

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

The Vision of First Church is to be an inclusive, deeply relational community inviting all people to experience God's presence today.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE—WE STRIVE FOR IT.

In the spirit of Jesus Christ, First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins commits to offering a community in which persons of diverse age, color, culture, sexual orientation and gender identity, economic status, and physical or mental ability are all welcomed and affirmed. To all who have known pain of exclusion or discrimination from church or in society, we seek forgiveness and offer a place of respite and welcome.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH and would like more information, please ask one of our greeters or ushers or visit the **Welcome Center**. They can direct you to classrooms, nursery, restrooms, food, and fellowship, as well as introduce you to our staff. We would be honored to get to know you better and learn about your life and spiritual needs. Our community may not know you yet, but we already love you and hope you will make this your spiritual home. Thank you for joining us today, and God bless you!

WEEKLY FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES—9:45 A.M.

Please sign your children in at the Children's Ministries check-in desk, south entrance, before the 9:30 a.m. worship service begins. Children join their parents/guardians for worship in the Sanctuary until the conclusion of Children's Time. Then, parents of preschoolers escort their children to Room 121, and children grades K-5 meet outside the Sanctuary. The teachers will escort elementary children to their classrooms. Parents, please pick your children up from their designated location following the service.



SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH GROUP: If you are a teen, we have something for YOU! Youth (grades 6-12) are welcome to participate in our Sunday Morning Youth Group that happens at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday. Join our Youth Director and leaders in the Youth basement for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth that are fun and relevant to students!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUPS—Please join us.

8:30 a.m. Second Stagers—Conference Room
9:30 a.m. Serendipity Class—Village Commons;
Upper Room Class—Upper Room (Room 235)
10:55 a.m. Open Hearts Class—Village Commons

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Prelude *Allegro in C* by Anna Bon
Dr. Joel Bacon, organist

Welcome Rev. Bradley Laurvick
Rev. Cynthia Paquette

*Music for Reflection *How Great Thou Art* arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Carillon Handbell Choir

*Call to Worship 9:30 Kelly McBartlett
11:00 Sandy Merriweather

*Hymn of Praise *Be Thou My Vision* UMH #451

Chorus (9:30) *Up from the Grave He Arose* UMH #322
Children's Message Barb Grauberger
Chorus (9:30) *Up from the Grave He Arose* UMH #322

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Anthem *I See the Heaven's Glories Shine* by Andrea Ramsey
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Genesis 38 (Selected Verses)

Sermon Women in the Bible: Rev. Cynthia Paquette
Desperate Times Require Desperate Measures

Offering Our Gifts to God

Giving to God through First Church:

1. Give online at FirstChurchFC.org.
2. Check or cash. All loose one dollar bills go to those in need.
3. Offering your time, talents, gifts, service and witness.

Offertory *Meditation on Beautiful Savior* arr. Cathy Moklebust
Carillon Handbell Choir

*Doxology *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #94

*Sending Prayer

*Hymn of Dedication *Nearer, My God, to Thee* UMH #528
(vs. 1,2,4)

*Benediction

Postlude *Allegro assai* by Anna Bon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Church Retreat-Buckhorn Camp

Registration is open now! Join us at Buckhorn Camp (only 45 minutes away) **July 26-28**, for a church wide mountain weekend experience. If you missed last year, you won't want to miss this year! Fees include choices in lodging, food and activities. You can even bring your camper or pitch a tent! Sign up/Pay with QR code. It is going to be a fantastic weekend.



DISCIPLESHIP BOOK STUDY

Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness

Author: Kevin Nye

**Wednesdays, May 8 – 29, 2024 from Noon – 1 pm, 7 – 8 pm
At Village Commons**

On any given night, more than half a million Americans and Canadians find themselves sleeping on the streets, in shelters, cars, and other places not meant for human habitation. Even where compassion and empathy exist, the complexities around homelessness can make us feel stuck, overwhelmed, or numb to the existence of unhoused people in our cities and neighborhoods. Minister and advocate Kevin Nye introduces readers to the Christ he's met in tents, shelters, and drop-in centers.

This thorough and intimate book shows us that from the margins, Jesus has something to teach us all about grace--something that could change the landscape of homelessness entirely if we're ready to hear it. Description on Amazon.com

Sign up using QR code:

Purchase book (**\$13 each**) on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall

Childcare will be provided but must be reserved by calling the church office by May 1.

Questions? Contact Rev. Cynthia (c.paquette@fcfmc.net)



RICHARD HAGEN COMMUNITY LECTURE

Building Friendships Through Stories

Dr. Dick Foth, Author of *Known: Finding Deeper Friendships in a Shallow World*

May 1 - 7:00 pm Lecture, 6:30 pm Dessert + Book Signing

The ability to sit in comfortable silence with someone is an example of feeling fully at home with another. There isn't a need to entertain or be entertained, just spending the time together is enough. It is a kind of quiet knowing. How can we get to that place with loved ones, coworkers, neighbors?

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUPS—Second Stagers

Second Stagers - Please join us at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

This group was established for middle aged people and those who are now empty nesters to engage in lively spiritual discussions to help all grow in living their Christian life to the fullest.

Congregational Engagement Opportunities

Scan the QR code or go to <http://tinyurl.com/CongregationalEngagement> for a full list of opportunities.



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

USHERS:

9:30 Dana Sampson, Gwendolyn Fink, Steve Fink,
Dave Rubenthaler
11:00 Eric Wilkinson, Shan Watkins

WORSHIP CARE TEAM MEMBER: Lisa Fenton-Free

ALTAR FLOWERS: Today's altar flowers are given by Andrew and Rochelle Odom announcing the birth of their daughter.

Coffee with Rev Brad

Rev Brad will be in the parlor between services (from 10:30-11:30am) to get to know folks who are newer to the congregation. If you haven't had a chance to sit and talk with Brad yet, he would love to have you stop in.

Kids' Closet - Undie Sunday is Today

The Kids' Closet is a mission of First United Methodist Church providing gently used clothing to families at no cost. Come to the mission table in Fellowship Hall. Your donation will provide one or more items for clients of the Kids' Closet.

Buckhorn Camp Open House

Please join us for The Buckhorn camp open house 5/4 10:00-2:00. Experience the magic of stunningly mountain vistas, historic cabins and great fellowship. Indulge in homemade treats made in our kitchen. Scan QR code to learn more about this mountain gem located a short drive from FoCo.



Grief Support Group

Grief is a NORMAL, NATURAL, and NECESSARY journey that we can do together. Whether your loss is recent or ongoing, join us for a time of support, learning, and reflection this Tuesday, April 23 at 1 pm in the Conference Room. Additional Spring dates: May 14, May 28.

VBS Registration is now open!

Don't miss the fun at our annual Vacation Bible School.

June 3rd-7th, 2024, 9 am - 12 pm at First Church, 1005 Stover

Cost: 1 child-\$50, 2nd child-\$65, 3rd child-\$75

(children must be from same family to get multiple children discount).

Full time volunteers-children attend for FREE!

This event is open to Pre-K (must be 4 years old by September 15th, 2024) to students completing 5th grade.

Sign up to register & volunteer here:



Pay Here:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 4/28 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@fcfmc.net **or call (970) 482-2436 ext. 111 by 4/24 if you plan to attend.** Childcare provided with reservations by 4/24.

Graduation Sunday

On **May 5th**, we are celebrating all of our graduates! Anyone graduating from High School, College, or other degree programs can **send a grad photo along with the name of the student and school** to be featured in the May 5th bulletin. We will also honor our High School graduates in the evening with a semi-casual celebration! **Email grad info to** youth@fcfmc.net **by 4/29.**

Volunteer at our Partner School

A lunchtime run club needs adults to tally laps/reward kids on Thursdays/Fridays 11:45-1. Kindergarten technology needs an assistant to help kids listen/follow easy directions with robotic toys Wednesdays 12:30-1:40. The Book Fair needs volunteers to help kids select \$7 worth of books on 4/29 and 4/30 morning/afternoon shifts. Teacher Appreciation Brunch (food needed) May 7 11-12:30. Contact Janet Krech.

From your Faith Community Nurses

DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is 4/27. Take unneeded/old medications to the nearest location (info at www.dea.gov/takebackday).

Our Church Staff



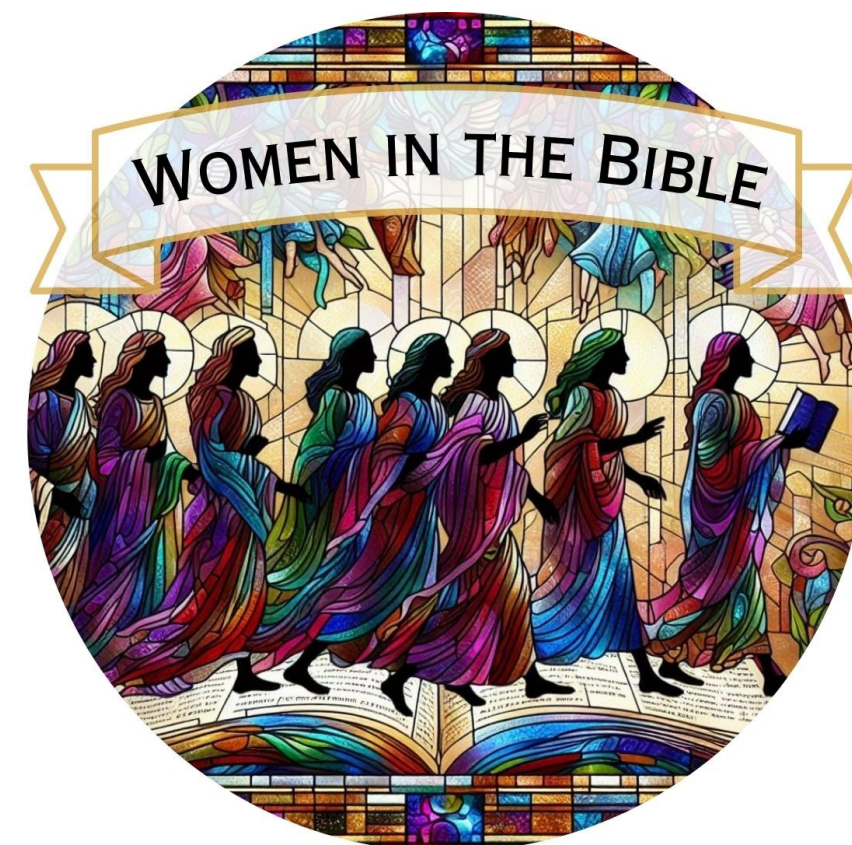
Connect With Our Pastors

Rev. Brad Laurvick
Lead Pastor
brad@fcfmc.net

Rev. Cynthia Paquette
Pastor of Congregational Engagement
c.paquette@fcfmc.net

First United Methodist Church

1005 Stover Street • Fort Collins, CO 80524 • (970) 482-2436



April 21, 2024

You are most welcome at First Church.

We are a fully inclusive, deeply relational community inviting all people to experience God's presence today.

Sunday Worship Services are at 9:30 and 11:00.

There are many opportunities for spiritual growth and connection for all ages.

Thank you for joining us today!