



# A Little Known Secret

by Emmalie Conner

Have you noticed the beautiful garden on the northeast side of our church building? How about the beautifully curved wall that draws the eye to the stone walls representing Hope, Faith and Love? This sacred place on our church grounds is David's Garden and our church Columbarium.

### Just what is a Columbarium?

"Columbarium" is the name given to a vault which contains a series of niches, each of which holds the ashes of one or two people who are cremated at death. For centuries, Christians have brought their loved ones to the church to be buried at death in the churchyard cemetery. Our Columbarium provides the same sacred resting place. Such action gives testimony to our faith in God who created us and loves us, and to whom each of us returns at death.

### The purposes of the Columbarium are:

- To provide a secure and sacred place for the deposit of cremains
- To honor loved ones on a Remembrance Wall
- To provide an environment of peace and beauty for meditation

The Remembrance Walls offer yet another option to be a permanent part of the fabric of our church. These are options that allow our genealogy to be preserved in the place we have called our church home.

If you are interested in learning more about our beloved Columbarium or how to place a name on the Remembrance Wall, please call the church office and they will provide contact information to a Columbarium Board member who can provide details on both options.

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# Why Observe Lent Before Easter?

by Pastor Charles

Lent is a time for spiritual reflection, for prayer, and for individual introspection. John Wesley was methodical in reviewing each day and asking how to better serve God. Here are several ways to observe a disciplined Lenten season.

First, if you have not attended the classes on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. during Lent, I invite you to come. The evening begins with a light meal in the parlor or fellowship hall (depending on availability). The children have an interactive art class, and adults can choose from the *Darkwood Brew* series with topics like uncertainty and loneliness viewed from a theological perspective or the book, *Convictions*, by Marcus Borg with some surprising ideas from this well-known author. For youth, the regular Wednesday evening small groups are in session.

Second, in worship, our congregation is engaged in a series that runs up to Palm Sunday. It is called “Why Be a Christian in the 21st Century?” We look at questions about being spiritual and religious, being a believing Christian, belonging to a faith community, believing as a Wesleyan-Methodist Christian, and finally, “What’s In It for Me?” I invite you to be present every Sunday and discover (or re-discover) your calling and connection with God in Jesus Christ.

Third, I invite you to establish a deeper faith through basic spiritual practices. Here are some possibilities.

- Find a quiet place to pray and pray with disciplined regularity.
- Find a busy place to pray for the world in all its activity and vibrancy.
- Browse the Northern Colorado Faith Library and check-out a book for devotional reading and soul care.
- Join a Sunday School class or weekly Bible study to continue growing in faith through Lent and when Lent ends.
- Name something to give up for Lent. Choose something more important than chocolate or meats. Instead, consider giving up something you need never take up again when Lent concludes. (For example, give up hatred, gossip, prejudice, selfishness, etc.)
- Make the decision to be a committed disciple of Jesus Christ by (in addition to prayers and presence illustrated above) giving financially to God’s work, giving time in mission and service to God’s purposes, and telling friends, neighbors, companions, colleagues, and family members the richness of God’s transformative work.

On Ash Wednesday (February 10th), the congregation was invited to “observe a holy Lent” in preparation for the coming commemorations of Jesus’ passion and resurrection. To experience a meaningful 40 days of Lent leads us to a surprising Easter Day.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Charles



# Current Events

## Hold That Door! by Mike Kohler

FUMC's vision states that we have "open doors." Taken literally, a small gesture can mean a lot to a visitor. We need Greeting Disciples to greet Guests and Members at our Sunday 9:15 and 10:45 services. If you enjoy smiling and shaking hands, we need you. Will you help? Sign up in Fellowship Hall or email Mike Kohler at [execprcoach@gmail.com](mailto:execprcoach@gmail.com).

## New Jubilee Group

by Tom Hartmann

The Jubilee group focuses on community building, spiritual development and "middle age life" topics -- examples being singleness, assisting aging parents and raising children. **Starting Sunday January 31, Jubilee begins meeting weekly at 9:30 in Wesley Commons** to discuss a variety of group-initiated and volunteer-led topics. Quarterly, Jubilee will plan social events outside of the Sunday meeting and over time hopes to engage the wider FCFUMC congregation and Fort Collins community through outreach activities. Please accept our open invitation to come join us on either a drop-in or ongoing basis. On Sundays January 31 and February 7th, the group will develop an upcoming calendar of events and topics for the next few months.

## SPR Postings

### Sanctuary Choir Director

Fort Collins First United Methodist Church is seeking a part time (10-15 hr/wk) Sanctuary Choir Director. Requires a demonstrated proficiency as a choir director. Experience in directing church choirs and work with a wide range of choral music preferred. The successful candidate will possess an enthusiastic willingness to be creative and work as a team member in development of church music programs. Compensation is commensurate with exp./ability. Music degree required. Please email resume and cover letter to [wieckmegan@gmail.com](mailto:wieckmegan@gmail.com).

### Director of Membership & Engagement

Fort Collins First United Methodist Church is seeking a Director of Membership and Engagement Part Time - 24 hours per week, including Sunday morning and some evening meetings. Primary responsibilities: The Director of Membership and Engagement is responsible for all activities related to welcoming, engaging, and retaining members. Please email resume and cover letter to [wieckmegan@gmail.com](mailto:wieckmegan@gmail.com).



## Easter Help Needed!

Worship volunteers needed for Easter: Our technology team has been hard at work improving our AV capabilities. Now we need people to run the system on Easter morning, March 27th. Volunteers will receive one hour of hands on training before Easter. **We need two people for each service: 6:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am.** If you are willing to serve in this way contact Pastor Vivian to sign up for your training session.

# Blessing Bags by Georgia Metz

As part of communion on **Sunday, March 6th**, the Crosswalk alternative worship service will be assembling blessing bags to give to our homeless neighbors in Fort Collins! We are asking for donations of supplies through March 6th to help us complete the most bags possible.

## What is a blessing bag?

A Blessing Bag is a small bag of a few essentials that can be given to someone in need. The purpose of a Blessing Bag is to offer a small token of kindness to the homeless, a stranger, the traveler, or the indigent by way of material goods. We know that one small bag of items can in no way fully express how difficult or challenging it is to be a person in need, but this is an attempt to be a generous neighbor and offer encouragement others.

## How can I help?

We are looking for the following items to place in the

## Blessing Bags:

- New socks*
- Small packs of tissues*
- Waterbottles*
- Cheap washcloths*
- Non-perishable single serving snacks (such as granola bars, peanut butter crackers, etc)*
- Personal hygiene products (soap, deodorant, toothbrush, hand sanitizer, etc.)*
- Sunscreen*
- Bandages and/or small first aid kits*

There will be boxes outside the fellowship hall and the chapel labeled "Blessing Bags" for any supplies that you would be able to donate. We will be assembling Blessing Bags on Sunday, March 6th; please join us for Crosswalk in the chapel at 10:45 if you would like to help! Questions? Email Georgia Metz, [wesleydirector@fcfumc.net](mailto:wesleydirector@fcfumc.net).

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# Snappy the Crab Wants You to Save the Date!

by Jayme Harper

You might be wondering, "Who is Snappy the Crab???" Well, Snappy the Crab will be our mascot for this year's Vacation Bible School, or VBS, as we affectionately call it.

VBS will be June 6-10. This year's theme is "Surf Shack," and we are all invited to "Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love." VBS is a great way to introduce and affirm the wonders of our awesome God, and we welcome all preschool and elementary-aged children. Details about online registration will follow soon, but for now, we hope that you'll mark June 6-10 on your calendar.

One more thing that Snappy the Crab wants you to know! Last year, our church served over 160 children, and this incredible outreach ministry could really use your support. Did you know it takes over 80 volunteers to make this such a successful ministry at our church? Please consider volunteering for VBS. If you have an interest in decorating, teaching, supervising recreation, providing snacks or using any of your talents, please contact Christy Loewen at [christy-loewen@fcfumc.net](mailto:christy-loewen@fcfumc.net) or call Christy at the church at 482-2436.



# UMW News

by JoAn Hopkins

## Spiritual Life Retreat, April 1 - 3

This event will be hld at the YWCA in Estes Park, and will be led by **Shelly Bowles**, Local Pastor and Stephen Minister from Phillips UMC in Lakewood. The theme is "Holy Fools for Christ" from 1 Corinthians 4:10. This will be a time to explore your faith and open yourself to the Holy Spirit. It is a wonderful experience that is a fun time for fellowship with other women in our Conference There is also a retreat for young women in another facility at the same time and their theme is "Be Still, and Know That I Am God."

Registration forms are on the UMW bulletin board in the south hallway. There are also forms to apply for a scholarship to assist in financing the registration fee. If you have questions see Ellen Bode, Margaret Hotze, or another UMW member.

## Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial UMW Conference, April 22 - 24

This year's conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. There will be workshops, Bible studies, tours to UMCOR (the facility that collects and stores disaster relief items), and tours of Crossroads Urban Center. Speakers leading the conference are **Harriett Olson, Yvette Richards and Paul Jeffrey**.

This conference gives us an opportunity to come together, exchange ideas, inspire each other, and learn how we can support missions around the world. The registration closes on April 11th and car pools are being formed so check with a UMW member for more information!

Ask a member of UMW about these important issues. Believe it or not, potluck is only a fun activity. We work hard to make the world a better place.

- Mass Incarceration Center in Aurora
- Immigration issues
- Racial prejudice in Ft. Collins
- Family Violence
- Economic Justice
- Homelessness

## Poudre School Volunteer!

FUMC member Jeri Neely was recognized recently as an outstanding "star" volunteer at Putnam Elementary School in Poudre School District. Thanks, Jeri!

*Volunteer Highlight!*



**Putnam's star volunteer!**  
Jeri has charitably donated over 800+ volunteer hours since 2010. As Putnam's school volunteer coordinator, she shares her smile with many!

Thank you Jeri for all you do!

# UMCOR Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 6, by Diana Burkholder



## Purpose

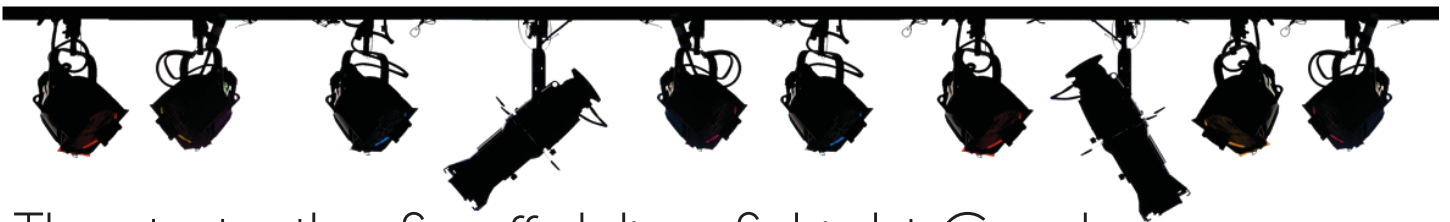
One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering in Protestant churches in America that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada.

## History

During World War II and immediately following, Protestant churches made appeals for relief & reconstruction efforts. In 1949, church leaders from several denominations formed an ad hoc committee to organize an appeal aimed at supporting the separate campaigns of American churches. In 1950, the title “One Great Hour of Sharing” was used for the first time. Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created.

## UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has brought hope, solidarity, support, and expertise to communities both at home and abroad in the wake of disaster. UMCOR enhances human dignity through food, shelter, health and peace projects in the United States and in 81 countries around the world. First United Methodist Church will be having a special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, on Sunday, March 6, 2016 to underwrite UMCOR’s costs of doing business, including such expenses as facilities, salaries, electricity, gas, & telephone. This allows UMCOR to keep its promise to send 100% of designated funds (such Clean Water Project in Kenya-Advance # 3021424—to which our own Rich Fisher gives so much time & effort) to the specific causes because the basic expenses of UMCOR are covered. Any extra OGHs funds and other undesignated gifts made throughout the year are used to support under-funded programs, or to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised. When you support One Great Hour of Sharing, you are assisting UMCOR’s specialized



Thanks to the Scaffolding & Light Crew! by Bill Whitacre

The Trustees send a major “Thank You!” to the volunteers and staff who helped set up and take down the scaffolding, replace bulbs and aim and focus the lights in the Sanctuary on Thursday, January 28th. This necessary chore takes three to four hours and must be done every couple of months to keep the lighting in the Sanctuary looking like it should. The volunteers include Dean Block, Curtis Bridges, Joan Carter, Robin Hause, John Benton, Don Benz, Joe Winset and Bill Whitaker. The effort was led by our Facilities Manager, Henry Reyna and advised by Pastor Vivian. Again, a big thank you to all of you from the Board of Trustees.

# Easter Egg Hunt & Celebration: March 26

Join the children of our church (rain or shine!) in celebrating Easter on **March 26th from 11:00 am - 12:00 noon**. We will have an egg hunt, music, petting zoo, crafts, snacks, and a special Easter blessing to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. All are welcome, invite your friends, too! We just ask that you provide a dozen **filled** eggs for each child participating in the egg hunt. You can drop them off at the church the any time the week before the celebration.

If you are interested and available to help with the set up or tear down of the celebration please contact Jen Hanna at 412-0957 or [jelinely@gmail.com](mailto:jelinely@gmail.com).



## Church Foundation Announces Grant Program 2016

by Stephen Zink

The Fort Collins First United Methodist Church Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual Grant Program is about to begin. Since its founding in 1986, the Foundation has given a total of over \$300,000 in annual grant money to various church committees and other groups for programs, equipment and services that are not funded in the annual budget, the results of which are both visible within our church walls as well as reaching out to impact the world around us.

### Grant Application Timeline:

#### March 7th: Pick Up

Grant Applications made available in the church office. Applications will also be placed in committee mailboxes in the office.

#### April 4th: Deadline

Completed Grant Applications must be returned to the church office and placed in the Foundation's mailbox.

#### April 27th: Review

The Foundation Board will review all applications and determine this year's annual grant recipients.

#### May 2nd – May 4th: Notifications

All who applied for a Foundation grant will be notified as to the final status of their application.

While the Foundation would like to fully fund all grant requests, generally the total amount requested for all grants far exceeds available funds. The Foundation Board will review each application and determine if the request should be fully funded, partially funded or not funded.

Each Grant Application requires signature approval. All specified signatures must be obtained prior to the application being submitted to the Foundation. Applications lacking the required approvals will not be considered for funding.

If you would like additional information regarding the Foundation Grant Program, or if you are interested in helping to grow the capabilities of the church Foundation by making a tax deductible contribution of some kind, please contact Stephen Zink, Foundation President, at (970) 980-3037 or [svzink42@gmail.com](mailto:svzink42@gmail.com).

# PEAKS SUBDISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE

March 12, 2016

Rinn United Methodist Church

3783 Bella Rosa Parkway, Frederick CO

Please join us for a day of exploring our  
part in revitalization of  
Church, Self & Community,  
Starting with a morning presentation  
introducing the Fresh Expressions movement

- \* Worship \* District Business \* A Morning Session \*
- \* Lunch \* Quiet Disciples \* Workshops \*
- \* Resources \* Fellowship of Laity & Clergy \*

Registration begins at 8:30 am

Activities begin promptly at 9:00 am, ending at 3:00 pm

**\$20 per person**

Registration & Agenda coming soon

<http://peaksplainsneco.weebly.com/>



# A Future Built on Deep Strength

Over the course of several months Pastor Charles and I listened to dozens of people as they shared what they loved about our church and their dreams for our future together in Christ. In January we offered to continue listening, but few people signed up to participate. We agreed with the Transition Team that the first phase of our transition process has come to a natural end. At the February Church Council meeting we thanked the team for their work and celebrated their success.

The purpose of listening carefully to one another was to discern the deeply imbedded strengths of our congregation. No future is secure unless it is built on the gifts and graces God has brought together among us. Pastor Charles and I are praying about what we heard in the Listening Circles so that we can honor what you value as we move forward.

We ask that you support our congregation with your prayers during the season of Lent. With the Apostle Paul we pray “that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God’s call, what is the richness of God’s glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God’s power that is working among us believers. This power

is conferred by the energy of God’s powerful strength.” (Ephesians 1:18-19)

After Easter we will begin the process of conferring together about the future of this church. We will do this in the form of Discussion Circles. Each Discussion Circle will focus on just one topic (such as worship, finances, children, facility, etc.). And, while we will retain the opening process of prayer and a brief time of uninterrupted sharing that we used in the Listening Circles, the greatest amount of time will be used to talk and listen to one another about the named topic. We trust that over time God’s light will reveal what is to be our new “glorious inheritance.”

God is surely at work within and among us. We humbly ask for your patience and support as we continue to move through the Interim process. It is not always easy to discern and then work in harmony with God’s will, but we believe that God is leading us into a future filled with hope and new life in Christ.

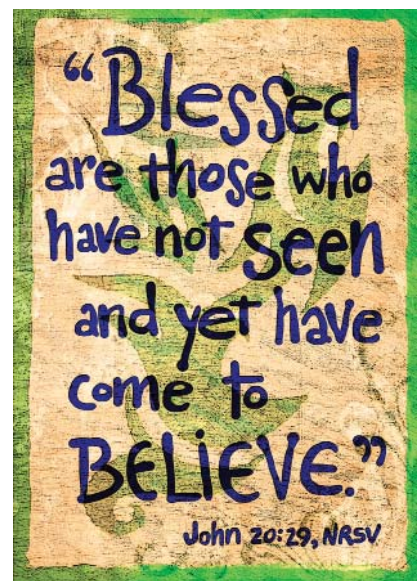
Your servants in Christ,  
Pastor Charles and Pastor Vivian

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## Makinen Bequest Update

by Stephanie Matthews

The Makinen Bequest Working Group has been working hard to finalize a recommendation to the Board of Trustees and the Church Council. By last Christmas, the Working Group had received over 80 suggestions (including some duplicates) on how to use the very generous bequest. The list has been narrowed down to about a dozen projects. The short list generally includes a few improvements to the church facility, some potential reserve funds, improvements in the technology, and some outreach programs. The Working Group hopes to have a preliminary recommendation to the Trustees within the next month or so. Please keep the Working Group in your prayers.



# Adult Faith Formation Events

submitted by David Reid

## Wednesday Evening Series

What would lead a first-century rabbi to travel thousands of miles by sea and by land, to be beaten, imprisoned, and ultimately beheaded for his faith? It was a call . . . a call to turn the world upside down.

*The Call* by Adam Hamilton is the story of the Apostle Paul, whose writings continue to shape the lives of one-third of the world's population, a man second only to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith, and whose witness defines what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Join Cindi Ross-Bell on **Wednesday evenings from March 30 through May 4 from 7:00 - 8:15 pm** for a six-week discussion about the life and message of the Apostle Paul.

## TUF Accessory Sale

by Caroline Vacante

The Teens United in Faith circle at First United Methodist Church is going to be holding an Accessory Sale in April. The proceeds from the sale will go to a charity by the name of Girl Rising.

Girl Rising is an organization that helps girls all over the world get the education they need to reach their full potential. 62 million girls are missing from classrooms. Sometimes they are sold into slavery and sometimes they are married to older men when they are as young as 11!

Girl Rising partners with 7 non-profit agencies to help provide scholarships and uniforms, to build libraries and classrooms, and to provide safe spaces and health education. All of these allow young girls to stay in school and that helps not only each girl, but the world's economy as well. If you wish to learn more, please visit their website, [girlrising.com](http://girlrising.com), or watch the movie entitled Girl Rising.



How can you help? Throughout the month of March, we will be collecting donations of gently used accessories that you no longer use. We will accept jewelry, scarves, purses, any accessory you aren't using. We will be selling them throughout the month of April. Thank you!

## Wilber's Four Quadrants

Jim Reid and Michael Abdo will host a conversation on **March 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor** titled "Science, Faith and Ken Wilber's Four Integrated Quadrants." They will explore the roots of religious terrorism and Wilber's breathtaking and challenging proposal for the world's religions. A donation of \$10 is suggested.



# Senior Wise

## March Double Nickel **Journey In Ministry**

Cynthia Paquette, our own church seminar-ian as well as our Minister of Congregational Care and our staff representative for Senior Ministry, will be our program speaker for Double Nickel Lunch on Friday, March 11, at noon in Fellowship Hall. Having now completed her seminary degree in preparation for ordained ministry as an elder in our conference, Cynthia is continuing her ministry with us under the supervision of our conference Board of Ordained Ministry to complete the ordination process. Cynthia will share some of her “Journey in Ministry” at our monthly lunch gathering.

When Cynthia first came to this country from Malaysia, where she was born and grew up, Cynthia’s focus was science. She achieved her PH.D. in that field and has worked as a research associate at CSU where her husband Mark is on staff. For the last two and a half years she has worked on church staffs, first doing an internship at First UMC Loveland, and then taking her current ministry position with our church, her home church. What led her to change her focus from a career in science to one in ministry? According to Cynthia: *Although I love God and have been walking with Jesus since age 16, I really never thought of becoming a pastor. Nevertheless, God was persistent, and I just had to step out in faith. The transition from science to theology has not been an easy one, but I learned that when we follow God’s call, our journey in life becomes one that is filled with limitless possibilities and thrills.*

Come hear Cynthia and enjoy conversation and a good meal with others ages 50 – 90+ (though younger folks are allowed!). Lunch is \$4– no reservations are required. Contact Diane Smith 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! (Come early for a blood pressure check with nurse JoAn Hopkins.)

## Senior Ministry March Calendar

**Okay Chorale**  
meets March 3 and 17  
from 3:00 - 4:00 in the Village Commons

**Snowshoeing in RMNP**  
Friday, March 4th  
easy and moderate options to try

**3rd Thursday Lunch**  
Thursday, March 17th  
11:30 at a local restaurant TBA

**Monday at the Movies**  
Monday, March 21  
will feature *Imitation Game*, from 1:00 - 3:00 in  
the Cinema Room- free for all!

## Coming Soon!

**Spring Bus Trip for Seniors – Friday, April 29 from 8:30 to 4:30.** We will leave from the south church parking lot and visit the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster and then drive on to Union Station in downtown Denver for lunch and some exploring time. Cost is \$30 plus your lunch.

*For more information about these and other senior ministry activities or to sign up for the Seniorwise email mailing list, contact Linn Zink, Senior Council member, [lczink@gmail.com](mailto:lczink@gmail.com) or call 970-988-0836.*



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## HOLY WEEK

**Sunday, March 20:** Palm Sunday

**Wednesday, March 23 - Friday, March 25:** Labyrinth  
Wednesday afternoon - Friday evening, Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, March 24:** Maundy Thursday  
7:00 pm Living Last Supper in Sanctuary (led by youth)

**Friday, March 25:** Good Friday  
7:00 pm Telling the Story through Scripture and Music,  
featuring the Sanctuary Choir

**Saturday, March 26:** Easter Egg Hunt  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, March 27:** Easter Morning  
6:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service  
8:00 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary