

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 *Noel* by Louis-Claude Daquin
Dr. Joel Bacon, organist

Welcome Rev. Cynthia Paquette
Rev. Lonnie Eakle

*Music for Reflection *Joy to the World* arr. Galbraith and Ohlson
(Unspeakable Joy)
Faythe, Ava, and Lily Payant

*Call to Worship 9:30 Caroline Barkoskie
11:00 Cindi Ross-Bell

*Hymn of Praise *We Three Kings of Orient Are* UMH #254

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 *Brightest and Best* by Shawn Kirchner
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon "Into the Future by a Different Way" Rev. Lonnie Eakle

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Schlafe, mein Liebster, genieße der Ruh by J.S. Bach
Susanna Jacobson, mezzo-soprano

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 *We Three Kings* by Rebecca te Velde
Dr. Joel Bacon, organist

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

*Sending Prayer

*Hymn of Dedication *The First Noel* UMH #245
(vs 1,3,5)

*Benediction

Postlude *Now is Salvation Come* by J. P. Sweelinck
Dr. Joel Bacon, organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebration of Ministry - All Church Gathering

Join us **3-4 p.m. Sunday, January 21st** as we celebrate the ministry of the last year and look forward to all God will do through First Church in the year to come. Discover amazing ministries you may not have encountered before. It will be a fun-filled affair with "awards show energy." Dessert will be shared after.

Learning about Human Trafficking

Join us for the United Women in Faith's Unit Meeting on **Thursday, January 11, at 11:20 in the Parlor**. Our focus for this month is human trafficking. Our speaker will be Lisa Christopherson, founder and CEO of Beauty Renewed and UCount Marketplace. She will be speaking to us about the progress we are making in Ft Collins to address this issue and sharing some stories of local survivors and how they are recovering in our city. Lunch will be served. A \$5 donation is asked of members only. Questions? Contact Julie Wilson at 970-226-5925 or JoAnn Hopkins at 970-222-5925.

The Meaning of Christ for Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Join us as we dive into the question Dietrich Bonhoeffer asked all across his life, "Who is Christ for us today?" Because we live in a more theologically diverse time, we will look at ways he might advise us on how to relate to persons of different beliefs. **We'll meet January 14, 21, and 28, from 9:30 - 10:30 in the Parlor**. If you have questions, please call Diane Peterson at 970-282-3644.

Faith Family Network Sign Up

It's almost time again to welcome unhoused families at our church! **Our guests will be here January 28 to February 4, and sign-ups begin this weekend**. As we temporarily bring them into our community, we need help! Some shifts are family friendly (dinner preparation), some can be done at home (laundry), some are very social (evening hosts), some are fun (child care Tuesday evenings), and some even let you sleep on the job (overnight hosts). And all the evening shifts include dinner! We are also looking for food donations to feed our guests. So look for the white board at the Missions Table in Fellowship Hall between services, or scan the QR code for the shifts that you want. Email Robin Norell at RNorell@gmail.com with questions. Thank you for your hospitality!



Exploring First Church

We here at First Church are excited to see so many new faces and meet so many new people on Sundays. We are here to help new people get plugged in. Would you like to learn more about Methodism in general and First Church in particular? Are you considering membership in this vibrant community of faith? If so, Rev. Brad and Rev. Cynthia invite you to attend the Exploring First Church session at **noon on January 21 in the Parlor**. We will have a light lunch followed by a session on Methodism and the many ministries to be involved in at First Church. You will also have a virtual tour of the church building.

Please email Gail Wells at membership@fcfumc.net, or call 970-482-2436 ext. 111 by January 17 if you plan to attend. **Childcare will be provided but must be reserved by January 17.**

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

USHERS/COMMUNION SERVERS:

9:30 Judy Kinner, Randie Bell, Gavin Diaz and Issac Schwartz,
Simon and Lukas Helin

11:00 Eric Wilkinson, Lisa Koepke

WORSHIP CARE TEAM MEMBER: Susan Massa

ALTAR FLOWERS: Today's altar flowers are given by Emily Anderson in memory of Ernie Martz's heavenly 90 birthday and the pink rose is given by Dennis and Diana Grant in celebration of the birth of their granddaughter.

Christmas Decoration Take Down - Help Wanted

It's that time once again! **Join us today at noon** to help take down the Christmas decorations.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Knit-In

We will be meeting **Saturday, January 13, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor**. Beginners and/or experienced knitters and crocheters are welcome. Mentors and materials will be available.

Special Movie Viewing - January 17 and 24

"SABBATH: An Ancient Practice Meets the Modern World"

A 2-hour documentary created by Journey Films

Feeling rushed, overwhelmed, constantly in motion, overcommitted, tired? Did you set a goal to take more time to relax, rejuvenate, spend quality time with family, friends, yourself, and God? Interested in taking a dive into a deeper understanding of Exodus 20: 8-11 and the practice of Sabbath.

Bring family and friends and join the Adult Faith Formation Committee in the viewing of "SABBATH". Told as a collection of short stories encompassing many faith practices **SABBATH** explores the history of one of the world's most important spiritual practices and its timeless relevance for a stressed-out, modern world. **SABBATH** ties together our collective history, our health practices, our response to God's invitation and the search for a more sustainable way of life.

When: January 17th 6:30-8:00 p.m. **SABBATH** Part 1

January 24th 6:30-8:00 p.m. **SABBATH** Part 2

Where: The Parlor

Facilitators: Sandy Merriweather and Whitney Pennington

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

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 in the First Church Database, and you are in the New Church Pictorial Directory.



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.

2024 SPRING SPEAKER SERIES

Writing Stories & Writing Your Own Story

Speaker: Jill Phipps (writing as Jill Haymaker)

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 6:30 – 8 PM

You are invited to join one of our very own, **Jill Phipps/Jill Haymaker** (jillhaymaker.com), regular contributor of Chicken Soup for the Soul books and popular clean romance writer of the Peakview Series, The Aspen Ridge Series, Peaktop Dude Ranch Series, and Montana Pines Series, for an evening of desert and fun learning about **"Writing Stories and Writing Your Own Story"**.

Dessert and book signing is from 6:30 – 7 p.m.. Jill speaks from 7-8 p.m..

Jill's books will be available for purchase.

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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January 7, 2024

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!