

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

*The Vision of First Church is to be an inclusive, deeply relational community inviting all people to experience God's presence today.*

### ALL ARE WELCOME HERE—WE STRIVE FOR IT.

In the spirit of Jesus Christ, First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins commits to offering a community in which persons of diverse age, color, culture, sexual orientation and gender identity, economic status, and physical or mental ability are all welcomed and affirmed. To all who have known pain of exclusion or discrimination from church or in society, we seek forgiveness and offer a place of respite and welcome.

**IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH** and would like more information, please ask one of our greeters or ushers or visit the **Welcome Center**. They can direct you to classrooms, nursery, restrooms, food, and fellowship, as well as introduce you to our staff. We would be honored to get to know you better and learn about your life and spiritual needs. Our community may not know you yet, but we already love you and hope you will make this your spiritual home. Thank you for joining us today, and God bless you!

## WEEKLY FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES—9:45 A.M.

Please sign your children in at the Children's Ministries check-in desk, south entrance, before the 9:30 a.m. worship service begins. Children join their parents/guardians for worship in the Sanctuary until the conclusion of Children's Time. Then, parents of preschoolers escort their children to Room 121, and children grades K-5 meet outside the Sanctuary. The teachers will escort elementary children to their classrooms.

Parents, please pick your children up from their designated location following the service.



**SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH GROUP:** If you are a teen, we have something for YOU! Youth (grades 6-12) are welcome to participate in our Sunday Morning Youth Group that happens at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday. Join our Youth Director and leaders in the Youth basement for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth that are fun and relevant to students!

### SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUPS—Please join us.

**9:30 a.m.** Samaritan Class—Parlor; Serendipity Class—Village Commons; Upper Room Class—Upper Room (Room 235)  
**11:00 a.m.** Open Hearts Class—Village Commons

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

\*Please rise as you are able.

Gathering Music	<i>Fête</i>	Raymond Weidner
Welcome		Rev. Bradley Laurvick Rev. Cynthia Paquette
Prelude	<i>Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether</i>	Charles Callahan
*Call to Worship		9:30 Caroline Barkoskie 11:00 Sandy Merriweather
Hymn of Praise	<i>Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether</i>	UMH #632
Chorus (9:30)	<i>O How I Love Jesus</i>	UMH #170
Children's Message		Barb Grauberger
Chorus (9:30)	<i>O How I Love Jesus</i>	UMH #170
Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer		Rev. Brad Laurvick
Offering Our Gifts to God		

### Giving to God through First Church:

1. Give online at <https://fcfumc.net/> or on the First UMC App .
2. Check or cash.
3. Offering your time, talents, gifts, service and witness.

Offertory	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	arr. Mack Wilberg Sanctuary Choir
*Doxology	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	UMH #94
Scripture	1 Thessalonians 1:1-6	9:30 Caroline Barkoskie 11:00 Sandy Merriweather
Sermon	"Big Questions: Why Labor of Love?"	Rev. Cynthia Paquette
The Sacrament of Holy Communion		
*Hymn of Dedication	<i>Christ, We Are Blest</i>	W&S #3174
*Benediction		Rev. Cynthia Paquette
Postlude	<i>Grand Choeu</i>	Théodore Salomé

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FAITH FORMATION



### SPIRITUAL PRACTICES THAT TRANSFORM • SMALL GROUP

Rev. Cynthia invites you to join in learning, practicing, and sharing the spiritual practices that transform our lives. We will meet weekly in person on Mondays from noon to 1 PM (this fall: September 12 – December 12, 2022) in the Conference Room or off-site to learn and share with each other a spiritual practice that we will practice individually throughout the week. On September 12, we will begin with the spiritual practice of worship. Human beings are made for worship; we are prone to worship someone or something. There is little reading for this group, the focus will be on mindful practice and reflection.

### YEAR-LONG BIBLE STUDY



Rev. Cynthia will be leading a year-long Bible study using the Grand Sweep Year-Long Bible Study by Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas as a guide. Together we will study the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and apply the lessons to our lives. We will meet weekly in person on Mondays from 6:30 to 8 PM in the Conference Room from September 12, 2022 to end of October 2023.

Zoom option is available for both offerings whenever you are out of town but would still like to be present. Questions? Contact Rev. Cynthia, [c.paquette@fcfumc.net](mailto:c.paquette@fcfumc.net) Sign up at the Faith Formation Table in the Fellowship Hall.

### FIRST CHURCH CONNECTION CARD

(Please fill out and drop in offering plate OR scan appropriate QR codes below)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Service Time 9:30  11:00  Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ I am a First Time Guest  Returning Guest  Regular Attender   
 Please let me know about volunteer opportunities  Please contact me about membership   
 Please add me to the "First Wire" weekly email list   
 Prayer Requests \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Attender   
 First Time Guest 

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**USHERS:** 9:30 a.m. Lois Quintana, Dana Sampson, Kristen Rubenthaler, Nick Tomasini  
11:00 a.m. Eric Wilkinson, Pam Metzger

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Today's altar flowers are given by Ellie & Rebecca Gilmore, in celebration of one year of marriage and in deep gratitude for the love and inclusivity of First Church.

**MEET AND GREET:** Please join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for a meet and greet with this year's Habitat for Humanity family, Stephen & Ashlen. We will be hosting them with a cake reception during coffee fellowship. We at First Church are happy to continue our work as Habitat Faith Builders at Harmony Cottages where Stephen & Ashlen will soon become homeowners.



Join the Rev. Dr. Mark Lee for a 7-week exploration of key touchstones of Christian faithing. Using a DVD series featuring short introductions by well known writers and leaders such as Brian McLaren, Lauren Winner, Nadia Boltz-Weber and others, we will look at faith journeying, spirituality, Jesus, the Cross, Salvation, the Bible, and the Church. The course is designed for discussion, right-brained exploration of these topics, and open ended conclusions. Student journals and sign ups will be available on the Formation table during fellowship hour. The class will run seven Wednesday evenings starting September 28, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, room TBA.

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Here are two new opportunities to learn about community organizing.

- Join a Zoom discussion at 6 p.m. September 15 to learn more about broad-based organizations like the one we are building in NoCo.
- Our first training session in Northern Colorado is coming soon. Learn the basic skills of organizing at First Church on October 28-29.

For information or signup: David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com, 970-581-2707 or [www.cocommongood.org/events](http://www.cocommongood.org/events)

### NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY!!

**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 25-29**

**Our church is doing a NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY!**

We want everyone to get a new picture made so that our new directory will be complete. We have so many new additions to our church family; a new directory is essential in helping all of us put names to faces and get connected with each other. IT WON'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT YOU! Sign ups for picture taking begin in September. You will receive a free picture and a free directory if your picture is in the directory.



## OUR CHURCH STAFF

### Pastors

**Rev. Bradley Laurvick**, *Lead Pastor*  
**Rev. Cynthia Paquette**, *Executive Pastor*

### Music Staff

**David Adkins**, *Director of Music Ministries & Communications*  
**Dr. Joel Bacon**, *Organist/Artist in Residence*  
**Brenna Martin**, *Children's Choir Coordinator*  
**Abigale Gilson**, *Children's Choir Director*  
**Karen Stoodly**, *Organist Emeritus*

### Program Staff

**Barb Grauberger**, *Director of Children and Family Ministries*  
**Victoria Burkett**, *Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*  
**Rev. Dr. Mark Lee**, *Director of Adult Faith, Discipleship, and Northern Colorado Faith Library*  
**David Reid**, *Community Builder*  
**Laurie Elliott**, *Childcare Coordinator*  
**Liza Judd-Salimbeni**, *Kids' Closet Coordinator*  
**Ali Gessler**, *Director of Pre-School*  
**Gail Farnum**, *Director of Parent's Day Out*

### Administrative and Facilities Staff

**Jim Doser**, *Worship Technology Lead*  
**Nathan Abrahamson**, *Worship Technology Assistant*  
**Shelley Nelson**, *Administrative & Communications Assistant*  
**Shauna Bjork**, *Accountant*  
**Julie Iven**, *Financial Secretary*  
**Gail Wells**, *Membership Secretary & Volunteer Coordinator*  
**Henry Reyna**, *Facilities Manager*  
**Max Reyes**, *Custodian*  
**Michael Shestak**, *Custodian, Sunday Hospitality Coordinator*

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY • SAT. SEPTEMBER 10**  
**9:30—11:30 IN THE PARLOR**

Knitters, crocheters and new learners are all welcome.

### FAITH FORMATION

#### WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

All women are invited to a Fall Retreat at the **Tamasag Retreat Center** (just outside of Laporte). Meet Leslie Verner, author of *Invited: The Power of Hospitality in an Age of Loneliness*. Sign up at the table in Fellowship Hall any time from September 4—30.

**Coming Next Week: September 11, 2022**

**"Big Questions: What Matters?"**

**2 Kings 10:1-16**



1005 Stover Street • Fort Collins, CO 80524  
(970) 482-2436

## BIG QUESTIONS:



## Why Labor of Love?

Rev. Cynthia Paquette

**September 4, 2022**

You are most welcome at First Church.

We are a fully inclusive, deeply relational community inviting all people to experience God's presence today.

Sunday Worship Services are at 9:30 and 11:00.

There are many opportunities for spiritual growth and connection for all ages.

Thank you for joining us today!