



The Carillon

January 2021 Volume 27 Issue 1
David Adkins, Editor

*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 marvel at what an unexpected and life changing year 2020 turned out to be. Last January none of us would have guessed what was ahead for us, and yet there has been so much that has been worthwhile, even holy, in our struggles and sacrifices. The extra time to reflect, spend at home, renewed appreciation of our health, blessings, and dear ones. The recognition of our essential workers; the sense of our profound interdependence; the value of science, medicine, and those who sacrifice their lives to preserve ours. Good things have come from the ashes of an unforgettable 2020.

And now we expectantly turn to 2021. I am genuinely hopeful about the important witness of our church in a post-pandemic reality. This year will be uncharted territory for us, and a very unique opportunity. We will emerge from the cave of our seclusion, rise from the grief of our losses, and work to repair and rebuild the lives of those most harmed by the pandemic. We are here for just a time such as this. And the foundation we have built in the past few years will serve us well in the years to come.

We have come a long way together, First Church. And now our community needs us like never before. Together, let us commit to repair, rebuild, and be the church we are called to be in this time and place.

Melanie

Dr. Melanie Rosa, *Lead Pastor*

HAPPY New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face
shine upon you, And be gracious to you...



CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGES

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Over 600 miles travelled, over 100 hours on the road, over 50 volunteers involved, and 553 Christmas care packages delivered to all First Church parishioners at their homes in Livermore, Bellevue, LaPorte, Fort Collins, Wellington, Windsor, Ault, Greeley, Eaton, Loveland, and Johnstown. Thank you very much to all who knitted prayer squares – every stitch was made with such care and thought of the receiver, helped get funds, purchased items, packed packages, and delivered the packages to individual homes. Thank you very much to all who helped make this Christmas Care Package endeavor possible and a success. Below are some pictures taken during deliveries.

Blessings, Rev. Cynthia



Faith Community Nurse Notes

The phrase “It’s always darkest before the dawn” is credited to **Thomas Fuller**, an English theologian. Living in Alaska for over 40 years, I know about winter darkness. This past year we experienced a period of physical, emotional, and social “darkness” that was just as profoundly dark as the night skies of the Arctic in midwinter. In the furthest north native village of Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) Alaska, people have to wait 65 days for the sun to return after it sets in November. They don’t worry that it won’t return. They have faith that it will return, because it always has. When the sun does return in January, there is a great celebration. Faith is an important part of our spiritual health. During the “darkest” times in our lives is when we must rely on our faith the most. So be like the villagers in Utqiagvik: hunker down during the “dark” times, wait patiently, help each other, and have faith. Take care and stay safe!

Donna M. Newkirk, MSN, APRN-BC,
Faith Community Nurse

BECKY AND EMBER'S HABITAT HOME COMPLETED

Dedication - First Church and Habitat are looking forward to dedicating Becky and Ember's home (virtually) on Sunday, January 10 from 1:30-2:00 pm. This will be a double dedication with Chris's family (whose home is sponsored by other churches) because both Becky and Chris are part of the Common Ground Duplex. More information on how to view the ceremony will be available soon. Becky's and Chris' duplex is in the foreground in the photo.

Support - We are thankful to all who helped support our efforts to provide a Habitat home for Becky and Ember. Through the generosity of our members First Church raised \$61,207.74. In addition to the many individual donations, this included a bake sale on February 2nd that raised more than \$5,000 and 2 book-shelf building events in September led by Cindi Ross-Bell and Bonny Thomas. Cindi also led our planning committee with the following members: Jim Collinson, Laura Davis, Pam Davis, Rich Fisher, Keith Metcalf, Cynthia Paquette, and Bonny Thomas. Owing to restrictions because of the pandemic, we were limited to a small number of volunteers on the build site on a given day. Builders were Jim Collinson, Laura Davis, Rich Fisher, Don Gaymon, Jeff and Sarah Johnson and their daughter Kate, Marilyn Pullin, David McCowen, David Rubenthaler and his daughter Kristin, and Don Silar. Becky Ailor worked with us on several occasions while earning her "sweat equity."

Pantry - We have been asked by Habitat whether we will be helping fill Becky's pantry as we did after we sponsored the Garza home in 2009. Please leave items in the bin outside the east entrance near the Chapel on January 4th and 8th. A custodian will bring the items inside each evening.

Therefore, below is a list of suggested items.

Acceptable:

Nonperishable food (canned goods, boxed goods, treats for children). Popular items are macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, applesauce, soups, vegetables, cake mixes, baking staples like flour and spices, etc.

Nonperishable cleaning supplies (laundry soap, dish soap, paper towels, toilet cleaner, etc.)

Nonperishable toiletry supplies (toilet paper, toothpaste, etc.)

Other (indoor plants, tin foil, waxed paper, Ziploc baggies, plastic storage containers, etc.)

Handmade quilts or framed photos are acceptable and appreciated, especially if they are from their home's sponsor.

Not Acceptable:

Money

Any item worth more than \$5-\$10 (except for the handmade items listed above)

Items that a family would already have or want to choose for themselves (small kitchen appliances, kitchen towels, decorations, etc.).

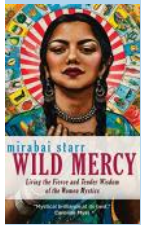


ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Submitted by David Reid

A look at the feminine in mysticism, a study that compares Jewish and Christian interpretations of Bible stories, a sharp critique of how evangelicalism has worked to replace Jesus with rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism, and a new study of the Ten Commandments highlight first-quarter Adult Faith Formation opportunities.

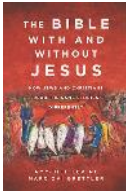
All activities are planned as online meetings using Zoom technology.



Sandy Merriweather will facilitate a study of *Wild Mercy: Living the Fierce and Tender Wisdom of the Women Mystics* by Mirabai Starr at 7 p.m. Wednesdays beginning January 13. This weekly class for women – and men— is scheduled to conclude February 10. Hardback \$11.60, e-book \$9.

Best-selling author and Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor says of *Wild Mercy*: “This is so much more than a gorgeously written book. It is an act of divine redemption, in which Mirabai Starr gives voice to every true and secret longing of the human heart.

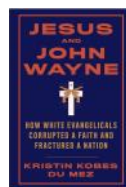
Whoever you are, whatever you thought you knew about how the Holy looks or acts, get ready to be loved into deeper reality by someone you can trust to show you the way.”



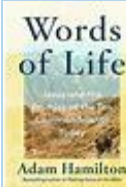
AFF Director David Reid and Rev. Cynthia Paquette will each lead sessions in a six-week study of *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*. This Thursday evening study runs January 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11 and 18. The schedule will be supplemented with a Thursday noon study on the same dates if demand warrants.



Bible scholars Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler take readers on a guided tour of numerous Hebrew Bible stories referenced in the New Testament to reveal what the ancient texts meant in their original contexts and to show how and why the Jewish and Christian traditions find very different meanings in them. Hardback \$30, e-book \$17.



Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation by Calvin College professor Kristin Kobes Du Mez was named Book of the Year by *Englewood Review of Books*. Reid will lead this study at 7 p.m. on Thursdays from February 18 through March 18. Hardback \$29, e-book \$15.



Pastor Bob Simpson will lead our Lenten study of the just released Adam Hamilton book and video *Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today*. The evening group will meet weekly during Lent. Hamilton explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day.

Among the continuing groups are:

- the Tuesday night Brene Brown podcast group. The group starts the new year at 7 p.m. January 6. Listen to (or read the transcript) in advance of this podcast with Dolly Parton at <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-dolly-parton-on-songtelling-empathy-and-shining-our-lights/>. Contact davidreid24@gmail.com or 970-581-2707 for the Zoom link.
- the self-led 8 a.m. weekday devotional group. For information, contact Karen Waldron at keakw@comcast.net or 970-219-0898.
- the Thursday morning men's Bible study led by Rev. Bob Firebaugh. Contact him at revdr82701@yahoo.com.

Contact David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com or by text or phone at 970-581-2707 for more details on any of these activities, for help obtaining a book, or to request scholarship funds to purchase a book.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR FUMC CO-OP PRESCHOOL 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS FEBRUARY 3rd FOR FUMC CHURCH MEMBERS

Class Offerings

Primary (Must be 3 years old by October 1st)

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 October 1st)

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri Morning (2 classes) 9:15-12:15

4 day/week:

Mon - Thursday Morning (1 class) 9:30-12:30

FUMC members not currently enrolled in preschool will be able to register Wednesday February 3rd.

Open registration for the public will be February 5th. Members may register after their designated day, but they will lose their priority status. Registration involves completing an online registration form and paying the \$60 non-refundable registration fee. To access the registration form, please visit our website www.preschoolfumc.org and look for admissions tab.

Our annual open house will be done virtually this year with an online tour of the classrooms and video with important information. This video will be available on our website the week of January 25th.

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**



Preschool

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS submitted by Barb Grauberger



Although we were not able to be together for our beloved Advent Workshop, our First Church kids and their families made the best of it! On November 21st, First Church families came and picked up 59 Advent Workshop craft bags filled with goodies. In the bag, children found an Advent wreath with candles, a wooden nativity scene to paint, angel ornaments to decorate, a gingerbread house to decorate, a paper chain to count down to Christmas and a cake mix with a birthday candle to make a birthday cake for Jesus. Check out the photos below of our kids in action. Special thanks to Laurie Elliot, Jen Hanna & Minnie Krueger for helping to make this wonderful event happen!



Sunday school continues to meet every Sunday via Zoom. We greet the preschoolers for a class at 9:30 a.m. and our Kindergartener thru 5th grade hop on at 10 a.m. We have managed to make the best of things and enjoy seeing each other on Sunday mornings. We watch a short Bible story, play some games and other fun activities. If your child has not given this a try, we invite you to attend. Just click on this link. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84044134167?pwd=QkNvT045dE40dm9RZzcwbVVyV3VjQT09>

Address Correction Requested



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will have their January Unit Meeting on Thursday, January 14 in the EVENING at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. We are hoping a few more people who aren't available during the day will be able to meet with us. The theme is "The Dignity of Work". We will be considering different kinds of work, the importance of having work to do and how "volunteering" can be a different kind of work. We hope you will join us. Questions? - elbode8@gmail.com



United
Methodist
Women

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

Ron Menking

Linda Shearin

Eleanor Lehman

Ruth Weverstad

George Slone

Marlene J Kelly – December 4, 2020

Margaret May Lee – December 11, 2020

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