



# The Carillon

December 2016 Volume 22 Issue 12



Meet Me at

**First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins**

on Christmas Eve at

2 PM ★ 5 PM ★ 7 PM or ★ 11 PM.

[www.fcfumc.net](http://www.fcfumc.net)

## Advent Happenings

### NOVEMBER

- Monday 21 5:30 pm Pizza Dinner and Deck the Halls of FUMC. **Join us for our annual "Hanging of the Green"** when we deck our halls for Christmas!
- Sunday 27 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- Monday 28 12:00 - 6:00 pm Wreath pick up
- Tuesday 29 10:00- 6:00 pm Wreath pick up
- Wednesday 30 10:00- 7:00 pm Wreath pick up  
5:30 - 7:00 pm Supper and the Spirit  
"The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss"  
"Sent" a DVD Series ... plus more

### DECEMBER

- Thursday 01 11:30 Wreath Extravaganza decorating workshop
- Saturday 03 10:00 - 11:00 am Joyful Noise Dress Rehearsal
- Sunday 04 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
1:00—3:00 pm **Advent Workshop** by Children and Family Council. Holiday crafts, food, music and more!
- Wednesday 07 6:00 pm **Joyful Noise Choir Christmas Musical "The Inn Crowd"** in the Sanctuary
- Saturday 10 10:00—12:00 am Sanctuary Choir Dress Rehearsal for *Magnificat*
- Sunday 11 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
9:30 and 11:00 am **John Rutter's Magnificat** presented by the Sanctuary Choir and the Fort Collins Symphony

- Wednesday 14 5:30—7:00 Supper and the Spirit  
"The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss"  
"Sent" a DVD Series ... plus more
- Sunday 18 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
10:30—11:15 am Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal  
Followed by lunch and a (free) party at "Build a Bear" (Centerra location)
- Wednesday 21 5:30- 7:00 pm Supper and the Spirit  
"The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss"  
"Sent" a DVD Series ... plus more
- Saturday 24 **2:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary.** *The holy Christmas Story told in an unforgettable way!*
- 5:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary.** *A celebration with Carols, Candles and Scripture*
- 7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary.** *A Celebration with Carols, Candles and Scripture*
- 11:00 pm A Classic Christmas Eve Service with Contemplative Elements.**
- Sunday 25 **9:30 am Classic Worship only**

### JANUARY

- Sunday 1 9:30 Classic Worship only



# It Takes a Whole Congregation

As I write this today, November 7<sup>th</sup>, I am already thinking about Christmas. In fact, planning for services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day started last summer. Tens of dozens of people contribute to developing and delivering Christmas worship events. Once, I tried to count the numbers of individuals and teams behind the scenes who prepare for weekly Sunday Services. It takes the labors of over 125 people (from opening the church doors to pronouncing the benediction near the noon hour) for each Sunday morning to happen. Beginning with custodians who work all week as evangelists to have the building bright and inviting, our list can include everyone and every group from the choirs to the Board of Trustees. In the next 6 to 7 weeks, here are some of the groups and individuals working for this to be the best Christmas ever. Do not take this list as final; so many are giving and doing I am sure to miss someone.

*It takes the labors of over 125 people (from opening the church doors to pronouncing the benediction near the noon hour) for each Sunday morning to happen.*

- A mass of volunteers who set up the fellowship hall, hand out bells, clean pews between services, set the Altar table for communion, assemble candles, hang greens for Advent, usher, and greet and more.
- Choirs and musicians who offer their talents.
- Custodians who tend the building for our guests.
- Members who work to welcome our guests.
- The Board of Trustees who coordinated the installation of parking lot lights. (This year, instead of the construction-grade generators blaring to power exterior lighting, the “Silent Night” we sing in the services will be a reality in the parking lots.)
- Church Council who discussed and voted to approve parking lot lights.
- The Worship Design Team who oversees the execution of Christmas Eve.
- Staff who do everything from recruiting nursery workers to creating and printing bulletins.
- Marketing people who develop advertising.
- Pastors who prepare sermons and liturgy.
- Lay readers in worship who lead prayers and read Scripture.
- Church members preceding us (many now deceased) who provided the pews we sit in, the hymnals we sing from, an organ we are inspired by, and a building in which we are housed.

After reading this list, I am asking you to find a place to serve. With so many guests attending our church on Christmas Eve, it is the prime moment for us as church members to be welcoming hosts. Our Christmas Eve guests may decide to come back to First United Methodist Church permanently. You are probably familiar with the African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Here is another. It takes an entire congregation to hold a worship service.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Charles*

# New X-Gen Service

On the first Sunday of every month we gather as a community of faith to worship and celebrate Holy Communion. On that one Sunday the children are not excused from worship to attend Sunday school. Instead, we include them in the full worship experience as young people of faith. We have been calling this worship service the “Family Service.”

For the past six months the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Worship Task Force has been reviewing our worship experience, and as we thought about our first Sunday worship experiences we realized that they are more than family services. We have single young adults in worship. We have older married couples. Our worship isn't limited to groups that call themselves families; we are delighted to include everyone who attends that day.

And so the Task Force renamed our first Sunday worship services “X-Gen” worship (pronounced “Cross-Gen”). Lynette Szantho, our Director of Children & Family Ministry, has some ideas about how to include our youngest worshippers in more engaging ways. But we'll also be asking the Wesley Foundation folks for ideas, and the Senior Council as well. And, of course our music leaders are making plans for ways to enhance first Sunday worship as well.

So, be sure to mark first Sundays so you can attend worship and see what's happening. Who knows? Maybe you'll even make new friends from generations other than your own!

**Seniorwise**  
by Linn Zink



## Sunshine Singers Present Christmas Concert

**O**n Friday, December 9, at Double Nickel Lunch, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall, The Fort Collins Sunshine Singers will present their Christmas concert. This group of local, talented singers has always been a great hit, and has never failed to put all in the audience in the holiday spirit. Many of the singers, currently led by Sandy Michaelson, are members of our own congregation.

Following the concert, the singers will join us for a great lunch with a holiday menu. Plan to join us from 12:00 noon to 1:30 in Fellowship Hall, for some Christmas cheer with others ages 50 and better (though younger folks are allowed!). Lunch is \$4– no reservations are required.

Special thanks this month and every month to *Diane Smith* and the many volunteers who make this monthly event possible! Contact Diane if you would like to help before, during or after this gathering: [dianes@mindspring.com](mailto:dianes@mindspring.com). **Volunteers are always needed and appreciated – for the meal and to help give rides to others who don't have transportation and want to join us.**

## Senior Ministry December Calendar

Thursdays, 7 & 21 – *Okay Chorale* open singing group from 3 to 4 in the Village Commons – newcomers of all ages welcome – especially those with memory issues!

Friday, 9 – Double Nickel Senior Lunch – *Sunshine Singers Christmas Concert*

Thursday, 15 – Seniors volunteer at Larimer Food Bank, 9:00 to 11:00  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Lunch at area restaurant begins at 11:30

Monday, 19 – Movie from 1 to 3, *Brooklyn*, Cinema Room – free and all ages welcome!

*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](mailto:lczink@gmail) or 970-689-3047.*



# Darkness and Light

by Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor



I am struck by how humanity tends to structure their narratives as a cataclysmic struggle between two opposing forces, one characterized as “good” and the other as “evil.” From the ancient Sumerian creation stories that tell of the struggle to vanquish Tiamat, the goddess of chaos and destruction, to George Lucas’ Star Wars movies, which tell the tale of the struggle to overcome the “dark side of The Force” by using the powers of the “light side,” this theme echoes through millennia and cultures around the world.

And so I find it fascinating that the story of our faith does not follow this narrative. In fact, it stands in stark contrast to narratives that set up opponents.

This was not always so. In the third century a Christian leader named Mani cast the Christian story in terms of an epic battle between a dark Lord and the God of Light. The dark Lord had captured particles of light from God and was using them to control humanity and the created world for his own ends. All human actions were framed as a choice between darkness and light, good and evil, right and wrong. Other Christian leaders eventually rejected this understanding of our faith, but the essence of this teaching can, as we have seen, be found in our world today.

The Manichean world view was rejected because it is contrary to what is so clearly true in our Scriptures. From Genesis to the Gospel of John, the Light of the world is not at war with darkness. Light overcomes darkness simply by being Light. There is no battle when God creates light in Genesis; the light simply exists and dispels darkness by its nature.

In the same way, when God saw the world was full of darkness God did not go into battle with humanity. God instead chose to be born as an infant, bringing the Light of his goodness and love into the material world through his physical being. While Jesus worked to do good during his lifetime, his greatest accomplishment was to show the power of *being* good. Even death could not conquer the Light of goodness and love, for it is eternal and beyond the confines of this material world. And the miracle of Christmas is that the Light exists within each of us.

As you move through this season of celebrating the birth of God as an infant, I invite you to remember that the Light of goodness and love is still at work in the world. There is no need to struggle and fight for anything. Simply seek to be good as he was good, love as he loved, and the work you do will bear fruit even as you experience the joy of God’s love more profoundly each and every day.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Vivian



# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

by David Reid



Supper in the Spirit resumes with meals and three short-term classes for Advent. Dinner will be available at a reasonable cost (about \$6) at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21. Classes will be held on the same nights, except Dec. 7, when the Joyful Noise children's choir will perform. Classes scheduled are:

***The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem:*** a DVD series featuring United Methodist Pastor Adam Hamilton as your guide through the Holy Land. Discussion leader is Jayme Harper.

***The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss:*** If you enjoyed these stories at any stage in life, come learn how they have parallels to lessons found in Scripture. Woven with the wisdom of Dr. Seuss, this study brings the meaning of many Bible passages to life. The course will include *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, and, because it is Advent, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Discussion leader is Cindi Ross-Bell.

**Talk About Joy:** Our theme for Advent is "Songs of Joy" and features songs from the Bible that rejoice over God's love at work in the world. Each week our pastors will take a deeper look at the text that formed the foundation of their sermon. The texts include David's exuberant song in Psalm 103, Hannah's grateful words in 1 Samuel (both on Nov. 30), Mary's exaltation known as "The Magnificat" (Dec. 14), and Isaiah's little known song of radical trust in chapter 54 (Dec. 21).



## 2016 Advent Workshop



Please join us for a fabulous, family-friendly event: The Advent Workshop. First church has hosted this sweet event for many years. If you want fun, we've got it! Christmas and winter-themed crafts are set up at different stations throughout the Fellowship Hall. Door prizes are raffled off. There's music, and maybe even some outdoor fun! Pizza and other food are available in the Parlor, donation suggested.

**When:** Sunday, December 4th from 1 pm to 3:30 pm

**What:** Crafting and other holiday fun, (most suitable for ages 3+, but there are some fun things for the tinies as well)

**Why:** Advent is a joyful season! Let's fill it with fellowship and fun-filled memories!

**Cost:** Please bring a dozen cookies as your contribution to the event! Donations suggested for pizza, as well.

**Want to help?** If you would like host a craft station or help in some way, please visit: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BABA72BA02-advent>



# Holy Dreamers

by Georgia Metz / Wesley Foundation

On November 4<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>, I had the honor and joy of accompanying 6 students to the Imagine What's Next Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This conference, put on by the UMC National Collegiate Ministries, invites current university students from all over the nation to think about the ways that God is speaking and calling to them, whether that be in the church specifically or how they can put their faith in action in their studies.

On the second day of the conference, a speaker talked to us about the story of Joseph from Genesis. He told us that Joseph was a "holy dreamer", a person who received a dream from God and acted on that dream even though his family disapproved. That night, as I encouraged students to talk about what dream God had for them, the answers varied from global evangelism and missions to teaching middle school. The students were inspired by what they had heard both from speakers and from Methodist students from around the nation that they were able to meet, and they had many ideas about how God might be calling them to act in the world.

On the third day, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball from West Virginia again asked the 300 students gathered there to consider another holy dreamer: Joseph, the husband of Mary. To a chorus of amens, she elaborated the ways that Joseph took risks in following his dream from God and invited us to imagine what could be achieved if all the students who were gathered there took the same risks. It was a deeply inspirational moment to look over all the crowds of Methodist college students, gathered in Atlanta from places as far reaching as Hawaii and Maine, and imagine the potential for world change. Seeing those students being filled up with God and empowered to go and do likewise was a spiritual experience for me.

*To a chorus of amens, she elaborated the ways that Joseph took risks in following his dream from God and invited us to imagine what could be achieved if all the students who were gathered there took the same risks.*

In this Advent season, may we be holy dreamers. We can sit patiently and wait for God's dream to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and we can also imagine to possibilities that happen when we not only dream, but also go and do what God has called us. Christ has entered the world and enabled us to dream holy dreams, may we take that call responsibly.

## FUMC Preschool Christmas Service Project

by Laura Lechtenberg / FUMC Co-Op Preschool Director

As part of FUMC's mission we see our preschool as a way to live out the message of God's love in the community. This Christmas season the preschool will again be helping the Larimer County Foster Adoptive Parent Association with their annual Christmas Party. Each year the LCFPA hosts a Christmas Party for over 300 children currently in foster care in Larimer County. Preschool and Church families can help by supplying gifts for these special children in our community. Tags with gift requests will be available before Thanksgiving for you early shoppers. A tree with the tags will be in the south hallway, please take a tag off the tree and gather one to three items on the list, (do not feel everything on the tag needs to be purchased), wrap them and return them with the tag attached to the tree. These gifts do not have to be purchased they just need to be gifts from the heart. You may choose as many names as you would like but they must be returned to the tree no later than **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14th**. Thank-you for helping these special families of our community.





*Sounds  
of the  
Season*



# Magnificat

by John Rutter

presented by the

**Sanctuary Choir of First United Methodist Church**

accompanied by

**The Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra**

David A. Adkins, Conductor

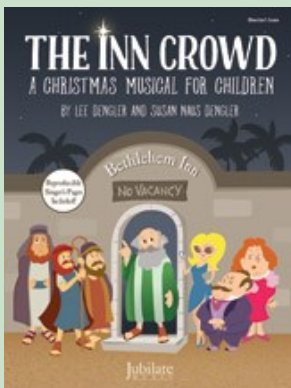
**Sunday, December 11, 2016**

**9:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

**FREE**

*Please Join Us - All are Welcome.*

1005 Stover Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524  
[www.fcfumc.net](http://www.fcfumc.net)



## The Inn Crowd

Presented by the Joyful Noise Choir

**Wednesday, December 7 - 6:00 PM**

**Directors: Anthony Weber & David Adkins**

*Please come and see our children present this delightful Christmas Musical.*



1005 Stover Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524-3849  
Phone: 970.482.2436 | Fax: 970.221.5833  
Email: [staff@fcfumc.net](mailto:staff@fcfumc.net) | Website: [www.fcfumc.net](http://www.fcfumc.net)

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Fort Collins, CO  
Permit No. 44

Address Correction Requested



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

October 12 – Wayne Wolfe  
October 13 – David White  
November 2 – Elissa Hale

**WE CELEBRATE WITH JOY  
THESE NEW MEMBERS ...**

Barbara Voas  
Peggy Adams

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**