

# THE MESSENGER

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**WHAT SERVICE  
OR SKILL DO YOU  
HAVE TO SHARE?**

**WELCOMING  
FPC'S NEW  
SENIOR PASTOR**



**LOOKING  
FOR  
MOM  
FRIENDS?**

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# From the Editor | QUESTIONS

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A wise teacher at one of countless back-to-school nights once said that children only have three questions on the first day of school: 1) Where do I put my stuff? 2) Does my teacher like me? and 3) Where is the bathroom? Just a few reassuring words from the teacher can make a nervous child feel at ease with these critical concerns.

As we head into the new program year at FPC with a new pastor, I'm feeling a little bit like that wide-eyed child. Where are we going now? Who might come along? Will our new pastor like me? My concerns may be different from first-day-of-school nerves, but they are just as fresh. The Teacher says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6).

The past few years at FPC have brought us to the first new Senior Pastor in 26 years. During the first few weeks of September, Corey will unpack the new mission and vision statements to explore where we are going as a church. Invite a friend or neighbor or family member to come along to our All-Church Picnic, to MOPS, to MX, to the Housing Families Service Auction, or even to church on Sundays. Then introduce yourself to Corey. Tell him your story. Ask him your questions. I bet he'll like you.

—Cathy Richardson

## THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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**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

# RIGHT AWAY



As Miriam and I packed up our home for our upcoming move to Fort Collins, I came across lots of hidden treasures and wonderful memories. One box is a collection of children's books that I've hung on to for a long time, including a well-worn set of Frog and Toad stories by Arnold Lobel. I confess that some of their encounters and life lessons still make me smile—even laugh out loud. In one chapter, called The Letter, Toad is sad that he never receives mail, so Frog decides to send him a cheerful note. My favorite line in the story is when Frog takes the letter outside, sees a snail that he knows, and asks if he will deliver the letter to Toad. "Sure," says the snail, "right away!"

I can just picture the enthusiastic optimism of that well-intended snail, and it cracks me up. As you can guess, the snail does not, in fact, deliver the letter right away—at least not according to Frog's timeline. Then again, maybe the snail's diligent delivery was done as quickly as the snail could. Maybe the snail's timing—done right—was better than a rushed delivery service where too many things get lost in the mail. Getting something right often takes longer than we would prefer. We live in a world of increasing instant

gratification. I know I get annoyed when the Wifi is slow enough that it takes more than a few seconds for my e-mail to download or it takes too long to get my order at a restaurant or I'm placed on hold or \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank for your own moments of impatience).

Maybe some of you have experienced this at FPC over the past few years. Does this sound familiar: "Can the PNC find us a new Senior Pastor?" "Sure," says the PNC, "right away!" "Can we expand our youth or college or \_\_\_\_\_ ministry here at our church?" "Sure," say the staff and church leaders, "right away!" "Can we grow our budget to exceed our needs and expectations and build for the future?" "Sure," says ... well, you get the idea. While all of these responses are sincere and well-intended, sometimes God's timing is not our timing. More often than not, strong, positive, sustainable growth, healing, and success take longer than we might expect.

If it makes you feel any better, people of faith have been wrestling with God's timing since the very beginning. Would Abraham and Sarah have a baby? "Sure," said the Lord, "right away!" When the Hebrew people asked, "Can

we just cross the Red Sea and get to the Promised Land?" "Sure," said Moses, "right away!" The Israelites cried out for a Messiah for generations, and the prophets assured them he was coming ... "right away!" After Jesus ascended into heaven, the first community of believers assumed he was coming back for them "right away!" While the story of God and God's people, from Scripture through the present day, always affirms God's faithfulness and abundant love, God's timing is still often not our own.

This coming month we will be exploring our church vision statement: "A Christ-centered, open, and welcoming church on the move!" Starting on September 11, we will seek to better understand how to live "Christ-centered" lives in a "me-centered" world. The following Sunday we will ask what it means to create a culture in our church that is "open and welcoming" to the growing community around us. Finally, on September 29, we will conclude by looking ahead to where it is we might be heading as we are "on the move." Like you, I'm excited to see what God has in store for each of us and for all of us in this incredible community of faith. And, let's be honest, I'm excited to see it all come to fruition "right away!" While I have no doubt that there will be inspiring, joyful, and successful moments all along the way, I also know that I (and we) have to trust God's timing for the next chapters in our journey together.

In the end of The Letter (four days later!), Snail did indeed deliver Frog's letter to Toad. The letter simply said, "I am glad you are my best friend." Toad was glad to have the letter. It had arrived right on time after all.

—Corey Nelson

# WELCOMING FPC'S NEW SENIOR PASTOR: THE REV. DR. COREY NELSON



On July 24, 2016, the FPC congregation came together and voted on the Rev. Dr. Corey Nelson as our next Senior Pastor—the first new Senior Pastor in 26 years! We are excited to welcome him and we hope you can get to know him and his wife Miriam in the coming weeks, months, and years.

## Who Is Corey?

The Rev. Dr. Corey Nelson grew up in Michigan and Washington playing the trumpet and serving as Drum Major in school. He intended to become a high school music director and attended Whitworth University in Spokane because of its terrific Music Education program. During this education, God moved Corey from his Pentecostal origins to the Presbyterian church. Through two years of service as a young adult volunteer in Northern Ireland and West Africa, God revealed to Corey the potential impact of the church in action around the world to bring healing, wholeness, joy, and abundance to diverse communities—and called him to full-time pastoral ministry.

Corey was a Patterson Merit Scholar at McCormick Theological Seminary, where he received awards for preaching and church history, as well as serving as Choral Director and interning at Second Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Corey's first call as Rev. Nelson was at Community Presbyterian Church, a 650-member congregation in Clarendon

Hills, Illinois, where he worked for two years with missions and outreach, Christian education, and worship, as well as serving in leadership roles for national church conferences.

During his next, nine-year call at First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest, Illinois, Rev. Nelson took his next step to become Dr. Nelson, achieving his Doctor of Ministry through Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary as a member of an inaugural degree program partnered with Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business. His dissertation focused on best practices for local churches to choose and engage in mission partnerships. As Associate Pastor for Missions at First Presbyterian Lake Forest, a 1,600-member church, Corey led the church's missions organization, its weekly Sunday-evening worship service, its stewardship team, many education offerings, several mission trips, and the entire staff and congregation as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff during a sabbatical term. He also continued to serve as a leader for national church conferences.

Corey is a relational, humble, intelligent, active, caring individual who loves spending time outdoors, who bakes cookies and breaks bread to offer hospitality, who uses laughter to build community, who enjoys meeting new people and exploring new terrain, and who is excited to join the FPC Fort

Collins family in worship of and service to our Lord.

## Who Is Miriam?

Dr. Nelson's other half, Miriam Nelson, grew up the daughter of a Presbyterian pastor in Louisville, Kentucky. She attained her undergraduate degree in Religious Studies and Political Science at Rhodes College. After several years working as a teacher, Miriam went to Dublin, Ireland for her master's education. She has since continued working as a teacher in San Francisco and Chicago, most recently teaching high school AP History in Lake Forest, Illinois. Alongside her career as a teacher, Miriam has also worked full-time in nonprofit organizations and local churches.

Upon meeting, Miriam and Corey immediately shared a love of the outdoors, macaroni and cheese, traveling, and laughing in fellowship. They were married at Christmas-time at a historic community center in the Park District of Chicago, surrounded by friends and family drinking hot chocolate and decorating cookies.

Miriam is kind, engaging, bright, and active (she just completed her first triathlon!). Like Corey, Miriam looks forward to walking with both FPC and the Fort Collins community into our coming years worshipping and serving God.  
—Allison Humphries

Looking for mom friends?

**MOPS IS JUST WHAT YOU NEED!**

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Fort Collins**

**531 South College Ave.  
2nd and 4th Monday, 9-11:30am**

## What is MOPS?

MOPS and MOMSNext is for all moms with kids from pregnancy to school age children. It's a place for friendship, authentic community, support and growth - because Better Moms Make a Better World. MOPS is a great way to connect with other moms who are in the same life stage, trying to be the best they can be. It is a wonderful feeling to know that you are not alone through this journey of motherhood. We invite you to come and join us this fall as we seek to build friendships, learn from one another, and experience the unfailing love of God!

## What to Expect

**Coffee and Breakfast**  
We don't meet without it!

**Arts and Crafts**  
fun, easy crafts  
for even the "uncrafty"

**Relevant Speakers**  
to give insights, ideas and  
perspective

**Small Groups**  
Connect with moms,  
grow and learn together

**Childcare is available**



**2016  
2017**

### Fall schedule & speakers

**September 12th**  
Kick-Off Celebration

**September 26th**  
Dads Panel

**October 10th**  
Child Abuse Prevention

**October 24th**  
Sweet Cases

**November 14th**  
Estate Planning

**November 28th**  
Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls

**December 12th**  
Christmas Tea

*Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it ... Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. - Jeremiah 33:2-3*



# Housing Families

## One Issue, Two Partnerships



FPC has identified “Housing Families” as our 2016 mission priority, focusing on:

1. Increasing our involvement with Faith Family Hospitality by making our church a regular hosting site
2. Cosponsoring and building a home for the Bhatti family with Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity

Please consider how *YOU* can participate together with other members of our congregation:

- **VOLUNTEER WITH FPC AT THE HABITAT CONSTRUCTION SITE** on Saturdays, September 24 or October 22. Contact Karen Restad for more information, [karen@restad.us](mailto:karen@restad.us), (970)227-1035.
- **DONATE A SKILL/SERVICE and BID ON SKILLS/SERVICES** during the Service Auction (October 9–23). Funds raised help fund our Housing Families projects.
- **VOLUNTEER TO HELP HOST FFH FAMILIES** by setting up or tearing down rooms, preparing meals, serving as evening hosts, spending the night at FPC as overnight hosts, preparing a warm Saturday breakfast, or doing bedding laundry the week of December 18–25. *(Please note this is the week of Christmas and the need is great.)* Contact Janet Schuchmann for more information, [jlsnv@aol.com](mailto:jlsnv@aol.com), (571) 212-1698, or Tom Christen, [t.christen@comcast.net](mailto:t.christen@comcast.net), (970)449-2547.



**TRAILER HOME:** A trailer helps move family belongings from church to church each week for FFH.



**FOR SALE:** FPC Youth, under the construction leadership of Gene Theis, built a playhouse to be auctioned off in to raise funds for the Bhatti family’s Habitat home.



**BUILD DAY:** Members of FPC found many ways to lend a hand in building the Bhattis’ Habitat home this summer.



**SOUP’S ON:** FPC volunteers serve meals and a spoonful of hospitality for FFH.

# HAVE FUN RAISING FUNDS AND HOUSING FAMILIES AT THE FPC SERVICE AUCTION AND DESSERT PARTY

Following a preview in Shepardson Hall Sundays, October 9, 16, and 23, plan to attend the Service Auction Dessert Party and final bidding Sunday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m. The funds raised go toward FPC's Housing Families Initiative (the Bhattis' Habitat home and Faith Family Hospitality).

## WHAT SERVICE OR SKILL DO YOU HAVE THAT SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS? WHAT SKILLS OR SERVICES DO YOU NEED?

This auction will just include services and vacations (i.e., cabins, time shares). It will not include physical objects except for the play-house built by our youth, which will specifically go toward the Bhatti Habitat home.

Examples of skills/services that can be offered in time increments (i.e., 2 hours, 4 hours, 1 day):

- 4 hours of babysitting
- 4 hours of instruction knitting
- 4 hours of instruction sewing
- Sewing one item (buyer provides the thread and material)
- Mending clothes
- 4 hours of instruction quilting
- House cleaning
- Window washing
- Preparing an evening meal for 4 people
- Baking a cake
- Baking cinnamon rolls
- Driving someone to the airport
- Swimming pool access for 8 people
- 2 hours of horseback riding
- Guided hike in Rocky Mountain National Park (complete with water bottles and granola bars)
- Addressing Christmas card envelopes
- Wrapping Christmas presents
- 1 dental cleaning
- 1 massage
- 1 therapy session
- Editing one academic paper
- 4 hours of instruction in social media
- 4 hours of instruction in Excel
- 4 hours of instruction in PowerPoint
- 4 hours of baking lessons
- 4 hours of handyman services
- 4 hours of lawn raking
- 4 hours of garden planting
- 4 hours of garden weeding
- Vegetables from my garden in late summer
- 4 hours cleaning your garage
- Cleaning your refrigerator
- 4 hours of home organization advice
- 4 hours of instruction in construction
- 1 interior room painted (buyer supplies paint and supplies)
- 2 hours of band playing at your party
- 4 hours of reading tutoring for child or youth
- 4 hours of math tutoring for child or youth
- Shadow me for half a day at my work to learn about my profession
- Guestroom and bathroom for 2 people for a weekend
- Photography for your family or an event
- 1 week of pet sitting
- Etc.—the sky's the limit!



For more information or to donate, please contact Erika Nossokoff, Service Auction Team Leader, at (970)229-0936, or [ENossokoff@FortCollinsHabitat.org](mailto:ENossokoff@FortCollinsHabitat.org) before September 30.



## CROP WALK RAISES FUNDS TO FIGHT HUNGER

Some of the great community connections of our downtown FPC are the times when, as Pastor Corey remarked, we not only join our hands, but we also “look outside the church windows” and “the church leaves the building.”

Can you leave the building with us for a three-mile walk to benefit the Food Bank of Larimer County and Church World Service?

The 2016 national CROP Hunger Walk will be headquartered at FPC. The three-mile walk will start at our parking lot at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 2. It’s an afternoon of good fellowship plus a donation to good causes. Some walkers make the hour-or-so walk a bit longer with a route stop at Walrus Ice Cream, which will donate 10% of all receipts that day to the Food Bank.

The rain-or-shine walk route goes west from FPC, then a bit north, then east to Mason and south back to church.

Walkers from many Fort Collins churches will participate, making

this a great interfaith event. Donations are shared between Food Bank of Larimer County (local hunger relief efforts, including the McBackpack program run out of FPC) and Church World Service (food, shelter, water wells, and crop irrigation equipment in third-world villages).

There is no cost to walk, although many walkers bring a donation on walk day. Walkers *are* encouraged to gather sponsors for their walk. An online method of gathering sponsor donations is detailed below. It’s a quick, easy, and secure way for relatives and friends to add to the day’s success.

It’s VERY easy to register your name online as a walker so that sponsors can add to donations: Go to <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/fortcollinsco/>, click “Register,” and enter your name and a password. Once you are registered, anyone can go to that same Website, click “Donate,” type in your name (no password needed), and then can securely donate any amount in your name.

Besides adult walkers, this is a great youth and youth group activity. It’s a way for younger folks to contribute to local and worldwide hunger relief efforts by walking three miles and gathering relatives as supporters.

Last year CROP Hunger Walk generated over \$4,000 for the Food Bank. We hope to pass that mark this year.

Are you an FPC “Simply Social” participant? CROP Hunger Walk is an event for this circle of “retired and active” this fall.

—Tom Tonoli



# SUMMER BIBLE CAMP

KURT AND CARRIE SMALLEY LEAD CHILDREN'S CAMPS IN HUNGARY



*Kurt and Carrie (daughter of FPC member Annabelle Simpson) Smalley are missionaries in Hungary with Pioneer Missions. Their summer months are busy hosting their English Camps. They use the Bible for the text in reading groups, and there are also classes, games, songs, dancing, and stories. Half of the children attending have no church background. They are pleased to announce that six children made the decision for Christ this summer.*

*They also participate in "Grain Game" camps. These are primarily for Hungarian-speaking people throughout Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, and Serbia. These are evangelism camps that share teachings from the Bible to encourage children to make better decisions and hopefully for Christ. The camps also make sure the children get one or two meals.*

*FPC helps fund the Smalley's mission, and they sincerely appreciate the support and prayers. Carrie Smalley recently sent this update on their mission in Hungary.*

Hello!! Many times I wish I could be sitting with you to tell you stories and give all the hand motions as I begin to put these onto paper, as well as SHOW you photos of how you help serve with us...but for now, stories will have to do.

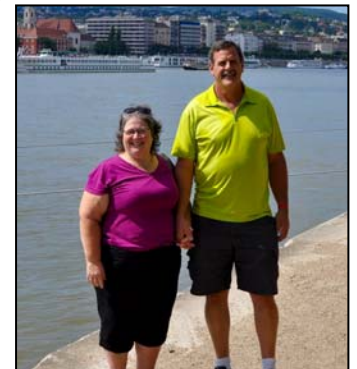
We asked for prayers for the many, many camps we are helping with this summer—here is a mid-summer update—thanks to your prayers and gifts, there are at LEAST 31 new believers!! This is from at least six camps where the opportunity was heard and the Gospel demonstrated in a way that people could know it was real.

At our last camp, English Camp, one new believer said something that broke all of our hearts: "I never have seen so many kind people in one place before." At another camp, I (Carrie) was asked to share before 60+ campers a dream I had had the night before, and after sharing, it was obvious God had touched the campers' hearts. The leader asked if anyone wanted to come up and ask for prayer. Only a few campers were left in their seats!!

More things that have been happening are that the Barka has outgrown the building. So, early next week, we will be moving everything out of the building, and we will be meeting at the cultural house in Vecses, waiting for God to open up a building for us. We entreat your prayers for this time.

Kurt and I will also be looking for another housing situation where we can have everything in one location, and it is in a more conducive place. Prayers are also invited for Serbian camps.

—Carrie Smalley



# WEST AFRICA

## MISSION UPDATES FROM LIBERIA AND NIGERIA

### Transformation International in Liberia

Through the generous help from FPC, in partnership with WADSO, the dream of purchasing and renovating the Best Brains Academy Middle school and high school in Liberia is becoming a reality. Work began at the end of July to break down walls and create partitions to allow for suitable classrooms. Classes started at the end of August, and Steven is working as hard and fast as possible. Luther reports that work is in progress and they are praying for God's provisions. They have to stop work when they run out of funds, so any funds sent are a huge blessing. Luther Tarpeh has passed along this message: "God bless all who have given sacrificially to this worthwhile project and thanks be to all for the role the Lord is allowing you to play in this regard."



### Elim School in Nigeria

Thanks to those of you from FPC who have donated to Elim Elementary School in Jos, Nigeria this year. With your help, along with the help of WADSO, we are providing ongoing school scholarships for about 40 orphans and vulnerable children. Headmistress Kate extends her thanks, saying that Elim came in third place in a spelling competition in Jos, and one of Elim's fifth graders has written a book. Enjoy these photos from a recent graduation.

### Faith Alive Hospital in Nigeria

Dr. Chris Isichei sends his sincere appreciation to FPC, along with WADSO, for our ongoing support of the Faith Alive hospital in Nigeria. The hospital began a new self-sustainability for-profit pharmacy (in addition to continuing their free pharmacy for their own patients). Donations of pharmaceuticals are helping to get the for-profit pharmacy going and, hopefully soon, profitable. Faith Alive continues to appreciate the new vehicle they were able to purchase earlier this year with funds from FPC, WADSO, and another nonprofit organization.



# AUTUMNAL

# MARKET

A Craft Show

# SATURDAY

# Oct. 8

9am - 4pm

# FREE ADMISSION



FACEBOOK.COM/MOPSAUTUMNALMARKET  
First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins  
531 S College Ave

## A CHURCH OF CHARACTER

# ORDERLINESS

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The character quality for September 2016 is orderliness (versus confusion). Orderliness can be defined as arranging myself and my surroundings to achieve greater efficiency. It can also be defined as keeping everything that is under your jurisdiction neat, clean, functional, and in its proper place.

Inefficiency and confusion occur frequently in our lives—at work, at home, and in our normal day-to-day activities. How can we use our time and energy more efficiently and effectively?

### **Set Priorities**

Orderliness is not simply about stuff. It is also about time—prioritizing to make the best use of the time allotted to you. Sort out your priorities in life and your priorities for how you will use your time every day. The more clearly you can hone your life priorities and relate your daily priorities to them, the more efficient and meaningful your schedule will be, and the more fulfillment you will experience at the end of each day!

### **Set Standards**

Whether you are working with your supervisor at work or your children at home, your example will determine your credibility. Set standards for yourself, and then follow them! Develop habits of orderliness in your life and practice them every day, consistently and meaningfully.

### **Get Organized**

Go beyond the aesthetic consideration of neatness, and thoughtfully organize each area so that everything you need is easily found and ready to use. Be proactive! Backing up computer files is one of those responsibilities that often gets

pushed off until later. However, it only takes a little imagination to consider the utter havoc that will ensue if the computer crashes. Back up your computer on a regular schedule. Develop a filing system so that you can find papers and materials when you need them. Organize your daily and weekly schedule to enable efficient and effective use of your time.

### **Avoid Clutter**

Don't spend needless time looking for things! Keep them in logical places and in an orderly, easy-to-use filing or storage system.

### **Put Away—Right Away**

Consistency is vital to being organized. Once you organize an area or establish an orderly process for doing things, maintain orderliness as you go. Put everything in its assigned place so that it can be easily retrieved and used. If the storage location or process becomes inconvenient or complicated, simplify it! Develop the habit of orderliness as part of your daily routine.

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**“Orderliness is knowing what to remove from my life and surroundings, and having the courage to do it.”**

**—from *The Power for True Success: How to Build Character in Your Life***

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## WELCOME OUR NEW YOUTH INTERN

We are delighted to announce that Kalista Consol will be joining our staff on September 6! As a Dean's List student, Kalista obtained her BS in Human Development and Family Studies from CSU. While at CSU, she cofounded and served as the president of the student organization No More Injustice, educating and inspiring participants to fight human trafficking. More recently, Kalista has worked as a Direct Care Counselor at the Remington House serving at-risk youth ages 10 to 18 years old.

Kalista's life and work already demonstrate a passion for youth and a desire to serve God. She thrives on relationship-building and has already visited our middle and high schoolers at youth events and at church services. She's fun, warm, and engaging and is ready to dive into ministry with kids here at FPC and in our community. Please introduce yourself to her at the All-Church Picnic on September 11.



# COURAGE

On my refrigerator at home I keep a short poem about courage, and I think how many times I've seen that longing for courage in myself. I've even seen that longing in some of you. You might find a piece of yourself in here.

## Courage

January was three months long  
All things possible went wrong  
The simplest task was frustration fleshed  
Nothing fitted and nothing meshed.  
No one to run to and no way to go  
I sat at the window and watched it snow.  
Unexpectedly you wrote  
That strange little note  
Thanking me after all these years  
For stiff'ning your back and shaming your tears.  
"It's over," I said, "Tears won't change it."  
"Life's not a dollhouse. You can't rearrange it."  
"You cannot sit repenting all your life long."  
"Stand up and do something; even if it's wrong."  
I remember now, I loaned my courage to you  
Please, oh please, send it back if you're through.

—Neher

Many people, perhaps some reading this, fight for the courage to live each day. We sometimes wonder what the meaning of life can be when there are so many horrible acts in the world. Yet... some of us have found ways to not look always for the meaning of life, but rather look how to put meaning IN to our days/lives. We work hard to make our sighs lengthen into songs. The gift we can give the world is to go on loving life, loving it even when we witness the cruelty or sadness, loving it just as fiercely as when it is golden. That is when we need our courage the most. Do we have that courage? I think that many can agree that courage is the one virtue that sometimes is possible to fake. We get up, we get dressed, we go to work, we sometimes smile, and we go on. We might be faking the courage, but we go on. I see many times in your lives when the momentum to fall apart would be so justified, but that nurturing and an extra amount of care toward others has overshadowed your own personal grief. Many of you have found that, whether it's through a friend, your faith, or your own personal resolve, to be a

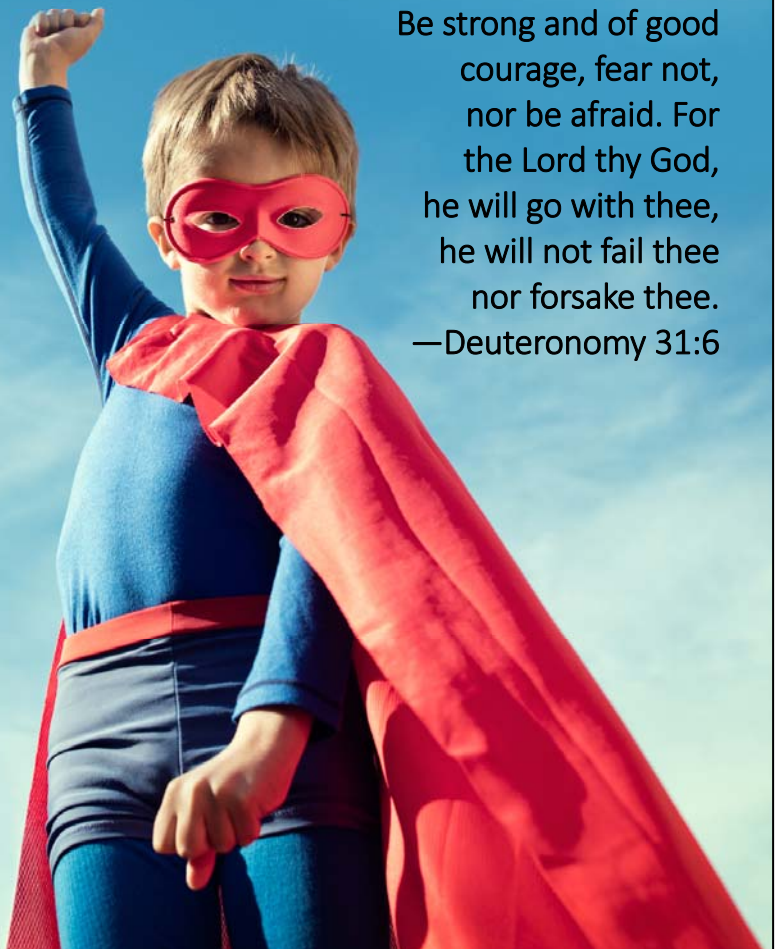
champion of strength—**Psalm 31:24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.** We are instructed by God to "be of good courage." It is hard to find some days, and some days we have to dig deep down inside to find it. But God is our ever present light—to guide us on that search.

I see courage in people who walk in and out of my office every day. You see it, too—in your families, in your neighbors, in your friends, and in those you love. Keep in mind that there is always someone out there in need of that courage—and that if you have borrowed it from someone else and you are through with it, think about loaning it to another.

Loan your courage. Wipe someone else's tears. Stiffen their backs. See those invisible people in our church—there ARE people there who feel invisible. Write that note. Make that call. Light someone else's candle. "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." Be courageous... share your courage.

—Marge Rice

**Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid. For the Lord thy God, he will go with thee, he will not fail thee nor forsake thee.**  
—Deuteronomy 31:6



# LIBRARY CORNER

## THE WORD SOURCE

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Readers can find *How the Irish Saved Civilization* by Thomas Cahill in the FPC Library.

Cahill begins setting the stage by reminding the reader that, to the Western Roman World, the Irish did not really exist but sat *geographically at the edge of civilization, obscure and not worth conquering*. And even though the Celts of Gaul (now France) ransacked the City in 390 BC, Rome rebuilt and over the next 800 years made itself into the only superpower. By the time Cahill focuses on the Celts of Ireland, Rome had settled comfortably into its *Pax Romana*, paving the way for interests other than war, especially philosophy and the arts—Classical Rome. They became immersed in their lives and unaware, perhaps disinterested, in the political movements of their Roman World: Emperor Diocletian dividing Rome in 294 AD, creating the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire, Constantine’s sanctioning of Christianity in 313 AD, and in 323 AD, making it the official religion of the Roman Empire. Cahill’s use of contrast between the flourishing Eastern Roman Empire versus the growing

impoverished, classical Western Roman Empire shapes the reasons for the fall of Western Roman Empire to Alaric the Goth, who sacked the city of Rome in 410 AD, taking all gold and valuable artifacts, making slaves of its people, ripping covers of books that were bedecked with jewels, burning libraries, and trampling anything and everything that would be important to Classical Rome or reminding her of her former glory.

Cahill also contrasts Barbaric Ireland with “civilized” Briton Rome and brings to our attention the captured, abused slave child who later returns to his captors to introduce to them a loving Christ by understanding their fears and winning their trust. In his confession, Patrick believed that *Our Father in heaven, having created all things, even things that have since become bent or gone bad will deliver us, his children, from all evil...For he created everything by his Word, which was with him in the beginning, which became flesh in the human Jesus, and flames out in all his creatures.*

And the first Irish Christians did flame

out by becoming the first Irish literates: by learning Latin, Greek, Hebrew and by copying and translating the Gospels, other books of the Bible, lives of the martyrs and ascetics, sermons, commentaries of the church fathers, all the old Greek and Latin histories, and even *the whole of their own native oral literature...* [providing a] *breadth, depth and richness* to historical records that had been lost in Western Rome. And these Irish monks flamed out from acetic huts to communities of brothers, to monastic orders, which became centers of learning, centers of exchange of ideas and the beginnings of universities visited by those first in Ireland, then from England and then from Europe. Shirley Hazzard remarked that “articulation is central to human survival and self-determination...to relieve the soul of incoherence.” Through the love and work of St. Patrick and the sacrifices of the Irish, they returned to Western Rome, indeed, to all of us, the histories, the stories, and the records that give us all a voice.

—Bethany Fisher

## SAFTEY TASK FORCE FORMS AT FPC

There are opportunities and challenges in being a downtown church. As the downtown district expands, there are many individuals that frequent the area near our church in addition to our congregation. This provides a unique ministry opportunity for us; however, it also presents challenges as well. There have been incidents where staff security has been compromised, as well as building and grounds vandalism. Increasingly, there are a number of nonmembers of our church frequenting the parking lots and being disruptive. The intent of the safety task force (formed by Pastor Jeff the last week he was pastor) is to provide a safe environment for the church staff and church property. The task force is composed of staff and church members. The task force met for the first time on August 8 and generated some recommendations that will go into effect immediately. Members of the task force take its charge very seriously as we want to welcome these opportunities for ministry, as well as providing a safe place for staff and congregational members to work, meet, and worship. Members of the task force include Jim Alderden, Mike Bohart, Don Genson, Pam Larsen, Marge Rice, Michelle Riesel, Ray Slaughter, and Robyn Troxell. If you have questions, please contact Pam Larsen, chair of the task force, at (970)556-8415 or pamaladlarsen@outlook.com. —Pam Larsen



# MIDWEEK EXPERIENCE

## FALL SESSION OF MX BEGINS SEPTEMBER 21

As we welcome Pastor Corey to FPC, it's so exciting to have our Midweek eXperience program in place! As you may recall, last fall, at the direction of Session, we launched our Midweek eXperience, a weekly gathering on Wednesday nights designed to deepen our connection to God and to each other. It was a wonderful success! How uplifting to see all ages join together to share a homemade meal and engage in a variety of classes.

The Lord calls us together in the Body of Christ to carry out His work here on earth, and through our Midweek eXperience we hope to draw closer to God as we encourage, love, and serve one another in His name.

### Fall Session Kicks Off on Wednesday, September 21!

Whether you've attended MX regularly or not at all, now is the time to clear your Wednesday nights for our upcoming fall session, which begins on September 21 and culminates with our popular Advent program on November 16.

We hope you can carve out time to be a regular MX attendee; however, all are welcome to drop in to MX at any time. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by classes for all ages.

### Class Offerings

The fall session will include some great classes for adults:

#### Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

Teacher: Anita Kelly

We all need a plan for our money. *Financial Peace University* is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions, and interactive small group activities, FPU presents Biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, and spend and save wisely. Note: cost TBD to purchase the workbook required for this class.

#### Mom's Bible/Book Study

Teachers: Carlie Hoskins and Ellen Bucy Andersson

Lead by our own MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group, this class is open to all moms. The study will focus on relevant topics related to motherhood and life during the child-rearing years. The goal of this study is to bring moms together and celebrate life and motherhood, discuss a good book, laugh together, and enjoy Christian fellowship. This fall, the study will look at *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

**Middle School Youth Group and the children's programs** will continue meeting on Wednesday nights as well (note: High School Youth Group will meet on Sundays), and we pray that families with kids will make MX a priority—you are such an important part of our church family!

Keep an eye out for new MX information cards in the literature racks, as well as the MX table in Shep Hall on September 18, where you can sign up for classes and learn more.

#### Upcoming Spring 2017 Session

After the fall session of MX ends on November 16, we will take a break for the holidays. As we head into 2017, spring session of MX will begin on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, and continue through April 5. We will not meet during Poudre Schools' spring break.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Corey and to beginning a new season of MX where we can grow our faith together!

—Audrey McDill



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## Worship, Music and Arts

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### THE JOURNEY BEGINS 2016–2017 SCHEDULE

The time has arrived for the Music Ministry to resume regular rehearsals for the 2016–2017 season. This year's start will be exciting as we welcome our new Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Corey Nelson and his lovely wife Miriam. Thus, the journey begins, and I hope readers will prayerfully considering joining us for what promises to be an exhilarating journey!

As usual, the first half the schedule features the *31<sup>st</sup> Annual Bells of Christmas Concert* at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4, and the popular *Music Ministry Christmas Presentation* on Sunday, December 11, at the 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. services. The second half of the season includes the celebration of Easter on Sunday, April 16, and the Sanctuary Choir's Spring Concert on Friday, May 19.

I, along with those currently participating in the Music Ministry, invite you to consider joining us as the journey begins for the 2016–2017 season.

If you would like to learn more or join, please contact me at [mcrawford@firstpresfc.org](mailto:mcrawford@firstpresfc.org) or (970)482-6107.

To God be the glory!

—Marvin Crawford, Director of Music and Arts



# 2016–2017 MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE

## MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

**Sanctuary Choir** (Adults and College Ages)  
*Thursday Evening Rehearsals / 7:00–8:30 p.m.*  
**First Rehearsal: Thursday, September 8**

This passionate and dedicated group is the resident choir for our 9:15 a.m. Sunday worship service. This choir also prepares music for the Christmas and Spring Concerts, as well as other special services. New members are always welcome! There is no audition, but an interview is required.

**FPC Worship Band** (Singers and Instrumentalists)  
*Wednesday Evening Rehearsals Year-Round*

The FPC Worship Band leads worship weekly at the 11:00 a.m. Celebration Service, as well as other services throughout the year. Please note participation is by invitation/audition only.

**Chancel Handbell Choir** (Adults and College Ages)  
*Wednesday Rehearsals / 7:00–8:30 p.m.*  
**First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 7**

This choir is an active part of worship services and concerts at FPC. Highlights include the Annual Bells of Christmas Concert in December and participation in a handbell festival in the spring. Participation is by audition/invitation only and is capped at 14 ringers. The ability to read music is required. The group is always in need of substitutes for anyone unable to make a weekly commitment. The choir is currently full, but we are looking for ringers willing to serve as subs.

**FPC Festival Chorus** (Adults and College Ages)  
*Thursday Evening Rehearsals / Six week prior to  
Christmas and Easter / 6:30–8:30 p.m.*  
**First Rehearsal: Thursday, October 27**

This choir is for those who are unable to make an ongoing weekly commitment but desire an opportunity to sing. Music is provided in advance of the first rehearsal for outside preparation.

## MUSIC OPPORTUNITES FOR YOUTH

**Jubilate Ringers** (6th–12th Grades)  
*Sunday Evening Rehearsals / 4:30–5:15 p.m.*  
Please contact Marvin Crawford if you are interested in ringing.  
**First Rehearsal: Sunday, September 11**

This youth bell choir is for 10 ringers who have the ability to read music. This bell choir plays when prepared.

**Jubilate Singers** (6th–12th Grades)  
*Sunday Evening Rehearsals / 5:15–6:00 p.m.*  
**First Rehearsal: Sunday, September 11**

Is there a more joyful sound than a sanctuary filled with the energy of youth voices singing praises to God?! This choir for youth sings regularly in Sunday worship and also participates in the annual Christmas Presentation.

## MUSIC OPPORTUNITES FOR CHILDREN—NEW TIMES!

**Celebration Singers** (2nd–5th Grades)  
*Wednesday Rehearsals / 5:00–5:45 p.m.*  
**First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 14**

These are our youngest and sweetest singers! This children's choir sings regularly in Sunday worship, as well as at the Christmas Presentation and Family Christmas Eve Service.

**Celebration Ringers** (3rd–5th Grades)  
*Wednesday Rehearsals / 4:15–5:00 p.m.*  
**First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 14**

This bell choir introduces the fundamentals of ringing to children and provides participants an opportunity to experience the joy of ringing a handbell. Regular attendance at rehearsal is a must, and the ability to read music is not required!

## COME, MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE AS THE JOURNEY BEGINS!



Years ago, the primary-colored “Kids for Christ” logo above was the Children’s Ministry logo. Now, as I consider curriculum, activities, projects, music, and VBS, my thoughts continuously go to “Kids for Christ.” Jesus is real. Jesus loves kids. I want our precious children to know this without a doubt—and to be “for” Christ. Everything we have planned this year comes back to that.

September 18, 2016 begins our new Sunday School year. Our curriculum is DWELL from Faith Alive Christian Resources, who write, “DWELL awakens kids’ imaginations to the ongoing story of God that starts in the pages of Scripture and continues in their lives today.” I love that it starts in the Bible! Our wonderful teachers want to awaken those imaginations. They are ready to go! We want to challenge families to make Sundays at FPC a priority.

But wait, there’s more! Our church has so much to offer—not just on Sundays, but also on Wednesdays. Celebration Singers and Celebration Ringers begin Wednesday, September 14, for children in second through fifth grade. And if there is a desire to have a choir for kindergarten and first graders, I will joyfully begin a choir for that age. The Children’s Music Ministry is a wonderful way for children to serve their church and their God in worship services, Christmas Concerts, the Family Christmas Eve

Service, and Palm Sunday. And they learn quality music and musicianship.

But wait, there’s more! Families can be together (after Celebration Singers) for Midweek eXperience—dinner and fellowship time (see page 15). After dinner, children will share a time of teaching, sharing, and fun time together.

But wait, there’s more! Our children will lead the Family Christmas Eve service through scripture and music.

But wait, there’s more! We like to make gifts at Christmas for children in need.

But wait, there’s more! Get ready for VBS beginning June 12, 2017. We are going to Paul’s underground church in Rome (via Shepardson Hall)!

At FPC, we have Kids for Christ! May God DWELL with us.

—Alice Crawford

## DATE NIGHT

### PARENTS’ NIGHT OUT IS FUN FOR KIDS AND FREE TIME FOR PARENTS

Last October I joined MOPS at FPC. While the benefits of belonging are many, one that quickly became essential to our whole family is Parents Night Out, or as our children refer to it—Kids Night Out! My husband and I knew how vital it was for our marriage to establish a regular date night, but it seemed so overwhelming to interview and screen potential babysitters, not to mention the expense. I kept putting it off and, over six years, we’ve only had a handful of dates. Because of Parents Night Out, we now have a standing date night—the third Friday of the month! It’s both safe and affordable, and the kids look forward to their night out as much as we do.

—Shannon and Chris Williams

**Fun for Kids = Free-Time for Parents**



parents  

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NIGHT OUT

**EVERY THIRD FRIDAY: 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

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**Ages 0-10: Come fed and in your PJs for snacks, games, and movies.  
Cost is \$13/one child; \$7/additional child; \$27 maximum/family.**

**SPACE IS LIMITED.  
Register online: [firstpresfc.org](http://firstpresfc.org)**



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'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.

The poster features a festive picnic theme with a blue sky background, red, white, and blue bunting flags at the top, and green trees on a grassy hill at the bottom. In the center, a picnic table with a red and white checkered tablecloth holds two burgers and two condiment bottles. The text is written in a mix of blue and red fonts, with "PICNIC" in large, colorful, hand-drawn letters.

all church  
**PICNIC**  
Sunday, Sept. 11  
following one worship service at 10 AM

Cost: \$ 5/adult, \$ 3/child, \$ 15 max/family  
Bring your family and a blanket or chair to sit on.  
Come enjoy fellowship, picnic food, and games.

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