

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

welcome.

THE COMMUNICATOR

OCTOBER, 2017

BE • CONNECT • ENGAGE

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



Floods and hurricanes, forest fires and earthquakes, white supremacist and hate groups, sanctuary and immigration, another terrorist attack, all flood my mind. Our world is in constant motion as always. It continues to overwhelm our daily living and intrude our planned and scheduled days.

In the midst of such tragedy and chaos my heart yearns healing for all, it longs for something deeper, more profound. Perhaps, I seek to go beyond the everyday turmoil, continue to connect with the eternal, the transcendent, the mystical. Perhaps seek to hold a glimpse of the Divine in these chaotic encounters and find meaning in the moment and/or give meaning to it.

Central to my personal faith is the conviction that all life is sacred simply because it is. As God's gift to us, life is blessed. The world and all that is in it is sacred, if we would only see.

This perspective gets difficult to hold when natural disasters destroy and human tragedies devastate. Where is sacredness in a ravaging hurricane, the hallowed in a disastrous tornado? Where is sacredness in an act of hate, horror and violence?

Perhaps, that is exactly our challenge and our calling - to not only find the sacred in suffering, God in our grief, but also to bring the sacred, be its embodiment, in the midst of hate, violence and horror.

So I continue my commitment to discover the sacred in the moment, and my calling to bring sacredness to all experiences. Needless to say, I fail in this endeavor more than I succeed. But my commitment remains firm. I wonder if we can flood the world with love and compassion, drench the earth with grace and peace, and saturate the planet with acts of justice and dignity.

I am grateful for you, FCC community, where we work together to bring sacredness to transform moments of hate to love, and to heal experiences of injustice and tune them to dignity and joy. Our mission and vision, our calling to be the Christian progressive voice in the city continue strong as we speak against injustice and hate, for immigrant rights and human dignity, for interfaith relationships and world peace, and one connected humanity.

As the season for our Annual Appeal for giving, pledging and covenanting with the church commences, I thank you for your generosity and liberal giving to FCC's mission and ministry, and invite you to prayerfully consider your financial gift to the church for 2018 with continued enthusiasm and commitment. 2018 promises to be a year of new beginning for FCC, with a new, settled lead minister, toward a flourishing and thriving ministry as the Spirit guides.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Nayiri



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WORSHIP - OCTOBER 2017

BE • CONNECT • ENGAGE

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17TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, October 1 – World Communion Sunday

Today, during this Multi-Generational service, we celebrate World Communion Sunday by sharing at the Table of Thanksgiving during both services of worship, and we begin our Annual Appeal. **Rev. Nayiri Karjian** preaches on "Abundance and Harmony." The Chancel Choir shares a beautiful piece called "In Meeting We are Blessed" at both services.

18TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, October 8

Today, we lift up our Stephen Ministry and all who serve as Stephen Ministers. We welcome and receive new members. **Rev. Jacque Franklin** preaches. The Flute Choir shares worship music, and the Chancel Choir sings "Cantate Domino" by Giuseppe Pitoni at 11 a.m..

19TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, October 15 (ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9:30 AM)

Today we welcome our CANDIDATE for Lead Minister, who will preach at one service (9:30 a.m.). The Bells of Saint Vrain share worship music, and the Chancel Choir sings "Come and Find the Quiet Center," accompanied by the Bells of St. Vrain. A Congregational Meeting is at 11 a.m.

20TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, October 22 – Historical Sunday

Today we celebrate Historical Sunday as we lift up the story of FCC through the years and give thanks for all those who have enriched its congregational life through their gifts, membership and service. **Rev. Nayiri Karjian** preaches. The Chancel Choir shares John Rutter's arrangement of "How Firm a Foundation" at 11 a.m.

21ST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, October 29

Today we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and lift up our Prayer Shawl Ministry. **Rev. Nayiri Karjian** preaches. The Chancel Choir shares the "Dies Irae" from Mozart's Requiem Mass at 11 a.m.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

AUTUMN SCRIPTURE STUDY

with Pastor Nayiri

Fridays in October • 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited to this time of reflection on biblical texts as we explore them through a Middle Eastern contextual perspective and ancient mythology, and discover their relevance for our lives.

Join us in the Founders' Room for this exciting opportunity to learn, share and discuss.





THE FORUM IN OCTOBER

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

Each Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45 a.m., The Forum meets in the Carey Chapel (located off of the Founders' Room, opposite the Kitchen). For more than 35 years, The Forum has invited speakers on a variety of topics that may be sacred or secular but are always interesting and often challenging.

OCTOBER 1: STEVE KERN - THE ETHICS OF DRIVERLESS CARS: WOULD YOU GET BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A CAR THAT MIGHT CHOOSE TO KILL YOU?

Steve Kern and his wife **Nancy Henjum** have been active members of FCC for decades. Steve has served as *The Communicator* editor, Worship Council director, and chair of the church board. He recently retired from decades at Palmer High School, where he taught English and "Theory of Knowledge" as well as directed the International Baccalaureate program. Over the years, Steve has presented at Forum on the search for the historical Jesus and current insights into moral intuition in emerging fields such as evolutionary psychology and cognitive neuroscience. In this session, he will discuss the programming of driverless cars. Software engineers today confront the unavoidable task of writing code that must digitize human morality. Consider as we will during this session whether driverless cars should be programmed with the option of sacrificing the driver to save a pedestrian. Join Steve for a presentation and discussion about the practical and philosophical implications of designing our cars to make life-and-death decisions without us.

OCTOBER 8: MIKE HALBY - BEE COLONY COLLAPSE

Mike Halby, Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association Secretary, is a retired Army helicopter pilot who developed an interest in hobby beekeeping about 18 years ago. Mike has lived in Colorado Springs over 22 years (this time) and also enjoys golf, woodworking, history, and movies. His wife Sandy spoke to us about bees in January of this year. We welcome Mike back for further discussion of these vitally important insects and the issues facing them, including GMO's, pesticides and colony collapse disorder.

OCTOBER 15: NO FORUM (CANDIDATE WEEKEND)

OCTOBER 22: CHRIS STEENBERGEN – PASSIONS OF OUR PAST; THE ISSUES THAT EXCITED EARLY FCC MEMBERS

Four years ago **Chris Steenbergen** was asked to take the church historian position. He has since then digitized most of the church archives of the past 20 years and transcribed the membership ledgers into a database. In the course of the latter, he came across many interesting facts regarding the lives of our early members, about whom he has been writing monthly vignettes in *The Communicator*. In this History Sunday talk, he will show what excited the early Congregationalists in Colorado Springs.

OCTOBER 29: RICHARD SKORMAN - DISCUSSION OF CURRENT CITY ISSUES IN THE SANCTUARY
 Besides representing Council District 3 and being the City Council President, Richard is the co-owner with his wife Patricia Seator of Poor Richard's Restaurant, Little Richard's Toystore, Rico's Cafe and Wine Bar and Poor Richard's Books and Gifts. Richard is a former two-term City Councilmember from 1999 - 2006, former Vice Mayor from 2003 - 2005, two time Board Chair of PPACG, former CS Park Board Member. Richard was also the Founder and Program Director of the U.S. Environmental Film Festivals in 1990 and 1991, the Conservation Finance Director for the Colorado Trust for Public Land, the Executive Director of the Colorado Environmental Coalition, a Founder and Board Chair of Citizens Project, Co-Director of the Trails, Open Space and Park Initiatives in 1995, 1997 and 2003 and Fundraising Chair for the Stratton Open Space Land Campaign. Join us for an interesting discussion with this devoted public servant!

*The Forum is brought to you through the efforts of your Forum Team: **Ardith Hanson**, **Sean Buchanan**, **Don Allred**, **Bruce Latimer**, **Cathy White**, and **Leah Davis Witherow**. Send your questions, comments, and ideas to **Sean Buchanan** (sean.a.buchanan@gmail.com) or **Ardith Hanson** at ardithmarie@gmail.com. To listen to recorded sessions of The Forum, please visit www.fcucc.org select Faith Formation, and then click on Adult.*

"BEE... CONNECT... ENGAGE"

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



Building on the annual theme of BE...CONNECT... ENGAGE, we will explore the parallels between Kids' Community worship and how bees function and make our world sweeter. Bees cannot do it alone. They gather in community (our sanctuary or our hive, for the sake of the metaphor), CONNECT, dance and learn from scripture and each other, then fly out into the world, ENGAGING with flowers and the beauty of nature, transferring pollen from one plant to another and returning to the hive to work together while creating the gift of sweet honey. As an adult reading this, you can continue to make all the parallel metaphors yourself!

The metaphor of the gift boxes also adds a lot of creativity for our Kids' Community. In KC Worship we will adapt our weekly rituals to include the surprise of opening boxes to discover what our collaborative activity will be that week. On Rally Sunday we created a honeycomb collection of colored plexi-glass jigsaw pieces on which we wrote the gift each one of us brings to the Kids' Community and to the whole FCC community. Each week in the fall, we will open a Music Box or a Jack in the Box to discover the Scripture reading for that week. After practicing collaborative and team building activities at church, we will talk about how to take that unifying sweet energy out into the world and ENGAGE God's love with others and God's creation.



Jeremiah Clarke and Eli Wright working together to create their part of the KC Worship honeycomba collection of gifts all the kids bring our community.

Most of all though, we will be practicing how to BE...to gather and sing together in full-bodied expressions at the start of our worship. We then use breath and yoga to deepen into moments of silence and discovery – how to BE closer to God and remind us that God is with us every moment. It is we who need to pause and CONNECT and ENGAGE with God in prayer.

On Rally Sunday in Sunday School classrooms, teachers, kids and parents CONNECTED with a team-building activity. Each class had a unifying theme that burst out of their gift boxes that were displayed in the Atrium. Hopefully you can make the CONNECTION to the gift wrappings. The Preschool/Kindy team, led by **Ty Clarke** and **Aaron Brown**, created leafy branches. 1st Grade OWL, led by **Polly Strovink** and **Brad Mikaelian**, created



Kids connecting and playing together with the array of boxes at the Rally Day picnic.

people chains. 2nd Grade, led by **Jill Cameron** and **Regina Kornmesser**, created Lego boxes that build together. 3rd Grade Bible Workshop, led by **Cathy White** and **David Bribach**, created books of the Bible. 4th/5th Grade, led by **Heather DeZarn** and **Alison Gerbig**, created emojis. The Multi-Generational Choir, guided by **Mandy Todd**, then CONNECTED everyone together in song.

Please honor and thank all of these teachers as they ENGAGE their gift of time and energy for and with our children.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN OCTOBER

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION I

(meets in the Gregg Library - 9:45 a.m.)

Quest – noun \ˈkwɛst\ : a long and arduous search for something.

Our journeys of faith are rarely easy or uncomplicated. Life throws curveballs that challenge our beliefs and core identities. We are confronted with new information that shakes our previously held understandings. We are on a quest for truth and identity and purpose.



This fall during the Faith Formation Hour, we will be reintroducing our semester-long class called “Quest,” intended to engage our congregation in relevant questions regarding faith, the church, and the Bible. Retired UCC minister **Elizabeth Vincent** will be facilitating this weekly class, using an incredible curriculum called “Animate: Faith” as its cornerstone. The curriculum is composed of a short video to introduce the topic (for example, week one’s video has past JWW lecturer Brian McLaren presenting on “God: Faith is a Quest”), and then we will be guided by group conversation, questions, and thoughts. Following the week that uses the Animate curriculum, one of our church’s many gifted clergy will expound on the topic in what we’re calling the “Clergy Challenge.”

We are excited for Quest to once again be a place where people at any stage of the faith journey will be able to grow deeper in their faith, confront questions that will challenge and enlighten them, and develop greater relationships with others in the community. Bring your questions, your doubts, your beliefs, your sureties—bring yourself—to the table at Quest.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION II

(meets in the Music Room - 9:45 a.m.)



This October, join the Young Families group for some good old-fashioned get together time, as this group looks to provide safe and comfortable

space to bring your joys, sorrows, confusions, and frustrations around parenting young ones. Stay tuned to the bulletin each week for more specific descriptions of the kinds of conversations that will be happening throughout the month!



FAITH FORMATION WITH THE YOUTH!

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



Our youth need to know you!

Yes, you—the one reading this article (I promise you that none of the youth are reading this). Your story and experiences are important for the youth of our congregation to know and engage with. And you need to know them!

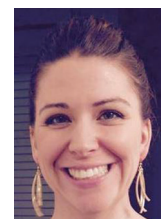
Their vitality and creative outlook on life will boost your energy and help you continue your learning process. "But **Candace**, I don't know how to start a conversation with them on Sunday mornings," you protest! Well, do I have a proposal for you!

Each first Sunday of the month is Multi-Generational Sunday at Primo Congo, you know that. We're making it Multi-Gen Sunday in the Youth Group as well! I'm looking for older folks (meaning, older than youth!) to contact me about your possible interest in coming to youth group to share a story or a devotional or an artistic endeavor with the teens. If you are interested in talking about this possibility, even if you don't have something specific in mind, please contact me (719.635.3549, ex. 213 / candace@fcucc.org) so that we can have a chat and plan a fun and informative time together!



CHILDREN'S CHOIR AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

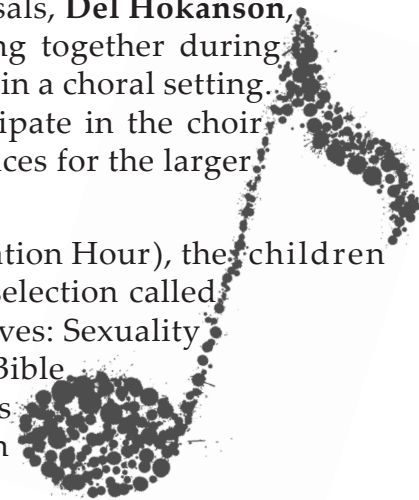
by **Mandy Todd**, Director of Music & Arts Ministry
mandy@fcucc.org



Over the course of the last program year, as we worked to provide music opportunities without an organist, it became clear that our children's choir, Joyful Noise, should take a hiatus.

I'm happy to announce that Joyful Noise Children's Choir will resume this program year in a new format. Instead of asking families to return to FCC for weekly rehearsals, **Del Hokanson**, Director of Children's and Family Ministries, and I will be working together during Faith Formation Hour to create opportunities for our children to sing in a choral setting. We trust that this will give more children an opportunity to participate in the choir and learn about the role musicians have in creating worship experiences for the larger community.

During October from 9:45-10 a.m. (the first 15 minutes of Faith Formation Hour), the children in kindergarten, second, fourth and fifth grades will learn a choral selection called "This is the Day" by Ken Berg. (First graders will be in Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith classes, and third graders will be in Third Grade Bible Workshop.) The choir will share the piece in both worship services on Sunday, November 5. We hope you'll be able to join us that day in worship!





HOW WILL YOU SET THE TABLE FOR OUR NEW LEAD MINISTER?

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

As I write these words, we appear to be on the verge of announcing our new Lead Minister candidate. Alleluia! Huge gratitude and thanks to the Search Committee members who have worked so diligently to bring us to this moment.

With the work of the Search Committee nearly finished, it's now our turn to discern how we will support the new Lead Minister and their ministry with our beloved church. Yes, we have done a lot of good work during the transition period with **Pastor Nayiri** to prepare ourselves for this change. Still, we can expect brand new ministry opportunities on one hand and new challenges in our world community on the other in 2018. How will we engage individually and as a congregation?

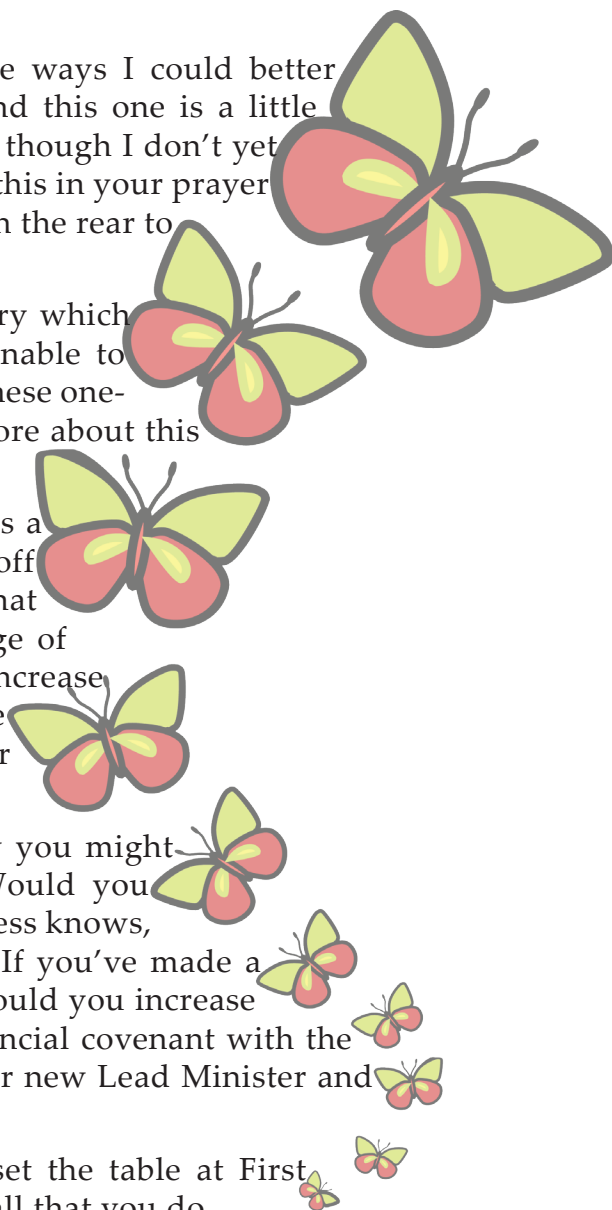
In preparation, I've been reflecting on whether there are ways I could better support my church and our new Lead Minister. First, and this one is a little embarrassing, I've committed to pray daily for both (even though I don't yet know the name of our candidate). Perhaps you already do this in your prayer practice (thank you!), but my practice needed a little kick in the rear to get it moving.

Second, I've decided to volunteer in the Visitation Ministry which seeks to keep connections with our members who are unable to regularly attend worship services. Since I'm an introvert, these one-on-one visits are a good fit for me. If you want to learn more about this ministry, ask **Pastor Jacque** or **Judy Kolz**.

Third, I'm renewing my financial covenant (also known as a pledge) for 2018 during the Annual Appeal which kicks off on October 1st. I'm also going to increase the amount that I give to my church. Each year, we look at the percentage of our income that we give back to God's work and try to increase it by at least a smidge. I've found that it's a good practice to run those numbers occasionally to make sure that our household budget reflects our deepest values as a family.

I invite you into this process of self-reflection about how you might support our new Lead Minister and beloved church. Would you consider volunteering for a new ministry program? Goodness knows, we couldn't "do church" on Sunday without volunteers! If you've made a financial pledge of \$1,200 for the past 10 years or more, would you increase that by \$20 / month or more? If you've never made a financial covenant with the church, will you make one this year? Will you pray for our new Lead Minister and our church?

I'm sure that you've already thought of other ways to set the table at First Congregational Church. I'd love to hear them. Thanks for all that you do.

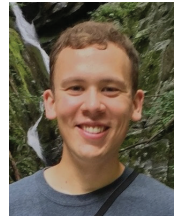


CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

August 27 - September 10

by **David Acton**, Organist / Office Administrator

david@fcucc.org



THANK YOU to **Rose Enyeart**, **Del Hokanson**, and **Isaac Laffely**, who served as liturgists. Thank you also to **Phyllis White** and **Paul Rule** who delighted us with beautiful offerings of special music. **Alysa Webb** and **Joan Landrum** assisted in leading KC Worship and **Royce Field** captured the Multi-Faith Camp experience in a beautiful slideshow. Resounding thank yous are also in order for the **All-Church CampOut! Team** who tirelessly worked to organize an outstanding 2017 All-Church CampOut! weekend at La Foret. Thank you to our wonderful **Front Desk Receptionists** who are instrumental to the smooth running of the FCC Office. Finally, we thank ALL who brought waters to be blessed and ALL who brought flowers from their gardens to add color and beauty to our Sanctuary at the annual Gathering of the Waters Sunday.

PRAYERS are lifted for those undergoing cancer treatment, including **Charlie Hall**, **Frank Koenigsamen**, and **Marcy McNeill**. **Marcie Mayer** is dealing with health concerns, **Ron Sele** has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and **Mark Warshaw** was hospitalized after being hit by a car. We pray for those close to us, especially for **Sara Delwiche's** father and **Cynthia Riley's** young client, Justen, suffering a traumatic brain injury after a car accident. We also keep **Mo Morrow** in our prayers, as she deals with the loss of personal items in a flood. Prayers are given for children, families, and teachers as school begins again; for college students and their parents as they too begin a new year - some leaving home for the first time and all embarking on a new adventure. We pray for ALL who feel the pain and heartache of suicide. Finally, we pray for ALL who are affected by the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, and ALL who lost their lives or loved ones in the South Asia flooding and other natural disasters.

CONDOLENCES are given to **Jeff Dodson** and family on the loss of Jeff's oldest brother, **David. Brad Marten** and family are mourning the loss of Brad's father, **Sherwin Marten**. Condolences also to **Mark Qualls** and family for the loss of Mark's brother, **Lee Qualls**. And thoughts of condolence with **Jeanie** and **Phil Tate** on the loss of their daughter, **Val Tate**, on September 6. A memorial service will take place at FCC on October 21 (time tbd).



A CLAY DATE WITH JENNY GEORGE!

We had a wonderful time with **Jenny George** in August during our Clay Date in the Founders' Room!

Unfortunately, we had to postpone the September event.

So, watch this space for a future Clay Date! All who participate will surely enjoy the multi-generational fellowship, the artistic element, and the creation of something beautiful!



COMMENTARY: THREE GREAT LOVES

by **John C. Dorhauer**, UCC General Minister and President

<http://3greatloves.uccpages.org/index.html>

With its new Mission Statement, the United Church of Christ is committed to exploring what it takes to build a just world for all by simply loving God and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

To help the entire denomination not just speak those good words but live them out in tangible, meaningful ways we have also committed to participating in the *Three Great Loves mission initiative*.

This is, first of all, an invitation to every setting of our denomination to practice love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation.

Every day across the life of the UCC - in congregations, through our Council for Health and Human Service Ministries agencies, in Conferences, at seminaries and historically related colleges, on army bases and in hospitals where our chaplains serve – love is freely offered and changes lives.

This is not simply a call to action, though. It is also an invitation to share the stories of the impact your love creates. I travel the world and the country witnessing your good works and hearing the testimonies of those whose lives are changed by your love. It is an honor for me to bear witness to, and to hold as a treasure, those good works. This initiative is an opportunity not just to practice love, but to create new ways of hearing across the life of the denomination the powerful stories of impact told by those whose lives and worlds changed because of what you do.

The Three Great Loves mission initiative serves as a way for us all to embody and incarnate a missional commitment to love neighbor and build a just world for all. It will be our concentrated effort to focus our reason for being on the calls to love and justice: two themes consistently raised in the sacred stories we find in our Scriptures and used to describe what is to be found in the heart of God and in the ministry and message of Jesus.

What would it look like for an entire denomination to focus its attention this way? We are going to find out.

Over the next two years, discover new ways to love children, to love neighbor, and to love creation.

When that love changes a life or your community, we are asking that you not keep that story a secret. Share it with the world. Our *UCC News site* is already posting stories almost daily (it is really hard to keep up with all that your commitments to love and justice make possible!) on the work you are doing and the impact it is creating. Write to us and tell us what you did and the difference it made. We will commit to curating and narrating your stories of impact. Go often to either UCNews or the Three Great Loves web pages and check out what your family in faith is doing every day.

Nothing short of changing the world as a fulfillment of our mission is what we are about here. As your General Minister and President, I have the joy of watching your love in action. You make me very proud.

This article was originally published online on the national UCC website on July 27:
http://www.ucc.org/commentary_three_great_loves_07272017



THREE GREAT LOVES is a response to the UCC's newly articulated purpose, mission, and vision statement which reads:

- We will love the lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves. **(Purpose)**
- United by the Holy Spirit and inspired by God's grace we love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all. **(Mission)**
- A just world for all. **(Vision)**

These words are intended to articulate why the United Church of Christ is called by God into being – and unless we can operationalize them into mission that matters, they are just words. Therefore, we are inviting and calling the United Church of Christ into mission. We are challenging the entire denomination to engage in Three Great Loves:

The love of Children
The love of Neighbor
The love of Creation



Pray For The World

Thursday, October 21 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
FCC Sanctuary

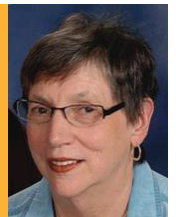
This informal gathering will include opportunity for personal reflection and a time of sharing with one another. Open to all who wish to drop in, stay as long as they wish, and leave when moved.

Pastors Nayiri and Jacque will guide the service.



I MUST BE LIVING RIGHT!

by **Lois Matthews**,
Stephen Ministry Leader
ldmatt333@comcast.net



You've probably spoken those words in the midst of a very good day. What does it mean to "live right"? Peter lays it out for us: "As servants of God, live as free people ... honor everyone." (1 Peter 2:16-17)

Those who will be involved in Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one care-giving ministry, will do just that. They will serve God and respect others by providing Christian care.

Is this a way you want to serve God? If so, to apply contact **Rev. Jacque Franklin**, Minister of Pastoral Care, (719.635.3549 / jacque@fcucc.org) or our Stephen Ministry coordinator, **Margaret Reiber**, (719.432.6733 / mjreiber@gmail.com).

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING:
begins Monday, November 6
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Holy Apostles Catholic Church
4925 North Carefree Circle



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**



A PEAK IN THE PAST: NEW LIFE

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

After two pastor scandals and the early departure of the Rev. Williams in 1938, FCC appeared to be at the low point of its history with less than 400 formal members and quite a few in name only. Williams had managed to stir some interest with the congregation's youth though, so FCC looked for and found another young pastor. Edward Manthei came the following year, straight out of Chicago Theological Seminary, just twenty-five years old. He had done his undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and was just married to Florence Fallis, who also studied at the Seminary.

Manthei's influence on the recovery of FCC's membership is often underestimated. There's a hidden growth under the apparently static numbers, as during his years many inactive members were removed from the books. Also, the number of confirmands, typically young people, rose. He is one of the few pastors about whom funny anecdotes persist, an indication that he was loved. His absent-mindedness while riding his bicycle, causing a run in with a parked car even made it to *The Gazette*. At "Ed" Manthei's departure for the FCC of Western Springs, Illinois in 1944, the foundation for the coming growth of the church was firmly established.



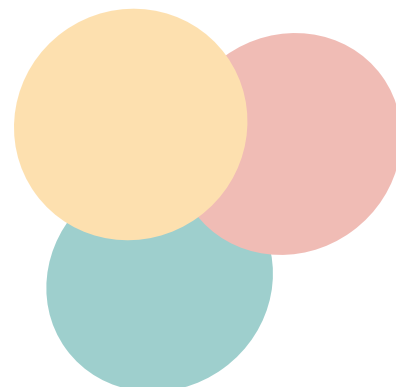
Rev. Edward F. Manthei

Rev. Manthei, a well known amateur actor, would serve several more churches. After sixteen years at Western Springs he came back to Colorado for a seven-year stay at First Plymouth Congregational of Denver. For four years he served as the President of Chicago Theological Seminary, coming back again to Colorado in 1971 to serve many years at the Broadmoor Community Church. Especially in his later years, Ed Manthei was in demand as a guest preacher at FCC. He officiated at the **Rev. Jim White's** installation in 1989.

In a 1970 service, his sermon at FCC was on Deut. 30 : 19, "Choose life" in which he reminded the congregation to "Make up your mind to live for and with God." Edward Manthei died in 1998. His ashes are interred in the Broadmoor Community Church's Columbarium.



Rev. Manthei (center) with Rev. Tatter (left) and Rev. White at Jim White's installation (1989)



FAMILY PROMISE ANNUAL WALK AND INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK HOSTING



Sign up for
FCC's hosting of Interfaith
Hospitality Network families
during November 5 - 11.

What we need:

- Gifts of providing meals for the families.
- Gifts of overnight hosting onsite.
- Gifts of assistance with setting-up and taking down.

For more info, and to sign up, please contact
Jerry White (gerald.white@mindspring.com) or
Laura Pfender (llpfender@earthlink.net).

Did you know that one out of every four people who is homeless is a child? Or, that families with children make up 40% of the people in this country who are homeless? Family homelessness is not only a national problem; it is the fastest growing population in homelessness in the nation.

The week of October 15-22 is Family Promise Week. Family Promise of Colorado Springs is one of 207 programs across the country uniting the faith community to help children and their families who are homeless. Family Promise Week will raise awareness about the issue as well as celebrate the service of our congregation and others to serve our brothers and sisters in need. You can participate in Family Promise Week by signing up to volunteer, telling others about Family Promise of Colorado Springs, or visiting www.ihn-cos.org to learn more.

Join Family Promise of Colorado Springs for the Second Annual Family Promise Walk! This FAMILY-FUN Event is great for all ages with two walk routes - 1 mile or 5K (3.1 miles).

October 15, 1:30 p.m. (registration opens - 1:00 p.m.) at Grace & St. Stephens (601 N. Tejon St.)

**NEIGHBORS WALKING TOGETHER
TO HELP FAMILIES WITH
CHILDREN EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS IN OUR
COMMUNITY**

THE WHY OF PRAYER SHAWLS

by **Jerome Carter**, Prayer Shawl Ministry Member
mrjoeterrace@gmail.com



You have seen them adorning the Chancel, artistically draped across the railings or happily spilling from baskets. Perhaps you have seen them being given to the youngest members of our flock as they are baptized or given to honored and beloved family and guests at times of transition and celebration. Maybe you've even received one yourself in a time of stress or sorrow. You've undoubtedly heard that they are our portable embrace. So, you probably have a general idea of the "why" of prayer shawls.

But there are so many more reasons as to "why prayer shawls."

Our weekly contemplative prayer shawl meetings offer a time to connect between generations. Making a prayer shawl takes something simple and with time, love, patience and prayers (of course) transforms it into something beautiful. During the meetings we listen to music and hear words that we may not take the time to hear otherwise in our hectic everyday lives.

As part of the contemplative process, we take time each week to bless each other's shawls. We share and grieve and pray and rejoice with each other. We learn about our individuality and our commonality. Heck, we even learn new ways of doing things and become inspired for the future.

Above all we hope and pray that our humble work brings joy and comfort to those who receive the gifts of our time and hearts. So, whenever you see a prayer shawl remember the thousands of stitches knitted with love and know that you are a part of sharing that love.



Fall Festival

Sunday, October 29 | 4:00 p.m.

Save the date!

The Annual Fall Fest
is approaching!

This All-Church Event is
for everyone and includes

Pumpkin Carving

Chili Dinner

All Saints Ritual

More details to come!

OVERHEARD!

*"When I finish
Third Grade Bible
Workshop, I want
to sit down with
Grandma and her
Bible, and see who
knows more about
the Bible!"*

- Kayla Bond-
Tetzlaff, attending
Bible Workshop

*"Yes Jeremiah - do
you have something
to share?"*

- Del Hokanson

*"I just wanted to
thank those of you
who were really
nice to me today."*

- Jeremiah Clarke
attending Kids
Community
Worship. He then
proceeded to point
three other kids.

*Kid's sure can
minister to us.*



FCC COOKING SCHOOL FINAL SESSION OF 2017!

October 20 (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

FCC Kitchen

Join Mary Frieg (from the Savory Spice Shop in Downtown Colorado Springs)! Mary will present traditional holiday dishes with a new twist using spices and herbs! All Are Invited! Need more info? Contact **Chris Hall** (christine_c_hall@msn.com).



15TH ANNUAL MICAH 6 DINNER AWARDS CELEBRATION

by **Jerry White**, Just Peace Ministry Member
gerald.white@mindspring.com



The FCC Just Peace Ministry will sponsor the 15th Annual Micah 6 Awards Dinner at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 15. This dinner will be an opportunity to honor and celebrate the contributions of members of our community who have provided an exceptional witness of the Micah 6 imperative: "Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly With Your God." The dinner, under the direction of **Patti White**, will provide good food and good fellowship; the diners will provide blessings and joy.

The Micah 6 keynote address will be given by **Rev. Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding**. Pastor Stephany leads Ebenezer Baptist Church in Colorado Springs and is an activist, public commentator, and an associate professor of Women's and Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. She is a gifted speaker and will speak on "Prophetic Justice and The Love of Mercy in These Times."

Tickets are \$12 and are being sold during Faith Formation Hour on October 1 and 8. Tickets are also available through the Church Office. Attendance is limited to 85 people and the celebration is often a sell-out, so plan on an early ticket purchase. Childcare will be available (request at time of ticket purchase).



*Rev. Dr. Stephany
Rose Spaulding*

The Just Peace Ministry solicits nominations of people who you feel exemplify a commitment to the Micah 6 spirit. Nominees may be from our FCC community or the larger Colorado Springs community; they should be guided by actions and example rather than affiliation. Nominations should be in writing, provide supporting information on the nominee's prayerful witness, strong example, inspiring advocacy and/or effective action. Nominations are due by Tuesday, 3 October. (Send to **Jim Matson** jmatson@ColoradoCollege.edu or drop of in the Church Office, in the box provided.)

Nomination forms are available by email or as hard copies in the Church Office. Stop by today for your copy. Watch for reminders in the Sunday Bulletin and in the FCC Weekly Updates in your e-mail box. For further information, contact **Jerry White** (719.337.7475).

Help us to recognize those in our congregation and/or community who embody the spirit of Micah 6:8 ...

*..."do justice, love kindness and walk
humbly with your God."*

Annual Micah 6 Awards

HIKES AND WALKS

The Hikes and Walks group has been having a wonderful summer! Check out some of the great photographs, taken by **Bob Kelly**. There are still three more hikes this season, and all are invited! Oct 11: the trails in the Paint Mines; Oct. 18: the trails for Intemann to Iron Mountain; Oct. 24: Bluestem Prairie Open Space. If you would like to participate, contact **Ted Dresie** (719.418.6604 / tederco@comcast.net).



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Rev. Dr. Jacque Franklin
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Nursery Attendant Supervisor
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Kaitlyn O'Donnell & Thea Roland
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Membership Clerk
Chris Steenberg
Historian

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

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Seminarians

Candace Datz, Mallory Everhart,
Samantha Garrett
Members in Discernment

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The Forum
Judy Kolz
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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.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNICATOR?

We invite you to submit articles, notices, and letters relevant to the life of our congregation.

Accepted submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and correctness.

Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect official FCC policy.

The DEADLINE for the next issue (November 2017 Issue) is Sunday, October 15, 2017.

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

REQUIREMENTS:

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