

## Colorado Family Church: May Local Highlights

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May has been a crazy month both in terms of activities and weather! We are excited to share so many inspiring updates below. Please enjoy! A special congratulations to all the graduates as well as all the new couples, and also a big thank you to our guest speakers who helped us get through this exciting month in one piece.

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## 8th Annual Spring Refresh



This year's Spring Refresh was our biggest one yet. We got a good amount of work done and spent a quality day all together. Work projects this year included a neighborhood trash pickup, assembling a new shelf for the tool room, a new stainless steel counter for the kitchen, flower planting, and a landscaping project for the 4-plex. We also gave away a ton of clothes and had many visitors join in our festivities and food. A big thank you to everyone that helped out. [We unfortunately did not get so many pictures this year, but please enjoy the few that we have.](#)

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## New Parsonage Update



We are under contract to purchase a new church parsonage. The closing date is June 5. This is a huge step forward for our community, and we are so grateful for the support of the whole community in making this happen. If you missed the email explaining the particulars of why we are doing this, [you can read that here.](#)

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## Interfaith Activities in Grand Junction



On May 25th, we continued our mini-series, "Celebrating our Spiritual Founders" by learning about John Wesley who founded the Methodist movement in England in 1730. The First United Methodist Church in downtown Grand Junction hosted us, and as it says in Matthew 18:20: "When two or more are gathered in my Name, there am I in the midst of them." So even though we were a small group of six, these particular women were very sincere to learn about the background of the Methodist faith and its founder. Their enthusiasm and genuine interest truly created a very high spirit in the chapel. The participants represented the Methodist Church, Baha'i faith, Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints Church and peace organizations Women's Federation for World Peace and Universal Peace Federation.

At the close of our sharing we were all treated to a tour of this beautiful Methodist Church built in 1884. The leaders and representatives of the various religions and denominations continue to express gratitude for the opportunity to learn about faiths different from their own. They always leave these interreligious gatherings with bright spirits and happy faces.

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## New YAMI Coordinator



## YAMI COORDINATOR



After searching for a YAMI Coordinator since December, we are excited to announce that we have finally found one. Our own Elvis Daboni has decided that he wants to take on this important position. He will be returning from his two years at Generation Peace Academy and will work hard investing into our YAMI program. Thank you Elvis!

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**Congratulations**



We had three academic graduates this year. We'd like to first congratulate Unja Tanaka on graduating high school with Magna Cum Laude and a 4.5 GPA. She will be attending Generation Peace Academy. Next is Sungmi Holdhus. She graduated Unification Theological Seminar with her Masters of Divinity in Religious Studies. Last but not least. Reuel Jin Bruner graduated high school as well. He is currently planning to take the next year to work.







We want to give a big congratulations to the 8,000 couples that received the Blessing at the International Cosmic Blessing this month. We would like to

highlight a few couples that are connected to our community in one fashion or another. These are Andres Pockdong and Grace Mock, Jenny Hughes and Karlsun Allen, Anthony Alves and Yujin Angolio, and Angelika Buczynski & Taka Sugawara. Congratulations everyone!







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## Continued Renovations and Improvements

This month, we did a number of projects during the Spring Refresh, such as landscaping, putting together new shelves/counters, and flower planting. We are also continuing the renovations of the current parsonage in preparation for YAMI to live there. Lastly, we are happy to announce that we have applied for and been approved for property tax exemption on the 4-plex. This will save us a lot of money, especially with property values continually increasing.





**BEFORE**



**AFTER**







# Sunday Sermons

Through the Sunday services this month, we had some very powerful messages this month, including a message by Mitsy Kuramoto on Recognizing God's Love and a message by Sungmi Holdhus on how to "Let Go & Let God." If you missed any of them, you can find them all on our [Facebook page](#) and [Youtube channel](#). For quick reference, this month's recordings are below.

[Recognizing God's Love](#)

[Faith of Convenience](#)

[Let Go & Let God](#)

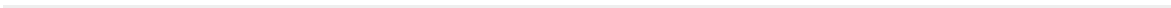
[What is My Role in Times of Change](#)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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## Give back





Dear family,

As you may have heard in last Sunday's announcements, we are under contract to purchase a new parsonage. We had the home inspections yesterday, and given the age of the house, it is in surprisingly good condition! There are no major issues that would prevent us from closing on June 5. This is such a big step forward for our community. Obviously, buying a house in Denver is not a small undertaking, and some may feel that there are better ways to use our church's funds. We understand that, and we hope that eventually the results will speak for themselves. A few weeks ago, I spoke at length about it in a Sunday sermon, so please [take a look at that](#) if you have questions or concerns about why we are doing this and what value it has. Otherwise, we hope you are as excited about this as we are. We couldn't have done it without the incredible support of our council, finance ministry, and the many community members who shared with us their support of our plans.

The house itself ([3304 W. 14th Ave.](#)) has everything we were looking for, in particular the fact that it is only 5 doors away from the church. Also, it has adequate space for our family, a decent yard, and even a fireplace. It does need to be renovated, but for the price, that was to be expected.

Long term, we expect that this will be incredibly beneficial for our community on many levels. It will provide more housing for our community and new families, a more suitable parsonage for our family, and a new property for the church. The current parsonage will be rented to the YAMI (Young Adult Mentorship Initiative) members, bringing in a new source of income for the church and more young adults who are invested into the well-being of our community and our youth. All of these things will take time to materialize, but now the path forward is clear.

In the meantime, a lot of renovations will be needed to fix up both the new parsonage and the current parsonage to be well suited to its new use. Currently in our bank accounts, we have around \$560k, and we will be spending \$530k on the house. Although this is a lot of money, we got a good deal considering the location and square footage. The new parsonage will require quite a few renovations to make it livable. This

includes fencing, HVAC, carpeting, painting, kitchen updates, bathroom work, windows, and more. We have many volunteers who are willing to invest their time, but this will still cost a lot of money even though we will try to save and defer where we can.

Due to our shortage of funds, we would like to ask that if anyone feels called to support this and donate specifically to help renovate the new parsonage, we would be incredibly grateful. Beyond what we can raise through fundraising, Adonia and I will cover the cost of the renovations of the house with our own money, and we expect and hope that when church finances have been replenished, we can be reimbursed. During this time, the church will be somewhat financially vulnerable, and with certain large expenses coming up such as Family Camp, Camp Journey, insurance renewal, solar panels, etc., your regular tithing really, really makes a big difference.

You may be wondering why we are buying the house with cash instead of getting a loan. The truth is that we tried very hard to get a loan, but with our current level of income and our status as a non-profit, banks were generally unwilling to give us a loan. With interest rates being as high as they are right now, perhaps that is for the best. We will, however, be seeking a small loan, around \$40k, from the Subregion to help us cover our immediate foreseeable expenses. There is no guarantee that we will be able to receive it, but it will help a lot if we do.

We look forward to having a big open house and BBQ at some point in the near future and having everyone over. In the meantime, thank you for your encouragement, support, and your prayers.