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The Carillon

March 2022 Volume 28 Issue 3

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

After 40 years serving under appointment as an ordained Minister in the United Methodist Church, it is time for me to retire. I will be 65 in October, and First Church needs a new Lead Pastor to guide this church into a promising future. It has been the privilege of my professional life to serve this church, and to finish my career in the place where I was ordained. I can say with absolute confidence that we have made the most of our time together, fulfilling our Mission and Vision as a congregation. I could not be prouder of all we have accomplished, especially during very challenging circumstances.

I have spoken with Bishop Karen Oliveto and Superintendent Tezenlo Thong, and strongly emphasized what I believe is most needed in Pastoral leadership for this promising church. They have assured me that they will prayerfully work to find the best possible Pastor to serve here, alongside the outstanding Staff already in place. I hope you appreciate what bright, dedicated and hardworking Staff you have. They are tremendous! And our Lay Leaders are the smartest and most dedicated I have worked with in 40 years, without exception.

As is required in our system, I will stay away for at least one year so that your new Lead Pastor can build trust and relationships. I will no longer be available for weddings, funerals, or any pastoral functions. Promise me that you will welcome your new Lead Pastor (and family) with love, generosity and acceptance. It is not easy coming into a church like ours and she/he needs all the love and grace you can offer.

Also, promise me that you will not take this church for granted. Support it faithfully and generously. Progressive, intelligent, fully inclusive churches are all too rare (sadly enough) and their survival is not guaranteed. Future generations need to know of a God whose love is all encompassing and transforming, a God more sacred mystery than pious certainty. They will only know if churches like ours do not flounder, but flourish and prosper. **Faithfully attend worship, volunteer, give generously, get involved!** Your participation matters not only to our church, but to progressive, inclusive, intelligent Christianity.

We are all as grass of the field, which withers and fades. Yet the field we have been tending together has produced green pastures, and abundant life. I am beyond grateful God led me to this field, and to you, five years ago.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie".

Dr. Melanie Rosa, *Lead Pastor*

After 40 years serving under appointment as an ordained Minister in the United Methodist Church, it is time for me to retire.

**United Methodist Committee on Relief
(UMCOR) Sunday
March 27, 2022**

We will receive a special offering on the 4th Sunday in Lent for our **Committee on Relief**, which helps the victims of disasters all over the world. Giving to UMCOR allows us to make a difference in the lives of countless communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. We are changing the world, one person at a time. Your gifts make a huge difference!

Recently some of our trained UMCOR volunteers, Charissa Dull and Kate and Rick Norton served with the Marshall Fire recovery efforts. Thank you!



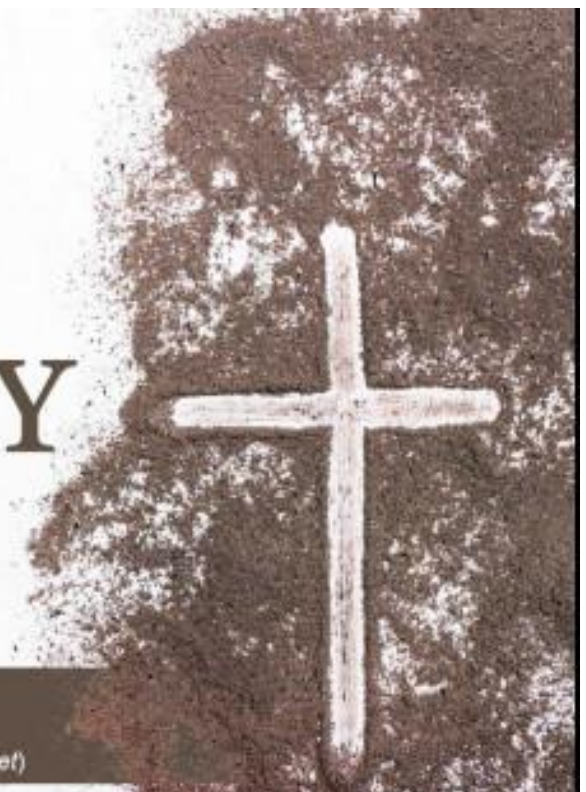
All Church Survey



First Church is exploring ways to better connect with our community, make disciples, and change the world for the better. To that end, we would like you to take a survey called Readiness 360 to help us assess how prepared we are to engage in new ministries in our community. Please take 15 minutes to complete the survey, found here: <https://app.readiness360.org/survey/login> The Survey number is:

5115144582. Your input is very important to us. Thank you in advance for helping us discern where God is leading our church in the days ahead.

JOIN US!
**ASH
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 2**



A service of prayer, music, and the imposition of ashes...

7:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

(If you can not attend in person, this service will be live-streamed at www.fcfumc.net)

Sermon Series for Lent: “Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life”

March 6—First Sunday in Lent

“Good Enough”
Luke 4:1-13

March 13—Second Sunday in Lent

“Good Enough: Things We Cannot Control”
Luke 13: 31-35

March 20—Third Sunday in Lent

“Good Enough: Give It Time”
Luke 13:1-9

March 27—Fourth Sunday in Lent

“God’s Presence is Good Enough”
Luke 15:1-3;11b-32

April 3—Fifth Sunday in Lent

“Good Enough for Today”
John 12: 1-8

April 10—Palm/Passion Sunday

“A Parade Good Enough”
Luke 19: 28-40

April 17—Easter Sunday

“A Faith Good Enough”
John 20:1-18



Exploring First Church March 13, 2022 - 12:00 p.m.

We, here at First Church, are excited to see so many new faces and meet so many new people on Sundays. We are here to help new people get plugged in. Would you like to learn more about Methodism in general and First Church in particular? Are you considering membership in this vibrant community of faith? If so, Rev. Melanie and Rev. Cynthia invite you to attend the Exploring First

Church session at noon on March 13 in the Parlor. We will have a light lunch followed by a session on Methodism and the many ministries to be involved in at First Church. There will also be a virtual tour of the church building. Please email membership@fcfumc.net, or call (970) 482-2436 ext. 111 by March 8 if you plan to attend. Childcare will be provided, with reservations by March 8.

EXPLORING

First Church

The 2022 Richard Hagen Community Lecture will be Delivered via Zoom by Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton at 7 p.m. March 1

Hilton will present strategies to help people from the left, right and middle imagine ways to listen to each other long enough to discover that our differences actually help us. His lecture is titled, “Beyond Polarization: Making Our Differences an Asset.”

Hilton is executive director of House United, an organization he founded in 2016. He has been a member of the Yale Divinity School faculty and pastored churches across the country.

The lecture honors Richard Hagen, Ph.D., who was a member of First Church. Register for this event on the First Church homepage at <https://fcfumc.net>.



First Church Youth
Victoria Burkett, *Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

Summer Mission Trips!

More details coming soon!

Middle School Mission Trip: June 4-8, 2022 to Buckhorn Camp in Bellvue, CO
High School Mission Trip: June 18-26, 2022 to Missoula, Montana



Weekly Events

Sunday School

Middle and High School students are invited to join us in the youth basement Sunday mornings at 9:30! Come hear a new lesson each week (and maybe get some time to play Wii Sports!).

We will no longer have Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month so that our students can join the 9:30 worship service!

Wednesday Night Youth Group

Youth group is open to middle school through high school. We will be meeting from 6:30-8:00 pm in the youth basement. Come join us as we celebrate being able to gather together once again! Please plan on wearing a mask.

High School Bible Study

We are starting a new book study soon!

Where: Starbucks, 4218 South College Ave (this is the newest Starbucks at College & Troutman)

When: SUNDAY 4:00-5:30 PM

What: We are wrapping up Jesus Prom by Jon Weece and will be starting a new study soon!

First Church Kids
Barb Grauberger, *Director of Children and Family Ministries*

Save the Date

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

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.



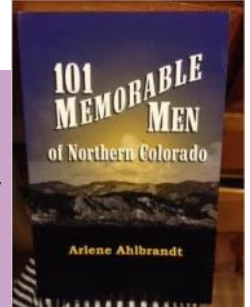
Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

First Church suggests these three educational offerings for Lent:

- First Church member Stephanie Matthews will lead a study of Kate Bowler's book, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, at noon in person in Village Commons and at 7 p.m. online for four Mondays during Lent. Class sessions are scheduled for March 21 and 28 and April 4 and 11. The initial group of books are \$17, thanks to a group discount and available at the Adult Faith Formation table on Sundays.
- Join the Open Hearts class for a video discussion study of Amy-Jill Levine's *Witness at the Cross*. The study starts at 11 a.m. March 6 in Village Commons.
- "Just Love: Live in Faith, Act with Courage, Work for Justice" is an online offering of the Mountain Sky Conference that is available for six Sunday evenings beginning March 6. Look for "Just Love 2022 Lenten Series" at www.mtnskyumc.org to register.



Copies of the book *101 Memorable Men of Northern Colorado* are available for a donation to the Northern Colorado Faith Library in Fellowship Hall on Sundays. This fundraiser was the idea of First Church member Joe Ahlbrandt, who donated copies of the book written by his late mother, Arlene Briggs-Ahlbrandt. Profiles include members of First Church, people for whom towns and streets are named and many more.



Dr. Lory Clukey will lead the Spirituality Book Club discussion of Kate Bowler's *No Cure for Being Human* at 3 p.m. March 20. The session is scheduled to be held at First Church. To stay informed of the plans, contact Martha Conant at marthaconant@gmail.com. Clukey, who holds two doctorates, is professor emerita at the University of Northern Colorado School of Nursing Administration and continues to teach in the university's online program.

From the Faith Community Nurse ...

"Hope springs eternal." (Poet Alexander Pope, 1732)

With the coming of spring, I'm sure we are ALL hoping for an end to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Restrictions are lifting, and things are beginning to transition back to normal. What precautions should we continue taking?

For the safety of all, I recommend we continue to wear masks when at church, regardless of vaccination status. The mask mandate has expired and the CDC has said that masks are now optional when in groups indoors. However, please keep in mind that more than 20% of our church population is over the age of 80. In addition, some folks have one or more chronic diseases (cancer, respiratory conditions) which means they have a higher risk of getting dangerously ill if infected with covid, influenza, or even a common cold.

For the safety of all you are encouraged to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer frequently when at church and please stay home if you are sick. If the rapid drop in the number of new covid cases continues and no new variants appear, we will may soon be able to lessen some of the precautionary measures we are currently following.

Yours in Good Health,

Donna M. Newkirk, MSN, APRN-BC Faith Community Nurse
D.NewkirkANP@gmail.com



Days for Girls Kits and Quilts Benefitting People Near and Far

Kate Norton

Did you know that over 1.2 million girls in the world have no access to sanitary products? Consequently, these girls miss up to 3 months of school every year. Many of these girls end up getting behind in school and ultimately dropping out. This is a sad situation that can be easily fixed with our help! Since 2017, a dedicated group of women at First Church has been busy making reusable Days for Girls sanitary kits (www.daysforgirls.org). To date, they have made almost 1000 kits! Most of these kits have been distributed in Kenya and some have been distributed to Sudanese refugees in Chad and to victims of a major explosion in Lebanon. The kits provided to Kenyans were done so as part of the First Church Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project, which installs clean water systems, toilets and wash stations at Kenyan schools to support children's health and wellness, thereby allowing them to stay in school. Several First Church members were able to visit Kenya in January 2020 and deliver 547 kits. The First Church team was privileged to participate in the distribution of the kits and health education for the students.

In addition to the gracious volunteers making the sanitary kits at First Church, we have also had generous donors to the DfG program. The donations have been used to support a small DfG business in Kenya that is run by a kind and talented woman name Juliana Oiro. Supporting the DfG businesses in the areas of need allows the program to be more sustainable and provides jobs for women who may otherwise not be able to work. Juliana and her team have already made and distributed 375 kits and are currently making another 100! Because of the generous donations given to the First Church DfG program, these kits can be distributed at no cost to the girls.

First Church's Thelma Mauk, who generously supports DfG with her time and sewing talents, volunteers with the Fort Collins Sew n Sews quilters (an ecumenical group that meets at the St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church) to make beautiful quilts using the DfG fabric scraps. These quilts are given to various charities including the Royal Family KIDS Camp (Foster Child Program) and the Matthews House (supporting young adults graduating from the Foster Care system). The First Church DfG team has been lucky enough to see some of the quilts before they are donated and they are not only stunning to look at, but it is clear they are true gifts of love. If anyone is interested in the DfG mission, please contact Kate Norton (flf67@live.com or 970-402-6783). We look forward to having you join us in making a difference in many more lives!



First Church Emergency Assistance Fund

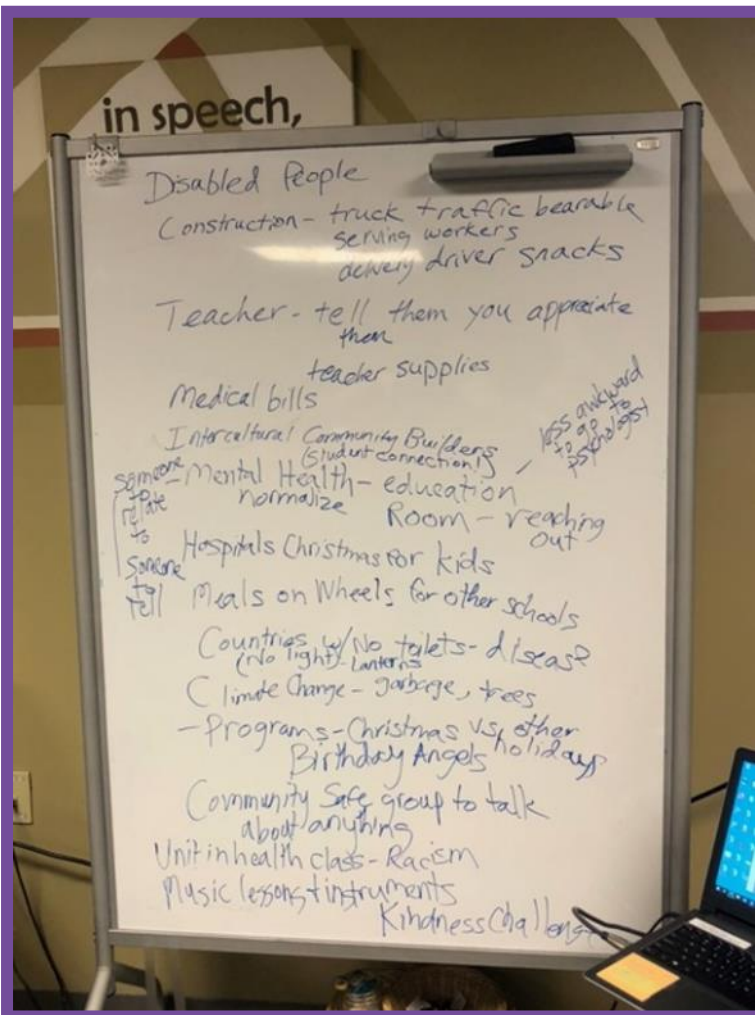
The Emergency Assistance Fund Committee is available to provide financial assistance to members and constituents with urgent needs pertaining to: food, housing, utilities, health, and transportation. The EAF committee is composed of five church members who administer the funds and are knowledgeable about community programs in Fort Collins and Larimer County. Those needing assistance can contact the EAF committee through one of the pastors or by calling the EAF phone number at 970-494-5960. Information shared with the committee is confidential.



May We Brag a Little? First Church has Amazing Youth!!

The Mission Team

We know it may not be appropriate to brag in church, but we just cannot help it. On February 9, 2022, several members of the Mission Team visited the First Church Junior High School students during their weekly gathering. We all sat on their comfy couches in the youth room while Janet Krech had each student represent a hypothetical person of need. She then asked the youth to connect the hypothetical person with one of the many mission programs our church supports (e.g., Faith Family Hospitality, Habitat for Humanity, Kenya WASH Program, Bookmobile, Kids Closet, Backpack Program - to name just a few!). Our goal was to inform them of all the local community and global support First Church provides and to welcome them to join in the mission efforts. We tried to limit the program to 30 minutes so the youth could move on to their other activities, but we overran our time limit. Why? Because these amazing young people were so engaged and had so much to contribute to the discussion, we just kept going! They shared incredible insights into where they believe people need help and where First Church might focus additional mission efforts. So much so that an entire whiteboard was full of ideas! Their ideas included support for teachers, mental health issues, people with disabilities as well as providing birthday presents for underprivileged kids and more! The mission team members left that gathering invigorated and knowing we just spent an hour with future leaders of the world. No exaggeration. Their ideas will not just remain on the whiteboard. We heard them loud and clear and will do our best to incorporate them into our future endeavors at First Church. We thank them profusely for sharing their time, ideas and energy. I highly recommend seeking these youth out at church and chatting with them. No doubt you will walk away feeling as good as we did and knowing something new! Soon we will also be meeting with the Senior High School youth and young adults and can safely say they will be equally as enlightening and will provide more positive, creative, and caring ideas that will help First Church mission efforts. Thank you, youth!! You make a real difference in the life of our church and community.





Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022 • 7:00 p.m. • Sanctuary
Live-stream available on our website,
www.fcfumc.net



Don't forget ...
Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, March 13.
Remember to move your clocks
ahead one hour.