

Colorado Family Church: November Local Highlights

Michael and Adonia Hentrich
December 3, 2022



December is officially here, and we've been blessed so far with some beautiful snow and a very pleasant winter so far. We had a very active and exciting month of November. Please enjoy some of the highlights below, and we look forward to winding down the year together and also enjoying the upcoming Christmas season.

Date Night



Our elder's group hosted another date night for our young families. A huge thank you to all the helpers who made this happen and for investing into our couples.

Youth Ministry Activities





Every month, our youth ministry team continually invests into our youth through education, fun, group activities, and more. This month they hosted a Thanksgiving sleepover at the church where the girls could enjoy a movie, making gratitude jars, and homemade pizza. In the morning, they all joined together to prepare, serve, and clean up an amazing Thanksgiving meal for our whole community. It was so nice! Also, the week before was paintball outing to Blitz Paintball. We heard it was a blast! Thank you youth ministry team!

Heartland Academy In The News



You may or may not have heard, but Denver 7 aired a really nice segment on Heartland Academy a couple weeks ago.

[Take a look at the full article on the Denver 7 website.](#)

Why I Joined Podcast Featuring Andrew Love



On the "Why I Joined" podcast, our own Andrew Love was featured earlier this month. [Check out the full podcast](#) to hear some of his story on why he joined this movement.

Hosting The Neighborhood Watch Training



As part of our effort to make a safer environment for our church and families living around it, we hosted a neighborhood watch training meeting at the end of November. Peggy Yujiri and Alisa Durham worked hard to make this happen, including passing out 200 flyers door to door right after a snow storm and also providing refreshments for the program. Our cafe was packed, and the police officers shared a lot of valuable information that will hopefully be helpful for us and the other neighbors.

Ongoing Interfaith Activities In Grand Junction



Antonio and Gale Alves participated in the Annual Grand Valley Interfaith Network Thanksgiving Celebration. GVIN was founded in the 1970's and has a strong community service component. The American Lutheran Church hosted us this year. Everyone was very happy because it was the first time we could gather in person since COVID. The theme was "Gratitude" and representatives from all the groups below plus the Latter-Day Saints, Lutheran, and Koinonia faiths were all represented.

Some highlights that inspired and gave strength to us all:

Bahai: Acceptance of whatever situation we find ourselves in is a key component to finding something to be grateful for. Look for the all that we have, not what we DON'T have.

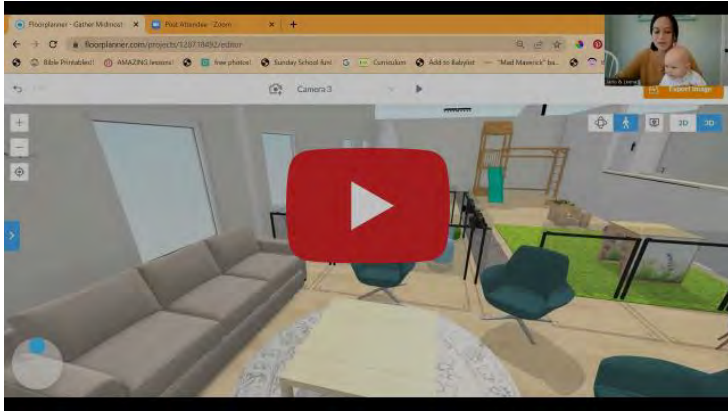
Episcopal: Give people the gift of a smile and words of encouragement.

Jewish: Not matter our age or ability, find ways to give the beauty of ourselves to others. Give thanks for the every day occurrences we tend to take for granted: your child coming home safely from school, waking up to your spouse beside you, freedom, food in the fridge.

WFWP/UPF: Expressing gratitude opens a door to our hearts, allowing God to guide us.

One Heart Church: Try to put yourselves in someone else's situation. This will build empathy and trigger gratitude for all the good in your own life.

Update On Gather Family Church Loan And Renovation



Video from Pastor Leena about the renovations and a guided tour through the plans.



As you may remember, last year we loaned the Gather Family Church in Mobile, Alabama \$100,000 to renovate their new building. We wanted to share this update on their efforts. They are getting closer and closer to completion. [You can follow their Facebook page for more updates.](#)

Congratulations And Prayer Requests



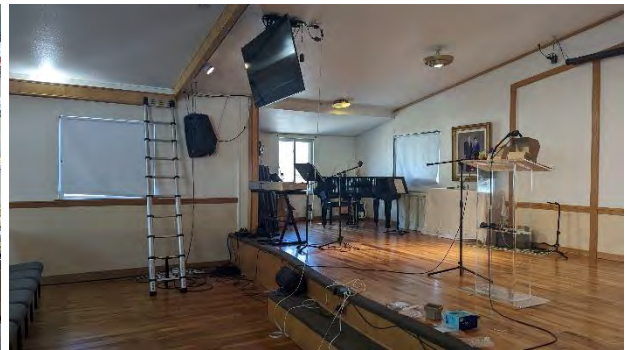
We are blessed this month to welcome two new members to our CARP house: Piero Balbin and Carie Arline. Piero is from Seattle, and Carie came from South Carolina. Welcome!



We are also excited to welcome a new couple to our community. Kiyomi Schmidt and Mike Giampaoli recently moved here from Los Angeles. Welcome to Colorado Mike and Kiyomi!

Continued Renovations And Improvements

Now that the dust is settling from the major renovation projects at the 4-plex, we've set our eyes on cleaning up, organizing, and tying up loose ends. We've had a lot of issues with our tvs in the chapel, so we had to do some rewiring there, and many other small things. As we get ready for the new year, we look forward to sharing some of the major plans for 2023, especially when it comes to getting back on track with our big exterior renovation project and solar panels.



Through the Sunday services this month, we shared a variety of messages on a wide range of topics. 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.

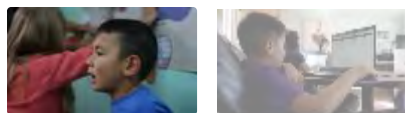
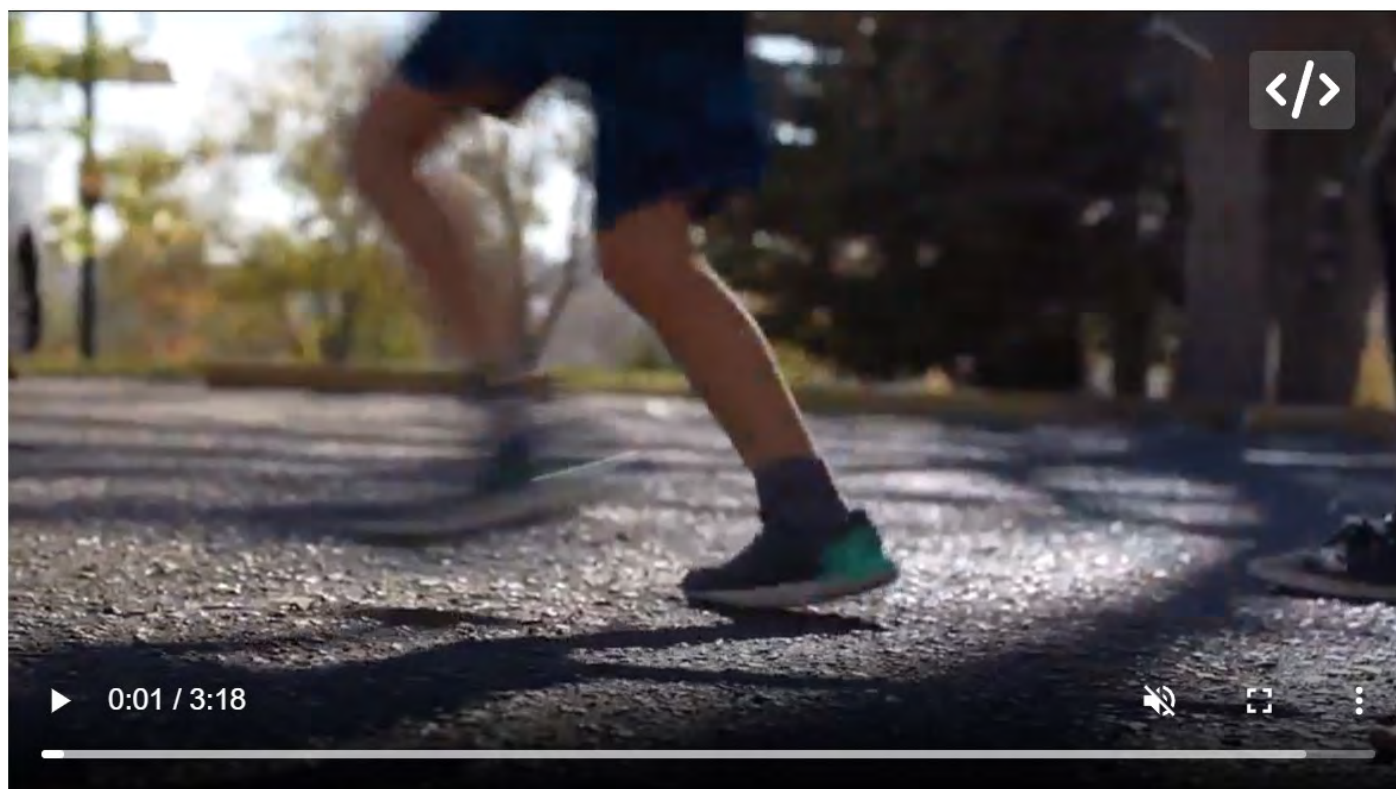
[Trust in God, Peace in Our Hearts](#)

[The Difference Between Letting Go and Rejecting: A Thanksgiving Message](#)

[What to Leave Behind](#)

[Lessons Learned on the Path: Humility](#)

Hybrid homeschooling lets students craft their own curriculum



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By: [Alexa Liacko](#)

Posted at 9:45 AM, Nov 14, 2022 and last updated 9:45 AM, Nov 14, 2022

DENVER, Colo. — The pandemic showed a lot of families that typical schooling doesn't work for many students across the country. Now, there's a growing wave of support for microschoools— smaller unique school settings that redefine education.

[Heartland Academy](#) in Denver, Colorado, is a microschool giving students the chance to control their own education and study from home on Mondays and Fridays.

The students have goals for physical education, math, science, and writing, but that's where the similarities stop between this micro-school and traditional schools.

“We're all self-educated here,” said student Aiden Hentrich.

“They agree together on the rules that they want to follow this year and they agree to abide by them. Can you imagine what kind of social-emotional learning skills that takes?” said Adonia Hentrich, who runs the school.

The two days a week the students work from home, they focus on projects they are interested in, and many are practicing running a business. Each year, the students have a business fair where they sell their products, and it's open to the public.



Heartland Academy

“I’m sticking with the same business I did last year, which is cotton candy,” said Aiden. “And now, we're making a blog for it, and also a mock website.”

“My product is an iced mocha, and I'm working on a blog to help sell that product,” said student Tykus Martinez.

During the three days per week in school, students choose what subjects they focus on and how long they will focus on each. Hentrich said there is also a lot of social-emotional learning going on as well.

“We do peace table talks. We have town meetings where they bring up new ideas; they vote on them. It's really kind of an experience in, ‘What is civil, civic responsibility? What does it mean to be part of a community?’ It's very democratic and a lot of ways,” said Hentrich.

Adonia Hentrich said this hybrid homeschool model ignites her student’s curiosities about school and their community.

“Our whole perspective is that kids are already geniuses, and they can find a calling that will change the world,” said Hentrich “And our mission in this school is to create an environment where they are able to do that.”

“It makes it a lot easier to do work and makes it a lot easier because of less stress. So yes, it actually helps you get more work done,” said Martinez.

This microschool style of learning focusing on student emotional growth is exploding in popularity across the United States. The Heartland Academy is part of the Acton Network of Schools, a community of 300 microschools. The demand for this unique education is only growing.

“I think our school is really preparing people to be owners of their life,” said Hentrich.

This school welcomes all. They’ve created scholarships, child care options for working parents, and doors are open for all ages. Tuition is \$600 per month, but Hentrich is collecting grants to cover scholarships for students in need. You can also help contribute to scholarships through [this GoFundMe](#).

This year, scholarships helped several Ukrainian refugees enroll.

“Our school is self-paced, so they're not just being thrown into environment where they're they're receiving information; they have to test on it and then move on the next week. They can take the time to learn,” said Hentrich of the Ukrainian students.

She’s also seen how these new students have taught their American peers something too.

“Our learners that we've had here for a long time have to learn the patience to ask a question or type it on Google Translate, and then, and wait to get the answer. It's helping to develop some compassion and empathy as well,” said Hentrich.

Hentrich said the microschool environment is going to help our next generation be deeper thinkers and different thinkers.

“It's not so much about learning particular facts and then regurgitating them, because these days, facts are available online. It's really more about knowing how to find what you need to know in order to accomplish something that you want to accomplish,” said Hentrich. “Our whole system is set up for us to step back, let them have their experiences, let them fail early, often and cheaply, and then learn from those and become much stronger for it.”

“I do believe that the school will definitely help me in the future,” said Martinez.

Hentrich only hopes more families will soon experience this for themselves.

If you’d like more information on Heartland Academy or the Acton Network of Schools, click [HERE](#). You can support the school by donating [HERE](#).

The Children's Business Fair is open to the public and happening on December 17th at 1371 N. Julian St. (Colorado Family Church) from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.





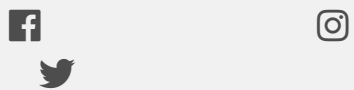
Young Entrepreneurs Showcase their Business Ventures
Saturday, December 17th 10am-12pm
@ Colorado Family Church 1371 N. Julian St. Denver, CO 80204


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