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Fort Collins, CO 80524
www.fcfumc.net

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Happy Thanksgiving

We Express Our Sympathy to the Families of ...

Troy "Joe" McCall – Jan 8, 2020

Lu Fisk - Oct 1, 2020



2021 Stewardship and Generosity Campaign

First United Methodist Church • 1005 Stover Street
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The *Carillon*

November 2020 Volume 26 Issue 11
David Adkins, Editor

**First Church: An inclusive, deeply relational community
inviting all people to experience God's presence today.**

**Discover God's Love
Inspire Hope • Grow in Faith • Serve With Joy**

Message from Melanie

Our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is **Help for Today; Hope for Tomorrow**. This perfectly describes the ministry of our church right now, as a beacon of help and hope. Because of your support, our church is stronger than ever, and I am genuinely proud of our efforts. Staff and Lay Leaders have learned new skills, revised expectations, adapted, and found creative ways of engaging with our congregation and community.

Online worship is averaging between 500 and 600 weekly views and some of those online viewers have wanted to become members. Our book studies, classes and meetings have high levels of participation and engagement.

Our Children's Ministry delivered activity bags to our precious kids, with chalk, bubbles, treats and curriculum sheets. We hosted a Back to School Journey for 47 kids and their families, we offer online Sunday School, and presented Bibles to nine 3rd graders. We offer weekly Bible study and meetings for our youth and started an online Confirmation class, as well.

The administrative work of our church continues to offer a program of nurture, witness, outreach and resources. We have finalized our Long-Range Plan and Annual Mission Plan for 2021 to guide our ministry in a post-pandemic reality. Our church building and grounds are well maintained by staff and dedicated volunteers. We have paid our budgeted portion of the tithe to the Mountain Sky Conference, and continue our missional giving to those in need. In addition, we met our goal for the Habitat home for Becky and Ember.

Our Congregational Care Team is regularly calling older members to see if they need anything, and delivering worship CDs and CD players. We have delivered masks, run errands, done yard work and provided financial support through our Emergency Assistance Fund. Kids Closet is serving many families. Flamingos have appeared in yards and then flown away, to let people know they are loved and missed. We are serving every age and life stage in our church.

None of this would be possible without your ongoing support. God bless you for the ways you enable us to offer **Help for Today; Hope for Tomorrow**. Thanks to you, our church will be here, offering help and hope for generations to come.

Melanie

Dr. Melanie Rosa, *Lead Pastor*



NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

November Sermons: Help for Today; Hope for Tomorrow

November 1—All Saints Sunday
“Gratitude for Today” Luke 17:11-19

November 8—“Trusting the Wilderness Journey”
Selected verses--Exodus 16 and Luke 24

November 15—“Investing in Tomorrow”
Mark 12:41-44

November 22—Commitment Sunday
“First Church: Help for Today; Hope for Tomorrow”
Philippians 1:19-21

November 29—First Sunday in Advent
“The Dawning of Christmas”
Isaiah 8:5-9:7

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 1

Be sure to join us for online worship Sunday, November 1, as we remember those who have gone before us. During worship we will remember the 22 members who have died this year and also reflect upon our own loved ones who have finished their course on earth. If you wish, have a candle ready to light in honor of a loved one who has died.



HELP FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Our annual Stewardship Campaign begins this month, and we will be asking for your support as we seek to fund ministry for the coming year. It will be more important than ever for us to offer help, inspiration and care in a post-pandemic reality. You will receive an estimate of giving card in the mail, and also be able to access one on our website. Please return your estimate of giving to the church by November 20. Of course, this may be changed at any time. Thank you for your financial investment in our promising future!



ADULT FAITH FORMATION



World Wisdoms Project will launch a new series on Spiritual Practice in Times of Crisis at 6:30 p.m.

November 18 via Zoom. The interfaith panel of four includes Rev. Eric Smith, pastor of Scott United Methodist Church in Denver. Full information and registration:

<https://worldwisdomsproject.org/event/spiritual-practice-times-crisis-part-1/>

Suggested donation for WWP events is \$10.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



Please consider reserving your **Tuesday evenings** for our Advent study. Bob Simpson, a retired UMC pastor, will lead a study of *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton beginning November 17, the week before Advent begins. There will be no class the week of fall break.

PRESCHOOL Kelly Boettger, Preschool Director

After several months of our Preschool being closed, it is with great pleasure to announce that we will be starting the 20-21 school year on November 2nd.

We had to unexpectedly and abruptly end our school year last March due to COVID-19. During this 7-month closure, Preschool leadership and teachers have been working tirelessly with the Colorado Department of Human Services/Childcare Licensing (CDHS) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to assure a safe and healthy environment of the highest standards and will continue to offer a quality learning program for our preschool students and families.

The safety of our preschool and church community is our first priority and of utmost importance to reopening the preschool and keeping everyone safe as possible from the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. We have created new policies and procedures that were announced on our preschool website and distributed to our preschool families. Our preschool follows the Poudre School District school year calendar and will continue to follow it even regarding in person learning and school closures.

Even though, we are faced with many new challenges this year, we are optimistic for the preschool to open, bring life back into the classrooms and help spread God's love and help do his work.

First United
Methodist Co-op



Preschool

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!

Habitat Update



During a global pandemic, you exceeded our fund-raising goal to help build a home for Becky and her daughter Ember. That is just remarkable, especially now. We set an ambitious goal of raising \$50,000 this year and we have exceeded that goal. As you are safe and warm in your home this winter, think of Becky and Ember safe and warm in their very own home, and know that you are blessing people you do not even know. This is a shining example of our church at it's very best.

Eastside Park Dedication

The city of Fort Collins hosted a virtual ribbon cutting at Eastside Park a few weeks ago with Mayor Wade Troxell and Councilwoman Susan Gutowsky. It was such a delight to formally consecrate the park, thanks to your great generosity in honor of our 150th Anniversary. The park looks great. You are such generous and faithful people, and we are giving ourselves away and investing in our community.

Watch the virtual ribbon cutting and dedication here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-75cF7s1z8&feature=youtu.b>



Things were plugging along for the month of October in Children's Ministry. We started out the month with a church wide outdoor movie night. It was a perfect Fall evening to host 41 people of all ages to view the movie *Sing*.

On October 11th, 3rd graders received their Bibles in a socially distanced, masked ceremony for the children and their families. The service was held in the Sanctuary. Thanks to Reverend Melanie and Reverend Cynthia for conducting the service! It was personable and so sweet to see these 3rd graders embrace their brand-new Bibles. The 3rd grade class will continue on their journey of getting to know their Bibles with a Zoom class on the first Sunday of every month from November to May.



Congratulations Bible recipients:

- Evan Bruce
- Claire Gentile
- Jaxon Goltart
- Graham Guernsey
- Kieran Landers
- Connor Matthews
- Sophia Rocha
- Peyton Rohla
- Issac Schwartz



UMW CHRISTMAS WREATH PROJECT **Different this year ...**

Your wreath orders are coming in and the products will soon be freshly created as you read this notice. Our unit of The United Methodist Women really appreciates that you are taking the time to think ahead to Christmas during this unusual fall. Our unit could not be successful at raising funds for worldwide mission if it were not for your generous orders each year.



We are not sure that we will be able to offer extra greenery items this year if you forget to place an advance order, so please preorder by mailing your order form to the church as soon as possible. The supplier's initial master order deadline is November 5. If you have questions, please contact Dea at 970-222-5545 or Joan at joanmgr4972@q.com, 970-206-0447.

Then, remember to pick up your order from Fellowship Hall right after Thanksgiving, Monday through Wednesday during the following hours:

November 30	<u>12 Noon</u> to 6:00 p.m.
December 1	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
December 2	10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please park near the outer doors into Fellowship Hall and stay in your car. You will be greeted by a volunteer and your order will be brought to your car. Curbside delivery! Monday will be the most chaotic day while orders are sorted, so you may want to wait until Tuesday or Wednesday to come to the church. We will strictly be following the church's COVID protocol.

If you are in the vulnerable age group and really need to have your order delivered to your home, please note that on your order form, or give us a call during distribution hours.

Orders not claimed by 7:00 p.m. the last day will be bagged and stored in the Rose Garden for pickup by appointment with the administrative assistant, Haley. We cannot be responsible for satisfying your order, nor can we guarantee the freshness of your items, after December 2.

Thank you so much for your participation! And your patience! We are trying to keep us all safe in these uncertain times by working out appropriate procedures, new to us as well as to you.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will hold their November Unit Meeting via Zoom Thursday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for this meeting. Karen Waldron or any UMW member can provide the link to anyone interested in attending the meeting.

Our speaker will be Betty Aragon from the Mujeres de Colores (Women of Colors). She will tell us about this organization, its core values and its commitment to building a safe and welcoming place where all people, of all colors, feel part of this community. She will also share about the annual las posadas, a ritual enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem performed just before Christmas.

We hope to "see" you there!