

# THE MESSENGER

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**HELLO,  
WE'RE  
NEW  
HERE**

**GROWING  
GENEROUS  
HEARTS**

**FINISHING  
WELL**



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# From the Editor | THE BEST STORYTELLER

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I've always had a great deal of love and respect for storytellers. The ones who weave words into a tapestry of adventure. The ones who turn tragedy into favor or fantasy into reality. The ones who pack our bags and take us on a journey over a mountain or through a storm.

This year in our sermon series *40 Stories You Can't Live Without*, we've focused on Biblical stories: *The Good the Bad and the Ugly*, *Gloria in Disguise*, *The Wisdom of Solomon*, *Build a Bigger Table*, and more. And now, throughout Lent, we are looking at Jesus' stories, *Parables of Grace*. Something tells me that storytelling is important to God. Stories give us a glimpse of the Divine and encourage us to find our part in His story right now.

So what's your story? Are you new here like our senior leaders (page 7)? Are you fully planted and growing a generous heart (page 5)? Are you being called to serve FPC's children through VBS or a kind word (pages 6 and 10)? Maybe you're looking toward the end of your life and wanting to finish it well (page 9).

No matter your story or the chapter you're in, we know that God is your storyteller, and He has written you into *our* story at FPC. As you read through the pages of this *Messenger*, see yourself in the narrative, be filled up, and listen for ways to fill someone else through prayer or service.

—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 email 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.



First  
Presbyterian  
Church

# PASTOR'S CORNER

A BEACON OF LIGHT TO OUR COMMUNITY

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Hello Friends,

At our recent annual meeting of the congregation, we celebrated another year together of growing ministry and fellowship and shared our enthusiasm for all that God has in store for us in the months ahead. Among the many examples of how God is using FPC as a beacon of light in our community, I want to lift up two highlights to put on your radar for this spring.

During Holy Week we will again be hosting midday community services at noon from April 15–19. These ecumenical gatherings have provided a place for the wider church and the downtown community to gather each day for a 30–40-minute worship service. Each year I invite a diverse group of local pastors to help lead these services, and I'm thrilled about the colleagues who have agreed to be with us in 2019:

- On Monday, April 15, we welcome Rev. Melissa St. Clair from Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Melissa serves on the Board of Directors for Faith Family Hospitality, our designated recipient for this year's Holy Week offerings.
- On Tuesday, April 16, we welcome Rev. Eddy Hopkins from Peak Community Church, a congregation of the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) and one of FPC's nearest neighbors just down the street.
- On Wednesday, April 17, we welcome Dr. Janina Fariñas, Assistant Professor and Clinical Faculty in the Human

Development and Family Studies Department at Colorado State University. Janina leads La Cocina, a mental health services program for Hispanic families that is hosted on FPC's campus every Wednesday.

- On Maundy Thursday, April 18, we welcome Rev. Michael Stadtmueller from Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We will share communion together at this service—an uplifting ecumenical expression of the wider church of Jesus Christ.
- On Good Friday, April 19, we welcome back Mr. Anthony McGlaun for "Proclamation in Song." A graduate of Morehouse College and the University of Northern Iowa, Anthony is a much sought-after soloist, recitalist, lecturer, and Master class presenter. He specializes in the Negro Spiritual and work of African-American composers.

This will be a fantastic week that you won't want to miss. In addition, we will also have a **Good Friday Tenebrae Service on Friday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.** This dramatic service of scripture, song, and symbols is a powerful way to conclude Holy Week and prepare for Easter celebrations.

A second event I want to highlight is our Spring Music Concert on Friday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. and our growing "Music with a Mission" program (see page 11). Over the past two years, our church leaders have explored the possible connections between two of the most well-known and dynamic programs at our church: our excellent

music ministry and our impactful mission partnerships. To this end, we have hosted the Watoto African Children's Choir and the Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and then used our own annual Bells of Christmas concert this past December as a fundraiser for local mission partners The Murphy Center and Homeward Alliance. These three events alone raised thousands of dollars for important ministry, brought the wider community onto our campus, and blessed us all with God's creative and beautiful gift of music.

In a sermon this past May, I shared a story about a ministry of First Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Georgia called "Music with a Mission," which has become a guide for us to consider here. In Savannah, they sponsor four concerts a year on their campus and designate a local nonprofit partner each time as the beneficiary of ticket sales or freewill offerings. Sharing their story in a national Presbyterian publication, they wrote, "Music with a Mission has provided opportunities to raise funding and awareness of great needs in our community, supplementing the existing mission work of the church. Both worship and mission occur outside of the confines of the traditional worship service, yet in a worshipful space and time. Our community gathers to celebrate beauty, to be inspired by music and to work together in a combined effort to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, tend the sick and to visit the prisoner. Members of our congregation welcome those of other faiths,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.**



**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3.**

of varying socioeconomic status and of diverse interests into a common love for God's beautiful music. Together, we celebrate music, become aware of community needs and work to improve the lives of others."

With this in mind, our spring concert presented by the FPC Music Ministry will be a benefit concert for Habitat for Humanity. While our church makes a large annual contribution to Habitat out of our Mission & Outreach budget, we hope that this event can raise additional funds for Harmony Cottages, Habitat's largest Fort Collins development in history. The vision is to build 48 new energy-efficient homes over the next five years on 4.45 acres located on the southeast corner of Harmony Road and Taft Hill Road.

Following the success of these events, we are exploring the idea of hosting a concert on the lawn this summer that will bring together an outside music group and a new mission sponsor. We hope that this might be a model for a family-friendly event that welcomes our members and people who live in the growing neighborhood around us.

Whew! And to think—these are only two of the many exciting initiatives being embraced by FPC in the weeks ahead. In this edition of *The Messenger*, you will read about many other ministries for which to give thanks and in which to become involved. May God continue to bless you, your family, and this family of faith as we share God's love and light with neighbors near and far.

Peace,  
Corey

## COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

APRIL 15-19, 12:00 P.M. DAILY

First Presbyterian Church | 531 S. College Avenue | firstpresfc.org

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 Fort Collins, we host services for the entire community, gathering the whole ecumenical church for worship each day at noontime. These "lunch time" worship services will be led each day by leaders 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.

MON | APRIL 15

Led by Rev. Melissa St. Clair pastor of Heart of the Rockies Christian Church



TUES | APRIL 16

Led by Rev. Eddy Hopkins, pastor of Peak Community Church



WED | APRIL 17

Led by Dr. Janina Fariñas, Assistant Professor and Clinical Faculty in the Human Development and Family Studies Department at CSU



THURS | APRIL 18

Led by Rev. Michael Stadtmueller, pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church—communion served



FRI | APRIL 19

Proclamation in song by tenor, Anthony P. McGlaun



Free-will offering for Faith Family Hospitality daily.



# GROWING GENEROUS HEARTS

## STEWARDSHIP AT FPC

**...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.**

**—Galatians 5:22a**

As the Stewardship Coordinator for FPC working in tandem with Pastor Corey as well as the Center for Stewardship & Resources, we plan to use *The Messenger* to share insights and encouragement about generosity—how to grow this virtue of giving in our lives of faithful stewardship.

When I said yes to this volunteer position last summer, I started to recall my first experiences in stewardship, remembering what had shaped me and my heart over my seven decades.

My earliest recollection was as a four-year-old eager to attend a week-long Vacation Bible School at our small church in Lansing, Michigan. Every morning before I walked to church with my two older sisters, our mom gave each of us a nickel carefully tied into a cotton handkerchief and tucked into the pockets of our summer dresses (that's right, no shorts for girls at VBS in the 1950s!). This was my first practice of giving, learned at my mom's heart.

My second recall was a practice I didn't love—going to church twice every Sunday—but one that left a shorthand imprint of what I now understand as the theology of generosity. From grades two to seven, after the offering on Sunday night, we stood to sing two verses of a song written in 1858. At the time, I think I was mostly mumbling words that carried little if any meaning for me. But today I can recite these two verses flawlessly and know the Biblical truth they encapsulate. It is what I believe wholeheartedly and seek to practice faithfully. Do you know this song by William Walsham How?

We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thing alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus  
as stewards true receive  
and gladly, as thou blessest us,  
to thee our first-fruits give.

In the *Messenger* issues ahead, we will consider the Biblical stories and teachings that undergird this hymn as we nourish our growing hearts of generosity.

—Jinny DeJong

### **A WAY FOR THOSE OVER 70½ YEARS TO GIVE TO FPC MINISTRY: QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION**

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to FPC from your retirement without reporting it first as taxable income. In 2015, Congress voted to expand IRA Charitable Rollover contributions. This bill allows taxpayers to transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly as a gift to a nonprofit organization without first having to recognize the distribution as income. These direct charitable distributions can also qualify toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) without increasing your taxable income. Check with your IRA custodian for details about how to make the transfer directly from your IRA to FPC. The last day to take these distributions in 2019 is Tuesday, December 31, 2019.





At *To Mars and Beyond* VBS, kids will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they explore where God’s power can take them. They will become Voyagers discovering how to serve God and God’s mission for their lives. After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, Voyagers will make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons will reveal Power Launchers (key learnings) to equip them for an active life with God. Students will expand on their discoveries by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Voyagers will hear about the VBS mission project and will respond to a call for action. Blast off on this epic adventure with us! Registration is open now at [firstpresfc.org](http://firstpresfc.org). Youth and adult helpers needed! Get involved today!



## PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is at the foundation of everything we do at FPC. Every week, our pastors and staff lift up prayers over illness and healing, worry and joy, death and new life.

### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer request, fill out a white prayer card (in the pew) and drop it in the offering plate. You may also call the church, (970) 482-6107, or email Marge Rice, Director of Caring, [mrice@firstpresfc.org](mailto:mrice@firstpresfc.org).

### HOW CAN YOU PRAY FOR OTHERS?

You’re invited to be a member of our Prayer Warriors ministry. It’s an opportunity to pray for others. For more information, contact Marge Rice.



## CARE MINISTRY

The FPC Caring Ministry consists of our pastoral team and volunteers who are available to offer support through life’s joys and challenges. It may be a meal, a home visit, a hospital visit, regular calls, or support in time of an emergency.

### HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?

It’s important that you let us know when there is a need, whether it be a trip to the hospital, a new baby, or a challenge or struggle that unexpectedly enters your life. Be watchful for friends as well, and let us know if you see of someone else needing some extra care. We have resources to guide you to, resources to pray for you, and, on occasion, resources to help you financially when there is a crisis. Contact Marge Rice for more information.

## SENSATIONAL SENIORS ENJOY ACTIVITIES TOGETHER

The senior involvement group is new to FPC, and (as so cutely stated on pajamas belonging to my newborn grandson) the group wants to say, *Hello, We're New Here*.

The group began last June when Jane Nevriy and I (Karen Fisher) were installed as new deacons and were given the task to form a new senior involvement group. The two of us had never met before, and neither of us had even been involved with any of our church's previous senior activities! So, our first step was to get to know each other a little bit.

Jane Nevriy is a longtime Fort Collins resident with a background in art history and experience working on various arts boards in town. She has also volunteered with seniors before. I am a newcomer to Fort Collins after moving from New Mexico. As a retired teacher and a busy grandma, I also care for my mother, who lives in a residential care facility nearby.

Late last June, we brainstormed ideas for activities, dates, and times, wondering who might be interested and what they might like to do. We decided that we wanted to invite any and all people who might be interested in joining us. We thought we would offer a mixture of activities, some more active "field trips" and some activities at church. We would offer opportunities involving nature, art, music, lectures, games, cooking and eating, and always laughter!

In August, we advertised ourselves as Sensational Seniors Second Thursday Club. For our first activity, we followed our own interests. We invited seniors to join us at the CSU Gardens (Karen's interest) and take a tour of the Gregory Allcar Museum of Art (Jane's interest), followed by peach cobbler and future planning. We found quite a bit of interest and enthusiasm from our attendees, so we were greatly encouraged and hopeful.

September found us on a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park. We enjoyed a perfect blue-sky day strolling around Bear Lake, stopping often to take pictures of beautiful fall foliage and to visit with each other. We enjoyed lunch at the famous Stanley Hotel. Then, the Sensational Seniors tried the new restaurant Simmer in October to rave reviews. Our November technology luncheon activity was canceled for lack of interest. Next, December brought our big extravaganza! Margaret Webber opened her lovely home to us for a fabulous catered luncheon.



HELLO,  
WE'RE NEW  
HERE

Thirty-three people attended and were treated to beautiful music played by Alice Crawford on her hammered dulcimer—and to wonderful company, as usual.

In the early months of the Sensational Seniors, we had quite a few people tell us that second Thursdays were busy for them, so we decided to try some different times in the new year. In January, we had a King Cake/Epiphany Celebration where each participant had the opportunity to sample king cake and to decorate their own to take home and share. In February, our group attended the Bas Bleu Theater on Sunday afternoon for the play *The Waverly Gallery*, a production about a "feisty" grandma. In March, we enjoyed breakfast at the Back Porch Café. Coming up in April, we are planning to team up with the Children's Ministry for Easter Egg Dying on Sunday afternoon, April 14.

We aren't sure of our plans beyond April, but we are thinking about touring Spring Creek Gardens and Poudre Canyon. Maybe you have some ideas to share with us?

Please watch our church bulletin for updates on our activities. Special Thanks to Marge Rice for all of her support and encouragement, to Margaret Webber for opening her home to us, and to all of you who have participated with or prayed for us!

—Karen Fischer

CHURCH OF CHARACTER

# ATTENTIVENESS

The character quality for this quarter is **ATTENTIVENESS** (versus distraction). Attentiveness can be defined as showing the worth of a person or task by giving my undivided concentration. It can also be defined as giving a “hearing heart” to the people or projects that need our concentration.

How do you feel when you try to explain something to someone and they don't seem to be paying attention to what you are saying? No matter if it is a spouse, child, boss, employee, friend, or acquaintance, it can be extremely frustrating. Paying attention to what is being said is important, whether it is a 911 call involving a life-or-death situation or a discussion with your spouse about the day's activities. Being attentive to others is an important way for us to show the other person that they are important to us. We are all equally valuable and should thus respect one another, recognizing that there is a time to listen and a time to talk.

**“Attentiveness begins by asking God for a ‘hearing heart.’”**

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

#### KEYS TO ATTENTIVENESS:

**1. Look at people when they speak**

Distracting sights and sounds can affect your ability to focus and accurately understand what someone is saying. The more divided your attention, the more likely you are to miss important details of what is being said.

**2. Learn to really listen**

Make listening a priority, and others will be more likely to give you their full attention when you have something to say. Listen with your total attention being on what the other person is saying, rather than thinking about what you are going to say next.

**3. Ask questions when you are unsure of something**

Asking questions not only enables us to express interest and a desire to learn, but it also helps us clarify and confirm information.

**4. Avoid distractions**

The human mind has an amazing capacity for multitasking. However, it keeps track of multiple tasks by shifting focus back and forth between the different tasks—it is not fully focused on all the tasks simultaneously. To be a truly attentive listener, learn how to give others your full attention by eliminating distractions.







# FINISHING WELL

## completing the race

*“The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.... So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.”*

—Psalm 90:10,12

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day...”* —2 Timothy 4:7–8

*“There is no escaping the reality of life, which is that we are aging from the day we are born. We have a reluctance to honestly examine the experience of aging. Lacking a coherent view of how people might live successfully all the way to the very end, we have allowed our fates to be controlled by the imperatives of medicine, technology, and strangers.”* —*Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande M.D.

Being mortal means that we wear a temporary shell of life given to us by our Creator. The Psalmist knew this and encouraged us to “count our days that we may gain a wise heart.” In other

words, live your life well. Living our lives well also includes finishing our lives with wisdom, love, and gratitude.

Second Timothy says it this way: “Fight the good fight and finish the race of life well.” An important part of our living is therefore preparing for the day we leave this world and return home to our Heavenly God.

Beginning on Sunday morning, April 28 (the first Sunday after Easter), we will be offering an important opportunity to learn about and discuss the many aspects and issues of “finishing your life well.” This four-week class will feature speakers addressing the legal, medical, financial, and personal issues and topics that face by many people approaching and preparing for the end of life. Each class will feature knowledgeable experts and provide you the opportunity to ask personal and important questions.

1. **Sunday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 103:** *Legal Issues at the End of Life* presented by Celeste Kling, Fort Collins attorney
2. **Sunday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 103:** *Financial Issues at the End of Life* presented by Jinny DeJong

3. **Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 103:** *Who, What, When, Why of Hospice Care* presented by Pathways of Northern Colorado Hospice
4. **Sunday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 103:** *Medical Issues at the End of Life* presented by Dr. John Cawley

You are invited to attend this significant and meaningful class. If you are unable to attend all of the classes, you are welcome to come when you can! We are asking all of you who plan to attend to register by contacting Marge Rice, Director of Caring Ministries, or by calling the church office.

In order to maximize our weekly classes, coffee and snacks will be provided in our classroom, so we will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and at 6:30 p.m. for our one class on Wednesday night (May 15).

We invite you to participate in this special class that will help all of us “finish well”!

—Rev. Glenn Perica and Marge Rice

# COME TO THE WATERS

## BAPTISMAL VOWS TO THE CHILDREN OF OUR CHURCH

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“Come to the Waters!” was the theme of the Annual Conference of the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (APCE), which Pastor Corey and I attended in February in Galveston, Texas. It was designed to be a time of renewal, inspiration, education, and gathering of resources. It did all of that for me!

The image on the left was a large banner placed center stage at the conference. In looking at it, we were encouraged to remember our baptism and what it means to be a child of God. We embraced the knowledge that we *belong* in the arms of our Creator, in the community of believers, and in God’s purpose to reveal how Heaven has already come to Earth.

In a workshop called “Teaching Peace and Justice to Children” It facilitated by Rev. Michael Waters, who is on the front lines of the battle against racism in Dallas, Texas, we were encouraged to teach our children to take a stand against injustice. I was struck by the conviction that although it is important to do that, it is even more important to raise children who will not turn to oppression as a way to build themselves up. The Church is exactly where that should happen! We are the community that helps create the image of God for our children. Their first understanding of what it feels like to be welcome and unconditionally loved outside their family unit comes from us. What an incredible privilege! What a tremendous responsibility!

When a child is baptized at our church, the congregation vows to surround them with love and support. We promise to be an extended family for that child. The focus throughout this conference was on the critical nature of intergenerational relationships in the life of a child and in the life of the Church. And they weren’t talking just about people with vocational training who work with children. They weren’t talking just about people called to children’s ministries. They were talking about every person in a child’s church family. We all have the ability to smile, to say hello, to show interest, to ask a question, to invite a child to help, or to say, “I’m glad you belong to my church!”

I came away even more fired up about expanding our opportunities to create affirming and joy-filled intergenerational relationships within this faith community. Let’s continue to work hard to find ways for us to live out the vows we gave to the children of our church at their baptism!

—Pam Armstrong



First Presbyterian Church  
**MUSIC WITH A MISSION**  
presents

# THE CALL: “FOLLOW ME” a spring concert

FRIDAY,  
MAY 10  
7:00 PM

featuring the FPC Sanctuary Choir,  
FPC Chancel Bell Choir,  
Organist Joe McConathy, the Exquisite  
Brass Ensemble, and guest musicians,  
Alice Crawford and Esther Parsons  
directed by Marvin L. Crawford

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
531 S. COLLEGE AVE, FORT COLLINS



**Concert is FREE and open to the public.**

A freewill offering will benefit Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity.  
First Presbyterian Church | [firstpresfc.org](http://firstpresfc.org) | (970)482-6107







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# Easter

at First Presbyterian Church Fort Collins

**April 21, 2019**  
**9:00 and 11:00 AM**