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The Carillon

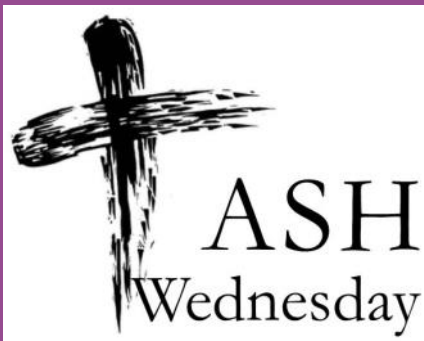
February 2022 Volume 28 Issue 2

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.*



We will observe a safely distanced **Ash Wednesday** Worship service at **7:00 pm, March 2**, in the Sanctuary. We will not impose ashes individually, but offer a time to reflect, repent, and prepare ourselves for the journey of Jesus to the cross.

Our theme for Lent is "Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life." Jesus continually reminds us that ordinary life is holy as it is, imperfections and all. We will explore ways to fully embrace reality as it is. Join us as we journey through Lent this year.

MESSAGE FROM MELANIE

I am writing this article for February's newsletter in the last half of January, and while I am usually an optimist, I am not excited about February. It can be cold and dark, you have to start thinking about taxes, and they predict Covid will still be raging (1 in 5 people have been infected in Larimer County) and I have a colonoscopy to look forward to. Although I know Spring will come, the flowers will bloom, the birds will sing, and life will get better, this is a challenging time.

How is your soul? Have things been difficult for you or easy for you? I pray you and yours are navigating well and that our church has provided some solace, comfort, and inspiration. Some seasons of life are more challenging than others, and in the mystery of God's time, things often get worse before they get better, giving us renewed appreciation of better days when they finally arrive. The Indian poet Tagore wrote: "Faith is the bird that sings when the dawn is still dark." Some mornings the birds are already beginning to sing, the earth will soon yield to the growth of Spring, and hope will come again.

In these winter days, let us continue to offer healing, regeneration, and hope to those who desperately need to be healed and find reasons to hope. As I said in a recent sermon, if people of faith do not have hope, then who will? And if not now, then when? In the midst of weariness and uncertainty, we light a candle, we trust in God, we live as people who somehow, someday can laugh, love each other, and cling to the hope which never dies.

Melanie

Dr. Melanie Rosa. *Lead Pastor*

FAITH FORMATION

TRANSITION RECEPTION FOR DAVID REID ON FEBRUARY 13



We will be celebrating **David Reid's 10-year ministry at First Church** as Director of Adult Faith Formation and NoCo Faith Library before he transitions to his new calling, passion, and role in Community Organizing. A cake reception to honor David Reid will be held between worship services (10:30-11:00) on February 13 at the Fellowship Hall. Although David Reid will continue to be on staff and around at First Church, it is important to celebrate and thank David for his commitment, dedication, and a job so well done for the last decade.

WORLD WISDOMS PROJECT



First Church will co-sponsor a World Wisdoms Project presentation at 6:30 p.m. February 8 that will address the question, "Has Religious Belief Influenced the Mindset of White Superiority?"

Presenters are **Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre**, professor of social ethics and Latinex studies at Iliff School of Theology, and **Rev. Amanda Henderson**, director of the Institute of Religion and Politics at Iliff. The hybrid event will be live at Heart of the Rockies Christian Church, 6501 Brittany Street, Fort Collins, and on Zoom. Registration is required at worldwisdomsproject.org. A small-group, follow-up discussion on Zoom will be led by Rabbi Hillel Katzir at 7 p.m. February 15.



2022 FLOWER CALENDAR

NOW AVAILABLE

The 2022 Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board across from main church office. You may sign up to donate flowers for a Sunday of your choosing in honor or in memory of someone, or to celebrate a life event. You may take the flowers home with you following the 11 a.m. service, or you may donate them to the flower ministry and they will be divided up into smaller arrangements and taken to members who are ill, homebound, or otherwise are in need of some extra cheer. Worship is greatly enhanced with the addition of a floral arrangement on our altar, so please consider providing an arrangement for a date or season significant

to you. Sign the calendar beside the date you want, and complete the flower request form (also located on the bulletin board) and turn it in with your check to the church office. Please remember the following when signing up:

- First come, first served
- The church florist will be used
- The cost is \$50

Thank you for helping to enhance our worship space! If you have any questions, please contact Shelley in the church office at Administrativeassistant@fcfumc.net.



Looking for something new to do in 2022? Try stretching your musical muscles!

Often as we launch a new year, we begin to think about getting back to the gym or promising ourselves to get back on a regular exercise program. Both are great resolutions for the new year. However, have you ever considered building up your musical muscles by joining one of the various music ensembles at First Church? Often the benefits are two-fold, providing enjoyment and fulfillment for you and for the congregation. If you have an interest in taking part in any of the following musical ensembles at First Church, please contact David Adkins at choirdir@fcfumc.net for more details. Some ensembles are existing and some are in the planning stages with hopes of starting in early to mid-February.

- **Sanctuary Choir** – meets Thursdays from 7-8 (no audition required)
- **First Church Singers** – Sanctuary Choir membership required – meets Thursdays from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m.

beginning in February.

- **Carillon Handbell Choir** – meets Thursdays from 5 – 6 p.m. (music reading required)
- **First Church Instrumental Ensemble** – meets Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. All ages welcome that play a band or orchestra instrument at a moderately advanced level
- **Alleluia Handbell Choir** – A group reforming that will meet during the day. Day and time TBA.
- **Women’s Vocal Ensemble** – For women who enjoy singing multi-part music for women only. If there is sufficient interest, this group will meet during the day. Day and time are TBA.

Children’s Choirs – Meet from 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. Cherub Choir is for 5K and 1st grade students and Joyful Noise is for 2nd – 5th grade students.



Save the Dates



2/10/22-Family dinner pick up. Back by popular demand! We will be providing a to go meal to our First Kid families. Take a night off from cooking for the family. Limited spots available. Look for the sign up, coming soon!



3/2-4/13-The Lenten Journey for kids. This class is for Kindergarten-5th grade. Each Wednesday evening we will participate in an activity in preparation for Lent. New activities this year! Space will be limited. Look for the sign up and more details, coming soon.



6/6-6/10-Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The theme this year is Food Truck Party! Before you fill up your Summer calendar, make sure you block out this week. Your kids will not want to miss it. Look for information regarding registration, coming soon.



*Happy
Valentine's
Day!*

Today, we celebrate some very popular things: hearts, love, and chocolate.

Thankfully, both can be good for your health! Being in loving relationships can have beneficial effects on our blood pressure, our heart health, and our emotional and mental health. Dark chocolate (>70% cacao, and not loaded with fats or sugars) can also provide our bodies with minerals and flavanols which support heart and blood vessel health. So, while you share some of that wonderful dark chocolate with your loved one(s), wear some red to help the American Heart Association's "Go Red For Women" initiative to increase heart health awareness. For more information, see: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/food-features/dark-chocolate/> <https://uthealthaustin.org/blog/health-benefits-of-love> <https://www.goredforwomen.org/en/>

Yours In Good Health,
Donna M. Newkirk, MSN, APRN-BC
Faith Community Nurse (970) 744-8812
D.NewkirkANP@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



Youth Group!

Every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the youth basement. Grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a snack, games, and a Bible lesson! Led by Victoria Burkett and Nick Tomasini

High School Bible Study!

Every Sunday from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. Meet us at Starbucks at 4218 S College Ave for our current book study, "Jesus Prom" by Jon Weece and a tasty drink!

Sunday School!

Sunday mornings during the 9:30 service, students grade 6-12 are invited to join us in the youth basement for a Bible lesson and Wii sports fun!



UPCOMING!

High School Ski Trip!

Leave after school on Feb. 18 and return home Monday afternoon. Deadline to sign up is February 9th.

Costs: Lift tickets \$60.00, Skis/Snowboard Rental \$28--payments can be made online on the church website; *make sure to select "Youth Mission Trip" as the fund option so your payment goes to the youth budget.*

We will ski on Feb 19th and sled at Aspen on Feb 20th. We will go to the hot springs Saturday and Sunday evening.

Sign up your High School student by clicking [here](#)



We extend our deepest sympathy to the following family:

Maude Usel - December 18, 2021



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First Church:

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