

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor, Steve Autrey

Imagine the scene.

A young man trained as a carpenter senses a call from God at the age of thirty. He has no formal theological education, only a deep, steady conviction that God is doing something decisive in his life. He makes his way to the Jordan River, where his cousin has become a fiery preacher, drawing crowds with a message of repentance and hope.

He steps into line. He is baptized. And in a breathtaking moment, the heavens open. The Spirit descends. A voice speaks: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
What affirmation. What clarity. What joy.

And yet, there is no celebration. No coronation. No reception in the fellowship hall. No handshake in the narthex. No time to savor the moment.

Instead, the Spirit leads him straight into the wilderness.

Before there is preaching, before there are miracles, before there are crowds, there is testing.

This Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent, we step into that wilderness with Jesus. Our text is [Matthew 4:1–11](#). Join us as we continue the story and consider what it means that the Spirit sometimes leads us not into applause, but into places of trial—and transformation.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Ongoing Conversations Podcast

Pastor Steve Autrey and Pastor Paul Thompson share their thoughts on Lent and how we can use this time to prepare our hearts and incorporate daily spiritual practices on the journey toward Good Friday and Easter.



WORSHIP

Join us in praising our Lord

Contemporary Worship Playlist

As we enter into this season of **Lent**, may the songs we sing prepare our hearts for surrender, transformation, and authentic offerings to the One who paid it all for each of us.

Check out the Contemporary setlist for **this Sunday** and for the **entire Lenten season** below. Feel free to add these playlists to your daily routine, inspiring a closer connection with God during these next 40 days.



GIVING REPORT

updated financial news

Ministry Operations

DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR THIS FUND GO TOWARDS MINISTRY AND OUTREACH, IN ADDITION TO ALL NECESSARY STAFFING AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR HOSTING WORSHIP SERVICES AND MAINTAINING OUR CHURCH GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS.

BUDGET INCOME EXPECTED TO DATE: \$142,419

ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED TO DATE: \$140,488

2026

MINISTRY OPERATIONS ANNUAL BUDGET: \$1,382,987

For questions about giving, please reach out to Cameron Wilson at finance@denverumc.org.
We appreciate your generosity and support!

[Give Now](#)



For information about upcoming events, go to <https://www.denverumc.org/events>

Upcoming Events

2/23 6pm | **Church Council Meeting** | council@denverumc.org

2/25 5:30pm | **Table Talk** | discipleship@denverumc.org

2/25 6:45pm | **Leadership Discipleship Experience** | discipleship@denverumc.org

2/28 3pm | **Youth Ski Trip** | youth@denverumc.org

3/1 4pm | **LAUNCH / Confirmation Begins** | youth@denverumc.org

3/2 10:30am | **Helping Hands Meeting** | helpinghandsdenvernc@gmail.com

3/4 9:30am | **Chicken Pickin'** | denzilbell@gmail.com

3/5 10am | **Prayer Team** | prayers@denverumc.org

3/5 11am | **First Thursday Lunch** | denzilbell@gmail.com

3/7 9am | **Community Garden Planting Day** | carol.brown@denverumc.org

3/8 **Daylight Savings Time Begins**



3/12 11am | **J.O.Y. Group Meeting** | rosannekochere@gmail.com

4/4 3pm | **Easter Eggstravaganza** | kids@denverumc.org



Events Calendar

Scan to Give



LIFE AT DUMC

things to know, celebrate, & look forward to!



Table Talk and Wednesday Night Classes

Take a midweek break and join us for Wednesday night dinner, Table Talk, in the FLC from 5:30-6:30 pm for 10 weeks! Enjoy a delicious meal, great conversation, and meaningful fellowship with your church family. This is a perfect time to connect, share, and grow together. Bring your appetite and your heart—there's a seat at the table just for you!

Dinner:

- \$5 per person
- \$20 max per family

Following dinner, stay for one of our two classes, [The Leadership Discipleship Experience](#), or a Lenten study using resources from Lectio 365. See below for more information. If

Menu:

Feb. 23 - Lasagna, salad bar, garlic bread

March 4 - Eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuit

March 11 - Baked ham, green beans, potatoes
March 18 - Spaghetti, salad bar

you - because we need your help
discipleship@denverumc.org.



OUTREACH

unleashing compassion

Helping Hands

building community through service



Charlie Blackburn Memorial Golf Tournament



Helping Hands Golf Tournament - April 27th!

Registration is open to anyone wanting to sponsor and/or participate in the annual Charlie Blackburn Memorial Golf Tournament at Verdict Ridge Golf and Country Club! All proceeds benefit the many ministries and partners of our Helping Hands Community Service Group. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

If you still have questions about the Helping Hands Golf Tournament, email helpinghandsgolftournament@gmail.com.

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE AWARENESS TRAINING

Equipping Caregivers to Become Agents of Healing

Understand. Connect. Heal.

This trauma-informed training equips parents, foster families, and social workers with essential knowledge and practical skills to support children impacted by trauma.

What Participants Will Gain

- ✓ Clear understanding of how traumatic experiences impact a child's development, behavior, and relationships
- ✓ Insight into why challenging behaviors often reflect adaptive survival responses rather than defiance
- ✓ Skills to create safe, predictable environments that foster healing and secure attachment
- ✓ Practical strategies to support emotional regulation, build trust, and respond to trauma triggers with compassion & consistency
- ✓ Confidence to serve as agents of healing in the lives of vulnerable children
- ✓ Awareness of how to recognize and reduce secondary traumatic stress in themselves and others

What Participants Will Gain

- ✓ Foster & adoptive parents
- ✓ Child welfare professionals (CCLJ 1 hour)
- ✓ Teachers, counselors, & school staff
- ✓ Church family advocates & ministry leaders
- ✓ Any caregiver supporting children with trauma histories



Trauma Informed Care Awareness Training - February 28th

This training is designed to equip parents, foster families, and social workers with essential knowledge and practical skills to support children impacted by trauma.

It's open and free to anyone and offered via Zoom from 9:30-11:30 am. Click the image and scan the QR Code to register, or click [here](#).



Community Garden Planting Day - March 7th!

Join us in the Garden on March 7th to start a new season of providing fresh food to our neighbors! Beginning at 9:00 am, we will prune blackberry bushes, clean up the strawberry and flower beds, add soil, harvest seeds, and plant potatoes, carrots, and other early spring crops. All are welcome and needed! Contact carol.brown@denverumc.org for details.

2026 Tables of Grace: A Vision Dinner - March 13th

You're invited to Soul to Soul Outreach's Fundraising Vision Dinner at Church at Denver from 6:30-9:30 pm. Learn of the impact the ministry had on our homeless and near-homeless in the



past year and what's in store for 2026. There will be live music, raffles, and fun prizes. Click [here](#) for tickets.

Next Sisterhood Event - Saturday, March 14th!

Registration is open for our March Sisterhood event! Ladies of all ages are invited to join us in the CORC at 9:00 a.m. for worship, breakfast, and fellowship, and then break into groups to create a unique watercolor picture, practice the art of Tai Chi, or make a simple Easter wreath with linen cloth, olive branches, and wildflowers native to Israel. Click [here](#) to register. [Contact Janet Chubb](#) to donate breakfast items or volunteer to welcome other ladies, lead the devotion, or pray. See you there!



DISCIPLESHIP

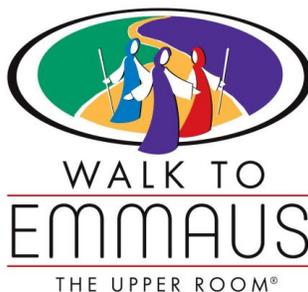
Small Groups, Bible Studies, & Connection Groups

Discipleship Opportunities

Sunday Small Group/Sunday School hour is 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Click [HERE](#) for specific **Sunday school classes, weekday Bible studies, Wednesday night, and small group offerings** with locations, descriptions, and contact information.

Email David Washco with any questions at discipleship@denverumc.org



Are You Ready for a Life-Changing Weekend?

DUMC family, the spring Walk to Emmaus is coming soon — and you're invited!

This powerful three-day experience is designed to renew your spirit, deepen your faith, and strengthen your relationship with Christ. Whether you're feeling spiritually stuck, longing for deeper connection, or simply ready to grow, this weekend can be a meaningful next step in your journey.

Men's Walk: April 9–12

Women's Walk: April 16–19

Participation is completely FREE

Our DUMC Emmaus Community members describe the weekend as transformative, encouraging, and faith-affirming. It's time set apart to focus on Christ, build lasting friendships, and return renewed in purpose and passion. If you've ever wondered whether this experience might be for you — consider this your nudge! Learn more by visiting

<https://www.denverumc.org/ministries/walk-to-emmaus>

Questions or ready to sign up? Reach out to Wendi Sweet at wendi.sweet@denverumc.org. Come and see what God has in store for you.



New Wednesday Night Study During Lent

During the season of Lent, our Wednesday Night Bible Study will pause our journey through Matthew and enter into a focused six-week Lenten study.

Beginning Wednesday, February 25, Pastor Steve will guide us using resources from [Lectio 365](#), an online prayer movement devoted to daily prayer and spiritual renewal. Together, we will explore the wisdom of the early desert fathers and mothers, Christians who withdrew into the wilderness and helped shape the life, theology, and spiritual practices of the early church through their rigorous devotion to prayer, Scripture, fasting, and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit.

Lent is a season set apart for reflection, repentance, and renewal. If you sense a need to slow down, deepen your prayer life, or invest more intentionally in your spiritual growth, this study is for you.

We will gather each Wednesday at 6:45 pm in the DUMC Chapel, immediately following Wednesday night dinner.

Come and grow in Christ—and in community—as we journey together toward Easter.



Sunday Morning Study Opportunity Sundays, 10:00 a.m. in the CORC

Have you ever wondered what it means to be a United Methodist? What do we believe? What is our theology, and where did this denomination come from? The Open Circle class will begin exploring these questions on January 18. Everyone is invited to join this time as Pastor Steve leads the conversation. The time starts on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the CORC (old fellowship hall), with a time of fellowship, followed by teaching from 10:10 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. If you are new to DUMC and looking to get connected with others, this is a great way to meet new people and learn about the church. No need to sign up, simply show up!



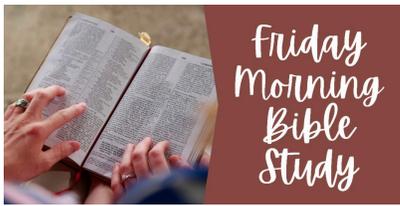
Leadership Discipleship Experience #4

Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the CORC

The Leadership Discipleship Experience is a ten-week journey designed to move beyond surface-level faith and into deep, life-changing transformation. Over the course of this experience, you will

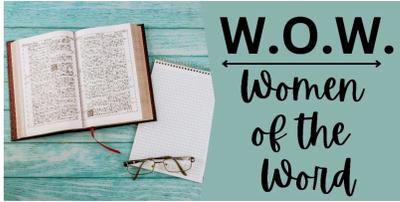
- Discover your God-given purpose
- Learn how to clearly hear and discern God's voice
- Identify and use your spiritual gifts to serve alongside others in community

Click [here](#) for more information and [here](#) to register.



Friday Ladies' Bible Study Begins March 6

The Friday Ladies' Bible will begin a new study on March 6. Michell Turner will be our guest leader for this study. She is calling it "The Greatest Story Ever Told, A Bird's Eye View of the New Testament". We meet in the Chapel on Fridays from 10-12. Childcare is available, just contact Sara Lee 704-230-9004.



Wednesday Bible Study

The WOW Bible study has a new study on Acts led by Michell Turner. All are welcome, and they meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Any questions, contact Rachelle Roberts at Orachelle@hotmail.com.



Women's Alliance



Men's Alliance

Men's Alliance - Sunday Nights!

Sunday nights | 6:00 p.m. | Rain or Shine
Join us for a rugged workout and real devotion.
For more information, [email Caleb Hendren](mailto:Caleb.Hendren).

Women's Alliance - Wednesday Nights!

Wednesday nights | 7:00 p.m. | Rain or shine
For more information, reach out to Shelby Hobbs at shobbs0623@gmail.com. All women are invited!

Discipleship Video Series

Spiritual Gifts Assessment



HARBOR YOUTH

DUMC's 6-12th grade ministry



February	April
Feb 28 Ski Trip	April 4 Easter Eggstravaganza
March	April 5 Easter! No Youth
All Sundays in March Confirmation: 4-5pm	April 12 No Youth
March 8 Daylight Savings	May
March 29 No Youth	May 3 Last Youth - Cookout Party!
March 29 Palm Sunday	May 17 Graduation Sunday

Click to sign up for Harbor Youth updates!

Follow Harbor Youth on Instagram!

Email Harbor Youth



Youth Ski Trip, February 28 {3-midnight}
Bundle up and grab your gear! We're heading for night skiing on February 28, and it's going to be a blast! We'll ride the bus together, hit the slopes after dark, and make some great memories along the way. Spots are limited, so be sure to register early to save your place. The cost is around \$60, which covers transportation and the experience. Don't wait until it's snowed under.

Sign up soon and come ride with us! Click [here](#) to register!



LAUNCH / Confirmation
All Sunday Evenings in March, 4-5 pm in the Harbor Kids area.

Middle schoolers - but really, *everyone*, even adults - are invited to join us every Sunday night in March from 4-5 pm for Confirmation class (aka LAUNCH)! Together, we will explore the traditional elements of Methodist Confirmation, ask big questions, and grow in faith in a welcoming and encouraging environment.

Topics we will be discussing:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- History of the UMC
- Theology
- Sacraments
- Spiritual Gifts

The journey wraps up with a special weekend retreat at the church on May 29-30, bringing everything together just before students have the opportunity to be confirmed on Sunday, May 31.

We would love for you to be part of this meaningful step in your faith story! Contact Cortni at youth@denverumc.org for more information!

Click [here](#) to register!



NTS Summer Camp /July 19-23

We're going back to NTS camp at Erskine College, in Due West, SC!

This year camp will be looking into the life of David in the Old Testament and the theme is "Pursuit." We hope our students see God's pursuit of them and, in turn, become people chasing after a God who chases after us, redeems us, and prepares us for greatness. As they see themselves in this story of pursuit, we pray they walk away being known as people after God's own heart!

Click [here](#) to watch the theme video!

Registration must be completed by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18 and is complete when all the required information is entered, and either payment is made in full, or the \$150 non-refundable/non-transferrable deposit has been made.

Registration is \$415 from now until April 29. Registration becomes \$435 from April 30 until July 5. Final registration is \$455 for those last 2 weeks before camp. **Registration closes at 6pm July 18!** *You will receive reminder emails of payment due 14 & 7 days before the due date if there is a balance on your account.*

Click here to register for NTS Camp!



Sign Up to Help With Sunday Night Meals!

Dinner is getting a fresh spin to become an elevated concession-style. We'd love for friends & parents to be part of the evening by sponsoring a meal and/or helping run the concession stand. While you're absolutely welcome to, **there is NO cooking required**— you can choose to just serve snacks and drinks, and we'd love if you'd bring along a dessert to share! You can scan the QR or click the button below to sign up to sponsor a youth meal!

Sponsor a Youth Meal



100K Camino Challenge

Luke Travers, our Intern for Children & Student Ministry, is part of a group of students from Niner United at UNCC who will walk 100 kilometers on the historic Camino de Santiago in Spain, a pilgrimage that has shaped lives for over a thousand years. He's not just walking for the adventure. Each step is part of a journey toward spiritual growth, clarity of calling, mental wellness, and deep community. This is

where blistered feet explain theology better than lectures, and God becomes the compass.

Luke is asking for your support to make this pilgrimage possible. Any financial contribution will directly help cover travel, lodging, and essential costs. Click [here](#) for more information or to sponsor Luke in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



HARBOR KIDS

DUMC's birth - 5th grade ministry



We are committed to helping your child grow in every aspect of their relationship with Jesus Christ and knowledge of His Word. Thank you for your support and prayer!

Harbor Kids is open every Sunday 8:45 a.m. - noon!
We have programs at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m., join us for hands-on activities to help serve our community!

[Click to sign up for updates from Harbor Kids!](#)

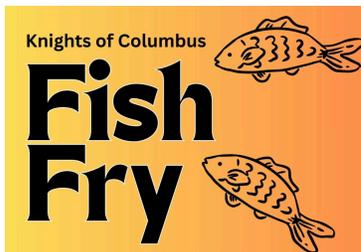
[Follow Harbor Kids on Instagram!](#)



IN THE

COMMUNITY

what's happening around town



Knights of Columbus Fish Fry!

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their all-you-can-eat fish fry at Denver UMC. Dinner is dine-in or take-out and includes fried or baked fish, slaw, fries, hush puppies, and a soft drink or coffee for \$15. Kids 8 and under are \$10. Tickets are available at the door.

Fridays, 4:30 - 7:00 pm

February 20

March 6

March 20

Staff & Leadership Connections

Click [here](#) to connect with our staff and Church Council

Visit our website at www.denverumc.org for the latest information



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