



## Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week & Easter at First Church

**Easter Egg Hunt**—Saturday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.

**Palm Sunday**—March 25

\*Worship services: 8:00 a.m., Chapel; 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. , Sanctuary

**Maundy Thursday**—March 29

\*Service of Holy Communion: 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

**Good Friday**—March 30

\*Tenebrae Service: 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

**Easter Sunday**—April 1

\*Worship Services: 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

\*nursery available

(Church office and building closed on Monday, April 2)

## Lent Sermon Series

### Transformed: Encounters with the Divine

March 4—"Changed by Christ: Mary Magdalene" Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:40-41

March 11—"Changed by Christ: The Nobodies" John 5:1-11; John 8:1-11

March 18—"Changed by Christ: Judas" Psalm 51:1-10; Matthew 26: 14-16, 47-50; 27:3-5

March 25—Palm/Passion Sunday "Changed by Christ: Pilate" Mark 11:1-11; 15:1-15

April 1—Easter Sunday "Forever Changed by Christ" John 20:1-18; Acts 10:34-43

## Peaks and Plains District Conference



Please join us on Saturday, March 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Loveland (533 Grant Avenue) for the Peaks and Plains District Conference. We will gather in person and electronically with laity and clergy from 15 locations across Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming to participate in this opportunity to explore how we will develop the Beloved Community we've been envisioning. Together, we seek to become MOUNTAIN MOVERS: Cultivating Beloved Community.

The keynote speaker is Christian Peele, Executive Minister of Institutional Advancement at The Riverside Church in New York City. She will speak about the meaning (and purpose) of Christian stewardship. We will also experience a powerful worship time lead by our own Bishop Karen Oliveto. Let us have good representation from First Church!

### Children's Ministry at First Church

by Barb Grauberger, Interim Director of Children's Ministries

Every Sunday, I feel lucky to be able to spend a little bit of time with the children and families of this church. What a treasure trove of Sunday school students, teachers, and shepherds we have at First Church!

Since January, at the kindergarten through fifth grade level we have been studying a new curriculum called ORANGE that is focused on strengthening the faith we learn at our church by reinforcing that at home with families. In January we talked about **commitment**, in February we talked about **kindness**, and in March we will focus on **peace**. The preschoolers are continuing to learn about God through the Deep Blue curriculum.

In addition, March will include a special focus on the Lenten season. I am looking forward to helping them explore what Lent is all about. The annual Easter egg hunt will take place on March 24 at 10 a.m., and we will finish the month of March with the anticipation of Easter **Sunday** on April 1.

## Message from Melanie

Once a week for five weeks about 30 people in our church gathered to discuss the book ***Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To*** by Rev. Lillian Daniel. It is a thought provoking book. She describes the type of people who have been alienated, hurt or bored by the church, and their number is growing. She also addresses the ever-increasing group of the Nones. As defined by the Pew Research Center, the Nones are those who describe themselves as having no religious affiliation at all. Yet in many cases, they are spiritually curious, longing for connection and community, and they do find their way to church occasionally. We are fortunate that every single week visitors attend First Church, and they run the gamut from familiarity with the faith to having no faith at all.

I am very curious as to what their experience is when they visit our church. Are they warmly welcomed and inspired? What overriding message do we convey through our worship, hospitality, and relationships? Does any of this matter to an outsider? If so, why? Do we behave as if we know the God we claim to worship? Do we make that God seem appealing and worth knowing?

As we move into our next season of ministry, I am confident that a promising future is possible for a church like ours. It will depend upon how much we are willing to risk, adapt, and understand those who may not share our assumptions and traditions. It will depend upon how we are able to connect with those who visit our church and those who never will. It will be about relationship building, listening, and offering evidence of lives transformed for the good. We will be in uncharted territory.

While we do need to reach those outside of our church, the fact is that more folks will be visiting us as we approach Holy Week and Easter. Please be attentive to the newcomers in our midst and seek out someone you do **not** know before you catch up with those you do. Consider how hard it is to visit a church for the first time, which can be a bewildering and lonely experience. As a District Superintendent, I visited many churches and found some to be terribly unwelcoming, more like private clubs than the body of Christ. Those folks were endlessly kind to each other, but had no interest in welcoming a stranger who might need some support and kindness, as well.

As we move toward the great festival of Easter let us remember that we are about new life, and so many people are desperate for new life. Let us be passionate about living as if the Christian story has made a tangible difference in our lives. In the words of Rev. Daniel: "...religious communities are varied, rich and changing, but still way too much of a secret. I wish more people knew how good religious community can be when it is reasonable, rigorous and real." Let us share the secret about what a wonderful and promising community of faith this is.

*Dr. Melanie Rosa*

Lead Pastor



**Welcoming Affirming Reconciling Methodists**  
present

## **Continue the Journey**

**Wednesday Evenings**

**March 7 and March 14**

**6:45 to 8:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**March 7, What Does the Bible Say?** Facilitator—Dr. Melanie Rosa

**March 14, Getting to Know PFLAG**, a national organization for parents and families of LGBTQ+ loved ones.

First Church became a Reconciling Congregation in 2015. We, with God's help and love in our hearts, are on a journey together to welcome, affirm, reconcile, and exemplify.

**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS.**

## **What is the Prayer Shawl Ministry?**

by Elva Alden

Our ministry was started here at First Church in the spring of 2007 with a few enthusiastic knitters and crocheters. We were inspired to begin our group by the Prayer Shawl Ministry's originators, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo from Hartford, Connecticut. Their ministry began in 1998.

We happily gather the third Saturday of each month in the Parlor from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. as we work on shawls to be given to those in need of comfort and care as well as those who would like to use the shawls when they pray. Prayer Squares are available at the Welcome Center, at the Kids' Closet, and are given to children who attend Vacation Bible School.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Do I need to know how to knit or crochet?** Beginners are welcome. We have willing hands to guide you, needles ready, and lovely yarns from which to choose. Beginners often start by creating small Prayer Squares.

**Must I commit to attend every monthly knit-in?** You may work from home, but we do have such good camaraderie at our monthly knit-ins that you may become reluctant to miss.

**Are the shawls only for our church members?** Shawls are lovingly and freely given to anyone who has a need for caring and comfort. Please contact the church office to choose a shawl for someone in need.

**Is this ministry only for women?** *Anyone* is welcome—young, old, women, men, boys, and girls. We are always open to new friends joining us. Watch the Sunday bulletins for details about monthly Knit-ins.



# Youth Ministry Update

by Rebecca Dunagan, Director of Youth Ministries

**Many exciting things are happening in our youth group. We kicked-off Confirmation classes with a great retreat at Buckhorn camp in February. We have 18 students in the class and 9 student mentors. You won't want to miss worship on Mother's day as these inspiring young people join our church. We continue to meet on Sunday evening for youth group as well as serve the church in various capacities on Sunday mornings. Don't forget to stop by and thank a student the next time you enjoy coffee in Fellowship Hall after the services. It's been a wonderful 8 months getting to know the students and building relationships in the group. We are looking forward to a summer filled with mission trips and youth conferences. If you would like more information about the youth group or you would like to get involved, please email Rebecca at [youth@fcfume.com](mailto:youth@fcfume.com).**



## World Wisdoms Project

Exploring Universal Truths.  
Discovering Spiritual Transformation.

by David Reid, Director of Adult Faith Formation

Two speakers familiar to many at First Church will discuss “Integrating the Inner Dynamics of East and West: Next Step in Human Evolution” at 6:30 p.m. March 6 in the Parlor. Michael Abdo and Jim Reid will look at the work of theologian Raimon Panikkar in this World Wisdoms Project program.

Recharge graphic here

*This Child of Faith: Raising a Spiritual Child in a Secular World* is the Recharge late-shift offering for 5 weeks at 7 p.m. beginning Feb. 28. The memoir from novelist Sophronia Scott tells the heartfelt story of faith formation in the shadow of the Newtown school shootings. The Wednesday noon book study will also study this book. David Reid facilitates discussions. Books: \$12.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

by Beverly Winsett, UMW Communications Coordinator

On March 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor, all women of the church are invited to join the United Methodist Women for lunch, a program, and fellowship. Circle Ruth will be hosting the lunch, and the program will be given on the Legacy Fund by Myrna Prentice, former president of the United Methodist Women for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

The Legacy Fund will be a permanent endowment that is being established over a five-year period leading up to the 150 year anniversary of the beginning of UMW on a dark and stormy night in Boston. The money raised during this period will ensure the mission of United Methodist Women continues for another 150 years and beyond. Members are encouraged to give above and beyond their normal pledges, and they may give in memory or honor of someone.

Yes, legacy is looking back at what we have inherited, but it is also looking ahead and deciding what kind of legacy we wish to leave for those who come after us.



THE LEGACY FUND  
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Please visit our website at [www.fcfumc.net](http://www.fcfumc.net) to sign up to receive all our publications online, as well as our weekly E-News. (Click Media/Communications to sign up.) You may also click the link called “In Our Prayers” to receive updates on recent deaths.

# Foundation Announces 2018 Grant Program

by Judy Sayre Grim

The 2018 Grant Program of the Foundation for the First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins will begin March 1. Grant money is available for church committees and groups for programs, equipment and services that are typically not funded through the church operating budget. The Foundation was begun in 1986 and has distributed approximately \$350,000 in grant money since that time.

## Grant Application Timeline

**March 1-30:** Grant applications may be picked up in the church office. Applications will also be placed in committee mailboxes.

**March 30 Deadline:** Completed grant applications must be returned to the church office with the necessary signatures and placed in the Foundation mailbox.

**April 25 Review:** The Foundation Board will review each application and determine this year's grant recipients.

**May 2-4 Notification:** Grant applicants will be notified as to the status of their application.

The Foundation Board will review each application to determine if the request should be fully funded, partially funded, or not funded. In general, the total amount requested for all grants far exceeds the funds available.

Each grant application requires signature approval and the signatures must be obtained prior to submission to the Foundation. Unsigned applications will not be considered for funding.

If you would like additional information about the Foundation Grant Program please contact Judy Sayre Grim at [JudySayreGrim@gmail.com](mailto:JudySayreGrim@gmail.com)

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to help the Foundation grow in capability please contact Rick Norton at [RickNorton14@msn.com](mailto:RickNorton14@msn.com) or John Allum at [allumjr@msn.com](mailto:allumjr@msn.com).



## We Welcome Catherine Pawlikowski as Membership Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator

Catherine is a long time member of First Church where she was also baptized and confirmed. As Membership Secretary, Catherine will perform all the membership administrative duties. If you need any changes made to your personal record, feel free to contact Catherine. As Volunteer Coordinator, Catherine will gather volunteer opportunities from different ministries and committees and advertise them so people can volunteer. Catherine will not be personally finding the volunteers herself. In addition to this position, Catherine also serves First Church as a Lead Teacher for our Mom's Day Out program, is one of two First Church Lay Representatives to the Annual Conference, and plays handbells. Catherine is married to Bob Pawlikowski and she has two children, Sarah and Matthew. Catherine can be contacted by e-mail at [membership@fcfumc.net](mailto:membership@fcfumc.net), phone at (970)482-2436 ext. 11 or in person at the Church Office on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings.



# BACK TO LIFE

3 | 18, 25

6-8 PM |  
YOUTH WING

WHEN LIFE GETS HARD AND THINGS DON'T TURN OUT THE WAY WE HOPED, IT'S EASY TO BELIEVE THAT GOD IS DISTANT AND THAT OUR STORY IS OVER. BUT EASTER REMINDS US THAT JUST THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE. THROUGH EASTER WE'LL DISCOVER THAT JESUS IS A GOD WHO ISN'T DISTANT AND HASN'T ABANDONED US. IN FACT, GOD'S ALWAYS WORKING TO BRING OUR STORIES BACK TO LIFE.



by Diana Burkholder, Community and World Mission

## UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) Sunday, March 4, 2018

For more than 75 years, the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** has helped children, families, communities, and countries in crisis across the United States and around the world.

**UMCOR Sunday** Special Offering funds the administrative and operational expenses associated with UMCOR's relief efforts. This allows UMCOR to keep its promise that **100 percent of designated donations** will go directly to disaster relief efforts.

When war, conflict, natural or man-made disasters disrupt life to such an extent the communities cannot recover on their own, UMCOR is there to help. Over the years, UMCOR has assisted in more than 80 countries. Currently, there are more than 50 active UMCOR relief and humanitarian efforts locally and internationally. Depending on the challenge, UMCOR may provide water, shelter, clothes, building materials & supplies, funding, training, and expertise. Additionally volunteers donate time and money, build kits and buckets; help at an UMCOR Depot (Baldwin, LA or Salt Lake City, UT), work with a group at their conference's Hub Church (ours is Johnstown FUMC); or go through special training and work at a disaster site.

Please help UMCOR to continue being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ with a donation on UMCOR Sunday. Together, we do more. Thank you.



# Love is in the Air Here at First Church

Kate Norton, Lay Leader

Valentine's Day is now over. The cards have been put away and the chocolate has been eaten. But the spreading of kind words and gifts is not over. What is so special about First Church is that this season of love lasts all year long! Because of the kind and generous people at this church who have donated countless hours and financial support, love and joy are given to not just those who they know personally, but to total strangers who, more than ever, need to know they are not alone. This love is not demonstrated with cards and chocolate, but rather by feeding the hungry, providing shelter to homeless families, building homes for people without permanent shelter, supporting underprivileged children at schools, visiting the sick and homebound, and providing a welcoming environment for all people, no matter their background, beliefs, or personal identification.

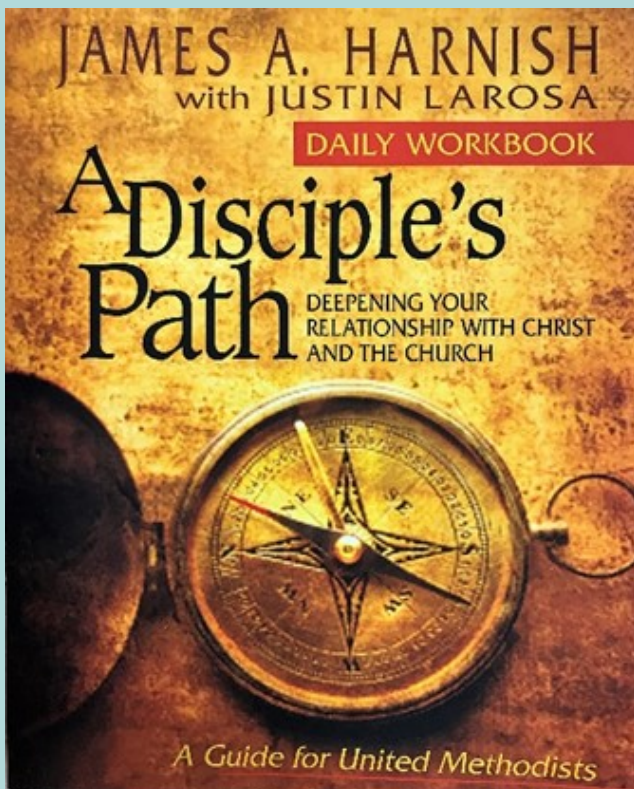
First Church also provides an abundance of opportunities to learn and explore so that we all can grow closer to God and discover our own personal paths to peace and happiness in an accepting and open environment. This is all an expression of love that the wonderful people of this church give every day, all year long.... out of the kindness of their hearts. What a blessing to be a part of this kind and loving community.

## Discipleship Study

A new study for all who want to learn what it means to follow Jesus - to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

- What does it mean to follow Jesus? What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus in the Methodist tradition?
- What are the specific practices that will help you grow into the likeness of Christ and become a part of God's transformation of the world?
- How can you discover your unique gifts and become engaged in transforming ministry in the world, and what role does the church play in the process?

Two weekly classes will be offered on Thursdays (noon – 1:30 p.m. or 6:30 - 8 p.m.) starting on April 5 for six weeks. Please sign up on Sundays at the Adult Faith Formation table in the Fellowship Hall or e-mail Rev. Cynthia Paquette at [c.paquette@fcfumc.net](mailto:c.paquette@fcfumc.net).



Address Service Requested



**We remember with sympathy the families of ...**

December 21 — Howard Johnson

January 18 — Audreta Pape

December 22 — Juanita Howard

January 22 — Coralie Potter

## First Church Revue

by Mike Kohler, Marketing and Communications Advisory Team

It's here! The celebration you've been waiting for. The first (hopefully not the last) **"First Church Revue!"**

The **"First Church Revue,"** to be held March 4 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, welcomes the entire congregation to enjoy a complimentary warm-from-the-oven dinner and a lively show full of comedy and entertainment.

We'll celebrate the success highlights of 2017 and look ahead to a 2018 that promises to be even brighter. And you'll enjoy a surprise guest or two – so don't miss it!

