



Central United Methodist Church of Colorado Springs

"A Place to Begin...Belong...Become"

THE CENTRAL FAMILY OF FAITH
GATHERED IN PRAISE AND CELEBRATION
Rev. Deb Wacker

Sunday, July 16, 2023, 10:00 am



Prelude "It Is Well With My Soul" -Arr. Berry Jo Jackson
Welcome Rev. Deb Wacker
Church Opportunities Diane Black

***Call to Worship** Diane Black
Leader: Holy One, God of Forgiveness, we call out to you and you surround us with deliverance.
People: You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves or others.
Leader: Open us this day to your counsel, helping us be more merciful, more grace-filled,
People: So that we might rejoice in simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

Hymn Of Praise "All Things Bright and Beautiful" UMH #147
Children's Message Sara Murdaugh
Prayers of the People Rev. Deb

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Offering: Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving
Generous God, in light of your extravagant blessings—
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—
We offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you
transform what we plant into the produce of love. Amen.

Offertory "The Lark in the Clear Air" – Arr. Keveren Jo Jackson
Doxology "Good Enough" Jo Jackson
[sung slowly, in harmony]
God is still here and somehow; this faith is good enough. (x2)

Hymn of Preparation: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" UMH #348

Scripture Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32 Diane Black
Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:
"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the

younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

“When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’”

“So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

“But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’

“Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

*A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God.*

Sermon “We Often Believe that We are the Problem” Rev. Deb

A Blessing for Becoming Real

***Closing Hymn** “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” UMH #383 vs. 1,3,4

***Benediction of the People** Rev. Deb

Postlude “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” -The Universal Psalmist Jo Jackson

(Please remain seated until the music has stopped. The service is still being streamed live on zoom.)

*Stand as you wish

Hymn Of Praise

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

UMH #147

1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.

(Refrain)

2. The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.

(Refrain)

3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one.

(Refrain)

4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

(Refrain)

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.

Hymn of Preparation:

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

UMH #348

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me. [Refrain]

4 O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Come home, come home; you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

***Closing Hymn**

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

UMH #383 vs. 1,3,4

1 This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

WE ARE LOYAL TO OUR CHURCH BY OUR

PRAYERS: Christina Cox and Jeb Meyers and families in the loss of Jeb’s Grandfather.
 Jan Adams nephews, Mike Polley health problems.
 Eleanora Roder, Cheryl James’ aunt, hospitalized after a fall.
 The James Family in the loss of Cheryl’s mother.
 Sandra Noggle is still working through COVID.
 Ruth Schmidt, Sister of John Cox spent more time in the hospital for burst incision.
 Bob Adams fell on Friday, 23rd and broke his nose.
 Ken Williams and his daughter, Amy as she fights cancer.
 Maxine Rummel as Maxine ???
 Kim Roman (Ashley’s mom, Danny/Martha’s Grandmother as she fights cancer).
 Travel mercies for all and our "WAVES", our country and its leaders.

Serving in mission: Kutela Katembo: Missionary in Angola, Africa
Our World: Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, and Russia

PRESENCE: Sanctuary 55, Fellowship 4, Nursery 5, Online 10, **Total: 74**

GIFTS:	July 9 th	July 2 nd	June 25 th	June 18 th	June 11 th
	\$2839.50	\$4809.00	\$5278.00	\$1,701.00	\$3,981

SERVICE: Thank you to our **DONUT LADIES!** Diane Black and Elaine Ainsworth bring the sweet treats to share with our congregation every Sunday! If you would like to bring donuts please see one of those Amazing Ladies!

**A Summer Party for the WAVES!
Wise And Valued Elders = WAVES**

THIS TUESDAY, JULY 18, 10:00 A.M.

in Fellowship Hall

**Everyone 80 and older is invited to a deliciously fun party
Hosted by the Caring Ministries Team.**

Come and enjoy being together, with a cup of coffee or tea, great conversation, and a special surprise program... performances by some of our young and most talented. Please call the office (719-597-6642) to let us know attendance and if you need a ride.

CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES

JULY MISSION FOCUS: Snacks to Go with Backpacks! Our Special Gift for La Puente

In early August the staff of La Puente Social Services in Alamosa, CO, will be giving out 300 BACKPACKS filled with school supplies to low-income children at several sites throughout the San Luis Valley. They have received a grant that will provide all the school supplies and backpacks, which is what we usually donate. So, here’s what they need, and it’s so much fun!!

**300 Capri Sun juice boxes 300 Gold Fish individual packs of crackers
300 individual packs of gummy snacks of whatever type.**

The juice, crackers and gummy snacks will be distributed as the children are standing in long lines waiting to receive backpacks. This is not superfluous silliness. This is helping 300 children living in poverty to enjoy a super-fun experience as they receive their backpacks.

Please bring juice, crackers or gummy snacks to the basket in the entryway any time during July. Bob and Madellen Spaete will deliver our gifts to Alamosa after July 31. You may also contribute by check payable to Central UMC and designated La Puente.

Food Gifts in July: Toilet Paper Month OR Be a Chicken Giver!!

Collection of items for the Backpack Project

The Missions Committee along with the Backpack Team are challenging everyone to bring toilet paper and/or canned chicken during the month of July. **There will be two towers:** a pile of packages of toilet paper (any size ... the larger the better ... Individual rolls will be placed in plastic bags when included in a backpack.) and a stack of cans of chicken. Nearby will be a **clipboard** for you to register your guess of the maximum height of each tower.

On Sunday July 30, after worship, the ‘judges’ will measure each tower. Winners will be announced the following Sunday, and each winner will receive a fabulous, eye-popping prize!
All ages may enter their guesses (one guess per tower per person).

Let the building begin! Buy, bring, stack and then register your guess. Let’s all enjoy the giving!!

