

Thank You to First Church Musicians

The Advent and Christmas seasons are some of the busiest times of the year for musicians that participate in the music ministry of their churches. First Church is no exception. Throughout Advent and Christmas all of our choirs and ensembles were working hard to provide inspirational music for worship services in addition to special musical programs. Our Sanctuary Choir, Joyful Noise Choir, Cherub Choir, Alleluia Bell Choir, Carillon Bell Choir, First Church Orchestra, The Stompers, and our Encircle worship band all provided special music at one or more services during the holiday season. Also busy this time of year are soloist, and accompanists. We are so fortunate to have so many talented musicians at First Church that provide inspirational music throughout the year. Thank you to every one of you for sharing your talent with us and making the season brighter.

We are always looking for new members to grow our various choirs. If you are interested in joining any musical group, please contact David Adkins @ choirdir@fcfumc.net for more information. We would love to welcome you to any of our music groups. Listed below are the dates that several groups resume their regular schedules after the holidays:

- Carillon Bell Choir—January 8
- Alleluia Bells—January 9
- Sanctuary Choir—January 9
- Church Orchestra— January 9
- Children's Choirs—January 12

If a group you participate in is not listed above, please watch "First Wire" (our weekly digital newsletter) for updates and the latest information on all choirs and ensembles. Additional information will also be available on our website, www.fcfumc.net.

If I can answer any questions about the music ministry at First Church, don't hesitate to email me @ choirdir@fcfumc.net.

Happy New Year!

David

David Adkins, Director of Music Ministries and Communications



Sanctuary Choir to Tour Austria in June of 2020

Our Sanctuary choir will be traveling to Salzburg, Austria to participate in a choral festival held June 24—27. We will be leaving on June 23 and returning on June 28. While in Salzburg we will be singing a concert in the Salzburg Cathedral as well as singing for the Sunday Mass at the Cathedral.

In addition to attending rehearsals and working with world renown musicians, we will also have time for sightseeing and exploring the area that is best known for two things—being the birthplace of W.A. Mozart and the location of the timeless musical *The Sound of Music*.

We will have room for a limited number of non-singers to travel with us. While we are in rehearsals, special events will be planned for those who do not sing. A brochure and schedule is posted in the south hall. If you might be interested in traveling with us, as a singer, or as a non-singer, please let me know as soon as possible. We would love to have you experience this amazing tour with us as we continue strengthening relationships, creating life-long friendships, and improving our musical expertise as a choir. Our ultimate goal is to grow spiritually and musically, so we might share the beauty and inspiration of great sacred music with the congregation at First Church, our community, and the world.



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

Discover God's Love
Inspire Hope • Grow in Faith • Serve With Joy

Message from Melanie

I think about retirement now and then. It would be nice to have more time to read, hike, travel and goof off. Some weeks there are just too many demands, too many meetings, too much coming at me, and I am not getting younger. Plus, now that I am a Grandmother I need more time to spoil Madeline, and travel with Fred.

But then I reflect upon all that God has done and is doing through our shared ministry. Such reflections motivate me, inspire me and fill me with gratitude. 2019 was an outstanding year for our church. Not only did we celebrate our 150th anniversary with excellence, we received 64 new members, expanded our financial capacity, grew our ministry with children and youth, broadened our ministry of music, increased the number of people in mission and outreach, and raised \$245,000 to refurbish our neighborhood park. Additionally, in spite of the chaos in our denomination, we received widespread affirmation for our unwavering commitment to welcome all of God's children, no exceptions.

We continue to expand the depth and quality of our ministries. The sick and bereaved are cared for with compassion. New people are getting involved and longtime members are stepping up to grow in faith and to serve. Our faith formation for all ages is bearing much fruit as disciples are shaped, connections made and lives changed.

Our Modern "Encircle" Worship service continues to attract new people as we draw the circle wider and wider still. Every week hundreds of people find their way to one of our 4 worship services, finding inspiration from our outstanding music, hospitality, inclusive theology, commitment to missions and authentic relationships.

In the coming year I hope we can broaden and deepen our impact even more. I resolve to keep our vision and mission before us as we move into a new season of discerning God's direction. I will give you my best as I manage and oversee volunteers and staff, organize the work of ministry, represent us in the community, preach, teach, raise money, serve those in need, care for your spiritual growth, and plan for the future.

God is at work among us! Together we are faithfully fulfilling our responsibilities as stewards entrusted with Christian ministry in this time and place. As the new year dawns, I am eagerly anticipating our ministry in 2020. I hope you are too!

Melanie

Dr. Melanie Rosa, Lead Pastor



Update on the UMC

The Traditional Plan for the United Methodist Church takes effect January, 2020, meaning that the denomination will be doubling down on opposition to LGBTQ clergy and those who perform same sex marriages. However, the Western Jurisdiction (of which the Mountain Sky Conference is a part) will be a safe harbor for any clergy who perform a same-sex marriage and will welcome those LGBTQ people who are called into ministry and meet the qualifications for ministry. The 5 Bishops of the Western Jurisdiction publicly stated that they will not participate in any actions that put clergy at risk. They will not process any complaints against LGBTQ candidates or those who perform same sex weddings, stating: "We cannot abide by this evil any longer." This is unprecedented in Methodist church history; the first time an entire region has made such a pronouncement. We will certainly keep you posted as developments unfold in anticipation of General Conference in May, 2020. In the meantime, pray for our denomination.

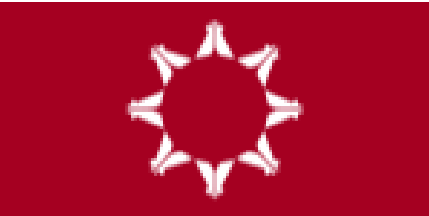
Rev. Melanie

20/20 Vision Campaign

As of December 10, **\$774,984.00** has been committed toward funding our \$1.1 million budget in 2020. Additionally, \$24,520 has been committed for our Facilities Refurbishment Fund. If you have not yet completed an Estimate of Giving card, please do so soon, so that we can realistically plan for ministry and outreach in the coming year. There is much we hope to accomplish with God's help and your support. Thank you for your faith in the future of this church, together we are doing great things for God.



Thank You!



A heart-felt THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our annual Holiday "David's Dinner" on the Pine Ridge Reservation a huge success! Once again we were able to supply the ingredients and preparation for over 150 turkey dinners with all the trimmings for residents on the poorest Indian Reservation in the United States. Three members of First United Methodist church went to Pine Ridge where we met the staff of the Pine Ridge

Reconciliation (formerly Retreat) Center, visited the Oglala Lakota College and Heritage Center, toured the Red Cloud Elementary and Secondary school campus in the village of Pine Ridge, viewed (and purchased!) beautiful hand crafts, art and jewelry -- all on our first full day! On Friday we rose with the sun and started preparing the turkey dinner, making use of practically every square inch of surface space in the center's kitchen! We served 50+ sit-down meals in the newly re-opened Lakota Presbyterian Church that shares the parking lot with the Reconciliation Center. We then prepared and sent over 100 meals out the door of the Center from 11am – 1pm. The Center will usually give out bologna sandwiches over the lunch hour, but the people who came to the door this Friday were surprised with a full hot meal – and the word spread fast! The weather was great, the landscape was beautiful and the people were wonderful. It was a blessing to be able to go and do, and it is all because of our generous congregation here at FUMC. Mitakuye Oyasin – we are ALL related!

Northern Colorado Faith Library and Adult Faith Formation

Northern Colorado Faith Library will sponsor a viewing at a local theater and discussion of the new feature film *Just Mercy* during January. Look for full details in the weekly bulletin and at the Adult Faith Formation table on Sunday mornings.

The film stars Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Rob Morgan, Rafe Spall and Brie Larson. It is scheduled to open in Fort Collins on Jan. 9.

The movie tells the true story of Walter McMillan, who with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson appeals his murder conviction. It is based on the memoir of the same name, written by Bryan Stevenson, a social justice advocate who helped exonerate condemned men in Alabama and who created the new National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The memorial in Montgomery is dedicated to the thousands of victims of racial terror lynching.



Spellbinders: Do you want to be a great storyteller for your children or grandchildren?

Spellbinders of Larimer County will sponsor a free session of "Family History Through Storytelling" at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 6 in the Study Room of the Northern Colorado Faith Library.

You'll learn the value of family storytelling, how to find your own tales to tell, how to build a powerful story and how to create the right environment for storytelling.

Book, Puzzle Donations: It's time to bring your used books, jigsaw puzzles and games to donate to the annual sale sponsored by the Northern Colorado Faith Library. The sale will be Feb. 7-9.

Drop your donations on or near the red table in the Library Study Room any time. If you want help with a pickup of your donations, contact David Reid at 970-581-2707, voice or text. All funds raised through the sale will buy new books, audio books, DVDs, and equipment. Popular fiction, mysteries westerns, and cookbooks are among the best sellers. No encyclopedias, textbooks, or magazines, please.



Suicide Prevention Workshops

Two Suicide Prevention Workshops will be presented by Larimer County Health District, at our church on January 23, 5:00-6:00 PM, or January 24 10:00-11:00 AM in Village Commons. QPR* Question a person about suicide, Persuade someone to get help, Refer someone to the appropriate resource. This will help participants learn how to support someone who is having thoughts of suicide. For more information contact jeri.neely@gmail.com, or 970-377-9952 to register (rsvp required for materials packets). This is sponsored by the Church and Society Committee.

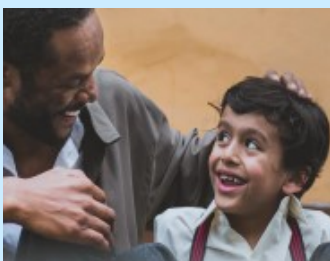


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Human Relations Day Offering

The Human Relations Day offering on Jan 19, 2020 the Sunday before MLK Jr. day, calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. It benefits neighborhood ministries through the Community Development Program (57%), community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services (33%), and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program (10%), drawing heavily on Matthew 25.



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of ...

Wayne Lyon – Nov 17

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Discover God's Love
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January 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR FUMC CO-OP PRESCHOOL

2020- 21 school year BEGINS February 5TH FOR FUMC CHURCH MEMBERS

Class Offerings:

Primary (Must be 3 years old by September 15)

2 day/week:

Mon & Wed Morning 9-12

Tues & Thurs Morning 9-12

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri Morning 9-12

Pre-K (Must be 4 years old by September 15)

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri Morning (2 classes) 9-12

4 day/week:

Mon - Thursday Morning (1 class) 9-12

FUMC members not currently enrolled in preschool will be able to register Wednesday, February 5, at 9:00am.

Open registration for the public will be February 7th. Members may register after their designated day, but they will lose their priority status. Registration involves filing out a registration form and paying the \$60 non-refundable registration fee.

Our Annual Open House is January 29th 9:30-11:30 and we invite you to come visit If you have any questions or would like to visit the program, please call the Preschool Director, Kelly Boettger 482-0343 or email preschooldir@fcfumc.net.

Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our excellent preschool program!

First United
Methodist Co-op



Church and Society - Roundtable on Contemporary Racism

- Can We Talk?
- Roundtable on *Contemporary Racism*
- January 26, 12:00 noon (after 11 a.m. Worship)
- Light lunch provided.

Church and Society continues to offer opportunities for the congregation to consider ways in which our Christian faith affects (should affect?) how we think about issues of social justice and racism, sometimes unintended, on and below the surface. What is it? Where are we? What are our responsibilities? For more information, to help, or to get on mailing list, jeri.neely@gmail.com or 970-377-9952.

