



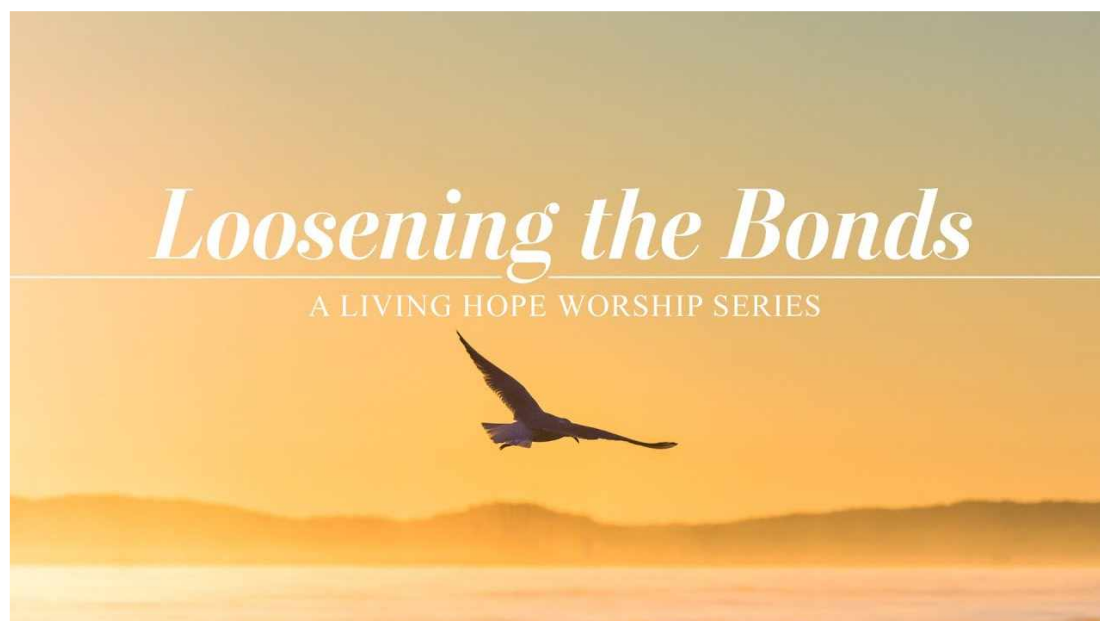
**Central United Methodist Church
of Colorado Springs**

“A Place to Begin...Belong...Become”

**THE CENTRAL FAMILY OF FAITH
GATHERED IN PRAISE AND CELEBRATION**

Rev. Debra Wacker

Sunday, April 23, 2023, 10:00 am



Loosening the Bonds

Prelude “I Will Enter His Gates/This Is the Day” arr. M. Hayes Kim Crom

Welcome Rev. Deb Wacker

Church Opportunities Bob Spaete

***Hymn of Praise** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” UMH #89 vs. 1-3

***Call to Worship** Bob Spaete

Leader: Call on the Lord Who Bends Low to Hear Us
Come! Lift your voices to the Lord who always hears us.

People: Listen, Lord. Hear our voices sing your praises.

Leader: Call on the Lord who bends low to hear us.

People: Listen, Lord. We lift our voices to you in praise.

Leader: Call on the name of the Lord, all people.

People: Listen, Lord. We call on your wonderful name. For you saved us, you raised us and turned our lives around. Let your name be praised in this congregation.

Choral Response Chancel Choir

Children’s Message Amy Ray

Prayer of Confession Rev. Deb

Gracious God, When we remember the journey of our faith, the story that we live with you and one another, we recall all the ways we have missed the mark.
We have failed to live our Christian story well.
We have neglected to listen to and believe the stories of our neighbors.
We have ignored how we contribute to the hardships that exist in our community.
We have turned away from the needs of the poor.
We have shied away from the suffering of our neighbors.
We have valued independence over interdependence and connection.
In so many ways, big and small, our lives have not demonstrated our testimony of new life in Christ.

Time for silent confession

Forgive us, we pray, that we, your Easter people, may testify the Good News with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Deb

Rev. Deb: Hear the good news...you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Deb

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

Choral Response

Chancel Choir

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Deb

Offertory

"Reflection" M. Gaspard

Kim Crom

***Doxology**

"Bind Us Together"

TFWS #2226

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

***Hymn of Preparation:**

"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

UMH #453 vs. 1, 2, & 4

Scripture

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 and 1 Peter 1:17-23

Bob Spaete

Leader: This is a Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.****Sermon**

"Loosening the Bonds – A living Hope"

Rev. Deb

***Closing Hymn**

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

UMH #369

***Benediction of the People**

Rev. Deb

Choral Response

Chancel Choir

Postlude

"Allegro" A. Corell

Kim Crom

(Please remain seated until the music has stopped.)

The service is still being streamed live on zoom.)

*Stand as you wish

Hymn of Praise*"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"****UMH #89 vs. 1-3**

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Hymn of Preparation:*"More Love to Thee, O Christ"****UMH #453 vs. 1, 2, & 4**

1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee. This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!
2. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; now thee alone I seek; give what is best. This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!
4. Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise; this be the parting cry my heart shall raise; this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!

Closing Hymn*"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"****UMH #369**

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

WE ARE LOYAL TO OUR CHURCH BY OUR

PRAYERS: Jo Jackson; Linda Groth; Don Bunce's daughter, Sheri Weichers; Carol Zemple; Norm Pechacek; Lillian Bauserman; Trae Gilbert-DeGraffe, Mike Wheat & Tranquil United Methodist, Our "WAVES," our country and its leaders.

Serving in mission: Kutela Katembo, Missionary in Angola, Africa
Turkey, Syria, Russia

PRESENCE: Sanctuary 74, Fellowship Hall 4, Online 13, Nursery 3 **Total: 94**

GIFTS:	April 16 th	April 9 th	April 2 nd	March 26 th	March 19 th
	\$2,708.00	\$5, 015.25	\$5,115.00	\$4,259.00	\$2,371.75

SERVICE: Thank you to Judy Day for picking up, organizing the orders and taking care of the Easter Lillies.

CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES

OUR GUESTS ARE ARRIVING THIS EVENING! Four families who are experiencing homelessness will arrive at 5:00 today and will spend each night in the church for 2 weeks. Their bedrooms will be the classroom spaces beside Fellowship Hall and the Conference Room. We will provide dinner each evening, breakfast each morning and supplies for packing lunches. Families will arrive at 5 each evening and leave by 7:00 each morning. The second week, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church will provide the meals and be the hosts in our facility. We all are providing hospitality through the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

FOOD GIFTS "National Peanut Butter Month for Central" The pantry is always in need of more peanut butter! CAN YOU HELP? Let's each bring a jar of peanut butter or other non-perishable food items during April. Please bring food to grocery carts in the hallway on any Sunday or weekday during April. Last year we gave 51 jars of peanut butter. Can we top that this year?!

APRIL MISSION FOCUS:

"New Life for Families with Children"

Interfaith Hospitality Network :

As we celebrate new life with nature awakening all around us, we can help provide new hope to families with children by offering them a place to sleep, home-cooked suppers, along with our friendship and encouragement. IHN is a program of Family Promise supported by 30 congregations in Colorado Springs. "Host Congregations" provide hospitality in their facility for one week (2 - 4 weeks per year). "Support Congregations" bring a meal or two during the week to a host facility. Other support congregations contribute financially. Central has been a HOST CONGREGATION since IHN began in 1997! Think how many families we have helped!

Family Promise is blessed to have the volunteers in churches who step up to support families in such a unique, hands-on way. We want to also help financially this month. Your contribution to Family Promise will support the staff and programs that provide each family an opportunity to re-group and move toward financial and personal stability. Can you help? You may write a check to CUMC, designated Family Promise, or drop coins or cash in the little 'house' at the sanctuary entrance on Sundays. Thank you for your gift of New Life for families with children!