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# The Communicator

Summer, 2017

## sundays in summer

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

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I am so grateful for the seasons of the year as well as the seasons of the liturgical church year! The seasons seem to reflect my own seasons of heart and spirit and the cyclical nature of life itself.

Soon it will be Pentecost, the third major holy day of the church, the other two being Christmas and Easter. Yet, Pentecost is not widely known or celebrated. It arrives 50 days after Easter, and it brings to us the Holy Spirit, the feminine side of God.

I find it interesting that God comes to us at Christmas in bodily form, and at Pentecost in spirit form, making both sacred, sanctifying all life. Sometimes I wonder if the Spirit is not that well kept secret within us, the spark of fire, the breath of God that empowers us to be God's people and Church in the world. For, it is through the Spirit that we do the ministry and mission of the church making the world into more of God's realm.

During the summer months we will continue expanding the table and preparing it for the arrival of a new settled Lead Minister. We will welcome preachers of other faiths and learn about other cultural perspectives. Remember, there is only one worship service at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday during the summer! We return to two services, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Rally Sunday, September 10.

Mandy and I share specific dates for special summer worship experiences for your calendar:

**On Sunday, June 4**, we will celebrate Pentecost through beautiful music during our annual Choral Presentation Sunday. The Chancel Choir will be joined by a bluegrass band to share *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass* by Carol Barnett.

We joyfully welcome our new organist, **David Acton** on **Sunday, July 2**. David will share special music, and after worship, we will join in the Founders' Room for a reception in his honor. David will also fill the position of Administrative Assistant. We look forward to welcome him among us.

**On Sunday, July 9**, we celebrate our Open and Affirming designation. Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus joins us for worship, and we will leave worship in the Sanctuary to participate in the Colorado Springs Pride Parade.

## Sundays in Summer

*- continued from the cover.*

*continued on page 2.*

**Sunday, July 16**, members and friends of FCC join together in music for our annual Folk Music Sunday.

**On Sunday, July 30**, the Flute Choir shares special worship music.

**Sunday, August 13** is our annual Jazz Sunday, featuring both members of FCC and local jazz musicians.

**On Sunday, September 3**, members and friends bring waters gathered from around the world for our annual Gathering of the Waters Sunday. These waters will be blessed and used in baptisms throughout the year.

**On Sunday, September 10**, Rally Sunday, we kick-off a new program year and return to two services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with Faith Formation Hour in between 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Blessings and Peace, Nayiri



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

With God, we  
will set the  
table for all  
who hunger  
and thirst.

*We have a new website.  
Come Visit!*

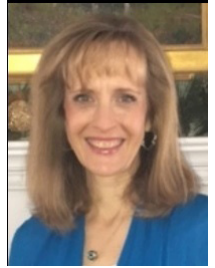




## our new organist

By **Susie Marten**, *Chair of Music & Arts Ministry*

[skmarten@hotmail.com](mailto:skmarten@hotmail.com)



I am SO excited to welcome our new organist, **David Acton**, to First Congregational! He is a fellow Michigander who just graduated with his Master's degree from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. David submitted his application and resumé back in November, eventually came out for an interview weekend, and even stepped in to play in church on Sunday while he was here! We offered him the position and he accepted. David's first official Sunday as our organist will be July 2, 2017, and there will be a reception for him with coffee and cake following the (one) summer service at 9:30 a.m. in the Founders' Room.

David began playing the organ in church when he was in the EIGHTH grade. He has experience in accompanying choirs of various ages, sizes, and strengths, as well as training in choral conducting and vocal pedagogy. His training in music also includes significant focus on the French horn, instrumental conducting, composition, and orchestration. As David put it, "I have found that this variety of knowledge, perspective, exposure, and experience is something which has been invaluable in my overall career as a church musician."

David comes to us from a position as organ scholar at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Kalamazoo, Michigan which included serving as an assistant organist in various capacities, accompanying the choir, providing music for weddings and funerals, and participating on the committee for worship and arts. Sounds like a perfect match, right? Please welcome him in July.

*"I understand that the church organist's responsibility is to do everything possible, even beyond the organ console, to praise God through music. I hope to continue to bring this passion, along with my experience, to First Congregational United Church of Christ."* - **David Acton**





## culture of care

By Rev. Dr. Jacque Franklin, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

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

As defined by the Care Ministries of FCC, "Culture of Care is a congregation of people who through empathic awareness discover the "other" with acceptance, thereby creating safety

and connectivity in the way and likeness of Christ." How does a congregation go about accomplishing that goal?

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** knits and crochets in contemplation and prepares shawls as sacred objects of prayer to those in need of support.
- Trained **Stephen Leaders** and **Stephen Ministers** carry out one-on-one companioning. The Minister of Pastoral Care meets with people who are going through a hard or vulnerable time. She recommends Stephen Ministers to walk with them as long as is needed or wanted.
- The **Congregational Nurse** visits with people who are enduring medical health issues. As an RN, she is trained to advocate on a patient's behalf and to encourage him or her to seek medical help and contact the doctor when needed.
- The **Health Ministry Team** conducts surveys and creates healthy learning opportunities like the recent Mental Health First Aid class. They oversee other Care Ministries like **Cooking School**; **U Care Casseroles** (home-cooked frozen meals for anyone who needs them.)
- The **Visitation Team** visits people who are unable to come to church. Their main goal is to keep people connected.
- The **Flower Ministry** delivers flowers to members and friends who have just had surgery or are going through a trying time.
- "Chariots For Hire" **Transportation Ministry** offers members and friends rides to church activities.
- Various support groups such as **Grief Education Group** and **Caregiver Support Group** are encouraged.

All of these ministries send representative to a **Care Coordination Team**. The CCT meets once a month to support each other and to evaluate our "Culture of Care." Together we set the intention of our congregation being a safe and caring community, thereby establishing a "Culture of Care." For more information about any of these ministries please contact **Rev. Jacque Franklin** ([jacque@fcucc.org](mailto:jacque@fcucc.org) 719.635.3549)

CULTURE  
of CARE



## invitation to read and reflect

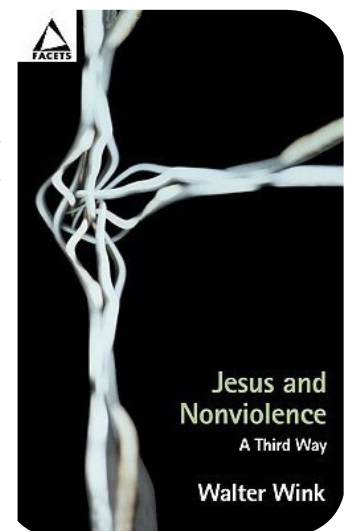
By Ani Rose Whaleswan, *Sunday Sexton*

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

"Jesus' sayings about nonretaliation are of one piece with his challenge to love our enemies. Here it is enough to remark that Jesus did not advocate non-violence merely as a technique for out-witting the enemy, but as a just means of opposing the enemy in such a way as to hold open the possibility of the enemy's becoming just as well. Both sides must win. We are summoned to pray for our enemies' transformation, and to respond to ill treatment with a love that is not only godly but also, I am convinced, can only be found in God" (p. 46, *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way*). Two copies of this book by Walter Wink are now available in the Gregg Library.

A small group has been studying and praying together with this book. We are interested in more study and reconciliatory time together to meet JUSTLY the outer and inner oppressor. Interested in starting up again in September?

Contact **Ani Rose Whaleswan** at [livingstonesunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:livingstonesunlimited@gmail.com) (or Sunday mornings in the Kitchen).







## The search is underway

By Jill Robinson, Co-Chair of the Search Committee

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Our search committee has been incredibly busy in recent weeks as our work is actively focused in Step 3, "Consider All Candidates." This phase of the process charges us with getting to know the applicants that are interested in our Lead Minister position so that we can move to Step 4 in which we're actually "Selecting Candidates." Want to know more?

**Step 3: Considering All Candidates.** This is an on-going and time-intensive step for the committee. We're actively receiving applications and profiles

from prospective candidates, and we are in the process of assessing the fit between real people (we're now moving from the theoretical "search" to the tangible process—it's exciting!) and our beloved First Congregational Church.

The applications follow a standard UCC format: candidate résumés (educational and ministerial); essay questions on their strengths and passions, call to ministry, areas of improvement, 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, while others we will want to engage further to assess whether we want to move them to interviews. We have several in the latter category now. 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!

You can stay updated on the specifics by visiting the Search Committee half of the bulletin board in the Founders' Room, but we know we're going to be busy reviewing résumés and interviewing candidates this spring!

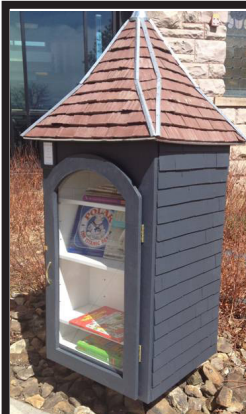
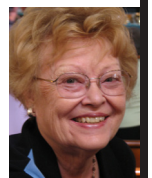
### **Communication in general.**

Expect to hear from us regularly here in *The Communicator* and via eblasts; in addition, we'll update you as a congregation during worship on a monthly basis, and search committee members wear buttons that say, "Ask me about the Search!"—so, if you have a question, stop one of us!

## summer at the gregg

By Jeanie Tate, Gregg Library Librarian

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



One of Gregg Library's most surprising projects over the last three years has been the Little Library (outside). **Angie Adams** launched the idea with **Rose Enyeart** and **Nance McCullough**. **Jerry Jordan** designed and built the six-shelf, revolving masterpiece. Have you noticed its roof is modeled after our church's roof? With a few updates, it has held its own against snow, wind and vigorous use and has been extremely popular with both congregation and neighborhood. However, we have a problem – not enough books. Usually we have been buried in donations, but for the last few months, no books, especially children's. Book lovers – you know who you are – giving up books is hard to do even if you may never read them again? Move 'em on! The Little Library needs them.

One of the Gregg's biggest unknowns is how many people actually find books using our online catalog. With our sleek new website design it's easy to find. Go to [www.fcucc.org](http://www.fcucc.org). On the top bar select "who we are." Next find Gregg Library on the black bar, Search Books, and the link that appears. You are there! We know approximately 1200 people have visited the online catalog since it was posted. That's low. Is there a problem searching? Is it easier just to browse shelves and find titles? Do we not have the right books? Consider the following tips.

If you are actually in the Library and want something specific, use the library computer. Directions are posted on the counter to your right. After entering a search term, choose Match Phrase from the drop down choices. Checkout slips are available. To reserve a title, email me at [jeneanetate@yahoo.com](mailto:jeneanetate@yahoo.com). Obviously, we can't compete with the public library but consider our children's collection. It has a depth in spirituality not always found in larger libraries. Hours are pretty relaxed in the library during the summer, but if you have questions, just email me—we love the business.



## youth in for a summer of gusto and Learning

By Candace Datz, Director of Youth and Adult Ministries

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

Summer is here! Hurrah! Rather than being a time to decompress though, our youth are busy doing all sorts of things. Road trips with family, vacations to see grandparents, summer classes, volunteer projects. Our youth aren't just preparing for their future lives; they're living their lives with purpose and gusto now!

One of the ways that we're helping them engage meaningfully with the world is through our annual youth mission trips. Thanks to the support and financial backing of this incredible congregation, twenty-seven youth and five adults will be heading out on two trips this June. Our middle schoolers will be going back to La Puente in Alamosa, Colorado, June 11-15. And our high schoolers will be road tripping out to Chicago, Illinois to work with an organization called DOOR, June 24-July 2.



At La Puente, our 6th-8th graders will be practicing their skills of empathy and compassion, working with kids who have experienced trauma. We will prepare and serve meals at a homeless shelter, work in a community garden, and do other service projects. Our main goals are for our youngest youth to get a feel for what service and charity looks like outside of our city, to have a transformative experience, and to begin to learn about the justice and compassion work that we are called to as followers of Jesus.

In Chicago, our 9th-12th graders will be practicing their listening and critical thinking skills. The organization that we are working with, DOOR, has centers in multiple cities around the country, and works to partner youth and young adults with meaningful encounters with difference. Rather than seeing this as a service trip, we are preparing our teens for a profound learning



experience, one that will hopefully

shape how they understand their world and their role in it. We are not the white saviors from the suburbs coming to the inner city with help and wisdom. Instead, we are humble learners, looking to expand our frameworks and perspectives, build deliberate and intentional relationships with people who are different, and from that, have a better understanding of our proper place in the world.

Please be praying for our teens and leaders, that we might be open to the Spirit of God in all of the ways that it decides to show up. Our middle schoolers are **Anna Apotheker, Tessa Brahler, Jaslyn Buchanan, Ella Bundgaard, Hana Chiroux, Ivy Chiroux, Maren Felps, Ellen Francis, Eli Hauber, Xander Kellner, Sarah Newborough, Elijah Price, Sylvie Robinson, Anna Shelton, and Jessica Shelton.** Our leaders for that trip are **Charlotte Bundgaard, Candace Datz,** and a yet to be determined male chaperone! The teens on the high school trip are **Cedar Atkinson, Nora Brachtenbach, Owen Beute, Sam Brooks, Daniella Cardin, Julia Getty, Eliot Laffely, Emi Laffely, Annabel Lewis, Giles Lewis, Thea Roland, and Matilda Winters.** Our leaders are **Emma Brachtenbach, Candace Datz, and Tom Francis.**

Thank you for your support and care!

# POPS

## Join us!

**June 10 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Home of Jacques Franklin**  
**& Tom Francis**

(319 Millstream Terrace)

You are invited to this  
COOKOUT event!

**(Parents Out**  
**Partying Somewhere)**

For more info, contact **Tom Francis**  
(719.510.9108 / [tomfrancispsyd@gmail.com](mailto:tomfrancispsyd@gmail.com)).

TO BE ADDED TO THE POPS MAILING  
LIST, PLEASE CONTACT JANE  
RIDINGS ([janeRIDINGS@hotmail.com](mailto:janeRIDINGS@hotmail.com)).



# summer storytime: *our shared stories*

By Del Hokanson, Director of Children and Family Ministries

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



**OUR SHARED WORLD, OUR SHARED STORIES:** Pastor Nayiri has reminded us of the importance of sharing our stories through this transition period in our community. In conversations with the leaders of the Islamic, Jewish, and Buddhist Faith Communities for this year's summer camp, we came to the agreement that this year's theme would be "Our Shared World, Our Shared Stories." Perhaps through the current national and global tremors and transitions, our stories rise to the surface to help us navigate through perceived prejudices and misunderstandings. We are planning that the children of this year's camp will reflect upon their grandparents' and parents' stories that, in fact, become their stories too. How did we all end up in Colorado Springs? We are also planning on selecting a story from each of our Faith Scriptures to be the helm of each day. Chances are our children may recognize that FCC's feature story about Moses is actually in the *Koran* and the *Torah* too. Perhaps they may realize that these three faiths come from the same Abrahamic story. Perhaps they will understand that the Buddhist story may not share a same set of details but that certain truths resonate with all of our stories. Our goal is that children will discover through relationship that they have much more in common than is different. Perhaps the children can show us the way!

Talking about storytelling, as follow up to last year's camp, I have been asked to share the story of what and how we came to create a Multi Faith Camp here in Colorado Springs.

- Leanne Hadley in Tennessee coordinated an OoVoo opportunity for me to represent our story during April, to six other Children's

Leaders and also recorded that presentation, relaying it onto 85 of her church communities

- Practical Church Resources from New Jersey also organized a webinar with me that was recorded on May 11 and is now available on their site for anyone to be able to log in and access.
- John Dorhauer, our UCC President, has asked me to share nine photos and 90 seconds of this story as part of his sermon at the Annual Synod, held this year in Baltimore over the July 4th weekend.

## SUMMER STORYTIME

Sunday, June 11, 5:00 p.m.

Reinforcing the summer theme and significance of stories, the Children's Ministry team is planning a fun family night, featuring PJs, pizza and stories. The purpose is to create opportunities for families to get to know each other, and to introduce more people to the spiritual gifts and beautiful selection of books compiled by our brilliant librarian Jeanie Tate that are available in the Children's Section of the Gregg Library. There will be invitations to parents to borrow books over the summer to help establish intimate and spiritual shared times in summer family homes.

*continued on page 8.*



## children's and family ministries *continued.*

### SUMMER KC WORSHIP - STORIES.

Beginning on May 28, Sundays will transition to single services at 9:30 a.m. with a hiatus of Godly Play and Sunday School as there is no Faith Formation Hour. We will continue offering KC Worship each week except on Multi-Generational Worship Sundays. Our summer theme will also align with the story focus, with children using their prayer station locations to reflect upon their previous week's stories recording them in their personal summer Story Journals.

The writing or drawing prompts will be:

#### POW

*what was hard last week?*

#### WOW

*what was amazing or fun?*

#### HOW

*how did they feel the presence of God in their week?*

My plan is to have Bible stories of women each Sunday as our scriptural base and entry point to worship.

In reinforcing **Pastor Nayiri's** words, I quote a Native American proverb:

*"Tell me the facts and I'll learn.  
Tell me the truth and I'll believe.  
But tell me a story and it will  
live in heart forever."*



**SAVE THE DATES!**

**August 25 - 27, 2017**

**A weekend for all  
ages at La Foret!**

**Watch the bulletin for  
further details!**



*Dads checking in*



*Families getting closer*



*Parents building community*



*Parents getting connected*



## plymouth circle celebrates fcc's connection to the past and the future

By Lynne Stefonik, Council Member for Care and Fellowship

[stefolc@comcast.net](mailto:stefolc@comcast.net)



It is the stories of people in our church that make up the history of FCC. These stories began when Colorado Springs was a small town on the prairie, in the "horse-and-buggy days, when travel was difficult, and paving was nonexistent."

The story of Plymouth Circle, which decided to end its ministry on April 17, 2017, is an important one to tell, as it speaks to service within FCC from the past to the present day. Circles never end. They only evolve and change, and Plymouth Circle's origins reach to the beginning of the church, on Sunday, October 25, 1874. In November 1874, the Ladies Aid Society was created. In May 1875, the Ladies Missionary Society was formed. The purposes of these groups included fellowship, material aid work, and support for foreign and local missions. In 1896, these groups were combined into the Women's Union that had 100 members.

In 1901, there was a reorganization into "Twenties," groups of twenty women. There were eight well-established groups of twenty women, and the Plymouth Twenty was one of these groups, designed for women living north of Espanola Street. In 1925, the number of groups was reduced to five, and in 1955, the "Twenties" became "Circles." By 1964, Circles had increased and their names included Pioneer, Del Norte, Plymouth, Mayflower, Columbine, Night Owls, and Friendship.

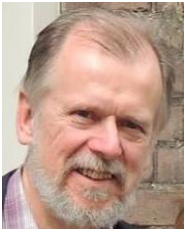
In 1973, all Circles but one, Mayflower Circle, existed. But, the number of participants continued to decrease as women joined the workforce and were unable to meet during the day. Plymouth Circle, with its creativity and variety of programming, remained active until 2017.

Most importantly, in 1979, the "doors of leadership" were officially opened to women. That year, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the first UCC National Meeting of Women for Leadership and Development was held. FCC sent two women as delegates to this meeting.

"We should never try to outrun our history. Very little of what seems new to the present congregation lacks some historical precedence." We are reminded that change is constant. While our vision remains, our church activities evolve. The ministry of Plymouth Circle continues in other ways.

We give thanks to God and celebrate the Plymouth Circle ministry among us. We are especially grateful because Plymouth Circle members decided to give their remaining funds to mission trips for Youth and to the new landscaping project for our "front porch" at FCC. This continues their legacy of care and fellowship, helping us to share our stories, connect with each other and circle, with faith, into the future.

\*Information from FCC Archives, *The FCC Scrapbook*, and *The History of the First Congregational United Church of Christ*.



## A peek in the past: south congregational

By **Chris Steenbergen**, *Church Historian*

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

For several years, Rev. Richard Bristol, "Blind Preacher Bristol," and others at FCC promoted the idea that a sister church be started in the south of Colorado Springs, where FCC already operated a Sunday school. Fifteen FCC members, among them charter member William Weed and early member Elisabeth Campbell, took the leap of faith and in 1889 founded the South Congregational Church of Colorado Springs, soon to be called "Second Congregational." With financial assistance from FCC and several individual donors, a new building was erected at 407 South Tejon, and within a year of its completion in 1890, it was debt free. The parsonage next door though was heavily mortgaged with the mortgage payments taken out of the salary of the first pastor, Rev. Manly Ormes.



*South (Second) Congregational Church and next door parsonage, with insert of Rev. Manly Ormes depicted on a souvenir ashtray; from FCC archives*



MEMBERS OF "THE CHURCH OF LONG LIFE AND LOVE"

Ormes gave us a rare insight into the church by including his "letter to the pastor and members of the Second Congregational Church in the year of our Lord 2001" in the Century Chest time capsule. In it he complained about the lack of financial commitment, praised the choir as "an unusually good one, which has never had any trouble," and mentioned that the church "was trying to improve the city – get all the water we can" (a reference to landscaping?). Rev. Ormes indicated that the relatively small membership was generally poor and came from the fringes of other congregations.

After, for unknown reasons, in 1904, Ormes and seventeen others left for FCC. Second Church soldiered on under pastors Adna W. Moore (1905 – 1913), F. C. Holbrook (1916 – 1918), and S. C. Dickinson (1919 – 1925). The only notable fact that Dickinson could find about his church appeared to be that it held six couples that had been married for over fifty years. He published this highlight in the 1919 *American Home Missionary*.

Second Congregational did not rejuvenate in the early 1940s like FCC did. The church was dissolved on May 5, 1948 and eleven members joined FCC. The building, remodeled in Spanish style, served till 1979 as Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, but it is presently just the Guadalupe Building.



*Present day Guadalupe building at 407 South Tejon*



# Leadership cultivation committee update

By **Jessica Gemm**, Chair of LCC

[jess.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:jess.robinson@gmail.com)



How does a community as vibrant and multifaceted as ours make key decisions and steward our collective resources? What is the impact you want to have? What gifts do you have to share with our congregation? The Leadership Cultivation Committee has gathered several times since the January 2017 Annual Meeting to craft our goals toward the vision of creating a lasting leadership pipeline and support system. Through our Faith Formation series during Lent, we focused on a range of leadership skills such as empathy, self-awareness, and feedback.

In addition to cultivating leadership gifts, we are also actively looking to match the passions and gifts of FCUCC members with leadership positions on our Church Council. If this interests you, we invite you to either talk with a member of the LCC or visit the Leadership Cultivation Committee's web page at <http://www.fcucc.org/who-we-are/leadership>.

## These are the upcoming Council positions (starting in late January 2018):

- **Council Member for Outreach**

This Council member oversees FCUCC's connections to and support of the wider community, primarily through Mission Giving & Outreach and Justice & Peace Ministry. Having an understanding of the needs of the greater Colorado Springs community and a passion for living out Jesus' teachings are two qualities that would be helpful in taking on this role.

- **Council Member for Worship & Spiritual Life**

This Council member partners with the Director of Music & Arts to plan and support the range of worship offerings on Sundays, as well as the development of spiritual life programming outside of Sundays. Some understanding of liturgy and experience building sustainable programs are preferences for this role.

- **Secretary of the Council**

The Secretary supports the work of the Council by recording and reporting on its meetings to the congregation and liaising with key groups such as Risk Reduction, HR Committee, and LCC. Key qualities to thrive in this role include a love of being behind the scenes and finding true joy in the details!

Additionally, the Leadership Cultivation Committee is also open to applications from those interested in joining LCC:

- **Members for the Leadership Cultivation Committee**

LCC members bring a diversity of perspectives and involvement to building leadership in our church from 'connectors' who love meeting and getting to know people, to those who are great at discerning people's strengths and potential, to those who just care about building leadership abilities within FCC.

In addition to self-nominations, we welcome referrals of others you believe would bring positive impact for these or future openings. Through conversations and interviews, LCC will identify the roster of candidates to present to the Congregation in the January issue of *The Communicator* for information at the 2018 Annual Meeting for a vote.

The Leadership Cultivation Committee is energized by the talent in our congregation, and we look forward to finding out what passions and vision you would like to bring to a leadership role in our church. For more information, please e-mail or call **Jessica Gemm** ([jess.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:jess.robinson@gmail.com) / 617.335.5040), Chair of the Leadership Cultivation Committee, or reach out to any LCC member.



## Interfaith PB & J All Church Picnic

**June 4 - 11:00 a.m.**

**First Baptist Church**

This year's picnic is being hosted by First Baptist Church! Following on from last year's inaugural picnic hosted by us, we will meet at First Baptist after our church service and connect with other local denominations who support Ecumenical Social Ministries. We bring the peanut butter and any leftovers are donated to ESM. Let's make sure we have enough of us to honor their commitment to hosting and our commitment to building relationship with others around us.



**PLEASE JOIN US!**



congregational life: April 23 - May 21

By **Emily Bond**, *Communications Coordinator*

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

**THANK YOU** to **Ceil Malek** who was one of our liturgists this past month. Our guest preachers have included **Arshad Yousufi** and **Peter Rollins** and this year's **Confirmants** led worship on May 7. Great thanks to the **JWW Lectureship Team** for the amazing coordination of this year's Lectureship Series. Thank you to **Mindy Matthes**, **Jill Wright**, **Claire Radtke**, **Stephanie Brown**, and **Rosanna Czarnecki** for their assistance with KC Worship, and to **Gayle Jordan** who helped as a Godly Play substitute facilitator. The **Health Ministry Team** sponsored a well-attended Mental Health First Aid Workshop. **Lynn Barber** and **Russ Ware** added great tunes in special music; **Marta** and **Gordon McKay** donated a much-needed storage cabinet, **Evan Latimer** finished as one of our valued Nursery Attendant! Major thanks to all who have provided such loving care for our kids in Godly Play Worship and in the Spring Sunday School.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Emma Brachtenbach** who was the recipient of the Anabel and Jerry McHugh Director's Award at Colorado College. **Lynne** and **John Stefanik** were congratulated on the birth of their grandson, **Owen Michael**, who was born April 26. Congratulations were extended to **Victoria Hansen**, **Jay Norman**, and **Shannon Kilzer** for their successful run of *The Mikado* with the Opera Theatre of the Rockies. Congratulations to **All Graduates** of 2017!

**PRAYERS** are given to **Titus Rasmussen**, **Elizabeth Boardman's** five month-old grandson who underwent major heart surgery. **Shirley Skirvin** has been ill at home, and **Doris Fletcher's** daughter, **Shayla** has had health concerns. **Frank Koenigsamen**, **Marcy McNeill** and **Charlie Hall** are all in cancer treatment and receiving prayers. **Ed Holman** continues with physical therapy, as does **Lenore Poulson**. **Debra Buenting**, **Ann McClellan**, and **Donna Drake** are recovering from surgery. **Chris Pease's** mother, **Mary Brandesky** was hospitalized and **Joyce Aubrey** is preparing for surgery. **John Boles** is recovering at home and **Jean Barton** was moved to a nursing home in Paonia, Colorado.

**CONDOLENCES** are given to **Bruce Downs**, whose father in Arizona died May 16. **Margaret Reiber** lost her uncle, **Darrell Nelson** who passed away in Pueblo at the age of 91.



## welcome new members!

By **Rev. Jacque Franklin**, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

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



### DEBRA BUENTING

**Debra** came to FCC looking for an open-minded church. She's already involved in Faith Formation Hour and would like to be involved in the JWW Lectureship group and music. Despite having traveled the world, she chooses to make her home in Colorado Springs. She is interested in LGBTQ issues, theology, and education.

### CLAIRE RADTKE

**Claire** is already active in our church. She is married to Mark and they are parents of Amelia who is a kindergartner and Sawyer who is two years old. Amelia brought her family to church. She attended a Christian preschool and decided she wanted to attend church. They looked for a progressive church in which to raise their children and found us. Claire is a 4th grade teacher with passions and interests in the outdoors, music, children and politics. Claire has similar interests and played the French horn for fifteen years. She is on the Children's Ministry Team and would like to be involved with youth as well.

### AL SAIZ

**Al** decided to join this congregation after singing with Out Loud Men's Chorus. He and his partner have been together for twenty-four years. He was looking for an open and affirming church, and he found us! He is involved in a Nine to Dine group and would like to sing in the choir. He is a realtor who loves food, movies, and friends.

# MG+O market



## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES!

### ESM IS IN NEED OF SOME THINGS:

|                                   |            |                   |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| shampoo                           | soap       | razors            |
| deodorant                         | baby wipes | feminine products |
| diapers (all sizes)               | socks      | new underwear     |
| men's pants (jeans, khakis, etc.) |            |                   |

Travel size and giant size bottles (which they pour into smaller bottles) are the two most helpful sizes for shampoo. We have a box in the Atrium for folks to deposit these items.

**If you know of volunteer opportunities to share, please contact Blake Pelton to have them added to the Market:** [bpelton@fos.edu](mailto:bpelton@fos.edu).



## A conversation with peter rollins: grace, doubt, and community

By **Mike Matthews**, FCC Member

[lmatt222@comcast.net](mailto:lmatt222@comcast.net)

**Peter Rollins**, 44, a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, was this year's James W. White Lectureship Series Lecturer. He is widely known for overturning traditional notions of religion and forming 'churches' that preach "the Good News that we can't be satisfied, that life is difficult, and that we don't know the secret." He often autographs books with the paradoxical phrase, *May God rid you of God*.

Rollins earned degrees, including a Ph.D., at Queens University, Belfast, in scholastic philosophy, political theory and post-structural thought. He is the author of several books, including *Insurrection*,

*The Idolatry of God* and *The Divine Magician*. He currently lives in Los Angeles.



**Mike Matthews**, a member of FCC, interviewed him on the way to the airport after his three-day visit May 12-14, hoping to learn how his background has influenced his work and what he seeks to achieve with it. Here is part of that edited conversation:

**Mike Matthews:** You grew up during "The Troubles," between Catholics and Protestants, in Northern Ireland. How did that affect you?

**Peter Rollins:** Sometimes, when you're so close to something, it's hard to know the effect. I got more insight into how The Troubles influenced me when I read other people writing about it, and that was a wonderful experience.

What I discovered is that I grew up in a very divided society, with peace walls everywhere, where we tried to find victims and people to blame for more complicated political and religious issues, and so I think that's marked my work.

I'm interested in how do we break down the walls within us in the same way as how do we break down walls that divide people. My work, I suppose, has a lot to do with how we dismantle those walls.

**MM:** Is it a kind of reconciliation?

**PR:** Yes. My initial work brought together Catholics and Protestants, different sides of the community, and we kind of explored life together. The idea was not to offend anybody, so we offended everybody. We made sure we challenged everybody in the room.

**MM:** Is the heart and soul of your work reconciliation?

**PR:** That could definitely be a lens through which you could understand the work, in the sense of reconciliation with each other and with ourselves. The truth is, grace is difficult for us all. It's difficult for us to give it to other people, difficult to give it to ourselves.

The psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan once noted that Jesus was right when he said 'love your neighbor as you love yourself.' But, in fact, we hate our neighbor so much because we hate ourselves so much. So, yeah, that's a lens through which you could view my work.



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**MM:** You mentioned that you've had some experience in the charismatic fundamental tradition. What was that like for you?

**PR:** You know, for me, it was incredibly liberating. That was my awakening to the world of religion. That environment helped me to see that there was some spirit, some life, in theology, and that there was something important happening in the rituals of church, including its art and its music, in what I call the liturgical experience of 'transformance art.'

So even though I kind of moved beyond that to a different place, that experience was really my awakening into the work that I do today. Actually, I think a lot of my work today is trying to unpack the experience I had when I was 17 and in that charismatic church, and to understand it, because there was something liberating happening there that I return to always in my work.

**MM:** What's the most important thing we experience when we encounter the other, someone who is different from ourselves?

**PR:** What for me is truly the most disturbing thing about another person, one who has different beliefs and practices, is that actually they expose my otherness to myself. At first, they're monstrous and weird, but then I see myself through their eyes, and I go, oh, my goodness, am I monstrous and weird?

But, for me, the most exciting thing about meeting the other is that the other destabilizes us and de-centers us and gets us to think in fresh ways about how we see the world.

**MM:** I've gathered from your talks both the necessity of community and the necessity of doubt. How is that?

**PR:** Partly because doubt is so difficult. I like to say that to believe is human, to doubt is divine, because it's relatively easy to take on the beliefs and practices of your culture. But when you come to question the foundational political and religious beliefs that you've been brought up with, you can find yourself isolated, alone, and other people judge you but, worse, you judge yourself.

You have this inner voice telling you that you can't do that, you can't ask that question. And so, it's at those times that you most need community, that you most need people around you who are doing that journey with you, and have grace for you.

**MM:** You've mentioned grace a few times. How would you describe grace?

**PR:** It's supernatural in that it's not something you can see. In that sense, we can all agree that grace is supernatural without necessarily saying that means we believe in God or not. But I think we can all say that grace is something that we want to experience. Grace comes first, and everything else follows from that. Grace is that binding thing that saves us.



**MM:** You've established groups in various places, based on your work and through your website [[www.peterrollins.com](http://www.peterrollins.com)]. How does that work?

**PR:** I helped set up a community in Belfast and one in New York. There's a community in LA that I take an active part in. And then there are some places where communities just spring up and do their own thing, and I'll maybe occasionally go and hang out with them.

That's ultimately what I want. I don't want a cookie cutter model. This can happen in both conservative churches and liberal churches. It can happen in radical communities. It can happen anywhere. And I just hope that my work can help a little bit in peoples' journeys. That's my main desire.



## electronic giving, text to give, and mobile giving: oh my!

By **Ruth Roland**, *Director of Financial Ministries*

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

Have you noticed that the offering plate is almost empty on Sunday mornings with hardly enough cash and checks to cover the bottom? What's going on? Is the offering plate becoming obsolete?

At first glance, trends do seem to point to offering plate obsolescence. In 2015, 32 percent of consumer transactions were made with cash, compared with 40 percent in 2012. Growing consumer comfort with payment cards and the growth of online commerce, among other factors, contribute to this trend. (Matheny, W., O'Brien, S., & Wang, C., 2016, "The State of Cash: Preliminary Findings from the 2015 Diary of Consumer Payment Choice [Abstract]" *FedNotes*. Retrieved May 12, 2017, from:

[www.frbsf.org/cash/publications/fed-notes/2016/november/state-of-cash-2015-diary-consumer-payment-choice](http://www.frbsf.org/cash/publications/fed-notes/2016/november/state-of-cash-2015-diary-consumer-payment-choice)).

The usage of checks has also plummeted in the U.S. in recent years. In 2000, checks were used in more than 40 billion transactions; that number is down to less than 20 billion, based on a survey conducted in October 2012 (Phillips, M., 2014, June 5, *The Atlantic*, "The Spectacular Decline of Checks").

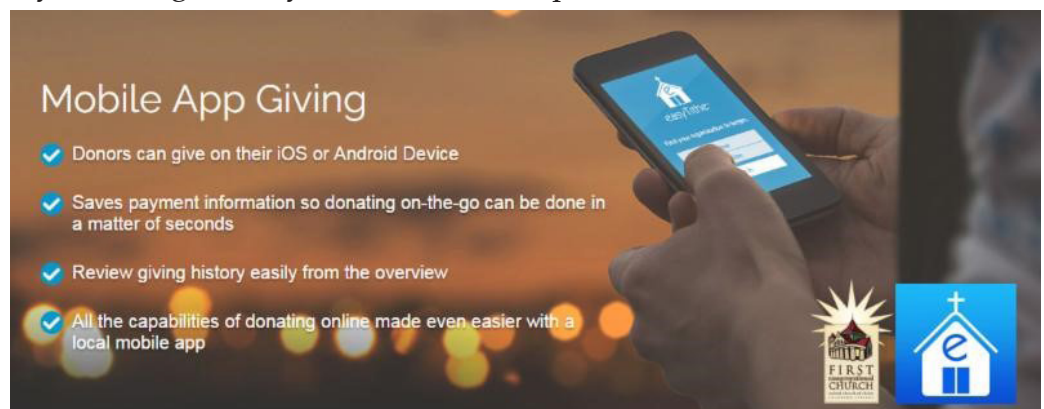
In our church, we have offered electronic giving through a personal checking or savings account for almost 15 years; in 2015, we added the ability to give with a credit card. Today, we have almost 200 families who give regularly in this way. That's a lot of people who don't add anything to the offering plate on Sunday morning because they've already given!

In recognition of these trends in giving methods away from cash and checks, the church recently added the option of **Text to Give** and an **EasyTithe** mobile app for smart phones. These options may seem a bit odd to those of us who are traditionalists when it comes to giving, but these new giving methods are being used by visitors and members.

Does this mean that passing the offering plate will soon become an obsolete practice? No! In ancient times, the faithful offered tangible gifts of their labor as they worshipped God. In our post-modern world, the act of giving remains an integral part of our communal worship of God even as our offerings have become more symbolic of our labor.

The offering plate remains that tangible reminder that all we have comes from God and that we are charged with returning a portion of our wealth to help do God's work. Therefore, touching the offering plate as it is passed on Sunday morning is truly an act of worship, and as such will never become obsolete.

Whether you give annually, electronically, via text or app, with cash or check, I encourage you to take your time when you touch the offering plate on Sunday morning. This is your moment to remember God's goodness and to offer thanksgiving. The ushers will be happy to wait for you.





## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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*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**

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**David Acton**

*Organist & Administrative Assistant*

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*Nursery Attendant Supervisor*

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*Nursery Attendants*

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*Membership Clerk*

**Chris Steenbergen**

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*(1973-1988)*

**Rev. Dr. James White**

*(1989-2005)*

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*Flowers Coordinator*

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*Flute Choir*

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**Rev. Darlene Avery**

**Rev. Lyn Boudreau**

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**Rev. Pat Dolin**

**Rev. Derek Krehbiel**

**Rev. Patty Walker**

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**Candace Datz, Mallory Everhart**

*Seminarians*

**Logan Bennett,**

**Candace Datz, Mallory Everhart,**

**Samantha Garrett**

*Members in Discernment*

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**Julia Nace**

*Financial Ministries*

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*Financial Advisory*

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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 (September 2017 Issue) is Tuesday, August 15, 2017.**

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

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### **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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