

Celebrate 50 Years of FUMC Co-op Preschool!



This year is a special one for our community because FUMC Co-op Preschool is celebrating its 50th year of preschool learning and fun! We've planned a special Sock Hop for our 50th birthday, and we'd love to have YOU celebrate with us.

Join us on **Friday, April 29th from 5:30-7:30 pm** for a 50's style Sock Hop Celebration! We'll dance, play games, and enjoy popcorn and root beer floats in the Fellowship Hall and Parlor. All church families and preschool families from past and present are welcome!

If you have questions or would like to help please contact Jen Hanna at jelinley@gmail.com

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Pastor Charles

Leader

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Senior

Wise

Guatemala & Long Range Plan

### One of My Favorite Persons: Barnabas

#### by Pastor Charles

One of my favorite Bible personalities is the little-known character, Barnabas. Although he appears earlier in Luke's writing in Acts, his first major entry into the life of the early church came when he assisted the newly-converted Saul (later known as the apostle Paul). Barnabas averted an attempt on the apostle's life, spirited him out of Jerusalem by lowering him through an opening in the city's wall, and introduced him to apostles who would otherwise have been afraid of Saul/Paul who grew into "the faith he once tried to destroy." For a time, Barnabas traveled as a trusted missionary companion with Paul. It is only fitting for the name "Barnabas" to mean "Son of Encouragement." Paul needed an encourager in his life. All of us need encouragers. When I think of those who served as encouragers for me, I remember parents, grandparents, and a few others. Here is a short list from my life (in addition to family members).

Frances Grayson, along with her husband Jim, were youth directors in a nearby United Methodist Church. Their church did not have funds to employ staff to work with the youth, and that meant Mrs. Frances and Mr. Jim served in this capacity. Their commitment to young people did not stop with their church; the two of them transferred their love and guidance to me, when I was a teenager in a church about 20 miles away. Somehow, Mrs. Frances knew I was going to be a pastor before I knew it; yet she did not attempt to sway me. She let me discover it for myself. The two of them taught me to be accepting of others, and especially to be accepting of differences in people. More than once, I observed how both Mrs. Frances and Mr. Jim welcomed a kid on the margins.

Percy Sanders was my high school biology teacher. He would open the biology lab as soon as he arrived at the school, which allowed me to independently explore and discover microscopic biological wonders. He also taught my Sunday School Class when I was a junior high student. On Saturdays, he often refereed a college football game, drove the non-interstate highways all night arriving back early Sunday morning, and was ready to teach my class. I admired that, and I admired him for taking a bold career move to leave his teaching post in Arkansas and travel to Arizona where he and his wife taught Native Americans. He, like Mrs. Frances and Mr. Jim, took time to talk with me about life's most meaningful subjects.

There are others. Dewey and Bonnie Dark. John Mason Stapleton. Dede Roberts. Brent Waters. Dianne Christopher. Brad Baltz. Hugh Burnett. Celia Barnhart. Vivian Hiestand. And certainly, Cheri Murry. All of these are like a guy named Joseph from Acts 4:36. They each could have the nickname—Barnabas.

Who are the Barnabas' in your life? Even more, to whom are you a Barnabas?

Grace and peace, Pastor Charles



# Membership Information by Charlotte Allum

#### NEW MEMBERS WITH WELCOME

Sue Anderson Mark Caudle Hal Ottoway Wes Carter

### BAPTISMS WITH JOY

Rosalie Fae Ganni

daughter of Michael Alexander & Kaya Alaina Ganni

### DEATHS WITH SYMPATHY

Grace Harris
Gerald Eubank
Barbara Berg
Nan Libby
Beverly Miller
Dan Hurd
Betty Evig

### Discussions Not Decisions by Rev. Vivian Hiestand

We have been listening. We listened during committee meetings. We listened during the conversations after worship. We listened when we met with you personally, and we listened during the Listening Circles. During our first eight months we have heard your concerns and seen how you've solved many of the initial problems we encountered when we arrived. From finances to staff issues, the people of this church rolled up their sleeves and successfully addressed major problems that were impeding vital church functions and growth.

Now that we're functional again, it's time to begin to consider: who is God calling us to be? 1st UMC Fort Collins has been several kinds of churches in its rich 150 year history: rugged pioneer church, church for the leaders of a thriving new community, college town church, post-war church for the WWII generation. In every era the people of this church have eagerly followed the Holy Spirit and served their community through the grace of Christ. It's time to come together again to allow God to form us anew. Our Methodist tradition, drawing wisdom from Scripture, recognizes that new identities in Christ are not something we can create on our own. Identities are formed as we meet together for prayer and thoughtful discussion. Pastor Charles and Pastor Vivian will facilitate those meetings, which are being called Discussion Circles.

Each Circle will focus on a particular topic, such as music or finance. It will be held in the church, limited to 20 participants and last 1 ½ - 2 hours so everyone has time to prayerfully speak and hear one another. The purpose of these discussions is for us to begin to detect the movement and leading of the Holy Spirit among and within us. Any action that may arise from these discussions will be initiated by an individual and brought to the regular committees and procedures that already exist within our church.

Over the next six to eight months we trust that God, who began a good work in us, will reveal how he will bring it to fruition in the years to come (Philippians 1:6). Our new identity in Christ will be revealed to us as we open our hearts and minds to the grace of Christ, and in this we will be following in the footsteps of the first century Christians who set the world on fire. Surely, our results will be as wondrous as theirs for our God desires only the best for us.

Opportunities to sign up to participate in a Discussion Circle will beginApril 10th. I thank God every day for each of you, and look forward to sharing this adventure with you.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Vivian

## The UMC General Conference 2016 and Human Sexuality

submitted by WARM

A difficult debate facing the 864 United Methodist General Conference delegates gathering in Portland OR from May 10-20 will be determining how our denomination ministers to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Since 1972, the United Methodist Book of Discipline, the denomination's book of law, has proclaimed that all people are of sacred worth but the practice of homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching." The denomination bans the performance of same-sex unions and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy. After failing to reach consensus on this stance for more than 40 years, the debate has only intensified as more jurisdictions and nations, including the U.S., legally recognize same-sex marriages.

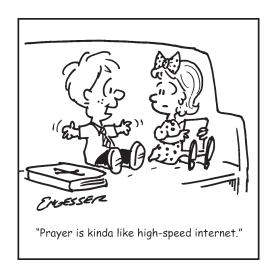
Over 700 UM churches and small groups have indicated their disagreement with these restrictions by joining the Reconciling Ministries Network. More United Methodist clergy, including a retired bishop, have officiated openly at same-sex weddings and some United Methodists have raised the possibility of a denominational split.

At the same time, African bishops have explicitly urged the Church to retain its current teachings regarding sexuality, especially the one that only affirms sexual relations in monogamous, heterosexual marriage. Even though bishops have no vote at General Conference, their guidance can shape discussion on the 99 petitions related to sexuality that delegates will debate.

One of these petitions, coming from the Connectional Table, would remove prohibitive language from the Discipline concerning homosexuality. United Methodist clergy would be allowed, but not required, to perform ceremonies that celebrate same-sex unions if they wish. The proposal would also remove being a practicing homosexual or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies from the list of chargeable offenses for clergy. In addition, the proposal removes language saving that the church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers it incompatible with Christian teaching, while recognizing this has historically been the church's position. This is just one of the petitions our delegates (58% from the U.S., 30% from Africa, 5% from Europe and 6% from the Philippines) will debate in what we pray is a grace-filled way that does not damage our church's mission.

# Thank You from Cynthia Paquette

I would like to thank everyone for your support and prayers throughout my M.Div. studies at Asbury Theological Seminary (ATS) and my certification as a Candidate for Ministry Process with the Rocky Mountain Conference of the UMC. I am also very grateful to the Vern and Sallie Youngman scholarship that I received multiple years through the FCFUMC Foundation. FCFUMC has been my home church for the entire study and certification process. I graduated from ATS in December 2015 and have been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry to be Commissioned as an Elder at the Annual Conference on June 12 at The Westin in Westminster. Thank you, Church!



# Crafting the Future of CrossWalk Worship

by Jayme Harper & Rev. Vivian Hiestand

#### Save the date for a Potluck lunch: Sunday April 24 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm!

The CrossWalk community has shared the transition experience with the other worship services at 1st UMC Fort Collins. Our community is about to embrace another transition as Zach Bush, who has directed the FISH band for the last four years, moves to Arizona this summer with his fiancée, Erin, where both will pursue graduate work. While we celebrate Zach's and Erin's promising futures, we realize this is a grace filled opportunity for our community to come together and discern how the Holy Spirit is calling us to move into the future.

During this time together we will celebrate and appreciate our community and participate in the biblical act of Selah (pause and reflect). Pastoral leadership will engage us in a discussion that will help to determine the future of the Crosswalk worship experience. Anyone interested in the Crosswalk worship experience is welcome to participate. The church will provide macaroni and cheese, coffee, tea, and lemonade. Participants are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

# Snappy the Crab Wants You to Save the Date!

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.

Early bird online registration will be available beginning Monday, April 4. To register, go to http://cokesburyvbs.com/fumcfortcollins.

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 *christyloewen@fcfumc.net* or call Christy at the church at 482-2436.

ISSUE 4

# Adult Faith Formation Events

### Lunch & A Lecture

Special event with Dr. Amy Erickson Sunday, April 17, 12 noon – 2:00 pm (in the Parlor)

To celebrate the donation of our new Common English Bible (CEB) pew bibles by Norma Cowell in memory of her husband, Rev. James Cowell, the Memorials Committee has engaged Dr. Amy Erickson for a lunch and lecture. Dr. Erickson's lecture is entitled, "JONAH – From the Fish to the Grave." Dr. Erickson will discuss why Jonah became an important figure to early Christians as evidenced by his ubiquity in their funerary art - in the Roman catacombs and on sarcophagi. Having done her dissertation on the subject, Dr. Erickson's work was recognized when she was chosen to write the study guide to Job for the adult curriculum (called Covenant) that accompanied the publication of the CEB. Erickson has written articles on Jonah, Job, the Psalms, Zechariah, and Amos for academic journals and edited volumes. She is a regular contributor to The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (de Gruyter), workingpreacher.org and the Huffington Post ON Scripture. She is currently writing a commentary on the book of Jonah and the history of its

interpretation for a new series, published by Wm. B. Eerdmans, entitled Illuminations.



Dr. Amy Erickson Iliff School of Theology: Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible; Director of the Master of Theological Studies Program

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# "Supper & The Spirit" Continues

The first Supper and the Spirit series was so successful that a new six-week round of Wednesday night dinners and activities will be offered **April 13 - May 18**. A light soup supper is available at 5:30 p.m.; at 6:00 pm participants will segue to their chosen class to connect with one another and deepen their faith. Classes and activities will conclude at 7:00 pm.

Classes are designed so that attending just one is enriching, attending more takes participants deeper. Classes offered this time:

- "6 Parables of Jesus from the Gospel of Mark," taught by Pastor Charles
- "More Gifts of the Dark Wood: Blessings for Skeptics and Other Wanderers" (video series), taught by Jayme Harper
- "The Call: Life and Message of the Apostle Paul" (book by Adam Hamilton & video), taught by Cindi Ross-Bell
- "Spirituality for Everyday Living," taught by Pastor Vivian; a focus on using prayer, conversion of life, commitment, study, work, relationships and solitude to obtain a balanced life.
- "Sacred Creativity for Children" taught by Mary Beth Solano & Christy Loewen (nursery will be available for ages 0-4).

No sign up is necessary – just come and soak in the Spirit of joy!

For more information or to order a book, contact David Reid at 266-8388 or *davidreid24@gmail.com* or at the Adult Faith Formation table on Sundays. Spirituality is \$12 and The Call is \$17.

# Girl Rising Accessory Sale by Caroline Vacante

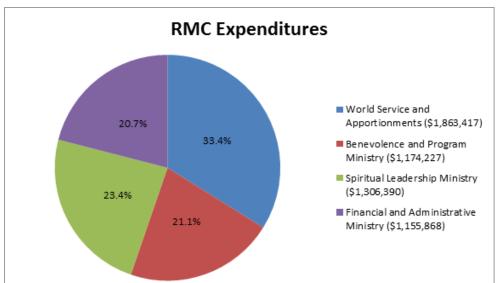
The collection for our Accessory Sale is happening now! The Teens United in Faith group at First United Methodist Church is going to be holding an Accessory Sale on **May 1 and 8**. The proceeds from the sale will go to Girl Rising.

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, or watch the movie entitled *Girl Rising*.

# Where Does Our Tithe + Mission Giving Go?

by Martha Conant, Lay Leader

Have you ever wondered how the Rocky Mountain Conference uses the funds FUMC and all other UM churches in the Conference remit as part of their 13% Tithe + Mission giving? In 2015, RMC expenditures from total revenue of \$5,572,286 fell into 4 major categories.



World Service and Apportionments is the RMC's General Church and Jurisdictional apportionment, which was paid at 100% in 2015. Among other things, this category includes contributions to the World Service Fund, the way our church connects to the global mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church. Benevolence and Program Ministry expenditures include staff and program expenses in ministries with various groups, e.g. Hispanic/Latino, Korean American, Young People, and Young Adults. Spiritual Leadership Ministry expenditures include support for District Superintendents and the Cabinet as well as clergy moving expenses. Financial and Administrative Ministry expenditures include compensation and related expenses for Conference office staff who work with health and pension matters. This is just an overview of our Conference's expenditures – let me know if you want to know more.



# Mission Corner (Community & World Outreach Committee)

Good News! FUMC, CSU, and high school mentors helped 21 students complete individual Science Fair projects in 10 week after school clubs led by Janet Krech. FUMC also encouraged 23 additional projects by buying display boards for economically disadvantaged families.

The Putnam Science Fair was March 9th, and 5 students will go on to compete in the District Science Fair on April 9th! Thanks to FUMC's generous financial donors, judges, and mentors Dale and Martha Conant, Barb Kittel, Jim Collinson, and Jeri Neely for providing amazing science experiences to kids who otherwise often have little to look forward to after school.

**Summer Bookmobile:** Since 2012, FUMC has been using our van to visit economically disadvantaged neighborhoods and loan books of appropriate reading level to Putnam students weekly in the summers. This year Poudre School District is offering free transportation from our usual neighborhoods to a community Summer School, which is an exciting new development! FUMC's bookmobile will use early summer runs to see if we can reach students not involved in the district program, along with preschoolers and teens. Because of this new development our schedule is not yet set, so although we have focused on Tuesday mid-day visits in the past there may be opportunities to travel with the bookmobile on weekends or evenings this year. Janet Krech is developing this year's bookmobile volunteer email list, so if you are interested, please email ajkrech@msn.com as soon as possible with your questions or availability.

# Native American Ministries Sunday-April 10, 2016 by Diana Burkholder

Native American Ministries Sunday (NAMS) recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. The observance, approved by the 1988 General Conference (as Native American Awareness Sunday), is one of six special church-wide Sunday offerings.

Fifty percent (50%) of NAMS money stays in the annual conference to develop & strengthen local Native American ministries; 25% goes toward scholarships for Native Americans called to ministry or service to attend Methodist schools or other approved schools of theology; the remaining 25% goes toward expansion of the number of target cities in the Native American Urban Initiative (related to the General Board of Global Ministries).

The Rocky Mountain Conference is home to one Native American United Methodist Church: Native Grace Intertribal Fellowship, which is based out of the First United Methodist Church in Cortez, CO. Its dedicated Pastor, Norman Mark, is currently supported with a one-quarter time salary. We need to keep him

in our prayers as they seek to find a way to increase his salary level—10 hours a week barely covers sermon preparation, much less "tending his flock & gathering more sheep." Additional pastoral time would allow him to nurture & grow the church!

This year's Rocky Mountain Conference Native American Ministries Sunday offering will help support the Northern Cheyenne Fire Protection project. United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is partnering with the Annual Conference and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in Montana to help enhance their fire protection infrastructure. Plans are to have Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams help build fire garages & rehabilitate houses over the next couple of years.

Additional information on Native American Ministries will be available to see at the Mission Corner during the month of April (see Diana Burkholder).

Thank you for your prayers & support of Native American Ministries Sunday, April 10, 2016.

# Congregational Care

by Cynthia Paquette (c.paquette@fcfumc.net; 970-482-2436 ext. 22)



#### **Rides Needed on Sunday Mornings**

There are some in our church family who cannot drive and don't have someone to bring them to church. If you can help by volunteering once a month to drive the van or bring those living near you in your car please let me know.



#### **Visitors Needed**

Did you know we have 230 members who are 80 years and above? Some are still very active but some could use visits. If you can visit our older church folks once or twice per month, please let me know.



### **Hospital Visits**

The clergy team would like to visit you if you are hospitalized. Please let us know by calling the church office.



#### **Christmas in June**

We had so much fun caroling to people at care centers and private homes last December that we are doing it again on June 18. Meet at church at 2PM and we will go on the church van. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

For more information about Congregational Care at FUMC, contact Cynthia Paquette, *c.paquette@fcfumc.net*; 970-482-2436 ext. 22

### Fools for Christ

April Fools' Day isn't a religious holiday, though it may date to Pope Gregory XIII and his new calendar. In 1582, he shifted New Year's Day from April to January, and people who didn't believe the change were called April fools.

April Fools' Day may also be connected to the lightheartedness that comes with warmer weather, as well as to medieval Christian festivals that involved pranks, disguises and a temporarily inverted social order.

Yet, in Scripture, such reversal characterizes the kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, St. Paul writes that the gospel seems foolish to people who don't know Christ, that God uses the "foolishness of our proclamation" to offer God's love to all and that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Jesus "foolishly" inverted the social order, saying the last will be first and the first, last.

So if on April 1 — and every day — we live as "fools for Christ," we're precisely what he calls us to be!

# Guatemala 2016 Dinner & Showcase

submitted by Georgia Metz





Please join the team that has recently returned from a week Guatemala in celebration of the relationship between our church and the people of western Guatemala! On Monday, April 18th from 6:00-8:00 pm the team will be hosting a Rice & Beans Dinner, during which group members will talk about their experience, and display pictures and videos of the trip,. Additionally, there will be a silent auction featuring items from Guatemala. There is no charge for this event, only a simple freewill donation, so bring family and friends to hear about what God is doing in Guatemala!

## Our Plans & Our Website

by Joan Richard

You probably know our church has maintained a Long Range Plan (LRP) for over five years. Perhaps you have even had the opportunity to read a paper copy of the Plan.

The Long Range Planning Committee updates the Plan to reflect projects and initiatives which have been completed and to add new projects or modify past plans as conditions change. Each year in the Fall, the Church Council reviews and adopts this updated version of the Plan for use during the following year.

The Church Council defined specific initiatives to complete during the 2016 calendar year. These planned actions have been drawn from the LRP, and they represent a current "short term" plan for committee efforts. These activities have been defined as the Annual Mission Plan (AMP). In effect, the AMP is a reflection of what we will do in the current year to achieve what is defined for action in the LRP over the next decade or so.

We encourage you to become familiar with both our short and long term plans. It's easy to do that now, because both the LRP and the AMP are easily accessed from the Church's web site. Here's how you can easily find this information and read it on your desk top, tablet, or even your hand-held:

Go to www.fcfumc.net and click "Mission and Vision" in the "About Us" drop down menu. There you will see three links under the heading, "Vision." One of them is for the "FCFUMC Long Range Plan" and another for the "Annual Mission Plan." Click one to select and read.

And, by the way, it's not just dry reading. It will help you gain insight and understanding about not only our Vision and Mission, but also about our Commitments, our Areas of Focus, and what we plan to achieve this year and in ten years.

# Senior Wise

April Double Nickel Lunch



Kelly Bole and Megan Settle Price, certified Zumba Instructors, will bring us a Zumba demonstration at the **Friday, April 8, Double Nickel Lunch at noon in Fellowship Hall**. Those who would like to try a little Zumba will have the chance to do so – but you may just watch and enjoy if you prefer! You can even do some Zumba while sitting in your chair – no special clothing needed!

Our guest presenters are also full time professionals - Kelly is an engineer with AVAGO, and Meagan is the Associate Director of Development at CSU. Dancing or any mind/body movement especially when music is included has been shown to greatly enhance our move to fitness. We will have information on hand about some spring/summer options here in Fort Collins for you to consider – Zumba and other possibilities.

Come learn about Zumba 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. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated! (Come early for a blood pressure check with nurse JoAn Hopkins.)

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 or call 970-988-0836.

# Senior Ministry March Calendar

#### Okay Chorale

meets Thursdays, April 7 & 21 from 3:00 - 4:00 in the Village Commons

### Monday at the Movies Monday, April 18

will feature *Chef*, from 1:00 - 3:00 in the Cinema Room- free for all!

### 3rd Thursday Lunch

Thursday, April 21
11:30 am at The Farmhouse at Jessup Farm

# April Bus Trip Heads to Denver, Westminster

Our spring bus trip for seniors is set for **Friday**, **April 29 from 8:30 to 4:30**. We will leave from the south church parking lot, drive on to Union Station in downtown Denver for some exploring time and lunch, and then visit the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster.

We will have small group leaders to help us navigate the downtown Denver area with options for each group to choose from. Some options will involve very little walking while others will provide the opportunity for more. At the Butterfly Pavilion we will have our very own bug/butterfly tour guide to enhance our experience there – Cynthia Paquette, PhD, MDiv! Cost is \$30 plus your lunch. The \$30 is collected when you get on the bus, but a reservation is requested – contact Linn Zink.



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# Quiet Disciple Nominees

Each year the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference and the Conference Board of Lay Ministry recognizes one Quiet Disciple from each District or Sub-District. This is a person in a local congregation whom is quietly serving the church, the community and humanity-in-general that is not in the limelight; someone whom, by their very nature, would rather just serve and not be recognized!

**Jan Beyer** is our Quiet Disciple nominee along with special nominations for **Evan Mackes**, young adult, and **Jaden Putman**, youth. Their names have been submitted for recognition at the Peaks Sub District meeting on March 12. Thanks to everyone who submitted nominations. We are indeed fortunate to have so many people worthy of this recognition!

