



**FIRST**  
United Methodist  
**CHURCH**

1005 Stover Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524  
970.482.2436  
www.fcfumc.net

# The Carillon

June 2022 Volume 28 Issue 6  
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 most gratifying thing about anticipating retirement (in addition to more time with grandkids, sleeping in, fewer meetings, worries and responsibilities) is this: "You are too young to retire!" I do love hearing that, but trust me, I am old enough and weary enough, after 40 continuous years of serving God through the church. I have loved every place that I have served, from Grace UMC in Denver where I met Fred, Eagle and Gypsum UMC's where our son Mark was born, Trinity UMC, Colorado Springs where our daughter Katie was born, Lakewood UMC where I served for 15 years, travelling as a District Superintendent for 7 years, and then of course First UMC, Fort Collins. I consider myself one very blessed pastor. To come full circle and finish my career in the church where I was ordained is an incredible blessing.

We have accomplished so much together, by God's grace, these past five years! When I arrived, you were demoralized. It felt like the land of the walking wounded. Soon enough, you came back to life, just like a dying plant that finally receives water. You needed to be nourished, nurtured, and loved. That was easy. Then we got to work, moving beyond mere survival to blessing our community and being the missional movement God intended for us to be. Giving increased, worship attendance increased, and engagement and vitality increased in every age group. I formed a Visioning Team to continue Long Range Planning and clarify our Vision and Mission. We explored these questions: Who are we now? Who is our neighbor now? Who is God calling us to serve now? This work has guided us well.

We reorganized a large Administrative Structure to make it smaller and more efficient and effective. We formed a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team to celebrate our impressive history, and 2019 was a spectacular year for us in every way. We offered a high impact Exploring First Church class four times each year, and received 146 new members since 2017. The number of new members would have been much higher if not for Covid. We have developed a Journey toward Discipleship and Belonging. We launched a Modern Worship Service, attracting younger people, and that worship service followed by dinner was an enormous labor of love. Pre-Covid, we were flourishing in every way.

We also connected deeply with our neighborhood and community, which resulted in raising \$250,000 to refurbish Eastside Park. This summer we will host events in the park and get to know our neighbors, which was the intention of this effort all along.

As I leave, I want you to know how proud I am of what we have accomplished, by God's grace.

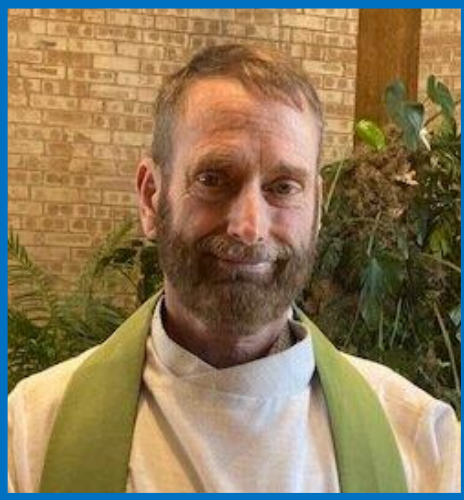
I love you, First Church, and will be forever thankful for the time we have shared together.



Dr. Melanie Rosa, *Lead Pastor*

## Rev. Dr. Mark Lee

*New Director of Adult Faith Formation, Discipleship, and NoCo Faith Library*



**Rev. Dr. Mark Lee** will start serving as our new Director of Adult Faith Formation, Discipleship, and NoCo Faith Library on June 15. Mark is an ordained United Church of Christ clergy. He is a graduate of LeTourneau College; he attended Trinity Evangelical Divinity School before earning M.Div. and D.Min. degrees from Iliff School of Theology. He served as Director of Christian Formation for Adults at Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Collins from 2009-2020. Mark comes to us after serving an interim pastor position for the last two years at First Congregational Church of Rapid City, South Dakota. Prior to these two churches, Mark served several Metropolitan Community Churches. Mark has a small ranch in town with his partner Ivan Loy, a retired math teacher, where they garden and raise Boer market goats.

**Welcome Mark!**

## SAVE THE DATES ...

*First Church will be hosting a few community building opportunities at Eastside Park this summer and fall. Right now, please save the date for these two events.*

### **ICE CREAM SOCIAL on SUNDAY AUGUST 14, 4-6 PM**

Glacier Ice Cream Fort Collins will be serving delicious ice cream. Rev. Brad and Ms. Barb will be putting on a puppet show. We will have trackless train rides starting at 3 PM.



### **COMMUNITY & CHURCH ANNUAL PICNIC - AUGUST 28, 10:45 AM-12:45 PM**

Waffle Lab Food Truck will be serving delicious sweet & savory waffles. Kona Ice will be providing cool shaved ice. There will be fun inflatables for children & other fun games for older kids & adults young at heart.



These events are sponsored by the Bohemian Foundation for the purpose of building communities and relationships. First Church is reaching out to our neighbors and community to build meaningful relationships. Through these events, our church, neighbors, and community will have an opportunity to meet and get to know our new pastor, Rev. Brad Laurvick.

**LET US HAVE FUN AND BUILD COMMUNITY!**

# COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

by David W. Reid

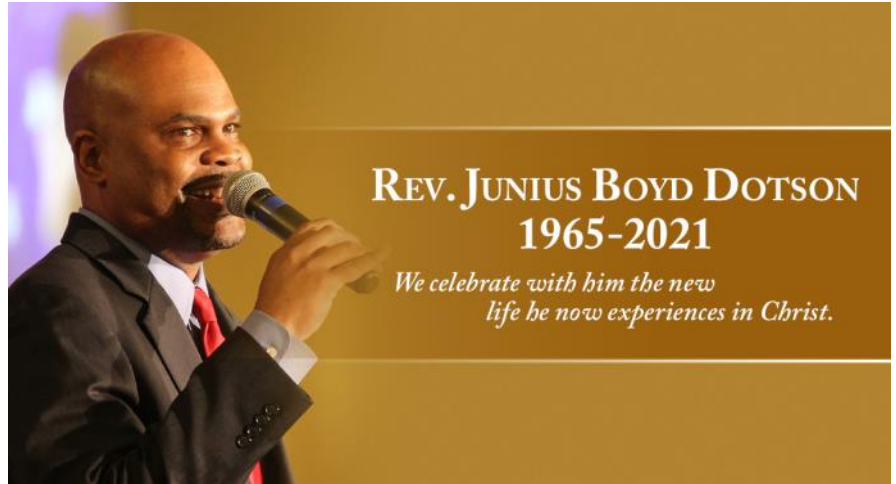
Why is our congregation getting involved in community organizing at this time? One big reason is that it will help us get to know our neighbors.

“Community organizing focuses on building relationships, bringing people together, and then leveraging those relationships to make progress on issues of concern,” said Rev. Junius Dotson, who was the top executive of Discipleship Ministries for the United Methodist Church until his death in 2021.

Citing data that showed 94 percent of churches are not keeping up with population growth in their communities, Dotson wrote, “The only way back to vitality comes through deep and adaptive work we want to avoid—a concerted and intimate reengagement of the communities we serve. We have to see all of the people God has called us to reach, and this becomes the foundation of effective ministry.”

In community organizing, Dotson noted, relationships are given time to develop naturally and organically. They can't be forced. “When we commit ourselves to connecting with our neighbors and getting to know them and their stories, there will be natural openings to share our faith,” he wrote.

Training in how to meet our neighbors is one of the basic building blocks of community organizing. We are planning a training session in Fort Collins this fall.



## FIRST CHURCH YOUTH

### Summer Events!

June is the month of mission trips! Middle School is heading to Buckhorn June 4th-8th to help prep for their summer camp events. High School is travelling all the way to Missoula, Montana June 18th-26th to help with several local organizations like food banks and community gardening. Stay tuned to hear about our adventures!



**We are planning some fun events and community service opportunities for the month of July! More details coming soon.**

**Sunday School will continue through the summer:** 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!\**

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith will meet June 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the parlor for a meal, program and business meeting. Our

program will be given by the unit mission coordinators: Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Membership Nurture and Outreach, Education and Interpretation as well as President, Karen Waldron who has attended Assembly in Orlando, FL and will give us an update. Assembly is held every four years.

The topic will be on how the name change will impact our organization. In 150 years of mission, there have been twenty-five name changes. This recent name change hopes to be more inclusive, but the focus of mission for women, children, and youth and our core values remain the same. Faith, action, and sisterhood define more opportunities for engagement with more women through new and improved programs. We believe love in action can change the world.



Address Correction Requested



**PLEASE NOTE ...**

There will be only one service on June 26 at 9:30 a.m. Following the service, please join us for a reception celebrating Rev. Melanie's retirement.



**SHOW YOUR LOVE AND  
SUPPORT FOR  
REVEREND MELANIE AS  
SHE STARTS HER  
JOURNEY INTO  
RETIREMENT!**

Please consider a contribution to a "Love Offering" for Rev. Melanie that will be collected on Sundays, June 5, June 12 and June 19. You can also mail in your contributions or contribute online any time during June. If you are contributing by check, please make the check out to FCFUMC with "Love Offering" in the memo line. All of the money contributed will be presented to Melanie as a gift from the congregation during her retirement reception on June 26.

**WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST  
SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF ...**

Gretchen Bennett - May 4, 2022  
Louise Cordsen - April 19, 2022  
Nancy Venturato - April 22, 2022  
Ramona Miller - April 23, 2022  
Craig Shuler - April 26, 2022

**WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISMS OF:**

Klara Causer and Johannes Causer  
May 1, 2022  
Ariana Cardenas  
May 8, 2022  
Charlotte Wenderoth  
May 29, 2022

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