

# Bethany

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219





July and we celebrate our country - the land that we grew up on and grew our children up on, our country that has sacrificed many souls to be who we are. July, my favorite month - the sun warm on my face and the evening breezes blowing across our porch as we talk about our days. But there seems to be a cold spot in my heart which even the July sun can't warm, there is a heinous stench that the breeze can not blow away. It is the presence of a dividing denomination and country. It seems to me that when Jesus says to love one another that means to not take a weapon you don't need anyway to shoot a class full of children or a grocery store full of civilians. I don't understand that kind of violence. Maybe I live in such a secluded place and focus on the love of God, that makes me more and more confused. I will not get political, but just to say we need each other - we need each other to be whole - we need each other to step up when we see things are just out of control. God walks with us, cries with us and God holds us accountable. I love my country and I will continue to speak out with my voice and my vote and any other way I can to promote us all to be the leaders the world needs.

*Love, Pastor Denise*





## Hymn for the Hurting



Everything hurts,  
Our hearts shadowed and strange,  
Minds made muddy and mute.  
We carry tragedy, terrifying and true.  
And yet none of it is new;  
We knew it as home,  
Horribly,  
As inheritance.  
Even our children  
Cannot be children,  
Can't be.  
Everything hurts.

It's a hard time to be alive,  
And even harder to stay that way.  
We're burdened to live out these days,  
While at the same time, blessed to outlive them.

This alarm is how we know  
We must be altered —  
That we must differ or die,  
That we must triumph or try.  
Thus while hate cannot be terminated,  
It can be transformed  
Into a love that lets us live.



May we not just grieve, but give:  
May we not just ache, but act;  
May our signed right to bear arms  
Never blind our sight from shared harm;  
May we choose our children over chaos.  
May another innocent never be lost.

Maybe everything hurts,  
Our hearts shadowed & strange.  
But only when everything hurts  
May everything change.

The fourth of July marks the day the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, when they officially announced that the colonies were separating from Great Britain. For many Americans, it is a day to celebrate freedom, the strength of our country, and our land. However, this land was not originally ours. Long before Christopher Columbus set sail, this land was inhabited by hundreds of tribes of indigenous people, many of whom had advanced civilizations with hierarchies and trade, and some such as the Aztecs even had technologies such as indoor plumbing. These peoples' lands were stolen by colonizers, and they were forced to assimilate into the society of the colonies. To this day, Indigenous Americans still struggle to survive, as there is still reluctance from federal and local governments to aid them. In order to help Indigenous populations, the government would have to acknowledge the mistakes Americans made in the past and the mistakes we continue to make today. It is our duty to acknowledge the mistakes of those who came before us in order to avoid making those same mistakes in the future, and we can start that by acknowledging whose land we are living on. There is a website, [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca), that you can plug any address into and find out whose land that location is on. Our church is located in an overlapping section of the lands of the Cheyenne, Ute, and Očhéthi Šakōwiŋ tribes. We encourage you to use the website to see whose land your home is on, and to continue to educate yourself on the struggles faced by Indigenous communities locally and nation-wide. Keep them in mind as you celebrate the fourth of July this year.



## Lectionary Readings

### July 3, 2022

-2 Kings 5:1-14  
 -Psalm 30  
 -Isaiah 66:10-14  
 -Psalm 66:1-9  
 -Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16  
 -Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### July 10, 2022

-Amos 7:7-17  
 -Psalm 82  
 -Deuteronomy 30:9-14  
 -Psalm 25:1-10  
 -Colossians 1:1-14  
 -Luke 10:25-37

### July 17, 2022

-Amos 8:1-12  
 -Psalm 52  
 -Genesis 18:1-10a  
 -Psalm 15  
 -Colossians 1:15-28  
 -Luke 10:38-42

### July 24, 2022

-Hosea 1:2-10  
 -Psalm 85  
 -Genesis 18:20-32  
 -Psalm 138  
 -Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)  
 -Luke 11:1-13

### July 31, 2022

-Hosea 11:1-11  
 -Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
 -Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23  
 -Psalm 49:1-12  
 -Colossians 3:1-11  
 -Luke 12:13-21

## Liturgists

### July 3, 2022

Mary

### July 10, 2022

Eva

### July 17, 2022

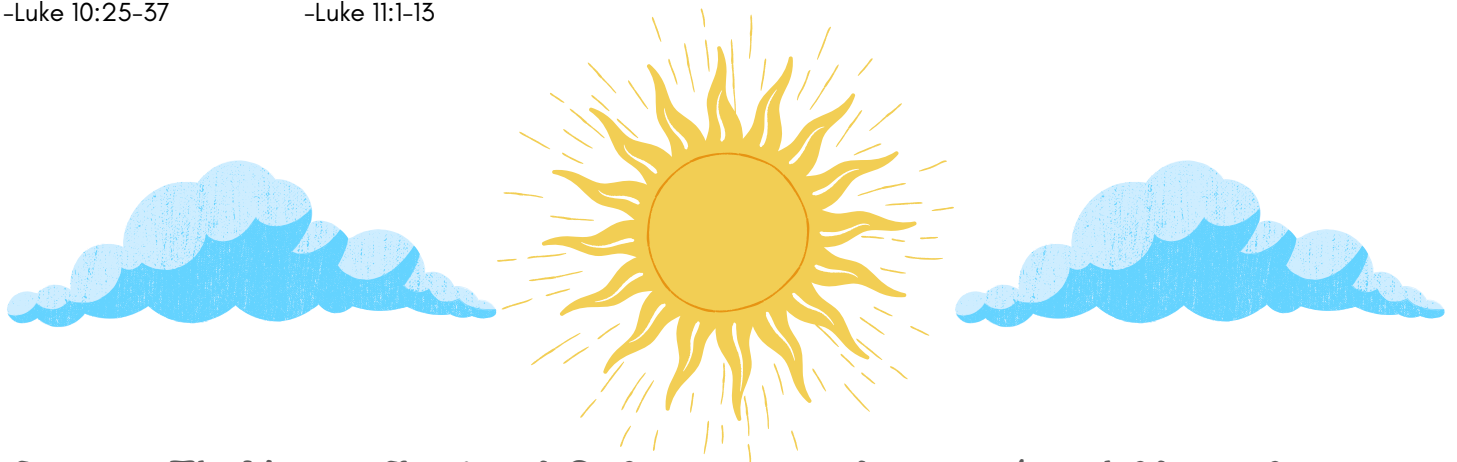
Lataine

### July 24, 2022

Mary

### July 31, 2022

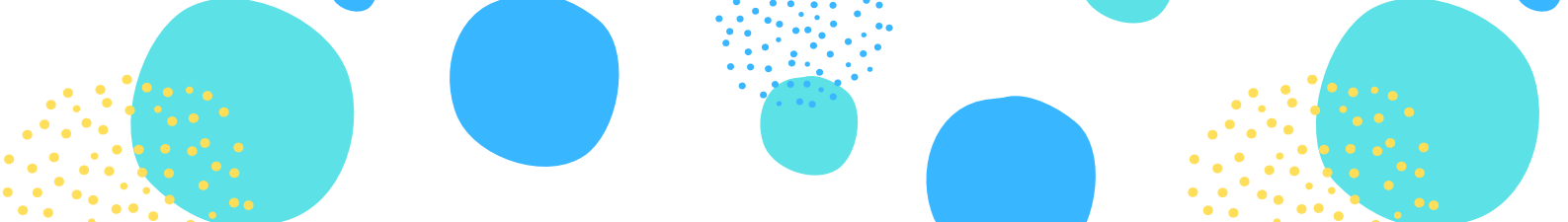
Eva



**Summary:** The Mountain Sky Annual Conference was a welcoming and insightful event for me. Going for the first time, I found a diverse and compassionate community throughout multiple states. I heard about different ways UMC is making an impact, particularly through UMCOR. While I only attended the Zoom, I heard people at the conference helped people after severe flooding in Montana. There was also a committee dedicated to increasing diversity in the church, and I recall there was a Native American speaker present (I believe they were a member of the Blackfeet nation). I continue to be grateful and interested in the integral role activism plays in the UMC, especially within our local community.

I was inspired by Wilmot Collins, mayor of Helena, Montana (where the conference took place). We had the honor of hearing him speak, and during the laity session, he asked a challenging yet important question: why should people come to church? It is crucial that we ask the same question and implore people to seek God's love and connection to each and every one of us. In that sense, I believe Bethany has an important role to support future generations and maintain our connection to God. How we connect with God may evolve over time, and with the future ahead of us, adapting to the younger generations and finding new ways to participate in church will be important to consider.

Sincerely,  
 Oscar Bender-Stone



# July 2022

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1**

**2**

**3**

11AM Worship

**4**

Cliff Thompson  
BIRTHDAY

Fourth of July

**5**

**6**

**7**

Eason Thompson  
BIRTHDAY

**8**

**9**

**10**

11AM Worship

**11**

Jim Kaiser  
BIRTHDAY

**12**

**13**

**14**

**15**

**16**

**17**

11AM Worship

Administrative Council  
after church

**18**

**19**

**20**

**21**

**22**

**23**

Kathy Leech  
BIRTHDAY

**24**

11AM Worship

**25**

**26**

**27**

**28**

Kevin Leech  
BIRTHDAY

**29**

**30**

**31**

11AM Worship

