THE COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER, 2017

BE • CONNECT • ENGAGE

Advent is a time of promise a time of waiting, a time for adventure that takes us into mystery, the mystery that astounds and amazes us in the birth of a baby named Jesus.

In the midst of a world where destruction and violence, poverty and despair, power and arrogance seem to reign, the promise of Advent gives us hope and challenges us to get on board with what God is doing in our world through us.

This Advent, at FCC we wait not only for the birth of the Christ Child but also for the arrival of a new lead minister, **The Rev. Heather Haginduff**. Heather will arrive on January 1, 2018 as my time with you will end on December 31, 2017. The anticipation for the new, for the promise of what can be and what God has in store for FCC in the years to come is truly exciting!

I am grateful for our interim transitional journey of 16 months that has gotten us to this place, where I sense both anxiety and excitement, concern and anticipation, and realize that such feelings are simply human and "normal." Life's goodbyes and hellos always evoke both anxiety and excitement, as we let go of the familiar and welcome the unfamiliar. We look to the past and the future in the image of the ancient Roman God - Janus - who had two faces (one looking back and one looking forward). From his name, derives the word "January".

I thank you for being a wonderful community of faith, for sharing your stories, hopes, and dreams as well as your disappointments and heartbreaks with me: I hold them in sacred trust. And, thank you for walking the journey with joy and faith. I am convinced that you will welcome Heather and walk with her with trust and care as well.

A Couple of notes:

Del Hokanson, Director of Children's and Family Ministry will take a "sabbatical" February – April 2018. Del is guiding and preparing lay leaders to carry on the ministry while she is away. She is also working with Hannah Rockey, actor and teacher, who will serve as staff and as the leader of KC Worship during that time. Rev. Haginduff is updated about this and all such issues.

On Sunday, December 10, during both services of worship we will share a liturgy of farewell as we celebrate our interim transitional journey together and say goodbye. Although my time with you will not end until December 31, because of Christmas Eve and other church events, such as the Mystery, the farewell events will be held on December 10. Look for additional information soon.

If you have not yet made your financial covenant pledge for the Annual Appeal 2018, please do so as soon as possible. The most convenient way is by clicking/visiting this link - *http://www.fcucc.org/give/financial-covenant-form*.

Thank you!
Blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas to you and to all!
Pastor Nayiri

Table of Contents

A Message from Pastor Nayiri	1
Greetings from Pastor Heather	2
Our Arches	3
The Haginduff Family	3
Church Council Nominees	4
An Invitation to...	5
Celebration & Farewell	6
December Worship	7
Dec. Worship *continued*	8
The Forum	9
Youth & Adult Faith Formation	10
Family Ministry	11
The Mystery Recital	12
Best of the Springs	13
Financial Ministries	13
Stephen Ministry	14
Nine to Dine	15
JWW Lectureship	15
A Peek in the Past	16
Congregational Life	17
Use of Talents	17
Upcoming Events	18
Staff and Leaders	19
Submit an Article	20

GIRL. YOU PREGNANT!!

by **Rev. Heather Haginduff,** *Incoming Lead Minister*

"Girl. You pregnant!!" a friend squealed over the phone. My mouth just hung open as I heard her say it. Lula was only ten months old at the time and it took over two years to conceive her. So it took me by surprise that it happened again so quickly. I was happy, of course. I wanted another baby. But I also had this baby, the one right in front of me, who wasn't even walking yet. I was tired ALL the time. The thought of being pregnant again seemed overwhelming. "How can this be?" I sighed. My girlfriend laughed, "You do know how this thing works, right?"

I was reminded of that feeling eight years ago, as I am packing up here to move back to Colorado. I am so excited to "get to work" at First Congregational Church. But I'm not there yet. Instead, I'm in Advent waiting. In the next four weeks, the Haginduffs are preparing to pack up our household and move across the country, sell our two cars and much of our furniture, register our children in new schools and get on a one-way plane to Colorado. The thought of all of this might seem overwhelming…because it is. And I should know because I just did this whole relocation thing not too long ago. But maybe *because* I've done it recently, I do know how this thing works. Out of hard work, prayer and synergy with the Holy Spirit (and an amazing search committee), a new thing was conceived. It's exciting and surprising. But we must take the time that is necessary for the readiness of this new thing. I have come to learn that Advent waiting is a luxury.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word for "arrival" or "coming." Christian tradition tells us that we believe in a God that loves us so much that God put skin on, moved into the neighborhood and became our brother so that we could be drawn closer to God. But before all of that action of incarnation, there was Advent. Advent is the pregnant pause before the embodiment of a vision.

I have an announcement for you, First Congregational Church. "Girl. You pregnant too." Your belly is so full of promise. You are bursting with possibility. You are nesting, preparing your inner and our outer houses. Sometimes you might feel impatient. Other times, you might be excited with potential and expectancy. But truth is you can't move time any faster than it goes.

I believe that waiting is so good for our souls. The practice of waiting reveals that there is a god and we are not it. In a surrendered and trusting posture, we are forced to slow down, to truly see and appreciate the ordinary, to do the next right thing in the time given us. In Advent waiting, we can count down the Sundays until our "new thing" starts. We can take the time for stillness, prayer, dreaming and gratitude. And we can smile a knowing smile when we hear the story that begins with a pregnant girl named Mary, who sighed, "How can this be?"

See you all on Epiphany Sunday!

Love,
Pastor Heather Haginduff

OUR ARCHES

by **Scott Tetrick,** *Church Council Vice Moderator*
scotttetrick@gmail.com

In my first report as a new member of Church Council, I included this picture of the Arch of Constantine in Rome that I took years ago on a special family vacation. We travelled with a guide one day, and he said, "Do you know why Romans made arches?"

He told us that for Romans, the arch was a symbol of a doorway. They erected arches to indicate (literally) monumental changes in history – a doorway that when you walked through it, the world was different from that moment forward. It was a door that you can't "unwalk through." They are decorated with pictures of the events that marked the change.

In this month's edition of *The Communicator*, you will see several articles announcing the completion of one arch, the "Arch of Karjian" and the beginning of another, the "Arch of Haginduff." As we walk through the Arch of Karjian, we can look up and see frescos of a Congregation and Search Committee working to define who we are and who we want to be. Because of extra gifts of the people, we see a picture of a new organist and another of a new ministry with a congregational nurse. We find an image of an overflowing adult Bible study. Embedded in the stone is the White Privilege mirror, which makes one uncomfortable, ashamed, and inspired to action, all at the same time. Over the archway is written "Just Peace Church." Though the time may have been short, **Pastor Nayiri's** time with us has been historic. I am certain each of you have things to add, so please help us celebrate the impacts that **Rev. Nayiri Karjian** has had with us on December 10 after both services.

While we have scheduled a groundbreaking celebration on January 7, 2017 after each service, I can only show you the site of the Arch of Haginduff now. There is a large sign that says, "Construction begins January 1, 2018." Keep your chisels sharp, and let's make some history!

MEET FCUCC'S 2018 CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEES

by **Jill Cameron** and **Alison Gerbig,** *Members of LCC*
ricojill@comcast.net / alivasger@hotmail.com

Members of the Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC) have spent time meeting with several members of our congregation who expressed interest in serving on Church Council. We are truly blessed to have so much interest and commitment within our church family. After thoughtful conversations and supportive fellowship, we are pleased to introduce the nominees for upcoming open positions on Church Council.

The following is a brief introduction to the Purpose of the First Congregational Church Council and the nominees wishing for your support at our Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2018:
To prayerfully and thoughtfully interpret and enact the Church's mission, vision and values, and to provide leadership and strategic direction. To safeguard the assets of FCC and to ensure adequate resources (human, spiritual, financial, and property) to carry out FCC's mission. To support, direct, and partner with leadership staff. To be ambassadors to the community on behalf of FCC.

SECRETARY: LISA MASON

Lisa has been serving as our Church Council Secretary for the past year and was invited to serve another term. Upon accepting the nomination, Lisa stated she was hoping to be able to serve another term because of several projects she started and hoped to carry out and complete. Lisa was nominated not only for her skills and background as a financial planner and business owner, but also her ability to spiritually connect and deeply provide support to her community. Lisa's first career, which she worked for 20 years, was as a nurse/paramedic so she is clearly has a history and passion for helping others. Lisa is a Colorado native and was raised in Colorado Springs. She stated she "grew-up" at FUCC through her baptism, confirmation, youth council, and her first wedding! She did move away from Colorado soon after that wedding day and lived in New Mexico for 35 years. Lisa enjoys cooking, traveling, hiking, and caring for her two beautiful dogs. She also loves horses and sporting events. Lisa moved back to Colorado Springs 3 years ago and we are thankful to have her home again in our church family.

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL LIFE: ADAM GIBBS

Adam is fairly new to this congregation and Colorado Springs, but is not new to church ministry and leadership. In college Adam led a prison ministry team and supervised students who conducted weekly Bible studies and worship services at two prisons. When Adam went to seminary, he served as a youth minister and an associate minister, as well as an instructor at a college for a few years. Adam states, "I love to teach, and I also love music and worship! I sing in the choir and play the piano, but I'm also very interested in being more involved with spiritual life at our church. At other churches I've participated in and led centering prayer/lectio divina and helped lead silent retreats. I look forward to being more involved in these things with our church! More than anything though, I will bring kindness and a servant's heart to this position."

OUTREACH: WAYNE BLAND

Wayne is a current member of the Mission, Giving, and Outreach Committee and brings his "voice, as well as personal resources of time, talent and treasure to the most marginalized brothers, sisters, and children." Additionally, Wayne's professional background in financial management and leadership, along with his service on various community boards to include CASA, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, Urban Peak, and REACH Pikes Peak strengthen his passion for enhancing FUCC's role in providing hope and housing for all who "hunger and thirst" in our community.

Stay tuned for a Meet & Greet opportunity with these Church Council nominees in mid-January. Please reach out to any of us on LCC with questions and/or interest in future church council positions. Thank you!

ADVENT: AN INVITATION TO...

by **Nancy Henjum**,
Leadership Cultivation Committee and Transition Team Member
nancyhenjum@msn.com

Approach change. Prepare for arrival of something new. Advent. How do you react to the arrival of the new? Maybe it depends on what or who is coming! We are in the season of Advent – preparation for the birth of the baby Jesus. We are also in preparation to receive a new Lead Minister into our congregation, our community life, our worship, our minds and our hearts. Have you noticed your reactions? Perhaps you are excited and ready. Maybe you are feeling apprehensive and cautious.

In addition to your feelings, have you wondered about the reactions of others? Are you assuming others feel the same as you do? In addition to **Rev. Heather Haginduff** being the first female Lead Minister for FCUCC in the history of our church, it has been twenty-eight years since we have hired a Lead Minister from "outside" our community. To welcome a leader we don't yet know is a significant change – a very big deal!

In my personal enthusiasm of Heather's calling, I found myself recently surprised by a conversation with a fellow member who found herself feeling not so certain about having a woman as a Lead Minister. As I listened to her share her thoughts and feelings, I heard heartfelt concern and confusion as well as wondering how this might impact her sense of belonging and place in our community. This gave me pause. I recognized that my own enthusiasm could unintentionally become a barrier to someone else's sense of connection. I wondered about all the ways in which we may overlook the other because of assumptions about what we have in common.

Then I began to reflect, what an incredible opportunity we have in this shift to examine what it means to practice our proclamations: Just Peace, Micah 6, Open and Affirming. I see an opening for us to foster and practice belonging without succumbing to the disease of "fitting in."* How will we practice belonging to ourselves, with others, with God? We aspire to set the table for all who hunger and thirst. What does that really mean? How might we approach this season as a time to build our capacity to be curious, empathetic and courageous so that we can shine our light outside the corner of 20 East Saint Vrain?

Let's notice our mindsets, assumptions, biases and reflect on these questions for Advent through an individual and collective lens: What do we want to hold on to? What do we need to let go of? What do we want to grow and build? What do we need to watch out for? These questions honor the aspects of change that are inevitable and that with thoughtful reflection and attention can help us move forward in love and with hope.

* *"Fitting in is about assessing a situation and becoming who you need to be to be accepted. Belonging, on the other hand, doesn't require us to change who we are; it requires us to be who we are."* – Brené Brown

A NAYIRI BLESSING DAY

We've been blessed by our Interim Minister.
Now, it's time to say Goodbye.

Celebration and Farewell

հրաժեշտի տոնը

DECEMBER 10 2017

High Tea in the Founders' Room
ALL AGES WELCOME

In between services or noon-1:30 p.m.

Notes of appreciation will be gathered

COME...SIP...SHARE...

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

WORSHIP - DECEMBER 2017

BE • CONNECT • ENGAGE

Love... binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossian 3: 14

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 3

Today, during this Multi-Generational service, we light the first candle on the Advent wreath and gather around the Lord's Table to share the bread and cup. **Rev. Jacque Franklin** preaches. The WoodDove Recorder Consort provides special music for both worship services.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 10

Today, we light the second candle on the Advent wreath. **Rev. Nayiri Karjian** preaches and we give thanks for her Interim transitional time with us as we say a formal farewell. The Flute Choir shares worship music, and the Chancel Choir sings "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arranged by Jean Wasson at 11:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 17

Today, we light the third candle on the Advent wreath. **Rev. Nayiri Karjian** preaches. The Bells of Saint Vrain share worship music, including some traditional Christmas carols, and the Chancel Choir sings "E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come," by Paul Manz at 11:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – DECEMBER 24

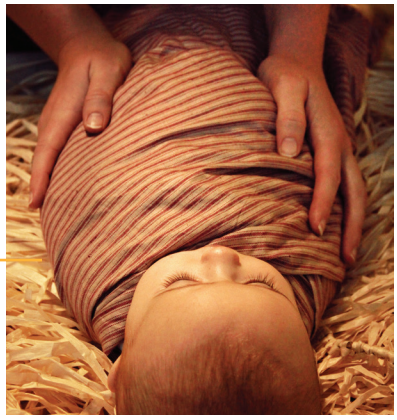
3 p.m.	Child Friendly Service of Carols and Scripture
5 p.m.	Service of Carols and Scripture
7 p.m.	Service of Carols and Scripture
11 p.m.	Traditional Candlelight Service of Carols and Scripture and Communion

On this most Holy Eve, we gather to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus. We light the Christ Candle celebrating the wonder of the Christ Child, the Gifts of Gifts, the Bearer of Peace, Emmanuel - God with us.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 24

– One single worship service at 9:30 a.m.

Today, we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath. **Rev. Nayiri Karjian** preaches. We sing Christmas Carols celebrating the eve of Baby Jesus' birth!



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 31

– One single worship service at 9:30 a.m.

Today, we celebrate New Year's Eve, sing Christmas Carols, and give thanks for the gift of baby Jesus and the New Year. The Colorato Quartet (**Cindy** and **Dave Nath** and **Lee** and **Pam Lehmkuhl**) will provide special music.

A Blue Christmas Service

Friday, December 15
6:30 p.m.
Carey Chapel, FCC

Christmas is not always a time of joy. For those of us who have experienced loss, it can be an intensely painful season.

Join other souls experiencing a complex relationship with the holidays.

Co-facilitated by **Mallory Everhart** and **Steve Fehl**

OVERHEARD!

While studying Matthew 5:40 in Third Grade Bible Workshop, leader, **David Bribach** asked "*Who is the least?*" **Abby McCormick** responded "*Nobody! Everyone is important!*"

Kid's sure can minister to us.

Abby McCormick

Contemplative Services of Worship

Thursday, December 14
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 21
6:30 p.m.
Carey Chapel, FCC

Let us journey together through Advent, preparing our hearts to meet Emmanuel, God with us.

Mallory Everhart will be guiding two contemplative services which will include Taizé chanting, labyrinth walking, and draw from the Mexican tradition of Las Posadas.

THE FORUM IN DECEMBER

by **Ardith Hanson**, *The Forum Co-Chair*
ardithmarie@gmail.com

SOUL-SEARCHING IN ADVENT & JESUS BIRTH IN MATTHEW AND LUKE

December 3: John Riker
Navigating the Depths of One's Soul
Advent is a short season. It doesn't require quite as much spiritual stamina as its springtime counterpart, Lent. Nonetheless, it's time for some soul searching. John Riker will provide just that in a two week Forum presentation. John is a beloved Colorado College professor and a good friend to The Forum. John will explore the various motivational centers in the soul, how each produces meaning, how they conflict, and which of their voices to listen to and when.

December 10: NO FORUM. ***Join the Celebration & Farewell Tea in the Founders' Room***

December 17: Pamela Reaves
A Gospel Christmas: A Comparative Reading of Jesus' Birth in Matthew and Luke
The traditional Christmas story of Jesus' birth, as most know it, combines elements of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. For this Forum presentation, we'll focus on the differences between these accounts and consider how they reflect the particular interests of each gospel writer. Specifically, we'll be attentive to Matthew and Luke's use of Jewish Scriptures in their portrayals of Jesus.
Pamela Reaves is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Colorado College, where she teaches courses in biblical studies, early Judaism, and early Christianity. Broadly trained as a historian of religions in the ancient Mediterranean world, Pam focuses on diversity within early Christianity during the second and third centuries.

December 24 & 31: NO FORUM. ***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***
The Forum will next meet on January 7, 2018

"Watch, pay attention, stay wide awake,
for the hour is coming..." - Mark 13:35

WATCH: 2017 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL is a unique collection of devotions that includes an insightful scripture verse and prayer for each day of Advent.

From the writers of the popular online UCC Daily Devotional, this 2017 Advent Devotional is available from the FCC Office for a suggested donation of $4.00.

"Jesus says, "Watch!" So check yours often this season. (With your heads up, please.) And may these devotions help you to tell time truly: to feel your pulse, find the way, scan the skies, and count your steps on your way to God, who is even now finding a way to you, in flesh and blood and time."—Mary Luti, from the Introduction

YOUTH MINISTRY IS HAPPENING!

by **Candace Datz**, *Director of Youth and Adult Ministry*
candace@fcucc.org

Youth meeting our Sanctuary guest, Elmer Pena.

November's been a busy month for the Youth Ministry! Rather than tell you about it, how about I show you about it!

1st Sundays of every month
= Multi-Gen Sundays
Youth participate with the congregation.

2nd Sundays
= Fun + Friends Sundays
Youth have donuts, food, games, hanging out, and dance parties!

3rd Sundays
= Art + Spirituality Sundays
A focus on the arts and how they challenge us to be more compassionate and connected people.

4th Sundays
= Social Justice Sundays
Youth engage topics that are of deep importance in our community and the world.

5th Sundays (if there is one!)
= Candace Challenge Sundays
Youth challenge Candace with a song which she has to connect to a biblical text or theme.

Having fun at a recent Friends, Food, and Fun Sunday (every 2nd Sunday of the month!)

Some of our middle schoolers contributing to an art project at the recent RMCUCC Fall Retreat.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION HOUR

Quest will wrap up this month in the Gregg Library, but it's never too late to jump into this engaging conversation about faith and the Bible that uses the Animate curriculum from progressive publisher Sparkhouse. Facilitated by UCC minister **Elizabeth Vincent**, you don't want to miss out on experiencing this safe space for questions, doubts, hopes, and dreams for new and emerging expressions of Christianity. This will meet on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. through December 17 in the Gregg Library.

ENGAGING OUR GIFTS FOR OTHERS

by **Del Hokanson**, *Director of Children's and Family Ministry*
del@fcucc.org

Here are some of the responses from kids about what gifts they bring our First Congo Community:

- I have been a best friend
- We respect each other
- Fun stuff
- Love people
- Kind hands and feet
- Being nice and making friends
- Say hi and prayers
- Love, happiness, and inspiration
- Be nice to others
- Help others
- I help my community by saying my prayers at night and in the morning
- Are you okay?
- Singing

During KC Worship we also created cards for **Lula** and **Ruby Haginduff**, the young daughters of our new Lead Minister, **Rev. Heather Haginduff**, sending our loving thoughts as they take on the challenges of transitioning to Colorado Springs in the months ahead. Rev Heather replied, "Thank you, thank you, thank you. The girls brought the notes to school to show their teachers, and when I woke Ruby up this morning, she had them in her bed, reading them."

Project Angel Heart™

ecumenical social ministries est. 1982

Humane Society Pikes Peak Region Colorado Springs

GIFTS FOR OTHERS

As part of the Advent Family Faith Formation Hour, we will ENGAGE by collecting and wrapping gifts that will later be brought forward as part of the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

- Low-sugar cereal for ***Project Angel Heart*** (who deliver food for the critically ill)
- Diapers for ***Ecumenical Social Ministries***
- linens for the ***Humane Society***.

(Perhaps you can imagine which gifts link to which nativity characters.)

ENGAGING CHILDREN DURING ADVENT

We are also grateful for the gifts of artist and actor **Hannah Rockey** of ***The Millibo Art Theatre*** fame.

Hannah will direct activities during Advent and on Christmas Eve so the children can ENGAGE and create tableaus to help tell the story of the greatest gift of all -- Jesus.

Hannah Rockey

Preview of Musical Pieces for the Mystery Recital

by **David Acton**, *Organist / Office Administrator*
david@fcucc.org

As the days grow shorter and the weather turns colder, it is nearly impossible to avoid being filled to the brim with the spirit of the coming holiday season! The historical Christmas Mystery Pageant rings in the holidays each year with an organ recital and Christmas tableaux filled with beautiful imagery and familiar carols.

This year's organ recital will include a collection of some of my favorite Christmas pieces and arrangements that are fun to play and enjoyable for the whole family. These span from dances to reflective pieces, traditional settings from France to England, and even an improvisation over a familiar carol.

THE MYSTERY
DECEMBER 17, 2017
4:00 p.m.

Highlights of the repertoire in this recital are selections from a suite of Christmas dances written by my dear friend and colleague Graeme Shields. I studied alongside Graeme at Western Michigan University where we took many of the same classes and bonded over a love of the organ and new repertoire for the instrument. An accomplished organist in his own right, Graeme wrote and premiered this suite of *Circle Dances* in December of 2016. I heard his performance and knew I had to play them too. Graeme's compositional language is original, creative, and beautiful. I know this Colorado premiere will be a wonderful part of this recital!

Other highlights include the *Swiss Noël* by Louis-Claude Daquin -- a piece I grew up listening to on one of my family's favorite Christmas albums -- and a hauntingly beautiful arrangement of *Divinum Mysterium* by Wilbur Held, among many others. It's been a pleasure discovering and learning to play these pieces, and I hope you will join the First Congregational Church family on December 17 at 4:00 p.m. for the 106th Mystery Pageant.

The 106th Annual Christmas Mystery Pageant!

All are invited to this musical-drama which combines the biblical accounts of the birth of Jesus along with church legends and Christmas carols.
Join us in the Founders' Room after The Mystery, for a cookie and wassail gathering.

Best of

Special welcome request for Rev. Heather Haginduff!

As part of helping the Haginduff family connect in their new city, we'd like to introduce them to the Colorado Springs community. We're asking for your help to create a directory of the **"Best of the Springs"** for them. Anything YOU would recommend? Favorite clothing store? Best coffee? Special restaurant? Connections to school districts? Medical/dental services? Think of it as your special, no-cost Christmas gift to Haginduff family! Please send your favorites for the FCUCC edition of the "**Best of the Springs"** to *scotttetrick@gmail.com*. To avoid any appearance of impropriety, we ask that you refrain from mentioning services connected with church membership.

A RESOUNDING YES

by **Ruth Roland**, *Director of Financial Ministry*
ruth@fcucc.org

Yowza! As I write this article on the morning of November 8, I am rejoicing in our local election results. Yesterday, citizens of our city and county stepped up to sustain and expand our schools, roads, transportation, stormwater projects and other infrastructure. What fabulous news for our region!

I wonder why voters approved these new taxes and fees now when voters have so often rejected them in the past? No doubt, trust in the city's leadership and voter education played a big part. However, I also sense that voters have decided to be hopeful, rather than skeptical, about our future together. We are standing together with opened hands, rather than clenched fists.

"What fabulous news for our region!"

I can't help but draw an analogy to our own micro-community at First Congregational Church. Since July, 2016, we have been in a state of unknowing about a new settled Lead Minister, a difficult place to be for any congregation. It would have been easy for you to disengage from the community and to watch from a distance, slightly skeptical, to see what would unfold over the next 16 months.

But you didn't do that. When the church's leadership asked you earlier this year to give more to bring us a new organist and to pay a part-time congregational nurse, you responded with a resounding Yes! When a wave of new young families began to arrive this year, you welcomed them. When the Search Committee brought **Rev. Heather Haginduff** to our church in October, you filled the church on Sunday morning. When you were asked to volunteer or participate in a brand new activity like Friday morning Bible Study, you showed up.

Thank you to all those who have already made their 2018 Financial Covenants, choosing hope with open hands. If you haven't yet, it's never too late to say yes. Go to *www.fcucc.org/give/financial-covenant-form* or contact me in the church office (719.635.3549). Thank you.

Membership Exploration

Are you considering membership at First Congregational Church?

Save the date for the next Membership Exploration:

- **Sunday, January 14, 5:00 p.m.**

A Joining Ceremony will take place the following week:

- **Sunday, January 21, 11:00 a.m.**

FIRST congregational CHURCH
united church of christ
COLORADO SPRINGS

DAD LEARNS TO INTEGRATE LOSS INTO HIS LIFE

by **Lois Matthews**, *Stephen Minister*
ldmatt333@comcast.net

The following story, first published at *www.stephenministries.org*, illustrates how the work of a Stephen Minister helped one man deal with the death of his newborn son. To find out more about Stephen Ministry at FCC, contact **Pastor Jacque Franklin**, Minister of Pastoral Care.

Christ caring for people through people
STEPHEN MINISTRY

On May 9, a few years ago, Josiah Wesley Richards was born. He passed away peacefully after one hour and 45 minutes. The whole family, including big sister Gillian and grandparents, spent hours holding and cuddling Josiah during and after his short life.

The worst part for parents Jay and Ginny and their family was finally leaving the hospital while a nurse continued to hold Josiah in the room.

Jay soon got a Stephen Minister and says about this relationship: "The great thing about Jim, my Stephen Minister, was I could talk with someone about the difficult thing that everyone else was afraid to talk about. We talked about many different things together, but it was good to know I could always talk about my son."

"It was also helpful to have someone who knew how to provide care and comfort without offering trite platitudes: It's God's will. He's no longer in pain. Everything happens for the good."

"I don't know what I would have done without Jim," Jay says. "It has been wonderful to be able to talk with another man who experiences things in much the same way as I do. I think many men have a need, but feel afraid to seek help."

SIGN-UP FOR NINE TO DINE

by **Sue and Casey Scott**, *Nine to Dine Coordinators*
ssct2@comcast.net

The time to sign up for the 2018 Nine to Dine season is drawing near. This is a great way to get to know those you sit next to on Sunday morning on a more personal basis in an informal setting.

In 2017, there were well over a hundred participants. Originally, groups of nine were created to share a meal together four of five times a year. Today, various types of groups are formed based on when and where participants are able to meet. The majority are potluck groups gathering in each other's homes and occasionally, eating out if someone is unable to host the group in their home. In addition to the potluck groups, a group of seniors meet once a month at a local restaurant and another group meets regularly at restaurants.

Casey and **Sue Scott** will host a table in the Founders' Room during Faith Formation Hour and immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service on November 26 and on December 3 for those who wish to sign-up or ask questions. If you were in a group in 2017 and wish to participate in 2018, simply email **Casey** and **Sue Scott** (*ssct2@comcast.net)*.

If you didn't participate in 2017, Sue and Casey will be available to answer questions and/or sign you up in the Founders' Room or contact them (719.271.8224/*ssct2@comcast.net*).

Groups will be created in December and usually start meeting in January.

SAVE THE DATES: MAY 5 - 6, 2018

JWW Lectureship Series

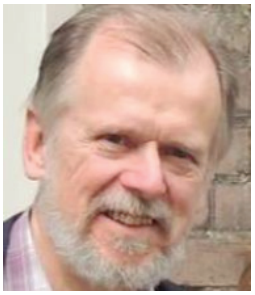
presents

Dr. Miroslav Volf

JAMES W. WHITE • LECTURESHIP • ESTABLISHED 2007
JWW

A PEEK IN THE PAST: ANGEL OF URFA

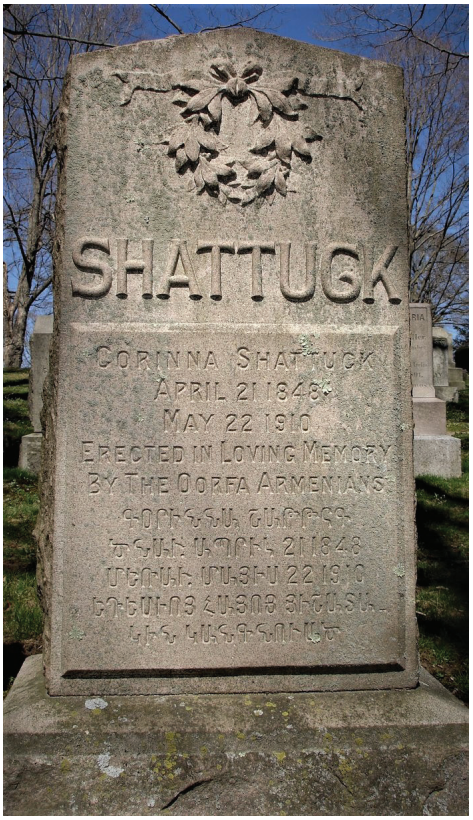
by **Chris Steenbergen,** *Church Historian*
chris.steenbergen@yahoo.com



Among the information extracted from out church's 75th anniversary program was a list of FCC's missionaries. First on the list was Corinna Shattuck who worked between 1873 and 1910 in South-Eastern Turkey with the Armenian Christians there in the period just before the Holocaust. Our present interim minister **Nayiri Karjian's** grandparents escaped that genocide. If history is circular, here's a 135 year connection.

...local Turkish officials who called her "Urfanun Meleyi" (Angel of Urfa).

Corinna Shattuck, born in Kentucky in 1848, became an orphan early and grew up with her grandparents in Massachusetts where she obtained her teaching diploma at Framingham Normal School. The Congregationalist American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) sent her as missionary to South-Eastern Turkey in 1873. After she contracted tuberculosis, she returned to the United States and came to Colorado Springs in 1879 to recover. She worked in the library of Colorado College and became a member of FCC in 1881. When in 1883 Corinna returned to Turkey on behalf of the ABCFM, she kept her membership and FCC considered her to be "our missionary" and contributed financially.



Corinna Shattuck's tombstone in Newton, Mass. cemetery; from www.findagrave.com

Corinna Shattuck; from Wikipedia

Corinna taught for nine years at a girl's school in Kahramanmaras, but moved in 1892 to Urfa (ancient Edessa, capital of the first Crusader State), just north of the present Syrian border. There she lived through the 1895 massacre of the local Armenian Christian population under Sultan Abdul Hamid II, sheltering 300 women and children in the school: "The mob came as far as the girls' schoolrooms in the churchyard.... Our schoolrooms are crowded with...three hundred of the most forlorn and needy." After the killings, Miss Shattuck established an orphanage for the surviving children and in 1902, a school for the blind. All this was possible because she had the respect of the local Turkish officials who called her "Urfanun Meleyi" (Angel of Urfa).

By 1910 she was worn out from the persisting tuberculosis, as she effectively had only one working lung. Only a few years before the mass genocide, she returned to Boston where she died shortly thereafter. Thankful Armenians collected money for her tombstone that carries a bi-lingual inscription.

Did you know?!

If you visit the redesigned FCC website,you can search for books in the Gregg Library catalogue, and put them on hold! *www.fcucc.org*

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 5

by **David Acton**, *Organist / Office Administrator*
david@fcucc.org

THANK YOU to **Mike Gemm, Verl Holmes, Jan Johnson,** and **Jill Robinson** who served as liturgists. **Rebecca Hibbard, Stephanie Izaguirre, Daniel Miller, Hannah Rockey**, and **Sid Shelton** provided support in KC Worship. Thank you also to **Stephanie Brown, Tom Francis**, and **Ellen Seel** for their assistance with the Youth Group. **Alyssa Webb** and **Matthew** & **Sammy Cole** were instrumental in setting up the Fall Festival, while **Tom Francis,** the **Khederian Family**, and the **Kiskiras Family** provided kitchen support.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Liz** and **John Mueller** on the birth of their baby girl, **Robin**.

PRAYERS are lifted to those who are suffering from cancer and undergoing treatment, including **Sarah Delwiche's** father, **Ron Sele, Charlie Hall, Frank Koenigsamen,** and **Linda LeMieux**. Prayers are lifted also for those who are recovering, including **Colette Berge, Dolly Eager, Burl Kreps, Sharon Harrison**, and **Wilma Steenbergen. Carolyn Dickerson's** mother, **Vera Dickerson**, is in hospice care. **Carolyn Miles, Rose Enyeart's** sister, was diagnosed with West Nile virus-encephalitis. We pray also for **Mo Morrow** after challenges of flood damage to her home and for the **Broadbent-Bell Family** and others in California who are struggling with the aftermath of the wildfires. Finally, we lift prayers of peace for all those who are affected, directly or indirectly, by acts of violence throughout the country and the world.

CONDOLENCES are offered to **Wayne Bland** and his family for the loss of his mother, **Joaan Bland Sager** who passed away September 13, and to **Kris Anderson** on the loss of her brother, **Bill Anderson**.

Front Desk Receptionist Needed!

Do you have gifts in welcoming people?!
We would love to have you!

<u>What does a Front Desk Receptionist do?</u>
- Join the FCC Staff in the office for 4 hours a week. (Multiple times are open.)
- Greet folks when they come to the office
- Answer the telephone & direct telephone calls
- Project assistance to staff members (preparing Kids' Community Worship materials / stuffing bulletins / etc…)

Can't make the committment, but would like to be the occasional substitute?! That works too!

If you would like to get more involved at FCC and are looking for something to do, perhaps this is for you!
Please contact David Acton (*david@fcucc.org* / 635.3549) for more details and/or to sign up!

POPS

Kick off the holiday season with this POPS tradition:

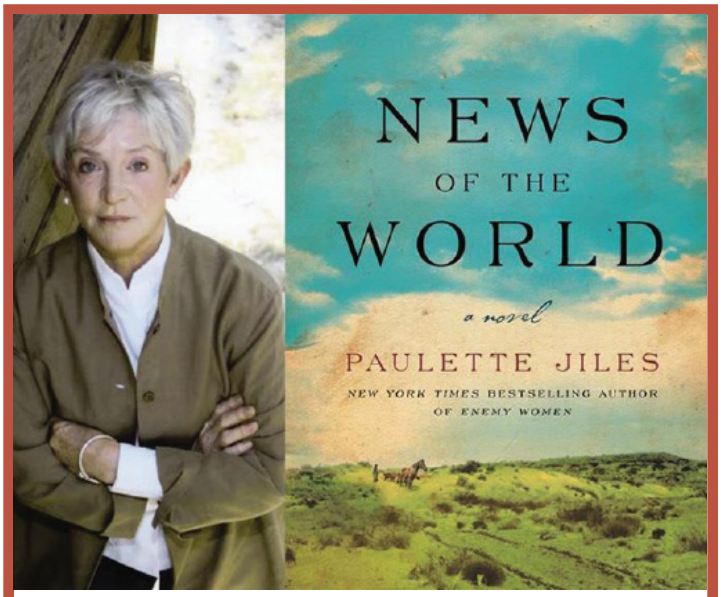
Christmas Party at the Ridings' Home

Saturday, December 9
6:00 p.m.

Join other Parents Out Partying Somewhere (POPS) for a shared meal and fellowship.

Details will be sent by evite in November; please contact **Jane Ridings** (*janeridings@hotmail.com*) to be placed on the distribution list or for more info about POPS.

Parents of ANY description (including empty-nesters) are invited; newcomers are always welcome.



Book Discussion Group

Sunday, December 10
6:00 p.m.
Gregg Library

All are invited to join a discussion of ***News of the World*** by Paulette Jiles.

Coffee and Goodies will be provided!

For more information about this gathering and future get-togethers of the FCC Book Discussion Group, please contact **Linda Boles** (*jobolesjr@comcast.net*).

Friends of Emerson

You are invited to attend Friends of Emerson, which begins its fifteenth year this month. We meet in the Carey Chapel at FCC, 4 p.m.-5 p.m., twice monthly on Thursdays, reading from Emerson's work aloud and discussing it. We are not an academic group and no previous knowledge of Emerson is required. We find his thoughts relevant to present day situations. If you would like more information, please contact **Lucy Bell** (*lucycbell@comcast.net*).

2018 SCHEDULE

January 11, 25	**April 12, 26**	**July 12, 26**	**October 11, 25**
February 8, 22	**May 10, 24**	**August 9, 23**	**November 15, 29**
March 8, 22	**June 14, 28**	**September 13, 27**	**December 13, 27**

CHURCH PROGRAM & OFFICE STAFF

Rev. Nayiri Karjian
Interim Lead Minister
Rev. Dr. Jacque Franklin
Minister of Pastoral Care
Mandy Todd
Director of Music & Arts
Candace Datz
Director of Youth & Adult Ministry
Del Hokanson
Director of Children's & Family Ministry
Ruth Roland
Director of Financial Ministries
Emily Bond
Communications Coordinator
David Acton
Organist/Office Administrator

CHURCH COUNCIL

Connie Brachtenbach
Moderator
Scott Tetrick
Vice Moderator
Michael Gemm
Treasurer
Lisa Mason
Secretary
Lynne Stefonik
Care & Fellowship
Alyce Morgan
Outreach
Chris Reimer
Worship & Spiritual Life
John Beavers
Education

AD HOC STAFF

Lesli Weaver, RN
Congregational Nurse
Gail Rogers
Wedding Coordinator
Victoria Hansen, Ani Rose Whaleswan
Memorial Services Coordinators
Amy Colwell
Receptions Coordinator

CHURCH STAFF

Ani Rose Whaleswan, Curt Daniel
Sunday Sextons
Doris Fletcher, Bob Scheafer
Custodians

NURSERY STAFF

Kiara Nath
Nursery Attendant Supervisor

Sean Drevs, Kären Knabe, Kiara Nath, Kaitlyn O'Donnell & Thea Roland
Nursery Attendants

PASTORS EMERITI

Rev. Dr. Jerry Jordan
(1973-1988)
Rev. Dr. James White
(1989-2005)

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Pete Hokanson
Communicator Editor
Rose Enyeart
Communion Coordinator
Ann Benson
Flowers Coordinator
Marsha Garrett
Liturgist Coordinator
Virginia Carson
Dave Doman
Head Ushers
Open
Sanctuary Steward
Phyllis White
Flute Choir
Blake Pelton
Lay Representative to ESM
Curt Daniel, Christy Kessler, Sue Prendinger, Margaret Reiber, Lucy Shick, Pat Steffens, Phyllis White
Office Volunteers

ASSOCIATED IN MINISTRY

Rev. Steve Alsum
Rev. Darlene Avery
Rev. Lyn Boudreau
Rev. Stephen Brown
Rev. Pat Dolin
Rev. Derek Krehbiel
Rev. Patty Walker
4-Way Covenant

Candace Datz, Mallory Everhart
Seminarians

Candace Datz, Mallory Everhart, Samantha Garrett
Members in Discernment

FIRST congregational CHURCH
united church of christ
COLORADO SPRINGS

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Lois Benson
Membership Clerk
Chris Steenbergen
Historian

VOLUNTEER CHAIRS

Paul Schwotzer
Audio/Visual
Alysa Webb
Children's & Family Ministry
Lucy Shick
Clergy/Congregation Relations (AM)
Sid Shelton
Facility Improvement
Julia Nace
Financial Ministries
Michael Gemm
Financial Advisory
Pam Shockley-Zalabak
Grant Writing
Kathy Beck, Jeanie Tate
Gregg Library
Steve Getty
Grounds
Peggy Weissman
Health Ministry
Karol Finch
Historical
Gordon Riegel
Human Resources
Steve Brown
Just Peace
Gloria Latimer
JWW Lectureship Series
Hope T. Woodhead
Kitchen Witches
Jessica Gemm
Leadership Cultivation Committee
Derek Krehbiel
Ministry Discernment
Sky Foerster
Mission Giving & Outreach
Susie Marten
Music & Arts Ministry
Nancy Forgy
The Mystery
Kathy Kreps, Sharron Waterhouse
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Dennis Kleinsasser, John Stefonik
Risk Reduction & Response
Eleanor Law, Connie Raub
Sanctuary Arts Ministry
Margaret Reiber
Stephen Ministry
Reba Holmes, Verl Holmes
Stewardship
Sean Buchanan, Ardith Hanson
The Forum
Judy Kolz
Visitation Ministry

20 EAST SAINT VRAIN STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS | CO | 80903

FIRST congregational CHURCH
united church of christ
COLORADO SPRINGS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Congregational UCC is an Open and Affirming Congregation. We invite people of every age, ace, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression, means, ability and spiritual tradition to join us in the love of God and neighbor through Christian worship, dedication to education and commitment to service.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNICATOR?

We invite you to submit articles, notices, and letters relevant to the life of our congregation.
Accepted submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and correctness.
Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect official FCC policy.

The DEADLINE for the next issue (January 2018 Issue) is Friday, December 15 2017.
Please send to: *emily@fcucc.org* AND *petehokanson@gmail.com*

REQUIREMENTS:

- Include author's name, church role, contact email, and contact telephone number.
- Include a title suggestion and, if desired, photos, etc.
- Full page articles should be a MAXIMUM of 500 words (one page in size 12 font).
  **If articles include photos or graphics, please submit a shorter article.
- Short articles and announcements are welcomed and will be vetted to decide about inclusion.
- May be a MSWord attachment or an email.
- Accepted LATE submissions may be placed in the next edition or may be sent out via weekly e-blast.