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The Carillon

May 2022 Volume 28 Issue 5
David Adkins, Shelley Nelson, *Editors*

Discover God's Love

Inspire Hope • Grow in Faith • Serve With Joy

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

MESSAGE FROM MELANIE

I wanted to update you on the latest from the denomination. A group of theologically conservative United Methodists will launch a new worldwide church on May 1, called the Global Methodist Church. They are fed up with inclusive churches like ours continuing to defy the ban on same gender marriage and the ordination and acceptance of openly gay children of God. General Conference, originally scheduled for 2020, was delayed until 2024, and they could not wait that long to break away. I frankly consider this a good thing, so that we can have the inevitable divorce and make sure that loving, inclusive churches like ours will continue to flourish.

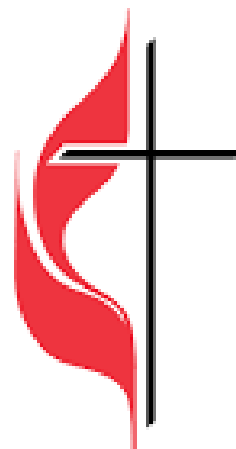
While all of this embarrassing institutional drama unfolds, ministry goes on. Pandemics, inflation, economic inequality, discrimination, authoritarian regimes, and atrocities of war have a way of putting into perspective our denominational struggles. It's not that the contentious and deeply divisive issues of our time are not important. They matter deeply, and we all must fight for justice and inclusion. Jesus always made room for the overlooked person right in front of him, particularly the most marginalized, demonized and neglected people of his time. We are called to do the same.

There is a grace-filled, loving and open Methodism which I dearly cherish. In fact, I have devoted 40 years of my professional life to this grace driven movement. I never would have invested so much time, energy, love, and labor into an organization without some form of an inclusive and promising future. We will live into that God inspired future, not a narrow, exclusive, and short-sighted future.

To be honest, I do not care nearly as much about what the denomination does as I care about what I **do** to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. I want to use this precious life I have been given to bless, heal, and make a positive difference in this weary world, which in the words of Tolstoy "...is soaked with the tears and blood of the innocent." I want to be a force of goodness and love, and I know First Church will be just such a force, no matter what the UMC does or does not do in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie".

Dr. Melanie Rosa, *Lead Pastor*



FIRST CHURCH KIDS

Barb Grauberger, *Director of Children and Family Ministries*



REGISTER NOW FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! The theme is Food Truck Party—on a Roll with God! June 6th-10th from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Sign up prior to May 8th for early bird pricing and a guaranteed spot. <https://first-united-methodist-fort-collins.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

FIRST CHURCH YOUTH

Victoria Burkett, *Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday School

Middle and High School students are invited to join us in the youth basement Sunday mornings at 9:30! Come hear a new lesson each week (and maybe get some time to play Wii Sports!).

We will no longer have Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month so that our students can join the 9:30 worship service!

Wednesday Night Youth Group

Youth group is open to middle school through high school. We will be meeting from 6:30-8:00 pm in the youth basement. Enjoy snacks, games, and a Bible lesson!

High School Bible Study

Meet us at Starbucks, 4218 South College Ave on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 PM. Come get a copy of our new book, Can I Ask That? and join in on some deep conversations!



STUDENT MISSION TRIPS SUMMER 2022



Students who are signed up for our summer mission trips will need to attend our team meetings:

High School Mission Trip

What: Students attending our mission trip to Missoula, Montana (June 18-26) will meet with our trip partners from Loveland FUMC to finalize details and fill out paperwork

When: Sunday, May 15th 1:00-2:00 PM

Where: Loveland FUMC, 533 Grant Ave, Loveland, CO 80537

Middle School Mission Trip

What: Students attending our mission trip to Buckhorn Camp (June 4-8) will meet together to finalize details and fill out paperwork

When: Sunday, May 22nd 10:30-11:30 (right after Sunday School)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!



Ethan Payne
Graduating from: Fossil Ridge High School
Fall plans: Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana (Business with an emphasis on finance and economics)



Anne Priebe
Graduating from: Fort Collins High School
Fall Plans: Elon University, Middle/Secondary Education (History and Environmental Sciences)



Brady Elliot
Graduating from: Fossil Ridge High School
Fall plans: Oregon State (undeclared)



Calvin Robinson
Graduating from: Polaris Expeditionary School
Fall Plans: Studying computer-engineering



Thayer Orr
Graduating from: Fort Collins High School
Fall plans: Cox School of Business - Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

THANK YOU!

Deepest thanks to Heidi Priebe for beautifying all of our bathrooms! Her talent is beyond compare, and we are grateful that with a Memorials Grant she was able to make our bathrooms far more appealing and inviting. Thank you, Heidi!

COLLEGE MINISTRY



Our college ministry, **Kindred**, is an inclusive and safe space for local college students and college-aged young adults to share a meal and conversations about life and faith. Join us on **Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:00 in the Youth Basement!** Learn more and support us on our [website](#).

Kindred's mission is to create a safe space where people of all identities and walks of life are welcome to participate in encouraging, challenging, and genuine conversations about faith, life and culture.

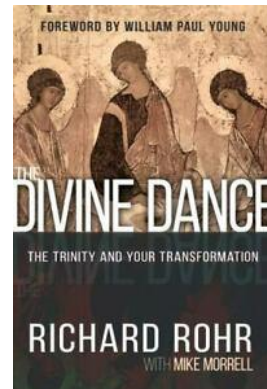
Contact Kindred's director, Victoria Burkett at youngadult@fcfumc.net

Current Study

Join us on Tuesday night as we continue our video series The Divine Dance with Richard Rohr which explores the relational lessons of the Trinity and our role in it.

Better Together Day

We had a great time on Monday at CSU where we participated in an opportunity for inter-faith dialogue. Special thanks to CSU's Multi-Faith and Belief Student Council!



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Our Young Adult ministry is open to adults around mid-20s and up. We meet once a month for dinner and Bible Study discussion with fun events in between. Join us on the second Sunday of each month at 6:30 at CB&Potts! Reach out with questions or to join our newsletter by contacting Victoria Burkett at youngadult@fcfumc.net



Seder Meal

It was great to see some of Kindred Students and Young Adults at FUMC's Seder Meal during Holy Week! We hope you all enjoyed your Easter festivities.

FIRST CHURCH IN MISSION

PUTNAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



May 12 Six people are needed to use a scanner to help inventory library books. Training is 9-10 am, or, if you can only help in the afternoon, Putnam says they'll be flexible. Please contact Janet Krech ajkrech@msn.com, (970) 225-0330 to sign up.

Our BOOKMOBILE will visit two neighborhoods on Wednesdays and three neighborhoods on Fridays this summer. Please contact Janet Krech ajkrech@msn.com, (970) 225-0330 if you aren't already receiving bookmobile emails and would like more information.

BUCKHORN CLEAN-UP

Join our church mission team on Saturday, May 14 at the Methodist Church Buckhorn Camp to help prepare the camp for its opening this summer. We'll be sweeping cabins, washing windows, hanging curtains, and maybe doing some painting and light repairs. All skills or no skills

welcome. Buckhorn is an easy 30 minute drive west of downtown Fort Collins at the top of Rist Canyon. Carpools available. Send an email to ben993q@gmail.com to sign up or ask questions.



WALL-RAISING CEREMONY FOR ASHLEN AND STEPHEN'S HABITAT HOME

First Church is one of a dozen local churches supporting the Habitat Faith Build for Ashlen and Stephen's Home. About 50 people met at Harmony Cottages on Taft Hill and Harmony Roads for the symbolic wall-raising early Saturday, April 2. Several Lutheran churches in Fort Collins are leading the build and they had a building crew ready to start framing the house on Saturday. During the ceremony Ashlen and Stephen announced they will be having a baby.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

At First Church the Prayer Shawl Ministry meets monthly to create not only Prayer Shawls which are caringly and freely given for those in need of comfort, but to also create Prayer Squares. We understand that these Squares originally were made for military personnel and were small enough to fit inside pockets or even helmets. The Square often has a tassel making it easy for it to be pulled out quickly.

Please find our Squares in a basket located on a shelf across from the Welcome Desk in the hall.

Blessings are wished for you as you help yourselves to these Squares.



MUSIC AT FIRST CHURCH

David Adkins, *Director of Music and Communications*

CONCORDIA HANDBELLS IN CONCERT AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Wednesday, May 11 | 7:00 PM
1005 Stover St. Fort Collins, CO 80524

Join us for a night of exciting handbell music! Concordia University Irvine's handbell ensembles are touring Colorado and they're coming to First United Methodist Church! Led by award winning composer Alex Guebert, they will perform a wide variety of music - sacred to classical to modern to popular - using over 127 handbells and handchimes as well as other instruments. Come join us for this free concert!

The Concert Handbells and Spirit Bells of Concordia University Irvine are the touring ensembles of Concordia, representing a program that has become highly respected internationally for its performances and for its preparation of handbell musicians and directors. They have performed in 12 nations of Asia, Europe, and Australia as well as 38 states and provinces of North America.



The Food Bank Appreciates Your Green Thumb

Thanks to your generous contributions, last year our church provided the Food Bank over 1,200 pounds of fresh produce from your gardens. This included delicious apples, tomatoes, zucchini, beans, yellow squash, and more! Your kind donations helped minimize food insecurity for so many deserving people in our community. Sadly, there remains a great need for healthy foods, so we want to continue our efforts to support the Food Bank. To do so, please consider planting extra fruits and vegetables in your home gardens this year. Starting mid-July, we will gather our harvest each weekend at the church and a representative will bring it to the Food Bank.

The last two years have been particularly challenging for so many, so help us let those neighbors who are struggling to get by on a day-to-day basis know that we care. Let us see if we can surpass last year's poundage of fresh produce!! Please contact Rick Norton, the Mission's Team Coordinator, at ricknorton14@msn.com, to let him know if you would be willing to help transport the produce to the Food Bank. Thank you very much!



United Women of Faith (formerly United Methodist Women)

Everyone is invited to join us in the church parlor on Thursday, May 12, 2022 to enjoy Barb Grauberger presenting "Celebrate the Little Stuff/Our Children's Programs." Lunch begins promptly at 11:30 followed by the presentation at noon. The United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women) unit business meeting will take place after the presentation. Questions? Please contact Susan Leinhart at 970-568-8737 or leinhartsb72@gmail.com.



United
Women
in Faith

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR CHURCH FAMILY ...



Ellie Rocha



Connie Cardenas



Judy Kinner



Sue Ehlich



Judy Christie

COME CELEBRATE DR. MELANIE ROSA'S RETIREMENT!!

Reverend Melanie's last Sunday before her well deserved retirement is June 26. There will be one service that day at 9:30 am followed by a celebration reception in Fellowship Hall.

Light refreshments, music and speakers will be part of this time for all of us to give Melanie, Fred, and their family our best wishes for nothing but exciting, eventful, and healthy times in this next chapter of their lives.

If you want to bring a card to express your gratitude to Melanie for her great service to our church, please do so and put it in the basket that will be provided.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Committee for Reverend Melanie's Retirement Reception





Congratulations to Diane Peterson, Our 2022 Quiet Disciple

Each year, churches across our Conference are asked to nominate a "Quiet Disciple," one who goes about their service to the church without fanfare. This person is probably not filling a specific position, but rather is self-starting and directed in filling needs using their own resources, time, and talents. We are proud to present Diane Petersen as our Quiet Disciple for 2022. Congratulations, Diane! We could have written pages about Diane, but were limited to 150 words. Here's what we wrote:

Diane Peterson exemplifies a life of Quiet Discipleship, caring for many both within and outside the church without fanfare. Until her retirement, she worked at Foothills Gateway, working with individuals with disabilities. Concurrently, she provided care for elders through the Visiting Angels service, and she continues in that service of love. She initiated a Bible study class which continues making its way through the Bible. When Diane learned that our most senior adult Sunday School class needed a leader, she stepped in to provide speakers and studies as well as contact for absent class members. She serves as head cook and volunteer when our church serves each month at Catholic Charities, the Mission. She is a regular volunteer with Faith Family Hospitality, serving homeless families at our church. She served on a mission trip to Kenya with the Kenya Water Project. Diane lives out Jesus' call to a life of love and service!

We express our deepest sympathies to the families of:

Bruce Christie - March 23, 2022

Lorna Loosley—March 26, 2022



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