

THE MESSENGER

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**LOST
& FOUND**

**PARTNERS
PROVIDING
SHELTER**

**THE
RIGHTEOUS
MIND**

**HOPE &
WAITING**

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From the Editor | LOST SHEEP

Spring brings bird songs and budding trees and baby chicks. But one of my favorite signs of spring is newborn lambs. My family and friends would tell you that I have always loved sheep. My passion probably started in my infancy with a yellow stuffed musical lamb that would sing me to sleep. As a young adult, I counted sheep as an exchange student living in Yorkshire, England. And, of course, I am fiercely proud to be a Fort Collins High School Lambkin and a CSU Ram.

Sheep are unique and sheep are flawed—much like we are. Usually gentle and quiet, sheep are obedient followers. Their wool is durable and resilient and warm. On the other hand, sheep are also stinky, skittish, and sometimes not very smart, also just like us. Plus, we, like sheep, are prone to wander, prone to leave the God we love. In short, sheep—and we—get lost.

Our theme for Lent 2020, Lost & Found, asks us to consider how we may be lost and how the Good Shepherd might find us again. For when we are found, we will rest on green grass and drink from still streams. He will restore our souls.

As we examine our places of loss this spring and work to get back to the flock under the loving gaze of our Shepherd, I pray that we see fulfillment of God's promises for hope, renewal, beauty, and grace.

—Cathy Richardson

THE MESSENGER

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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. Contact Editor Cathy Richardson for more information, (970)482-6107. Check www.firstpresfc.org for specific issue deadlines.



First
Presbyterian
Church

PASTOR'S CORNER

LOST AND FOUND

Way back in December we opened the Gospel of Luke to read those treasured Advent and Christmas stories about Mary and Joseph, the angels and the shepherds, and, of course, the baby Jesus! We are continuing a deep study of Luke that will take us to the Sunday following Easter—April 19. Within these four months, during the season of Lent, we will focus specifically on a set of passages that each explore different questions related to our Lenten theme: **Lost & Found**.

When I was serving as a young adult volunteer in Northern Ireland years ago, I worked in both Protestant and Catholic communities and was introduced to several Catholic rituals, practices, and traditions that were new to me. One of them was the idea of praying to or through saints, especially St. Anthony, who is sometimes called the patron saint of lost things. I was curious about the history of this tradition and found this explanation from The Rev. Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie, Professor of Preaching and Worship at Perkins School of Theology:

"If you're not a former Roman Catholic, you may have never heard this prayer: "Tony, Tony, turn around. Something's lost that must be found." I'm a United Methodist, but I had a friend once who told me to try praying it when I had lost my car keys. It's a prayer to St. Anthony of Padua who is believed to be the patron saint of lost items. The 13th-century holy man left a wealthy family to become a poor priest. The tradition of invoking St. Anthony's help in finding lost or stolen things traces back to a scene from his own life.

As the legend goes, Anthony had a book of psalms that, in his eyes, was priceless. There was no printing press yet. Any book had value. This was his book of psalms, his prayer book. Besides, in the margins he'd written all kinds of notes to use in teaching students in his Franciscan Order. A novice who had already grown tired of living a religious life decided to leave the community. Besides going AWOL, he also took Anthony's Psalter! When he went to his room to pray and found it missing, Anthony prayed it would be found and returned to him.

After he prayed this prayer, the thieving novice fleeing through the forest, was met by a demon who told the thief to return the Psalter to Anthony and to return to the Franciscan Order. He did, and was accepted back. Soon after Anthony's death, people began praying through him to find or recover lost and stolen articles. "A Prayer to Christ," written in honor of St. Anthony shortly after his death goes like this:

*The sea obeys and fetters break
And shattered hopes limbs thou dost restore
While treasures lost are found again
When young or old thine aid implore."*

Or, to put it in more contemporary vernacular, "Tony, Tony, turn around. Something's lost that must be found." While we don't share the same understanding of or practices related to saints as our Catholic neighbors, I confess that there are times when I sure would love some help finding lost things: my keys, my wallet, my phone . . . my hair! You get the idea and have probably had similar experiences.

More importantly, in our lives of faith, there are many times when we feel like we have lost something important—when we have lost hope, lost faith, lost relationships, lost perspective, lost priorities, lost opportunities, lost health, etc. During this season of Lent, we will dive into stories in Luke in which Jesus explores these places of loss and sheds light on how we can be found again (and help others find their way, too).

I have written a devotional guide for Lent that will be available both in hard copy and on our church website that you can use for personal or group study. There is a lesson for each week, which you might want to use ahead of the sermon on Sunday or might choose to study afterward. There will be a class on Sundays between services at 10:15 a.m. and another on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. that will use this study guide if you want to join either (or both?) of them.

My prayer is that this season offers you time and space to pause and reflect on your whole life, including your spiritual and emotional well-being, assess where you are and where you might be "lost," and invite the Holy Spirit to accompany you on a journey with Jesus of being found again as Christ's beloved child.

Peace,
Corey

MORE THAN MUSIC

FOUNDATION FUNDS HELP MUSIC MINISTRY TO THRIVE

When you think of FPC, do you think of music? For so many of us, the answer is a resounding yes! And not just any kind of music, but the kind that is meticulously rehearsed, lovingly shared, and joyfully performed by so many gifted people, who are brought together through our church family under the careful direction of our treasured Director of Music and the Arts, Marvin Crawford.

From our impressive sanctuary choir to our magnificent pipe organ (and the esteemed Joe McConathy), from our rousing Christmas and spring concerts to our chancel handbell choir, our church has a wonderful tradition of superb music ministry. At a time when many churches are moving away from traditional worship styles and eliminating their choirs, FPC's approach to music and a large resident choir are special.

Of course, excellence requires an investment, and this level of music ministry is no different. Beyond FPC's regular operating budget, our church's Foundation is working behind the scenes to help this beloved part of our worship experience thrive. Through our Foundation, our members and their loved ones can leave a living legacy by giving gifts to a perpetual fund, where the principal of the gift is retained and the income or earnings are dispersed as requested to support our church for generations to come.

One such "gift that gives forever" through our Foundation is the EJ Early fund, designated to support both the university and music ministries at FPC. Its first disbursement was given to the university ministry to purchase risers for concerts on our front lawn. The funds then sat unused for a period of time until Marv was able to tie the two ministry areas together through the creation of a Music Ministry Assistant program, which recruits university students (and their younger voices) to our choir to help provide musical and vocal leadership.

The EJ Early fund currently supports three music ministry assistants per year, each of whom receives an honorarium based on attendance at rehearsals and performances. According to Marv, our resident choir members deeply appreciate the energy, personality and youthfulness that these students bring with them! Often, the students hold the positions for multiple years and have musical expertise as either undergraduate or graduate students at CSU. We've even had two international students from Japan and Korea. Our current music assistants are Naomi Wright, who has been with our choir for three years and, as noted in our last newsletter, currently lives with Karen and Jason Restad; Sean Cordier, in his second year with our choir and as a sophomore, our youngest music assistant; and Alexandra Young, who just graduated from CSU with a degree in vocal performance and will continue on for the season.

Another Foundation fund that provides specific and crucial ongoing support for our music ministry is the Cermak fund. This fund was set up by the family for the purchase of sheet music, whether for the choir, bells, or orchestra. In recent years, the Cermak fund has provided about \$1,500 each year to enhance the music that Marv is able to use. The Cermak funds have made all the difference in accessing music that our church wouldn't otherwise have, especially during times when the general church budget gets tight.

Purchasing music can get quite expensive! Did you know that for any new song the choir sings, we pay for each member's individual music per copyright laws, which costs about \$2.25 per piece? Multiply that times 65 choir members, and it adds up. In any given year, about 30% of our worship music is new, depending on sermon topics and other themes. The balance is either music purchased in the last several years or music we've had stored in our choral library, which includes over 1,035 different titles collected in the

last 30 years, not including bell choir, children's choir, or orchestral music.

For example, during last year's Christmas presentation, Marv was actually able to borrow a large piece of music, but the orchestral accompaniment could only be rented, at a cost of \$600, for both worship services. Even discounted, another piece of music still cost \$150 to buy, plus \$1.50 per choir member for sheet music.

As Marv says, and so many of us have experienced, our choir and the quality and history of our music ministry are a beautiful pull for drawing in new visitors and members alike. That's one reason that Marv is so dedicated to his work and keeping his eye on the well-being of the choir. Did you know our oldest choir member is 94, and many others are in their 70s and 80s? Though many years have passed without new members, this past year we had three.

These incredibly dedicated choir members are essentially tithing a work week over the course of a season. Generally, most members devote four hours per week to the choir, and that time doubles during Christmas. There's the annual retreat, dress rehearsals, and sometimes at-home practice. How moving to think of the time and talent they are pouring into our church!

Next time you sit in worship, your soul stirred by the beautiful voices, the echoing organ, and the carefully curated music, you can know a bit more about what's "behind the curtain" and how much our music ministry entails. You can know who those young faces are singing alongside our resident choir. We are grateful for everyone who has supported this work, including the families behind funds like EJ Early and Cermak. These Christians, who in an act of hope and witness to faith, have provided gifts through our Foundation to support our exceptional music ministry for years to come.

—Audrey McDill

Seven Music with a Mission Events Raise \$34,000



Working collaboratively, the Mission and Outreach and the Worship, Music, and the Arts Centers have just completed the presentation of their seventh Music with a Mission event, hosting the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda, Africa. Since 1994, the Watoto choirs have traveled extensively, sharing a message of hope for Africa's most vulnerable children and women. Thousands of orphans have been transitioned from voluntary or involuntary abandonment into a Christ-centered place to belong—a new family—and vulnerable women have been brought into the Watoto family to engage them so they can become the mothers and leaders whom God has called them to be.

After seven events, our two centers have seen the power of this 2.5-year-old ministry at FPC. Music with a Mission events are much more than a musical concert with a mission-focused offering. They are a powerful connecting point with others within our local community who are not a regular part of our church community, they bring new opportunities to learn about and connect with organizations within our community doing God's

redemptive work, and they are opportunities for our church families to connect with and learn more about the traveling musicians by hosting them—giving the host families a foreign mission experience right at home. Home experiences shared with us have brought rich memories for our own families! These experiences range from unexpected “concerts” by traveling professional musicians performed right in front of their host's own fireplace, opportunities to dance with the African children just before bedtime, and becoming weekly texting pals across the ocean. We know of at least one of our own church hosts who bonded so strongly with her two professional musician guests to now have been invited to come to visit them in Kiev, Ukraine. She has accepted and will be departing in the near future!

This is the main reason why our Music with a Mission ministry has become so valuable within our church family. We are helping to change lives in ways we could not have imagined just a few short years ago.

And we are also helping to financially

stretch our own church's mission focus. One-hundred percent of the offerings taken for each event go directly to the concert mission beneficiary. Our recent opportunity to host the Watoto Children's Choir raised \$9,143 in the offerings taken during the events, plus an unknown amount for Watoto through the sale of African merchandise and opportunities for ongoing sponsorship of a child or a mother in Watoto's care.

In our seven Music with a Mission events to date, we have now raised \$34,400 beyond our church's budgeted mission dollars.

To God alone the glory!

—Chris Perica, Center Leader
Mission and Outreach

—Bob Powell, Center Leader
Worship, Music, and the Arts



Dear FPC Family,

I miss you and think of you all often. In fact just the other night I dreamt that it was time to go home, but that instead of flying back to the US, Carlie Hoskins and the whole FPC youth group came to pick me up in the church van so that we could road-trip back together. Flawed dream-logic aside, I am very lucky to have a church family wonderful enough to miss this much.

Over the past five months here in the Philippines, I have been learning Tagalog and how to navigate big-city transportation; I have attended peace summits and human rights forums; and I have been blessed by lots of laughter over many enormous meals. I have quickly felt at home in my work placement at the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. I am honored to be a part of the meaningful activism and advocacy in which they are engaged. I am also grateful to have hilarious and kind colleagues who have invited me into their lives. Outside of work, they have shown me around Manila, introduced me to Filipino cuisine, and indulged with me in numerous bubble milk teas. A few of my favorite adventures so far include free diving in Batangas, hiking to Casaroro Falls and later to Taal Volcano (which, tragically, has since erupted), and singing along with the NCCP staff to classic 80s tunes at the office Christmas party and the staff retreat. (In the Philippines, it's not a party without a videoke machine!)

The greatest blessing, and simultaneously the greatest challenge, of my time here thus far has been encountering the world in new ways leading to a reshaping of my world view. Specifically I have witnessed that the global systems of exploitation and oppression are far more widespread and insidious than I had previously understood. Currently I am reflecting on my role within these complex systems and wrestling with my inability to step outside of them while still desiring to act with integrity and love. In the midst of the struggle, I am grateful for the many inspiring activists and leaders who have blazed these trails before, from whom I can learn, and also for the support of you all, my community back home, on whom I can lean.

With six months still ahead of me, I look forward to all that I have yet to experience. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of living and serving here for a year, and I am thankful to all of you who have supported me on this journey. I sincerely ask for your continued prayers that, as the year goes on, I would be able to better know God and live with integrity and love as my eyes continue to be opened to some of the harsher realities of privilege within the global context.

Thank you all for your love and support.

—Kalista Consol





A story of Generosity

When reading an e-book recently called **Generosity Reset**,* I discovered a label for what I love about our church—it's called **whole-life generosity**.

Whole-life generosity is a way of living and loving that is rooted and nourished with Christ as the center, such that:

- All of life is lived in **RELATIONSHIP** with God.
- All we have is received with **GRATITUDE** from God.
- All we are is **RELEASED** to God for the blessing of others. [Generosity Reset, p. 8]

Imagine this as the virtuous circle that it is growing in scope and strength.

Our church is filled with people whose circles of whole-life generosity bless others in so many ways, both seen and unseen, such as:

- Leading in worship through music or liturgy or facilitating all the logistics behind the scenes of our worship experiences
- Welcoming all who find themselves within our spaces: guests on Sunday morning seeking a church home; homeless families who live with us on designated weeks throughout the year; and clients of The Matthews House and La Cocina
- Serving on one of the eight deacon teams that provide tangible acts of care, support, and fellowship, especially for those hospitalized or homebound
- Teaching and modeling God's ways of spiritual formation through all the stages of life, from nurseries to nursing home
- Overseeing the organizational and financial functions of our church with expertise and integrity
- Shepherding our church in opportunities of mission and outreach through both our mission tithes and encouragement to pray for and even serve alongside these mission partners

• _____
(fill in what you see)

• _____
(fill in what you are doing to bless others)

With God's grace and favor, we will continue to be a generous people, a church body marked by whole-life generosity—lavish with our time, our abilities, and our financial means.

—Jinny DeJong

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all the you need, you will abound in every good work.

—II Corinthians 9:8

***Generosity Reset: From Fundraising to Disciple-Making in the Local Church**; Published by GenerousChurch; James Armstrong, Editor; ©GenerousChurch Inc.; www.generouschurch.com

Living whole-life generosity could include earning cash-back rewards when you shop.



The King Soopers Community Rewards program donates to FPC when you use your loyalty card.



Shop AmazonSmile, and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to FPC.



Every time you reload your Safeway Community Giving Card, you help FPC raise up to 5% reward simply by shopping at Safeway.

Safeway reloadable cards are available at the church office. Watch the bulletin for how to give with these organizations.

PARTNERS PROVIDING SHELTER

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WELCOMED AT FPC



Family Housing Network (FHN) of Fort Collins [formerly Faith Family Hospitality (FFH)] has made tremendous progress in 2019 and overall in the eight years since the beginning of the organization in 2012.

FFH began operating as a program on January 15, 2012, with 16 faith communities taking a leap of faith to begin providing overnight shelter to four families experiencing homelessness. They were able to secure support from the Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope, Fort Collins Interfaith Council, and United Way of Larimer County. Nine congregations committed to providing onsite housing, and seven congregations committed to supporting those host sites, meaning that each congregation committed to securing volunteers and providing food and shelter every two months.

FPC became involved with FFH very early. By February 2013, FPC was a support church, assisting Peak Community Church during the times it served as an overnight host. By May 2015, FPC became a host church, providing meals and shelter to families three times per year.

In the following years, services were expanded and volunteers increased. In 2019, the larger FFH organization (including a day center, case management, and bridge housing) changed its name to more accurately describe the range of services offered. The overnight program retains the original FFH name.

Participation of faith communities continues to be the core of FHN. Today, the organization has developed four core programs:

Day Center

In 2013, the Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship offered its site to establish a day center a few days per week. This is a full-service, home-like setting for guests and wait-list families providing activities for daily living such as showers, laundry, kitchen, naps, computers, play space, and more. On March 1, 2020, the day center moved to a new 4,000-square-foot location on South Lemay. The larger facility enables the organization to serve more families and potentially provide seven-day-a-week access.

Case Management

Staff has been increased to a full-time executive director, a full-time program director, and a part-time volunteer coordinator. Primary case management is provided by the FHN professional social-work staff, partnering with more than 20 agencies to provide guidance

and access to a full range of stabilizing services to both families in the overnight program and families accepted for use of the day center. In 2019, 45 families used the day center and case management only.

Bridge Housing

The Sherwood House is being developed for those guests who need longer-term shelter in a “bridge” housing location. Seven additional families with more obstacles to overcome will be sheltered for up to six months. FHN has been working on securing the final \$250,000 needed to complete renovations. In order to accomplish this, they have begun a process to purchase The Sherwood House.

Faith Family Hospitality

FFH, the original program, has expanded to 15 host congregations, each supported by one or more partner congregations, with a total of 32 congregations participating.

In 2019, 26 families stayed in the FFH overnight program, with 58 children and 44 adults. An average of 18 parents and children are sheltered and fed each night. It takes an average of 57 days for families to achieve permanent housing. This is achieved with the help of more than 1,300 volunteers per year.

FPC will host the FFH families the weeks of June 14, 2020 and November 1, 2020. If you would like to become involved, contact Janet Schuchmann, (571)212-1698, Betsy Towle, (973)670-9058, or Mark Ausbrooks (970)214-1197).

—Janet Schuchmann



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Walking Alongside You in Grief

We all experience grief in different ways and on different schedules. Our grief is as unique as our fingerprints. The Caring Ministry will offer a grief group to help you learn more about grief—and about healing. We are not experts, but we are here to walk alongside you on this journey.

It is not necessary that you come to every single class to join this group, but it is helpful. It is, however, very important that you attend the Saturday class. The cost is \$20.

Class Dates

- Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (lunch included)
- Wednesday, April 8, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 15 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 22, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 29, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 6, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Marge Rice, Director of Caring, mrice@firstpresfc.org.



from the Director of Children's Ministries

Ministry FOR Kids



Vacation Bible School 2020

June 8–12, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

At Knights of North Castle VBS, students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the king's armor. They will become knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives. North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The king's valiant knights are on a quest in search of the king's armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is! Kids "armor up" with truth, justice, peace, faith, and salvation at Knights of North Castle VBS. They learn to "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power" (Ephesians 6:10).

Also, plan to join us for VBS Sunday on June 14 (with a bouncy house celebration)!

Be watching the bulletins, emails, and the VBS display in April for ways you can get involved.

Ministry WITH Kids



Second Sunday Sandwiches is a great ministry. In less than 10 minutes, we make 90 sack lunches for folks experiencing homelessness. Each month, I see different folks working side by side. My heart is warmed by the volunteerism, the laughter, and the industry.

But mostly, my heart soars at the sight of adults interacting with the children and youth of our church. Most have never met before. And now, our church family feels a little closer.

Join us every second Sunday of the month in Shepardson Hall!

Ministry BY Kids

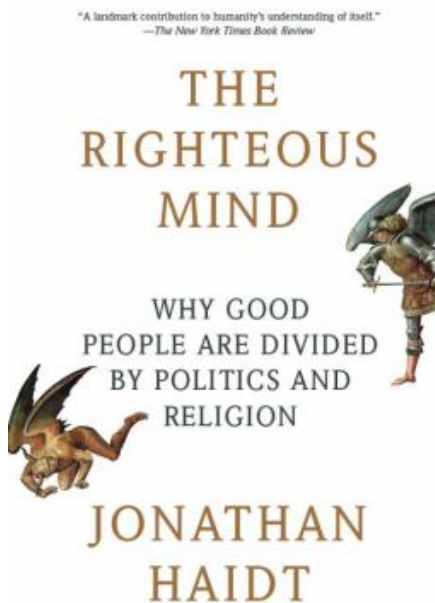
On Wednesday, February 5, children spent time making 40 creative valentines that simply said, "You are loved!" On Sunday, February 9, the McDill and Mack families distributed them at Centre Avenue Rehab. The patients responded with surprised and heartfelt gratitude. One woman said that it was the first valentine she'd gotten in years. Our kids were so polite and gracious as they handed out the cards and responded to the thanks and hugs and, for one, an enthusiastic kiss on the cheek! As my father, Jack Armstrong, was given a card, he said, "The people in this church are so amazing!" Yes, they most certainly are!



LIBRARY CORNER

THE WORD SOURCE

A review of *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided By Politics and Religion*, by Jonathan Haidt, available in the FPC Word Source Library on the second floor of the Education Wing.



What are, and what causes, the variations in human moral judgements? Are human moral dispositions reflected in politics and religion? Is there possibility for persons separated on a moral or judgement spectrum to understand one another and reconcile differences? Or at least "get along?"

FPC's Word Source Library has added Haidt's much-referred-to new study of how human morality develops and impacts politics and religion.

This is a work of social psychology and scientific research. Situational moral judgement studies and functional MRI brain studies with children and adults contribute to conversation about

whether moral judgements are neurologically instantaneous (Haidt would say "intuitive"), learned, or shaped by reflective thought and reason. Much in the book explores whether a person's immediate moral reaction can change via time spent in reasoned thought following an initial judgement.

Haidt investigates whether moral judgement preferences control variations in one's politics and religion. He describes five categories of moral belief: caring, fairness, loyalty, authority, and sanctity. Hypothetical situations draw out the relative strengths of those moral areas in research subjects of varying political and religious bent. Interesting and polar separations in strengths of the five moral values do emerge among persons identified as liberal vs. moderate vs. conservative. Similar separations happen when the research subjects are more specifically sorted as Democrat vs. Republican or, as in one study, Unitarians vs. Baptists. Liberal outlook correlates with moral strengths that are quite different from the moral value profile of conservatives, with a political result that the author titles "The Conservative Advantage."

The book makes one consider: Do my moral judgement priorities dictate my political and religious identity along a liberal-to-conservative continuum? Are my moral preferences deep-seated "intuitive" automatic reactions whenever a moral judgement matter arises? Are my reasoned thoughts following an intuitive reaction of unbiased deliberations, or are they self-protective mental searches for reasons that support my initial intuitive reaction?

Communications research suggests that as we interact with those of different moral persuasion, we first consider them to be good people but uninformed, and next think of them as informed but wrong, and finally decide that they know they are wrong and constitute a threatening "enemy camp." Our morality, Haidt says, "binds and blinds," tying us to our position and to others like us and blocking friendships with and understanding of the motives and goals of others. Haidt's research holds some pessimism, but hope rises in a valuable final chapter: "Can't We All Disagree More Constructively?" Research HAS identified the kinds of human interactions that seem to help move persons of moral, political, and religious separations closer together, able to discover that those of different persuasion do have good motives and, often, surprisingly similar goals. Readers are likely to remember and consider Haidt's final chapter when reacting to the moral, political, or religious views of others.

—Tom Tonoli

DEACON CORNER

As reported in the last two issues of *The Messenger*, the 18-member FPC Board of Deacons is made up of nine teams that are each assigned to manage specific tasks. In each *Messenger* throughout this year, you will meet each devoted deacon duo and find out what they are doing to support the members of our church family.

Outreach Communion

Elizabeth Heins and Rachel Van Maanen lead the Outreach Communion Team.



Elizabeth Heins

Elizabeth, a retired nurse, and her husband Roger returned to Fort Collins/Windsor and FPC in 2005. They were members here previously from 1981 to

1989. They have four adult children, three who live in the area with their families— Roger, Jr.(Adriana), Heather (David Beard), and Gretchen (Todd Lenzner). Son Mark (Carolyn) live in Breckenridge. They have seven grandchildren. Elizabeth is serving her second term as a deacon and enjoys interacting with the residents in nursing facilities, serving them communion and giving them some time and attention. Her interests include church, family, and community activities, plus gardening, reading, knitting, cooking, and travel.



Rachel Van Maanen

Rachel and her husband have been members at FPC for about five years. Rachel's husband Devin works for a local construction company in Fort Collins, and they have a daughter, Aubrey, who is two and a half. This is Rachel's first term as a deacon at FPC. She served as a deacon in Hawaii on the visitation and meals ministry. She is currently working part time as a phlebotomist at the Garth Englund Blood Center. They love the outdoors and spending time with family and friends.

The main focus for outreach communion is serving holy communion

in local nursing facilities. Elizabeth and Rachel consider it a privilege and an honor to serve those who are unable to get out and be a part of the community.

- Currently we serve eight nursing facilities in Fort Collins.
- We visit these facilities on the second, third, and fourth Tuesdays each month, expect for July, August, and December.
- Communion is open to all faiths.
- Two volunteers are needed for every visit for each facility.
- With our current roster of volunteers, your time commitment could vary; in other words, let us know what your availability is, and we would love to find a spot for you on our team.

We welcome ALL volunteers. Please call or email us with any questions you may have, Elizabeth Heins, (970)631-9993, rgheins@gmail.com, or Rachel Van Maanen, (970)818-1637, rachel.vanmaanen89@gmail.com.

Homebound Visitation

Some members of FPC who are alone in their homes and with few or no family members nearby enjoy now-and-then visits from homebound visitation volunteers who drop in for a social contact. Tom Tonoli, deacon for the Homebound Visitation Team, helps organize the work of about 25 volunteers, who currently visit about 30 church members, some who are in their homes and others who are in care facilities.

Homebound visitation volunteers make their own schedules and plans. No set visitation pattern is required, and schedules vary among the volunteers. A visit can take many shapes: an outdoor walk, conversation, news, Scrabble, small treats, coffee, or tea. Most volunteers comment that those visited have a lot to add to conversations, with interesting past lives happily recounted. Some volunteers make weekly visits; others visit once or twice a month. Times of day vary. All such

volunteer contributions of time are very much appreciated by members whose days of social contact and conversation are improved. It's an occasion to which those members who live mostly alone look forward, a confirmation of never being forgotten.

One special visitation group is the Tea Ladies. The Tea Ladies bring to a visit all the classic tea service gear of silver and cups, plus bakery treats to match. They provide an afternoon of authentic high tea and conversation to homebound members.

Homebound visitation deacons often receive requests to add a new person who would like to be visited. New volunteers are always needed to provide social connections to those who are newly alone. Do you have time each month to join in this ministry? To learn more about its possible fit for you, contact Tom Tonoli, (970)493-5273, tonoli@frii.com.



Tom Tonoli

Hope and waiting

As you read this in *The Messenger*, we are three months in to the new year of 2020, and we have also entered into a season of hope. Hope is the great gift of Easter. Intertwined with that hope is waiting, and so we also enter into the season of waiting.

I can hear some of you saying out loud, "I've BEEN in that season of waiting for months, for years now," and I know that is true. That season has found me as well at times: waiting for answers or waiting for someone else to receive their answers. Yet, as I look at 2020 and wait to see what's next for me, it occurs to me that it's important to look at 2019 and see what 2019 taught me. That's a bit trickier. I know, as you know, that everything that happened in 2019 is a part of our story, a story that will be a part of us forever. We might as well examine it and learn from it. Was there anything there that made me more ready for 2020? Was I ever joyful in my hope? Was I ever patient in my affliction? Was I faithful in my prayer? What was I doing in that waiting time? Was I serving others? Was I surrendering at times when there were no other options? The answers to all of those questions could and should lay the groundwork for me for 2020. I do know when a light shone on me; it was occasionally shining on a pile of dust of my own making! That, too, needs to be included in the "groundwork" for 2020. I believe we must find a balance between being still (which we often don't do well) and cleaning up dust of our own making.

Sometimes, when all of our focus is put into waiting, it delays our personal growth. I do believe that obedience to waiting, fierce as it can be, is attainable. I believe, too, that part of attaining that obedience is serving others in our waiting time, improving ourselves in that waiting time, and listening closely for guidance from God.

If our hope is anchored *only* in what we are waiting for, then we are frequently disappointed. Our hope has to be in something more. Cancer isn't always cured, infertility may not always result in a baby, a couple may not always reconcile. Our hope must be in the One who promised, "I will never leave you or forsake you." As grief often binds us to one another, so can hope. It is important to remember to encourage one another, embrace one another, wait with one another—in hope.

We must remember, too, as we focus at times on our waiting, God is waiting as well. He is waiting for us to follow Him. I often wonder if He is as impatient in His waiting as I am in mine.

—Marge Rice



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EASTER

CHRIST IS RISEN!

at First Presbyterian Church Fort Collins

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020
9:00 AND 11:00 AM

SAVE THE DATE!

FPC CAMPING TRIP

JULY 16–19, 2020

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FPC HAS RESERVED A GROUP CAMPSITE FOR TENTS. REGISTER AT FIRSTPRESFC.ORG.

GLACIER BASIN CAMPGROUND ALSO HAS RV SITES (WITHOUT HOOKUPS) THAT MUST BE RESERVED SEPARATELY. VISIT RECREATION.GOV/CAMPING/CAMPGROUNDS/232462 NOW TO ASSURE YOUR RV SPOT BEFORE THEY SELL OUT.



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COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK

APRIL 6–10, 2020 AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For centuries, the Christian Church has set aside Holy Week to remember Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, His final teachings, a meal with friends, His betrayal and His death. At First Presbyterian Church, we host services for the entire community, welcoming everyone for worship each day. Our Holy Week Services take place from 12:00-12:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. These "lunch-time" worship services will be led each day by different pastors and church leaders, offering all of us an opportunity to experience the richness and breadth of the wider family of God. All are welcome and we hope you will join us. Childcare available.

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|------------------------|--|
| MON APRIL 6 | Led by Ashley Procanyn, CSU Student Intern |
| TUES APRIL 7 | Led by Rev. Eric Sunderland, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church |
| WED APRIL 8 | Led by Rev. Gus Wright, Interim Pastor, Harmony Presbyterian Church |
| THURS APRIL 9 | Led by Rev. Denise Pass, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Plains and Peaks, communion served |
| FRI APRIL 10 | Proclamation in song by tenor, Anthony McGlaun, who was recently cast in the ensemble for the Metropolitan Opera's revival of Porgy and Bess |









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