM to noon and visit with either one or both of them. If this doesn't work with your schedule, they're always happy to arrange a visit that works better for you. Just call or email.

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## 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.

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## Friendly Reminder



We have reserved pews in the back of our sanctuary for those who are practicing masking and social distancing, for health concerns that affect themselves or a loved one. If you or a loved one has health concerns, please consider these pews reserved for you, and keep your distance from others in these pews. If you are *not* masked or practicing social distancing, please select a different pew. Thanks!

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## Tomato Plant Sale



This year's tomato plant sale will take place on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. This year there won't be any pre-sales. You can come to the church from 9AM to 1PM to select and purchase your tomato plants. See Carol Keck for a list of the plants that will be available.

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## Let's Help The Scouts!



An annual scouting event in Berthoud is "Scouting for Food". On **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**, 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.



## Garage Sale – Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

The church will be having a garage sale on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 2PM. 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 the 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 Kris-Ellen Corzine or Barb Howell.

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## 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](mailto:rghask@aol.com).



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### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – 1:30 PM in the Library

**Early Bird Circle:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
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 to discuss *The Bright Unknown* by Elizabeth Byler Younts. See **Barbara Boyd** for a copy of the book.



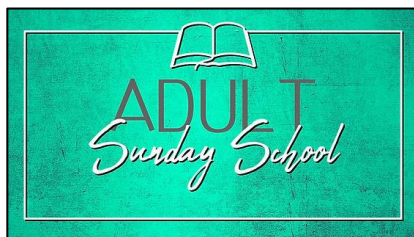
**Caring Connections** helps to care for the needs of our congregation. All are welcome to join us! Meetings are held in the Library at **9:00 AM on the first Wednesday every month.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY



### **Youth and Children Sunday School**

Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



# APRIL CALENDAR



Day	Date	Time – Event – Location
Tuesday	2	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wednesday	3	9:00 AM – Caring Connections, Library 2:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Thursday	4	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library
Sunday	7	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, Library
Tuesday	9	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wednesday	10	9:00 AM – UWIF Executive Board Meeting, Library 2:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Thursday	11	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 1:30 PM – Hope Circle, Library
Sunday	14	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
Tuesday	16	10:00 AM – SPRC Meeting, Van Amburg Hall 10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wednesday	17	2:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice
Thursday	18	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library
Saturday	20	8:00 AM – UWIF Early Birds, Library 8:00 AM – UMM Fellowship Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Sunday	21	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	23	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Wednesday	24	2:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study 6:30 PM – Choir Practice
Thursday	25	9:30 AM – Craft Group, Library 7:00 PM – Book Club Meeting, Van Amburg Hall
Sunday	28	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible, Builder's Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children & Youth Sunday School 11:30 AM – Potluck and Scam Presentation, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	30	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 5:30 PM – Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary



## April Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 1	Stu Boyd	April 20	Jennifer Miller
April 1	Richard & Julia Magee (A)	April 21	Brad Cook
April 4	Leeanne Bauer	April 23	Jon Reid
April 4	Robert Kiehn	April 24	Randy Short
April 6	Pam Lewis	April 30	Iona Kearney
April 9	Linda Wrenn	April 30	Dennis Reyelts
April 13	Julia Magee		



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](mailto:secretary@berthoudumc.org), [pastormark@berthoudumc.org](mailto:pastormark@berthoudumc.org) or [pastorsandie@berthoudumc.org](mailto:pastorsandie@berthoudumc.org).

### First United Methodist Church of Berthoud

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Church email: [secretary@berthoudumc.org](mailto:secretary@berthoudumc.org)

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Pastor email: [PastorMark@berthoudumc.org](mailto:PastorMark@berthoudumc.org)

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

[PastorSandie@berthoudumc.org](mailto:PastorSandie@berthoudumc.org)

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

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