



THE BELL TOWER

July 2025



To the members and friends of Cody United Methodist Church,

My name is Alex Hunnes, and I am honored to serve as your next pastor. I recently graduated from SMU Perkins School of Theology with my Master of Divinity and a concentration in pastoral care. While this will be my first pastoral appointment, I have previously served in ministry at Ridgewood Park UMC in East Dallas and Spearfish UMC in South Dakota.

As I prepare to embark on this new journey with you, I come with excitement. I look forward to meeting each of you, hearing your stories, and learning from you. With great anticipation, I think about the ministry that we will do together and the difference Cody UMC will continue to make in the community. I look forward to sharing in the good work that God is doing through Cody UMC. Above all, I am humbled to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ alongside you.

With this being said, it is hard to believe that July is here. Soon, the streets of Cody will be filled with community members and visitors from all over the country, gathered to celebrate Independence Day. There will be fireworks, parades, rodeos, and much more pomp and circumstance. The colors red, white, and blue will be seen everywhere from t-shirts to business fronts. While this is an exciting and energetic time in the community, July also marks a moment of transition at Cody UMC.

I acknowledge that transitions can be challenging. They often bring tears, anxiety, and uncertainty. While I am excited to begin ministry with you, I fully understand that some of you may be feeling a mix of these emotions. Know that I am praying for you and Cody United Methodist Church daily. I am keeping the church's leadership, congregation, and the broader community in my thoughts and prayers. As this transition occurs, know that you are deeply loved, seen, and heard by God. No matter what you are feeling during this time, God understands.

One of the most comforting reminders of God's presence in times of transition comes from the words of Jesus as found in the Gospel of John, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid"* (John 14:27 NRSV).

I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Grace and peace,

Alex Hunnes

Pastor Alex Hunnes



CUMC Ad Council Meeting Minutes May 14, 2025



MEMBERS ATTENDING

Pastor Emily Rettinghouse, Bryan Armel, Ann Armel, Jenny Zink, Carrie Sheffield, Gene Parker, Kandi Parker, Joan Wolcott, Carolyn Bentzen, Gretchen Henrich, Byron Coleman, and Dave Shaw

WELCOME

Welcome was given by Ann Armel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes of Feb. 12, 2025 be approved.

WHOLE CHURCH BUSINESS

Preparations for Pastor Alex Hunnes's arrival were discussed

The Trustees will prepare the parsonage – details are not complete yet

Meet and Greet July 13 – Pastor Alex's first day in Church, everyone please remember to wear their name tags! Pastor Alex's first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 13 to be followed by a special fellowship sponsored by SPR Committee

Preparations for Pastor Emily's transition/celebration were discussed (June 15 is her last Sunday)

Gifts – Personal special gift and cash/gift cards, etc.

Food will be many of Pastor Emily's favorites and will be made by congregation members

SPR will handle the program for the celebration

A PowerPoint of past pictures will be shown during the service (provided by Brian Armel or Karen Bree)

Jenny and Joan will be in charge of decorations

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved, seconded, and passed to move \$17,000 to be used for parsonage and church repairs from the Endowment Funds to Pinnacle Bank. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION

Pastor Emily reported that she will be talking to Christ Episcopal Church and Trinity Lutheran Church about youth group

Sunday School will be addressed when Pastor Alex arrives

WORSHIP

Jenny reported that we had a successful Lent Season. Events included Fat Tuesday Celebration, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Service, Good Friday Service, Stations of the Cross Viewing, Easter Sunday Service with 108 attendees, and Easter Brunch with 78-80 parishioners attending.

Mothers' Day went well and Fathers' Day plans will be completed soon.

Peace with Justice Sunday worship service will be on June 15, 2025.

Discussion about Communion Services will be after Pastor Alex arrives.

FINANCE

Bryan reported that the budget is ok. Gretchen will be in the video booth in July.

GOOD SAM

Pastor reported that our spending for assistance is down a bit which is not unusual for this time of year. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 21 at 10:00am in the parlor.

Kandi will meet with Pastor Alex to introduce him to the Good Sam Program.

Pastor Emily suggested that we keep funding in house so that we can have annual records of applicants and expenditures.

MEMBERSHIP/NURTURE

Carolyn reported that the committee continues to send cards to members and new members.

The new member celebration will be held this summer. If there are no new members the committee will host something special for the congregation.

There was discussion about how to better communicate with members who don't have access to technology. Bryan will research the issue and report to the committee.

Dave needs a list of those members that the Circles visit monthly.

MISSIONS

The committee members completed their "Stuffed Animals Project" which was very successful. Thank you to the congregation for their generosity.

SAFETY

Byron reported that things are ok. Thank you to all of those who volunteer for door duty each Sunday. Byron will continue to address first aide classes since certification is only for 2 years.

SPR

Pastor's Evaluation has been completed and will be sent to the Conference. Things are going well with our staff and we appreciate their dedication to our church.

Kennedy will begin a search soon for a Music Director substitute for the fall.

We will be putting together a basket for Pastor Alex with some of his favorite food, snacks, drinks etc for his arrival. A card was sent a few weeks ago.

TRUSTEES

Gene thanked Carolyn for making all the arrangements for work to be done on the parsonage after Pastor Emily and her family move out.

The committee is waiting on plumber to check out water pressure issues at the Church.

Gutter problems on the northwest corner of the building are being addressed. The painting that was done in the choir hallway turned out very well.

AD COUNCIL

Ann asked for opinions on changing our meeting time back to the second Monday of every month rather than having quarterly meetings. It was agreed to make that change starting in September.

UWF

Notes for Ad Council May 14, 2025 meeting United Women in Faith

Programs: January Installation of Officers

February Prayer and Self Denial

March Manna House
April Park County Library
April 26 Retreat Held at Laurel UMC. Program "Gods Top Ten" Based on
"Words of Love"
a Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments by
Eugenia Anne Gamble
May 14 Ladies Day Tea
June/July On vacation
August Picnic

March 16th Pie Day A success = \$944.00. Seed collection = 206 vegetable packets sent to Jackson Area Ministries (Jackson, Ohio). These seeds are collected to support the Green Thumb Community Gardening project which has reached nearly 3,000 families.

This is an economically depressed rural Appalachian community.

Park County Library will host, beginning May 21, "Americans and the Holocaust"

It will be on display until July 1st. Details can be found in "The Enterprise"

UWF will continue with: Monthly Naomi and Rebekah circles

Kitchen cleaning

Get well cards and visitation

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wolcott, UWF President

PASTOR'S REPORT

Emily reported that Lent and Easter went very well. Emily and her family are anxious to start a new appointment, however it will be sad to leave CUMC and the great congregation.

The ladies' tea went very well. She is now looking forward to Peace with Justice Sunday and Fathers' Day on June 15th.

The Pastor's calendar includes Ren Fair June 6-8th, Annual Conference June 10-14th, and a wonderful celebration with her CUMC family.

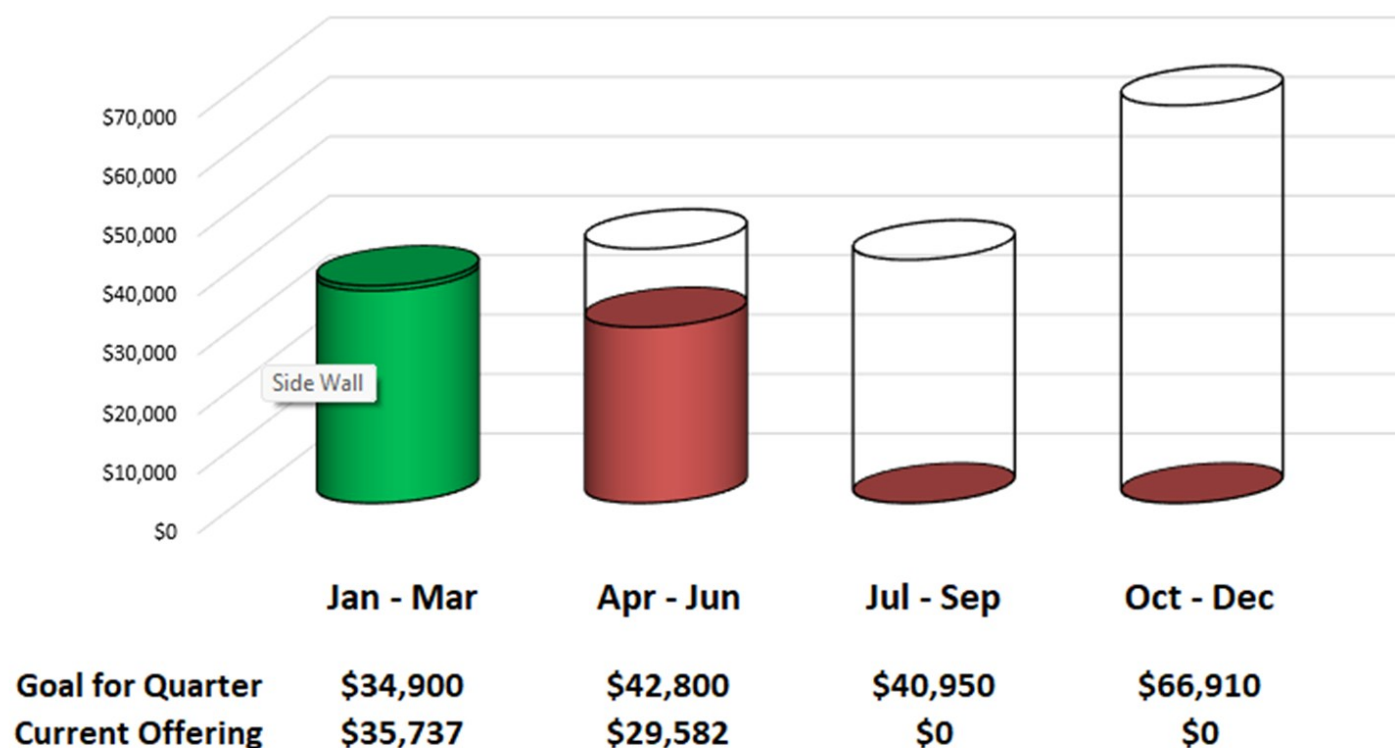
Next Meeting, August 13, 2025 at 5:30 in the parlor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kandi Parker, Secretary



General Fund Quarterly Offering Progress

6/30/2025



Notes: Quarterly Goals are based upon 6 years of historical giving patterns.
2025 Annual Goal is \$185,560



Mountain Sky Annual Conference 2025 Report

AC 2025 was held at St. Andrew UMC in Highlands Ranch, CO (south side Denver) with an online option and presided by the new Mountain Sky Bishop Kristin Stoneking. It began with opening Worship which included a Memorial Service for Clergy, their Spouses, and Conference Leaders who have passed in the last year. Bev Wanders was one of those honored in this service.

Next, guest speaker Bishop Israel Painit, spoke of his duties and challenges as Bishop of the diverse Region which includes the Southern Philippines and Laos with many cultural backgrounds and hundreds of dialects.

The Mountain Sky Ratification Team lead a panel discussion around regionalization as well as the other three pieces of legislation before the body which were passed at General Conference 2020-2024 and require affirmation at each annual conference.

These included: #1 Regionalization which allows for effective and relevant contextual ministries which recognize the cultural differences in the eight "Regions" of the United Methodist Church (Three regions in Europe, three in Africa, and one region each in both the US and the Philippines), #2 Which protects membership rights for all individuals, #3 The Church's role to combat racism in all forms and #4 An amendment which makes clear educational requirements for Licensed Local Pastors to be eligible as voting members.

Results of these ratification votes will only be known after all UMC Annual Conferences are able to vote this year.

Conference committees presented reports of their past year and planned activities and missions. The Finance committee was unable to present a budget at this time due to a recent retirement, personnel changes and delays completing an audit. A special session will be conducted this fall online to complete that process.

Several churches gave reports on mission projects using UMC grants and we heard and voted on various petitions for resolutions and church closures. Four small churches with membership in near single digits were unable to continue ministry after many decades, that for some started in the 1890's. Two were from Colorado, and Wheatland UMC and Medicine Bow UMC in Wyoming.

Friday meetings included separate Laity and Clergy sessions and afternoon Worship with a Baptism, a Laity address, Youth address, and Commissioning of the Lewis family to a Global Mission project in New Mexico.

Closing Worship on Saturday afternoon was an Ordination Service with the Commissioning of three new Pastors including our Pastor Alex Hunnes, Ordination of four Elders, Commissioning of one Deaconess and one Deacon, Ordination of two Deaconesses and one Deacon, and the Appointment of nine Licensed Local Pastors.

Anyone interested in more details on the proceedings, please contact:
Pastor Alex Hunnes
Dave Shaw, Lay Member CUMC
Ann Armel, Lay Equalization Delegate to Annual Conference 2025

All documents and petitions are available on the following website:
<https://www.mtnskyumc.org> click the "AC 2025" link – top of page

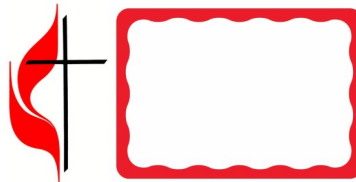
From the Membership/Nurture committee:

Mark August 10th on your calendar. We are having an Ice Cream Social following worship service. It will be a great treat for the hot days of August.



Thank you to those who have helped celebrate fellowship time;

We have had great refreshments. Please take the time to look at the sign up sheet posted by the kitchen door. There are lots of blanks. You don't need to put out a big spread. Just buy some cookies and assist in clean up. I always have coffee and water set up and I'm glad to help.
Thank You Carolyn Bentzen



Be sure to wear you name tags so that our new pastor can identify each of us.



United Women of Faith and Circle News:

Our next planned time together will be on **August 6, at Noon** – our Annual Carry In Picnic at **Mentock Park**. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. Beverages and table service will be provided. Mark your calendars – plan to join us. If you are new to our church family, or just interested in finding out more about this wonderful group of women – you are most welcome to come join us.

UWF and Circle monthly meetings will resume in September. Check the program book for dates.

Blessings, UWF President



Reminding you all that we will again be having live music and serving hotdogs following the parade on July 4th. Morning Glories will be providing the music.

Worship Committee News

We celebrated Pentecost, Father's Day, Peace with Justice Sunday and Pastor Emily's farewell luncheon in June. All were successful and well received. In July we welcome Pastor Alex. On July 13 there will be a special fellowship time in Koelmel Hall after the service with a Cake and cookies... Please stay to help welcome Pastor Alex.

A reminder that the Flower Chart is posted on the board in Koelmel Hall (right next to the entrance to the kitchen). Fresh flowers are always welcome and if you have a special date, birthday, anniversary or memorial you wish to recognize, please let Susan know and she will post it in the bulletin. Any member of the worship committee can answer your questions on this. It has been a while since we have had special occasion flowers. Thanks to Jann Smith for bringing lovely flowers from her garden these past few Sundays. Also please let Jenny Zink or Carolyn Bentzen know if you would like to be a Communion Steward or if you would like to be an usher for offertory. Have a Great July 4th.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE


READERS FOR JULY

JULY 6th - Rick Cook
JULY 13th - Jenny Zink
JULY 20th - Francie Audier
JULY 27th - Gene Parker



July 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.		1 Trivia 6pm	2 JCS 5:45pm Judi Westerhold service	3	4 Independence Day and Hot Dogs after parade	5 
6 10am Worship Service and Holy Communion	7 Membership 10:30am 12 Step 6pm	8 Trivia 6pm	9 JCS 5:45pm	10	11	12
13 10am Worship Service and Holy Communion Meet and Greet Pastor Alex 	14 12 Step 6pm	15 Trivia 6pm	16 HMFC 4pm JCS 5:45pm	17	18 Worship 1pm	19
20 10am Worship Service and Holy Communion	21 12 Step 6pm	22 Trivia 6pm	23 JCS 5:45pm	24	25	26
27 10am Worship Service and Holy Communion	28 SPR 5pm 12 Step 6pm	29 Trivia 6pm	30 JCS 5:45pm	31		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday to You!

Chuck Walker	July	4	Roger Lyons	22
Sandy Mercer		5	Ryan Aune	23
David Henrich		6	Brannon Aune	23
Terry Dishong		7	John Kelley	25
Kim Garrison		12	Marion Smith	26
Thea Rettinghouse		14	Dan Wanders	28
Mike Yeager		15	Laura Cook	28
Jeanette Little		19	Kennedy Corr	29
			Annette Stone	30

Happy Anniversary



Craig & Char Olson	19
Ian & Denise Arthur	22
Dick & Linda Buswell	27
David & Karen Birzer	30



Thank you to everyone in our very caring, supportive church family for the prayers and love which were shared with us since my stroke on 12/26/24. The prayers that were offered, the caring cards and phone calls and visits, food so very generously shared with us, help transporting us to needed appointments and shopping while I was not driving, etc. Your supportive prayers and caring love sustained us in so very many ways. Our CUMC family has been such a blessing to us and we so very humbly thank each and everyone of you.

Carol and Jack Wagner



CODY CUPBOARD

1st Quarter 2025

Total 1st Quarter 275 Pounds

2nd Quarter 2025

April 67 Pounds

May 100 Pounds

June 67 Pounds

Total 2nd Quarter 234 Pounds

SCHOOL IS OUT FOR THE SUMMER!

(Many Children Depend on School Food Programs)

HUNGRY KIDS + INFLATION = NEEDS

Please drop off donations on the 1st Sunday of each month!!

Cody Cupboard Update:



Thank you Cody UMC for your generosity!

**“Be quick to give a meal
to the hungry, a bed to
the homeless—cheerfully.
Be generous with the
different things God gave
you, passing them
around so all get in on it.”**

**1 Peter 4:9-10,
*The Message***

office@codyumc.com - church website

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” John 21:15



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Cody United Methodist Church
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