

Our Annual Southeastern Association Fall Meeting will be held on Saturday October 21, 2023.

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at UCC Parker Hilltop at 10926 E. Democrat Rd, Parker, CO 80134-5019; 720-851-1338. Each church is entitled to 3 voting delegates; would you like to be one? Talk to Rev Mallory or Donna or respond to this e-mail.

Mission of the Month: Chinook Center We support The People's Grocery at the Chinook Center, a no-cost grocery that feeds our neighbors on the south-east side of town. This month, they are asking us to help provide staple foods for them: pasta, pasta sauce, rice, beans, and canned veggies of all kinds. Thank you for helping feed hungry people here in Colorado Springs!

Interested in helping VGCC create real safety without losing our spirit of radical hospitality? On October 3rd at 6:30pm on Zoom, we'll be starting a 12 week curriculum entitled Fear Not: Creating a Plan to Respond to Active Violence. If you would like to be part of safety planning at VG, please make plans to attend these conversations.

School Board Candidate Forums - School boards are often overlooked during an election cycle but are vitally important because they have a direct effect on the quality of kids' lives. Especially in this election, LGBTQ students are at great risk of discriminatory policies being enacted at the board level. Colorado Springs Faith Table is partnering with the League of Women Voters to help you become more informed on this important topic! Please consider attending the forum for your school district!

Sandwiches and Smiles –

Calling all Smiles and Sandwiches makers: we will meet on Saturday October 14 at 10 am at church to make peanut butter and preserves/jam sandwiches. Please bring 2 loaves of bread, any kind. Call or text Linda Coonley 913-523-6903 to say you can help.

Blessing of the Animals is October 15th! Bring your furry, scaly, and feathery friends to receive a special blessing in this annual celebration of the More than Human world! Blessing also available via zoom, so if your pet is nervous, reactive, or prone to being over-stimulated, please consider this option for everyone's health and wellness.

Lunch and Learn on October 22nd - Homelessness 101 - Recently, Vista Grande has been asked to deepen our expansive welcome to include people currently experiencing homelessness. While we absolutely have shown the willingness to practice radical hospitality, church leadership understands that this may be a new skill for many of us! Our friends at HopeCOS (who are currently renting South Hall) will be offering an educational opportunity for us to help us build the skills necessary to be good friends to our neighbors without homes. Join us!

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Calendar Events:

1. **Sundays - Percolate – our Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation.** Feel free to join us **Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m.**
2. **Oct 3 at 6:30 p.m. begins a 12-week curriculum, "Fear Not: Creating a Plan to Respond to Active Violence"** It's not too late to join in. (Weekly Zoom link)
3. **Oct 8 – Executive Council Mtg**
4. **Oct 11 – 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast** at Patty Jewitt Golf Course
5. **Oct 14 – 10 a.m. Sandwich making for Smiles and Sandwiches.**
6. **Oct 14 - 9 a.m. Outdoor workday.**
7. **Oct 15 – Blessings of the Animals**
8. **Oct 15 – Distribution** of sandwiches at Dorchester Park and a new location (TBA)
9. **Oct 21 – 10 a.m. Southeastern Association Mtg** at UCC Parker Hilltop
10. **Oct 22 – Lunch and Learn; Homelessness 101**
11. **Oct 29 – All Saints Day and Mission Meeting**

October Birthdays

5 Ev
7 Carol Lawson
10 Jud Jusell
15 Nora Barnes
19 Carrie Barnes
22 Kayan Cross

November Birthdays

5 Leon Pierre-Antoine 2021
15 Melissa Bongirno
22 Lucille Derr
22 Erika Forshee
25 Ezequiel Cross
28 Lincoln Spencer

October and November Anniversaries

Oct 14 Amanda Udis-Kessler



2023 Executive Council

Elected: Moderator—Dave Lee; Treasurer—Matt Spencer

Appointed Position: Financial Secretary—Denise Lee;

Continuing Positions: Assistant Moderator—David Nath; Recording Clerk— Erika Forshee;

Vista Grande's Vision Statement – adopted April 13, 2020

"We covenant together to imagine and live into a world where God's Kin-dom vision of human and planetary flourishing comes to pass through the work of love, justice, peace, equality, and extravagant hospitality. We envision nothing less than a world restored to wholeness, wellness, joy, and gratitude for all of God's Creation."

Our core values as discerned by the executive council:

- Connecting with the Divine
- Engaging in community
- Fostering diversity
- Embodying our values
- Leading with care