



WELCOME TO THE REBOOT OF THE VIEW!

Bri and I will send this out **the first week of every month**. In it you will find out information about programming, prayer concerns, and other happenings in our three denominations.

In this issue, we will go over the Mountain Sky Conference invitation to their intercultural awareness program! To read more on this go to the [SAY YES!](#) Section. We also have an exciting faith-based social justice accompaniment with San Carlos Apache for the Apache Stronghold at Oak Flats that I will be a reservist for from May 30 - June 16, 2023! Go to [Apache Stronghold at Oak Flats](#) to read more about this. We also have new faces that will be apart of our community! To see our new staff and their backgrounds go to [Our New Staff](#).

- Peace and Blessing, Pastor Tracy

SAY YES!

MVUC leadership has said, “Yes!” to the Mile High District of the Mountain Sky Conference, United Methodist Church invitation to participate their intercultural awareness program. On April 15th, Holly C., Marcia, Chris, and Pastor Tracy participated in the district’s special intercultural awareness training during which we learned that cultural differences go far beyond racial or ethnic differences. We learned that different cultures also relate to the differences between growing up in an urban, suburban, small town, or rural community, liking traditional worship rather than contemporary, being queer or hetero, and difference surrounding education, wealth, gender, spirituality, and neurobiology. Clearly, MVUC is a Beloved Community that has more diversity than we first thought and even more when we extend our community to include our partners.



Our “Yes!” extends an invitation to all friends and members of MVUC to take the online Intercultural Developmental Inventory and participate in our small group program on first Sundays after worship beginning in July 2023. After we have taken the online inventory, Rev. Jessica Rooks, our United Methodist District Superintendent will meet with our congregation to give us our group score as a Beloved Community. After that, another person will meet with each of us to help us understand what our personal results mean. From there, for those who would like to continue, we will have smalls groups that will use the study book “Building Lasting Bridges.” This book was written by a United Methodist clergyman

who has been working in this field for decades and has bridged intercultural awareness with Christian congregations.

Taking the online inventory is NOT a test that you can pass or fail. Everyone passes because what you are doing is learning where you are on a continuum of learning. The results give you two scores: the first is how skilled you “think” you are at authentic intercultural relationships, and the second is your actual capacity for being in authentic intercultural relationships. In total the results offer each of us and our Beloved Community information about how we can grow in our awareness and develop skills or capacities for being in authentic relationships with each other, particularly with folks different from us in some way. These skills help us learn and practice empathy among other practices of wellbeing.

We hope that you say, “Yes!” to this unique opportunity to grow in your faith and formation as God’s beloved child and a disciple of Christ in a diverse cultural world. We have done much good ministry and have so much more to do. Church Council and Pastor Tracy believe that taking this inventory and participating in the small groups on first Sundays will enliven conversation about awareness and increase our capacities to better welcome and love all God’s people. This is about courageous faith and courageous vulnerability which are the topics of Pastor Tracy’s sermons that took place on April 30 and part two will take place *this Sunday, May 7*. Please come to learn more about being faithful disciples of Christ following Jesus’ way of nonviolent love.

- Blessings, MVUC Church Council and Pastor Tracy

APACHE STRONGHOLD AT OAK FLATS

As said before, the peace groups that I have often spoken about has been asked by the San Carlos Apache for accompaniment of the Apache Stronghold at Oak Flats, Arizona! I’m excited to be a part of this project and will be in attendance from May 30 - June 16, 2023.



Oak Flats is historic sacred tribal land where the San Carol Apache have held religious prayers and rituals for centuries. In 2014 the late Sen. John McCain and others attached a rider to a must-pass defense spending bill that transferred Oak Flats to three international mining groups for a large copper mine. This land has been protected for decades by the federal government in the Tonto National Forest, and is a registered historic site. The Apache Stronghold has filed a lawsuit against the USA government to halt the transfer of their sacred land on the grounds of religious freedom and concerns for the devastating environmental impact on Mother Earth.

Concurrently, the Apache Stronghold and its allies are waiting for the decision of the 9th District Court in California about their lawsuit to halt the transfer of the land and for the environmental impact study to be released. Once a positive environmental impact study is released by the Biden Administration the land will be transferred in 60 days to the three international mining companies.

In response to the Apache Stronghold request for accompaniment, The Community Peacemaker Teams (formerly known as The Christian Peacemaker Teams – CPT) is sending two-person teams through

May and June 2023. With Council and Staff Parish Relation Committee joint approval, I will be serving as a reservist with Kryss (you've met her in worship) from May 30-June 16. I look forward to extending the MVUC faith-based social justice ministry in Arizona as we expand our circle of love and justice to the Apache Stronghold. Please do a little research by going to Apache Stronghold at Oak Flats to learn more about their ongoing nonviolent resistance to the legacy of colonialism and empire of multinational corporation greed of natural resources and profit.

- Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tracy

PRAYER REQUESTS:



Holly C. as she mourns the death of her brother Jim.

Kim P. as she continues to recover from her cardiac procedure.

Mary R., V. McD., Lark M., and members and friends experiencing mental health struggles and physical illnesses, and facing financial hardships.

Please contact the church office to have names added to this list.

OUR NEW STAFF!

WELCOME BRIANA ROREX
OUR NEW OFFICE
MANAGER!

Office Manager Hours

Tuesday – Wednesday 9:00
AM - 3:00 PM

Hello MVUC,

My name is Briana Rorex. I am so very honored, blessed and happy to be part of this community! I was born and raised right here in Denver. I was raised Christian but as I grew older became more Spiritual –

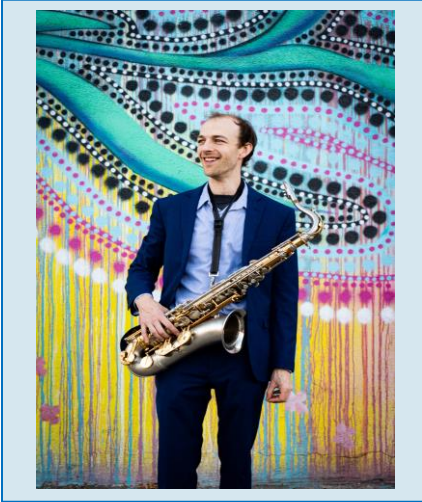
I do believe in the most High and believe that God gave me life for a reason! I'm not sure what the reason is yet, but I will keep on striving to become the best version of myself and do my part and spread positivity, acceptance, and peace on this Earth!

I am always open to new churches and experiences. That is one of the main reasons that I am so delighted to join this community because of how open and understanding this community is! In my spare time, I also juggle being a mother to 2 wonderful boys - Javelle who is 4 and Jabari who is 1 - as well as owning my own women's clothing brand and online store, Queens Wrld Fashion. I one day hope to help those in need by creating programs for at-risk youth, homelessness, and those who struggle with substance abuse. I also want to spread the importance of Mental

Health and break the stigma surrounding it – spreading this will help bring more awareness to others and show those who deal with Mental Illnesses that they aren't alone!

- **Briana Rorex**





WELCOME ERIK JOHNSON
OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR!

Erik Johnson is a multi-instrumental performer, producer, educator, composer, and conductor. Born into a musical family just northwest of Detroit, he studied classical clarinet performance and composition at Western Michigan University. After graduate school at Ithaca College in New York, he took his backgrounds in classical, jazz, pop, electronic, and world music practices to tour throughout the United States and Canada. His talents on horns, keyboards, vocals, and arranging ensembles can be heard on 17 albums. Erik has taught in Montessori systems, other group lesson organizations, and offered masterclasses in music theory, composition, performance practice, pedagogy, and dance.

Resettling in Colorado in 2018, he began working with the School of Rock, as well as the UCC in Longmont as a choral director while performing in a variety of ensembles across the state. Currently he's the music director at the UCC in Aurora, runs his own private music studio in Denver, and just this winter was appointed a position with the Denver Philharmonic for their 2023-2024 season.

HABITAT PRIDE BUILD



The Habitat Pride Build will take place on ***Saturday, June 3rd***! MVUC confirmed volunteers are Ross, Megan, Holly D., Stanley, Carol B. and Kelly. Let's pray for them and the Habitat Pride Build!!



Bless The Build Celebration (March 2023)