



The Carillon

July 2019 Volume 25 Issue 7
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.

Won't You Be A Neighbor?

First United Methodist church, established in 1869 has served as a catalyst in the Fort Collins community for 150 years. To honor this legacy of service in our community, FUMC is spearheading a collaborative investment in our neighborhood through the improvement of Eastside Park. The park, located to the northeast of FUMC and adjacent to Laurel Elementary School, needs revitalization to transform the area into a safe and meaningful community space. In its current state, the park draws negative activity as it lacks the infrastructure, lighting, and aesthetics to positively engage the community. Laurel School and businesses surrounding the park have been put on lock-down several times over the years due to criminal activity in the park.

In February, a community meeting was held at our church to give neighbors the opportunity to prioritize improvements to this space. The City of Fort Collins responded by providing a concept plan to include:

- Landscaped Greenways
- Creation of a "great lawn," a welcoming open space for unstructured play and community gathering.
- Play features that are natural and distinctive from the adjacent bright, plastic school play yard.
- Natural rock climbing and wood balance for residents of all ages.
- Additional lighting to key park locations to increase overall safety.

The improved park, and our investment of intentional programming, will encourage positive activity bringing together this diverse community. FUMC is leading the fundraising effort to raise \$245,000 for the

improvements listed above and to provide programming in the park for 18 months. Financial support will be rallied from the community and from within the congregation to ensure Eastside Park remains collective investment. We hope to have funds raised by October 2019, and construction will begin in the spring of 2020.

Do you have questions, or would like to be involved? Contact Emily Land: Emily80L@hotmail.com or Stacy Plemmons: stacyplemmons@msn.com.



EASTSIDE PARK ENHANCEMENT





First Church's 2nd Annual COMMUNITY NIGHTS ON THE LAWN

The July 11 Community Night on the Lawn event will feature board games and a group of ukulele players. Bring your own board game if you have a favorite or join in one of the many games that will be provided.

Bring something to grill, something to share and something to sit on. Drinks will be provided.

Grilling starts at 5:30 and the last game is slated to wrap up around 7:30. In case of rain, dining and game playing will move inside.

Modern Worship this Summer



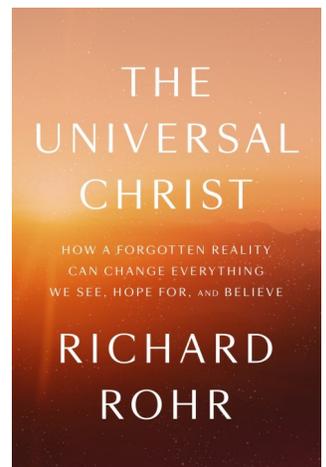
If summer activities limit your attendance on Sunday morning, consider attending the 5:00 pm Modern service Sunday evenings. Come as you are (very casual) stay for dinner and make some new friends.

Adult Faith Formation

Dr. Melanie Rosa will lead a four-part study on Tuesdays in July on the new book from Richard Rohr, one of the world's most influential spiritual thinkers. The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for, and Believe, is scheduled for noon in the Parlor on July 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. "God loves things by becoming them," he writes, and Jesus' life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us and in everyone we meet.

Thought-provoking, practical, and full of deep hope and vision, The Universal Christ is a landmark book, and an invitation to contemplate how God liberates and loves all that is.



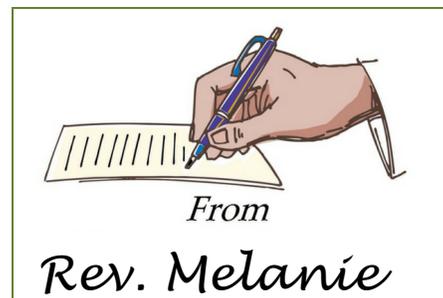
Thanks to all who participated in VBS!

First Church welcomed approximately 150 children for VBS 2019, *To Mars and Beyond!* It was a great week for everyone who participated! Thanks to all who helped in so many different ways!

We lived into our mission to
Inspire Hope • Grow in Faith • Serve With Joy

Message from Melanie

As I celebrate two years of sharing life with you here at First Church Fort Collins, I am looking back and thinking ahead. I confess that two years ago I had some apprehension about coming to serve as your Lead Pastor, because I had heard much about the challenging times you had experienced. I was also honored, since I had been ordained at First Church and known of your visionary leadership in this community and Conference. I was very attracted to your progressive theology, commitment to inclusion, intelligent ethos, and passion for serving others.



The past 24 months have only solidified my sense that this was the right decision, certainly for me and I pray for you. I feel very much at home here, and believe that we will accomplish great things for God as we seek to create an inclusive, deeply relational community learning, growing and serving together. We are growing in vitality, diversity and missional service. Our worship attendance is up by 10% over last year. New people are finding the blessing of community, the inspiration of faith, and the presence of God in our midst. With the addition of our Modern worship service, we are attracting younger and more diverse people. One woman recently told me, “I felt the presence of Christ the minute I walked in the door of this church.” It does not get much better than that!

“I FELT THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST THE MINUTE I WALKED IN THE DOOR OF THIS CHURCH.”

We need to continually seek new ways to improve, grow, and serve God and neighbor. Therefore, in honor of our 150th year in this community, we will join the City of Fort Collins in the refurbishment Eastside Park. Located right in our neighborhood (north of Laurel Elementary School) this park has been identified as one of the most challenged in the city, with increasingly unsafe conditions including aggravated assaults and vagrancy. You will soon be hearing more about opportunities to invest in this project which will vastly improve the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Good things are happening in and through our church, by the grace of God. We are richly blessed in order to be a blessing to others. Thank you for your support of our shared mission and ministry. Here’s to another fruitful year together!

Melanie

Dr. Melanie Rosa, Lead Pastor

Summer Sermon Series: “Mentors in Faith”

This summer we will be considering those who have found deep meaning and delight in the Christian story. Learning about their lives will be an inspiration for ours. Please join us!

June 30—“Mentors in Faith: Thomas Merton”
Proverbs 17: 27-28

July 7—“Mentors in Faith: Dorothy Day”
Matthew 25:31, 41-46

July 14—“Mentors in Faith: Sojourner Truth”
Hebrews 11:1-13

July 21—“Mentors in Faith: Watchman Nee”
Ephesians 6:10-20

July 28—“Mentors in Faith: Francis of Assisi”
Luke 10:25-37



Thank You and Farewell to Rev. Sue Harmon

First Church has been so blessed to have Rev. Sue Harmon serve her secondary appointment as a deacon with us since 2013. While Rev. Sue's primary appointment as a deacon was to Poudre Valley Hospital, Rev. Sue served First Church, serving Holy Communion and visiting parishioners at the hospitals, private homes, and care centers, without being paid. In addition, Rev. Sue has also officiated at funerals. However, as of July 1, Rev. Sue is transitioning to a hospice chaplain position in Colorado Springs and will be moving there soon. You are invited to a farewell reception for Rev. Sue on July 7 in the Fellowship Hall between 9 and 11 a.m. to say thank you and wish her the very best in the next phase of her ministerial journey.



Love Feast on First Sunday of the Month



Every first Sunday of the month, First Church has Love Feast during Coffee Fellowship between 9 and 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. In place of donuts that the church orders on other Sundays, people are encouraged to bring a plate of baked goodies to share with others. Just bring your goodies with you to church and place them on the food table in the Fellowship Hall. You can also purchase baked goods from the Youth Bake Sale that morning to share with others. Look forward to having a scrumptious variety of baked goods from all of you starting on August 4!

A Notice for all FUMC Women

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2019 WOMEN'S RETREAT
Saturday October 5, 2019,
9 AM to 3 PM @ Tamasag.**



Celebrate your patriotism and freedom at Double Nickel luncheon July 12, noon, Fellowship Hall. The Stover Street Stompers will inspire us with a medley of favorite tunes and our Boy Scout Troop 93 will lead us in a patriotic ceremony by posting the colors. Best lunch in town. Reservations not needed.

Music at First Church

On June 19 First Church hosted the world famous **Canadian Brass** in concert! The house was literally packed with 600 church and community members. What a wonderful way to introduce the community to First Church hospitality!



Mission u Co-sponsored by Mountain Sky Conference & Community Engagement



Mission u courses are offered in one day events and two day events. The closest one day event is at Heart of Longmont UMC, July 24th. The closest two-day event is at Parker UMC, July 12-13. (<http://rmcumc-reg.brtapp.com/MSCMissionu2019>)

The studies are:

Practicing Resurrection: Mark and Radical Discipleship, using the Gospel of Mark as the foundation.

The study asks, "Are you a Christian of title or conscience?"

United for Change is the first year of a two year study commemorating United Methodist Women's 150th anniversary in 2019. This is about looking back at our foremothers and the vibrant societies they created to support mission overseas and at home. These women were bold, sometimes going beyond what was expected of them and confronting the culture and even the church.

What About Our Money? A Faith Response explores the connection between our faith and our money. From a biblical foundation, the author helps participants examine what belongs to God and how financial decisions can be made as people of faith.

Those attending are responsible for obtaining study books through UMW Mission Resource Center (1-800-305-9857)

Schedules and registration forms may be found on the United Methodist Women bulletin board. No online registration is available for one day events. Please send registration form and payment to the local event registrar. Those taking a one day event will complete one course. Those taking a two-day event will complete two courses.

The History of the Columbarium by Barbara Hagen



The Columbarium began with a group of interested church members meeting in December, 2005. Warren Mauk was named chairman. In March 2006, the Task Force selected the grassy area outside the office wing of the current church for the Columbarium. The committee visited Columbaria in Northern Colorado and chose Eickhof Columbaria to construct a curving wall of niches.

A presentation was given to the Administrative Council in October 2006, and a Charge Conference in December 2006 approved the project. In May 2007 the

Board of Trustees agreed to a contract with Sinnett builders as contractors.

The Task Force members selected three large slabs of red sandstone in Lyons, Colorado for the Remembrance Walls, at a cost of \$4627. This included the cost of engraving and shaping them to resemble mountains. Another Charge Conference approved more funding in August 2007. A generous donation from Don and Marlene Kelly solved the funding issue.

Construction began October 2007, and the Columbarium was dedicated April 20, 2008, as the remains of David Kelly were placed in his niche. The garden area is named for David, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly.

This service initiated the Columbarium Ministry for First United Methodist Church, Fort Collins, Colorado.



**FIRST UNITED
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of FORT COLLINS**

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*We remember with deepest sympathy the family of:
Jim Ingram – May 26th*

OUR YOUTH ON MISSION TRIP IN ALASKA - Serving with joy!



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*An inclusive, deeply relational community inviting all people
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