

DECEMBER 2024



THE BANNER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BERTHOUD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

From Pastors Mark and Sandie Johnson

Dear Friends,

A few days ago, Sandie and I got each other an early Christmas present – an eight-week-old puppy we’ve named Coconut (who also goes by Coco or Coco-bean). She is a real cutie and makes us laugh uproariously. Our other dog, Blueberry, and cat, Bob, are taking a much dimmer view of her presence, however. It is amazing how Coco has bonded with us in just a few days. That is great, except about 3 AM, when she decides it is time for her people to play and cuddle with her. (We had forgotten that part of getting a puppy.) Of course, her wanting to play does not change our need for sleep, and her wanting to play or go outside does not change the needs and responsibilities of our regular life. Everyone who gets a pet knows how they break into and upset the routines and patterns of daily life we’ve all set.

In a much grander and life-changing sense, this Advent season gives us time to pause and reflect on the way God has broken into – disrupted – the patterns and routines of daily life. Sandie and I often say that God has stepped out of eternity and into history in the birth of Jesus Christ. Coming to us, Jesus – fully God and fully human – has upset all the



patterns, rules, and conventions humankind held about the way life and relationships were to be conducted. Following Jesus means shifting our thoughts and actions from what only benefits us individually to how we might love others.

Sandie and I pray that during this Advent season leading to Christmas you will experience the inbreaking, life-changing love of God in Jesus Christ. Please make attending worship each week and on Christmas Eve a priority and why not invite unchurched friends, family and neighbors to worship with you?

And beware of getting puppies for Christmas.

Marry Christmas!
Mark and Sandie

A LOOK BACK AT NOVEMBER

The United Women In Faith held their annual Thank Offering on November 2nd.



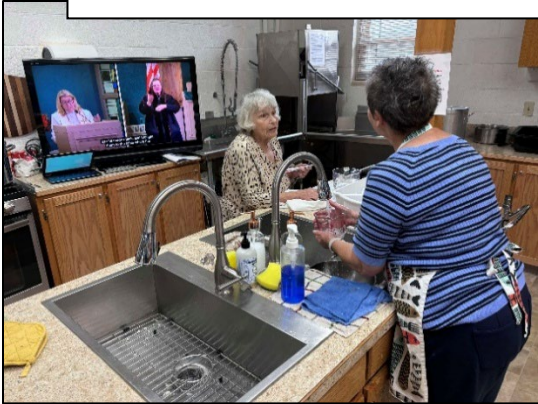
We celebrated our veterans on November 10th. Some of them can even still fit in their uniforms!



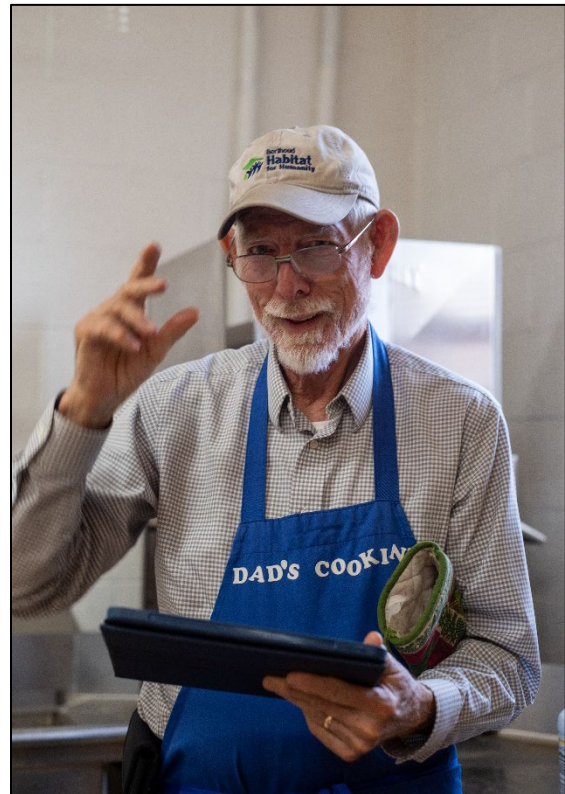
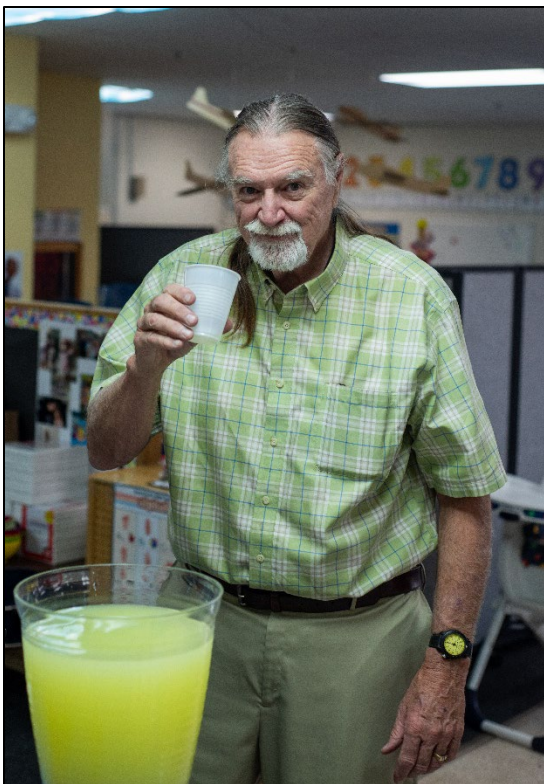
The Weld County Ramblers treated us to a wonderful musical celebration on November 17th.



On November 24th we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of our church's ministry in Berthoud.



The Harvest Home Dinner prep crew was busy in the kitchen during service. They found a way to enjoy worship service while staying on task getting dinner ready. (Great photos, Ric and Clint!)





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks for 150th and Harvest Home



It has been said, “It takes a village to raise a child.” It would be equally true to note, “It took the whole church family to pull off our 150th celebration and Harvest Home dinner.” So many folks were involved in the planning, preparation, cooking, setting up, cleaning up, serving and on and on and on. In such a case as one tries to recognize the individuals who

were involved, there is always the risk of failing to mention someone who played a critical role. With that in mind – thank you to everyone. You are incredible and together we had a great time!

Now, having admitted my fear of forgetting someone, here are a couple folks who really went above and beyond. Thanks to everyone who helped, including:

- Stu Boyd, who chaired the 150th celebration and Barbara Boyd, who along with Stu, did the lion’s share of planning, designing, writing the book and a thousand and one other details
- Karina Doyle, our incredible Office Administrator, who prepared the photo collage and produced the booklet
- Gena Spaur, for co-chairing the Harvest Home dinner and served as auctioneer, and Steve Spaur, for being at the Church taking care of details
- Ric Haskins, who co-chairing the Harvest Home dinner, and Betsy Haskins who, along with Ric, purchased food, cooked the meat, and much more
- Barb Howell, who coordinated the auction
- Clinton Vining, for taking pictures
- Bishop Stoneking, for being here to celebrate with us, preaching, and leading the baptismal service
- District Superintendent Rev. Mark Calhoun, for helping lead worship
- Paige French, for her incredible solo
- Dr. James Fuller and Kent Davis, for sharing their musical gifts in worship
- Oliver Nguyen, our intrepid musician, for his skill and expertise
- Rob Howell, for handling all our technical needs and live streaming
- Bruce Bohall, for operating the sound system

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Farewell to Karina and Welcome to Katy



Karina Doyle has been our Office Administrator for the past two years and in that time has not only done an incredible job but has also become a beloved member of the Church family. Soon, she will be leaving us to pursue another business venture. We will miss her, and we all wish her the richness of all God's blessings.

After an exhaustive search and interviewing process, the Leadership Team is excited to welcome Katy Hughes as our new Office Administrator. During the last week of November and the first week of December she will be in training with

Karina. Why not stop by to wish Karina well and meet Katy?

Reverse Advent Calendar



Advent is the season in the Church Year that begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends Christmas Eve. During this season, the faithful prepare themselves spiritually by remembering Christ's birth and anticipating his return. The faithful sometimes use an Advent Calendar that includes a daily scripture in their regular devotions.

Over the years, the tradition of the Advent Calendar has morphed into something else. Some Advent calendars for kids have a small toy each day. Adult versions have a piece of chocolate or other goodie for each day. Fun? Sure. Do they have the same meaning as the original calendars? You decide.

This year we are offering a Reverse Advent Calendar. Rather than having a daily gift for our enjoyment, our Reverse Advent Calendar has a daily suggestion of something you can do for others. Maybe it is purchasing food for a food drive which you can bring to the Church, and we will take to the House of Neighborly Service. Or perhaps it is sending a prayer note to someone. If the suggestion on the Calendar doesn't work for you and your family, choose something else to do. However you use it, the idea is to help us focus on sharing our love with others just as God has shared God's love with us.

Copies are available on the Welcome Table in Van Amberg Hall. Give it a try, and please let the Pastors know what happens as you use it.



Christmas Eve Worship at 7 PM

You, your family, and friends are invited to a traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 7 PM. Together, we will share the Christmas story, sing carols, and worship God for coming to us in Jesus Christ.

Longest Night Service

Again this year, we will share with First Presbyterian Church in a “Longest Night” Worship Service on Saturday, December 21 at 6:30 PM. This service is an opportunity for those people suffering loss or grief who have difficulty finding joy in the traditional ways of celebrating Christmas. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are invited to share in this unique holiday worship opportunity. Like last year, the service is being hosted at First Presbyterian Church located at 531 N. 8th.



House of Neighborly Service - Holiday Food Needs

From the House Of Neighborly Service messaging: “Join House of Neighborly Service in our mission to stabilize households and prevent crises this holiday season! We need your help to gather essential food supplies for our holiday food baskets. Your generous donations can make a world of difference for households in need. Please contribute today and spread the joy of giving!”

- Potatoes – boxed (mashed, au gratin, etc)
- Stuffing/Stove Top
- Pie Filling (if pumpkin, include evaporated milk)
- Pie Crust
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned yams or sweet potatoes
- Biscuit/roll/cornbread mixes
- Gravy – jar or mixes
- Chicken broth
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Green Beans
- Hot Cocoa
- Toys and \$25 gift cards for Christmas Store



SMALL GROUPS

United Women In Faith

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.



- **UWIF Executive Board Meeting:** Every 2nd Wednesday – 9:00 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 men and women who maintain the building and grounds, and prepare the sanctuary and Sunday School rooms for Sunday.



The Book Club will meet at 6:00 P.M., December 12 in the Builders' room for the annual soup and salad meal. This will also include discussion about *The Paper Bag Christmas* by Kevin Alan Milne. See Barbara Boyd for a copy of the book.



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

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 - Sunday School for children and youth takes place during Sunday worship. Children from kindergarten through high school are welcome to join.

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR



Day	Date	Time – Event – Location
Sunday	1	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder’s Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children and Youth Sunday School 10:00 AM – Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	3	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 1:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study, Online over Zoom 5:30 PM – Handbell Rehearsal, 3 rd Floor Classroom
Wednesday	4	9:00 AM – Caring Connections, Library 10:00 AM – Pastor Chat Time, Pastors’ Office 1:00 PM – Advent Book Study
Sunday	8	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder’s Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children and Youth Sunday School 2:00 PM – Don Elwood Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
Monday	9	8:30 AM – Berthoud Faith Coalition Meeting, Van Amburg Hall
Tuesday	10	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 1:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study, Online over Zoom 5:30 PM – Handbell Rehearsal, 3 rd Floor Classroom 6:15 PM – Leadership Team Meeting, Builder’s Room
Wednesday	11	9:00 AM – UWF Executive Board Meeting, Library 10:00 AM – Pastor Chat Time, Pastors’ Office 1:00 PM – Advent Book Study
Thursday	12	1:30 PM – Hope Circle, Library 6:00 PM – Book Club Annual Soup and Salad Meal, Van Amburg Hall
Sunday	15	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder’s Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children and Youth Sunday School
Tuesday	17	10:30 AM – Spanish Class, Library 1:30 PM – Deaf Bible Study, Online over Zoom 5:30 PM – Handbell Rehearsal, 3 rd Floor Classroom
Wednesday	18	10:00 AM – Pastor Chat Time, Pastors’ Office 1:00 PM – Advent Book Study, Van Amburg Hall
Saturday	21	8:00 AM – UWF Early Birds, Library 6:30 PM – Longest Night Service, First Presbyterian Church
Sunday	22	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder’s Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children and Youth Sunday School
Tuesday	24	7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday	25	Merry Christmas!!
Sunday	29	8:30 AM – Exploring the Bible Adult Sunday School, Builder’s Room 10:00 AM – Worship, Children and Youth Sunday School

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

December 2	Anne Boyd	December 11	Mark Patterson
December 2	Carter Vining	December 11	Quincy Denning
December 3	Eila Green	December 12	Walker Reid
December 3	Logan Rees	December 13	Sue Ellis
December 4	Joe Beakey	December 17	Janette Sisler
December 5	Tammy Rees	December 23	Emma Fitzgerald
December 6	Abigail Reid	December 24	Kent & Carrie Davis (A)
December 9	Jay Denning	December 27	Caleb Smith
December 9	Peggy Edwards	December 29	Larry Wrenn



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

PastorSandie@berthoudumc.org

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

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