

# THE MESSENGER

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |



**CONNECTING WITH KIDS**

**WELCOME (BACK)  
REV. PERICA**

**THINKING OF  
SUMMER YET?**



# What's Inside | CONTENTS

- 3 Pastor's Corner
- 4 Welcome (Back) Rev. Perica
- 5 New Year, New List
- 6 Library Corner
- 7 Children's and Youth Ministries Connection
- 8 Church of Character
- 8 Great Year for FPC Foundation
- 9 Patchwork Updates
- 10 Lent and Holy Week 2018
- 11 Thinking of Summer Yet?
- 12 All-Church Easter Egg Dyeing

# From the Editor | CONNECTION

As we took the first step into the season of Lent this year, we were pushed into mourning another senseless shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. I've found, in experiencing this all too often, that my mind first wonders about connections: Did that mother find her child? How is the shooter tied to the school? How will the community come together?

And then there are the connecting actions we take *after* a tragic event. Immediately praying for victims, their families, their school, and their town. Coming together as a community, as a state, as a country. But what about actions that could have been taken *before*? What if connection had been made on some level, any level, in earlier years? What kind of difference could it have made if someone had treated the shooter as Jesus would have? Or prayed for him? Or mentored him? It shouldn't take a tragedy for us to reach out and connect with one another. Jesus called His disciples to it 2,000 years ago, and He calls us to it today.

In these 40 days of Lent—and in the light of yet another suffering young adult taking precious lives—let's take a hard look at how we can connect in these critically formative years of FPC children and youth. The Children's and Youth Ministries are currently looking for 75+ volunteers to connect with kids. Your connection—even a small, relational connection—could have lasting impact on the young adults they will become.

Lent is meant to be a period of reflection and change. If we come out of these weeks unchanged or with the same focus as before, we have missed an opportunity from our Lord. Don't miss His nudging on this one. Turn over to page 7, look at just some of the ways our kids are asking for connection points, and give Pam Armstrong or Kalista Consol a call. Our kids need us to engage with them for the future of our homes, our church, our community, and our nation.

—Cathy Richardson

## THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
531 SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80524  
(970) 482-6107  
WWW.FIRSTPRESFC.ORG

MINISTERS | THE CONGREGATION  
SENIOR PASTOR | COREY NELSON  
EDITOR | CATHY RICHARDSON

**PUBLISHING GUIDELINES** | THE MESSENGER is a publication for the people, passions, and mission of First Presbyterian Church Fort Collins. The newsletter seeks to inspire, inform, instruct, challenge, and motivate its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC. We pray that adult readers in all life stages will aspire to be faithful disciples for Christ.

Articles that support FPC's vision and mission will be accepted. All articles must be sponsored by one of the church's five Centers and are subject to the approval of the Editor. Submissions will be edited for length and suitability.

Article submissions will be accepted via e-mail to [crichardson@firstpresfc.org](mailto:crichardson@firstpresfc.org). Contact Editor Cathy Richardson for more information, (970)482-6107. Check [www.firstpresfc.org](http://www.firstpresfc.org) for specific issue deadlines.



# PASTOR'S CORNER

## LENT: A SEASON OF ADVENTURE, DISCIPLINE, COMMITMENT, AND CHALLENGE

---

Hello Friends,

Once again, we enter into the season of Lent and Holy Week: a season of adventure and discipline, of commitment and challenge. Every year we modern-day disciples are invited to walk with Jesus towards the cross. This year we have provided a Lenten Study Guide entitled "Engage," and have both printed copies and have it online on our website. While the tradition of spiritual disciplines during Lent often invites us to give something up, these disciplines invite us to take something on: study, worship, celebration, service, and community. This study will accompany our sermon and worship series through the Gospel of Mark. You may already be engaged in one or more of these disciplines. If so, you might consider adding a new discipline to expand your spiritual capacity or reawaken a slumbering corner of your faith. My hope is that in the process you may come to discover new insights, spiritual vigor, greater courage, deeper compassion, or other blessings of faith.

Why do we engage in spiritual disciplines anyway? I believe the path of discipleship is not unlike the decision between hiking up a mountain or having a helicopter drop you off on the summit. One can certainly choose the easier way, but the experience won't be the same. Leanne Pearce Reed, one of my seminary classmates who now pastors a church in Alabama, once put it this way: "It might be easier just to show up on Easter morning for the trumpets and the lilies and the alleluias. You can do it that way. A lot of people do. You can do it that way, but it won't mean the same thing." This is why I'm inviting you to take the

path of intentional spiritual discipline this year—not for the sake of showing off your sackcloth and ashes, but to engage in a richer and more meaningful journey along the way.

You can choose to participate in this study and these practices on your own if that works best. However, you may find that joining others will enrich your learning and help to keep you accountable, kind of like taking a group class at the gym versus trying to work out on your own. We will be using the study guide for our Wednesday evening MX class during Lent, or you could also simply invite others at church to join you for a weekly conversation, maybe over a meal or just a cup of coffee.

During Holy Week itself, we will once again be offering services at noon each day, with guest pastors from the community leading us in worship—some familiar faces and some new. (Check out page 10 for the schedule.) We hope you'll join us and use this opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, or coworker to join us. In addition, we are making one significant change to the schedule this year. In place of our traditional Maundy Thursday service, we will instead be offering a Tenebrae Service on Good Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.

The service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," is not a new development in church liturgy. It has been observed since medieval times. Originally Tenebrae was held in the monasteries, but was later opened to allow everyone to participate. This service is now broadly offered and experienced across the ecumenical church. For many congregations, the

Tenebrae service is one of the most moving and meaningful worship services of the year. In a candlelit sanctuary, Christ's final hours are commemorated through Scripture and song. As the drama unfolds, candles are extinguished one by one as the congregation hears once again the account of Christ's trial, suffering, and crucifixion until all is dark except for the recession of the Christ candle, symbolizing Christ's death.

Spoiler alert: the candle will reappear on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection during our Festival Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

I truly hope and pray that this season of Lent will be a holy and blessed time for you. As always, I look forward to hearing about your experience and am glad to be a conversation partner along the way.

Peace,  
Corey

# WELCOME (BACK)

## REV. GLENN PERICA RETURNS AS PARISH ASSOCIATE

---

FPC welcomes back Rev. Glenn Perica and his wife Chris to our congregation and community. Glenn served at FPC as an Associate Pastor from 1991 to 1999 before moving on to lead congregations in Longmont, Colorado, and Farmington, New Mexico. After retiring last year, Glenn and Chris returned to Fort Collins to be near extended family. Pastor Corey extended an invitation to Glenn, our Session, and the Presbytery to consider establishing a Parish Associate relationship. After prayerful consideration, all parties have agreed to have Glenn on board serving in this capacity, and he began this work at the beginning of 2018. Because it has been a number of years since FPC had someone in this role, it may be helpful to offer a quick refresher on what the new role is, as well as what it does and does not mean.

A Parish Associate, as defined by our denomination, is a minister who is either retired or working in a nonpastoral role like teaching or chaplaincy, but who maintains a relationship with a particular local church. This is not a staff position and does not replace the role of an Associate Pastor.

As an aside, church leaders are committed to our future full-time staffing needs and will begin the search for our next Associate Pastor when we have a solid financial footing to do so. In the meantime, having a Parish Associate provides an enhancement to ministry in what we might call an “adjunct” position alongside existing staff and leadership.

In Glenn’s case, he will be helping with pastoral care and visitations and will be doing some teaching and assisting as he is able with other ministries like leadership training and program development. He will also serve as backup during emergencies and when Pastor Corey is out of town.

Glenn brings to this work a wealth of experience and wisdom from many years in ministry, and we are grateful to have him here. As we pilot this relationship this year, Glenn will be working approximately 10 hours a week for eight or nine months out of the year. This schedule will allow Glenn and Chris the time to still fully embrace retirement, travel, and spoil their grandchildren.

If you haven’t already, please extend a warm and joyful “welcome back” to Glenn and Chris (who have rejoined the church as well) as they settle back into our congregation and community.





# NEW YEAR NEW LIST

It's that old new year again. Some of us look forward to it, some of us don't. Some of us are beginning a new year without someone we had in 2017. Some of us are beginning a new year without a job we had in 2017. Or a home we had. Beginning anew is so hard.

Still others look forward to a new year as an opportunity to start over, to make some changes, to hope for transformed relationships, to find new opportunities.

In either case, we often find ourselves making lists—lots of lists.

I came across a list or two that I thought important enough to share. Seth Godin created these lists for individuals to create for their own lives and circumstances. Make two lists:

On one list, identify:

- Grievances, disrespects, and bad breaks
- People who don't like you
- Deals that went wrong
- Unfair expectations
- Unfortunate outcomes
- Unfairness you have suffered

It's all legitimate, it's all real. Don't hold back.

On the other list, write down:

- Privileges, advantages, and opportunities you have
- Places where you have gotten the benefit of the doubt
- A break you caught
- Things you see that others don't
- Resources you can tap into
- Things you know
- People who trust you

Now, take one list and put it in a drawer. Take the other list and tape it up on your bathroom mirror. Read the list in the drawer once a month or once a year, just to remind you that it's safe and sound. Read the other list every day.

You get to pick which list goes where, but just know that the list you choose to read daily will determine what you notice, how you interpret what you see, and the story you tell yourself about what's happening and what will happen. Reading it might be the most important thing you do all day.

In your own list-making, remember that we don't have to wait until the new year for a fresh start because *God's mercies are new every morning*. His mercies never come to an end, and His steadfast love never ceases. Great is His faithfulness.

—Marge Rice



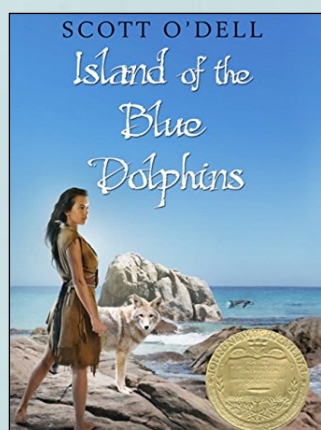
# LIBRARY CORNER

## THE WORD SOURCE

### Newbery Award Classics for Readers in Grades 4 to 8

It's been a few years since authors like Scott O'Dell, Wilson Rawls, and Lois Lowry visited Fort Collins to speak with middle-school readers. But modern youth will still enjoy classics of fiction, historical fiction, mystery, and fantasy from that generation of writers.

Female and male characters drawn from the ages of middle-school and early teen readers lead the plot lines of these novels. Encourage your young readers to explore the FPC library resource. Adolescent novels are in the "J" section of the library's south wall. Here's a small sample of titles.



In *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Karana's years of keeping herself alive while waiting for a ship to carry her from a deserted island prove not only an adventure of survival, but also a story of natural beauty and personal discovery. O'Dell's novel is based on what is essentially the female version of Robinson Crusoe, known to history as the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island, who

actually lived on that island off the California coast from 1835 to 1853.

*Where The Red Fern Grows* presents a young boy's growing-up years, with chapters both suspenseful and poignant. A similar setting and character experience are found in *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George. In the novel *And Now Miguel* by Joseph Krumgold, 12-year-old Miguel keeps secret his youthful wishes, prays that they'll come true, and finds his prayers answered within a disturbing and dangerous turn of events. Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet* provides readers a young man's wilderness survival drama.

Ten-year-old Annemarie is the main character in Lois Lowry's historical fiction novel of World War II in Denmark, *Number the Stars*. Also from Lowry is *The Giver*, a philosophical fantasy story of how painful as well as pleasurable memories hold value in life.

Another emotionally engrossing story, Natalie Babbitt's *Tuck Everlasting* explores the benefits and also the painfulness of an imaginary life everlasting. Pure fantasy is represented by beautiful prose and intriguing plot in Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle In Time* and its companion, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*.

The mysterious digging of seemingly random holes in the desert is the plot of Louis Sachar's novel *Holes*, in which Stanley resolves to dig up the truth in this both humorous and dark tale of crime and punishment.

Finally, in Sharon Creech's *Walk Two Moons*, young Salamanca's entertaining, far-flung search for her mother catches the unsuspecting reader with the kind of intensely emotional story moment that only fine writing can produce.

Reading one of these stories alongside your own child can be enriching and connective for both of you!

—Tom Tonoli



# First Presbyterian Church **Children's Ministries** For Children With Children By Children

## Growing a Vision

Six months ago God gave me **you**: a vibrant, joyful, faith-filled church family. You gave me your amazing, spirited, fun kids. You also gave me a title to grow into: Director of Children's Ministries. Had it been "Director of Christian Education" my focus may have been mainly Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

**Ministry for Children.** This is a fun and exciting part of my job description! But, the title asks for a more integrative, expansive vision. With time and prayer (lots of prayer!), I have realized that our church must offer ministries **for** children, **with** children, and **by** children.

## For Children

**Sunday School** has been a fun and enriching experience for our kids and for the lucky, talented, and caring folks who teach them. We are using the Spark curriculum, which uses the same Bible stories for all grades. We are grateful to have the teachers we need through the rest of the year, but there are needs for next year!

**Midweek eXperience (MX)** has been a great time to learn a little and have fun together!

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** planning is upon us! **Our dates are June 11 to 16.** This year we will be going to Babylon with Daniel. As this is my first time with FPC . . . HELP! Seriously, please let me know how you would like to be involved in this great ministry that we provide for the whole community!

## With Children

The **Advent Celebration** was a beautiful way to exemplify what ministry with children is all about. It was for people of all ages. We all worked together to make cookies and a Peace Pole for Realities for Children. I saw children and adults who were NOT related having fun together at the stations. We will be planning more events like this, designed for intergenerational interaction.

**Connection.** This is a new way for adults, youth, and children to connect in a real way. We are looking for mentors for the youth and prayer partners for our kids. Contact Kalista Consol or myself to find out more!

## By Children

**Christmas Cards.** Our Sunday School kids made Christmas Cards that were sent out to folks who especially needed a boost.

**Christmas Play** Our children and youth told you the Christmas story in a new way and did such a great job! This year we will be looking for even more ways for children to minister to others.

## You Can Help

**Children's Ministry Team.** This team will meet as a whole every other month. We will divide into subcommittees, one for each for/with/by ministry area. These subcommittees will help plan, recruit, and/or carry out the events in their area. Each subcommittee will determine frequency of meetings.

**Event/Ministry-Specific Volunteers.** No one can do it *all*, but *all* of us can do something. There is a volunteer form online and at the front desk. And you can always contact me!!

Let's truly be a Church Family—blessing to our children and allowing them to bless us!

—Pam Armstrong

## CHURCH OF CHARACTER

# DECISIVENESS

The character quality for March 2018 is DECISIVENESS (versus procrastination). Decisiveness can be defined as choosing to do what is right based on accurate facts, wise counsel, and clear direction from God's Word. In considering what is involved in developing decisiveness, there are several key elements, among which are the following:

- **Gather accurate information**

Good decisions depend on good information. A good decision maker, therefore, is a person who is an effective collector of good, accurate information so that decisions are based on the best information possible. Consulting knowledgeable people whom you trust is a critical part of such information gathering. A good decision maker also should seek to know God's purpose and then base his or her decisions on that understanding.

- **Keep a clear perspective**

As you take interest in a project, you will find it easier to take responsibility for it and for your decisions. You must be sure that your motivations are ethically sound and based on Biblical principles.

- **Make the right choice**

Once you have gathered the best information possible, evaluated the alternatives with a clear perspective, prayed about the decision to be

**"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing."**

**—Theodore Roosevelt**

made and its impact on those involved, then make the right choice, the one that you believe God would want you to make, one that is morally and ethically sound.

- **Follow through**

Follow-through is needed to evaluate the results and verify the quality and accuracy of your decision. Did your decision have a positive effect on the lives of those affected by the decision?

- **Accept responsibility**

When you make any decision, whether the results are good or bad, you must be willing to accept responsibility for the decision you made. Demonstrate a commitment to character by acknowledging mistakes when necessary and by pursuing effective decision making by always relying on the Word of God.

## Foundation Delivers Success in 2017

For those of us at FPC, 2017 marked a year buoyed by exciting new programs, a swell of new members, and a true sense of excitement moving ahead into the new year. Often working behind the scenes, our Foundation (officially named the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins Foundation) hit impressive milestones, too.

### Key accomplishments include the following:

- For our Foundation, 2017 was the best on record for adding gifts, supporting programs, and delivering a new high in earnings.
- Highlights include the completion of our new columbarium, which transformed the church courtyard into a lovely, manicured space where people can spend time with the memory of loved ones or enjoy the fellowship of their church family during special events.
- Fort Collins is such a piece of Americana, and the Foundation was thrilled to help to bring the beautiful chime of music to downtown with the addition of our new high-tech carillon bell tower.

### The Foundation's 2017 numbers:

- Year-end balance was \$1,503,095, with the portfolio unit value appreciation at 14.6%.
- We granted \$23,930 to the FPC budget and awarded special church project distributions of \$46,500.
- We received new restricted gifts totaling \$125,933 and regular gifts of \$6,100. Your Foundation Board looks forward to serving the needs of the FPC family with the addition of these new gifts and earnings.

As we continue into 2018, we wish to thank and acknowledge our retiring board members, Roger Baird and Larry Weber, for their generous years of service to the Foundation Board. We are pleased to welcome two new board members, Robert Rademacher and Lee Cord. New officers for 2018 include Dale Preston, president; Linda Granberg, vice-president; RJ Hanna, treasurer; and Jack Miller, secretary. Continuing to support the Board as members are Liz MacLauchlin, Jim Norrgard, and Audrey McDill.

While the Foundation continues to grow and serve, we still have a long list of giving opportunities for supporting youth, music, mission, and other special projects. We invite FPC members to contact any board member with questions of all kinds, including how to maximize charitable contributions by including gifts through one's planned giving. Join us in supporting FPC through its Foundation—and assuring the long-term future of our church!

—Audrey McDill



# PATCHWORK UPDATES



## CROP Hunger Walk 2017

Much appreciation goes to all who walked and/or contributed to last October's successful CROP Hunger Walk. We had a record number of walkers, and \$18,356 was raised. In December, \$4,589 was delivered to the Food Bank of Larimer County, with our own youth CROP Walkers Anna, John, and Grace Kenyon, and Emma and Rebecca Kirby helping to deliver that check. An additional \$13,767 will support Church World Service's village water wells and crop irrigation projects in developing countries. Thanks also to Kalista Consol for organizing FPC's city-award-winning Youth Walk Team.

## Greetings from Rev. Dr. Cindy Frost

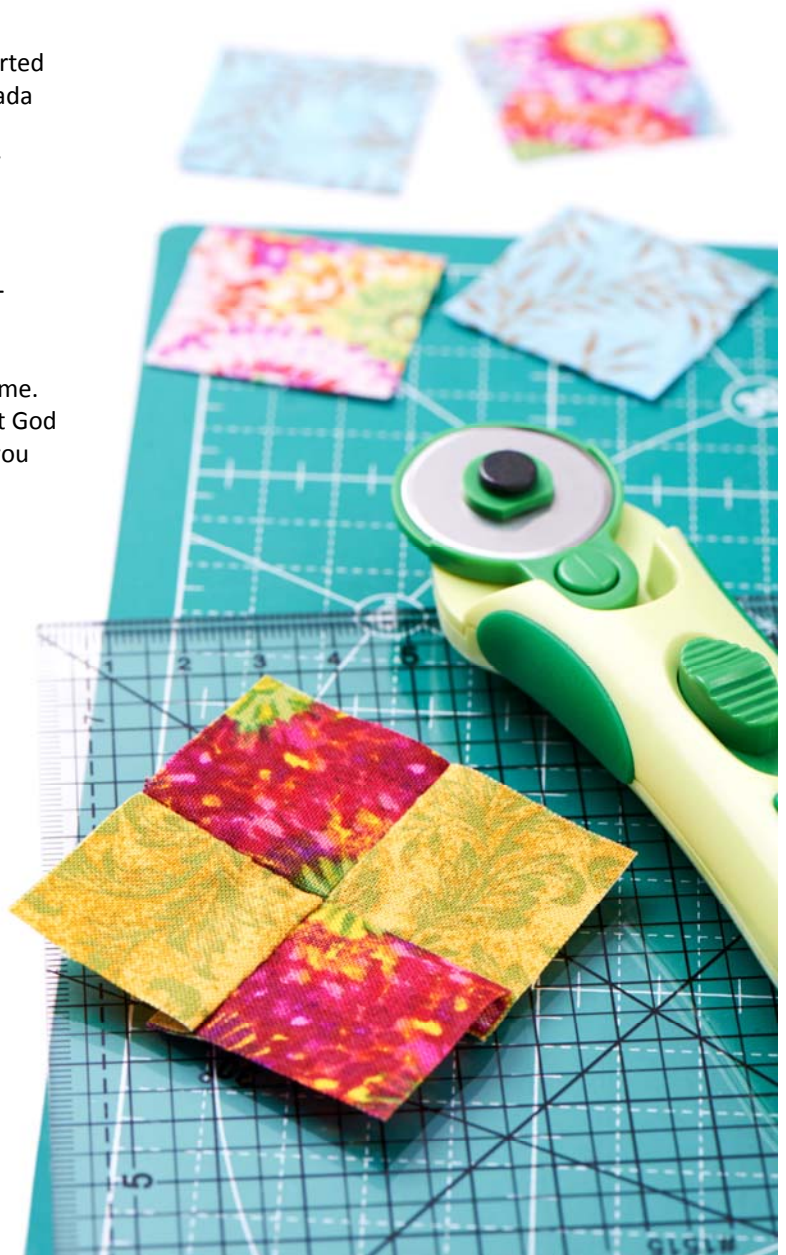
I wanted to share with you some good news! Last week I started a position as Interim Associate Pastor of Outreach at La Cañada Presbyterian Church! I served at LCPC 20 years ago in youth ministry. La Cañada is right next to Pasadena and near Fuller Seminary, so it is a bit of a homecoming. Some of you will recognize LCPC as the church where Jeff Hoffmeyer is now serving. The other associate pastors are ones I worked with before, so I already know and like the entire pastoral team—what a fun blessing!

I am so grateful for those of you who have been praying for me. My contract is just for a year, so please continue to pray that God will guide my next steps! I miss you, pray for you, and wish you all the best! Blessings, Cindy

## Loma Verde, Dominican Republic— Plant With Purpose Village Sponsored by FPC

Plant with Purpose (PWP) emphasizes environmental restoration, economic empowerment, and spiritual renewal. PWP recently reported on the college graduation and employment of Jacinto Nivar. Jacinto joined a Village Savings and Loan group in Loma Verde as one of the youngest members. At the end of the year, the group members decided to use their savings to help Jacinto graduate from the University of Santo Domingo, something he could not afford on his own. Their savings under the guidance of PWP and their confidence in Jacinto paid off, and now Jacinto can contribute to his father's business and his community.

PWP bigger-picture achievements for FY-2017 include eight new church partnerships, eight new savings and loan groups, and 944,786 trees planted.



# LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2018

Christ LOVE sacrifice  
healing kingdom of God demon  
rejection amazed  
wholeness offering JESUS restored  
insiders faith the gospel of  
outsiders Mark  
last will be first PEACE camel  
awake misunderstand renew anointed

## Sundays, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

- Sunday, March 4: With All Her Mite
- Sunday, March 11: I'm Wide Awake
- Sunday, March 18: Life Poured Out
- Sunday, March 25: Palm Sunday Worship
- Sunday, April 1: Easter Sunday Worship

## Lenten Study Guide

*Engage: A Lenten Guide for Spiritual Growth* can be found in the Narthex, in the church office, or on [firstpresfc.org](http://firstpresfc.org).

## Special Services and Events

- **March 25: All-Church Easter Egg Dyeing**  
People of all ages are invited to come and dye Easter eggs together. Bring as many hard-boiled eggs as you want to dye, and we'll provide the rest. Dyeing Easter eggs is a fun tradition for the whole church family! All are welcome at this multigenerational event.
- **March 26 to 30: Community Holy Week Services, 12:00 p.m. daily**  
For centuries, the Christian Church has set aside Holy Week to remember Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, His suffering, and His death. At First Presbyterian Church, we host services for the entire community, gathering the whole ecumenical church for worship each day at noontime. Our Midday Holy Week Services take place from 12:00–12:45 p.m. daily. These "lunch time" worship services will be led each day by pastors and musicians from five different traditions, offering all of us an opportunity to experience the richness and breadth of the whole family of God. All are welcome and we hope you will join us. Childcare will be available for children up to age 5.
  - > **Monday, March 26:** Led by CSU LuMin students (Lutheran Campus Ministry run by Rev. Paul Judson)
  - > **Tuesday, March 27:** Led by Rev. Darren Fred, pastor for Timberline Old Town Church
  - > **Wednesday, March 28:** Led by Father Enrique Salazar, priest at Holy Family Church
  - > **Thursday, March 29:** Led by Rev. Melanie Rosa, pastor of First United Methodist Church
  - > **Friday, March 30:** Led in song rather than spoken word by tenor, Anthony McGlaun
- **March 30: Good Friday Tenebrae Worship, 7:00 p.m.**  
We commemorate Jesus' final hours by candlelight with scripture, story, and song. As we tell the account of Christ's final hours, we extinguish the candles and fall into darkness. The Tenebrae service is a powerful way to honor Good Friday on our way to Easter Sunday.



# THINKING OF SUMMER YET?

## FIRST FPC FAMILY CAMPING TRIP PLANNED

---



The great naturalist, John Muir (son of a Presbyterian pastor, by the way), once wrote, “Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.” We couldn’t agree more. As you’re making plans for this summer, we hope you’ll join us as Corey and Miriam Nelson host the first-ever FPC Family Camping Trip at Glacier Basin Campground in Rocky Mountain National Park.

We have reserved the weekend of July 12–15, 2018. There are up to 65 spots available for Thursday–Sunday, as well as an additional 40 spots for those who want to come just Friday and Saturday (for a total of 105 on those two nights). The cost

will be \$5.00 per person per night to cover the campground fee (National Park entrance fee is not included).

You and your family will bring your own equipment and food for meals, but we will supply wood for one or more campfires going every night and supplies for s’mores. Group hikes will be planned for the day, but everyone will be free to choose your own adventure(s). Official signups will begin in March, but make plans now to join us. It is going to be a blast!



**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**

Periodicals Postage

**PAID**

Ft Collins, CO 80525

USPS No. 562110

531 S. College Avenue | Fort Collins, CO 80524  
(970) 482-6107 | [firstpresfc.org](http://firstpresfc.org)



To be removed from future mailings from First Presbyterian Church, please email [crichardson@firstpresfc.org](mailto:crichardson@firstpresfc.org) or call (970) 482-6107.

'THE MESSENGER' (U.S.P.S. 562110) is published five times yearly by First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Collins, CO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 'THE MESSENGER', First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524. The publisher of this periodical reserve the right to edit all material submitted.

# All-Church Easter Egg Dyeing Event

Sunday, March 25  
1:00–2:00 p.m.

Bring hard boiled eggs  
&  
we'll provide the rest.

Dyeing Easter eggs is a fun tradition for the whole church family! All are welcome to this multi-generational event.

