



THE MESSENGER

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**THANKFUL
LIVING**

**WE GATHER
TOGETHER**

**IT TAKES A
VILLAGE**

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From the Editor | PIE

Twenty years ago, my husband, Seth, and I celebrated our first Thanksgiving as a married couple. We were fortunate to have our family close by—in fact, in town—to gather for the celebration. Everyone brought something to the meal. Seth, a Restaurant and Resort Management graduate and future trained chef, had grown up baking pies with his grandfather. Cherished times with Gramps sparked a love of cooking and sharing and pie-making. So, our contribution to that Thanksgiving was the pies.

The process of making a pie from scratch fills me with gratitude. The blending of fat and flour, the sweetness of fruit, the warmth—is simplicity of God's creation combined in goodness and love. Make a pie with spouse or your child or a friend, and the experience can be a memory to treasure. Pie is a comfort food that you are pleased to share with others. Pastor Paul says that giving a pie away can be the best blessing of all.

The night before Thanksgiving all those years ago, busy newlywed life had left us both in a state of exhaustion. Still, we needed to bake the pies. Sometime around 10:00 p.m. Seth placed the pumpkin, apple, and mincemeat pies in the oven to bake. Sometime around 4:00 a.m. we woke up with a start. The pies were beyond done.

Looking back, we laugh when we talk about our special "Bake-While-You-Sleep" pies. However, that Thanksgiving, and every one since, we counted our blessings and gave thanks to Him from whom all blessings flow. Like the pie, whether our circumstances are just right, or sloppy, or even a little overdone, God calls us to be thankful. *In all things, give thanks*, 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

So, for family and friends, for health and home, for church—and yes, for pie, we give thanks. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

—Cathy Richardson

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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 purpose and mission will be **accepted on the 15th of each month**. 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. Contact Editor Cathy Richardson for more information, (970)482-6107.



THANKFUL LIVING



As we fast approach the holiday of Thanksgiving, I am mindful of the evidences, the fingerprints of God. How can I miss them? I see them everywhere. In the craft, intelligence, endurance, and glory of border collies at the Meeker Sheepdog Trials, moving wild, frightened, and unruly sheep long distances and around a dizzying course of twists and turns. In the alpenglow of the sunrise, golden red in the fall, reflecting off of Long's Peak. In the bounty of a friend's garden at harvest time, overflowing with tomatoes, huge carrots and beets, yellow squash, and white onions. We have so much for which to be thankful.

As we fast approach the time of the Parsons leaving FPC, I am also mindful of the evidences, the fingerprints of God in our church. How can I miss them? I see them everywhere. In the friendship of all generations around tables every Wednesday evening in the Midweek Experience. In the stories of God at work here at FPC, shared in both the Narrative Budget as well as in the "Did

You Know. . .?" stories that you have sent to me. In the generosity with which you responded to the New Roads Challenge

and especially for the gifts that you gave your staff through it. In the sweetness of our bevy of new babies in the congregation and for the many new moms attending the MOPS group we sponsor. In a wonderful group of new members who joined in October. In a hard-working PNC whose diversity is bound together by trust and love in Jesus, Redeemer of all. In the tears of a young woman from another culture experiencing her first Sacrament of Holy Communion. We have come a long, long way. We have so much for which to be thankful.

Having eyes to see God present and at work inevitably leads to more than a

thankful attitude—it leads to thankful living. The greatest gift you can give to a new senior pastor is a thankful lifestyle.

"We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito. . . The real labor is to remember, to attend. In fact, to come awake. Still more, to remain awake,"
—C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm*

Giving generously to the operating budget. Serving as van drivers for the sake

of our seniors. Becoming a member of one of our Centers. Getting involved in a mission, like McBackpacks or Project Self-Sufficiency or Operation Christmas Child or Plant with Purpose or Faith Alive or the Peanut Butter House. Ushering. Helping in Children's Ministry. Being a youth leader. Welcoming that new pastor with acceptance that she/he isn't like me nor like Rich nor like any other pastor.

That's where I'm going, and I hope you'll come with me.

—Paul Parsons

A CHURCH OF CHARACTER

WISDOM

The character quality for November 2015 is Wisdom (versus foolishness). Wisdom can be defined as seeing the hand of God in every experience of life or making practical applications of truth in daily decisions.

Wisdom—clearly a quality that we all strive to develop. But how? It's not a subject that is taught in classes, e.g., Wisdom 101. However, in reading the Bible, it is clear that God wants us to have great wisdom, and He even tells us how to obtain it. Consider the following quotes from the Bible telling us how to become wise.

By keeping God's commandments

"Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me," (Psalm 119:98).

Through reverence for and fear of God

"For the reverence and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding," (Proverbs 9:10).

By asking God for it

"If any one of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to everyone without reserve and without reproach, and it will be granted him. But he should ask in faith with never a doubt; for one who doubts resembles a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind," (James 1: 5–6).

"Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise... but to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom." — C.H. Spurgeon

By reading Proverbs

"These are the proverbs of King Solomon of Israel, David's son: He wrote them to teach his people how to live—how to act in every circumstance, for he wanted them to be understanding, just and fair

in everything they did. 'I want to make the simple-minded wise!' he said. 'I want to warn young men about some problems they will face. I want those already wise to become the wiser and become leaders by exploring the depths of meaning in these nuggets of truth,'" (Proverbs 1:1–6).

By hearing instruction

"Hear instruction, be wise, and do not refuse it," (Proverbs 8:33).

"Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning," (Proverbs 9:9).

By seeking wise counsel

"He who walks with wise men becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm," (Proverbs 12:20).



CALLING BAKERS COOKIES NEEDED!

At the Advent Celebration, FPC children and families decorate cookies for the NightLights Tree-lighting Event that is held on our lawn each year. Will you bake cookies to share?

Cookies should be:
UNDECORATED
Gingerbread...or Sugar
Christmas Shapes...or Circles

Bring cookies to the church BEFORE the Advent Celebration on November 22. Contact Alice Crawford for more information, (970)482-6107.

STICK A BAND-AID ON IT

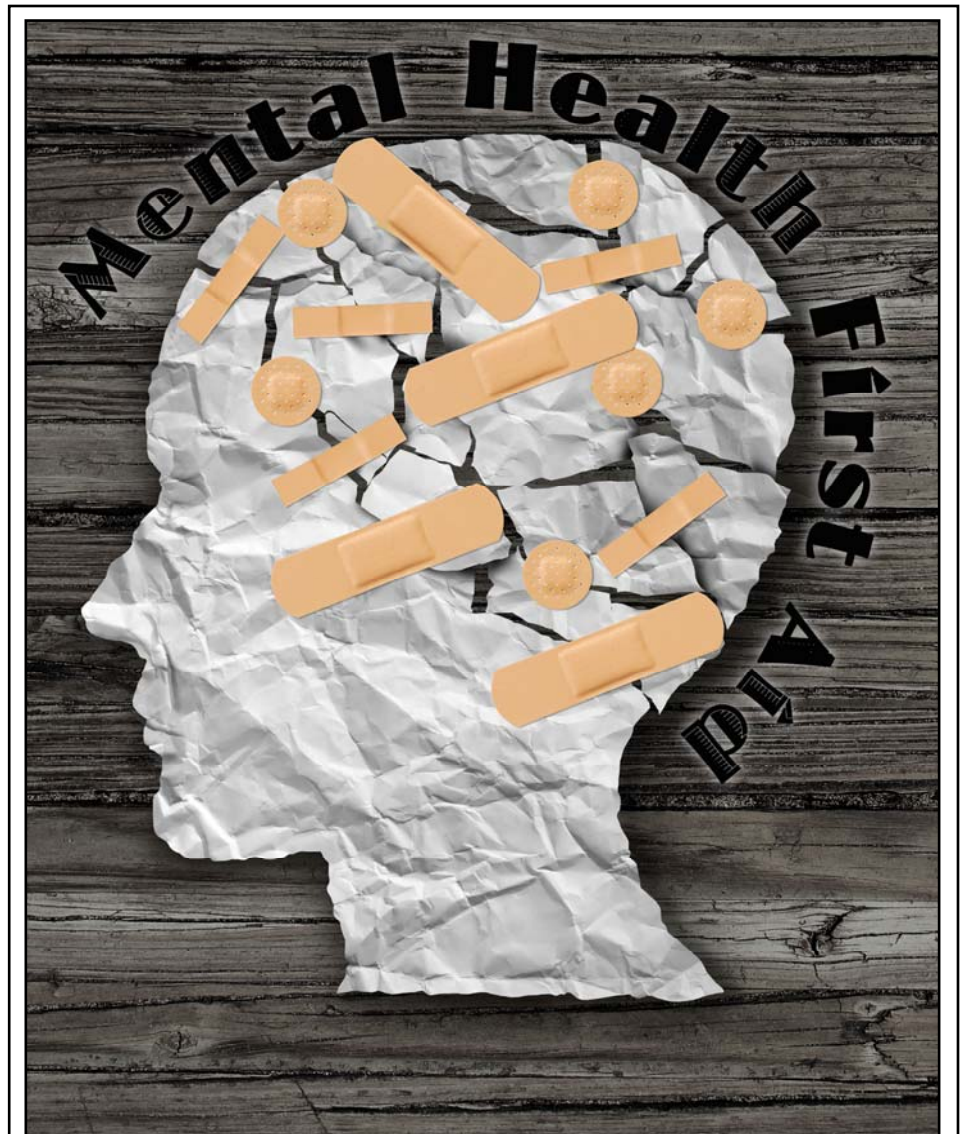
HELPING SOMEONE WITH DEPRESSION IS NO SIMPLE FIX: GET THE TOOLS

When a person breaks a leg, they are usually showered with love, kindness, and support. But when they suffer from major depression, often people aren't as quick to share that love and support. We treat physical injuries with such urgency, but when someone is depressed, we aren't as quick to know what to do—or how to help. Yet, most of us, if not touched by some of these concerns ourselves, have loved ones or friends who are affected by depression. In fact, according to the National Network of Depression Centers, “By conservative estimates, one in five Americans has firsthand experience with depression, bipolar illness, or another mood disorder.”

On Thursday, November 19, Chris Fine, a Developmental Specialist at Summit Stone Health Partners will talk about these very issues. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come and listen—and receive education around supporting those with mental health issues.

The two-hour session introduces Mental Health First Aid, an evidence-based, groundbreaking public education program designed to improve participant's knowledge of behavioral health disorders, to reduce stigma, and to increase the amount of help provided to those who may need it. Chris will educate participants on some basic concepts about mental health and addictive disorders; introduce tools and skills to help participants feel more comfortable providing support to others for mental health challenges; discuss the statewide initiative to grow this program in Colorado; and identify opportunities for members of our congregation to get involved.

According to the World Health



Mental Health “First Aid”
November 19, 2015, 9:00–11:00 a.m. in Room 209
Sign up: mrice@firstpresfc.org by November 15, 2015

Organization, an estimated 350 million people suffer from depression worldwide. Don't miss this opportunity to have a few extra tools to help the person or people you know in need of mental health support.

If you are unable to attend but have concerns about yourself or someone else, contact me so I can help get you in touch with someone who can support you, (970)482-6107.

—Marge Rice



We Gather Together

an all-church breakfast gift for the FPC family

Sunday, November 8, at 10:15 a.m.
in Shepardson Hall
Join us between services for
a pancake breakfast and a time of fellowship.

Your presence is the only gift we seek; however, donations will be accepted.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE



Emmaus, by Janet Brooks-Gerloff (Marge Rice's sister), 1992

"I suspect that if we saw the difference even the tiniest of our prayers make, and all the people those little prayers were destined to affect, and all the consequences of those prayers down through the centuries, we would be so paralyzed with awe at the power of prayer that we would be unable to get off our knees for the rest of our lives."

—Peter Kreeft

I often find myself praying as a last resort. My first line of defense is usually digging for resources or answers that can help solve "the problem." Digging deep within yourself for resources is not a negative thing, for many times we discover resources and courage that we never knew we had. God has given us our minds to use, not to simply wait for something to appear for us. But at the same time, He wants us to be assured that He is walking alongside us on our journeys and wants us to talk with Him...not just in times of sorrow or need, but in times of thankfulness.

We read in our scriptures about Jesus' two followers walking along the road to Emmaus when Jesus came up alongside them. They did not recognize him...yet he spoke to them and asked what they were talking about. I believe that Jesus walks alongside us every day, and we don't recognize him either at times. Often I believe he wants to know what we are talking about or what we are thinking. Every day we might miss an opportunity to talk to him...or to listen to him. Our prayers DO matter, and as Peter Kreeft says in the quote above... we never will ever know all the difference that even the tiniest prayers make.

I want praying to be my FIRST resort...not my last.

—Marge Rice

Please be with the PNC as it continues to move forward with candidates for the Senior Pastor position at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins. Please give the members of the PNC clarity and consensus on the best person to lead this church family now and into the future. Enter into the hearts of all involved in the process and fill those hearts with your Holy Spirit so that any decisions may come through the direction of you, our God. Let all other influences fall away until the only influence affecting the outcome is that of you, our God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Please bless FPC with peace, grace, and the new Senior Pastor whom you have chosen for this church. In all things, may your will be done.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

—Pam Pierce



Love and Logic®

It was October 21, 1977, and I will never forget that morning. Jack and I had brought home our firstborn from the hospital the day before, and we were starting our first full day as new parents at home. Baby Jill was beautiful, so lovable, and life seemed almost perfect...until we lost that first night of sleep! She had kept us up all night, fussing, crying, and totally confusing two loving parents who thought this parenting thing would be easy. Tears rolled down my cheeks that morning as I stood exhausted with this precious child, realizing she had not come with an "instruction book," and I was feeling totally incompetent. My words to Jack were, "I don't think I can do this for 18 more years!"

I did not know then that 1977 was also the year that two brilliant men were beginning to collaborate on helping desperate parents like Jack and me. Jim Fay (a noted educator) and Dr. Foster Cline (a gifted psychiatrist) were joining forces as authors and speakers of a new approach to parenting called "Love and Logic." Since that time, their simple and practical techniques have been embraced by a multitude of parents reading their books and attending workshops all over the world. Thousands of parents have found keys for raising their children with love and logical tools through the help of these two men who had a deep love for children and passion for changing lives.

January 8–9, 2016 "Love and Logic" will be coming to FPC with an eight-hour workshop designed for parents of children ranging from toddler to teen years. The presenter will be Shannon Yockey (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), who has practice as a trained presenter and is an experienced parent and therapist. This programming is made available through combined efforts of the MOPS group at FPC and our Center for Discipleship & Spiritual Formation, as well as underwriting from the FPC Foundation. Thanks to this support in funding, our MOPS parents, as well as parents of FPC children, will be able to register for these valuable weekend sessions at the low cost of \$50 per couple or \$35 for single attendees. (This cost is less than 1/3 the usual workshop cost and will also include a study book and childcare at FPC!)

If you are a parent looking for some refreshing new approaches, register by November 15 to assure your workshop seat. The seminar is limited to the first 30 people, so don't delay treating yourself to this investment for your family!

—Sharon Miller

America's Most Practical & Entertaining Parent Training PARENTING THE LOVE AND LOGIC WAY™

A weekend parent training program
designed by the Love and Logic® Institute, Inc.

- Want to feel more confident as a parent?
- Want to have more fun parenting?
- Want to feel more relaxed at the end of the day?
- Want answers to:
 - How can I stop my children from bickering & fighting?
 - How do I get my children to help with the chores without an argument?
 - How can I have a positive relationship with my teen without going crazy?
 - How do I stop nagging my kids about their homework? and many other day-to-day frustrations.

This weekend course is designed to give you practical parenting skills that can be used immediately with children of all ages.

Dates: Friday, January 8, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 9, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Location: First Presbyterian Church
Cost: \$35 per individual, \$50 per couple (includes workbook and materials) Childcare available at no charge for MOPs members and/or FPC members.

Register me for the Love and Logic® Seminar!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name and age of children registered for childcare:

Register **no later than 11/15**. Return this form and payment to FPC. (Checks made payable to: FPC, Memo: Love and Logic Workshop.) This workshop is made available by a grant from The FPC Foundation. For questions contact: Sharon Miller, sharonmiller@millergroup.org or (970)988-5700.

RAISING A CHILD OR LIVING LIFE TOGETHER

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Since becoming a new mom, I have come to understand the phrase “It takes a village” on a deeper level. Having a child is a blessing, but it is also very hard—harder than I imagined. I have taken meals to new moms, offered to help friends when needed, but I never fully understood the need for help until Micah came along. I know Kevin and I could not have managed the way we have without our village.

The past six months have been challenging for our little family. Not only did we have a newborn to care for, but I also got into an accident that totaled our car, have had job challenges, and am now looking for a new job. If it wasn't for our FPC family, I don't think I could have survived!

People brought us meals, the Hunts helped with last-minute daycare, the Humphries and Redders helped watch Micah—the Redders even stood with me when I had my accident because Kevin was at his first day of a new job! I know I have a village that is surrounding not just Micah, but our whole family.

As I contemplate the past 6 months, I am reminded of Acts 2:42–47: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’

teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their



possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food

with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

This passage talks about the early Church and the way they loved and served each other. The Church gave all they had so there was no need. They broke bread together, worshiped together, and met the needs of others.

Kevin, Micah, and I break bread with our FPC family, worship together, and strive to give of ourselves as you have given of yourself to meet our needs, even the ones we are not aware of.

I now know that it doesn't just take a village to raise a child, it takes a village to just be, to live, to survive.

Thanks for being our village! I pray that as a congregation we are not just a village for each other, but for the community as a whole. Let us praise God together for all He provides and give Him glory as we love, give, and serve 'til there is no need.

—Laura Reid

LIBRARY CORNER

THE WORD SOURCE

New to our library are two possibilities for small group study.

With the appearance of a new book by Harper Lee, interest has rekindled in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This, of course, is the story of a broken town, full of broken people living in a broken and corrupt system, but with redemption waiting just around the corner.

Matt Rawle is lead pastor at The Well United Methodist Church in Ponchatoula, LA. He is an international speaker who loves to tell an old story in a new way, especially at the intersection of pop culture and the church. Thus he beckons us to discover how our own broken lives are part of God's timeless redemption story in his new book *The Faith of a Mockingbird*. Rawle uses Harper Lee's beloved characters to explore Christian faith, theology, and

ethics. He invites us to join Scout, Atticus Finch, Boo Radley, and Tom Robinson in a four-week study considering God's world and what it all means.

Also available, though not in the library, are a DVD featuring four sessions with the author, a leader's guide, and worship resources flash drive.

A second resource is the DVD *Letters to Father Jacob*, a Finnish film, with English subtitles, set in the early 1970s and based on a story by Jaana Makkonen telling the narrative of Leila, a pardoned convict, who becomes an assistant to a blind priest, Jacob. The film depicts her transformation from a skeptic who grudgingly reads letters aloud to her benefactor into a caring savior of the pastor from his despair after the letters stop coming.

The film is slow and contemplative, unraveling in an unhurried manner. But it follows a firm and deliberate pacing that keeps the plot moving forward. Those on the Library Committee who viewed the film before recommending it for purchase agree heartily with the following quote from *Christianity Today* from October 2010: "Those moments in between the driving actions are the key to immersing viewers into the quiet atmosphere of a blind man's life; a world that comes alive through a carefully crafted sound design: whistling kettles, thickly sliced bread, trickling tea, and the creak of an ancient home's floorboards. Outside the patter of rain, and inside, melodies provided by a leaky roof. Each sound get crisp, isolated treatment; each one is important, as it would be to Jacob."

—Jane Rolston



COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE *
HIM WHOSE BIRTH THE ANGELS SING

2015 ADVENT CELEBRATION*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 4-6 P.M.

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



- * Advent Wreaths
- * Christmas Crafts
- * Storytelling Corner
- * Cookie Decorating for NightLights

*Plus, Enjoy a Potluck
Taco Bar Dinner!*

*All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate! Bring a friend.
Please bring something to share at our taco bar.
(Meat, taco shells, and lettuce provided.)*

Presented by the Children's Ministry

