

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. With God, we will...
2. a. With God, cont'd.  
b. January Worship
3. Search Committee
4. Faith Formation Series
5. The Forum
6. Advent Families
7. Kids' Community Worship
8. Spoken Word
9. Notes in Brief
10. a. Ecclesiastical Council  
b. Congregational Life
11. a. A Peek in the Past  
b. Book Discussion
12. A Just Peace Church
13. a. Just Peace cont'd.  
b. Annual Meeting
14. Home[less] for the Holidays
15. a. Just Peace and Stephen Ministry  
b. Bible Study with Pastor Nayiri
16. Gregg Library
17. a. Interim Conversations  
b. JWW Lectureship
18. a. Friends of Emerson  
b. Our Whole Lives
19. Staff & Volunteers
20. Upcoming Deadline



# The Communicator

January, 2017

## with god, we will [WONDER]. discovering new prisms

By **Rev. Nayiri Karjian**, *Interim Lead Minister*

[nayiri@fcucc.org](mailto:nayiri@fcucc.org)

I have several thoughts on my mind:

**One:** The month of January is named after the ancient Roman god Janus. Depicted as two-faced, one face looking to the future, the other to the past, he was the god of beginnings, endings and transitions, of gates and doors. I find Janus an apt description for our interim transitional journey as we look to the past to celebrate our gifts, values and strengths, and build on them as we look toward the future. The image is one even Jesus claimed for himself as he said, *I am the gate, the door.* (John 10:9)

At the beginning of this New Year as our interim transitional journey continues to unfold, I invite you to continue to pray, to ponder and to share. Please join us for **Interim Conversations and lunch on Sundays, January 15 and 22 at 12:15 p.m.** in the Founders' Room.

**Two:** The Epiphany season which follows Christmas on the liturgical calendar is a time of light and revelation, when God, the mystery, reveals God's self through the Christ Child, offering us the gift of new vision, insight, illumination and discovery.

During the season we will reflect on the Epiphany story recorded in Matthew - the Magi who visit Baby Jesus, the Star that guides their journey, Herod, the dark spot who massacres male infants, and Jesus' exile to Egypt, making Jesus a refugee and an asylum seeker as a child. And, in its light we will offer an educational opportunity, a spiritual journey, of discovering new prisms and new lenses through the UCC

**curriculum on White Privilege** that engages and encourages sacred conversations on race.

At this time in our country where division, fear, prejudice, racism and many other destructive "isms" are in the forefront, I believe we need to discover new prisms through which we can look at the world. Many of our "isms" are hurtful, divisive and damaging. We need to discover new prisms that can help us heal and connect, nurture and build community.

So, join the journey and participate in these sacred conversations during **Faith Formation hour, 9:45 - 11:45 a.m., taking place on Sundays, January 15, 22, February 5, 12, 19.** It is our hope that the journey will help us grow in living our Open and Affirming stand as we reflect on our own experiences of race and privilege, sensitize and deepen our understanding and responsibility in issues of racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity and pluralism.

Deepest thanks to **Candace Datz**, Director of Youth and Adult Ministry, and to **Christina Jimenez**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History, UCCS, and a member of our congregation in leading this journey.

**Three:** 2017 promises to be a special year in the life of our congregation, a year of new beginning and new possibility as we welcome a new Lead Minister. To that end, **your financial gifts and estimated pledges for 2017 ministry spending plan matter greatly.** I have always thought that giving to the church is different for a couple of reasons - it is not like paying a membership fee for a gym or a club. In the church you are a shareholder, a partner, a disciple. Without you



## WITH GOD, WE WILL... CONT'D. | JANUARY 2017 WORSHIP

*Pastor Nayiri's article continued.*

gift and participation the church cannot do ministry or mission.

Giving to the church is different also because we give in response to God's gifts, and we give proportionately to our income. Most of us give a percentage of our income in taxes for the needs of the nation. I find it helpful to think of my financial gift to the church in a percentage as well. I give a percentage to the country, and a percentage to the church for its ministry and mission, which includes the upkeep of our shared spiritual home. Thank you for giving. Thank you for making the ministry and mission of the church possible.

*Blessings to you for the New Year, Pastor Nayiri.*

### JANUARY WORSHIP

Sunday morning worship services are at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Faith Formation Hour in-between at 9:45 a.m. (except for January 29 - one service: at 8:30 a.m. | Annual Meeting: 9:45 a.m.)

01

JANUARY

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY

*One Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.*

Today, during this intergenerational service, we share the banquet of the Lord's Table. We welcome our own **RoMa Johnson** to our pulpit. And, we give thanks for the new year full of promise and possibility!



08

JANUARY

#### first sunday of epiphany

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Epiphany, a time of light and revelation, of insight and discovery. **Rev. Nayiri Karjian** preaches. The Flute Choir plays worship music at both services. The Chancel Choir shares Eric Whitacre's exquisite "Lux Aurumque" at 11:00.



15

January

#### second sunday of epiphany

On this day we will remember Martin Luther King Jr. and his dream. **Rev. Dr. Jacque Franklin** will preach. The Bells of St. Vrain Handbell Ensemble share worship music, and **Sarah Groh Correa** sings Chris Tomlin's "Winter Snow." The Chancel Choir sings at 11:00.



22

January

#### third sunday of epiphany

Today we reflect on the dark spot in the Christmas/Epiphany story – King Herod and the massacre of the innocents. **Rev. Karjian** will preach. We will welcome new members into our midst. **Shannon Kilzer** and **Mandy Todd** share "When I Am Silent," a haunting song inspired by the terror of the Holocaust. The Chancel Choir sings at 11:00.



29

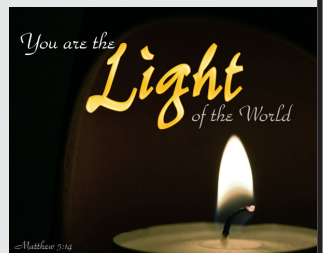
JANUARY

#### fourth sunday of epiphany

*One Worship Service: 8:30 a.m.*

*Annual Congregational Meeting: 9:45 a.m.*

Today we gather for one service. **Rev. Karjian** and **Rev. Dr. Franklin** will share the pulpit and will reflect on Matthew 5:13-14 "You are the Light of the World, and the Salt of the Earth."





# Search Committee Update

## Step 1: Team-Building

The Search Committee has met in October, November, and December as a whole group, spent time getting to know each other, what we bring to the search process, and how we will work together as a group. This effective group dynamic is important to the work we'll be doing in the future. We are honored to be chosen for this work and for the diversity of skills and perspectives this group has to offer.

## Step 2: Charting Our Progress

### Step 2 Is a Complex One!

On our poster, Step 2 is broken into two pieces – first, the short and pithy “Want Ad” for our position, posted on the UCC Opportunities website, which is for now the only thing interested ministers see in order to submit their materials for the position. The second component, which candidates see after submitting their applications, is the 25+page Local Church Profile. Of course, our church website is always an available resource for those interested

### Step 2A: FCUCC Opportunity Listing

Our “Want Ad” is now COMPLETE! This will attract attention to what is unique and exciting about our church, and our community, and is now live on the UCC website:

*Boasting majestic mountain views (even from the grocery store parking lot), plentiful outdoor recreation and abundant sunshine, Colorado Springs is one of the healthiest cities in the U.S. Our church is a beacon for justice and peace in this beautiful place, and we aim to build bridges beyond our comfort zone. Our landmark facility (ca.1889) hosts an active membership with strong lay leadership, welcoming multi-generational relationships and perspectives. We seek a lead minister who will support our work in making the church accessible to outsiders, church exiles, and lifetime Christians. We value a balance of tradition and innovation, the tension between intellectually stimulating conversations, and the quiet mystery of God.*

### Step 2B: Local Church Profile & Listening to Our Community

In December, we are starting to work on the full church profile, continuing the important step of gathering input from people across our Congregation as we write the sections and collect data. The full profile will be completed in February.

## FAITH FORMATION SERIES



## faith formation class to discuss white privilege

By **Candace Datz**, *Director of Youth & Adult Ministry*

[candace@fcucc.org](mailto:candace@fcucc.org)

Last month I introduced you all to a topic that we're going to be digging into as a congregation during the liturgical seasons of Epiphany and Lent (so basically the New Year through Easter): white privilege. Now, I know that my tone in last month's issue of *The Communicator* was a bit dark and dreary. And truly, this topic is not a fun one to talk about. However, I want to clear something up: our conversation around white privilege and racial justice is not meant to heap piles of white guilt upon our congregation. In fact, we hope that it will do just the opposite: liberate our congregation in more radical and real ways to actively be involved in the dismantling of racist structures and systems in our own community.



let's talk



As I mentioned last month, one of the ways we'll be doing this is through a five-week Adult Faith Formation series. As this is a critical and important issue, we are asking adults to register for these classes and commit to all five, which will be held on **January 15 and 22, and February 5, 12, and 19. Registration is open now and will close on January 8.** You can use this link (<https://fccs.infellowship.com/Forms/341797>) to register. After registration, you will be placed in a group with a facilitator, and

this will be your group for the whole of the five-week course.

If you are interested in this subject, but are unable to commit to the five weeks, don't be dismayed! We will have **two one-off classes** as primers to the content and discussions of white privilege. These classes will be on **January 22 and February 12** and will be led by **Dr. Christina Jimenez**, a member here as well as a professor at UCCS who helps run The Matrix Center and has extensive experience in training on this subject.

Because of the emphasis that we want to put on this series, there will be no Quest class or Adult Faith Formation II class during this season. The Forum will continue as usual and will be available to adults not involved in the White Privilege Epiphany classes.

Youth will also be journeying through this process, and I am excited about what it means to be training them up as Jesus followers who are actively pursuing anti-racist, anti-oppressive ways of being in the world. The youth of this congregation give me great hope for our collective future. May we look to them for leadership in this season.

**BE THE CHURCH** God is still speaking, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*  
 Embrace diversity. **Reject racism.** *Forgive often.*  
 Love God. **Fight for the powerless.**  
 Share earthly and spiritual resources. *Enjoy this life.*

## glorious art, honeybees, and an urban vision for cos

*Special Note: As I finish my sixth year as the Forum Lead, it is easy to recall the joys of doing this work for our church. Such a blessing it has been for me. The Forum Team has contributed*

*so much to getting the best speakers who seem to always have something meaningful and interesting to say. I have been working with Candace Datz, Director of Youth & Adult Ministry, John Beavers, Church Council for Education, Cathy White, and Angie Adams (and others) to select a new leader. I am pleased to announce the Forum will have Ardith Hanson and Sean Buchanan as co-leaders beginning in May. They are well qualified to carry on the Forum's traditions and mission into the future. Please congratulate and welcome them in their new roles.*



By **Howard Ray**, FCC Member  
[hray99@gmail.com](mailto:hray99@gmail.com)

The Forum is an FCC tradition in its 35th year. Created and led for many years by **Dave Seyfert**, the Forum is a speaker series involving the exchange of a diverse set of ideas selected for engaging with Christian faith creatively and critically. You may agree that the Forum satisfies both the soul and the intellect. What's coming up - Speakers such as Tom Stella, David Gardiner, and poet David Mason (all much-loved returning speakers). Jennifer Foerster, who will discuss the Standing Rock Pipeline Conflict in North Dakota, is a former Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University. Here are three January topics chosen to enhance your experience at FCC (Sundays 9:45 a.m.).

### **8 JAN: Chuck Benson - A Great Genius of the Sacred Carving of Wood – Tilman Riemenschneider**

FCC member **Chuck Benson** is a friend of The Forum who has delighted audiences for many years. He has taught a variety of art and architectural historical subjects at the Fine Arts Center, Bemis School of Art, Benet Hill Monastery, and First Methodist Church. Riemenschneider was a prolific Renaissance German sculptor and is perhaps the greatest "Artist in Wood" in the history of his country. Sir Kenneth Clark compared his religious woodcarvings with the paintings of Albrecht Durer, Lucas Cranach, and Hans Holbein in terms of the virtuosity of their execution and their subsequent importance to the history of Western art. His ability to impart and create personality, individuality, nationality, and pathos onto the faces of his subjects is quite simply - breathtaking! Come join us as we explore a few of his selected works to more to more deeply appreciate and take in the extreme genius of this most talented of artist.

### **15 JAN: Mike and Sandy Halby - Honeybees, the Necessary Insect**

Mike Halby, Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association Secretary, is a retired Army helicopter pilot who has been hobby beekeeping for seventeen years. Sandy, recently retired from thirty years civil service, is originally from Montana and is the PPBA Treasurer (and President of Plains & Peaks Mensa and is active in the Pillar). Both teach classes at the annual Bee School, mentor new beekeepers, and give talks. Get answers to your questions about our hard-working bee friends, including beekeeping, types of bees, hive management, extracting honey (and other useful hive products), impacts of bees on our food sources, and the phenomenon of Colony Collapse Disorder. Learn what you can do to help bees including bee friendly plants and pesticides/insecticides.

### **22 JAN: Jill Gaebler - An Urban Vision for the Colorado Springs Area**

President Pro-Tem of our Colorado Springs City Council, Jill Gaebler will speak just a few days after the Presidential Inauguration. She has been a trustee at Pikes Peak Library District, Air Force Contracting Officer, Development Director at Greccio Housing, and Founder and Board Member at Colorado Springs Charter Academy. She will touch on a variety of topics that reflect both her depth of knowledge and her passionate energy for the pursuit of the Common Good. Come hear Councilwoman Gaebler's interesting ideas about the benefits of urban agriculture, the necessity for an urban vision, and the challenges of building community in a diverse and expanding city.

### **29 JAN: No Forum (FCC Annual Meeting)**

The Forum is in session most Sunday mornings September through May at 9:45 a.m. in the Carey Chapel through the efforts of your Forum Team (**Howard Ray, Don Allred, Bruce Latimer, Cathy White, and Leah Davis Witherow**). Send a message with your questions and comments to [hray99@gmail.com](mailto:hray99@gmail.com). To access the Forum schedule, use the FCC web site [www.fcucc.org](http://www.fcucc.org) and select Faith Formation, Adult, then Forum, or select Listen to the Forum to hear previous recorded Forums.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## A great season!

By **Del Hokanson**, *Director of Children's & Family Ministry*

[del@fcucc.org](mailto:del@fcucc.org)



The family project of personalized, recycled nativity characters was designed to invoke conversations and connections to the characters

in the Mystery Pageant. Also children chose roles they wanted to play for the Multi Gen Christmas Eve service by knowing more about them beyond the Bible text. Thanks to David Rasmussen for creating pertinent scripts and Mystery characters for bringing the story to life.





# kids' community worship in epiphany

By **Del Hokanson**, *Director of Children's & Family Ministry*

[del@fcucc.org](mailto:del@fcucc.org)



**PEERING INTO KALEIDOSCOPES...**

**TRADING SHOES WITH OTHERS...**

**WEARING FUNKY GLASSES...**

... These are just some of the ways the children will experience and be challenged by different perspectives during worship in the season of Epiphany. What is empathy? How would Jesus approach people who were not like him? As we tied prayers into the Advent blankets, we tried to imagine and empathize with the person who would use it. Thinking of the "other" takes intentional practice especially developmentally for children, but the younger we can start, the broader and deeper their understanding becomes. We will also continue building on our rituals and prayer stones to prepare us for the Lenten journey.



**KIDS IN  
WORSHIP  
DURING  
ADVENT**



## SPOKEN WORD

## THE TENACITY OF WATER

A Poem by Mallory Everhart, FCC Member

I woke up this morning with a mountain range on my chest

The weight of hate and pain  
a reality

I can't avoid when all I'm able to dream of is  
an endless landslide of newsreels.

This world is so ugly  
it crushes me sometimes.

I woke up with heavy limbs.  
I woke up with boulders to bench press,  
just to get out of bed.

What can I do to heal all the hurting?  
I cannot lift it.  
I cannot dig this world out with nothing but these two hands.

I cannot hope hard enough,  
cannot love strong enough.  
What can I do but lament?  
A modern day psalmist writing  
from the pit,  
unable to sing the joy back into today.

God.  
God.  
Why have you left us here?  
Alone.  
Afraid.  
Didn't you say your kingdom  
would come?  
Didn't you say you're on the  
side of the victim?  
Didn't you say you'd redeem all  
this?

This doesn't feel like redemption to me.  
This feels like depression.  
Like impossible.  
Like hopeless.  
Like a storm tossed ship and  
I am Peter  
sinking.  
Like a grief so consuming  
I cannot recognize hope resurrected before me because  
I am Thomas  
doubting.

This feels like a mountain range built on our back.  
This feels like a wall built from our bones.

God.  
God.  
Where are you?

So I rage and I weep until  
I am hollow and empty and still.  
I had made no room for God in my storm.

The answer comes in the quiet.  
Can you hear it?

The spirit's voice,  
a steady drip of water on rock,

audible only if you stop to listen.

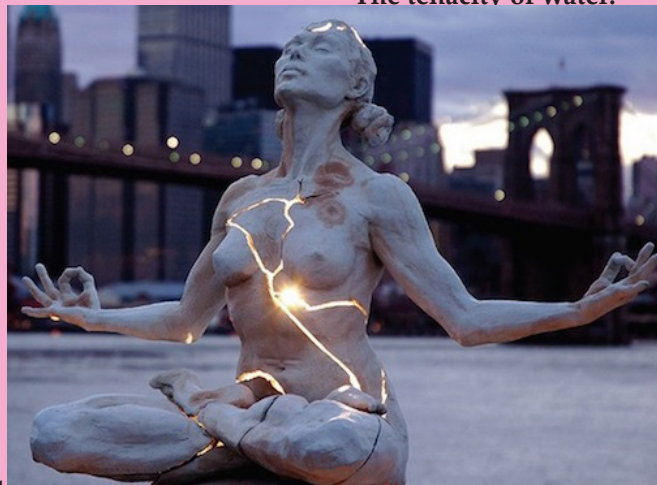
God whispers  
"my power is perfect when you feel the weakest"

whispers  
"my faithful move mountains in my name"

whispers  
"with me, all things are possible"

Water, soft and resolute,  
beats gently at my heart,  
wears it down with a  
strength only the persistent know.

This is our resurrection story.  
This is how we become born again,  
how we become an Easter people,  
how the stone is rolled away  
or eroded.  
The tenacity of water.



The audacity of hope  
in the face of all this  
mountainous pain.  
The power of a whisper is an  
earthquake  
when it cracks open our  
despair and  
allows us to imagine our  
world again,  
bathed in God's love.  
Redeemed.

With God-  
We can bench press this  
boulder.

With God-  
We can get out of bed.

With God-  
We will reach beyond the walls that isolate us.

With God-  
We will come here again to heal and dream and join  
hands.

With God  
We turn together to the work before us  
in solidarity and in joy.

With God-  
we will strive for justice.

With God-  
We will work for peace.

With God-  
We will care for the least of these.

With God  
We will love this broken world,  
returning again to the belief that-

With God-  
All things are possible.

Recited during worship on Sunday, December 4, 2016



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UCC  
presents

# CONGREGATIONS ALIVE!

3



**February 2 – February 4, 2017**

**FIRST PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL UCC,  
ENGLEWOOD - COLORADO**

**BE NURTURED BY . . . .**

*Inspiring worship  
Dynamite keynotes  
Engaging workshops  
Connecting time  
Good food and table-time  
Time for renewal*

**Registration:** (includes all workshops, Friday lunch  
& dinner and Saturday lunch, snacks)

**Only 20 places available with FCC.  
Contact Del Hokanson TODAY to register!**  
([del@fcucc.org](mailto:del@fcucc.org))

**UCC Keynote:** **John C. Dorhauer**  
General Minister & President  
of the United Church of Christ

**Worship Leader:** **Lee Ann Bryce**  
1st Congregational UCC,  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Featured Keynote:** **Leanne Hadley**  
United Methodist minister

*...Experiential Senior Ministry  
...Improv Comedy and Worship  
...Finding and Keeping Volunteers  
...Multi-Faith Vacation Bible School  
...Small Group Time with John Dorhauer  
...Spiral Dynamics & the 21st Century Church  
...Supporting Families & Communities in Grief  
...Being a Holy Listener for Children and Teens  
and many more...*

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION JUST PEACE PRESENTATION WITH RICH LAW

**JANUARY 8 - 9:45 A.M.**

There will be a special Adult Faith Formation opportunity on January 8, at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary as **Rich Law** will present the final draft of the Just Peace statement that will be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29. During this hour, Rich will discuss the process taken by the Just Peace Initiative Task Force, what they've developed, and what it will mean for our congregation to adopt this designation as a Just Peace Church. There will also be a time for questions from the congregation. Please join us for this important conversation. *The Just Peace Pronouncement can be found in this publication, pages 12-13.*

save the  
date! **POPS**

*(Parents Out Partying Somewhere  
-- a fellowship group for seasoned parents)*

**Saturday, February 11, 6 p.m.**

**Home of  
Susie and Brad Marten**

To receive an Evite with more  
details, please contact  
[janeridings@hotmail.com](mailto:janeridings@hotmail.com)

Newcomers always welcome!

# ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL | CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## An Ecclesiastical Council for Member in Discernment

Jeffrey A. Dodson

Sunday, January 8, 2017 - 3:00 p.m.

In the Sanctuary of First Congregational Church  
of Colorado Springs

All members with standing in the Southeastern Association (SEA) and Lay Delegates from every member church in SEA are encouraged to attend and offer support to Jeffrey Dodson, as he seeks ordination, pending a call, to serve in the United Church of Christ.

*All ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers who have their standing in this Association shall be entitled to vote. In addition, ordained persons of any other denomination who are serving a member church and who have received "privilege of call" status shall be entitled to vote except on matters of membership and ministerial standing.*



## congregational life (November 20 - December 18)

By Rev. Jacque Franklin, Minister of Pastoral Care

[jacque@fcucc.org](mailto:jacque@fcucc.org)

### THANK YOU

Volunteers who served as liturgists were **Sky Foerster, The Gemm Family, Verl Holmes, Polly Strovink, and Brad Mikaelian.** Leaders for the Holiday Grief Program were **RoMa Johnson, Steve Fehl and Mallory Everhart.**

Volunteers who supported KC Worship were **Ani Rose Whaleswan, Carrie Clarke, Melanie Mays, Barb Reichert, Karen Peace, Becky Weiss, Melissa McCormick, Regina Kornmesser, and Jennifer Grimmer.** This year's Family Advent support helpers were **Royce Field, Lee Lehmkuhl, Ted Lindeman, Pete Hokanson, Susan Holman, David Rasmussen, Mike Matthews Glenn Capers, Chloe Kemp, Peter Rule, Paul McNeil, and Amber Khederian.** Godly Play supporters were **John Stefanik, Chris and Judy Cunningham. Mallory Everhart** shared her poetry during worship on December 4. Many Chancel Stewards participated in Hanging of the Greens and beautifying the FCC Sanctuary and **Cadet Nevan McCann** climbed the ladder to place hard-to-reach poinsettias! **Paul Schwotzer** mobilized the Advent letters above the organ and **Gretchen Howard** created a display of nativity scenes from around the world in the Founders' Room.

Great thanks go to the **Stewardship Team** and the **Colorado Quartet** for the warm fellowship, wonderful music, and yummy food at the Gratitude Sunday Dinner on the Grounds. The **Music and Arts Ministry Team** hosted the Atrium Art Opening Reception. **Lane Cornforth** coordinated the great FCC Thanksgiving Feast! **Patti White** personalized the 3rd Grade Bibles with beautiful calligraphy. We are grateful for **All** who volunteer as **FCC Ushers. Trig and Charlotte Bundgaard**

shared in Youth Group. **Mindy Matthes** assisted in the Advent project preparations. **Jan Erickson** donated JANSKA fleece for KC Worship blankets. The **Children's Ministry Team** led Teacher Thank You Rituals for all they did with the FCC children during Faith Formation Hour in the fall. Thank you to **Ani Rose Whaleswan** and **Alyce Morgan** and the many volunteers for Emergency Winter Shelter with Family Promise, in addition to all the volunteers who assisted with the November hosting of Interfaith Hospitality Network Families.

### PRAYERS

**Cayth Brady's** niece **Michelle Pascarelli** has terminal cancer. **Troy Brown** had surgery and is now recovering at home. **Ellen Brown** relocated to be near family (new address c/o Gary Dean Ruebsamen, 5910 Hillview Park Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91401). **Pat Steiger** recovered from surgery at home. **Amanda Terrell-Orr** had outpatient surgery and recovered at home. **Pauli Hubbard** had knee surgery and is up and walking. **Ruth Lehmkuhl, Linda LeMieux** and **Gayle Jordan** are undergoing cancer treatment. **Bryan Olesen-Phelps** continues to recover from surgery. **Jean Archer** was in skilled care with health concerns. **Kris Anderson** was hospitalized after a fall. **Gene Yelken** is in home hospice care. **Don Drake** recovered at Sunny Vista after surgery. **Sue Prendinger** recovered from surgery. **Emily Bond's** aunt, **Teresa Broughton Bowe**, is undergoing cancer treatment.

### CONDOLENCES

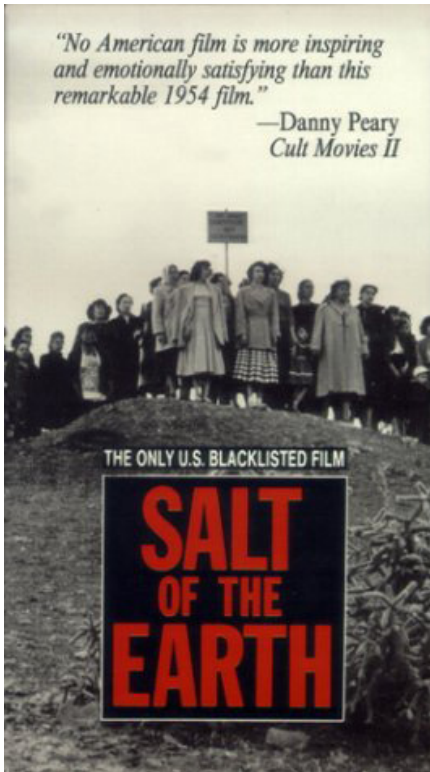
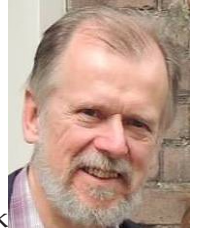
**Sarah Delwiche** lost her grandfather, **James Sele**, of Texas on December 6. **Michael Royal** lost his father on November 19. **Todd Beltracchi's** father passed away.



## a peek in the past: salt of the earth

By **Chris Steenbergen**, Church Historian

[chris.steenbergen@yahoo.com](mailto:chris.steenbergen@yahoo.com)



Horace Ebenezer Jencks, youngest son of longtime FCC clerk DeWitt Clinton Jencks, was born in 1891 and grew up at FCC.

The same month that beloved pastor James Gregg left for New England, June 1909, young Horace had his membership transferred to First Christian Church. There he met Ruth Shideler and the couple married in 1912, and Horace provided for the family as a mail carrier. Less than half a year after charismatic social activist pastor Fred Staff took the helm at FCC in 1917, Horace and Ruth with infant Arthur DeWitt returned to the FCC fold. The next year their second son Clinton Ebenezer was born.

Clinton spent his very early formative years in the budding social justice environment of FCC: he and his father took food baskets to the families of striking local miners. However, when Pastor Staff resigned for health reasons in 1925, his parents took the family to First Methodist Church. "Clint" obtained his bachelors in economics at the University of Colorado Boulder and was a decorated WWII veteran, having fought as an Air Force navigator in the Pacific.

After activity for the American Veterans Committee, he was hired by the Mine-Mill Union (IUMMSW) as their business agent for Northern New Mexico. There he worked to improve working conditions in the mines, and in 1950 he and his wife Virginia helped stage a 15 month strike against Empire Zinc, documented in the movie *Salt of the Earth* which he co-wrote with producer Paul Jarrico and in which he acted.

Jencks was jailed during the strike and later, after the film had been blacklisted for being subversive and promoting communist ideas, he was falsely indicted for being a secret communist. The landmark case went all the way to the US Supreme Court, where Clinton was declared innocent of all charges. Even so, in the McCarthy era it was impossible for him to find work, but in 1964 he managed to acquire his PhD in economics and was hired by San Diego State, where he taught until 1988. He died in San Diego in 2005.



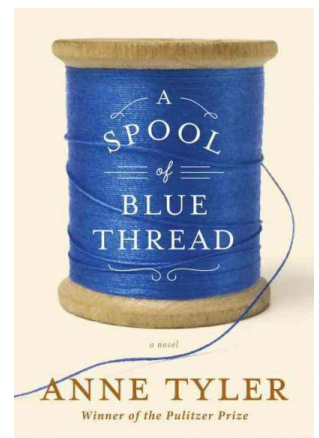
Clinton Jencks in *Salt of the Earth*, from Wikipedia

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

**Sunday, January 29, 2017**  
**6:00 p.m. in the Gregg Library**

***A Spool of Blue Thread***  
**by Anne Tyler**

All are welcome to join  
this group and discuss  
our latest book!  
Coffee and goodies  
provided!



## A JUST PEACE PRONOUNCEMENT

*"We now need to put as much effort into defining a just peace as we have done in the past in defining a just war."*  
*- Dr. Robert V. Moss*



### A JUST PEACE PRONOUNCEMENT

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF COLORADO SPRINGS  
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

We members of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Colorado Springs declare ourselves to be a Just Peace Church. We strive to be a community where respect and justice are foundational. We seek to share equal power, build nonviolent relationships, discover ways in which as a church and as individuals we can alleviate systemic injustice, confront violence, and foster peaceful relationships, conflict resolution and reconciliation in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, nation, and world.

**Therefore, we publicly and prayerfully commit ourselves to be a proactive witness to the possibility of a just world by proclaiming First Congregational Church a *Just Peace Church*.**

We believe peace-building and social justice are central to our identity as Christians and followers of Christ. We, as a community of faith, have identified Micah 6 as our theological touchstone:

*"and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

We believe peace and peace-building starts personally with us and with our relations to each other, our neighborhoods, our community, our nation, and the world.

In Luke 4:16-21 Jesus calls for the renewal of just relationships:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*  
 (Luke 4:18-19, NRSV)

**As a Just Peace Church, we commit ourselves to . . .**

1. Peace-building: Attitudes and activities aimed to assist people in resolving conflicts and building sustainable relationships.
2. Integrating our vision of peace and peace-building into the full life of our church by:
  - a. Actively seeking a meaningful understanding of how to apply our Christian faith and spiritual experience to challenging issues in our community and world.
  - b. Creating a peace-building umbrella/vision that captures the work we're already doing, combined with new initiatives in our church and in our community.
  - c. Examining peace in concentric circles.
    - 1) At the center of our peace work is ourselves and how we relate to our families and neighbors.
    - 2) As the circles enlarge, so too our peace work moves out in to the community and world.
  - d. Developing our peace-building knowledge and skills, while we continue to support our church's existing values, work, and priorities.
3. Spiritual development--making our spiritual convictions known throughout our community as follows:

*continued on the next page (page 13)*



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | JUST PEACE CONT'D

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

sunday, january 29, 2017

9:45 a.m.

first congregational church sanctuary

There will be one worship service at 8:30 a.m.

The Annual Meeting will be concurrent with Sunday School for children through 5th Grade.

2017 COUNCIL NOMINEES:

Connie Brachtenbach  
 Scott Tetrick  
 Lynne Stefoniak

*Moderator*  
*Vice Moderator*  
*Council Member*  
*for Care & Fellowship*

2017 LCC NOMINEES:

Lee Lehmkuhl  
 Alison Gerbig  
 Jill Cameron



The Congregation will also vote on adopting and claiming the “**Just Peace Pronouncement**” (see opposite page and below) and claim the designation of a **Just Peace Church**.

- a. We will, through prayer, study, reflection, and worship, develop our understanding and focus our spiritual journey around peace and peace-building.
- b. We will continue to live out our commitment to Micah 6.
4. Looking for specific issues of injustice, violence, and intolerance in our community, nation, and world.
  - a. Educating ourselves on these issues.
  - b. Collaborating within our church and leadership to creatively and peacefully confront these issues.
5. Equipping and training our congregation and members of our community by:
  - a. Confronting the prevalence of violence in our society.
  - b. Developing peaceful methods of communication.
  - c. Teaching and practicing conflict resolution skills whenever possible.
  - d. Inviting guest speakers, theologians, and leaders of peace-building to challenge our thinking on peace.
6. Creating and engaging our community in open, peaceful dialogue--making our church the epicenter of peaceful dialogue in the Pikes Peak Region. We will:
  - a. Value the life experience and stories of others in our peaceful dialogue—demonstrating respect for the richness and wealth of life experience.
  - b. Develop, maintain, and model a climate and dialogue process through which diverse points of view can be heard in our search for understanding and peace--seeking to understand other points of view. “No matter how flat the pancake, there are two sides.”
  - c. Create teams of skilled moderators who can lead peaceful dialogue.
7. Practice accountability by annually reviewing our Just Peace work--revisiting and revising our Just Peace statements and goals.
  - a. Continually seeking and integrating congregational feedback.
  - b. Encouraging and empowering all to bring their concerns and ideas to the table.

## MISSION GIVING &amp; OUTREACH UPDATE



## Home [less] for the holidays ...

By Sky Foerster, Mission Giving &amp; Outreach Committee Chair

[skyfoerster@gmail.com](mailto:skyfoerster@gmail.com)

According to the January 2016 "Point in Time Survey," El Paso County's homeless population—over 1,300 people living on the street, in shelters, or in transitional housing—reflects an increase over the previous two years. These numbers are conservative. Despite substantial effort by many individuals and organizations, homelessness is a stubborn and growing issue.



Beyond the numbers, these are our neighbors who have reached a point in their lives where none of us want to be. Sometimes it's because of chronic problems that require long and patient intervention; sometimes it's poor decisions; sometimes it's circumstances beyond their (or our) control. Each story is its own form of human tragedy.

And, baby, it's cold outside.

On November 6 and December 11, MG&O hosted after Worship, a couple "conversations" about homelessness in our community, with a special focus on emergency winter shelters. We hosted leaders and key staff from the City, ESM, Family Promise/IHN, Catholic Charities, Urban Peak, Springs Rescue Mission, and our own Coalition for Compassion and Action (CCA).



If you were there, you perhaps could feel the frustration we all share on this tragic community issue, a frustration shared on many levels by those whose daily responsibilities involve trying to find both long term solutions—"Housing First" including ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing—and short term stop-gaps to get people off the street and out of the cold.



If you read press stories these past couple of weeks, it would be easy to conclude that our region has more than enough shelter beds to accommodate those who need them—even on the coldest nights, there were extra beds at Springs Rescue Mission in its new



"low barrier" facility.

But that's not the full story.

There is increasing capacity, but people are also turned away. There are beds for men, a smaller number for women, and a real shortage for families and youth. Ironically, the more vulnerable the population, the less capacity there is. Funding vouchers for short-term motel stays is an expensive, inadequate, and exceeding over-used (but, alas, necessary) "last resort."



Family Promise®

We will continue these conversations in the New Year and attempt to find more answers even as we uncover more "complications." We will work to provide greater visibility for this issue and to impress on civic and community leaders its urgency.



**We hope you will join the conversation.** Primo Congo is emerging as a powerful voice on this issue, but we need to enlarge the number of stakeholders in our community.

*You can take meaningful steps to provide important support.*



**Check out the MG&O Bulletin Board** outside the kitchen ... here's a sample:

- Donate food (peanut butter but not only!)
- Donate winter clothes ... hats/gloves/scarves/coats ... **new** socks ... sleeping bags
- Volunteer for Family Promise/IHN ... or ESM ... or for a CCA Outreach Team
- Provide funds to Catholic Charities to replenish their motel voucher fund
- Stay tuned for a "Christmas in the Park" opportunity to serve the homeless

**And thank you for all the generosity you have shown through your Mission Giving to enable Primo Congo to make a difference in this and other concerns. Peace this Christmastide.**



# seek first to understand

By Steve Fehl, Member of Just Peace Task Force and Stephen Ministry Leader

[sgfehl@gmail.com](mailto:sgfehl@gmail.com)



## LISTENING . . .

### KEY TO BOTH JUST PEACE AND STEPHEN MINISTRY



In his book *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Steven Covey identified 'Seek first to understand, then to be understood' as a primary habit to being relational and productive. In a time when voices are raging to be heard, this is an apt habit of which to be mindful. True communication, understanding, and problem solving cannot take place unless the individuals or groups involved are willing to listen first.

One of the fundamental principles of Stephen Ministry is active listening. **Active listening is:**

- **focusing on understanding** and acknowledging what the other person is saying by listening to the words spoken, as well as those not spoken.
- **paying attention** to the other person's body language and facial expressions.
- **putting aside** the listener's thoughts, agenda, and advice and instead giving all of his or her attention to the other person.
- **re-phrasing** what the other person has stated in order to clarify what is being expressed.
- **asking clarifying questions** that help the other person express his or her thoughts, feelings, emotions, fears, doubts, as well as their experience.

Active listening can be hard work, especially with someone who is dealing with or has experienced the trauma of loss, abuse, neglect, or major health issues.

One of the primary goals of the Just Peace Initiative is to provide a platform where differing perspectives, ideologies, and experiences can be shared in order to bring about a deeper understanding of the issue at hand and how we can respond effectively in a more respectful, peace-building manner. In order for this to happen, active listening is a necessary skill. Without this skill, individuals and groups will continue to talk past and over one another. In the context of the Just Peace Initiative, active listening is the first step to meaningful and empathetic dialog. Just as in working with individuals through Stephen Ministry, this process of active listening in creating Just Peace requires hard work on the part of all perspectives and groups.

**Stephen Ministry is only one example of how FCUCC is already practicing the Just Peace Initiative.** *"Peace-building encompasses attitudes and activities aimed to assist people in resolving conflicts and building sustainable relationships."* Just as Stephen Ministers provide support, understanding, and empathy to individuals who are hurting, the concepts of the Just Peace Initiative are revealed through Christian caregiving.

If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry please contact **Pastor Jacque Franklin** at the church office (719.635.3549/[jacque@fcucc.org](mailto:jacque@fcucc.org)).

## BLEAK MIDWINTER SCRIPTURE STUDY WITH PASTOR NAYIRI

**Fridays:**

**January 13, 20, 27,**

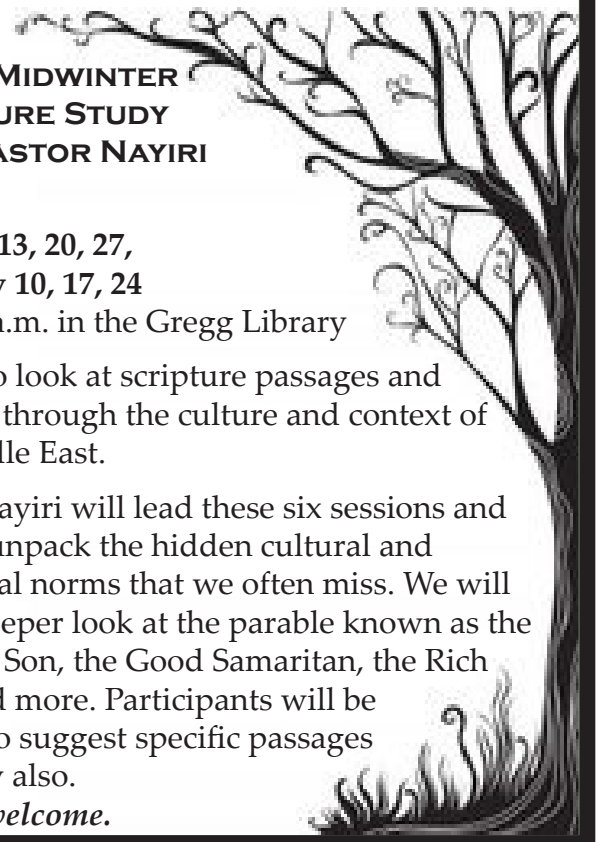
**February 10, 17, 24**

at 10:30 a.m. in the Gregg Library

Join us to look at scripture passages and parables through the culture and context of the Middle East.

Pastor Nayiri will lead these six sessions and help us unpack the hidden cultural and contextual norms that we often miss. We will take a deeper look at the parable known as the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, the Rich Fool, and more. Participants will be invited to suggest specific passages for study also.

*All are welcome.*



## GREGG LIBRARY AND JUST PEACE



## voices for a just peace

By Jeanie Tate, Gregg Library Team

[jeneanetate@yahoo.com](mailto:jeneanetate@yahoo.com)

**Therefore, we publicly and prayerfully commit ourselves to be a proactive witness to the possibility of a just world by proclaiming First Congregational Church a Just Peace Church.**

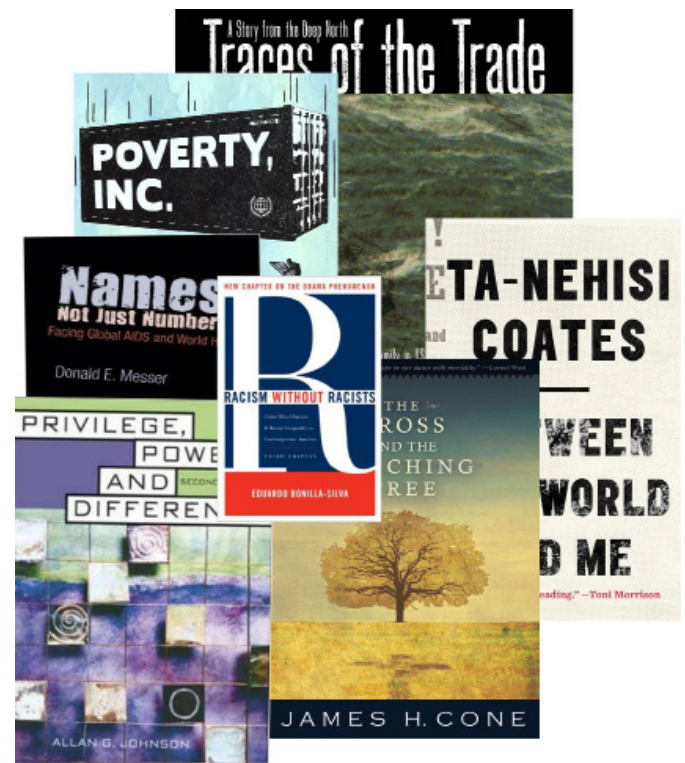
It's a noble proposal – surely something every congregation could endorse. The question is –what does Just Peace look like for everyone, and even when we define it, how do we as individuals, families, and congregations make it happen? To understand the history of justice in this country Gregg Library offers the following DVDs and books.

*Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North* (2008) debunks the idea that the South alone is to blame for slavery. Katrina Browne, producer and director, tells the story of her New England family, perhaps the largest slave trading family in US history. They built and sailed the slave ships trading rum for human beings. The film describes the current descendants' attempts to reconcile their family history with today's search for justice.

*Poverty, Inc.: fighting poverty is big business but who profits the most* (2016) is a DVD based on 200 interviews in 20 countries. Dr. Donald E. Messer, our Micah 6 speaker this year and a long time friend of **Pastor Burl Kreps**, wrote *Names, not just numbers: facing global AIDS and World Hunger* (2010). One startling fact is that it's easier to get AIDS treatment in Africa than it is in South Carolina.

Allan G. Johnson's *Privilege, Power, and Difference* (2001) is not about blame, guilt, or defensiveness over racism. He believes the social systems of oppression are changing (even though it will take more than one lifetime to see results). He offers constructive ways to think critically, shaking off the "paralyzing myth" that we cannot individually make a difference. The third edition of *Racism without Racists* (2010) by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva includes a chapter about why virulent racial violence and anti-immigration has increased even though we elected a very popular black President. His argument is you cannot attack racism as a moral problem; the nuts and bolts have to change – getting a job, buying a car, finding health care, making the criminal justice system color blind.

James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (2011) makes the ironic connection between white Christianity's transcendent image of Christ crucified on a wooden cross and the figure of an innocent black victim dangling from a lynching tree. He is one of many black theologians struggling "to reconcile the gospel message of liberation with the reality of black oppression." William R. Jones in *Is God a White Racist* (1973) asks where God is in the history of repression of the blacks. Toni Morrison describes A-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me* (2015) as "required reading." This is an autobiography written by the author to his teenage son. It's his journey navigating the fear and frustration growing up a black man. All these titles will be available at the Gregg this month as we begin the White Privilege curriculum in Adult Formation.





## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Many of our devoted knitters and crocheters enjoyed the annual Prayer Shawl Brunch in December. Here are 20 shawls all packaged and ready for delivery to T.E.S.S.A. These will be given to women escaping domestic violence situations.

*The shawl is a soft embrace of blessing from the community and from God in a time when it is most needed and serves as a continual presence through hardship.*

interim conversations  
and lunch

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 15 AND 22

12:15 p.m.

in the Founders' Room



Join us as we continue to walk the interim transitional journey.

JANUARY 15:

We will discuss our community vision -

Who is our neighbor?

How are we living our vision and mission in connection to the other?

How do we extend outward in service and advocacy?

JANUARY 22

We will reflect on what is our "missionsite" - the context in which we do mission.

Does the demographic of our community influence our church's mission?

What is the context of our ministry?

Light lunch will be served.  
Childcare & children's activities will be planned.

ESTD  2007  
**JAMES W.  
WHITE**  
LECTURESHIP

**Peter Rollins**

save the dates

**may****12 - 14, 2017**

Click this link to find out more! - <http://fcucc.org/faith-formation-2/james-w-white-lectureship/>

## FRIENDS OF EMERSON | OUR WHOLE LIVES

### FRIENDS OF EMERSON

You are invited to attend Friends of Emerson, which begins its fourteenth year this month. We meet in the Carey Chapel from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., twice monthly on Thursdays, reading from Emerson's work aloud and discussing it. No previous knowledge of Emerson is required.



We are presently reading Emerson's political writing which covers the years leading up to the Civil War when the country was becoming more and more divided. He was fiercely opposed to slavery and actively campaigned against it, even being booed off the podium and facing arrest for defying the Fugitive Slave Law. A large portion of this writing was lost for decades and the true nature of Emerson's political activism has never been acknowledged. We are seeing strong parallels with the present day political climate.

#### 2017 Schedule:

January	12, 26	July	6, 20
February	9, 23	August	10, 24
March	9, 23	September	14, 28
April	13, 27	October	12, 26
May	11, 25	November	16, 30
June	8, 22	December	14, 28

## our whole lives: sexuality & our faith for young adults, Ages 22 — 35

(10 sessions + Overnight Retreat)

Facilitators:

**Jessica Laike & Rev. Derek Krehbiel**



Class Dates – Tuesdays 6:30 pm – 9 pm:

**January 17, 24, 31**

**February 7, 21, 28**

**March 4-5, 14, 21**

**April 4 & 11**

Tuition: \$110 friends/members\*, \$135 general public

Pre-Registration Deadline: January 10, 2016

Minimum enrollment 5, maximum enrollment 12

Registration will close after the first 12 confirmed registrations



High Plains together with First Congregational, United Church of Christ, are pleased to offer this course about love, relationships, sexual pleasure, healthy boundaries, justice, sexual and gender identity, mutuality and communication and how they relate to our faiths. This illuminating and deeply engaging class is part of the Our Whole Lives (OWL) faith and sexuality curriculum series that goes to the core of our mission here at High Plains. This curriculum has been specifically developed for young adults and is being offered for those

22-35 years of age (if you are over or under the age guidelines, please contact Jessica to discuss options as we do have some flexibility especially with the upper limit).

Registration is available online at [https://form.jotform.com/HighPlainsDFF/Adult\\_Ed\\_Registration](https://form.jotform.com/HighPlainsDFF/Adult_Ed_Registration)

*\*Please note that scholarships are always available for those in need. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to inquire about financial assistance please contact: Jessica Laike, [dff@hpcuu.org](mailto:dff@hpcuu.org) or (719) 581.2182.*

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS****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***CHURCH COUNCIL****Lee Lehmkuhl***Moderator***Connie Brachtenbach***Vice Moderator***Michael Gemm***Treasurer***Lisa Mason***Secretary***Judy Kort***Care & Fellowship***Alyce Morgan***Outreach***Chris Reimer***Worship & Spiritual Life***John Beavers***Education***AD HOC STAFF****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, Karen Knabe, Evan Latimer****Kiara Nath, Kaitlyn O'Donnell***Nursery Attendants***APPOINTED OFFICERS****Lois Benson***Membership Clerk***Chris Steenberg***Historian***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***Phyllis White***Flute Choir***Blake Pelton***Lay Representative to ESM***Lesli Weaver, RN***Congregational Nurse***Curt Daniel, Christy Kessler,****Mindy Mathes, 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***Logan Bennett, Candace Datz****Jeff Dodson, Samantha Garrett****RoMa Johnson***Members in Discernment***VOLUNTEER CHAIRS****Paul Schwotzer***Audio/Visual***Alysa Webb***Children's & Family Ministry***Lucy Shick, Open***Clergy/Congregation Relations***Sid Shelton***Facility Improvement***Julia Nace***Financial Ministries***Michael Gemm***Financial Advisory***Pam Shockley-Zalabak***Grant Writing***Jeanie Tate***Gregg Library***Steve Getty***Grounds***Peggy Weissman***Health Ministry***Karol Finch***Historical***Gordon Riegel***Human Resources***Jerry White***Justice & Peace***Gloria Latimer***JWW Lectureship Series***Amy Colwell, Lois Benson***Kitchen Witches***Jessica Gemm***Leadership Cultivation Committee***Lane Cornforth***Membership***Derek Krehbiel***Ministry Discernment***Sky Foerster***Mission Giving & Outreach***Susie Marten***Music & Arts Ministry***Nancy Forgy***The Mystery***Connie Raub***Plymouth Circle***Kathy Kreps, Sharron Waterhouse***Prayer Shawl Ministry***Pat Dolin, Dennis Kleinsasser***Risk Reduction & Response***Eleanor Law, Connie Raub***Sanctuary Arts Ministry***Margaret Reiber***Stephen Ministry***Reba Holmes, Verl Holmes***Stewardship***Howard Ray***The Forum***Judy Kolz***Visitation Ministry*



## THE COMMUNICATOR

First Congregational Church  
20 East Saint Vrain Street  
Colorado Springs | CO | 80903



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.*



**We welcome you to contribute to *The Communicator*!**

*The Communicator* invites 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.

**DEADLINE for the next issue (February 2017 Issue) is Sunday, January 15, 2017.**

Please send to: [emily@fcucc.org](mailto:emily@fcucc.org) AND [petehokanson@gmail.com](mailto:petehokanson@gmail.com)

THE  
COMMUNICATOR  
IS AVAILABLE

- AT CHURCH
- VIA EMAIL
- VIA WEBSITE

[www.fcucc.org](http://www.fcucc.org)

### 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.

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719.635.3549 | [office@fcucc.org](mailto:office@fcucc.org) | [www.fcucc.org](http://www.fcucc.org)