



The Carillon

January 2017

Volume 23

Issue 1

9 "Best Evers" for First United Methodist Church



On December 5th at the Church Conference, my presentation as the Lead Pastor included a listing of "the best ever" qualities that are found at First United Methodist Church. In my 42 years of pastoral work, our congregation has exceeded my previous experience in parish life in these ways. These attributes demonstrate that we can achieve excellence.

- **The most difficult anthem I have heard...ever!** "The Promise of Living" composed by Aaron Copeland was offered by the Sanctuary choir on November 20th. Our guest preacher that day, whose spouse is a choir director, said, "I have never heard a church choir sing Aaron Copeland."
 - **The biggest turnaround in worship in one year's time...ever!** In July 2015, when I first became your Lead Pastor, worship attendance was in the 330s. Today attendance spans from the 450s to over 600. Last Sunday when the Sanctuary Choir sang Rutter's *Magnificat*, attendance was over 800. Worship is the single most significant statistic used to determine the health of a congregation.
 - **Our church is in the middle of the biggest financial turnaround...ever!** *Into a New Era* has the capability to propel us forward. The key to financial success in a congregation is maximum participation. When we have 400 households giving their best, we will be at our best ever.
 - **The most dramatic attendance shift...ever!** Christmas Eve services reach attendance figures in the 1,800 to 2,000 range. That is four times our regular Sunday average. Usually, Easter Day and Christmas Eve are almost even. In First United Methodist Church, Christmas Eve is double our Easter Day worship attendance.
 - **Most mission trips by a congregation annually...ever!** At 3.5 mission trips per year, our 12 month totals include 3 youth mission trips and a Wesley Foundation mission trip bi-annually. Some members in our congregation are working toward more.
 - **Best Seniors Ministry...ever!** With Double Nickel, movies, tours, and trips and with the "silver tsunami" approaching, this is a good thing for our church.
 - **Hardest working staff...ever!** When I arrive at the church building at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, someone is already here and working. When I leave each night, I often see someone continuing to work in their office. And, I am not counting pastoral staff working Saturdays and off-days. These extra commitments are "across the board" with our staff.
 - **Most talented laity concentrated in one parish...ever!** One other church I served rivaled our congregation on this point. Its members consisted of retired military generals and colonels, Vice Presidents of Subaru and other car companies, National executive of American Express, Payless Shoes, Caterpillar, and (what was once) Bell Telephone. Our leaders exceed that in education and professional experience.
 - **Best organized congregational care...ever!** Our congregational care is administered under a "large umbrella". One prime factor making it a quality component of our congregation's ministry is the centrality of laity working in partnership with staff and clergy.
- That concludes the list presented. Now, I have to add one more. It is something I had not experienced when the Church Conference occurred.
- **On December 11th, our congregation witnessed the best Advent/Christmas music by a church choir...ever!** With the Fort Collins Symphony's strings, brass, woodwinds, and drums, with our Sanctuary Choir, and with our music ministry leadership, it was the finest offering of music for worship I have seen. And, I have heard plenty. It was worship music at its finest. Each piece was scripture put to music and sung.

Excellence comes with a cost. It takes every type of resource, and when someone's life is changed, when someone's downcast spirit is lifted up, when some youth person's soul is inspired to live a life of faith, it is worth it.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Charles

Hope for Frantic Families -- Sermon series January 15 – February 5

by Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor



Mornings are a jumble of herding kids, packing lunches, and managing carpools. Days are filled with meetings, jammed schedules, and the always worst timing ever call from the school. Evenings are a blur of practices, homework, a meal thrown together, and fights just before falling into bed, exhausted. Sleep, rise, and repeat.

We love our families but sometimes we just can't help wondering if it's all worth it. The good news is it doesn't have to be this way. God intended our home lives to be more fulfilling than many of us experience. The question is – ***how do we get from frantic to fulfilling?***

Using principles drawn from the best-selling book *The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family* (by Patrick Lencioni – copies available through the church library), this sermon series will offer practical advice supported by biblical wisdom. As the title indicates, answering just three big questions will reorient your approach to being a family. Each week you'll learn how to approach one of those questions, and what to do with the answers you discover together as a family.

Finally, you'll learn how to implement what you've learned – step by step. God doesn't expect you to change overnight; he just wants you to take one small step at a time. This sermon series will show you how and give you encouragement along the way.

Best of all, the series will help all the kinds of families we are: single parents and couples with children, blended families and empty nesters. So – come as you are and see what you learn!

New Beginnings

by Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor

As we enter the new year, I am always caught up short by the way the church structures its approach to the life of Jesus. One week we're hearing about the Magi, or Jesus being presented at the Temple, and the next we move to his baptism as a 30 year old man!

Maybe I'm odd (okay, you can stop laughing now), but I always wonder: what happened during all those years? Even Jesus had a life. He was a baby, then a boy, then a teenager -and what happened during all those years?

The older I get, the more I realize that life is made up of all kinds of letting go and new beginnings. I remember holding my one week old first born and crying on the phone to my mother, "Nobody told me he'd change so much in just the first week!" I had to learn to let go of my newborn and welcome my changing infant with joy.

Who did Mary cry with as she watched her baby change? How did she mourn the loss of the baby and welcome the toddler? Did she do what I did when Jesus was 13 – turn to Joseph and say, "he's **your** son – deal with him!"? Did Joseph panic and say, "Why me? I don't know what to do any more than you do!" (And, of course, Mary said, "Well, at least you used to be a teenaged boy and I never was, so it's up to you!" Well, at least that's my theology, and I'm sticking with it.)

By the time he was baptized, Jesus himself had lived through many times of letting go – the loss of childhood, the death of Joseph. The unique and wondrous intermixing of all-too-human with all-knowing-God must have given him a most marvelous deep well of experience and knowledge from which he could draw throughout his ministry.

And so, as I begin this new year, I am becoming more and more aware of Jesus' two main teachings: trust God, and love. Whenever I must face a time of letting go, I can trust God for the outcome. And whenever I face a new beginning, I can enter it with love. The well Jesus drew from is mine for the taking. I have nothing to fear, for God is with me, and that God also lived a life of letting go and new beginnings. He understands, and is with me. And that's enough for me.

Welcoming and Hospitality

By Rev. Cynthia Paquette



Welcoming and Hospitality is an area of ministry under the Into a New Era ministries that I have been charged to develop to form an umbrella of ministries called Welcoming, Membership, and Hospitality Ministries.

I am working with the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development to find competent, called, and willing people to serve in these ministries. Subsequently, I will be working with the leaders of the Welcoming and Membership ministries to help guests feel welcomed when they come through the doors of the church, welcome people from the community to FUMC, journey and build relationships with guests as they begin to engage in the life of the church, help guests who commit to membership to be committed to the life and ministries of the church, and work with the leaders of the Hospitality ministry to build a community through social activities like the Fall Kick-Off, Chili Cook-Off, Spring Picnic, Summer Grill Out, and other church-wide potlucks.

I work with the Congregational Care ministries to welcome people who are unable to drive anymore to bring them to church on the church vans. My goal is to provide radical hospitality as we welcome guests to FUMC. For all these good and exciting things to happen, I need lay leaders and volunteers who are called to serve in the areas of Welcoming, Membership, and Hospitality.

We could use greeters at the Welcome Center, callers to call on first time guests to form relationships with them, sojourners to journey with guests to help them connect with the church through different ministries and activities in the church, baptism and new member helpers, membership secretarial help, callers who would call members and constituents who have not come to church for several Sundays in a row to check on how they are doing, volunteers to help plan church-wide picnics and events, people to set up and clean up for events, people to help plan activities for the events and many other opportunities to serve.

If you feel called to serve or all this sound exciting to you please feel free to contact Pastor Cynthia at 970-482-2436 or c.paquette@fcfumc.net. I will be really glad to work with you.

Handbell News by Karen Stody



The Carillon Handbell Choir and the newly formed beginner group, the Alleluia Handbell Ensemble, have been practicing diligently every Wednesday, and have been sharing their gift of music in worship services more than once a month. Playing handbells is a lot of fun, but also requires a commitment to the group, because each part is absolutely integral to the whole. I want to thank all the faithful people who have been so involved these past several months!

After two weeks off for Christmas break, the bells will be back at work on January 4, and will be in worship to welcome the bishop on January 8.

We have two members who have moved away, and one member who will not be back because of a Sunday choir position in Denver, so there is a great opportunity for experienced bell ringers/musicians to join the Carillon Handbell Choir in January. We meet every Wednesday from 6:00-7:15 in the choir room downstairs. There is also the opportunity for ANYBODY who would like to learn to ring to come join us at 4:30 on Wednesdays for the Alleluia Handbell Ensemble. We have been learning skills very quickly, and we welcome more to join!

For more information on bells, contact Karen Stody: organist@fcfumc.net or karstoo@earthlink.net.

Need for Volunteers Is Ongoing

We Have a Ride for You!

If you need a ride to church, we want to be able to say, *We have a ride for you!* Our volunteer van route drivers and assistants are growing, as are the number of volunteers who offer others who live near them a ride to church at least occasionally. *We still need more help!*

If you could help with the minivan or regular van route on Sunday once or twice a quarter or offer someone near you a ride in your car on occasion, please contact Linn Zink, lczink@gmail.com, or Randie Bell, and help us to be able to say to anyone in need of a ride to FUMC, *We have a ride for you!*

Special thanks to Pastor Cynthia Paquette and our Congregational Care Ministry and its many lay leaders for Transportation Ministry and the many other supportive ministries that are of service to seniors and people of all ages here at FUMC!

Senior Ministry January Calendar

Thursdays, 5 & 19 – *Okay Chorale*, open singing group from 3 to 4 in the Village Commons – newcomers of all ages welcome – especially those with memory issues!

Friday, 13 – Double Nickel Senior Lunch – *Singing Our Favorite Hymns!*
with Joe Winsett and Esther Parsons

Monday, 16 – Movie from 1 to 3, *Spotlight*, Cinema Room – free and all ages welcome!

Thursday, 19 – Seniors volunteer at Larimer Food Bank, 9:00 to 11:00

Thursdays, 19 - 3rd Thursday Lunch at area restaurant begins at 11:30

For more information or to sign up for any of these activities, or the senior ministry email list, contact Linn Zink, Senior Council member, lczink@gmail.com or 970-689-3047.



NEW Small Groups forming in January

by David Reid



In response to requests for new small groups, beginning in January the Adult Faith Formation team is offering several new groups:



- ♦ **Dinner for Eight:** Meet once a month to share a meal and get better acquainted. The groups, locations, dates, and other details will be finalized at the first dinner, hosted by the AFF team on Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Parlor.
- ♦ **Introduction to Methodism:** Whether you grew up in the church or are new to the Methodist way of being a Christian, this class will be interesting and informative. A new Sunday school class for adults taught by the pastors on a rotating basis. This class will meet at 11 a.m. in the Parlor Jan. 15 – Feb. 5.
- ♦ **Theology on Tap:** Enjoy an opportunity to discuss theological questions with a pastor on the fourth Monday of every month for good conversation over beverages and appetizers. Bring your questions, sermon observations, other insights, and your Bible! Those who sign up will be notified of the location.
- ♦ **John Wesley's Class Meetings in a 21st Century Context:** This group will explore how the use of communications technology may facilitate a small group experience that is rewarding for individuals whose schedules are exceptionally crowded
- ♦ **America's Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation** - More than a conventional biography, Grant Walker's interpretive study deepens our understanding of why Billy Graham has mattered so much to so many. The book will be discussed at noon on Wednesdays in the Parlor.
- ♦ **Covenant Bible Study:** This new Bible study begins with an 8-week session and uses the Common English Bible. Danny Bhatti, a member of FUMC who was a Christian evangelist in his native Pakistan, will lead this group at 2 p.m. Sundays beginning in mid-January.

SUPPER in the SPIRIT will offer these small groups

Held on Wednesday evenings, this intergenerational event is really a gathering of several small groups of all ages and varying interests. The evening begins with supper from 5:30-6:00 pm. People then break into several small groups:

- ♦ **God's Kids Chime Choir & Children's Group:** Elementary aged children meet with Lynette Szantho, our Director of Children's Ministries, and explore their faith through story, song, crafts and other interactive experiences following **God's Kids Chime Choir** rehearsal with David Adkins (for ages 5 and up). Chime Choir is from 6:00—6:30 and Craft and Activities with Lynette follow from 6:30—7:00 We meet in the Rhythm Road room.
- ♦ **Parenting Class:** Toni Genaro, a local parenting coach, will lead a Positive Discipline parenting class 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays for seven weeks beginning Jan. 11. The class includes information on brain development and appropriate ways to relate to your child at different ages. Cost is \$25 for individual or couple.
- ♦ **Connections: Reimagining Evangelism:** "Evangelism" conjures up negative images of people forcing their faith onto resistant people. But evangelization is part of our Christian call, and it means something different to many Christians today than it did yesterday. This series of 7 brief videos invites participants to ask and explore questions, stretch their understandings of evangelism, confront their fears and skepticism, and consider what might be an authentic expression of evangelism for them.

♦ **There's room for more!** If you have ideas for other groups, an informational training session will be held on Tuesday, January 10th, at 6:30 pm in the Parlor. David Reid, our Director of Adult Faith Formation, will go over what is expected of a facilitator, the many ways he will support facilitators, and how to get a small group started.

To register for the training, or any of the small groups offered above, contact David Reid at (970) 581-2707, davidreid24@gmail.com, or stop by the Small Groups registration table in Fellowship Hall between services.

Into A New Era by Stephen Zink



Into a New Era Announcement Sunday January 22nd Two Year Ministry Commitments for 2017-2018

On Sunday, January 22nd, at each worship service, we will be announcing our progress toward our *Into a New Era* benchmarks – the total of the resources we will have committed to by that day to support the ministries of our church throughout 2017 and 2018.

Our *Into a New Era* benchmarks are:

First Step Benchmark: \$2,000,000 (allows us the basic, minimum amount to continue in ministry)

Challenge Benchmark: \$2,300,000 (allows us to meet the basics and experience some growth in ministry)

Celebration Benchmark: \$2,600,000 (this will help us grow and fulfill ministry commitments in significant new ways. It will require gifts from across our congregation at every level and will require greater sacrifice, but it is within our reach as we work together)

During the last few months of 2016 our church began this two-year ministry program, *Into a New Era*, under the leadership of our Stewardship & Generosity Committee and supported by our pastors and our Consulting Pastor, Franklin “Zip” Long, a United Methodist clergyperson from Horizons Stewardship Company.

Through this program the Stewardship & Generosity Committee has been able to reach out and recruit leadership team members to help with a variety of activities and events which have called our attention to the importance of our church membership vows. During 2017 and 2018 we will continue to plan for our church’s ministries and mission emphases to help us grow as we contribute our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to support First United Methodist Church.

Special thanks to the whole congregation for the positive participation and response that we have had for *Into a New Era* in recent months. Beginning with Ministry Sunday, November 20th, which included the cardboard testimonies that celebrated the significance of our church for so many of our members and Pastor Zip Long’s sermon “The Impact of Ministry”, to Celebration Sunday, December 4th, and “The Price is Right” style presentation of our advanced commitments total of \$524,592, then on to Commitment Sunday, December 11th, when we began turning in our commitment cards – *you have responded enthusiastically!*

Next we look forward to *First Fruits* Sunday on January 8th, when early gifts for 2017 will be announced, and then Announcement Sunday on January 22nd, when we will see how far we have already come toward our benchmark goals.

Watch for additional events during 2017 and 2018 sponsored by our Stewardship & Generosity Committee. May we all continue to respond and give of our best as we grow and strengthen the many ministries of our church that serve our congregation and reach beyond our walls to make a difference in our church community and in the world.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR FUMC CO-OP PRESCHOOL 2017-18 BEGINS February 13TH FOR FUMC CHURCH MEMBERS

Class Offerings

Primary (Must be 3 years old by September 15)

2 day/week:

Mon & Wed Morning 9-12

Tues & Thurs Morning 9-12

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri Morning 9-12

Pre-K (Must be 4 years old by September 15)

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri Morning (2 classes) 9-12

4 day/week:

Mon – Thursday Morning (1 class) 9-12



FUMC members not currently enrolled in preschool will be able to register February 13th at 9:00am.

Open registration for the public will be February 19th. Members may register after their designated day, but they will lose their priority status. Registration involves filing out a registration form and paying the \$50 non-refundable registration fee.

Our Annual Open House is February 8th 9:30-11:30 we invite you to come visit! If you have any questions or would like to visit the program, please call the Preschool Director, Laura Lechtenberg 482-0343 or email lauralechtenberg@fcfumc.net.

Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our excellent preschool program!

Children's Ministry Corner by Lynette



Happy New Year, FUMC families! We have so much to look forward to this year in Children's Ministries. We have added two exciting new workshops within our **Sunday school** rotations, including Prayer & Spiritual Practices and Missions. Children have been enjoying the hands-on experience of serving others together, through various mission projects. In addition, they will have focused time in our beautiful prayer room to learn more about the importance of prayer in our daily lives.

GROW, a worship time just for kids, will be resuming January 15th. Elementary-aged kids will have this worship opportunity following the 11:00 Children's Time. We will travel upstairs to the Cinema Center, where kids will worship God through songs, prayer, and lively Bible lessons.

Our **Cross-Gen services**, the first Sundays of the month, have been becoming even more family friendly with updated kids worship bags and notebooks, children's bulletins, and a Children's Time at both the 9:30 and the 11:00 services. Families are also invited to commune together at our family communion table. There are no children's programs during services on these Sundays, allowing families to worship together.

Questions, or would like to get involved in our Children's Ministries? Contact Lynette (childrensdirector@fcfumc.net). We'd love to have you join our team!

A Note from Pam Raab, Financial Secretary ...

As we begin a new year, please consider electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving offers you convenience and provides the church with much-needed consistency in financial contributions. There are several options to set up electronic giving:

Authorize the church to withdraw a designated amount from your bank account on the 5th or 20th of each month. A signed authorization form and a voided check is all that is needed.

Go to fcfmc.net and click on the "Give Online" tab at the top of the screen. It will automatically direct you to a secure website where you can set up the amount and frequency of giving.

Use the iPad located at the Welcome Center to enter the amount of your contribution and swipe your credit/debit card.

On your smart phone, download the United Methodist app "Joyfully2UMC" and enter "Fort Collins First United Methodist Church". It will direct you to a secure website where you can enter the amount and frequency of giving.

If you're already giving electronically, don't forget to place the "I give electronically" card found in the pew pockets into the offering plate.

Please contact our Financial Secretary, Pam Raab, at 482-2436 or financialsecretary@fcfmc.net if you want help setting up any of these forms of electronic giving.

A Thank You Note from United Methodist Women

We are so grateful for the support of the congregation and the community who have been buying our Christmas products for 58 years. The loyalty and enthusiasm of our customers makes it all worthwhile. We also want to thank each and every one of you who helped unload the trailer, or sorted or delivered wreaths, or helped us in some way with the distribution process.

The wreath project, a portion of the sales of grocery certificates, and pledges from our members fund the budget of our local unit of United Methodist Women. Our local unit sends about \$8,000 on to the connectional system of United Methodist Women and in that way, together with the 800,000 members around the world we raise over \$13 Million for national and international mission with women, children and youth. In the United States we support 97 mission institutions and 168 deacons and home missionaries. We provide the UMCOR West Depot in Salt Lake City a warehouse for \$1 in rent. Internationally we support 121 programs carried out by 107 organizations in more than 110 countries.

Locally our unit contributes to various programs and ministries of our church as well as to community ministries, including Northern Catholic Charities, the Interfaith Council, Maternity Assistance Project, Wesley Foundation, Martinez Scholarship Fund, Respite Care, the Child Advocacy Center, Project Self-Sufficiency and Crossroads Safehouse, and more widely, Buckhorn Camp, American Leprosy, and UMCOR kits.

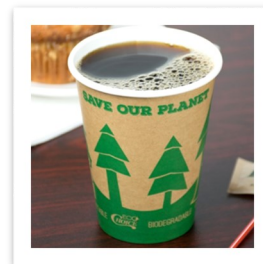
Your purchases of Christmas greenery and grocery cards help make all this possible! Many, many THANK YOUs!

First United Methodist Church Strives to be a Green Campus

by the Hospitality and Green Teams



At First United Methodist Church (FUMC) we recognize the importance of being good stewards of God's creation by striving to be "green" or environmentally conscious. We participate in Fort Collins' ClimateWise program by recycling and composting waste. To date, we have composted hundreds of tons of waste. Along the lines of composting waste, FUMC is committed to using more and more disposables that are compostable. Starting 2017, the church will gradually move from using plastic disposable utensils to using compostable utensils made with Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC) birch wood. This means that products come from responsibly managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits. In addition, gradually, the church will move to using paper products that are fully biodegradable and compostable made from bagasse. In line with these efforts, the church will not be purchasing or accepting donation of Styrofoam, non-biodegradable or non-compostable disposables and plastic utensils. The good news is the compostable utensils and disposables are cheaper than plastic utensils and regular recyclable disposables. Anything to reduce our waste flow saves the earth and money. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! Go Green FUMC!



Community and World Outreach

The Community and World Outreach committee has been hard at work all year and will continue their work into 2017. The following reports were presented at Charge Conference and are available in hardcopy in the church office or on our website so you may read in detail about all of the great work being done by these representatives of FUMC.

Reports relating to Community and World Outreach that are available to read include:

- 1) Community and World Outreach General Report
- 2) Buckhorn Camp Hope Report
- 3) Habitat for Humanity Report
- 4) The Bookmobile and Putnam Elementary Report
- 5) Faith Family and Hospitality Report
- 6) Interfaith Council Report

Please take a moment and read about all of the wonderful work taking place through the volunteers from FUMC and our community.

Representing our church in the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council is Joan Carter who regularly attends a gathering of faith communities and service organizations. FCFUMC contributes a significant amount annually to IFC which in turn awards grants to entities like FFH, Crossroads Safehouse, the Murphy Center for Hope, and Habitat, among others. IFC does a commendable job of supporting social services in concert with our church's mission outreach.



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**WE REMEMBER WITH
SYMPATHY THE FAMILIES OF ...**

November 10 – Helen Lucille Nettleton
November 21 – Marilyn Tappan
November 28 – Alta Jean McCafferty

**WE CELEBRATE WITH JOY
THE FOLLOWING**

By Baptism:
Beau Charles Cesar
William Gardner Swanson
Jordan Ann Conn

New Member:
Jordan Ann Conn

January 8, 2017 – A Red Letter Day at First United Methodist Church

Alongside *Into a New Era's* First Fruits Sunday on January 8th, our congregation is welcoming and hosting Bishop Karen Oliveto during the morning worship services. Bishop Oliveto will be preaching in all services (8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am). "Bishop Karen" was elected to the episcopacy during the 2016 session of the Western Jurisdiction, and her assignment is to the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area to which the Rocky Mountain Conference belongs. This is a great start for the new year as we are going into a new era!