

THE MESSENGER



| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**TENDING
THE GARDEN**

**THE CHANGING
FACE OF WORSHIP**

**TAKING CARE
OF OUR
CHILDREN**



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From the Editor | LEMONADE

This summer has had a lot of hotter-than-hot, lemonade-on-the-back-porch kind of days. For many of us, summer is a kick-back time to slow down and refresh. The busy-ness of the school year ends. Kids run through the sprinkler or hang out at the pool. People unplug and enjoy the outdoors—fishing, camping, hiking, and loving our beautiful state. Some families take vacations. The more leisurely summer gives us a chance to put on our comfortable clothes and connect with others.

At FPC, the slower pace won't last too long. We have a new Director of Children's Ministry to welcome to our staff. Our youth are on a mission trip in Los Angeles. Centers, Session, and other groups are meeting, making big decisions, and planning new things. Our staff is already gearing up for fall programming and even for Christmas!

I hope we aren't too eager to put away our summer clothes and jump back into the busy-ness. In a recent sermon from our series on the Book of Colossians, Pastor Corey focused on Colossians 3:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. —Colossians 3:12–14.

As summer 2017 winds down, keep on your summer clothes. Pour a glass of lemonade and share compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience with those around you.

—Cathy Richardson

THE MESSENGER

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PUBLISHING GUIDELINES | THE MESSENGER is a publication for the people, passions, and mission of First Presbyterian Church Fort Collins. The newsletter seeks to inspire, inform, instruct, challenge, and motivate its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC. We pray that adult readers in all life stages will aspire to be faithful disciples for Christ.

Articles that support FPC's vision and mission will be accepted. All articles must be sponsored by one of the church's five Centers and are subject to the approval of the Editor. Submissions will be edited for length and suitability.

Article submissions will be accepted via e-mail to crichardson@firstpresfc.org. Contact Editor Cathy Richardson for more information, (970)482-6107. Check www.firstpresfc.org for specific issue deadlines.



THE CHANGING FACE OF WORSHIP

Hello Friends,

Over the past few months, the First FPC family has been engaged in a lively conversation about the worship life of our church. Many of us have participated in surveys, forums, and one-on-one conversations, and our church leaders have invested considerable time listening and discerning the best direction for our immediate future. We have now made some important decisions about worship, and I would like to use this Pastor's Corner to share some of the highlights and rationale behind those decisions. Some of this information was sent in an email earlier this month, but I want to reiterate it here, knowing how important it is for everyone to receive.

At its meeting on Monday, June 26, Session approved a recommendation from the Worship, Music, and Arts Center regarding worship services at FPC beginning Sunday, September 10—our Rally Sunday kicking off the program year. First, worship services will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The shift of the first service from 9:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. allows more time for Adult Education classes between services, which many people have asked to have offered again. It also allows more time for fellowship between services. As we continue to grow, we hope that the hour between services will engage folks attending both services in fellowship and classes and allow ample time to flip the parking lot.

A second change will be the inclusion of Communion every week at 11:00 a.m. We will continue to serve Communion at 9:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month as has been our recent custom.

The decision to offer weekly Communion at the second service is in response to those for whom the experience of Christian community and divine mystery in the sacrament is an especially meaningful experience in worship.

Overall, some elements of our two services will likely feel familiar, and some will continue to evolve. Music at the first service will still be led primarily by the Sanctuary Choir and the organ, while music at the second service will be led primarily by piano and include a broader repertoire of styles. In both services, we will continue to expand our horizons as we incorporate a wider breadth of songs, creative use of the arts and media, and, woven through all our worship, language for God and God's people that reflects and welcomes our beautifully diverse community.

At both the 9:00 and 11:00 services, we will welcome children to join their families in the sanctuary at the start of worship and then dismiss them for Sunday School after the gathering time (about 12 to 15 minutes into the service). We hope this gives families an opportunity to share part of the worship experience together and for children to have worship modeled for them.

There is much more to share and reflect upon as we continue learning about the theology, history, and practices of worship that will shape our community in the future. In order to deepen and expand the conversation, I will be leading a sermon series from July 30 to August 27 that explores the five "W" questions of worship: the *Who*, *What*, *Where*, *When*, and *Why* of worship.

Kicking off the series on July 30, our new Director of Children's Ministry, Pam Armstrong, will be preaching on the *Who* of worship with a special emphasis on how we shape worship to welcome people of all ages and abilities.

In closing, all of us on staff and in leadership recognize that any change in the life of the church is challenging. Change can represent the loss of something familiar or meaningful, and it can cause some anxiety as a result. We also know that change is normal and healthy and leads to the opportunity to maintain relevance and vibrancy in a changing world. We sincerely hope and pray that as we usher in a season of worship renewal, the whole FPC family will continue to find here a faithful and welcoming community, an inspiring and thought-provoking experience of worship, and the Spirit's call on each of our lives to love, serve, and include our neighbors.

Peace,
Corey

TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN

MEET NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR PAM ARMSTRONG

Pam Armstrong joins the FPC staff August 1 as the Director of Children's Ministry.

Who she is

North Dakota-native Pam Armstrong is a life-long Christian who has served and cared for children and individuals with disabilities for her entire career. She began by coordinating developmental programs and camps and then transitioned into teacher, part-time pastor, and family ministry director. She worked for more than a decade as a special education paraprofessional and preschool teacher—educating and loving on the smallest and most unique gifts from God. Her recent roles have housed her in Minnesota, where she led Youth and Family Ministries at First United Methodist Church, Red Wing and served as Christian Education and Youth Director for Newport United Methodist Church.

Pam and her husband Gary are excited and blessed to be moving to Fort Collins in late June to be closer to both aging and university-bound family. They have four children and five young grandchildren.



Why we love her

Pam Armstrong loves children more than anyone we've ever met. During our discussions with her, the committee was struck by her energy and excitement for being in the presence of children and for sharing with them the love of Jesus Christ. Unlike most of us, children seem to actually give her energy rather than steal it! Her joy of the Lord and of the youngest among us is palpable, nearly bubbling over in every encounter with her. God Almighty has very clearly gifted Pam with overflowing, seemingly infinite love of preschool and elementary kids.

"The Christ-taught message of our identity as God's unconditionally loved child is at the core of my being, it brings me endless joy. I want to help nurture that relationship for our kids!"

Pam also brings to FPC a fresh outlook and fresh experience for children's ministry. She's been educating children for 17 years and directing family/youth/children's ministry for 15 years (and still wants more!). She has organized, led, recruited, and trained leaders for Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, intergenerational activities, Bible studies, youth group, mission trips, fundraisers, talent shows, and holiday performances. And as a ministry director and preschool teacher, she also has a vast and sharp skillset surrounding curricula and communications with parents, church leaders, and the larger congregation. The search team is also delighted to have Pam join the FPC family because she is dedicated to and exemplifies love, welcoming, and inclusion.

"The most important gift we can give our children is the knowing that they are unconditionally loved by their Creator. We do this in so many ways. We use explicit learning; Sunday School Curriculum, songs, gentle discipline and guidance. More importantly we use implicit learning; our children internalize that they are loved and valued when they are treated with respect and dignity and appropriate affection. They learn that they belong when elements of worship include them and when opportunities for intergenerational interaction occur."

Aside from being impressed with Pam's extensive experience, organizational leadership, and faithful service to God, we simply wanted to spend so much more time with her than we had allotted for interviews—and we are so eager for her to meet, teach, and love our own children.

—Children's Director Hiring Committee
John Cawley, Allison Humphries, Mary Krings, Pam Larsen, and Corey Nelson



The Children's Sacred Chorus is an outreach ministry of FPC Fort Collins. It was started last spring by Alice Crawford and is open to all children (from FPC or elsewhere) who will be in 2nd–5th grade in the 2017/18 school year. There is no cost to participate in the chorus. All music and a t-shirts will be provided for singers. We will focus on singing sacred music for the purpose of singing in worship services at FPC and perhaps elsewhere in our community. We will also learn basic skills of musicianship including rhythm, notes, and form.



I am very excited to be stepping into this leadership role at FPC! As a young child, singing in church choir was a part of my life. I not only learned valuable music skills, I learned that singing and music are amazing ways to express our faith in Jesus Christ. I learned that music could often express what I could not quite put into words, but when I sang my heart to God, I grew in my faith. I learned to trust Him with my feelings: my joys, my fears, my hopes, and my dreams. I am excited to use my skills as a music educator to help children discover the richness of music and the joy of worshiping God through song so that they too may grow in faith.



Children's Sacred Chorus rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 in Room 308. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 5:00–5:45 p.m. Please register online at

www.firstpresfc.org. Feel free to contact me with any questions at ajohnson@firstpresfc.org.

—Alyssa Johnson

The Music and Arts Ministry is pleased that Kathryn Rudd will return to direct Celebration Ringers for the 2017/18 season. Celebration Ringers is open to all 3rd–5th graders regardless of whether you have ringing experience or know anything about music. Children interested in participating in the bell choir only need to physically be able to lift a bell, know how to count to four, know their right hand from their left hand, recognize the colors orange from blue, and be able to track lines. If you can do these things, you can join Celebration Ringers! Not sure you want to join? Consider attending one or both open-ring sessions. The first session takes place Sunday, August 27, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102. The second session will be held Sunday, September 10, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 102. The two open-ring sessions will introduce ringing from big bells to small bells, take a look at what music looks like, and discover all of the fun things you can do with handbells! There will be no obligation to join the choir afterward.



Regular rehearsals begin Wednesdays from 4:15–5:00 p.m. September 13. I have directed this group for 15 years. I have been ringing handbells since I was a young teenager and currently ring in three different handbell groups. Each group expands my ringing skills in a different way. (I have a very understanding family who enable me to do what I love!) I love passing on my passion for ringing to the younger generation! If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact me, kathryn.rudd@comcast.net or (970)215-2377.

—Kathryn Rudd



Grieving . . . Not only have we experienced a lot of loss in this congregation recently, many of you have experienced it in your own personal families or a friend's family. I am often asked by people what they should say or what they should do to help. I don't have *the* answer, but I have *some* answers and ideas. Grieving is not like any other experience. No matter how often you do it, you never get better at it. We sometimes think when grief has caused such unbearable pain that God may be distant, untouched by our sorrow. We may question His wisdom or His goodness. Then we read, "Jesus wept." God is deeply touched by our anguish. Jesus has shed tears too.

Megan Devine shares below *"How to Help a Grieving Friend."*

1. Grief belongs to the griever

You have a supporting role, not the central role, in your friend's grief. This may seem like a strange thing to say, as so many times we feel we are there to "cheer them up" or possibly give suggestions on how to do something differently. Grief is a very personal experience and belongs entirely to the person experiencing it. You may believe you would do things differently if it had happened to you . . . we hope that you do not get the chance to find out. This grief belongs to your friend: follow his or her lead.

2. Stay present and state the truth

It's tempting to make statements about the past or the future when your friend's present life holds so much pain. You cannot know what the future will hold, for you or your friend—that your friend's life was good in the past is not a fair trade for the pain now. Stay present with your friend, even when the present is full of pain. Stick with the truth: This hurts. I love you. I'm here.

3. Do not try to fix the unfixable

Your friend's loss cannot be fixed or repaired or solved. The pain itself cannot be made better . . . not yet. It is an unfathomable relief to have a friend who does not try to take the pain away.

4. Be willing to witness searing, unbearable pain

To do that while you are working at not trying to "fix their pain" is hard . . . very hard.

5. This is not about you

Being with someone in pain is not easy. You may have things come up—stresses, questions, anger, fear, guilt. Your feelings may likely get hurt. You may feel ignored or unappreciated. Your friend cannot show up for their part of the relationship very well. Don't take it personally. Find your own people to

lean on at this time . . . you will need it as it's painful to sit with someone grieving.

6. Anticipate . . . don't ask

Do not say, "Call me if you need anything" because your friend will not call. Not because they do not need, but because identifying a need, figuring out who might fill that need, and then making a phone call to ask is light years beyond their energy level, capacity, or interest at this point. Instead, make some concrete offers: "I will be here at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday to bring your trash to the curb," or "I will stop by each morning on my way to work to take the dog for a quick walk." Be reliable.

7. Keep on

Do for them the recurring things that can lessen the burden of "normal" life: walking the dog, refilling prescriptions, shoveling snow, mowing the yard. Those are small, tangible evidences of love. Don't do laundry unless asked—those may be clothes that have that "last smell" on them of their loved one.

8. Tackle projects together

There may be difficult tasks that need tending—mortuary visits, the packing and sorting of rooms or houses. Offer your assistance and follow through with your offers. Your presence alongside them is powerful and important, so words are often unnecessary. Follow your friend's lead in these tasks.

9. Run interference

To the new griever, the influx of people who want to show their support can be seriously overwhelming. What is an intensely personal and private time can begin to feel like living in a fish bowl. There might be ways you can shield and shelter your friend by setting yourself up as the designated point person—gatekeepers can be helpful. Consider staying at the home during the funeral and reception time . . . sad to know that people watch in papers for those funeral times and get into those homes on occasion.

10. Educate and advocate

You may find that other friends, family members, and casual acquaintances ask for information about your friend. You can, in this capacity, be a great educator, albeit subtly. You can normalize grief with responses like, "She has better moments and worse moments and will for quite some time. An intense loss changes every detail of your life."

If someone asks you about your friend a little further down the road, you might say things like, "Grief never really stops. It is something you carry with you in different ways."

11. Love

Show your love. Show up. Say something. Do something. Be willing to stand beside the gaping hole that has opened up in your friend's life, without flinching or turning away. Be willing to not have answers. Listen. Be there. Be present. Be a friend. Be love. Love is what will last.

—Article submitted by Marge Rice

To One in Sorrow

**Let me come in where you are weeping friend
And let me take your hand
I, who have known a sorrow such as yours
Can understand.**

**Let me come in—I would be very still
Beside you in your grief,
I would not bid you cease weeping friend
For tears can bring relief.**

**Let me come in—I would only breathe a prayer
And hold your hand,
For I have known a sorrow such as yours
And I understand.**

—Grace Noll Cromwell

TENDING THE GARDEN

A LABOR OF LOVE TRANSFORMS SPACE AT FPC



The small courtyard behind the reception desk in the main office may not be visible to many members; however, based on some recent volunteer effort, we encourage you to take a look. Bob Addleman has adopted that space, made some purchases, redeployed the older water features, and invested a lot of sweat equity in creating an abundance of flowering beauty. After getting some good advice and assistance from Roger Heins, Bob has planted and pruned, fashioned a tool, and daily watered. This is truly creating the beauty that God has in mind for God's creation!

“He washed my window today so I could see [the interior courtyard] even better. What a servant’s heart! Just watching him tend and water and plant has been a blessing for me,” says one staff member.

After removing dead bushes and plants and trimming back others, Bob planted geraniums, petunias, pansies, and an assortment of colorful flowers. “The courtyard had become a bit of an eyesore. Now we *want* to sit out there and enjoy lunch and fellowship in the beautiful garden! It’s such a treat,” says a staff member.

Look at the beauty that can be achieved when we work to make things better instead of ignoring space around the church. We are truly thankful. Come feast on the rainbow of color Bob has provided for us, and join us in saying thanks at the first opportunity.

—Don Genson

COURAGE and PUNCTUALITY

The character quality for July 2017 is **COURAGE** (versus fearfulness). Courage can be defined as the state or quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face danger with self-possession, confidence, and resolution. It can also be defined as facing fear and loss in pursuit of what is best.

Often, when we think of the concept of courage, we think only of the physical kind of courage, which the first definition above defines very well. However, we also know that there is another kind of courage—moral courage. Moral courage is choosing to do the right thing when faced with an ethical challenge or dilemma. In these situations, the person is dealing with issues that are not necessarily threatening from a physical perspective (although that may also be involved), but is dealing with the desire to do what he or she knows in their heart is the "right thing" to do. Sometimes physical courage involves a "spur of the moment" decision, such as saving a person who is trapped in a burning car or some other dangerous situation where you may be putting your own life at risk.

Moral courage can sometimes involve a fast-evolving situation, but very often it involves a situation where you have to think about what is happening, who is involved, what the possible outcomes might be, and how you need to respond. In such situations, a person may need to pray that God will give them the moral courage to respond in the way that they know God would want them to. Having the moral courage to "do the right thing" may involve significant personal sacrifice, but a person having moral courage will make the right decision in spite of the potential negative personal consequences. Such people have true character and are recognized and honored by others for their outstanding courage and character.

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not the absence of fear."

—Mark Twain

The character quality for August 2017 is PUNCTUALITY (versus tardiness). Punctuality can be defined as demonstrating the worth of people and time by arriving for meetings and appointments on time. Another definition would be showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time.

Punctuality is being on time; being prompt. It means to be physically present at the right place at the right time.

Punctuality is based on two important factors. The first is a reverence for time itself, and the second is a respect for other people.

We are to have reverence for time because God created it. He created the day and night and established seasons of the year and seasons of life. Some of the most beautiful verses in the entire Bible are found in Ecclesiastes, dealing with time:

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sow; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace."

—Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; RSV

Being punctual is living in harmony with the nature of God. As with all of the wonderful things which God created, we need to be good stewards of time. We can manage its use, but one thing we can't do is store it up—we either use it or lose it. And the Lord wants us to use our time wisely and effectively. Ephesians 5:15-16 says, *"See to it, therefore, that you conduct yourselves carefully, not as foolish but as wise people who make the best possible use of their time..."*

The second factor required for punctuality is a respect for other people and the time God has entrusted to them. Time really is one of our most precious assets. We are all given a limited amount of time, and we are accountable to God for how we use it. When we keep other people waiting, we are robbing them of their time. Failing to be punctual hinders God's purposes in our life and offends those who are then forced to wait for us. Punctuality avoids the loss of time that happens when we have to wait for the "late-comers" and instead allows maximum teamwork and energy to be devoted to the task at hand.

Do I use my time wisely? Am I being a good steward of this precious gift of time that God has given me? Do I show respect for both God and others by being punctual?

VBS FUN

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BRINGS OVER 80 KIDS TO FPC



Over 80 children stepped back in time to ROME Vacation Bible School at FPC in June. Each day, they became a part of history as they discovered what it was like to live in Rome during Bible times. They explored the marketplace shops, visited the Apostle Paul (under house arrest), snuck into the cave where the Underground Church meets, played games, danced to lively Bible songs, and discovered more about the early church. It was a fun and lively time!

Special thanks to the over 60 volunteers who gave their love, knowledge, and energy to the kids all week. In particular, thanks to Jennifer Kenyon, who stepped in to direct VBS and to Alyssa Johnson, our emcee.





Our VBS 2017 Mission Project was to learn more about **The Shoe That Grows** and to consider its impact on the life of the person who may wear it. Children brought pennies, nickels, dimes, and more each day to place in the offering basket for our mission project. Each pair of shoes costs \$15, and the goal was to raise enough for 10 pairs of shoes. By Friday of VBS week, the children had given \$237.89! In addition, the coffee cart, led by Patty Wiens, was open all week to serve our VBS guests. All coffee cart proceeds from the month of June were added to the VBS cause. In all, VBS raised over \$625—enough for over 40 pairs of shoes! For more information about The Shoe That Grows, visit theshoethatgrows.org.



LIBRARY CORNER

THE WORD SOURCE

Word Source Library at FPC provides a wonderful space for pondering and reading about God through its books, CDs, and DVDs, but did you know that the Library also offers several periodicals (journals and magazines)? The following highlights the Library's periodicals in the hopes that maybe you might venture up to the Library with a cup of coffee and thumb through one or two.

Biblical Archeology Review (BAR)

biblicalarchaeology.org

Biblical Archeology Review (BAR), first published in 1975, is the flagship publication of the Biblical Archeology Society. The Biblical Archeology Society, founded in 1974 is non-profit, non-denominational, and non-sectarian whose mission is to educate "the history buff, Professors, clergy, and laypersons." It is academically driven hosting top scholars, researchers, and world-renowned expert contributors. The content explores archeological sites, artifacts and art found at sites in the Middle East—the Bible world which covers the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Articles are supplemented with photography and maps. BAR's list of accolades is seen in its subscribers such as Harvard, John Hopkins, and Brown, as well as cited in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and the *Jerusalem Post*. It has been featured on PBS, the Discovery Channel, and CNN. Its website is an award-winning one and well worth the visit.

The Christian Century

christiancentury.org

The Christian Century began in 1884 as a magazine of the Disciples of Christ denomination in Des Moines, Iowa, then titled *The Christian Oracle*. In 1900

the name was changed to its present moniker when in 1908 the magazine was sold in a mortgage foreclosure to Clayton Morrison who re-established the magazine as non-denominational. It considers itself to be "a progressive, ecumenical magazine...committed to thinking critically and living faithfully." The Christian Century explores political, social, and moral issues, as well as offers a progressive perspective on the arts and culture, church, and theology. CT's website is easily navigated and posts current and archived issues.

Church History Magazine

christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine

Christian History Institute (CHI) was established in 1982 as a non-profit organization located in Worchester, Pennsylvania. It provides multimedia resources centered on church history spanning the early church through post-Reformation. Church History Magazine supports ecclesiastic historical facts, articles, study guides, timelines, biographies, and a link to a guide of early Christian documents—all with the purpose of making church history interesting to the "widest possible audience." Not only does CHI publish the quarterly *Christian History* magazine, but also produces books, films, and videos, one of which is the award-winning "Torchlighters: Heroes of the Faith." Its website provides additional historic information and is well-organized and easily navigated.

Christianity Today (CT)

christianitytoday.com

Christianity Today's founder, Billy Graham, expressed a desire to "plant the evangelical flag in the middle-of-the-road, taking the conservative

theological position but a definite liberal approach to social problems." Its first issue was published in 1956 and reports on political, social, cultural, and theological trends and issues facing Christians today. *The New York Times* and others consider the magazine the "foremost evangelical periodical for news and opinion." CT says it is committed to thoughtful and "civil" inquiry and analysis filtered through biblical orthodoxy. Their web presence is well-organized, making access easy to the numerous articles, interviews, summaries, and guides on a wide range of topics.

Horizons: The Magazine for Presbyterian Women

wpucusahorizons.com/magazine

Horizons is a 130-year tradition of publishing via Presbyterian Women, a national women's organization within the Presbyterian Church-USA. Content focuses on family life, culture, and society, and church and discipleship. Horizons also develops Bible studies for the individual and small groups. Interviews and featured articles are written by theologians and pastors of the Reformed tradition. Readers may also submit articles for inclusion by following the writer's and permission's guidelines found on their website. The website is simple in format and offers a bio of Presbyterian Women, specific projects on justice and peace, mission, and other resources and tools.

Presbyterian Outlook

pres-outlook.org

Presbyterian Outlook is an independent organization celebrating its 200th year in 2019. Its mission is to provide Presbyterians an interconnected cohesive avenue for "connecting,

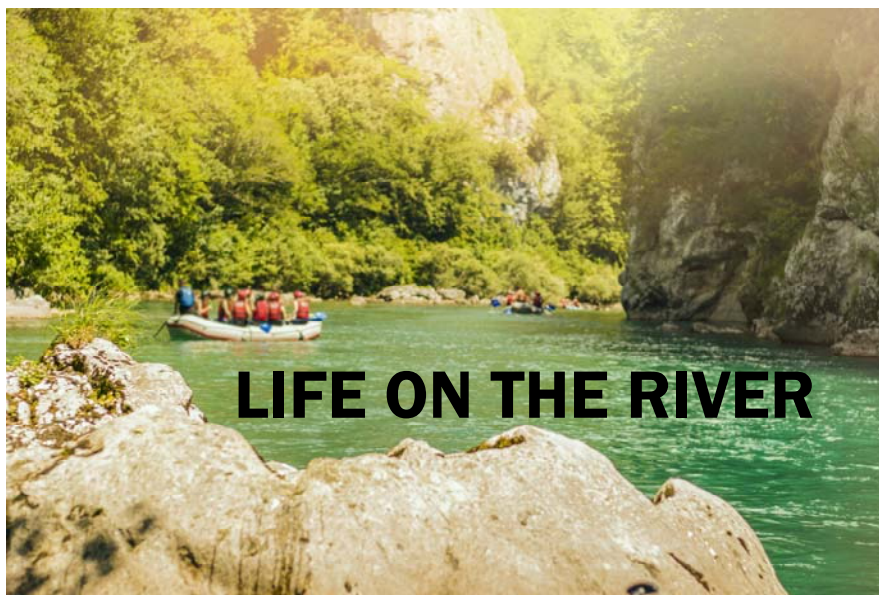
networking, equipping, and participating in a concerted effort in the worldwide mission of God.” Its magazine is a small part of a much more expansive offering on its website, covering headings like the Presbyterian Hub, News and Current Affairs, Ministry and Theology, Faith and Culture, and more. Each heading has a drop-down menu of additional choices. Outlook’s vision wants to be more than a magazine, rather, a “marketplace and forum...for Presbyterians which fosters openness, candor, theological acuity and mutual respect throughout the church and world.” The website is massive, so be prepared to spend some time . . . or for a simpler pace, pick up the magazine in the library and enjoy.

Presbyterians Today

presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/

Presbyterians Today is a denominational magazine founded in the 1800s formally named *Presbyterian Survey*, *Presbyterian Life* and *A.D.* Its target audience are members, leaders, and mission partners. Its goal is accurate reporting on contemporary issues through a Christian perspective. The magazine lists its priorities as “evangelism, justice, spiritual formation and leadership formation.” These priorities form the infrastructure of their four ministry areas: Compassion, Peace and Justice; Racial Ethnic & Women’s Ministries; Theology, Formation, and Evangelism; and World Mission. Their website is organized to facilitate easy navigation.

—Bethany Fisher



Last summer, we went rafting. We packed into a few vans and miscellaneous other vehicles belonging to kindhearted volunteers from the congregation who didn’t mind the idea of spending the day with a bunch of noisy middle schoolers and high schoolers. This entire trip was Pastor Jeff’s idea; he had worked for Noah’s Ark rafting and wanted to take us on a whitewater rafting trip. Pastor Cindy came, too. I was just starting to realize the full extent of her adventurous personality. On the way, she told us about her other experiences rafting in places including but not limited to New Zealand’s steepest raftable waterfall ... or something like that (don’t quote me). I didn’t know I would be writing this then; otherwise, I would have listened just a little bit more carefully.

I should mention that I am extraordinarily lucky to be a part of the youth program here at FPC. My “church friends” have always been some of my closest ones. We’ve been through a lot together, including four youth directors, the departure of numerous beloved pastors, staff members, and volunteers, and a tumultuous time in the life of our church. It’s been a little like rafting, actually. There have been times when the current was going painfully slow and it felt like we weren’t getting anywhere. There have been times when the water was rough and fear was a constant companion. We didn’t know where the river was going to take us, and we still don’t know. But we need to realize that even though we might not know exactly where we are headed, we know who our guide is.

With the knowledge that Jesus is in control, deflecting us away from the rocks and shouting which way to steer, our youth group has decided to focus on the excitement of an unpredictable life with Christ instead of the fear of the unknown. And as I look around at this youth group, I realize that there is no one I would rather be stuck in a raft with.

—Grace Kenyon

Editor’s note: Grace Kenyon will join eight others on the high school mission trip this July. They will be serving in Los Angeles for a week, giving their time and energy to the community to glorify God. Please pray that God will lead and use them during their time in California.

ADIEU, BUT NOT GOODBYE

A PARTING MESSAGE FROM MARY FRAN ASMUS

As I look back over the past five years, and four years before that when I was associated with the Senior Ministry at FPC, I am amazed at what you all were able to accomplish in your walk of faith. As the Director of Involvement, that became the focus of the ministry and included the work that so many of you did in assisting and involving yourselves in other ministries. As senior adults, you have such a wide range and variety of talents, educational background, and life experiences that you are more than willing to share as long as it doesn't interfere with your busy lives that must include travel, grandchildren, and other opportunities to volunteer. You, and particularly the "Do-Bees," provided cookies and leadership in teaching the children crafts through the Harvest Festival, Advent Celebration, Vacation Bible School, and the times when we were in charge of the cake walk for the children, manning the event and providing numerous beautiful and delicious cakes for the prizes. Then, remember the times when we got together with the Youth Ministry to wrap shoeboxes and participate in a Youth Game Night? Don't forget the "Caroling, Crock-pot, Cookies, and Cocoa," events where we joined the young families to go to homes of our homebound folks to bring them holiday cheer through music. I could go on and on about *your* involvement with the different programs throughout this church.

We cannot forget the Breakfast Club that many of you attended once a month where we were able to provide van transportation for those unable to drive. For so many this was a special monthly opportunity to have a chance to go out for a meal with friends. The monthly luncheon/programs during the fall, winter, and spring months, along with trips to the mountains and other points

of interest during the summer will not be easily forgotten. We especially need to thank the SIT (Senior Implementation Team) for their untiring service in making these events happen. Over the years, they included, Barbara Follett (church triumphant), Linda Iley, Susan Kain, Liz MacLauchlin, and Margaret Webber. Another big salute needs to go to the van drivers for special events—the summer trips and the Breakfast Club: Thanks to Craig Chester—faithful Breakfast Club driver, Jim Norrgard, back-up to BR and trip driver, and Trisha Navarre, trip driver. These folks all took a special class on large van driving, as well as being CPR-certified in order to be available in any emergency that might arise. And we did have a challenge or two along the way.

Craig Chester has graciously agreed to carry on with the van service for the Breakfast Club, and a schedule has been created through October. Copies can be picked up in the rack in the lobby by the Church Office.

All of these services that YOU so graciously contributed to can continue. So keep your giving hearts open to any opportunity that presents itself in service to our Lord and to this amazing church.

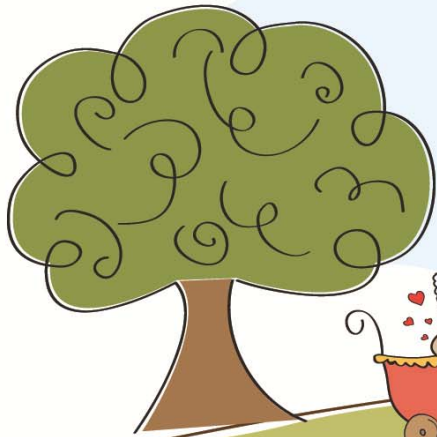
It has been a privilege to serve you and this congregation over the years, and I will not cease doing that. There will be other venues in which I will be called upon to help out. So let's pull together to keep the seniors involved in sharing so many gifts, talents, and life experiences with those who will follow in our footsteps.

With love, admiration and blessing,
Mary Fran



welcome little one

Announcing special new arrivals:



Aubrey Mae Van Maanen
daughter of Rachel and Devin Van Maanen
born June 14, 2017

Oliver Thomas Smith
son of Julie and Chad Smith
born June 18, 2017

Rosemary Courage Reisch
daughter of Robyn and Nathan Reisch, born June 26, 2017

First Pres.
MOPS

Summer Play Dates

July 31st:
Windsor Beach

Aug. 14th:
Picnic Rock

For more information go to:
www.facebook.com/groups/mopsfortcollins/



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ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

AUGUST 27 AT 11:00 AM FOLLOWING WORSHIP

SUGGESTED DONATION \$5/PERSON, \$15/FAMILY MAXIMUM

Bring your family and a blanket or chair to sit on.

