

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.** Serendipity Class—Village Commons;
Upper Room Class—Upper Room (Room 235)
- 10:55 a.m.** Open Hearts Class—Village Commons

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Prelude *O Merciful Creator, Hear Our Prayer* by Flor Peeters
Dr. Joel Bacon, organist

Welcome Rev. Dee Pennington
Dr. Nathan Payant

*Music for Reflection *Jesu dulcis memoria* by Gerald Near

*Call to Worship 9:30 Jerry Wiese
11:00 Colleen Bell

*Hymn of Praise *Open My Eyes That I May See* UMH #454

Chorus (9:30) *Standing In the Need of Prayer* UMH #352
Children's Message Barb Grauberger
Chorus (9:30) *Standing In the Need of Prayer* UMH #352

Pastoral Prayer Stephanie Lane

Lord's Prayer TFWS #2278

Anthem *The Lord is My Shepherd* by Allen Pote
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture 1Kings 19:9-13
Luke 8:16-21

Sermon A Life of Prayer: Listen Rev. Dee Pennington

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 *Our Father in Heaven* by Georg Böhm

*Doxology UMH #95

*Sending Prayer

*Hymn of Dedication O Jesus I Have Promised UMH #396

*Benediction

Postlude Jesus, Lover of My Soul by Harold Owen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Spring Plant Donation

Donate a plant for Easter in honor or memory of someone. See details on attached form. →



Easter Candy Donations

We will be hosting an Easter egg hunt between the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on Easter morning and need your help! **Please place bags of individually wrapped Easter candy in the collection bins (in the narthex) by March 22nd.**

Come Hear about Matthews House

On **Thursday, March 14**, a representative from Matthews House will present at the United Women in Faith unit meeting. Matthews House works to empower youth and families to close the poverty cycle in Northern Colorado. You are welcome to come to **The Parlor at 11:20 for lunch before the presentation.**

Bake Sale - Habitat for Humanity

Sunday March 24th, there will be a Bake Sale benefiting Habitat for Humanity 2024 Faith Build **at 10:15 a.m.** Two ways you can help and support: 1. Bring baked goods to be sold to the Fellowship Hall by 9:30 on Sunday 3/24/24! 2. Bring MONEY to purchase delicious baked goods during Fellowship on Sunday 3/24/24! Contact Cindi Ross-Bell falcor@frii.com.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic

Come to the Gathering Place between services to have your blood pressure checked including a free nursing consult next Sunday. Sponsored by your FUMC Faith Community Nurses.

Prayer Garden and Columbarium

The Columbarium Board welcomes you to our rededicated Prayer Garden. We have prepared a prayer guide brochure to use as you explore the Garden and Columbarium. The Garden is located outside on Stover St. - north of the chapel. Brochures are located in the east church hallway and in a holder mounted on the Garden gate. Pray, meditate, or just take a deep breath in this peaceful, beautiful space.

Tear Along Perforation

Easter Spring Plants Donation (Please fill out and drop in offering plate OR Scan QR code)

If you would like to donate a plant for Easter in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the form below (or online) by 3/26. Cost per plant (tulips, daffodils, hyacinth, etc.) is \$15 payable to FUMC with "Easter spring plants" on memo line/online giving fund. Plants are only available for pick up right after the 11 a.m. service or after April 1.

I want to donate: 1 plant 2 plants 3 plants 4 plants

Flowers are given in honor/memory of (person/people/group): _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

USHERS:

9:30 Dana Sampson, Connie Cardenas, John Allum

11:00 Eric Wilkinson, Susan Leinhart

WORSHIP CARE TEAM MEMBER: Kandy Moore

ALTAR FLOWERS: Today's altar flowers are given by Whitney Pennington and Kayleigh Keller In celebration of Rev. Dee Pennington's birthday.

PRE-HAGEN LECTURE BOOK STUDY KNOWN: Finding Deep Friendships in a Shallow World Author: Dick and Ruth Foth

Wednesdays, April 3 – 24, 2024

Noon – 1 PM, 7 – 8 p.m. At Village Commons

The Digital Age is all about change, but the need for true friendship never changes. You are designed for real engagement with others---for affirmation that goes beyond a simple "like" on social media, for connection over meals, for hope and excitement about the future. Above all, you need to be known and accepted for who you are. But how do you find and maintain this kind of friendship in a fluid and frenetic culture?

(Description on Amazon.com)

Books available to purchase (\$5 each) on Sunday mornings. If you have purchased this book at \$13, please let financialsecretary@fcfumc.net know if you would like \$8 refunded to you or put toward your offering to the church. **Sign Up using QR code.**



Grief Support Group

Whether you have suffered a recent loss or continue to grieve a loved one, join us for a time of reflection, learning, and support on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 1 pm in the Conference Room.** If you have questions please contact Rev. Dee Pennington at penninda@att.net or 314-602-7864.

The University of Notre Dame Glee Club In Concert at First Church

Classical, Folk, and Popular Music... Songs of Notre Dame...

Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Congregational Engagement Opportunities

Scan the QR code or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/CongregationalEngagement> for a full list of opportunities to help you grow in faith, get involved, meet new people, learn about care opportunities, and discover new selections from our First Church Library.



FIRST WIRE EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Want to receive the latest First Church news and announcements in a weekly email? Sign up by emailing communicate@fcfumc.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALK THE LABYRINTH ON HOLY WEEK

Monday - Wednesday, March 25-27, 2024

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

A guide will be available at noon daily.

A labyrinth is a meandering path, with a singular path leading to the center. Labyrinths are tools for personal, psychological, and spiritual transformation. The labyrinth may serve to help one find their spiritual path by purposefully removing one from the common understanding of linear time and direction between two points. As one travels through the labyrinth, one would become increasingly lost in reference to the world outside and possibly, would unexpectedly discover one's true path in life. -- The Labyrinth Society

Walk at anytime and stay as long as you would like.

Questions? [Contact Rev. Cynthia](#)

Holy Week Services

Easter is far more meaningful when you have experienced the story in its' entirety. Please join us as we encounter Holy Week together with dynamic services to offer insight and connections of this holiest of weeks.

Maundy Thursday Service Thursday, March 28th, 7p.m. A service of communion told through the scriptures of Christ's last week. A meaningful moment to "do this every time you remember me."

Good Friday Service Friday, March 29th, 7p.m. Experience Christ's last day through a powerful sharing of the scripture story and music from the choir. This tenebrae service, in which darkness grows as the story unfolds, will include the stripping of the altar and placing of a cross in the lawn as we prepare for Easter.

Easter Service

Easter - March 31 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Our Church Staff



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



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A Life of Prayer



March 10, 2024

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!