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The Carillon

December 2021 Volume 27 Issue 12
David Adkins, Shelley Nelson, *Editors*

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

The season of Advent arrives amid uncertainty and anxiety. Since last Advent we have lost loved ones and friendships, freedom and flexibility, even senses of taste and smell. Far too much has been lost as a result of this horrific pandemic. We have no idea what the coming year will bring, and almost hesitate to get our hopes too high.

Yet, God is present in all of it, with us. Seeking out slackers and saints, the wise and the weary, anyone who will pay attention and listen to the Good News of Great Joy.

I believe the Christ still comes, persistently and patiently, which is the ongoing miracle of Christmas. Year after year we commemorate the reality that God has reached out to us, offering a fresh way of looking at the world. In the birth of Christ, God reveals an innocence and tenderness at the heart of things.

Because of Christ's coming, we have the assurance that somehow everything is going to be alright. We need not be afraid of life or death, for there is one who helps bear our griefs and carry our sorrows. In spite of everything sad, strange, and beyond our comprehension, ultimately all will be well.

It is one of the great mysteries of faith that what was true over 2,000 years ago is true now. After all these years, the birth of Christ still has the power to rekindle hope and spark joy. We can trust that innocence and goodness are not illusions, miracles are possible, and God is with us even now. Dr. Charles Schuster said it best: "God with us is not just a theological premise, but, as communicated in the mystery of the story of the birth of Jesus, is a promise. The promise is discovered in those everyday

moments when God surprises us in ways we could not anticipate, in stories we cannot explain, and in places we would never expect."

Please join us during these days of Advent, as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus once again, just when we need it the most.

Melanie
Dr. Melanie Rosa,
Lead Pastor



You're Invited This Christmas Eve December 24

2:00 PM

Worship with Young Children in Mind

5:00 and 7:00 PM

With Choir, Organ, and String Quartet

FUMC PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

This Christmas season FUMC Co-op Preschool will be helping the Larimer County Foster Adoptive Parent Association with their Christmas Party. A tree with gift tags will be located in the education wing.

Wrapped gifts must be returned to the tree no later than DECEMBER 14th.

Questions please call Pre-School Director Kelly Boettger 482-0343



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



United
Methodist
Women

The United Methodist Women will hold their Christmas meeting in the Parlor on Thursday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. There will be goodies available, an Interactive Music program to be enjoyed and the new officers of the Leadership Team will be installed for 2022. Questions? elbode8@gmail.com

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

SPECIAL EVENT FOR WOMEN

• February 27, 2022

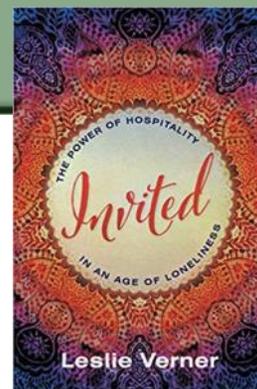
• 2:00-4:30pm

All women are invited to an afternoon in the Fellowship Hall on February 27th 2022 to hear author **Leslie Verner** and a select panel of guests discuss her book, ***Invited: The Power of Hospitality in an Age of Loneliness***.

After two years of being unable to gather with friends and loved ones, we struggle with how to reconnect after an extended period of social distancing. Join us *in person* to share in an upbeat discussion about what it means to be hospitable and welcoming.

Featured this afternoon will be readings from the book, small group discussions, a diverse panel of community members, light refreshments, and a book signing period with the author. Childcare will be provided. Books will be available for sale at the event.

The gathering is free. A suggested donation of **\$10** will go towards the ministry of our Kids Closet. Invite your friends! Advance copies of the book will be for sale on Sundays starting in January.



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Would you like to be debt free months, years or decades before you planned? Millions of folks have, and you can too. Please join us For Financial Peace University, a 9-week class on how to be debt free and enjoy life more. Classes will be held Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, January 12 to March 9, at our church. Anyone is welcome to attend, so invite your family and friends. Don will be available in Fellowship Hall and can be contacted at dfsilar@aol.com. You can also register at Financialpeace.com.

**FINANCIAL
PEACE**
University

Sounds of the Season

Sunday, December 12, 2021

9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gloria

by John Rutter / performed by

First Church Singers, Members of the Fort Collins Symphony Brass, Organ and Percussion

Christmas Flourish

by Randol Alan Bass / performed by

The Sanctuary Choir, Members of the Fort Collins Symphony Brass,
Organ and Percussion

Additional familiar carols presented by

The Carillon Handbell Choir



Please join us and invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers to be your guest!

First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524 / www.fcfumc.net

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our Advent Sermon theme will be “The Inn” as we follow the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, exploring ways to make more room in our lives for housing the Holy.



December 5-- Second Sunday of Advent/Communion

“The Inn: Peace” Isaiah 2:1-5;11:6 & John 14: 27

December 12—Third Sunday in Advent/Christmas Music Sunday

December 19-- Fourth Sunday of Advent

“The Inn: Joy” Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 2:8-10

December 24-- Christmas Eve 2:00, 5:00, 7:00 pm

“The Inn: Love” Luke 2:1-20

December 26—First Sunday after Christmas--**ONE SERVICE ONLY at 9:30 a.m.**



**2021
ADVENT WORKSHOP
YOU'RE INVITED!**

When: Sunday, December 5, from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

What: Crafting and other holiday fun, (most suitable for ages 3+, but there are some fun things for the tiniest as well.) Christmas and winter themed crafts are set up at different stations for children to create.

Want to help? If you would like to host a craft station or help in some way, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49AAAB22A7FC1-advent> or contact Barb Grauberger at childrensdirector@fcfumc.net.



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December 5th: 3rd Grade Bible class from 8:30-9:20. 3rd graders, join Ms. Barb for our second Bible class. We are learning all about the Bible together. Please meet in the prayer room upstairs in the children's ministry wing.

In order to give our Sunday school teachers a much-needed break, we will not be having Sunday school on December 26th and January 2nd. Your children are welcome to enjoy the church service with their grownup. For those 5 years old and younger, the nursery is available on those dates.

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



Sunday School

When: Sundays at 9:30 AM

Who: Grades 6-12

Where: Youth Basement

Join us for fun and a new lesson each week! We are starting a mini-series about the identity of Jesus.

Wednesday Night Youth Group

When: Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00 PM

Who: Grades 6-12

Where: Youth Basement

Snacks, games, and a Bible lesson with our Youth Director and Intern!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center

Did you ever wonder what is done with that huge Norway spruce tree that is decorated in Rockefeller Center after each holiday season? Shirley Wiese shared information about the tree from last year's Guidepost "The Joys of Christmas" edition. She and Jerry have been long-time supporters of Habitat for Humanity and even worked on a house with President Carter several years ago! According to the article, in January the wood from the tree "was milled, treated and turned into lumber used to build homes for Habitat for Humanity." First church has been a major supporter of Habitat for Humanity Fort Collins for many years, making it possible for deserving families to have a home. These families helped build their own homes and even pay for them through an interest-free loan. As families pay for their homes, our support will be recycled repeatedly in making more money available for more houses.



We extend our deepest sympathy to the following family:

Margie Welsh - October 23, 2021



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