



Lenten Series - Calling All Ages!

by David Reid

A dinner and faith formation activities for adults and young children will make Wednesday evenings during Lent a special time at FUMC. Beginning Feb. 17, a **light supper provided by the church will be available in the Parlor at 5:30 p.m. Three breakout sessions will follow from 6 to 7 p.m.:**

- **“Gifts of the Dark Wood”** is a video series. Although commonly understood as a place to be avoided, the Dark Wood is the surest place to meet God. You may feel uncertain, empty, lost, tempted and alone. Yet these feelings – these gifts of the Dark Wood – can be your greatest assets on your journey because they invite you to prove, question and discover. Presenters include Brian McLaren, Lillian Daniel, Parker J. Palmer, Diana Butler Bass and Frank Schaeffer.
- **Marcus Borg’s final book**, *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*. Borg reflects on the convictions he developed over the course of his life and why they provide a path of hope for those seeking to be faithful Christians in the twenty-first century.
- Child care and age-appropriate faith formation activities for children in elementary school. Other activities have been scheduled for Youth Group.

We are looking forward to this intergenerational Lenten series. We hope you can join us! If you have questions, please contact *David Reid* at davidreid24@gmail.com.

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A Strong Financial Base for the Mission of Our Congregation . . .

by Pastor Charles

Financial stewardship insures the continuation of ministries within a congregation. It is central to the life and future of every local church of any denomination. If strong, regular, faithful giving was absent within the body of First United Methodist Church, our church’s existence would end in about 6 months. I am thankful for the people of First United Methodist Church who have worked to enact our financial stewardship plans. My gratitude extends to last year’s Committee on Finance, the Stewardship Committee, the members of the newly elected Committee on Finance (whose terms began January 1, 2016), and to every devoted member in our congregation giving generously Sunday after Sunday. At the first Committee on Finance meeting for 2016, 18 people crowded into the conference room for an orientation related to the year ahead. Below is a statement from the officers of the committee.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Charles



Finance Committee Updates

On January 20th, members of First United Methodist Church’s Committee on Finance met with our administrative leaders, Pastor Charles, Pastor Vivian, Financial Secretary Pam Raab, and Bookkeeper Scott Schroeder, to learn results of an independent analysis of church finances conducted by the Soukup Bush & Associates, CPAs, PC firm. A written report and oral summary was shared by Mika Schneider, CPA. Results of the Tier I analysis were encouraging and also indicated opportunity for improvement regarding generally accepted accounting policies and procedures. Some bookkeeping irregularities were noted but they were not of material concern.

Since October, our congregation’s new part-time bookkeeper, Scott Schroeder, has worked diligently to ensure all accounts are reconciled. Scott will devote additional hours in the months ahead for the church to stay current and to verify all past accounting is accurate and up-to-date.

Financial Secretary Pam Raab also shared a report indicating over 100% of our congregation’s commitments for 2015 have now been fulfilled and 2016 commitments and plate donations are encouraging. If not yet done, all church members are encouraged to mail or turn in their 2016 pink commitment card at their earliest convenience.

Gratitude was expressed to representatives of the Soukup Bush & Associates CPA firm for the Tier I review. The firm will be available to assist Scott and church leadership as needed in the months ahead. Committee members and staff in attendance also expressed their willingness to help. The meeting concluded with renewed enthusiasm and optimism about the future at First United Methodist Church, Fort Collins.

Dave Rubenthaler, Chair
Committee on Finance

Deborah Kohler, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance

Membership Information by Charlotte Allum

NEW MEMBERS WITH WELCOME
Bob Pawlikowski

BAPTISMS WITH JOY
Harper Aberdeen McClellan
daughter of Jarrod and Suzanne McClellan

Lucy Mae Patterson
daughter of Michael Brooks Patterson and Brittany
Renae Adams

DEATHS WITH SYMPATHY
Don Dobler
Shirley Sundstedt
Jane Froeschle
Michael Netik
Tom Lane
Parker Heikes
Bruce Cady
Charles Greathouse (Iowa, formerly from Ft. Collins)

WAM Needs Your Help!

Attention committee chairs and group leaders!! The Welcome and Membership Committee needs your input. The “Getting Connected” booklet needs to be updated. Please review your information in the booklet available at the Welcome Center. Please send any updates by February 15 to Steve King at stephenaking@comcast.net or 970-266-1609.

SPR News

Sanctuary/Bell Choir Director position:
The Staff Parish Relations Committee is now placing ads to secure a permanent Sanctuary and Bell Choir Director. Stacy Miller has done an admirable job as Interim, and has always known the SPRC would conduct an open process to fill the permanent position, for which she may apply. Watch bulletin announcements for more information. Resumes may be sent to the church office.

First Impressions Are Lasting Impressions by Mike Kohler

The old maxim is true: You only get one chance to make a first impression. That’s why our Greeting function is so important in welcoming new guests to our church. And it’s important to long-standing members, too!

Disciples are needed for greeting Guests and Members at Sunday 9:15 and 10:45 services. We have some pretty strict qualifications: You must enjoy smiling, shaking hands and genuinely enjoy making people feel welcome.

By now, you’ve already experienced the warmth and hospitality of Greeters who have been serving our church. We’re trying to add more Disciples to the team so we can be sure to staff all services and all doors – East, West, and South – both inside and outside. Our Guests tell us it makes a big difference when someone from the congregation greets them as they approach the church.

We’re asking Disciples to commit to at least 1 service (or hopefully more!) per month. For consistency and to build team spirit, we’re asking team members to commit through year-end.

Will you help the church with this important bit of lay ministry? Sign up in Fellowship Hall or email Mike Kohler at execprcoach@gmail.com with your expression of interest.

Church Foundation Road Show Coming to a Small Group Near You!

by Stephen Zink

“Our Church Has a Foundation? Who Knew?” will be presented during 2016 to small groups throughout the church to include Sunday school classes, committee groups, office staff, clergy team, and the various lay leadership and ministry groups under the Church Council umbrella.

The Church Foundation Road Show will re-commence this February with an informal and informational presentation by various Foundation Board members. Presentations will be made in the order that the requests are received so please contact the Foundation President or any Foundation Board member as soon as possible to make your reservation!

The presentation will cover such topics as the General Fund that awards grant money in May of each year to selected church committees and groups, as well as providing help in financing new additions and renovations to the church building such as the installation of an elevator at the south entrance in 2005 and exterior repairs to the Sanctuary in 2013.

The presentation will also cover the fourteen Restricted Finds which are designated funds created in perpetuity. Some examples include the Wesley Foundation Fund which supports college level studies for church ministry; the Northern Colorado Faith Library Fund which provides excellent community wide faith library services; the Expanding Our Ministries Fund which makes available “seed” money for new building projects and the Richard Hagen Memorial Lecture Fund, which will provide funds for an annual lecture by a prominent speaker.

The Fort Collins First United Methodist Church Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation created in 1986 for the primary purpose of soliciting, receiving, administering, and dispersing monies for the ultimate benefit of the church.

If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact Stephen Zink, Foundation President, at 970.980.3037 or svzink42@gmail.com, or any Foundation Board member.

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Hey, Hey - We Continue to Listen!

by Martha Conant

If you weren’t able to attend a Listening Circle in the fall, don’t despair! You will have plenty of opportunities to share what you love about our church. Fourteen more Listening Circles – some on Sunday afternoons and some on weekday evenings – will be held in February and March. You can sign up to attend the Listening Circle of your choice in three easy ways:

- Visit the signup table on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall
- Sign up online at <http://goo.gl/W8AAda>
- Contact Martha Conant at 970-482-6997 or marthaconant@gmail.com

Join the more than 120 people who have shared their hopes and dreams for our church with Pastor Charles and Pastor Vivian, but more importantly, with each other. Our future is up to all of us.

Congratulations & Thanks!

Pastor Charles received a letter from Fort Collins Mayor Wade Troxell several weeks ago, commending and recognizing Rich Fisher for his dedicated support of the ClimateWise program.

Noted in the letter was Rich’s valuable participation and input during what has been a transitional year for the ClimateWise Advisory Committee. Mayor Troxell states, “Service with the ClimateWise Advisory Committee sends a strong message to the community about First United Methodist Church’s environmental leadership. Rich’s hard work is a true asset to the City of Fort Collins as well as our community.”

Thank you, Rich!

Preschool Registration

by Laura Lechtenberg

Class Offerings

Primary (Must be 3 years old by September 15)

2 day/week:

Mon & Wed	Morning 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Tues & Thurs	Morning 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri	Morning 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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Pre-K (Must be 4 years old by September 15)

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri	Morning (2 classes) 9:00 - 12:00 pm
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4 day/week:

Mon – Thursday	Morning (1 class) 9:00 - 12:00 pm
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FUMC members not currently enrolled in preschool will be able to register **February 18th** at 9:00am. Open registration for the public will be **February 19th**. Members may register after their designated day, but they will lose their priority status. Registration involves filing out a registration form and paying the \$50 non-refundable registration fee.

Our Annual Open House is **February 3rd from 9:30-11:30 am**. We invite you to come visit. If you have any questions or would like to visit the program, please call the Preschool Director, Laura Lechtenberg 482-0343 or email lauralechtenberg@fcfumc.net.

Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our excellent preschool program!



Spiritual Pathways will be co-led Diane Smith and Linn Zink **10:30 a.m.-noon Tuesdays beginning Feb. 16** in the Upper Room. After an overview, participants may choose a pathway to explore in greater depth and practice individually. Prayer, discussion, and experiential learning will be a part of each weekly group session. Signup required at adult faith formation (AFF) table in Fellowship Hall.

Genesis in 2 ½ Weeks will explore the Creation Story, adventures of the Old Testament patriarchs and God’s grace and faithfulness in the midst of disobedience of God’s people. Sessions will be **Mondays and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon** in the Conference Room on Feb. 18, 22, 25, 29 and March 3 and 7. Cynthia Paquette, director of Congregational Care, is the teacher. Register at AFF table.

Exploring Brain Plasticity: Howard Nornes will speak on “New Understandings of the Brain’s Plasticity and Its Implications for New Ways of Healing Physically and Emotionally” at **6:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at Trinity Lutheran Church**. His presentation is sponsored by the Theologian in Residence program. He is professor emeritus in CSU’s Department of Anatomy/Neurobiology. A donation of \$10 is suggested but not required.

A Mindful Life

Kristin Race, an expert in child, family and school psychology, will present “A Mindful Life: From Surviving to Thriving” at **6:30 p.m. Feb. 23 in Fellowship Hall**.

Race, who is the parent of two young children, will help attendees better understand how the inner workings of their brains impact their moods, thoughts, and behaviors for themselves and the people around them. Drawing on the latest brain research, she will show how mindfulness changes the brain and helps us feel happier, healthier and more present in relationships at work and home.

Race is the founder of Mindful Life and the author of *Mindful Parenting*. Her TedX-MileHigh talk can be found at www.mindfullife-today.com. Her appearance at FUMC is part of the year-long series titled Science Meets Faith, Religion, and Spirituality. A donation of \$10 is suggested but not required.



Be Still
AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD
-PSALM 46:10

Senior Wise

February Double Nickel
Singalong with the Season!

Join us for the **Friday, February 12, Double Nickel Senior Lunch at noon in Fellowship Hall** for *Singalong with the Season!*, a time to sing old favorites and to learn more about the history of some of the music we love from Esther Parsons, pianist, professor of music history - a musician of many talents. February has quite a lot of music to celebrate. Esther will surprise us with a variety of old familiar (and some maybe not so familiar) songs to sing including early USA history songs, Washington – Lincoln, songs from our railroad history, and others connected to the Civil War Era and Black History Month. Patriotic songs will be on her list and, of course, some love songs as we approach Valentine’s Day will be on the program. Esther works to please and inform us all!

Esther Parsons, a member here at FUMC, is currently accompanist for the Silvertones, and a classically trained musician and performer. She volunteers in a variety of ways to share her knowledge of music and to lead entertaining programs in our Fort Collins community. Several of our church choir members and some of our own Okay Chorale singers will be on hand to help us sound as good as possible as we sing the songs that Esther will present to us – everyone with a strong voice is especially invited!

Come and enjoy conversation and a good meal with others ages 50 – 90+ (though younger folks are allowed!). Lunch is \$4– no reservations are required. Special thanks this month and every month to Diane Smith and the many volunteers who make this monthly event possible! Contact Diane if you would like to help before, during or after this gathering: dianes@mindspring.com. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

(Come early for sign ups and a blood pressure check with nurse JoAn Hopkins!)

Senior Ministry
February Calendar

Okay Chorale
meets February 3 and 17
from 3:00 - 4:00 in the Village Commons - come and sing with this group which offers special support to those with memory diagnoses.

Monday at the Movies
Monday, 22nd
will feature *Inside Out*, from 1:00 - 3:00 in the Cinema Room with free refreshments and a brief discussion following the movie (on 4th Monday due to 3rd Monday church closure).

3rd Thursday Lunch
Thursday, 17th
will meet at an area restaurant TBA. Watch for bulletin announcements or details or contact Judy Sayre Grim: judysayregrim@gmail.com.

For more information about these and other senior ministry activities or to sign up for the Seniorwise email mailing list, contact Linn Zink, Senior Council member, lczink@gmail.com or call 970-988-0836.



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