

# 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 *Palm Sunday Processional* arr. Dan Edwards  
Carillon Handbell Choir

Welcome Rev. Bradley Laurvick  
Rev. Cynthia Paquette

\*Music for Reflection *This is the Day* by Natalie Sleeth  
Cherub and Starlight Children's Choirs arr. Robert Lau

\*Call to Worship 9:30 Cindi Ross-Bell  
11:00 Bill Emslie

\*Hymn of Praise *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* UMH #278

Children's Message (9:30) Barb Grauberger  
Chorus (9:30) *Who Is He* W&S #3082

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer TFWS #2278

Anthem *Ride On, King Jesus* arr. Howard Helvey  
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Matthew 26:36-46

Sermon A Life of Prayer: The Ember of the Soul Rev. Bradley Laurvick

Offering Our Gifts to God

### Giving to God through First Church:

1. Give online at [fcfumc.net](http://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 *Have Mercy, O Lord* by J.S. Bach  
Dr. Joel Bacon, organist

\*Doxology UMH #95

\*Sending Prayer

\*Hymn of Dedication *Breathe on me, Breath of God* UMH #420

\*Benediction

Postlude *Hear, Merciful Creator* by Marcel Dupré

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Easter Spring Plant Donation

Donate a plant for Easter in honor or memory of someone by 3/26. See details on attached form. →



## Bake Sale Today to Benefit Habitat for Humanity

There will be a Bake Sale **today at 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** benefiting Habitat for Humanity 2024 Faith Build. Come by and purchase delicious baked goods during Fellowship and help support Habitat for Humanity!

## 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.

## Save the Date

Faith Community Nursing in the Rockies hosts Spirit of Caring Conference Saturday, April 13 at First Church for Faith Community Nurses. Anyone is welcome to join via ZOOM. Topics are "Trauma Informed Care for Kids" and "The Evolution of Emergency Preparedness and Response". Cost: \$25.00. Sign up at [www.fcnr Rockies.org](http://www.fcnr Rockies.org). Click on link in the orange box called "Upcoming Events". DEADLINE: April 5th. Contact Donna Newkirk at [D.NewkirkANP@gmail.com](mailto:D.NewkirkANP@gmail.com)

## All Church Retreat-Buckhorn Camp

Registration is open now! Join us at Buckhorn Camp (only 45 minutes away) **July 26-28**, for a church wide mountain weekend experience. If you missed last year, you won't want to miss this year! Fees include choices in lodging, food and activities. You can even bring your camper or pitch a tent! Sign up/Pay with QR code. It is going to be a fantastic weekend.



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: \_\_\_\_\_

Tear Along Perforation

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### USHERS:

9:30 Jeff Johnson, Steve Fink, Sarah Johnson,  
Gwendolyn Fink  
11:00 Eric Wilkinson, Pam Metzger

**WORSHIP CARE TEAM MEMBER:** Susan Massa

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Today's altar flowers are given by the Reutter family in memory of Princetta Reutter.

### 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](mailto: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.**



### CONGREGATIONAL CARE HEALTH SERIES:

#### EATING TO THRIVE IN LIFE

**Speaker: Cindy Yergler (Registered and Licensed Dietitian)**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. at The Parlor**

Living your best life yet? Do not wait. Learn how to eat to thrive in life. Childcare provided if reserved by calling the church office by April 3.

### New Life Together Group - Second Stagers

Spiritual Reflection, Community & Fun! Getting your bearings as an empty nester? Looking for ways to explore your faith and have discussions about spirituality with others? Or maybe you want to get to know more middle-aged members in our community? Our new Second Stagers group is a way for our members (ages 50+) to connect and share their spiritual journey in a casual and open environment. Each week, the group will discuss various works written by prolific religious authors, host occasional speakers, and explore other ways to grow in faith together. The new group will meet at **8:30 a.m. in the Conference Room beginning Sunday, April 7.** Come join us! For more information, contact Sherry Burkhard at [sherryburkhard@gmail.com](mailto:sherryburkhard@gmail.com) or Erin Paisan at [paisanerin@gmail.com](mailto:paisanerin@gmail.com).

### Congregational Engagement Opportunities

Scan the QR code or go to <http://tinyurl.com/CongregationalEngagement> for a full list.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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

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

**Egg Hunt at 10:40 a.m.** on north lawn

Visit [EASTERFORTCOLLINS.COM](http://EASTERFORTCOLLINS.COM) for details.

### WALK THE LABYRINTH ON HOLY WEEK

**Mon. - Wed., March 25-27, 2024 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Walk anytime, but 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

### Our Partner School, Putnam Elementary, Needs YOU

A lunchtime run club needs adults to tally laps/reward kids for on Thurs. & Fri. noon-12:45. Kindergarten technology needs an assistant to help kids listen/follow easy directions with robotic mouse toys Wed. 12:30-1:40. The Book Fair needs volunteers to help kids select \$7 worth of books on April 29 and 30th morning/afternoon shifts. Teacher Appreciation Brunch (food needed) May 7 - 11-12:30.

### Our Church Staff



### Connect With Our Pastors

Rev. Brad Laurvick  
Lead Pastor  
[brad@fcfumc.net](mailto:brad@fcfumc.net)

Rev. Cynthia Paquette  
Pastor of Congregational Engagement  
[c.paquette@fcfumc.net](mailto:c.paquette@fcfumc.net)

First United Methodist Church

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



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

# A Life of Prayer



March 24, 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!