



The Carillon

April 2021 Volume 27 Issue 4
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 ...

Just as morning follows the longest night, springtime follows winter, and hope follows despair, Easter arrives once again with its promise of new life and persistent possibility. How much we need Easter after a year in which everything seemed threatened, vulnerable, and stressed. There has been so much bad news that when there is good news, it is hard to hear it, let alone trust it.

But trust it we can. Easter reminds us that ultimately, all shall be well, not in the naïve, innocent sense of those who have never known suffering, but in the seasoned sense of those who are well acquainted with various setbacks and sorrows. Easter represents the promise of transformation, shining pure light into the darkness of this world. Easter proclaims that in the end love wins, death is defeated, and our lives have deeper meaning than we can ever fully comprehend.

This will be our second Easter with online worship only, but the day is coming soon when we will be together face to face. I will miss seeing you in your Easter finery, and the children looking like sugary confections themselves. Yet, nothing can stop Easter from coming, not a pandemic, not despair, and certainly not death. What a welcome gift, just when we need it most.

May this Easter hold even deeper meaning for us after all we have been through. Let us reflect upon this precious life and God's never-ending faithfulness.

God bless you and keep you this Eastertide, and always.

Melanie

Dr. Melanie Rosa, Lead Pastor

Happy
Easter!

What is herd immunity? You've probably heard this term many times during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using our congregation as an example of a "herd", we can protect our ENTIRE "herd" from diseases by having **enough** of the "herd" **develop immunity against the disease** either naturally (by having the disease) or through vaccination (which programs the body's immune response to recognize and fight that disease). For example, measles needs a herd immunity rate of 94% to prevent further spread. Herd immunity protects those that are not yet immune (infants/small children), those who are immunocompromised (i.e. undergoing cancer treatment), and those who cannot take vaccines (severe allergy). In order to achieve a "herd immunity" level against COVID-19 of, say, 95%, we would need **95 of every 100** members of our congregation to have developed immunity. As so many children ask: "Are we there yet?" No, not yet, but we're getting closer every day. Read more at: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/herd-immunity-andcoronavirus/art-20486808>.

Yours in Good Health,

Donna Newkirk, MSN, APRN-BC
Faith Community Nurse
 D.NewkirkANP@gmail.com



FIRST CHURCH HOSTED FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

First Church, through Faith Family Hospitality, had a great week (March 7-14) hosting three families who are experiencing homelessness. Due to the pandemic, families stayed overnight at the Unitarian Universalist Church in town. We had volunteers cooking dinners at our church, taking the meals to the Unitarian church to serve to the families and staying overnight with the families. On the Sunday when the snowstorm hit, volunteers stayed throughout the day with the families, so the families didn't need to leave the church. We hosted four adults and seven children under the age of 10. Here are the people we served and our volunteers who served.



Blessings,
 Rev. Cynthia Paquette, *Executive Pastor*

FACE TO FACE WORSHIP BEGINS MAY 2

After a very thoughtful process, the Restart Team has set Sunday, May 2 as the date to resume in-person worship. By then our Worship/Education Staff will have been fully vaccinated and eager to welcome you back to our church home. Two services will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Sunday School for children and adults at the usual times. We invite those who previously attended the 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. services to join us at 9:30 or 11 a.m.



Mask wearing and social distancing will be expected. Our custodial team will follow all protocols for disinfecting and cleaning.

If you are not ready to return in-person, our worship services will continue to be recorded and made available on our website later in the week. Additional information will be in our weekly e-mail communication, First Wire. We are planning ways to celebrate being together after a very long year. We can't wait to see many of you on May 2.

First Church Restart Team

Helen Gray, Church Council Chair, Gerry Sampson, Lay Leader, Kate Norton, Bill Whitaker, David Adkins, Rev. Cynthia Paquette, Dr. Melanie Rosa

HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL?



On behalf of the Visioning Team, Rev. Melanie, Martha Conant, and Rev. Cynthia will be hosting 3 Listening Sessions to hear how you have been holding up during the pandemic. We have missed our church family and want to check in to see how you are holding up and hear your hopes for the future. Two listening sessions will be held by Zoom: Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m. and Wednesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. One will be held in-person at church on Monday, May 10 at 4 p.m. in the Parlor Courtyard (please bring a lawn chair). To participate in the Zoom Listening Sessions, please contact Administrative Assistant Haley Candelario for the Zoom link at administrativeassistant@fcfumc.net

MUSIC AT FIRST CHURCH

We have been fortunate to have many of our Sanctuary Choir members join us in the recording of our virtual worship services for Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter. We are hopeful that all of our choirs will resume their regular rehearsal schedules this fall, with the Sanctuary Choir being the first to start back in mid-August. Most others will resume rehearsals after Labor Day. Of course, this is contingent on the continued improvement in the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to our choir members who were able and willing to assist in worship for Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter!





Last year, Rich Fisher graciously planted a huge garden and, with the support of weeding and picking volunteers, was able to donate 59 pounds of beans, 337 pounds of beets, 67 pounds of carrots, 386 pounds of cucumbers, 28 pounds of eggplant, 40 pounds of cabbage, 269 pounds of spaghetti squash, 169 pounds of acorn squash, 21 pounds of peppers, 25 pounds of watermelon, 22 pounds of corn, and 46 pounds of turnips. This was a total of 1,469 pounds of fresh healthy vegetables for people in our community who are food insecure! And this does not count the additional 300 pounds of beets and carrots that will be picked this spring after overwintering!



This effort was a huge success, and we would love to keep it going. But, we wanted to make it as easy as going into your own back yards. This year, we are asking that everyone (including the kiddos!) plant a little extra for the food bank in their own gardens. Please plant a few more carrots, beets, tomatoes, or whatever you would like and, at the end of the growing season, we can gather our harvest each weekend at the church and a representative will bring it to the Food Bank.

After a very challenging year for so many, we want to let those neighbors who are struggling to get by on a day-to-day basis know that we care. So please let us know if you are willing to plant a little (or a lot!) extra this year. Please contact Rick Norton at ricknorton14@msn.com, the Missions Umbrella Coordinator, to let him know if you will be planting for the food bank. And let's see if we can surpass last year's poundage of fresh veggies!



BOOKMOBILE FUNDRAISER AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our local Barnes and Noble is sponsoring a book fair to support the First Church bookmobile on April 9 and 10! (see FCBookmobile on Facebook) The bookmobile can get a percentage of the profits from any book purchased for your personal collection or as a gift for someone else on those days with the correct voucher code. Or If you'd like to delight bookmobile students, purchase a new release in one of their favorite series! These books will be displayed at the store 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and you can place them in our book trailer at the front entry. Or if you prefer to shop from home, look in First Wire April 1 and 8 to find links to the electronic wish list and a voucher code to be sure the bookmobile gets credit for your purchase. The bookmobile is hoping to operate normally this summer as Covid case numbers diminish. We'll visit 3 neighborhoods weekly to loan books to kids, accompanied by the Food Bank's free lunch truck. Thank you in advance for your support!

Please contact Janet Krech, ajkrech@msn.com, 225-0330, to get more information about volunteering with the bookmobile this summer.

A new bookmobile partnership program is looking for leadership and volunteers! Families at Housing Catalyst subsidized neighborhoods need to have books from the public library delivered this summer, since their residents often do not have reliable transportation. Teams of two volunteers would sign-up to pick up pre-ordered books from the library weekly and deliver them to one or more families at a mutually convenient time, helping to reserve the next week's books and hopefully reading and visiting with the kids in their front yards. Someone to organize this effort (with the help of Signup Genius) would be particularly appreciated. Many kids haven't been reading as much during the pandemic, and their literacy skills are suffering. If you have time to support this program in any way, please contact Janet at the phone or email above.

The first in-person class in more than a year is scheduled to start in mid-April at First Church. Here's a roundup of activities for April and beyond.



We Are Called to Be a Movement by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber is a short book that is actually a sermon highlighting the underlying biblical concepts of the Poor People's Campaign. Barber says that it is time to renounce the politics of rejection, division and greed and lift up the common good and revive the heart of democracy. David Reid facilitates the study in person at noon and online at 7 p.m. Wednesdays April 14, 21, 28. Spaces for the in-person section will be limited and physical distancing and face masks will be required. The book costs less than \$8. Register or ask for help obtaining the book at davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707. Times and locations are subject to change.



Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World is both the title of a book by Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy, M.D., and the first Adult Faith Formation offering to highlight Visioning Team's theme of Healing, Wellness and Wholeness for 2021. Murthy demonstrates that there is an epidemic of loneliness and that we have many ways to do something about it. This class is scheduled to be offered in-person to a limited number of participants for six Wednesday sessions at noon from May 5 through June 9. An evening Zoom section is scheduled for the same dates at 7 p.m. Contact davidreid24@gmail.com to register for help obtaining the text. Cost of the book is about \$20.

Awe, Ethics and River Conservation is an event on Zoom sponsored by World Wisdoms Project 1:30-3:30 p.m. April 25. A philosopher and a stream ecologist will discuss the experience of awe and its relationship to environmental ethics. The participants are Katie McShane, professor of philosophy at CSU, and Kurt Fausch, professor emeritus at CSU. Details and registration at worldwisdomproject.org.



World
Wisdoms
Project

Address Correction Requested



The United Methodist Women will hold their April Unit Meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021. It will be in the MORNING at 11:30

a.m. via Zoom. The theme is "Unbound to Share Good News". Steve Apodaca, the principal at Putnam Elementary School will be the speaker. Members are encouraged to have their favorite school day brown bag lunch nearby! We hope you will join us. Questions? elbode8@gmail.com

Apr 8, 2021-11:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81560334085?pwd=T2JDWURFcjZpS3NCUWpFQzZkxbVJzQT09>

**To join by phone, dial
+1 346 248 7799 or
+1 312 626 6799**

Meeting ID: 815 6033 4085

Passcode: 722656

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF ...

Bill May - February 13, 2021

WELCOME NEW LIFE ...

Josh and Alexis welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Eleanor Marie (7lb 13.5oz, 21 inches) at 12:45 AM February 16, 2021. (Josh Malave is our *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*) Congratulations Josh and Alexis!

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