



The Carillon

October 2022 Volume 28 Issue 10

A MESSAGE FROM REV. BRAD

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin." (Matthew 6:28)

The leaves are changing. Their splendid colors dazzle us until the wind takes them away. Soon we will hear their crunch under our feet. And before we know it, we will be raking them into piles. It is a moment in which the movement of the seasons becomes vivid and obvious. The thought of bare tree limbs and branches is not typically an inspiring image, but what is happening within the trees is an example for us all.

Genesis tells us God brought forth all the vegetation with love and care. Biologists tell us that millennia of adaptation have made trees resilient and efficient. Trees' ways of being can be instructional for us. So what are we to learn from their release of foliage?

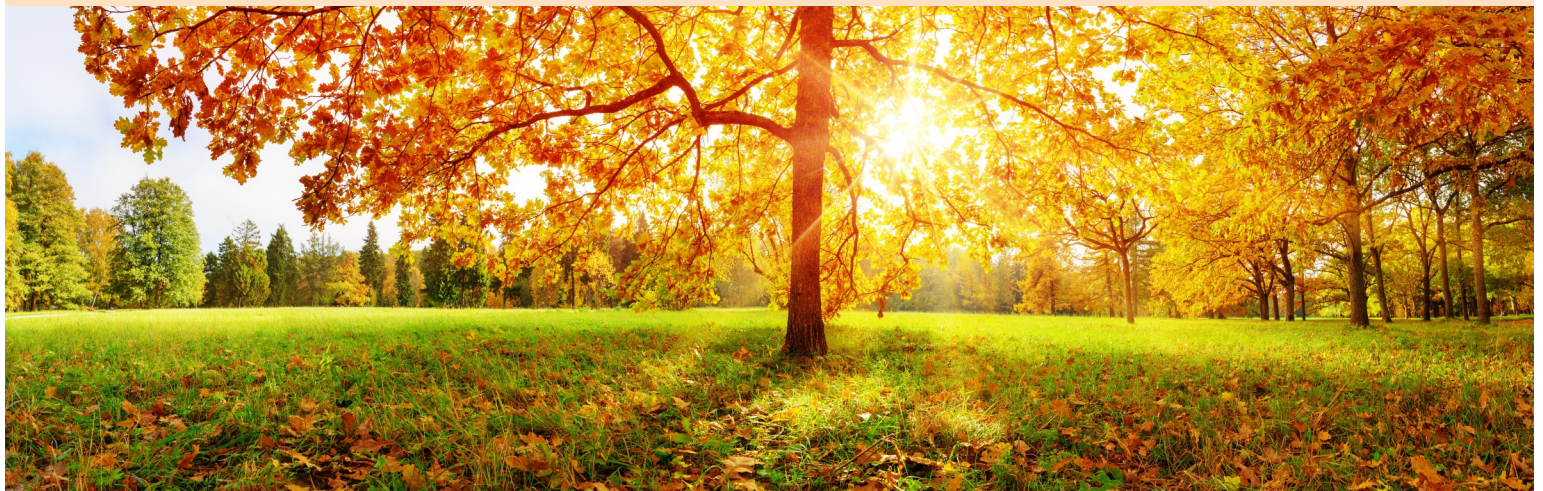
First, seasons are part of life. No one judges a tree for its changes in appearance and ability, it is simply part of being a tree. We, too, move through times in life where we experience changes in our relationship with the world around us, yet we often do not offer ourselves grace.

Another part of being a tree in autumn is the intentional preparation for difficult times. Drawing resources into supportive places, minimizing the effort it will take to make it through, and not leaving themselves open to the weight of potential snow on their leaves. When we see difficult moments approach, how might we take time to care for ourselves? Too often, self care is viewed as selfish, but trees are not selfish. If they did not care for themselves the ecosystem would be in shambles - birds and squirrels with no where to live, shade and protection denied to smaller vegetation. To care for one's self, when it is not at anyone else's expense, is to recognize the interdependence of our lives. Caring for yourself is an investment in your communities.

The wisdom of trees goes far beyond these points. One could consider how in releasing leaves they are returning nutrients to the ground. One could wax poetic on the idea that without releasing leaves, there would be no place for new growth. We have much to learn from the deeply rooted lives of the trees we walk by every day.

This autumn, take a moment to sit and truly see the trees. Don't just look at them, see them for all they have to teach us. For in their creation and life we can find wisdom for our own.

Rev. Brad





Join us on the second Sunday of each month at 6:30 at Avogadro's Number to enjoy a meal and discussion of our current book study, "The Scandal of Holiness: Renewing Your Imagination in the Company of Literary Saints" by Jessica Hooten Wilson. Can we learn truths from fiction stories? What makes narrative such an effective teaching tool? Whether or not you are a literature buff, you can enjoy this text that explores faith through a creative lens.

We will read a segment of the monthly reading together at our gathering so you don't feel left behind if you aren't able to read in advance. That means reading is not required but it will certainly enrich your experience!

If you are interested in getting a copy of the book or being added to our newsletter for detailed updates, reach out to Victoria Burkett at youngadult@fcfmc.net.



We have officially started our weekly gatherings! We enjoyed the Food Truck Rally in City Park to kick off the year. (see attached pic)

We are now meeting in the youth basement (aka the Foundry) at 6:30 to enjoy a home-cooked meal and discussion of our new book study, "Faith After Doubt" by Brian McLaren. This book explores the role doubt plays in our faith journey with thought provoking anecdotes and questions.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Victoria Burkett at kindrednoco@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

David Reid

If you are wondering what you might learn in community organizing training at First Church on October 28-29, listen to Rev. Brad Laurvick's August 21 sermon titled, "Let Me Tell You a Story."

I took away two major points. The first is that oral storytelling was and still is a primary means of sharing meaning, values and a sense of place. Stories of other people shape us, and Jesus shaped people by responding with stories nearly every time someone asked him a question.

"God's story is one of relationship and covenant, redemption and grace, faithfulness and presence," said Rev. Brad.

The second point is that Jesus told stories because people were not very good at listening.

Matthew 13:13 quotes Jesus saying, "This is why I speak to the crowds in parables; although they see, they don't really see; and although they hear, they don't really hear or understand."

Professional organizers have mastered the skill of being curious about other people. They are expert at active listening and discerning what matters most in people's lives.

That's a skill that anyone who desires to be a leader could use and it is at the heart of this training.

If you have questions or want to sign up, contact me at (970) 581-2707 or davidreid24@gmail.com. Or sign up online at bit.ly/ccgNOCO.

Because our congregation does not pay dues to Coloradans for the Common Good, our members will pay \$100 each for the training, including snacks both days and lunch on Saturday. Please contact me if a scholarship would make it possible for you to attend.



The theme for the Thursday, October 13, United Women in Faith unit meeting is *Sharing Grace*. Please join us in the church parlor for lunch at 11:30 followed by a presentation by Pam Brewer, the Development Director at Homeward Alliance. Pam will speak about the ways in which Homeward Alliance fulfills their mission to empower individuals and families who face homelessness to survive, move forward and thrive. Homeward Alliance operates a continuum of programs and initiatives for families, adults, and seniors, including operating the Murphy Center for Hope. As always, everyone is welcome to attend United Women in Faith meetings. Questions? Call Karen Waldron at 970-219-0898 or Mary Ann Kerttula at 970-219-6747.





Habitat for Humanity

During our Habitat for Humanity event, we had a blast learning about Habitat while also supporting their cause by making coasters to sell in the ReStore! (see pictures)

Church Picnic

We had a great turnout of youth at our churchwide picnic! Big thanks to our youth volunteers for taking food orders and helping run the face paint booth. (see pictures)

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

For our Wednesday Night gatherings, we are trying something new: both Middle and High School students are invited to meet us in the youth basement where we will have snack time and fellowship together followed by break-out groups. In other words, we will have two separate Bible Studies (one for Middle and one for High School) at the same time. And of course, there will be game time!



To host a trunk, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49AAAB22A7FC1-trunk>



Ashlen and Stephen Welcomed at First Church

The homeowners of the Habitat Faith build that First Church is helping support were welcomed at the church services on September 4. They have been busy earning "sweat equity" towards their new home. First Church has provided builders on June 18 and September 24 and a share of the funding required along with several other community churches. Stephen and Ashlen will assume a mortgage based on their ability to pay. Stephen is the Evening Manager at the Fort Collins Mission and Ashlen works at the Food Bank of Larimer County. We hope that their new home will be ready to move into by the end of the year.



From left: Sarah Lindsey (Faith Engagement Manager for Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity), Stephen and Ashlen (home recipients), and Cindi Ross Bell (a First Church Faith Champion). Linda and Jim Whitlock, and Bonny Thomas cut and helped serve the cakes.



Time to think about Christmas décor! Already?!

As your family prepares for the celebrations of autumn, it's also time to pre-order your UWF Christmas greenery! With the help and support of our wonderful congregation, First Church's unit of United Methodist Women, now known as United Women in Faith, has been selling Christmas wreaths and décor for over 60 years to support local and worldwide mission for women, children and youth. We have not only four sizes of wreaths for sale, but also swags, garlands, crosses, grave blankets, table centerpieces and small decorated trees.

Look for our order table in or near Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, October 9 through October 30, 2022. Order forms will be mailed to the congregation in early October and may also be found on the United Women in Faith bulletin board and on the church website.

Please take time to fill out your order form soon! **Orders will be accepted only until Monday, October 31, 2022.**

Have questions?

Contact Dea Carroll at 970-222-5545 or Joan Richard at 970-206-0447 or joanaire@gmail.com.

Your order will be available for curbside pickup west of Fellowship Hall just after Thanksgiving weekend:

Monday	November 28	12 Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	November 29	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	November 30	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



First Church

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 30

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

followed by
The Chili Cook-Off!





1005 Stover Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524-3849

(970) 482-2436
www.fcfumc.net

Address Service Requested



We remember with sympathy the family of ...

Helen Keller - August 15, 2022

We celebrate the baptism of...

Isaac Emilio and Olivia Adelina Madrid - September 18

EXPLORING

First Church

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. Brad and Rev. Cynthia invite you to attend the Exploring First Church session at noon on October 23 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 October 19 if you plan to attend. Childcare will be provided with reservations by October 19.