



The Carillon

May 2019

Volume 25

Issue 5

David Adkins, Editor

Discover God's Love

Inspire Hope • Grow in Faith • Serve With Joy

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

MESSAGE FROM MELANIE

I grew up attending Brentwood UMC in Denver, where I was confirmed and nurtured in the faith. That church was the center of our lives, my father sang in the choir and served on committees, my mother was the President of United Methodist Women. It is very meaningful to me that Rod and Mary Anderson of First Church were also at Brentwood during those years and knew my parents, my siblings, and remember me as a child (don't ask them about that!)

As we prepare for Confirmation Sunday on May 12, I have been thinking about what a precious gift my parents gave me by raising me in the church. They made sure that I knew of God's unconditional love, and that I would have an extended family of support and care. They made sure I cared about the poor and less fortunate and worked to improve their lives. They made sure I learned the virtues of disciplined generosity and service to others. They made sure that I knew that there was a spiritual dimension to human life, and that love is stronger than hatred, life victorious over death. Were there times I thought church was boring and irrelevant? Of course. Were there times I doubted the existence of God and questioned my faith? Absolutely. And yet throughout my life I have been eternally grateful for the gifts of faith and community that were handed down to me and first formed in that congregation.

It is vitally important that the children and youth of our congregation know how much they are loved, and that there is a God who will see them through all of the setbacks of their lives. We are their extended family, we are expected to model the highest ideals of the Christian life for them. We are blessed by outstanding staff and faithful, dedicated volunteers who nurture the faith of our children and youth on a regular basis.

Most of the time we do not even realize that we are a part of something that is so much bigger than we are. We are a link in an ongoing movement started by Jesus and continuing through our discipleship, service, and witness. What a privilege to invest in promoting faith, hope and love as we create a spiritual legacy for those who come after us.

Melanie

Dr. Melanie Rosa, Lead Pastor

Committee of the Month: Community & World Outreach

-Rich Fisher

Your church, reaches out across our community and world every year to lend a helping hand. This ambassadorship touches those experiencing each of four core insecurities essential for human life... food/water, housing, clothing and emotional/spiritual health.



Why do we do this? Is there any higher calling than to love one another? The need is great here and abroad in every one of the four categories. There is no shortage of opportunities. And besides, it's great fun, we experience lots of cultural diversity and we meet all kinds of interesting people.

Where do we do this? We start right here in our neighborhood by helping to improve the Eastside Neighborhood Park with Laurel Elementary School. We house homeless families several times a year in our church. Across town, we work at the Putnam School, the Catholic Mission, we donate to the Murphy Center and we drive a neighborhood Bookmobile around the northwest side of town. Even further afield in the west end of the county we help the Methodist camps for youth called Buckhorn and Camp Hope through our donations and teaching campers about nature. We send our members to Pine Ridge Reservation to learn about the problems faced by Native Americans, support them in times of need, and to cook and serve a Christmas dinner for many people. Within the western hemisphere, we have worked to build schools in Guatemala and built disaster relief kits for UMCOR. And furthest away we support our Covenant Missionary in West Africa while our Clean Water Project and Days-for-Girls Projects work across the continent in East Africa.

How do we do this? In some cases, our contribution to a project is purely financial while in most cases we participate. For example, our Habitat for Humanity hands-on projects here in Fort Collins and in Vietnam requires considerable time and effort by volunteers.

The bottom line is this...we sure hope you will plan to get a bit more acquainted with the whole panoply of outreach projects we sponsor at First Church. You can do this at the upcoming Mission Fair on 19 May. It will take you just a few minutes to walk through Fellowship Hall with coffee or tea in hand to get a little more information about a project you might have always wanted to learn a little more about. Who knows, you might even be moved to get involved...and that would be simply wonderful. If we all pitched in some way, there's no telling how much more we could do and how much more fun we could have together.

Double Nickel Luncheon May 10



Double Nickel Luncheon presents "How Did We Ever Get To The Moon And Back?"

The 50th anniversary of the first man walking on the moon is July 20, 2019. John Allum worked for the General Electric Company at Cape Kennedy Florida on the Apollo Space Program from March 1967 until September 1969. John was standing near the Vehicle Assembly Building at Cape Kennedy when Apollo 11 was launched and has an interesting story to tell about the 66 years from the Wright Brothers to the moon.

- **May 10 - noon**
- **Fellowship Hall.**
- **Best Lunch in town for \$4**
- **All are welcome**
- **Reservations not required**

WELCOME TO VBS!



JUNE 10TH-14TH, 2019 · 9 A.M.- 12 P.M.

Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching. Children who are 3 years of age (by September 15th, 2018), through children who have just completed 5th grade are welcome to attend. In addition, we need plenty of volunteers to make this week great!

TO REGISTER AND PAY FOR 2019 VBS OR TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE (WWW.FCFUMC.NET) AND CLICK ON MINISTRIES/ CHILDREN. THEN FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AND CLICK ON THE APPROPRIATE LINKS.

Please contact Barb Grauberger at childrensdirector@fcfumc.net with questions.



4/3/19

Habitat for Humanity Stone Soup Build

Saturday, April 6, was a beautiful day for First Church to work on the Stone Soup houses at Harmony Cottages. Some of the participants are shown in the photo below (left to right): Rev. Cynthia Paquette, Rick Norton, Bonny Thomas, Dave Rubenthaler, Robin Hause, Kay Rios, Jim Collinson, Margaret and Truman Sager. Brian Arnott (missing) was elsewhere painting another cottage. Diana Burkholder, Jan Beyer, Barbara Cline, Rev. Cynthia, and Janet Schlupé all contributed to a delicious lunch for us and other workers on the site.



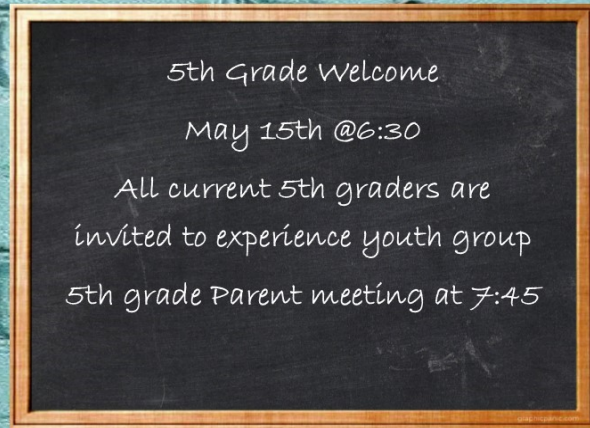
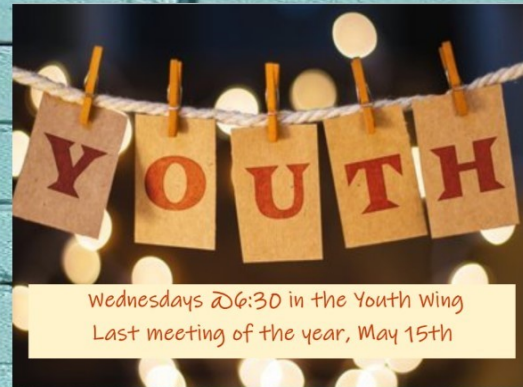
Let There Be Light!

We now have LED lighting in the Sanctuary thanks to the hard work of Trustee Chair Bill Whitaker, a generous donation from one of our First Church families, and a large rebate from the city of Fort Collins. This was done with no cost to the church, which is remarkable.

This lighting offers a far more efficient way to turn energy into light, with less heat, and will save costs and energy for the church.

Those helping with this project were: Bill Whitaker, Gerry and Dana Sampson, Dave McCowen, John Hervey, John Allum, Dale Conant, Jerry Hagar, Stan Woodring, John Benton, Cindi Ross-Bell, Joe Winsett, Ivy Taylor, Bren Shuler, Keith Metcalf, Henry Renya and Jim Doser. Many thanks!

Youth News



Believe it or Not! -Norma Cowell

On December 7, 1964, a letter was directed to be sent to architect William Robb and to Bill Brenner, who worked for Bill Robb at the time, expressing their appreciation for a job well done. Bill Brenner was the designer of the church. He is a member of First United Methodist Church.

These are the exact words of the Building Committee Chairperson, Karl Carson, written on May 4, 1964. "Believe it or not! The roof is on - even though it took a few hours of Sabbath labor - this we did not plan but who would dare stop progress on the roof after eight months of waiting." These words reflect the relief of the committee after two years of construction.

The roof of the sanctuary uses a folded plate technology, designed to enclose the large space required to seat nine hundred people. It was the most economical structural system designed to cover long distances, at that time.

Imagine the thrill of seeing the drilling and filling of the twenty seven concrete caissons, which carry the weight of the tower and sanctuary down to a layer of rock nearly twenty six feet below ground level. Twelve of these caissons support the sanctuary roof, a folded plate structure composed of forty triangular panels approximately five inches thick filled with insulation and roofed with asbestos -cement shingles, recently reroofed with asphalt shingles.

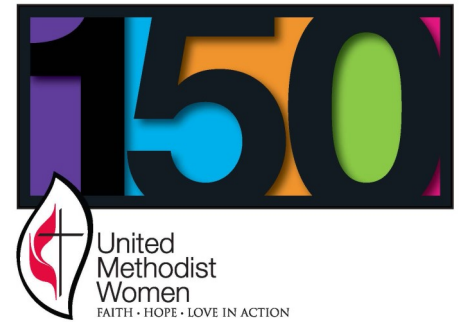
Even though the many designs and various materials within our building contribute to its unique appearance, the roof is, indeed, the most striking.

United Methodist Women

On May 9 United Methodist Women will celebrate the leadership by women in the mission field with the theme of "Women Responding and Serving in Christ's name." In our history, when women were brave to step out of the norm and change the world for the better, they were also changed. May it be so for us!

We will also have a remembrance of the yearly Prayer and Self-Denial Offering. The designated focus this year is on building a thriving generation of children and youth worldwide and those in our community. Millions of children are denied the basic rights of living a healthy, safe life with opportunities for education.

The program and business meeting will follow lunch at 11:30 in the parlor. We look forward to seeing you there!



Native American Ministries Sunday, May 5, 2019

Did you know that more than 20,000 Native American people are part of The United Methodist Church? Your gifts on Native American Ministries Sunday, May 5, 2019 help support the existing native ministries in their annual conferences and create new ones. It empowers Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus by honoring creative expressions of culture and heritage.

Fifty percent of NAMS money stays in the Annual conference to develop and 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 and the remaining 25% goes toward expansion ministries in target cities through the Native American Urban Initiative. Through our denominational connection and with our offering, we also live out our commitment to repentance, healing, forgiveness and love.



Where's the *First Church App* we've heard so much about?

The final First Church APP will be available at both the Google and Apple sites to download (free of charge) beginning May 15, 2019. The development of an app is a complicated process with a number of approvals required from Apple and Google. At last we have jumped through all the necessary hoops and our APP will be finally be available. We have been utilizing the digital portal to donate to the church since the beginning of the year, but now we will be able to download a customized app that will allow you to make contributions, sign up for events, check the calendar of events, receive push notifications and reminders of classes and events, listen to sermons, and even watch portions of our worship services on your phone. It is a huge step forward for us and we appreciate your patience as we make final tweaks in this new system even after the initial release.

When going to Google or Apple you may search for First United Methodist Church Fort Collins, First Church Fort Collins, or any combination of those key words to find and download the app.

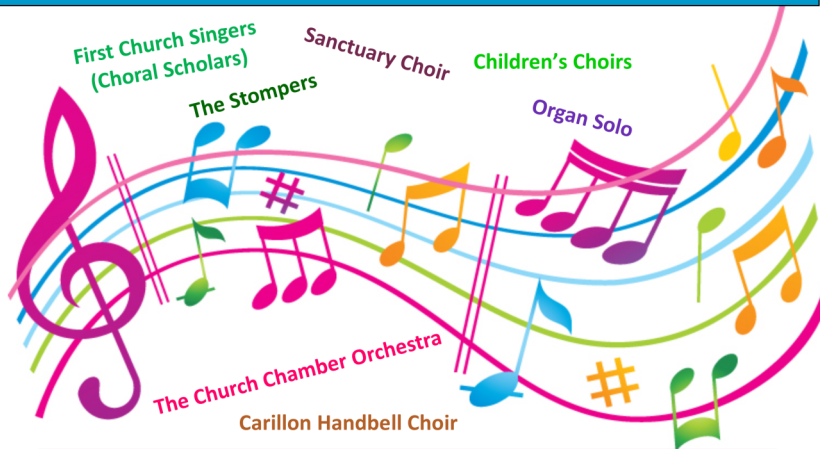
Watch "First Wire" for more information the week the App is released.

REJOICE!

A Concert of Favorite Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs
presented by
The Music Ministry of First Church

Sunday, May 5, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Please join us for our annual fund raising concert.



Enjoy an evening of great music and support the
music ministry of First Church!

All donations will be matched up to \$5,000.00!
Your \$100 donation becomes \$200!



CHURCH BOOKMOBILE NEWS FOR SUMMER 2019!

The Food Bank will bring their lunch truck
and serve free lunch to kids and teens at
our **10:45 a.m. and 11:45**

a.m. stops! Hooray! But we'll need to
change our schedule to **THURSDAYS**
June 6 – August 8. We will also make
evening stops at 6:30 a.m. and 7:15

p.m. Contact Janet Krech
225-0330, ajkrech@msn.com

-Our Newest Members- Welcome Home!



Charissa Dull



Margaret Janson



Sandra Meyer



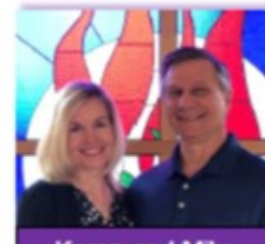
Bob Morrow



Kristen Schwartz



Truman and
Margaret Sager



Karen and Mike
Contos



Bob Ferguson
Jean Messinger

Adult Faith Formation

If you're a baseball fan, you're invited to join our new experiment in community building as we study, talk baseball and travel to a Rockies game this spring. Jack Rogers and David Reid will facilitate this small group that meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in May and June.

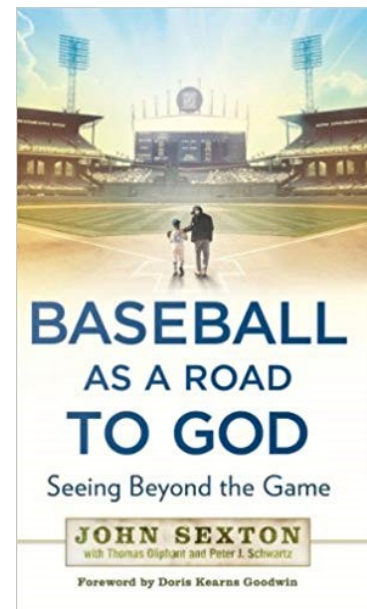
Can baseball help us develop spiritually? John Sexton, author of Baseball as a Road to God, believes it can. "Baseball allows for the development of skills of observation of deeper elements in things, which then translates back very nicely into religious contemplation," he told National Catholic Reporter a year ago.

Here's more of what Sexton, a former president of New York University with a doctorate in religion, told NCR:

"There are a lot of ways that baseball can make us better people. First of all, simply the exercise of playing or caring about baseball is an exercise in community. I think in these times in particular, the notion of a commonweal of a community is quite fragile. Cities are brought together by teams — and baseball teams in particular for some structural reasons: the fact that the game is played so many times over the course of a season, that every day there is a community event so to speak. Baseball invites us into a community. And then of course there's the dimension of inviting us into the contemplative realm of spirituality that baseball brings. I don't think there's any question that it can elevate us."

Books are \$12 and can be ordered by contacting David at 970-581-2707 or davidreid24@gmail.com.

Family vacation time will be an excused absence.



FROM AGEING TO SAGEING IN THREE ACTS – A FIVE -PART SERIES

Using Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's 1995 book, *From Ageing to Sageing: A Revolutionary Approach to Growing Older*, as a guide, Rev. Rich Thompson, a retired Presbyterian (PCUSA) pastor, will lead this five-session series. Classes are scheduled for 10 a.m. every Thursday in May in the Conference Room.

The introduction presents the current need and historical context for the subject, with an account of what led the rabbi to write the book and how it has since become part of a movement across the county.

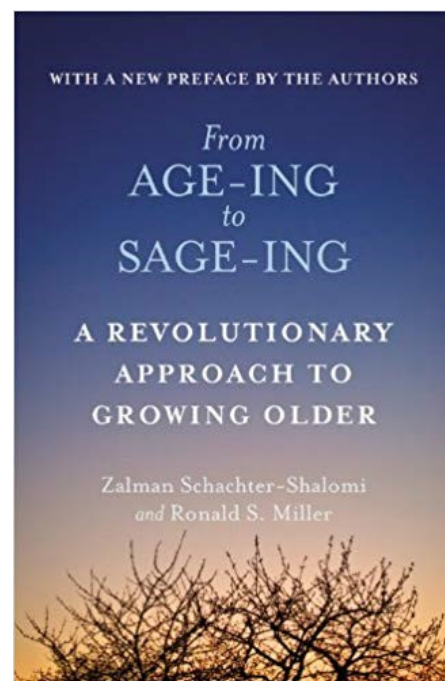
Act One: Deepening One's Spirituality – Toward Wisdom

Act Two: Preparing One's Life Review – Have you been saved? (electronically)

Act Three: (in two scenes) Confronting Life and Death Matters

The Conclusion: summarizing the value of more than just ageing - inevitably growing older - to undertaking the intentional sageing process, with reference to a variety of bibliographic resources.

Books are available for purchase at the Adult Faith Formation table on Sundays for \$9.





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We remember with deepest sympathy the families of:

Fred Mills - March 26

Tim Ricketts - April 4

Mission Exhibition • May 19, 2019

You are invited to the May 19th **Mission Exhibition** in our church from 9 to noon. This church...your church... makes a huge impact locally and globally with its variety of mission projects. Some are home-grown and operated, like Kenya Clean Water. Others are cooperative with and through others, like Faith Family Hospitality and The Mission at Catholic Charities. There are more than a dozen projects. We address Housing Insecurity, Food Insecurity, Clothing Insecurity, Water Insecurity, Education and Spirituality. Want to learn more? Want to see where you fit? Then come to the Mission Exhibition and make a commitment to get involved.

MISSIONS
across the street & around the world



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Inspire Hope • Grow in Faith • Serve With Joy

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