

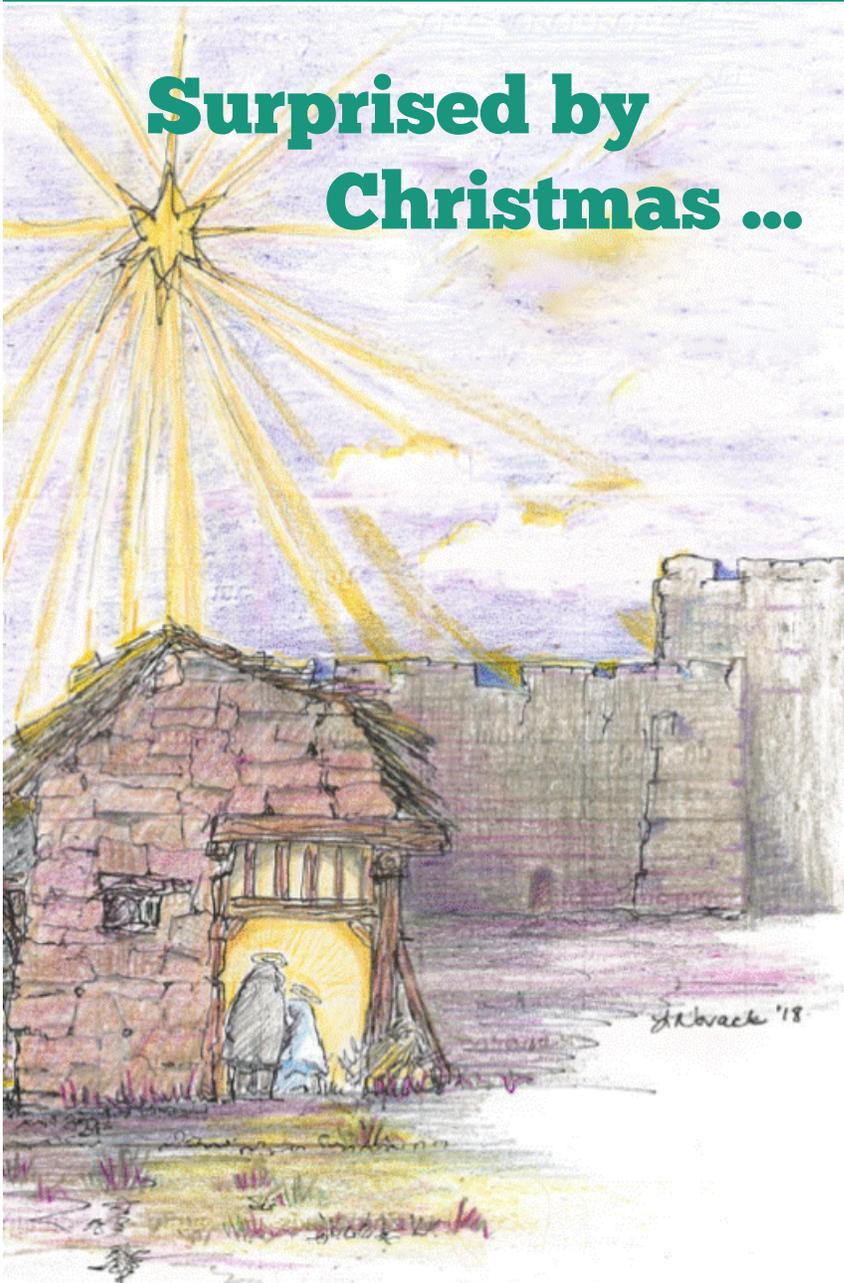
THE CARILLON

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2018 • Volume 24 • Issue 12



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2018



Surprised by Christmas ...

Saturday, December 1

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Children's Choir Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8, 9:30, 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.
Advent Workshop - Noon - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5

Children's Choir Musical - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8, 9:30, 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.
Caroling - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

NO 8 a.m. SERVICE

Handel's Messiah with members of Fort Collins
Symphony and Guest Soloists
Joy - A Gospel Christmas Celebration - 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 23

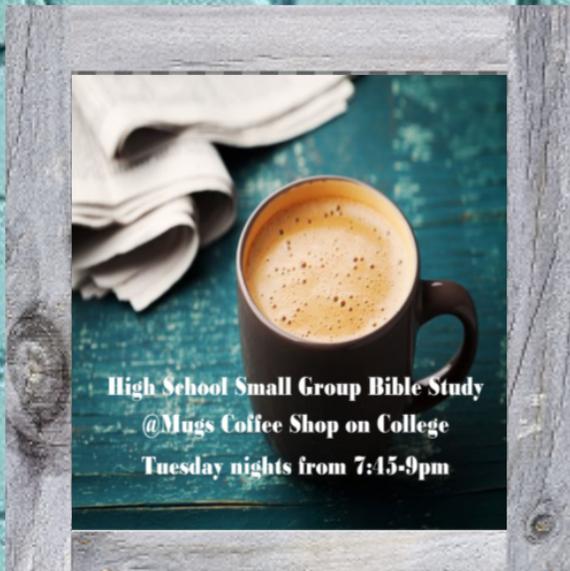
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.
NO 5 p.m. WORSHIP

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services at 2, 5, 7, and 11 p.m.

First Youth News



Check us out on Instagram @firstyouthfc

MESSAGE FROM DR. MELANIE ROSA, LEAD PASTOR

***“Christmas comes, as it always does,
with the assurance that life is good.”***

-Howard Thurman



We all need a reminder that life is good, and that is one of the gifts of Christmas. This mysterious human life, with all of its challenges, lessons and opportunities is blessed by God in the most personal and stunning way. By becoming human God acted first, which then inspired human faith. God reached out in humility and gentleness, and ever since we have been attempting to formulate our understanding of what that gift really means.

Rather than staying aloof in some distant Heavenly realm, God decided to enter our reality by leaving the gift of divine incarnation at our feet. It is a gift which invites, but does not demand a response from us. It is the gift of God's love freely given, without requiring ours in return, any more than a newborn baby can compel devotion from her parents. During Advent we prepare to receive that gift once again, a gift that is not really ours to keep, but ours to cherish, learn from and share.

Please plan to join us during this sacred season as we examine the ways in which the gift of Jesus and his birth come as a surprise, even after all these years. We have some outstanding events planned during Advent and hope you will invite your family and friends to join us. If you are unable to be with us in person, please know that you are with us in spirit, and you are not forgotten. Most of all, make room in your life to receive the gift of God's own self that has been laid at your feet. Allow yourself to be renewed, refreshed and even transformed by that gift. For Christmas returns, as it always does, with its assurance that life is good. A most blessed and holy Christmas, my friends.

Dr. Melanie Rosa



VIETNAM BIG BUILD MISSION TRIP

Thank You Very Much to all who supported the Vietnam Big Build Mission Team! Through your support we were able to help build Mr. Nguyen Van Tuan's house with him. In the process we built new relationships with the local Vietnamese people and other volunteers, learn from others, listen to their stories and share in this most meaningful experience. Together, the 230 of us from all over the world not only used tools to build 21 houses in Dong Thap, we joined together in love to help build homes. In January, we will have a post mission presentation where we will be sharing our stories and pictures of this short-term mission trip. Look out for the date!



December Sermon Series: "Surprised by Christmas"

December 2—First Sunday of Advent/Communion
"Surprised by Christmas: Mary"

December 9—Second Sunday of Advent
"Surprised by Christmas: Joseph"

December 16—Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Music Sunday
No 8:00 service
9:30 and 11:00—The Messiah
5:00 p.m. - Joy - A Gospel Christmas Celebration

December 23—Fourth Sunday of Advent
"Surprised by Christmas: The Shepherds"
No 5:00 service

December 24—Christmas Eve
2:00, 5:00, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. Worship
"Surprised by Christmas"

December 30—First Sunday after Christmas
"Surprised by Jesus"
No 5:00 service

CAROLING - December 9 - 2 p.m.

Come and join other FUMC members in singing Christmas carols to our home bound, assisted living and nursing home church members .



Meet Sunday 9 December, 2 p.m. in South parking lot. All ages welcome. Will return by 4:30 PM to enjoy hot chocolate served by church Cub and Boy Scouts.

For more information contact Joe Winsett at joewinsett@gmail.com

Celebrate Christmas with Faith Family Hospitality

FFH hosts our fifth week this year from December 23 through December 30. Share the spirit of Christmas as we host four families experiencing homelessness at our church. Volunteer to cook a meal or spend time with the families as an evening or overnight host. Try out a Christmas craft or read a story with the children. See Bonny Thomas and Elaine Andersen at the Mission Corner on Sunday mornings to sign up or email elaine.andersen@colostate.edu with questions.



Year End Giving Opportunities

While tax laws have changed, there are many ways you can make gifts to support your church. Even with the changes, making a gift can still have tax benefits.

- 1. IRA Rollover Gift.** If you are 70 ½ or older, you can avoid extra taxable income this year by making a gift from your IRA.
- 2. Gift of Securities.** Donate old stock (with a low basis) that has appreciated in the rising market and avoid the tax on those capital gains.
- 3. Life Insurance Gift.** Eliminate an old or unneeded life insurance policy by making a gift of the cash balance to support the work of your church.
- 4. Life Income Gift.** Create a Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust and receive lifetime payments.
- 5. Charitable Bequest.** Provide for a legacy gift to the church in your will that costs you nothing today. (Omit 2nd sentence about 10%? or change to Consider tithing the first 10% of your estate to the church.)

Before trying any of the above, it is recommended that you speak to your financial or legal advisor about these and other options. Future generations of our church would be blessed by your generosity.

NOV. 23 - DEC. 16
FRI 5PM - 8 PM, SAT & SUN 9AM - 7PM

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

• TREE •

DRAKE CENTRE
802 W. DRAKE RD.

FRESH TREES AND WREATHS : SALES BENEFIT : MANY SIZES AND PRICES
: BOY SCOUT TROOP 83

Advent Workshop 2018

Crafts, Food, Music, and Carriage Rides!

(Carriage Rides until 3 p.m.)

When: Sunday, December 2 from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Where: Christmas and winter-themed crafts are set up at different stations throughout fellowship hall. Pizza and other food are available in the parlor. (Donation suggested)

Cost: Please bring a dozen cookies!

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www.fcumc.net

Family Friendly Fun for All!

Want to help?
Contact Jayme Harper (jaymeandcory@gmail.com) or
Laurie Elliott Laurie (elliott1@msn.com)
Or visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084baba72ba02-advent2>



Visioning Team

The Visioning Team has worked hard this year. Together we have considered the history of our church, the distinctive things about our church, distributed a congregational survey, gathered community data and demographics, and discerned of where we believe God is calling us to go in the days ahead.

This work has been done with faithfulness and integrity. The result is a new Mission and Vision Statement.

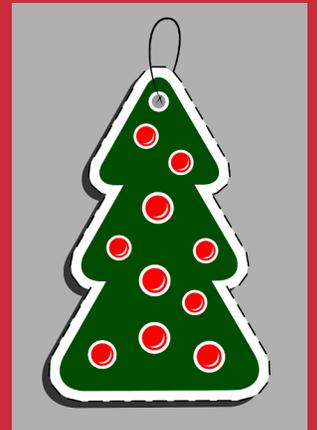
Mission: **Discover God's Love: Inspire Hope Grow in Faith Serve with Joy**

Vision: **First Church: An inclusive, deeply relational community inviting all people to experience God's presence today**

Many thanks to the Visioning Team: Martha Conant, Joe Settle, Heidi Priebe, Rebecca Dunagan, Gerry Sampson, Janet Krech, Kate Norton, David Adkins, Deborah Kohler, David Reid, and Revs. Cynthia and Melanie.

FUMC PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

As part of FUMC's mission we see our preschool as a way to live out the message of God's love in the community. This Christmas season the preschool will again be helping the Larimer County Foster Adoptive Parent Association with their annual Christmas Party. Each year the LCFPA hosts a Christmas Party for 300 children currently in foster care in Larimer County. Preschool and Church families can help by supplying gifts for these special children in our community. A tree with the tags will be in the south hallway, please take a tag off the tree and gather one to three items on the list, (do not feel everything on the tag needs to be purchased), wrap them and return them with the tag attached to the tree. These gifts do not have to be purchased they just need to be gifts from the heart. You may choose as many names as you would like but they must be returned to the tree no later than **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12th**. Questions please call Preschool Director Laura Lechtenberg 970-482-0343 lauralechtenberg@fcfumc.net



Thank-you for helping these special families of our community.

THE GRIEF GROUP

The Grief Group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the Conference Room from 5 pm to 6 p.m. It is difficult to face the loss of loved ones and all of the issues encountered. The members of the group will share how they have coped with times such as holidays, birthdays and the difficult journey of loss. For more information contact jodhop@hotmail.com.

FROM LAURA LECHTENBERG, FUMC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

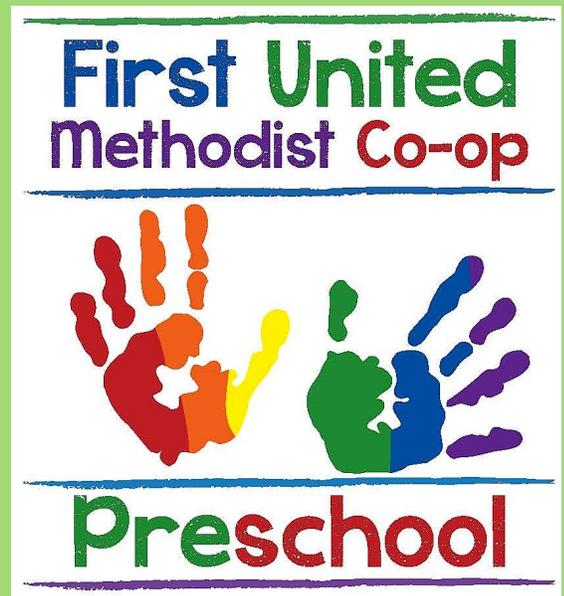
Dear Friends

I have so many emotions as I announce my decision to retire at the end of May 2019 as Director of FUMC Parent Co-op Preschool. It has been such a privilege to lead this amazing program for the last 18 years. FUMC Preschool has been an integral part of my life for 24 years, ever since I first walked through its doors with my own 3 year old. I fell in love with this magical and special place for young children. Being the Director of FUMC has been an amazing journey and I am very grateful to the members of First Church for the opportunity to serve young children and their families for the last two decades.

There are several reasons why I have made this decision at this time. My personal life is slowly changing, while the Director position was a perfect fit both personally and professionally for many years, going forward my personal life needs a different kind of flexibility. Both my adult daughters and aging parents live out of state and it is time for me to have the freedom to travel and spend more time with them. I also am ready to let go and pass leadership on to others. I have great confidence in the leadership of our Preschool Parent Advisory Board and our talented teaching staff to take the program into the future. I leave knowing that the preschool is viewed by the congregation and church leadership as a vital outreach ministry of First Church. I will treasure the remainder of the school year as I transition to the next phase in my life.

Laura Lechtenberg

FUMC Preschool Director



MUJERES DE COLORES

Christmas for the Hispanic Culture has the beautiful tradition of Celebration of POSADA. The Mujeres de Colores organization has helped the families that are unable to provide gifts for their children for this important tradition. December 22nd will be a day that we can help these families at the Street facility off of Lemay across from the Legacy church. The items we need are coats of all sizes, fun blankets, toys, teen jewelry and makeup, stuffed animal, and games. If you do not have time to shop, a check made out to Mujeres de Colores will be gladly accepted and we will do the shopping for you.

For more information email @jodhop@hotmail.com



INTRA-CULTURAL COMMUNITY BUILDERS

The Intra-cultural Community Builders Organization have been providing these workshops for over a year and schools have reported they have been very helpful. In this era of divisiveness it is important to help youth develop skills to cope with the teasing and cyber bullying. The next workshop will be December 27th -29th in Fellowship Hall. Registration Forms are attached to the poster in the East Hall.

For more information call Carol Miller @ 970 689-0226 or email jodhop@hotmail.com.

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Fort Collins, CO 80524-3849
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Merry Christmas!

Address Service Requested

We celebrate the Baptisms of:

Elliot Barton, Riley Barton, Perry Lou McKinley and Calvin McKinley.

DOUBLE NICKEL

It's time for Christmas joy at Double Nickel. Come and enjoy the spirit of Christmas with music provided by the **Sunshine Singers** and savor the best lunch in town.



December 14, noon, Fellowship Hall, \$4.

Reservations not necessary.

**Handel's
MESSIAH (Part 1)**

First United Methodist Church
1005 Stover Street • Fort Collins, CO 80524

*with members of the
Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra
and guest soloists*

Catherine Laub, Soprano • Elizabeth Frey, Mezzo Soprano
Brian Skoog, Tenor • Thomas Erik Angerhofer, Baritone

Sunday, December 16, 2018 • 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

David A. Adkins, Conductor

FREE