



# The Carillon

December 2017

Volume 23

Issue 12

## PLEASE JOIN US THIS ADVENT SEASON!

Saturday 2 10:00—11:30 a.m. Children's Choirs  
Dress Rehearsal

Sunday 3 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Love Feast**—Fellowship Hall  
1:00 - 3:30 p.m. **Advent Workshop**  
Holiday crafts, food, music and more!  
3:30 p.m. **Youth Christmas Party**  
4:00 p.m. **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal**

Wednesday 6 6:30 p.m. **Children's Choir Musical**  
*Out Standing in Their Field*

Saturday 9 9:00 - 10:30 Sanctuary Choir Dress  
Rehearsal for *Portraits of Christmas*

Sunday 10 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
8:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols (Chapel)  
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. *Portraits of Christmas*  
presented by the Sanctuary Choir and  
Members of the Fort Collins Symphony

Sunday 17 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday 24 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

NO SERVICES AT 8:00 or 11:00 a.m.

**2:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service in  
the Sanctuary.** *The Holy Christmas Story  
told in an unforgettable way!*

**5:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Service in the Sanctuary.** *A Celebration  
with Carols, Candles, and Scripture*

**7:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Service in the Sanctuary.** *A Celebration  
with Carols, Candles, and Scripture*

**11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service in the  
Sanctuary.** *A worship service with  
candles and communion*





# ***Musical Portraits of Christmas***


*Including*

**“Gloria” by Randol Alan Bass &  
“Hodie” by Z. Randall Stroope  
for Chorus, Organ, Brass, and Percussion**

*presented by*

**The Sanctuary Choir with  
Members of the Fort Collins Symphony**

**Sunday, December 10  
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

First United Methodist Church  
1005 Stover Street • Fort Collins, CO • [www.fcfumc.net](http://www.fcfumc.net)  
All are welcome! 

## **OUT STANDING In Their Field**

A Children's Musical presented by  
Joyful Noise and Cherub Choirs  
Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.





**M**y Beloved Brothers and Sisters:

We need Christmas more than ever this year. It has been a year of uncertainty, fear, conflict, violence, and more violence. How desperately our world needs the promise that the coming of Christ represents. The promise that innocence and goodness are not illusions. The promise that diverse people can work together for the common good. The promise that miracles are possible, and the God who was born in poverty and obscurity is with us even now.

There are few stories, if any, that have been told to as many people in as many places as the Christmas Story. It has been told in the palaces of royalty and in the straw huts of the destitute. It has stopped wars, if only for a few hours. It has changed lives for centuries. It speaks of peace on earth and good will in human hearts. It is a compelling story about a God willing to become human in the most humble way imaginable. A God who reached out to all people for all time in the cloak of vulnerability and meekness. It is a story of long ago, and a story of the present moment. It is a story about others, and a story about us. It reminds us that no matter how broken and battered we may be, there is hope for a new beginning. We can rise above suffering, loss, and even death. The most hardened and cynical person can be transformed by the story of God coming to earth as an innocent baby who would bear our griefs and carry our sorrows.

This year especially, we all need the healing and hope that this lovely holiday represents. So please join us every week in celebrating this sacred season. Together we will prepare our hearts to receive God's greatest gift, as we allow ourselves to be renewed, refreshed, and even transformed. If you are unable to join us at church, please know that you remain in our hearts and prayers during this sacred season. You are a part of us and not forgotten.

I eagerly look forward to sharing this Advent journey with all of you this year. May the spirit of Jesus Christ be born anew in us this Christmas.

*Dr. Melanie Rosa*

## Welcome New Members!



**REBECCA ECKERT** lives with her son and daughter-in-law in Wellington. She is retired but keeps active by maintaining an antique mall booth. Rebecca has two sons (and their families), six grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Rebecca's hobbies are reading, cooking, spending time with friends and family, and hunting for inventory for her booth. **Welcome Home, Rebecca!**

**REBECCA GROH** works in Orientation and Transition Programs at Colorado State University. She was born and raised in the South (Tennessee and Texas). Rebecca is thrilled not to be a student anymore – having no tests, no papers, and no homework is wonderful! **Welcome Home, Rebecca!**



**GAIL KEANE** is a willing and eager volunteer in any way despite having a brain injury and many health issues. Gail especially likes to share her cooking secrets and arts and crafts knowledge. **Welcome Home, Gail!**

**SUSAN MASSA** moved to Fort Collins from Colorado Springs a year ago to be close to her three grandchildren. Susan is a school counselor at the three mountain schools. She loves to garden, read, and cook, and recently started playing pickleball. **Welcome Home, Susan!**





## World Wisdoms Project

Exploring Universal Truths.  
Discovering Spiritual Transformation.

by David Reid, Adult Faith Formation

Come experience and learn about the songs of chant in four wisdom traditions at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 E. Stuart St. This will be one of the highlights of the academic year for World Wisdoms Project, an independent 501c3 that has been designated a ministry of First Church.

Jim Tolstrup, director of Shambala training, will offer Buddhist chant that prepares the mind for meditation. Joel Bacon, who is the Stewart and Sheron Golden Chair of Liturgical Studies at CSU, and Nadya Gross, a spiritual training director, will provide the Christian and Jewish traditions of chant, which involve singing of prayers and religious texts in the context of worship. The Islamic tradition of the Lyrical Call to Prayer will be translated by Shakir Muhammad, outreach coordinator for the Islamic Center of Fort Collins.

World Wisdoms Project, formerly Theologian in Residence, suggests a donation of \$10 per person.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

by Beverly Winsett

United Methodist Women will gather on December 14 at 11:30 in the parlor to share a Christmas tea/coffee and to rejoice in "The Greatest Gift." Through scripture and carols, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus, the reason for the season. All who attend are invited to bring a nativity to display.

It will be a special time with friends, time set aside to enjoy wonderful treats and to hear the ageless story of Jesus' birth.

All women are welcome. We look forward to seeing you and wishing you a blessed Christmas.

## Box Tops and Milk Caps for Putnam School

Community & World Outreach wishes to thank those who have donated Box Tops for Education and Morning Fresh milk bottle caps. Please continue to donate these items as they benefit Putnam School. Putnam can exchange box tops and milk caps for needed supplies they don't have funds to purchase. This is a simple way to help.

(Campbell's is no longer offering Labels for Education on their products and will not honor these labels in the future. Thank you to all who have donated these labels in the past.)





**Advent Workshop 2017**

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

**Family Friendly Fun for All!**

**Crafts, Food, Music, and Carriage Rides!**

**When:** Sunday, December 3 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Christmas and winter-themed crafts are set up at different stations throughout fellowship hall. Pizza and other food are available in the parlor. (Donation suggested)  
**Cost:** Please bring a dozen cookies! A donation for pizza is also suggested.  
**Want to help?** Contact Jayme Harper ([jaymeandcory@gmail.com](mailto:jaymeandcory@gmail.com)) or Laurie Elliott ([Laurie\\_elliott1@msn.com](mailto:Laurie_elliott1@msn.com))  
 Or visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084baba72ba02-advent1>

## FUMC Preschool Christmas Service Project

by Laura Lechtenberg, Preschool Director

As part of FUMC's mission we see our preschool as a way to live out the message of God's love in our community. This Christmas season the preschool will again be helping the Larimer County Foster Adoptive Parent Association with their annual Christmas Party. Each year the LCFPA hosts a Christmas Party for 300 children currently in foster care in Larimer County. Preschool and Church families can help by supplying gifts for these special children in our community. A tree with the tags will be in the south hallway. Please take a tag off the tree and gather one to three items on the list. (Do not feel everything on the tag needs to be purchased.) Wrap the items, attach the tag, and return them to the tree. These gifts do not have to be purchased—they just need to be gifts from the heart. You may choose as many names as you would like, but they must be returned to the tree no later than **Wednesday, December 13**. Questions? Please call Preschool Director Laura Lechtenberg at (970) 482-0343 or email [lauralechtenberg@fcfumc.net](mailto:lauralechtenberg@fcfumc.net).

Thank you for helping these special families of our community.

Many thanks to everyone who completed a commitment card for A New Day for First Church Stewardship Campaign. We are hopeful about all that we can do with your generous support and God's guidance and grace. If you have not yet submitted a pledge card, please do so soon, so that we can effectively budget for ministry next year. May God bless you just as you bless our church.



# LESSONS & CAROLS

## Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

Submitted by Karen Stoody

On Sunday, December 10, the 9:30 and 11:00 services in the Sanctuary will be the big musical presentation from the Sanctuary Choir with brass, organ, percussion, and harp. However, at 8:00 in the Chapel, a very special service will use the Advent messages found in the Old and New Testaments interwoven with music to bring the story to all who wish to attend. Dr. Melanie Rosa and Rev. Cynthia Paquette will be reading scriptures selected for the day. Pablo Romero, Kristen Smith, Emily Gehman, Emilee Smith, and Ivy Taylor (five of our talented choral scholars) will share beautiful solos, including many of the well-known arias from Handel's *Messiah*. Lighting of the Advent wreath and congregational singing will complete this service.

Even if you do not usually attend the 8:00 service, this might be a morning to give it a try. You could then attend one of the later services and have another inspirational hour of worship. The gift of music will be given to you in abundance on December 10!

## December Youth Events

**December 3-** Advent Workshop (Youth Helping) 1-3:30 p.m.

Youth Christmas Party 3:30–5:30 p.m.

**December 10-** ARK Night 6–8pm

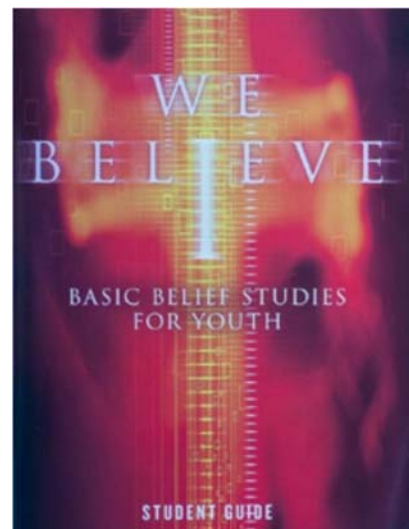
## Confirmation Class

Who: All students in grades 8–10

When: Sunday mornings from 8-9:30, January 21-April 22 (no class April 1). Confirmants will join the church on May 6

Where: Youth Wing

Sign-ups begin December 3. Sign up by emailing or calling the church office or by visiting the Youth page on the website.



Address Service Requested



## We remember with sympathy the families of ...

October 29—Dean Miller

November 6—Delphine Richards

## Sacrament of Holy Baptism

We celebrate the new life among us and congratulate the families of three baby girls recently baptized at First Church:

Julia Freeman and twins Annaliese and Eleanor Landers.



## Habitat Build on October 21

by Jim Collinson

Fifteen volunteers from First Church arrived early Saturday morning at the Habitat Build on the property next to and donated by Westminster Presbyterian Church. The house had been partly completed by students at Poudre High School and then moved in two parts to the present site. Our team worked alongside the owner of the house on a variety of projects including framing doors, placing molding, spackling, and painting. A crew of seven served by providing a delicious lunch to all the workers. Clear progress had been made by the end of the workday.

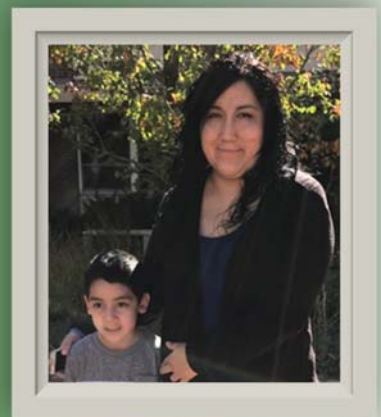


**CAROL MCPEEK** is a retired teacher and a native Coloradan. Carol used to attend the Methodist Church in Hudson, Colorado, where she grew up. **Welcome Home, Carol!**



**RUTH POTTER** moved to Fort Collins to be closer to her daughter and her family. Ruth's father was a Presbyterian minister in Birmingham, Alabama. Her main interest is classical music. **Welcome Home, Ruth!**

**SANDY ODENBACH and STEVE SPELTS.** Sandy is retired, and loves to play tennis and ski. She has kids and grandchildren in Denver and Florida. Steve runs a truck stop in Frederick and grew up in Ft. Morgan at Ft. Morgan UMC. Steve will serve on the Foundation Board and has been attending our church for many decades. **Welcome Home, Sandy! Welcome Home, Steve!**



**LAURA RODRIGUEZ** lived in Fort Collins her whole life but has never been skiing! She loves nature and reading and is the mother of Xavier and Moriah. **Welcome Home, Laura!**

**JANET SHUPE** has been a Methodist all her life. Janet moved to Fort Collins from Bloomington, Indiana. She retired from the Indiana Department of Revenue where she worked as a tax auditor. **Welcome Home, Janet!**





## Online Advent Experiences

By David Reid, Director of Adult Faith Formation

First Church will offer its first-ever online Advent experiences beginning December. 3.

**Advent in 10 Minutes** will provide participants with a link to a short video they can watch at any time each week during Advent. There will an opportunity to comment about the experience on a blog that will be available to all participants. There is no cost associated with this class.

**Names for the Messiah** is a study of the book written by Walter Brueggemann, who is the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. There will be no class meetings. Participants are encouraged to read a 15-page chapter each week and respond on a blog to prayers and study questions found in the back of the book. Cost of the book is \$11.

Details about both Advent offerings are available at the Adult Faith Formation table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays or by contacting David Reid at davidreid24@gmail or (970) 581-2707.

## News from Northern Colorado Faith Library

By David Reid, Director

The recent Donation Garden project of the Northern Colorado Faith Library resulted in 37 books being donated to your church library. Look for the new books on display this month. The Library Board thanks the donors whose support allows the NCFL to continue to serve patrons from our church and throughout the region.

## From Alyce Kaehler

### Welcoming Affirming Reconciling Methodists, First United Methodist Church

Just Peace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation [www.justpeaceumc.org](http://www.justpeaceumc.org) is a resource for these deeply divided times. In the midst of conflict they recommend:

**CREATE A WELL, NOT A WALL:** Create in yourself an openness to conflict as a natural and necessary part of God's creation, an opportunity for growth and revelation.

**ALLOW THE WELL TO FILL:** Open your heart and mind to God's love, drawing you toward reconciliation and being a reconciler.

**BE WELL PREPARED:** Be prepared to listen for understanding, speak the truth in love, use your imagination and practice forgiveness.