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The Communicator

May, 2017



AFTER EASTER

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

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It is "after Easter."

During the last few weeks I have uttered these words many times. Anything that needed my attention but was not urgent got listed under tasks to do "after Easter."

And now that it is after Easter, I realize that I need a break. Hence, I am considering not writing this article....

However, I suspect, that I am not alone in this experience and that many of us feel overwhelmed by life's demands as we continue to keep the rapid pace, to catch up with life while trying to remain mentally sane, spiritually centered and creatively productive.

Research suggests that our human brains are at their most innovative when they are resting, even daydreaming. They suggest that silence and quiet, relaxation and rest render us more innovative. It seems daydreaming is how we access our big-picture state of mind, when we make connections and gain new perspective.

It seems our brain has two separate attention systems, says Daniel Willingham, Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia — an external one and an internal one. The internal attention system, which is activated during daydreaming, is called the default network.

"This default network is particularly active when you are thinking about yourself, thinking about the past, thinking about the future," Willingham says. "You can't really have both [attention systems] active at the same time, but they're in some ways linked."

If both systems can't be active at the same time and we're spending ten hours a day in one attention system, it begs the question: what is that doing to our brains — and our ability to come up with creative ideas?

Is this why our world is such a mess?

So why don't we make time for rest and reflection, for daydreaming and relaxation? Why do we fill our "free" moments with our smartphones, other devices or just noise? Why don't we make time to let our minds wonder and wander, imagine and dream? I don't know. But I am going to embrace daydreaming and silence during these fifty days of Easter while I take time to rest and while I walk for exercise. This is intentional rest time, intentional silence similar to centering prayer, and intentional daydreaming. And, I am beginning right now, the day "after Easter!" If you want to join me on this venture let me know.

Blessings, Pastor Nayiri

MAY 2017 WORSHIP

MAY WORSHIP

with god, we will [witness]
resilience, rebirth, rising

May 7 - May 21: Worship services: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Faith Formation Hour at 9:45 a.m.

May 28: Summer Worship begins (9:30 a.m. worship | No Faith Formation Hour)

07
MAY

fourth sunday of easter
confirmation sunday

Today, in our Multi-Generational service, we celebrate a rite of passage in the life of the members of our 2017 Confirmation Class. We welcome them into formal membership, into the life of our congregation and bless them on their journey. We will also recognize and bless our members who are graduating from high school or college. **Candace Datz** preaches. **Susie Marten** shares worship music.



14
MAY

fifth sunday of easter
jww lectureship series weekend

Today we welcome **Peter Rollins** to our pulpit who will reflect on "Your Ghosts Will Set You Free" based on John 8:32. At 11:00 a.m. the **Chancel Choir** presents a sneak peek into Carol Barnett's *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass*, this year's selection for the Annual Choral Presentation Sunday. You can hear the full mass on Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 4 during worship at 9:30 a.m.



21
MAY

sixth sunday of easter
last sunday in the program year

Today we welcome new members into the life of our congregation. **Rev. Jacque Franklin** preaches. The **Bells of St. Vrain Handbell Ensemble** shares worship music during both services. The **Chancel Choir** sings at 11:00 a.m.



28
MAY

seventh sunday of easter
first sunday of summer worship

Today **Rev Nayiri Karjian** preaches. A Multi-Generational choir joins to sing an original composition by **Mandy Todd** and **Russ Ware** called "Incarnate Love." You are invited to join in singing with us! Contact Mandy (mandy@fcucc.org) for more information.



END OF YEAR CONCERT | MULTI-FAITH CAMP



KIDS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH
5TH GRADE + UBUNTUS ARE
INVITED TO SIGN UP FOR THIS
YEAR'S MULTI-FAITH CAMP!

The brochure & registration
details are now available!
Hard copies are available in the Atrium,
or copies can be printed from our
website:

<http://fcucc.org/multi-faith/>

Registration deadline:
Memorial Day, May 29.

First Congregational Church
presents

THE WORLD BELOVED

SONGS OF INCARNATE LOVE



featuring
**THE WORLD BELOVED:
A BLUEGRASS MASS**
by Carol Barnett

The Chancel Choir of First Congregational Church
The Bells of Saint Vrain Handbell Ensemble
The Flute Choir of First Congregational Church

Mandy Todd, Artistic Director

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017
7:00 PM



20 East Saint Vrain Street
Colorado Springs • Colorado • 80903

First Congregational Church
of Colorado Springs

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Summer Worship

ONE SERVICE ONLY
9:30 AM

MAY 28 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2017



719.635.3549
www.fcucc.org | office@fcucc.org

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY



family faith formation in the 21st century

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

Thank you to the congregation for supporting me to attend a symposium on Family Faith Formation in March that was held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. John Roberto, one of the authors of *Of Families at the Center of Faith Formation*, commenced with some new questions.

- What does a vibrant and vital family faith look like in the 21st century, especially when the culture places so many more demands, distractions, and scheduling on family life?
- How do we meaningfully engage/connect with today's families?
- How do we empower/equip/resource families to transmit faith at home as we can only provide support for an hour or two on a Sunday morning, and the home is surely the center of evolving a vibrant faith? Each generation evolves differently, and many may not trust that they have the spiritual tools and understanding to convey to their kids if they themselves did not have a healthy, rigorous religious upbringing.
- How do we reach families who are not involved in a faith community, feeling religion is not important or that culturally membership/registrations have different meanings compared to the era of their grandparents?

The symposium continued to deepen into these questions acknowledging that every context of community has different permutations to deal with. Most of the attendees were in fact from Catholic dioceses, and they felt First Congo was way ahead of the curve. In many ways, our Palm Sunday was a reflection of an ideal Faith Formation experience - a personalized and well advertised event; opportunities for families to have fun and learn together with other young families; integration of learning into the whole flow of the day; follow up at home for Holy Week. Encouraging parents to share serving communion together with their children is another opportunity to deepen into the rituals and develop bonds with the Faith Community.

Nonetheless the symposium reminded me that we also need to

- be more intentional in HOW we present meaningful opportunities as belonging to whole church-based initiatives and not as side-kick events
- make it as easy as possible for families to receive information to participate, using technology in new, effective, and creative ways
- create and reinforce more links between what we share on a Sunday or at an event and help transfer follow-up in homes that is simple to undertake
- develop more ways to honor Milestone events in family lives, linking their own human story to the biblical and spirit filled journey
- honor the challenges of today's family lives and work out how to place them more in the center of things rather than expect them to step in to the old structures of church life.

Food for thought? YES, we are needing to set the table together for the church of the 21st century!



*Communion Servers:
Everett & Ellen Miller*

*Communion Servers:
Amelia Radtke with Claire*



SHROVE TUESDAY & PALM SUNDAY

A ball was had by all at the Shrove Tuesday All Church Event!

Members of the FCC Youth Group flipped pancakes under the watchful eyes of **Tom Francis** and **Charles Kiskiras**. Photos below include pancake flippers: **Tom Francis**, **Charles Kiskiras**, **Jessica Shelton**, **Ivy Chiroux**, **Ellen Francis**, **Aili Foss** and **Amber Khederian**; musicians: **Lee Lehmkuhl** (bass guitar), and **Mandy Todd** Director of Music and Arts (piano) with **Jim White** looking on. The annual event also included the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary and the burying of the Alleluia Banner in the basement.



Muchkin the Donkey led children, friends, and members on Palm Sunday in the Palm Parade.





A season of changes for youth

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

candace@fcucc.org



Spring can be hard, you know? Sure, it's beautiful here on the Front Range during spring, but sometimes the allergies hit you in just the wrong way and those freak April snow storms do all sorts of damage to trees and fences and cars. Spring has the highest rate of suicide. School testing and graduation prep and the impending idea of being without your friends for the whole summer make the spring a time of tension and anxiety for our youth.

Maybe that's why it's so lovely that in our church liturgical calendar we have the opportunity to reflect on the reality that death is a natural part of our story, as is rebirth and resurrection. Sure, I'm writing this during Holy Week, so resurrection is on my mind, but with the Easter season comes God's reminder that death doesn't have the final word, that love and justice win out, and that we have the opportunity to play a role in the restoration of all things.

May will see us celebrating our confirmation class of 2017, sharing in the JWW Lectureship weekend, and sending off our seniors and welcoming our new incoming middle schoolers. It's an exciting and busy time in the lives of our youth. Be sure to send them grace and love and big hugs as they grapple with the changes in the seasons. Maybe grace and love and big hugs are what you'll get in return.

Adult faith formation hour

JWW Lectureship Prep + Follow-Up (in the Library)

- May 7** **Gloria Latimer** leads a discussion on Peter Rollins' book *The Divine Magician*
- May 14** Peter Rollins in the Sanctuary for a conversation with **Pastor Jacque Franklin** and **Russ Ware**
- May 21** Lectureship Wrap-Up – "Burning Questions and Smoldering Concepts"




Adult Faith Formation II - Atonement

The Violence of Easter – with **David Bribach** (in Classroom East 3)



Why did Jesus have to die? The traditional answers require his violent death to save us from God's wrath. But what then do those answers say about a loving God? We will explore the traditional views of the atonement and their implications. Then we will look at a nonviolent alternative that provides a different vision. Maybe God is not angry at us after all.

- May 7** What are the implications of atonement theology?
- May 14** JWW Lectureship Series (see above) – no Atonement class
- May 21** Your turn – questions and reflections



UNCERTAINTY CAN BE  A GUIDING LIGHT
MAY 12-14, 2017

PETER ROLLINS

Click the following link to register for the Saturday Sessions with Peter Rollins:
<https://fcccs.infellowship.com/UserLogin/Index?ReturnUrl=%2fForms%2f354387>



These two sessions will occur Saturday, May 13 at First Congregational Church, with a 1.5 hour break for lunch on your own.

"Worship as Transformance Art"

10:00 a.m.

"Christian Practices for Religionless Faith"

1:00 p.m.

If you are not an FCC member, please create an account on this site in order to register. Please note, we will not use your information for anything other than emailing you about this JWW event and future lectures in the series. If you have questions about registering, please contact **Candace Datz** at candace@fcucc.org.

Childcare will be available for kids aged birth-5th grade during the sessions on Saturday. Please register each kid who will be partaking in this option.

Click the following link to register kids:
<https://fcccs.infellowship.com/Forms/355595>

If you would like to be added to the JWW Lectureship Series contact list, to receive news on upcoming series, please send your request to office@fcucc.org.

FRIDAY MAY 12, 7 PM
*Uncertainty can be a Guiding Light:
Christianity, Anxiety and the Absurd*

Free Public Lecture
Shove Chapel, Colorado College

ESTD  2007

JAMES W. WHITE
LECTURESHIP

THE FORUM



May forum - Peter Rollins and Sanctuary churches

By **Howard Ray**, FCC Member

hlay99@gmail.com

Special Note: This is my last Forum email as I turn over the leadership to new, very able Co-Leaders Ardith Hanson and Sean Buchanan. 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. It's amazing what Dave Seyfert started thirty-five years ago! As I finish my sixth year as the Forum Lead, I can easily recall the joys of doing this work for our church. I will never forget entering the Chapel on Sunday mornings seeing the smiling faces in the audience. The Forum Team (Don Allred, Bruce Latimer, Cathy White, and Leah Davis Witherow) seem to always get the best speakers! Don't be surprised if you see me in the audience on Sunday mornings at the Forum next fall.

Each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. the Forum meets for an hour in the Carey Chapel to listen to members of our own congregation as well as selected outside speakers. The Forum satisfies both the soul and the intellect. We have two speakers lined up to end the Spring Forum Season:

May 7: Sean Buchanan - Christianity, the Absurd, and Pyrotheology: A Peter Rollins 101 [JWW Lecture Prep]

This interactive discussion will focus on concepts covered in books by Peter Rollins, our JWW guest lecturer this year. Peter Rollins describes a faith that is active, living, dynamic and engaged in the world. For him, faith is not a set of beliefs but a loving embrace of the world in which we live. It is not a dogma but the practice of love and compassion. Rollins embraces a "religion-less" interpretation of Christianity called Pyrotheology which views faith as a particular way of engaging with the world rather than a set of beliefs about the world. Sean and his family are relatively new to First Congo, but as a family of seven they are hard to miss. Sean has a psychology degree and spent many years in the banking industry. For the past seven years he's been involved in church consulting, and he now is the chief strategist for a mobile app company that serves churches. He has been a stewardship director, college pastor, and elder at a former church. His interests include poker, mountain biking, and fine bourbon. He is also going to be a Forum Co-Leader starting in late May.

May 14: No Forum - JWW Lectureship Series with Peter Rollins (May 12-14)

May 21: Speaker TBA - What is a Sanctuary Church?

In the wake of President Trump's recent executive orders tightening immigration, there is increased interest amongst caring people in the idea of Sanctuary churches. The current church sanctuary movement in the U.S. began to take shape about ten years ago, inspired by a 1980s effort to provide shelter to immigrants fleeing civil war and gangs in Central America. Houses of worship where undocumented people can go who fear deportation are called sanctuaries. Even those who wish to see a more stringent enforcement of our southern border are often concerned with the lack of compassion for those people at risk of deportation who have been living in the US for a number of years. According to leaders of the loosely-knit sanctuary movement, about 800 US churches and other houses of worship that have declared themselves sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants. Come to the Forum to listen and participate in a discussion about this topic and how FCC might play a collaborative role in the future.

September 10: The Forum resumes next fall.

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 your questions and comments to **Howard Ray** hlay99@gmail.com, **Sean Buchanan** sean.a.buchanan@gmail.com, or **Ardith Hanson** ardithmarie@gmail.com. To access The Forum schedule, use the FCC website www.fcucc.org and select Faith Formation, Adult, then The Forum, or select Listen to The Forum to hear previous recorded Forums.

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has now received the first batch of applications from candidates interested in our Lead Minister opening. It is exciting to start seeing real people after all the work we've been doing!



We are in the process of assessing these applications which follow a standard UCC format of: candidate résumés (educational and ministerial); essay questions on their strengths and passions, call to ministry, areas of growth, and other topics; references answering a specific set of questions; and other background information

As we go through this stage, some candidates will not be the right fit and we will let them know; others we will want to engage further to assess whether we want to move them to interviews. All the while, additional applicants will be considered. While we wish we could share more detailed information, we need to preserve the confidentiality of those applying. We appreciate your understanding!

grief education group with steve fehl and mallory everhart

The Dwelling Place
Fridays
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The loss of a loved one is perhaps the greatest crisis an individual will face in their lifetime, but grief does not follow a pattern or schedule an appointment.

Because of grief's unpredictability, bereavement professionals and FCC members **Steve Fehl** and **Mallory Everhart**



are offering an ongoing grief education group which will meet regularly in *The Dwelling Place*, beginning Friday, May 5.

Sessions will repeat on a ten week rotating cycle and those seeking support are welcome to come and go as they need. For questions, contact **Steve** at sgfehl@gmail.com or **Mallory** at mallory.everhart@abodehospice.com.

PLANNED GIVING



Head ushers make gift plans for the future of FCC

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



On a recent fine spring morning, I had the opportunity to sit down with **Virginia Carlson** and **David Doman** to talk about their decision to include the church in their future gift plans.

Ruth: You joined the church in April 1997, twenty years ago. Why?

Virginia: I was first attracted by the beauty of the building; I just wanted to see inside! Then I heard **Jim White** preach, and I was sold.

Dave: I saw Jim on a Bill Moyers TV segment about the time we realized that we needed to stand up for what we believed in, post Amendment 2. We started attending but weren't members. I remember a sermon of Jim's that was very emotional. He shared that some members were leaving because of the Open & Affirming issue, but he still believed that moving forward on this social justice issue was the right thing for the church to do. After the service, I told Jim that some might leave, but others would join. Jim looked right at me and asked, "Will you be the first new member?" What could I say but yes!

Ruth: You serve as the Head Ushers for worship services. How else have you engaged with the church?

Virginia: I first got involved in the church by helping with the labyrinth and Taizé services.

Dave: **Scotty** (*their son*) and I helped put up and take down the labyrinth.

Virginia: Then I helped with **Jim White's** retirement celebration. Soon after, I served on Church Council and became involved in the Project Management Team that oversaw the historic restoration projects. This was perfect for me because I've bought, renovated, and sold old Victorians for years.

Dave: My first activity was the church softball team. **Linn Gustafson** was the pitcher, **Paul McNeill** was first baseman, and I was catcher. Because I'd been a first baseman most of my softball career, I could dig out any ball that got thrown over home plate. Later, **Tom Ryan** was responsible for recruiting me to usher about once a month. When **Oscar Ridings** retired as Head Usher, Virginia and I agreed to share the duties.

Ruth: You have named the church as a beneficiary in your trust agreement. Why did you decide to do this?

Virginia: This church is such a spiritual support to me. There have been times that I would have been on the floor if I wouldn't have had this community. This is an acknowledgement of what is in our hearts.

Dave (*tearing up*): I'm going to give the Prayer Shawl Ministry a plug. When I was having problems with my back and we thought it might be cancer, the prayer shawl I received was such a comfort. Also, the visits from the ministers were a blessing.

Virginia: I have been doing prison outreach for about eight years; I started with someone I knew and it has grown from there. Even though I was scared, I started because the church's spiritual support and the song "What Does the Lord Require of Me?" gave me the courage to try.

Ruth: Was the process of making this gift difficult or expensive?

Virginia: No, it was easy. We had created documents earlier, and we just did an amendment. I have a question though: are we able to designate how we want the bequest to be used?

Ruth: Absolutely. I'll send you a form to help with that.

Dave: Yeah, we want the bequest to be "underwear money." You know, for the fabric of the church.

Virginia and Ruth: Loud groans.

a peek in the past: the care of souls

By **Chris Steenbergen**, Church Historian

chris.steenbergen@yahoo.com



Rev. Daniel Day Williams; FCC archives

Daniel Day Williams was born in 1910 in Denver, Colorado to a conservative Methodist family. His father, a lawyer and prolific writer, wrote a biography of William Jennings Bryan, the three times Democratic presidential candidate and anti-Darwinist. Daniel went on from Denver University to the University of Chicago, where he obtained his MA in 1933 and BD at the Theological Seminary in 1934. Already during his early student years, he had become very uncomfortable with the traditional Methodist views of his parents. The introductions at the seminary to neo-orthodoxy and the process philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead opened up new perspectives for him. He went on to Columbia University in New York, where a year later he married Eulalia Westberg, whom he had met in Chicago.

It is unclear what prompted him to interrupt his studies and seek the ministry. Perhaps it was a combination of a desire to apply his new-found faith and financial needs, but, at not quite 28 years old, he accepted the call from First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs. There he landed with a congregation that was at the low point in its history. Membership was at two thirds of its ten years earlier maximum, and the two previous pastors had departed under clouds. The young pastor lasted exactly two years in the trenches. The precipitous slide in attendance actually was halted, but he must have become very discouraged. For a year he took the position of Dean at Shove Chapel with Colorado College, and in 1939 the couple moved back to Chicago Theological Seminary, where Rev. Williams joined the staff. He obtained his PhD from Columbia in 1940, and from 1955 was Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York until his death in 1973.

Dr. Daniel Day Williams was one of the prominent theologians of the process theology school. Whitehead, its effective founder, had described God as the Great Companion, the understanding fellow sufferer, who evolved with mankind. The process theologians built upon that and in one of his many works Prof. Williams explained: "What I try to present in this book is a perspective on the meaning of the love of God and the loves of men... A revolution has taken place in our view of the world. The concepts of evolution, development, growth, and becoming have become indispensable terms for conceiving what things are. Process theologians believe that this revolution in our world view must be incorporated in Christian doctrine and that it brings us closer to the biblical view of the creative and redemptive working of God than theology has been since the first century." One wonders what would have happened if FCC had been less of a challenge.

book discussion group

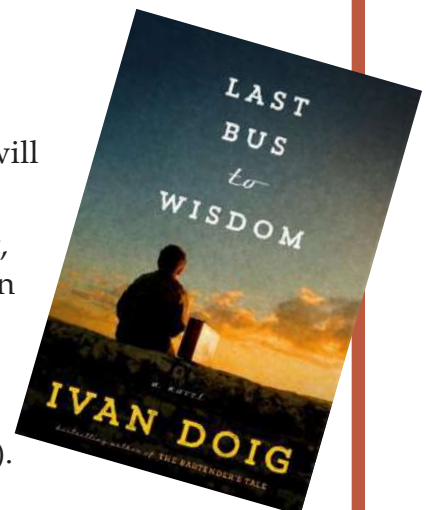
SUNDAY, JUNE 11 - 6:00 PM
GREGG LIBRARY

Last Bus to Wisdom
by Ivan Doig

Coffee and goodies will be provided!

Pick up a copy today, start reading, and join us in June!

For more info, contact **Linda Boles**
(jobolesjr@comcast.net).





The things that make for peace bible study

By **Alyce Morgan**, Council Member for Outreach

afmorgan53@yahoo.com

Interested in studying, discussing, integrating, and promoting peace as we journey further into FCC's Just Peace designation? Come to a four-week Bible study this July, **every Wednesday morning, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the Gregg Library** sponsored by the Bible Nerds. While it would be helpful to attend all sessions, it is not necessary.

The four sessions will be based on, but not limited to, the following:

Session 1, July 5: *Recognizing Peace.*

The introduction is a study of Luke 19: 37-44 and Ephesians 1: 18. It explores the differences between peace as the world often defines it and peace as Jesus teaches and models it.

Session 2, July 12: *Finding Peace.*

"So that you may live deep within your heart" How do we find peace in our hearts? How do we deepen our personal spiritual practice as a peacemaker? Using Philippians 4: 4-7 and Romans 5: 15, this session explores how we might ground ourselves in the practice of peace.

Session 3, July 17: *Practicing Peace.*

"So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace." What does it mean to "turn the other cheek"? What is the difference between being a doormat and choosing non-violence? In this study, we explore Matthew 5: 38-44 as a foundation for active non-violence.

Session 4, July 24: *Extending and Living Peace.*

"So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them" and "So that you can do what others claim cannot be done." How does the Bible teach us to live with neighbors who are different? This session will focus on hospitality as peacemaking in light of Hebrews 13: 1-3 and Romans 12: 13-21. (Also 2 Chronicles 6: 13-40, Matthew 5: 23-24 and Romans 12: 18.)

POPS

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 10
6:00 p.m.
Home of
Jacque Franklin
& Tom Francis
(319 Millstream Terrace)

The next event for POPS
(Parents Out Partying
Somewhere) will be a cookout.

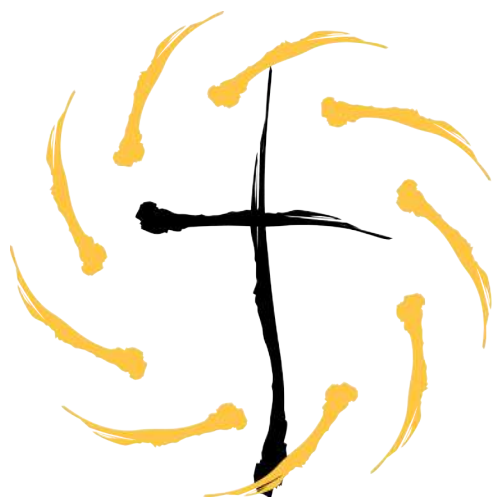
For more information, contact
Tom Francis (719.510.9108 /
tomfrancispsyd@gmail.com).

JUST Peace

congregational life (March 20 - April 23)

By **Emily Bond**, Communications Coordinator

emily@fcucc.org



THANK YOU

Thank you to our Sunday liturgists: **Mark Qualls, Ani Rose Whaleswan, Mallory and Ethan Everhart, Sean Buchanan, and Rick Shick**. We were blessed to have Words of Witness provided by **Mallory Everhart, and Sean Buchanan**. Special Music was given by **Jay Norman, Miriam Giese, FCC Flute Choir, Four Shades of Grey Quartet, and Russ Ware**. Kids' Community Worship support has been given by **Melissa McCormick, Krista Mavety, Alysa Webb, Karen Peace, Laura Pfender, Joan**

Landrum and Karen Heater. Also **Jenny Cavin, Jennifer Aragon, Sean Buchanan, Sue Mikaelian, Jennifer Malenky, and Sandy Johannsen** have all assisted as Sunday School and Godly Play substitute teachers. **Everett and Ellen Miller, Amelia and Claire Radtke, Joie and Xander Kellner** all gave their time to join adults as Communion Servers. **Sarah Delwiche** provided tech support. Palm Sunday is always an extensive day at FCC! We thank the following folks for all the time and energy they gave into making this blessed day so special: **Sheryl Cline and Liz Ryan**, liturgical dancers; **Mike Aragon, Lou** and the **Children's Ministry Team** for set up and support; **Munchkin the Donkey** and his owner **Teri Walton; Candace Datz** and the **Youth Group** for the Palm Parade support. Thank you to **Karen Peace** for donating Easter surprises for children on Easter Sunday, and finally to **All the Volunteers** who assisted in this month's IHN Families Hosting.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Amelia Kemp, Chloe Kemp, and Chris Kiley** on their successful run of "Beauty and the Beast" at Pine Creek High School. Congratulations also go to **Evan Latimer** who made All-State Symphonic Band at Rampart High School.

PRAYERS

We continue to offer up prayers to **Charlie Hall** and **Marcy McNeill** who are both in cancer treatment. **Cathy Victorson** and **Katherine Fatica** have asked for prayers due to health concerns. **Rose Enyeart** and **Jenn Cook** have both been recovering from surgery while **Mary Jane Ray** continues to recover from a broken ankle, and **Ed Holman** and **Lenore Poulson** are both undergoing physical therapy. **Claire Radtke's** mother, **Barbara Haas** received prayers as she has been recently widowed.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences have been extended to the **family and friends** of FCC member **James Einhorn** who passed away on March 15. Services were held at FCC on March 26. **Deidre Schoolcraft** on the loss of her mother, **Madeline Farrington**, who passed away on March 25. Services were held at FCC on April 8. **Jacque Franklin's** uncle, **James Down**, passed away on March 23 in Ohio. **Claire Radtke's** father, **Michael Haas**, passed away in Iowa on March 26.

STEPHEN MINISTRY | CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT



FCC Stephen Ministry carries on vision of its founder

By **Lois Matthews** Stephen Ministry Leader

ldmatt333@comcast.net

The Rev. Kenneth J. Hauck founded the Stephen Ministry program in 1975 while he was a church pastor in St. Louis. He said he "couldn't do it all." So with a background as a clinical psychologist, he enlisted and trained a handful of lay people to offer confidential care and support to their fellow parishioners.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Since then, more than 10,000 congregations around the world in some 150 dominations have become Stephen Ministry churches. Ours is one such congregation, having been a Stephen Ministry church for 10 years!

The **Rev. Dr. Jacque Franklin**, Minister of Pastoral Care, heads up FCC's program.

Here's why Rev. Hauck said he began the program: "Christianity is not a spectator sport. It was never intended to be. God gave to the church apostles, evangelists, and pastors and teachers whose job is to equip the saints for ministry. When a person allows you into their life and shares their feelings and their hurts with you, they are giving you a fantastic gift," Hauck said. "When you listen to them and when you accept their feelings and when you love them, share Christ's love with them, you are giving them a similarly powerful gift."

And here's what a care receiver and a Stephen Minister have to say:

"I think I recognize God in my life a lot more than I had in the past, and a lot of it is because of Stephen Ministry."

"My journey [as a Stephen Minister] becomes more profound as each day, week and month pass by. I learned early on that I was called to care for others, but for years I had no idea what a blessing that calling is."

[Overheard]

*"Thank you God for
rocks because I like
playing on rocks"*

Gratitude prayer by Harper Pfender (6 yrs)

caregiver's support group

In the Carey Chapel, FCC
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Mondays: June 5, 12, 19, 26
July 3, 10, 17

If you are caring for a loved one who is ill or has a disability, you are invited to join our group. We will meet on Mondays beginning June 5. Each group will go for seven weeks and participants are encouraged to attend all seven.

Your Facilitator is **Rev. Nita Mathews**. She is a former Parish Pastor, Air Force Chaplain, Hospital and Hospice Chaplain, and Bereavement Counselor. Nita works with HEARTful Caregivers, a nonprofit dedicated to the support of Family Caregivers for older adults.

Please contact Nita to let her know if you will attend: 719.999.8532 / lifesigns2@gmail.com.





hikes and walks: trekking for trekkers

By **Ted Dresie**, *Hikes and Walks Leader*

It is about time to dust off those hiking shoes and freshen up those trekking togs. The 2017 hiking season schedule has been created and there is something for everyone. This year, we have scheduled 22 outings

which we hope will entice our trekkers to get out and enjoy our beautiful and colorful Colorado. **Linda Kittiel** will help us kick off the season with an easy flat hike on the Monument Valley Park Loop on May 16. The following week, on May 24, **Bob Kelly** and **Karen Jones** will guide us to an interesting tour through Manitou Springs inviting us to taste the waters from the Mineral Springs. As in the past, we will always conclude our outings with a brunch/lunch.

Every two weeks, an eBlast will be distributed to those who have signed up announcing the upcoming hikes scheduled during the ensuing weeks. If you have not signed up and wish to receive these announcements, please contact **Ted Dresie** at TederCO@comcast.net.

The following schedule may be altered due to weather and trail conditions.

DATE	DAY	VENUE	LEADER
May 16	Tuesday	Monument Valley Park Loop	Kinda Kittiel
May 24	Wednesday	Mineral Springs, Manitou	Bob and Karen Jones
June 1	Thursday	Mueller State Park: Floral Peeping/Picnic	Jim and Jamie Stata
June 9	Friday	Intemann to Iron Mountain	Bob and Karen Jones
June 15	Thursday	Seven Bridges	Chris Hall
June 21	Wednesday	Rainbow Gulch	Ted Dresie and Bob Kelly
June 27	Tuesday	Spruce Mountain	Chris Steenbergen
July 5	Wednesday	Downtown Art Walk	Angie Adams
July 13	Thursday	Dawson Butte	Bob and Karen Jones
July 19	Wednesday	Garden of the Gods	Linda Kittiel
July 27	Thursday	Narrow Gauge Trail	Ted Dresie and Bob Kelly
August 2	Wednesday	Red Rock Canyon Open Space	Linda Kittiel
August 8	Tuesday	The Craggs	Roger and Sheila Bouton
August 16	Wednesday	Catamount Ranch Open Space	Lisa Mason
August 31	Thursday	Stratton Open Space	Linda Kittiel
September 7	Thursday	Cheyenne Mountain State Park	Roger and Sheila Bouton
September 13	Wednesday	Castlewood Canyon State Park	Chris Steenbergen
September 19	Tuesday	Mueller State Park: Turkey Cabin	Ted Dresie and Bob Kelly
September 30 - October 1	Saturday - Sunday	Leaf Peeping Road Trip	Trekking Leaders
October 11	Wednesday	Paint Mines	Linda Kittiel
October 18	Wednesday	Eagle Rock near Pulpit Rock	Bob and Karen Jones

COOKING SCHOOL | MG+O MARKET

Ever attended the FCC Cooking School? No?! You must!
Such fun is had...great food is made...and consumed!

Join us May 19 (11 a.m. in the FCC Kitchen) for a demonstration by Chef Robert Brunet, owner of Mamma Pearl's Cajun Kitchen. Chef Robert will prepare several Cajun-style dishes for us from a cuisine we may have little familiarity with!



Chef Robert Brunet



*Snapshots of the April
Cooking School with Alyce Morgan.*



Photo credit: Royce Field

MG+O market



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Welcome to the new MG+O Market! This is where we will inform you of service and ministry opportunities which have been brought to the MG+O Committee.

ESM is in need of cooks who can deliver dinner for 16 guests who stay in their WISH House. A meal can be dropped off, or you are welcome to stay and share dinner with the guests. Please contact **Blake Pelton** for more information - bpelton@fvs.edu.

IHN needs meals for homeless families who stay in our church building. Please contact **Laura Pfender** if you can help - llpfender@earthlink.net.

Catholic Charities is looking for family mentors. Please contact **Rev. Jacque Franklin** for more information - Jacque@fcucc.org.

If you know of volunteer opportunities to share, please contact **Blake Pelton** to have them added to the Market: bpelton@fvs.edu.

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*

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Lois Benson*Membership Clerk***Chris Steenbergen***Historian*

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

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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 (Summer 2017 Issue) is May, May 15, 2017.

Please send to: emily@fcucc.org AND petehokanson@gmail.com

THE
COMMUNICATOR
IS AVAILABLE

- AT CHURCH
- VIA EMAIL
- VIA WEBSITE

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.