# 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.

There will be no Sunday school for First Kids on 12/31. Instead, please join us in worship. Nursery care will be provided for those 4 years old and under.



# **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

Advent Candle Lighting

Prelude Angels We Have Heard On High by Michael Bedford

Dr. Joel Bacon, organ

Welcome Rev. Brad Laurvick

\*Music for Reflection Bright Star (Light of the World) by N. D. Joio

Ivy Taylor, soprano

Light One Candle by Natalie Sleeth

Sanctuary Choir and Congregation

\*Call to Worship 9:30 Sherri Wahlgren

11:00 Stephanie Lane

\*Hymn of Praise Joy to the World UMH #246

Chorus (9:30) Away In A Manger UMH #217

Children's Message Barb Grauberger

Chorus (9:30) Away In A Manger UMH #217

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Anthem Angels We Have Heard on High arr. D. and S. Foster

Rev. Brad Laurvick, baritone Josh Colonnieves, tenor

Scripture John 2:22-40

Sermon Christmas Together

Offering Our Gifts to God

## **Giving to God through First Church:**

- 1. Give online at fcfumc.net.
- 2. Check or cash. All loose one dollar bills go to those in need.
- 3. Offering your time, talents, gifts, service and witness.

Offertory Of the Father's Love Begotten by Craig Philips

Dr. Joel Bacon, organ

\*Doxology Angels We Have Heard On High UMH #238

\*Sending Prayer

\*Hymn of Dedication Silent Night, Holy Night UMH #239

\*Benediction

Postlude Joy to the World by Mary Beth Bennett

Dr. Joel Bacon, organ

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## First Church Community Personal Information and Picture Update

You are important to us, and we want to remain connected with you. Please scan the QR code to update your personal information and picture so your church community can get to know you better, your records are updated on First Church Database, and you are in the New Church Pictorial Directory.



### **Exploring First Church**

We here at First Church are excited to see so many new faces and meet so many new people on Sundays. We are here to help new people get plugged in. Would you like to learn more about Methodism in general and First Church in particular? Are you considering membership in this vibrant community of faith? If so, Rev. Brad and Rev. Cynthia invite you to attend the Exploring First Church session at noon on January 21 in the Parlor. We will have a light lunch followed by a session on Methodism and the many ministries to be involved in at First Church. You will also have a virtual tour of the church building. Please email Gail Wells at membership@fcfumc.net, or call (970) 482-2436 ext. 111 by January 17 if you plan to attend. Childcare will be provided but must be reserved by January 17.

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The 2024 Altar Flower Calendar is up in **the administrative offices hallway**. Now is the time to choose a Sunday to remember, honor or celebrate a loved one by purchasing flowers for the altar. Instructions can be found on the wall next to the calendar.

# **TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH**

**WORSHIP CARE TEAM MEMBER:** Donna Newkirk

## **Life Together - Parenting Group**

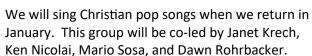
The parenting group will not be meeting this week on December 24th or next week on December 31st. There is also no Sunday school on 12/24 and 12/31.

Childcare is provided for 4 years and younger on 12/24 and 12/31.

Questions? Contact Barb Grauberger at childrensdirector@fcfumc.net

## **New Life Together Group - Songs For Life**

There will be no Songs for Life meeting this week on December 24th or on December 31st.





For any questions, contact Janet Krech at ajkretch@msn.com or at (970)-988-6201

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Christmas Decoration Take Down - Help Wanted**

It's that time once again! Join us next **Sunday, January 7th** to help take down the Christmas decorations. Contact Rev. Brad for more details.

### **OUR CHURCH STAFF**

### **Pastors**

Rev. Bradley Laurvick, Lead Pastor Rev. Cynthia Paquette, Pastor of Congregational Engagement

## Music Staff

**Dr. Nathan Payant**, *Director of Music* & *Arts* 

**Dr. Joel Bacon**, *Organist/Artist in Residence* 

Brenna Martin, Children's Choir Coordinator

**Abigail Gilson**, *Children's Choir Director* 

Karen Stoody, Organist Emeritus

# Program Staff

**Barb Grauberger**, *Director of Children and Family Ministries* 

**Victoria Burkett**, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

David Reid, Community Builder Laurie Elliott, Childcare Coordinator Liza Judd-Salimbeni, Kids' Closet Coordinator

## **Program Staff Cont.**

**Ali Gessler,** *Director of Pre-School* **Gail Farnum**, *Director of Parent's Day Out* 

### **Administrative and Facilities Staff**

Missy Taylor, Director of
Communications & Marketing
Jim Doser, Worship Technology Lead
Nathan Abrahamson, Worship
Technology Assistant

**Ray McLain,** *Director of Business Operations* 

**Katie Levasseur,** Assistant Director of Business Operations

**Gail Wells**, Congregational Engagement Coordinator

Henry Reyna, Facilities Manager

**Michael Shestak**, Custodian, Sunday Hospitality Coordinator

Anthony Coria, Custodian
Clemente Enriquez, Custodian

# **Connect With Our Pastors**

Rev. Brad Laurvick Lead Pastor brad@fcfumc.net Rev. Cynthia Paquette
Pastor of Congregational Engagement
c.paquette@fcfumc.net

First United Methodist Church
1005 Stover Street • Fort Collins, CO 80524 • (970) 482-2436



Traditions & Relationships that feel like home...

# **December 31, 2023**

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!

# **COMMUNICATE REQUEST FORM**

If you have an announcement to include in the Sunday bulletin, please submit the details by Wednesday before, using the QR code: