

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

The Vision of First Church is to be an inclusive, deeply relational community inviting all people to experience God's presence today.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE—WE STRIVE FOR IT.

In the spirit of Jesus Christ, First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins commits to offering a community in which persons of diverse age, color, culture, sexual orientation and gender identity, economic status, and physical or mental ability are all welcomed and affirmed. To all who have known pain of exclusion or discrimination from church or in society, we seek forgiveness and offer a place of respite and welcome.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH and would like more information, please ask one of our greeters or ushers or visit the **Welcome Center**. They can direct you to classrooms, nursery, restrooms, food, and fellowship, as well as introduce you to our staff. We would be honored to get to know you better and learn about your life and spiritual needs. Our community may not know you yet, but we already love you and hope you will make this your spiritual home. Thank you for joining us today, and God bless you!

WEEKLY FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES—9:45 A.M.

Please sign your children in at the Children's Ministries check-in desk, south entrance, before the 9:30 a.m. worship service begins. Children join their parents/guardians for worship in the Sanctuary until the conclusion of Children's Time.

Then, parents of preschoolers escort their children to Room 121, and children grades K-5 meet outside the Sanctuary. The teachers will escort elementary children to their classrooms.

Parents, please pick your children up from their designated location following the service.



SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH GROUP: If you are a teen, we have something for YOU! Youth (grades 6-12) are welcome to participate in our Sunday Morning Youth Group that happens at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday. Join our Youth Director and leaders in the Youth basement for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth that are fun and relevant to students!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUPS—Please join us.

- 9:30 a.m.** Serendipity Class—Village Commons;
Upper Room Class—Upper Room (Room 235)
- 10:55 a.m.** Open Hearts Class—Village Commons

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Prelude Variations on Angels We Have Heard on High by Michael Helman
Karen Stody, organ

Welcome Rev. Brad Laurvick
Rev. Cynthia Paquette

Advent Candle Lighting *Light One Candle* by Natalie Sleeth
Sanctuary Choir and Congregation

*Music for Reflection *See Amid the Winter's Snow* by Dan Forrest
Kerry Miller, soprano • Karen Stody, piano

*Call to Worship 9:30 Colleen Bell
11:00 Jerry Wiese

*Hymn of Praise *Love Has Come* W&S #3059

Chorus (9:30) *Away In A Manger* UMH #217
Children's Message Barb Grauberger
Chorus (9:30) *Away In A Manger* UMH #217

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Anthem *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. P. Wohlgemuth
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Luke 1:26-33,39-41

Sermon Christmas Together – Cookies

Offering Our Gifts to God

Giving to God through First Church:

1. Give online at fcfumc.net.
2. Check or cash. All loose one dollar bills go to those in need.
3. Offering your time, talents, gifts, service and witness.

Offertory *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. John Barr
Karen Stody, organ

*Doxology *Angels We Have Heard On High* UMH #238

*Sending Prayer

*Hymn of Dedication *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* UMH #218

*Benediction

Postlude *Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell* by Gerald Near
Karen Stody, organ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Christmas Services 2023

Blue Christmas Service -

A service for anyone who is stressed, lonely, or hurting. A reflective service in the sanctuary that creates space for all the feelings and realities of life.

***Sunday, Dec. 17th, 7pm**

Christmas Eve Services - Dec. 24th

Children and Families - *9:30am and *2pm

Traditional - 11am

Candlelight - *5pm, and 7pm

***Online Livestream Service Available**



christmasevefortcollins.com

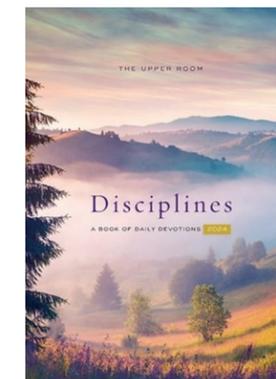
First Church Community Personal Information and Picture Update



You are important to us, and we want to remain connected with you. Please scan the QR code to update your personal information and picture so your church community can get to know you better, your records are updated on First Church Database, and you are in the New Church Pictorial Directory.

Greeters Needed on Christmas Eve

Each Christmas Eve, First Church welcomes many. This year, we have worship services at **9:30 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM, 5 PM, and 7 PM**. If you feel welcomed the first time you stepped into the church building, you might want to consider being welcoming to our church community and guests by volunteering to be a Greeter. Greeters greet, hand out candles and bells to people who come through the entrances. All ages are welcome to greet. You can greet as a family. Children younger than 10 need to be accompanied by an adult. Follow the link on the QR code to get signed up.



The Upper Room Disciplines 2024:

A Book of Daily Devotions is available. Contact Rev. Cynthia via Email or call the church office to purchase and pick up one.

Cost: \$14 each.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

USHERS/COMMUNION SERVERS:

9:30 Pam Raab, Jeff Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Lois Quintana

11:00 Mary Ann Michels, Eric Wilkinson

WORSHIP CARE TEAM MEMBER: Anne Moyer

Life Together - Parenting Group

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in the Children's Ministry Wing

Looking for a judgment free zone and a supportive parenting environment? This might be the group for you! Join us anytime that works for you! We meet at 10:45 a.m. in the Club 4/5 classroom upstairs in the children's wing for 45 minutes to an hour. **Childcare is provided.** I am looking forward to creating a community of support and friendship where we grow together, while supporting our First Kids. This group will be a drop in, no preparation group. Each week we will view, read or listen to something that might make your parenting easier or better! We will discuss and also have time to make connections and create a village of support for each other. Our group covers all ages and stages of childhood development.

Questions? Contact Barb Grauberger at childrensdirector@fcfumc.net



New Life Together Group - Songs For Life Join us

11am-noon on Sundays in Rhythm Road classroom at the far east end of the education wing on the 2nd floor starting **Today**. Come sing seasonal favorites!

United Women in Faith

Red Feather Woman will present an afternoon of Native American music and storytelling. All women of the church are invited to join us for this special celebration on **Sunday, December 10th from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at Christ United Methodist Church**

COMMUNICATE REQUEST FORM

If you have an announcement to include in the Sunday bulletin, please submit the details by Wednesday before, using the QR code:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE ADVENT STUDY: THE COSMIC CHRIST

Sign Up using this QR code:



LIVE SESSIONS:

Monday, December 11th (11 AM MST)

Monday, December 18th (11 AM MST)

ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS: You can participate fully without being present at any specific time. Replays are available on the Class Resource Page.

COST: A course like this is typically offered for \$125 or more, but we invite you to contribute whatever you can to help make this possible for everyone!

Civic Academy: Wage Theft

Some \$700 million in wages are stolen from Coloradans every year. Sign up today in Fellowship Hall or contact David Reid to attend the Civic Academy in **Denver 6:30-8 p.m. December 13 at 2830 Lawrence Street. Rides available.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2024 Altar Flower Calendar is up in **the administrative offices hallway**. Now is the time to choose a Sunday to remember, honor or celebrate a loved one by purchasing flowers for the altar. Instructions can be found on the wall next to the calendar.

Faith Community Nurses- Monthly Blood Pressure Clinic

Your Faith Community Nurses are having their Free Monthly Blood Pressure Clinic coming up next **Sunday, December 17th**. It will take place between services in the **Gathering Place**. Come on by!

United Women in Faith

Join the United Women in Faith on **Thursday, December 14, at 11:20 in the Parlor**. The Leadership Team will be providing assorted Christmas goodies and other food items. Enjoy Sandy Meyers' piano performance, including Christmas Carols.

Questions? Call Karen Waldron at 970-219-0898

or Ellen Bode at 970-484-8231

Connect With Our Pastors

Rev. Brad Laurvick
Lead Pastor
brad@fcfumc.net

Rev. Cynthia Paquette
Pastor of Congregational Engagement
c.paquette@fcfumc.net

First United Methodist Church

1005 Stover Street • Fort Collins, CO 80524 • (970) 482-2436



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Traditions & Relationships
that feel like home...

December 10, 2023

You are most welcome at First Church.

We are a fully inclusive, deeply relational community inviting all people to experience God's presence today.

Sunday Worship Services are at 9:30 and 11:00.

There are many opportunities for spiritual growth and connection for all ages.

Thank you for joining us today!