

At the heart of our life as a United Methodist congregation is a simple but powerful mission: to grow your love of God, family, and community. This mission is more than just words on paper—it's a way of life that shapes who we are and how we serve in Christ's name.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 22:37 to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Growing in our love for God means drawing closer to God through prayer, worship, and study. Every time we lift our voices in song, gather around the Lord's Table, or open our Bibles together, we are nurturing that relationship. God doesn't ask for perfection, but for openness—a willingness to keep learning, keep seeking, and keep trusting.

Here at CUMC, we create space where faith can flourish. That might mean attending Sunday School, joining a small group Bible study, or simply carving out time in your day to talk with God. Each small step strengthens our connection to the One who created and loves us beyond measure.

Family comes in many forms—biological, chosen, and spiritual. The church itself is often called a family because we care for one another, just as brothers and sisters in Christ. Growing in our love for family means being intentional about offering grace, forgiveness, and encouragement in our homes and in our relationships.

Sometimes this is the hardest place to live out our faith, but it is also the most rewarding. When we pray with our children and grandchildren, call our friends to check in, or share a meal at the table instead of rushing past one another, we are planting seeds of love that will bear fruit for years to come. In this way, our mission strengthens not only individuals, but households and future generations.

The love of God and family naturally expands outward into the world around us. John Wesley once said, “The world is my parish.” That means our faith is not meant to be confined within four walls; it is meant to overflow into acts of service, compassion, and justice.

When we volunteer at the food pantry, mentor young people, or support community programs, we are living out Christ's command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). Each act of kindness—no matter how small—becomes a witness to God's love at work in us.

Love is not static. It is alive, and like a garden, it requires care and attention. When we neglect it, it withers. But when we nurture it—through prayer, forgiveness, service, and faith—it grows stronger, deeper, and more life-giving. Our mission challenges each of us to ask: Where is God inviting me to grow right now?

Maybe for you, it's spending more time in prayer. Perhaps it's strengthening your relationships at home. Maybe it's finding new ways to serve in the community. Wherever God is leading you, know that you are not alone. We grow best when we grow together.

Let us continue to plant, nurture, and grow. Let us continue to seek God in worship, cherish our families in love, and reach out to our neighbors with compassion. And may the mission to grow your love of God, family, and community continue to shape not just what we say, but how we live each and every day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHEDULE



09/12

FRI-SUN

**UWF SPIRITUAL
RETREAT
UWF**



10/05 **WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

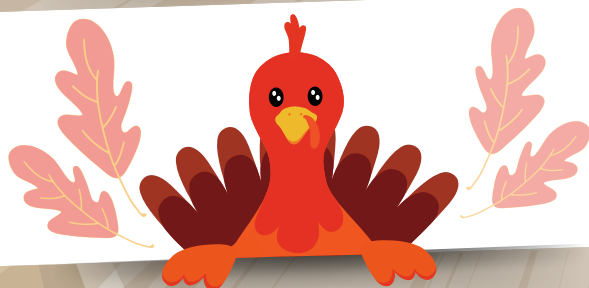
SUN



10/09

SUN

Blood Drive



11/09

SUN

**Friendsgiving
Thanksgiving Potluck**



11/17

MON

Make Cheesballs

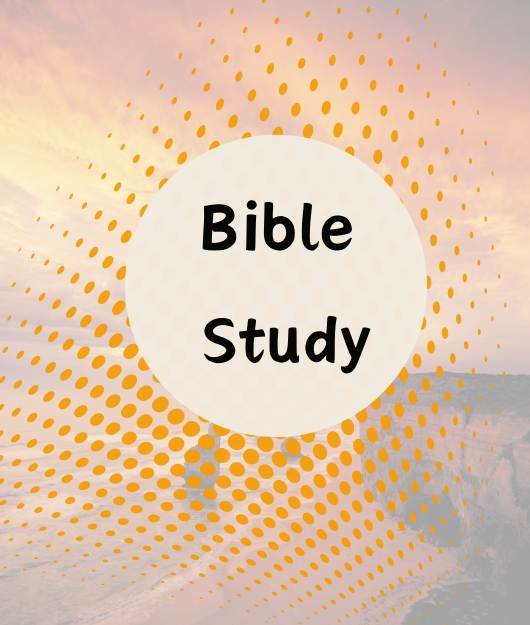
September Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Kathy Beaumont	6
7	8	9 Barb Roths Dorothy Bondurant	10	11 Violet Marquart	12	13
14 Lauren Cole	15	16	17	18	19	20 Frank Kubin
21 Cameron Utter Jessie Butler	22 Blade Gutsche	23	24	25	26	27
28 Mike Ballantine	29 Bev Klein	30 Janet Diller				

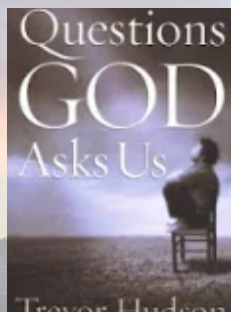


MONDAY 9:30 A.M. BIBLE STUDY:

The Monday Morning Bible Study is a Monday Morning Hymn Study during this summer. The group meets at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room downstairs. Select hymns from "The Faith We Sing" become more memorable and meaningful as we read, sing, pray and chant. All are welcome.



Bible Study



Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

In September, the Tuesday afternoon Bible Study will continue the study: Questions God Asks Us by Trevor Hudson. God wants to enter into a conversation with us, His children, and the questions He poses in the Bible draw us into a deeper sharing and intimacy with Him. Come join us on September 9th and 23rd at 2:00 pm in the Lounge for interesting insights and discussion.

Contact Carma at Mynacee@aol.com for materials.

Adult Sunday School:

Adult Sunday School has begun a new study from Max Lucado entitled "The Checkered Heart". The study follows the journey of young David, a shepherd, chosen to providing King Saul with harp music (to relax his troubled soul). The story then follows David as he hides from King Saul for many years to David's crowning as King. Join us for this interesting study Sunday mornings in Room 107 from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. as Lucado provides us with great background for each session to put us right there with David on his journey! Sue Ptacek 970-218-8701.

Seekers Bible Study

Seekers Bible study will be taking a Summer break and will be back in September.

Habitat for Humanity CUMC Workday

Tues, Sept. 9!!!!

We need 10 people to help on our workday – the Fort Collins location and times will be available soon. Always a fun and productive day!! Let Sue Ptacek know if you will be available for that day. Any

questions,

please give me a call or email.

Thanks, Sue 970-218-8701



Lef's
build
a home!

Habitat for Humanity

Buckhorn United Women in Faith Spiritual Retreat

Caring for Body, Mind, and Soul, facilitated by Corinna Crandall

September 12-14, 2025

All women of the church are invited to a Spiritual Retreat to be held September 12th through the 14th at Buckhorn Methodist Camp.

Accommodations are in the Retreat Hall that sleeps 3 people to a room with a bathroom. We will start off the retreat weekend with dinner Friday evening and conclude with breakfast Sunday morning followed by a worship service.

Enjoy a weekend of fellowship, spiritual renewal, and inspiration in a beautiful mountain setting with great accommodations and food.

5 meals: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday breakfast

2 nights lodging: Friday and Saturday

Total weekend cost- \$250.00 per person

Question contact Kathy Turner 970-290-0344 or kayturn@comcast.net



Congregational Care Team

The goal of the Congregational Care Team (CCT) is to reach out to those in our community of faith who have special needs and to help make our church a friendly, nurturing faith community.

When the Care Team is made aware of someone who needs a little extra encouragement, they do their best to be there with cards, phone calls and visits. During the past month CCT members sent 49 cards and emails, made 4 calls and 3 visits.

The Congregational Care Team (CCT) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the church lounge to update, review and to assure that the known needs of those in our community of faith are being met. You are invited to join the Team!

For more information, please call Linda Glover, 970-481-1415.

Memorials

Funds from John Brubacher's memorial were used in July for the purchase of new table cloths for the round tables and new rectangular six-foot tables in the Fellowship Hall. These were specifically purchased for special events and receptions such as funerals and memorial services. We are thankful to the Brubacher family for making this money available for this purpose.

From the Trustees

The Board of Trustees has been busy this summer completing one of its major goals for the year. Thanks to Joe, our painter, and Philip Vadnais Room 15 was painted over three days in July 2025. Here are the before and after photos. We feel it is a much brighter and welcoming space now! Thanks to everyone who volunteered to move the furniture out and back into the room.



Before

Trustees plan to install a chair rail around the room to protect the walls from being marked by the metal chairs. We would also like to replace the carpet on the floor with vinyl flooring in the future if our funds allow this improvement.

Also the well and irrigation system have been repaired, and our grass areas are greening nicely.

We are grateful for your building fund donations and will spend them wisely to keep our church in good condition.



After



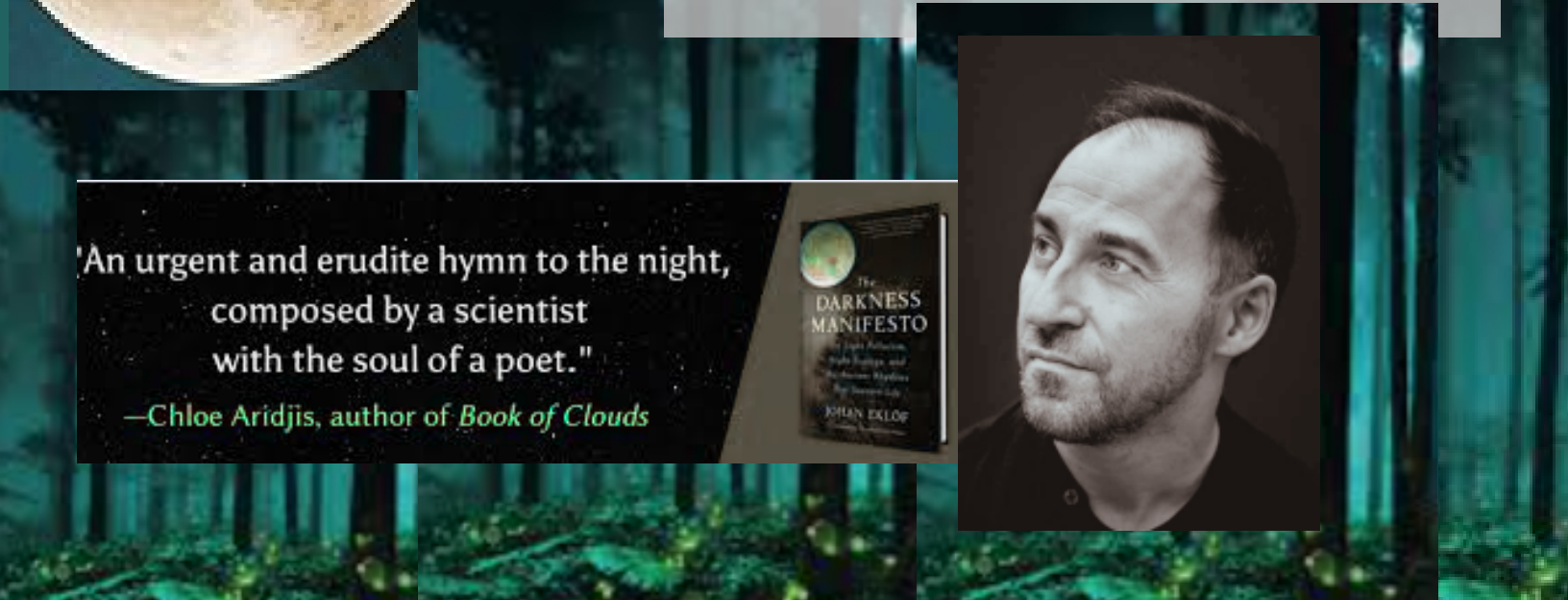
Library News

United Women In Faith have many books in their section of the Library. Those shelves are at the far east end of the Library.

Current books (fiction and non-fiction) on Social Action, Nurturing for Community, Leadership Development, Education for Mission and Spiritual Growth give many choices for every reader. You will see the checkout instructions on one of the shelves.

PLEASE RETURN ANY BOOKS YOU CHECK OUT IN 3 WEEKS OR LESS. Other readers are waiting.

Here is a short review of a book from the "Spiritual Growth" category.



'An urgent and erudite hymn to the night,
composed by a scientist
with the soul of a poet.'

—Chloe Aridjis, author of *Book of Clouds*



The Darkness Manifesto by Johan Eklöf

On Light Pollution, Night Ecology, and the Ancient Rhythms That Sustain Life

This timely and captivating look at the hidden impact of light pollution is "rich in revelation and insight...lyrical" (The Wall Street Journal) and urges us to cherish natural darkness for the sake of the environment, our own well-being, and all life on earth.

How much light is too much light? Satellite pictures show our planet as a brightly glowing orb, and in our era of constant illumination, light pollution has become a major issue. The world's flora and fauna have evolved to operate in the natural cycle of day and night. But in the last 150 years, we have extended our day—and in doing so have forced out the inhabitants of the night and disrupted the circadian rhythms necessary to sustain all living things, including ourselves.

In this "well-researched and surprisingly lyrical" (The New Statesman, UK) book, Swedish conservationist Johan Eklöf urges us to appreciate natural darkness, its creatures, and its unique benefits. He ponders the beauties of the night sky, traces the errant paths of light-drunk moths and the swift dives of keen-eyed owls, and shows us the bioluminescent creatures of the deepest oceans. As a devoted friend of the night, Eklöf reveals the startling domino effect of diminishing darkness: insects, dumbfounded by streetlamps, failing to reproduce; birds blinded and bewildered by artificial lights; and bats starving as they wait in vain for insects that only come out in the dark. For humans, light-induced sleep disturbances impact our hormones and weight, and can contribute to mental health problems like chronic stress and depression. The streetlamps, floodlights, and neon signs of cities are altering entire ecosystems, and scientists are only just beginning to understand their long-term effects. The light bulb—long the symbol of progress and development—needs to be turned off.

Finance Committee
Monthly Review of Gifts and Expenses for the Church's
Operating Fund

Monthly Review	Givings	Expenses	Difference
May, 2025	19,912.62	23,395.94	-3,483.32
June, 2025	29,958.43	24,515.39	5,443.04
July, 2025	21,620.40	23,926.79	2,306.39

Our financial picture has stabilized somewhat, but we are still negative year to date. The deficit in July was \$2,306 which is lower than in some months earlier in the year. Thanks to all of you who gave extra to help out. We still have an amount we owe to one of our funds that we borrowed from, and the balance is still the same as this time last month, \$20K. Both April and June show more gifts than expenses and this is helping to reduce the debt that was created earlier in the year. We also continue to look for ways to cut down on expenses.

Luke 12:34

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Thanks to all
who sent in photos for School Picture Day.
I certainly appreciate the enthusiastic
response! And congratulations to Brenda
who got all 15 names!
Carma



Come and enjoy some delicious food with other FFH volunteers in our community at The
Annual **"FFH Volunteer Appreciation Event"**
on September 21st at Edora Park.

Feel free to drop by anytime between 12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Please RSVP by September 16th by contacting Nathalee Novy or Kendra Coleman. We
can't wait to celebrate your dedication and we hope to see you there!!

FFH Volunteers Needed: Our next rotation of this year is October 19th through the 26th.

- * Watch for your e-mail invite in mid-September and prayerfully consider volunteering.
- * Use SignUpGenius to get first choice of available slots.
- * New volunteers are always welcome so encourage a friend to join you.

If you have questions about the upcoming rotation or need help with the electronic sign up,
please feel free to contact Nathalee Novy at 224-5331.

*Other FFH News: Some of you may have noticed that the request for volunteers in October didn't state it
was our last rotation for 2025. The past 2 yrs have been very challenging for FFH due to City Council
changes that affected the way FFH operates. As a result, the organization has lost at least 3 Host
churches. Other Host churches have offered to take up the slack created by the situation. With one
unassigned week left in the year, it was decided that CUMC would volunteer to Host the FFH families the
week of December 28th. If you will be available, please consider volunteering.*

Christ United Methodist Church
301 E. Drake Road
Ft. Collins, CO 80525

Return Service Requested



SEPTEMBER 2025
VOLUME 28,#9

Want your article featured next month? Submit your proofed work to info@cumc-fc.org, or drop by during office hours.

Articles are due the third Monday of every month.

Feel generous, give now!

Scan here



Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Closed from noon to 1:00 pm for lunch

Phone: 970-226-2341

Fax: 970-207-4030

E-mail: info@cumc-fc.org