

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.

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 *Variations on "O Sons and Daughters"* by Jeanne Demessieux
Dr. Joel Bacon, organist

Welcome Rev. Bradley Laurvick
Rev. Cynthia Paquette

*Music for Reflection *Gentle Jesus, Ever Blest* by Gabriel Fauré
Cherub and Starlight Children's Choirs

*Call to Worship 9:30 Corey Putman
11:00 Colleen Bell

*Hymn of Praise *Easter People Raise Your Voices* UMH #304

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 *Joy in the Morning* by Natalie Sleeth
Sanctuary Choir

Scripture Acts 2:42-47
Philippians 4:1-3

Sermon Women in the Bible: Rev. Bradley Laurvick
Someone Has to Carry On...

The Sacrament of Holy Communion TFWS #2257

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 *Moderato* by Elizabeth Stirling

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

*Sending Prayer

*Hymn of Dedication *At the Font We Start Our Journey* TFWS #2114

*Benediction

Postlude *At the Lamb's High Feast* by Mary Beth Bennet

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.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE HEALTH SERIES: EATING TO THRIVE IN LIFE

Speaker: Cindy Yergler (Registered and Licensed Dietitian)
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. at The Parlor
Living your best life yet? Do not wait. Learn how to eat to thrive in life. Childcare provided if reserved by calling the church office by April 3.

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](https://www.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 a pretty obvious 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, or neighbors?

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/COMMUNION SERVERS:

Emily Anderson, Jeff Johnson, Andrew Dowhaniuk, Gavin Diaz, Lukas Helin, Simon Helin, Mackenna Matthews, Eric Wilkinson, Pam Metzger, and Sarah Johnson

WORSHIP CARE TEAM MEMBER:

Robert Kiser

ALTAR FLOWERS: Today's altar flowers are given in honor of and for the birthday of Elva Alden-Petring for all her contributions to First Church.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic Next Sunday!

Free Blood Pressure Clinic! Come to the Gathering Place between services to have your blood pressure checked including a free nursing consult next Sunday. Sponsored by your FUMC Faith Community Nurses.

Kids' Closet - Undie Sunday is April 21

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 of items for clients of the Kids' Closet.

Grief Support Group

Whether you have suffered a recent loss or continue to grieve a loved one, join us for a time of reflection, learning, and support this Tuesday, **April 9 at 1 pm in the Conference Room**. Additional Spring dates: April 23, May 14, May 28.

Calling all Green Thumbs, and Shovels

We are clearing out the Parlor garden on April 13 at 9 am, to provide bulbs for donations and in order to clear it for dormancy for future planting!

Prayer Shawl Ministry Knit In

New Members Welcome. Materials Provided.
Saturday, April 13 from 9:30 - 11:30 am.

THANK YOU FIRST CHURCH!

Your generosity at our recent 2024 Habitat Faith Build Bake Sale was joyously overwhelming. So many of you contribute delicious baked goods for us to sale, AND the "free will" donations totaled around \$6000! Our hearts are over-flowing with gratitude for ALL of the generous donations. Also, many thanks to Victoria and our Youth for helping to sell and collect the money.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pine Ridge? Learn More at the United Women in Faith Unit Meeting

Did you notice "Pine Ridge" under "Serve with Us" in the Easter handout? Want to know more? Come to the UWFaith unit meeting on **Thursday, April 11, at 11:20 in the church parlor**. Lunch will be followed by a presentation on the history and future of First Church's involvement with the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Questions? Contact Julie Wilson at 970-226-5925 or Mary Ann Kerttula at makerttula@comcast.net.

Kitchen update at the Reconciliation Center

Pine Ridge Reservation We want to support our Native American brothers and sisters in updating the Reconciliation Center kitchen, where over 12,000 meals have been served since June, 2023! I am looking for 8 workers who are willing to help tear out and reconstruct the kitchen! There will be opportunities for us to explore many aspects of the reservations! Room and board provided! Please contact: Elaine Karns at elkinco@aol.com.

Faith Family Hospitality Training

Thinking of volunteering for our next Faith Family Hospitality rotation? We will host families experiencing homelessness at our church for two weeks starting May 26th. Learn how we provide food and shelter to our families by collecting donations of food from the congregation, cooking and serving dinner each evening. Discover what the FFH trailer in the parking lot contains as we learn about setting up family rooms, hosting overnight, and then getting it all back on the trailer and to the next church. The best way to get started is to attend a training **Monday evening, April 8th (food) or April 15th (shelter) at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall**. Please join us to learn about this important outreach. You will be glad you did. For more information – Elaine Andersen elaine.andersen@colostate.edu.

Our Church Staff



Connect With Our Pastors

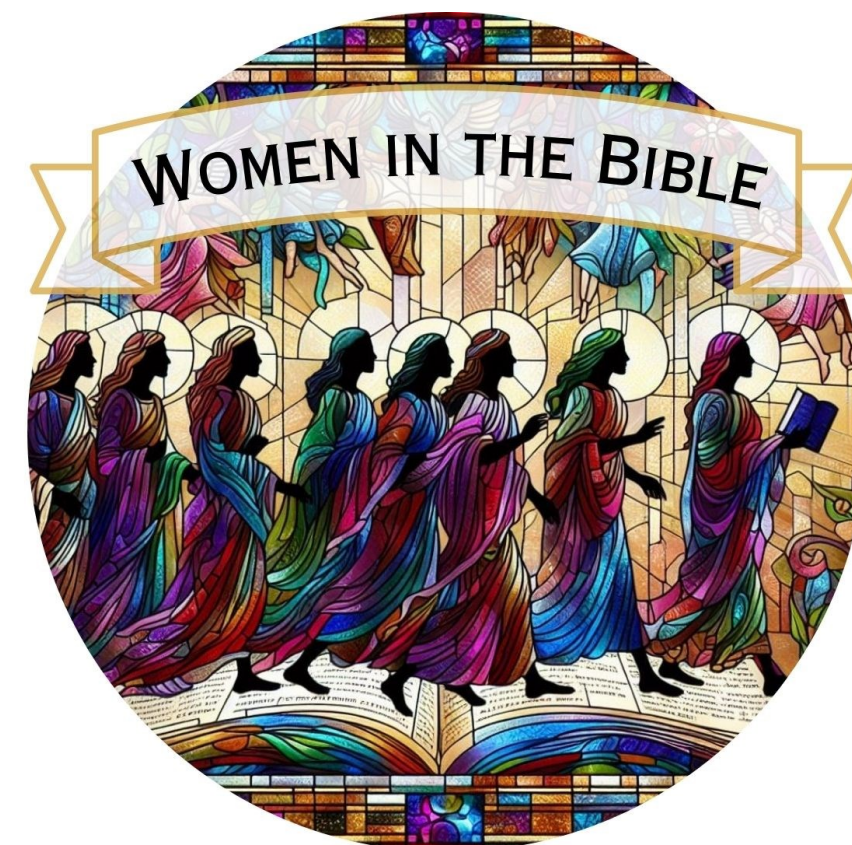
Rev. Brad Laurvick
Lead Pastor
brad@fcfumc.net

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

First United Methodist Church
1005 Stover Street • Fort Collins, CO 80524 • (970) 482-2436

FIRST United Methodist CHURCH

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April 7, 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!