

# THE MESSENGER



| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

**FOLLOWING  
GOD'S  
DIRECTION**

**HISTORY BOOKS**

**RED, RED  
ROBES  
NEWLY  
SPRUNG  
IN JUNE**

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## From the Editor | SUMMERTIME

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Summertime. As the song goes, the livin' is easy. Life slows down just a little. School is out. We take time for a good book or a baseball game or some lemonade on the porch. At FPC, summertime means Vacation Bible School, summer suppers, camping trips, and one service on Sunday mornings. Fish are jumpin', and our moods are high.

At the Music Ministry spring concert in May, one verse struck me when I thought about stepping into summer.

*"May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech."*

—2 Thessalonians 2:16–17, *The Message*.

I hope we can live out this verse this summer. I hope we take time for a fresh perspective, energizing work, and life-giving conversations. And I hope we take time to be surprised by God's blazing love, time to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and time to—as the song proclaims—rise up singing a song of summertime.

—Cathy Richardson

## THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF  
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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 email to [crichardson@firstpresfc.org](mailto:crichardson@firstpresfc.org). Contact Editor Cathy Richardson for more information, (970)482-6107. Check [www.firstpresfc.org](http://www.firstpresfc.org) for specific issue deadlines.



First  
Presbyterian  
Church

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## NURTURING GRATITUDE AND COMMUNITY

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Hello Friends,

My reading list this Spring has included a new book by popular Christian scholar, author, and speaker, Diana Butler Bass, entitled, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*. A review of this timely work says, "If gratitude is good, why is it so hard to do? In *Grateful*, Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks. We know that gratitude is good, but many of us find it hard to sustain a meaningful life of gratefulness resulting in a 'gratitude gap.' With honest stories and heartrending examples from Scripture, history and her own life, Bass reclaims gratitude as a path to greater connection with God, with others, with the world, and even with our own souls. It's time to embrace a more radical practice of gratitude—the virtue that heals us and helps us thrive."

Reading Bass' book, I've been reminded to be more intentional about my own practices of gratitude for God's many blessings. I'm also discovering that gratitude, like other emotions and practices in life, can have a contagious impact on others. If you're around a happy person, it's contagious. If you're around a person who practices generosity and compassion, you'll want to imitate those good deeds, too. Gratitude is in that category. If you're around people who are grateful, you're going to feel grateful yourself, and you're going to want to initiate acts that cause others to feel grateful. As a result, there is a natural connection between gratitude and community...and that reminds me of SUMMERTIME!

This edition of The Messenger lands as we begin another summer season together. This is often a time a year when our usual rhythms and busy schedules open up a bit and allow us time to connect with God's beautiful creation and connect with one another—God's beautiful community. Sometimes, we can do both in the same moment—so much to be grateful for and to share with others. That's our hope as we launch some wonderful new or nearly new opportunities over the next three months.

After talking about the power of neighbors gathering around dining tables in a sermon earlier this year, we got a lot of positive feedback from folks asking how we can live into this idea more fully. The answer? Summer Supper Series! We've invited about a dozen families of all shapes and sizes at FPC to host groups of 8–12 for dinner three times over the summer. Many of you have already signed up to attend suppers at someone's home and, if you haven't, you can contact Miriam Nelson for more information: [mnelson@firstpresfc.org](mailto:mnelson@firstpresfc.org).

The hope of these events is not to be a "program" or a "study group." Instead these will simply be places to break bread, share fellowship and get to know one another—truly know one another in a "Who are you? What's your story? What makes you happy?" kind of way.

A second opportunity to nurture gratitude in nature and community is joining Miriam for her second annual Simple Summer Walks. This was a big hit last year and from what we learned we are making a slight

adjustment. Walks will be on Tuesday mornings from 7:30–8:30 a.m. at Lee Martinez Park—walking the Poudre Trail. Fellowship afterwards at Dazbog Coffee Shop will be an option for those who can stick around a little longer. Miriam will initiate the walks on Tuesday, June 18 and continue them through August 27.

Finally, another returning winner from last summer, come join us for our FPC Family Camping Trip at Glacier Basin Campground in Rocky Mountain National Park. We've reserved a big section of the group sites so there should be plenty of room for everyone. The dates are July 11–14 (though you don't have to be there all three nights) and you can register now on our church website. The cost is just \$5 per person/per night for campers. Everyone cooks their own meals and we'll have supplies for campfires and s'mores in the evening. Groups naturally form and choose hikes in the morning. It is impossible not to grow your gratitude ten times in a place like this with a community like this. As the great naturalist, John Muir (son of a Presbyterian pastor, by the way), once wrote, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." We couldn't agree more.

Wherever the winds of the Spirit lead you and your loved ones this summer, my prayer is that we all share experiences of God's beauty and joy, renewal and community and gratitude for it all. Thanks be to God.

Peace,  
Corey

## A note from Joseph Moore, Parish Associate

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**“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”  
—Frederick Buechner**

Friends,

I’m writing to say thanks. Thank you for the warm welcome you have offered as I’ve begun serving as a Parish Associate at FPC. My time here over the last few months has been spent doing a lot of listening and asking a lot of questions. Thank you for your patience as you’ve helped me learn about the faithful work and worship of this congregation.

Thank you most of all, for your commitment to loving and welcoming the people of Fort Collins and beyond. It is obvious to me that this congregation is deeply committed to the city. I’m convinced that as we strengthen existing partnerships, and as we develop new ones, we can continue to be a church that is truly for the city. I’m excited for some of the new partnerships already bubbling up. Opportunities are emerging with mission partners in Nebraska to help with flood relief, real possibilities for deeper connection with students and staff at CSU, and increased partnership and integration with the groups that use our building.

The writer and pastor, Frederick Buechner, wrote, “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” It’s a good guide for us as we consider where the Spirit might be leading us to partner and serve. I wonder, what is your deep gladness? When it comes to serving others, when have you found yourself thinking, “this is what I was created to do”?

My hope is that you might bring your “deep gladness” to church with you not just on Sunday mornings, but also to McBackPack, or to the families who stay here during Faith Family Hospitality weeks, or to a totally new partnership we haven’t even discovered yet.

A few weeks ago, over a dozen people from FPC gathered on a snowy Friday morning to volunteer at the city’s annual Project Homeless Connect. We got to know the names of some of our homeless neighbors. We were able to eat with them, to hear their stories, and to help connect them with some resources. In the words of one of our volunteers, we spent the day, “just coming alongside someone for the morning.” I don’t know how many of the over 400 homeless people at the event found housing that day, but I do know that the lives of some of the volunteers were changed.

One of our volunteers described what it felt like when she said goodbye to one of her guests:

*“He looked at the ground and said, ‘Thanks for the help but most of all for listening to me. That doesn’t happen for me very often.’ Tears filled my eyes, and as he walked away, he smiled and said, ‘have a blessed day.’ I responded with, ‘Peace be with you.’ I thought of my worries and questions I had before I met him. I smiled and realized my questions were all about what I could do or not do...and the morning ended up being what this young homeless man did for me.”*

The place God calls us is the place where our deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet. I hope you’ll join me and Corey, the members of the Mission and Outreach Center, and countless other members and friends of our church as we seek out the places where God might be calling this beloved congregation. Thank you, church family, for coming along on that journey.

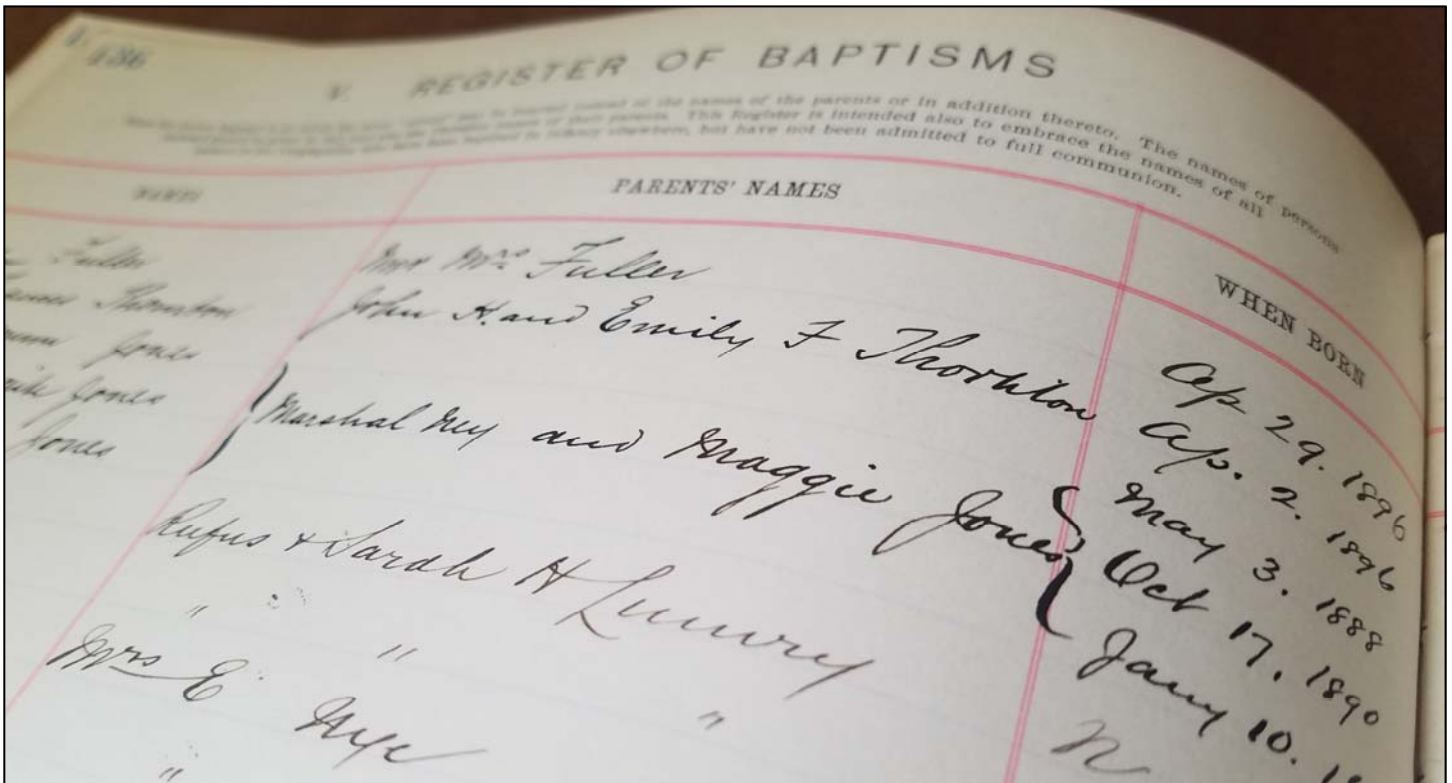
Grace and Peace,

Joseph Moore



# HISTORY BOOKS

SACRED RED BOOKS CRONICLE NEARLY 150-YEARS OF RECORDS



Have you ever wondered, “Does FPC have a paper trail?” Yes, the life of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Collins is recorded for history. Like other non-profits, we’re required to maintain some records for the state of Colorado. And, as for all churches of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church of the USA or PC(USA), there are even more requirements which are described in our Book of Order. Within those hundreds of pages of records, it’s possible to look up the names of our founding members, or who were married here in 1901, who the corporate officers are, or when and by whom our lifetime members were baptized.

The traditional volumes used for church records are fondly called the “sacred red books.” All the details of church life were captured in those impressive, velvet-covered volumes with line after

line of beautifully handwritten entries. You can see some of our oldest books dating back to 1872 in the display case across from Shepardson Hall.

Most churches still keep a version of those cumbersome books. A few still use the traditional red, leather-bound books filled with heavy, ledger-style paper while most have shifted to ordinary binders of computer-printed pages and there are a few of us who have given up on paper entirely. Here at FPC, we have been keeping our membership records in an electronic database for about 20 years. For half that time, we kept parallel paper, sacred red book style books, but for the last several years, we have relied solely on the electronic database.

The regulations in the PC(USA)’s Book of Order aren’t exactly compatible with digital recordkeeping systems, but the

denomination is slowly accommodating changes that have come with the digital age. Therefore, at the end of each year, we print year-end records for the annual review of records performed by the presbytery. You can see those if you like, but they’re not nearly as fascinating as the old tomes.

There is indeed a paper trail of FPC. However, the oldest paper volumes will soon be shipped to the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) for archival safe-keeping. If needed, the PHS can retrieve information from records they hold at our request. Here at FPC, minutes of session meetings and membership data since 2000 is stored on the church servers that are regularly backed up. Also, you can find paper copies of recent session reports in a notebook in the office or online under the “entire church group” of MyFPC.

—Sara Hunt

# Growing Generous Hearts

**“God doesn’t give gifts...because he doesn’t give up ownership.”** So proclaimed Rev. Chick Lane in his plenary speaking at the 2018 Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference jointly sponsored by the PC(USA) and ELCA last September.

He opened his first session on “Four important ways to strengthen your congregation’s stewardship,” by asking us what stewardship means in our churches. Often, stewardship is understood as a code word for “getting money from my pocket” whereby “I need to give enough not to feel guilty.”

But is that what stewardship really is?

Instead, he offered this definition:

*Stewardship is a wonderful word that describes how a follower of Jesus Christ faithfully travels through life. It’s about discipleship.*

Lane went on to assert strongly and clearly that the Bible says *everything belongs to God*. Heads nodded. Yes, we know that. Then he reminded us that we as Bible-believers do well with this reality in the big picture of things, but we privately harbor a skeptic’s struggle. Does that *really* mean that *all* my stuff belongs to God? Like my home? My ski condo? My mountain cabin? My new cars? My bank accounts?

Our present and pervasive cultural reality wants us to believe that “I am my stuff.” My stuff is mine; I earned it; it gives me my identity and status.

But that’s not what the Bible teaches. Psalm 24:1-2 proclaims that “the earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.”

God doesn’t give gifts because he doesn’t give up ownership—he doesn’t give away what he has created and sustains. Instead, God entrusts to us the stewardship of his creation and all its “stuff.” This means we are accountable to God as the Owner. All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

For further reflection, consider the prayer from King David after he was denied the right to build the Temple for God’s Presence (the ark of the covenant) but spearheaded a major capital campaign of generosity for the building of the Temple by his son Solomon, found in I Chronicles 29:14-16

*“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you....all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.”*

—Jinny De Jong



# AN EXPENSIVE LESSON

## MAKING SENSE OF QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

When you reach 70 years of age as I did a few years ago, I discovered a new way to make charitable contributions that for me, were tax-free. That's right—tax-free!

First, you must be over 70½; second, your gift or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) must come from a Traditional or Inherited IRA; and third, the distribution must be made out to the qualified charity and not to you. Perhaps you saw the promo box on QCD's in the last Messenger (p. 5). But there's more to my story that includes an expensive lesson.

Before I turned 70½, I took a distribution from my Traditional IRA, deposited the proceeds, and then wrote checks to the organizations my wife Maryrose, and I support. Simple. For us, the tax computation was straightforward because the gifts were part of our Itemized Deductions on our Form 1040, and the tax consequence was negligible. (By the way, this was before the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.)

However, the impact on our Medicare Part B costs was a big surprise! Medicare Part B and D premiums are based on your Adjusted Gross Income or AGI. So those charitable gifts, including those given to First Pres, did not reduce our AGI even though they

were completely deducted from our taxable income. Your annual Medicare statement will tell you how your Medicare premiums are calculated and how much those premiums will increase if your AGI exceeds certain thresholds.

Maybe gift(s) funded by your retirement funds (required minimum distributions or RMD's) and paid to charities through your direct giving won't affect your Medicare premiums, but why take the risk?

In our case, a large IRA distribution to fund some home improvements increased our AGI, thereby increasing each of our Medicare Part B payments by over \$600/year. Had we used a QCD for our charitable gifts, our AGI would have been reduced by the amount of our gifts and our Medicare premiums would not have changed. That became my impetus for using a QCD rather than paying directly from our checking account for our charitable giving.

A QCD makes distributions directly from your qualified retirement account to the 501(c)(3) charity of your choice. The QCD will count against your annual Required Minimum Distribution or RMD, but it will not be part of your AGI. As such, you can make a charitable distribution, avoid any income tax on the distribution, and not affect how

your future Medicare premiums will be calculated. That's also important if you want to make large one-time gifts.

The 2017 tax law changes make an even more favorable case for using a QCD. If you take the standard deduction (\$12,000 filing singly; \$24,000 filing jointly; plus, the extra standard deduction for those who are over age 65 — or blind — of \$1,600 single, or \$1,300 each for a married couple filing jointly), then you cannot itemize your charitable gifts. But you can still use a QCD for your charitable gifting and avoid any taxes on those gifts.

If this sounds interesting, contact your tax advisor or retirement fund administrator and find out if a QCD—Qualified Charitable Distribution—makes sense for you.

The following links can provide more information.

### IRS Information

<https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-iras-distributions-withdrawals>

### US News

<https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/iras/articles/2017-12-04/how-to-donate-your-required-minimum-distribution-to-charity>

—Dale Preston



## FPC TAKES EARTH CARE PLEDGE

"Earth Care Congregation" is the recognition extended by Presbyterian Church (USA) to individual churches that have pledged to take affirmative measures and have documented steps taken in the areas of Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach. FPC's Session has executed the Earth Care Pledge and has committed our church to taking the Earth Care steps necessary to seek certification as an Earth Care Congregation in early 2020, the next available certification opportunity. We believe that FPC already meets many Earth Care standards, from outdoor worship at last year's camping trip to sermon series to motion-sensing light fixtures. You may expect that members of FPC's Creation Care Team and Missions and Outreach Center to work with each Center to identify Earth Care criteria that FPC already meets as well as opportunities to achieve additional goals that make sense for our congregation.



## CHURCH OF CHARACTER

# FORGIVENESS

The character quality for the Summer 2019 Messenger is FORGIVENESS (versus bitterness). Forgiveness can be defined as: “Clearing the record of those who have wronged me and not holding a grudge.” It could also be defined as: “Responding to offenders so that the power of God’s love through me can heal them.”

An eraser does not make what has been written any less true or false, but an eraser does clear the paper so that it can serve another purpose. Similarly, forgiveness does not eliminate past offenses, but it does make it possible to move forward. God has commanded us to forgive others. Matthew 6:14-15 says: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you, but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” When we are offended, God gives us the grace to forgive our offenders.

Forgiveness is important because God has commanded us to forgive one another. But there are other reasons why forgiveness is important as well. These might include the following:

**“I will permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him.”**

**—Booker T. Washington**

### **Forgiveness Brings Freedom**

Forgiveness allows you to grow from your past experiences instead of becoming imprisoned by them. Forgiving others lifts a burden from our shoulders and gives us a wonderful sense of freedom because we know that we are following God’s commandments about forgiveness. “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

### **Forgiveness Builds Relationships**

Forgiveness is vitally important to have strong, close relationships with others. Sooner or later, those close to you will offend you in some way. Forgiving hurtful words or actions is important to both of you. Forgiveness allows you to appreciate other’s strong points and to build positive relationships, instead of becoming distracted by focusing on the hurts they have caused.

### **Asking for Forgiveness Demonstrates Esteem for Others**

When you ask for forgiveness, you are showing that you value the other person and your relationship with them. You gain credibility by demonstrating both respect for the other person’s feelings and sincere grief for your error.

### **Forgiveness Provides Perspective**

True forgiveness brings the perspective you need to cooperate with the process of justice and to avoid bitterness. Forgiveness does not minimize the reality of something that may have happened, nor does it release the offender from having to take responsibility for his or her actions. Forgiveness provides you with the perspective needed to deal with the past and then move on with your life.

A graphic for a church camping trip. It features a stylized illustration of a mountain range with a tent pitched in the foreground. The text "FPC" is above the tent, and "CHURCH CAMPING TRIP" is written in a curved banner below it. To the right, the dates "JULY 11-14" are prominently displayed, with "GLACIER BASIN CAMPGROUND IN RMNP" underneath. At the bottom, a dense forest of evergreen trees is shown. The text "RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT FIRSTPRESFC.ORG" is written in large, bold, white letters across the bottom of the graphic.

**FPC**

**CHURCH CAMPING TRIP**

**JULY 11-14**

**GLACIER BASIN CAMPGROUND IN RMNP**

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT FIRSTPRESFC.ORG**





# THE GIFT

## WHEN CHILDREN BREAK YOUR HEART

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In these last weeks and months, I have spoken with many parents about their children—young children, adult children, or children who are no longer on this earth. While children do bring great joy to our lives, they also can bring a time when we need a little cut and paste on our hearts—to repair some damage. We’ve all been there. I’d like to share with you below a letter that was given to one of my friends when her son broke a few hearts. I think it’s worth reading.

*The gift... Sometimes the most precious gifts are the ones that come unexpectedly, overwhelming us with the experience of a love heretofore unknown. You are a parent; therefore, I want to give you this gift. It was one given to me after an agonizing experience that had left me drained and disappointed. I learned that no matter how much you love your children, no matter how sincerely you carried out your responsibility as a parent (never perfectly but sincerely) children will make mistakes. You will experience hurt, disappointment, and possibly shame as a result of their mistakes. It may be the kind of error, bad judgment, or faulty action that becomes common knowledge, or it may be only known to the family. Either way, the pain caused will be severe. The one great prayer of every parent should be that the error will not be one that will cause irreversible damage. The failures of imperfect children, like imperfect parents, are unavoidable.*

*With that said, here is the gift. Blaming yourself for your children’s mistakes is neither helpful or realistic—a sheer waste of emotion. If you must grieve, let it be with them over the hurt the mistake has caused to all those involved. You could not, no matter how exemplary your parental role, have avoided their making a mistake. It is human, the very reason for God’s gift of grace, both for you and the erring child. A part of the gift I offer to you is this; don’t look back for a place to put the blame, use your tears on the pain the shortcoming created.*

*Here is the most important part of the gift I give you and your child in difficulty: walk with them through misery caused by the poor judgment or whatever. Don’t carry them, walk with them. To carry them often gives them a false sense about the results associated with wrongdoing. To walk with them is to let them know you understand how it hurts, and that the “slough of despond” is on your shoes also. But let them know you care enough to be there and you will support them until you and they are again moving beyond and above the once difficult path.*

*Everyone grows when parent and child find that true love means that even in the hard to take reality of stupid mistakes, costly mistakes, and painful mistakes, there is never abandonment. Tears, yes, but not rejection or the painfulness of fault-finding and blame-placing. Let your tears be followed by the strength of your presence, reassurance of love and forgiveness, and the promise of support until the difficulty becomes a past learning experience and leads to greater maturity and renewed trust.*

—Marge Rice

***“The most important thing with children is to give them your time. Actually, that's all that matters.”***

**—Monica Bellucci**

To be a Children's Ministries Director is to be in a constant state of awe. I am in awe of those of you who have given so much of your time to the children of our church. Children's Ministries would be non-existent without you. When I express this to you, I see a transformation come over your faces. You start telling of how our children have blessed you. I hear stories of how your time with them was fun or profound or soul-touching or funny. You make it clear that ministry with children is a two-way street. You may never know the difference you make in the life of a child, but you have. Each interaction is like a single thread in the tapestry of their life. And remember, at the same time that you are adding beautiful colors of love and wisdom, they are adding their own colors to your tapestry. Each of you has added beautiful colors to my life as well, as the Children's Ministries Director and as simply Pam.

To be a thread in the tapestry of a child does not require special training. You don't have to be “good with children.” In fact, it is not even mandatory that you “like” children in general (although, if you plan to spend significant time with them, you should!). It does mean that you understand that they are the future of the church, and therefore, they are your ministry. Your smile and “hello” on a Sunday morning will be part of making church and faith precious to them all their lives. Your positive attention will help build their

positive sense of self. Your example will help shape them. Your love will embody the love of God.

The other side of my coin is the sometimes daunting quantity of volunteers that I need to make these ministries happen. Here is what I mean: Sunday school requires 15-20. Vacation Bible School requires at least 50. Special events (Advent Celebration, Fall Festival, etc.) require at least ten each. A Prayer Partner Ministry, if every child had a different Prayer Partner, would require 80 and Intergenerational events require all of you at least once. I have amazing, dedicated volunteers—and I need more! I most likely don't know that you want to volunteer. But there are several ways that you can let me know! Call me at (651)983-0676. Email me at [parmstrong@firstpresfc.org](mailto:parmstrong@firstpresfc.org). In the pew pad that you sign each Sunday, there is a line that says “Contact me for” write “Children's Ministries” or the specific ministry that the Spirit is nudging you toward. There is a volunteer board in the hall next to the Narthex. Fill out the little form and put it in the box. On our website under Ministries, you will find a link to Children. At the bottom of the page, there is a link to a Volunteer Form. Stop me when you see me and say, “God told me to talk to you about volunteering!” And then you, too, will be on the list of those who keep me in a constant state of awe.

—Pam Armstrong

#### **What's Happening this Summer:**

- **Vacation Bible School: To Mars and Beyond**  
June 10–14, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with a **VBS Celebration**, Sunday, June 16. Sing VBS songs in worship, then join us on the lawn after worship for Donuts for Dads, bouncy houses, and fun!
- **Playground Church**  
June 2– August 25 (*Exception: July 7th*), 10:00 a.m.  
During the worship service, children 4-years-old through 5th grade are welcome to join Kelly Regan and Pam Armstrong for Playground Church (summer Sunday school). Our theme this year is “Journey with Joshua.” We will all become archeologists and uncover the story of Joshua! Children should be dressed for the outdoors and wear sunscreen.
- **Summer Parent's Night Out**  
Third Fridays, 6:00–9:00 p.m.  
We have extended PNO into the summer months. Watch the eNews for further details.
- **Back to School After Winter Break Supplies Drive**  
By Winter Break, most of the shiny new school supplies have been well used or used up, but the “Back to School” prices are long gone! So in August, the Kid's First Ministries will have boxes set out for school supplies to be stored here and then distributed in January to teachers and students who need them.

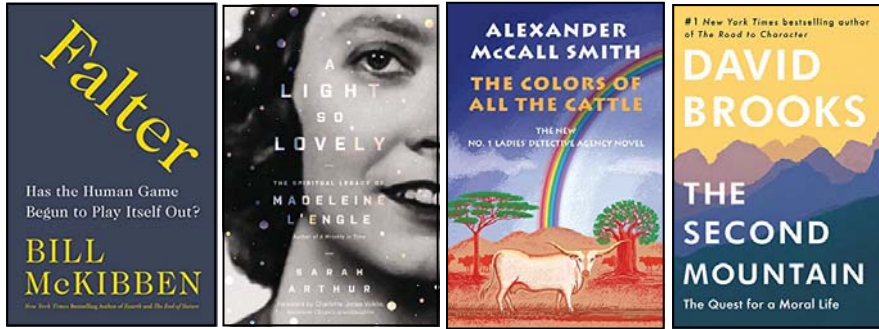




# LIBRARY CORNER

## THE WORD SOURCE

The Word Source Library at FPC has some new books for your summer reading pleasure. Stop in for a great read!



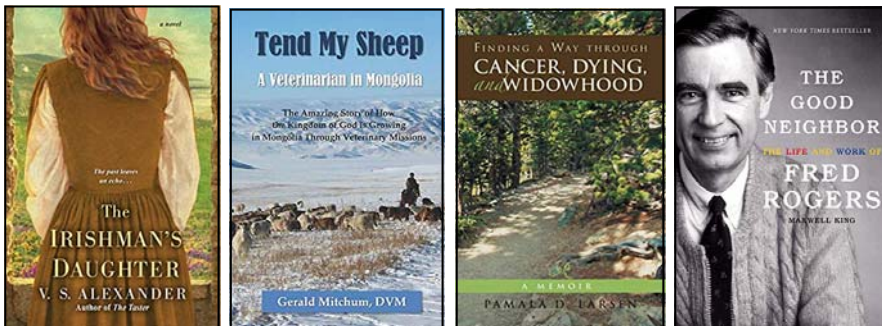
### For Adults:

*Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?* by Bill McKibben. A look at the challenges facing humanity in the world we have created from the author of *The End of Nature*.

*A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeline L'Engle*, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Sarah Arthur. The story of this enigmatic and imaginative writer and her enduring faith.

*The Colors of All the Cattle (No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series)*, by Alexander McCall Smith. Mma Ramotswe is persuaded to become a candidate for office in the 19th installment of this series.

*The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*, by David Brooks. The author discusses the commitments he finds necessary for leading a life of meaning and purpose.



*The Irishman's Daughter*, by V.S. Alexander. A novel set against the backdrop of the Irish famine.

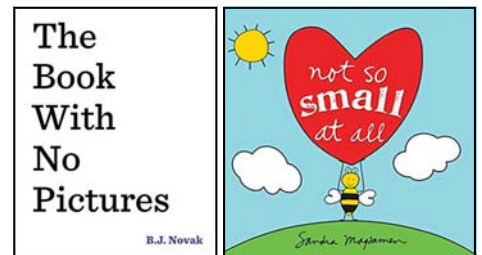
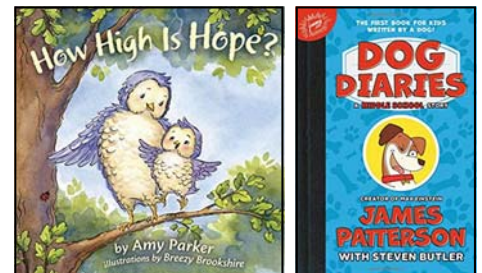
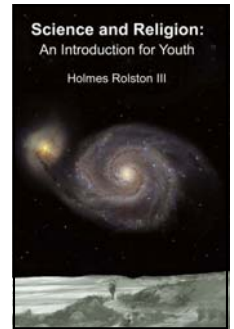
*Tend My Sheep: A Veterinarian in Mongolia*, by Gerald Mitchum. The story of a veterinarian, working through Christian Veterinary Mission, who spent 25 years among Mongolian herdsman and their families.

*Finding a Way Through Cancer, Dying, and Widowhood: A Memoir*, by FPC's own Pamela D. Larsen. An honest account of the difficulty of dealing with cancer of a loved one from diagnosis through illness, death and widowhood.

*The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers*, by Maxwell King. This full-length biography of Fred Rogers tells the story of his personal, professional, and artistic life.

### For Youth:

*Science and Religion: An Introduction for Youth*, by Holmes Rolston III. Written for young people in grades 9–12, this is an introduction to the big questions posed by science and religion.



### For Children:

*How High is Hope*, by Amy Parker. Little Owl is learning to fly, and he has a big lesson to learn about the meaning of hope, based on 1 Corinthians 13:13.

*The Book With No Pictures*, by B.J. Novak. This hilarious book must be read out loud—and often!

*Dog Diaries*, by James Patterson. Things are about to get really “ruff” for a naughty dog at obedience school.

*Not So Small at All*, by Sandra Magsamen. Little creatures are full of potential.



Each year, the youth ministry at FPC welcomes high school freshmen to participate in a year-long confirmation class. This year, Pam Genson and I had the privilege of teaching three exceptional young women. These ladies met twice a month throughout the school year to learn about the foundations of the Christian faith and the Presbyterian Church and to practice a variety of spiritual disciplines. On April 29, they presented their statements of faith before members of the Session and were officially received as members of our congregation. I am proud to introduce them to you here:

## Welcome Confirmands



**Haley Josephson** is a freshman at Fossil Ridge. She has played the Viola since 6th grade. She loves all animals but especially dogs and cats. Haley came to First Presbyterian Church in 6th grade and started coming regularly with her parents. She is looking forward to becoming involved in the church community!



**Claire Potter** is in 9th grade at Fort Collins High School. Some of her hobbies include playing many different sports throughout the year like volleyball, Nordic skiing, tennis, and swim team. She also plays the viola in the orchestra. In the community, Claire enjoys being a member of the National Charity League. In her free time, she loves to be outside hiking or camping with her family and dogs. Claire has been attending First Presbyterian Church since she moved to Fort Collins and is excited to have become a member of the church.



**Michaela Ryan** is a freshman at Poudre High School. She enjoys dancing all different styles as a hobby, including clogging, jazz, and lyrical. She was also part of the diving team at Poudre during the winter season. She enjoys hiking, camping, biking, and just being outdoors with her friends and family.

It has been a great privilege to spend the year getting to know these young women better, walking with them in their faith journey, hearing their beautiful and powerful statements of faith, and standing by their side as they were officially welcomed as members of our church community. If you see them around, I encourage you to stop and talk with them. I am certain you will be blessed by the encounter, just as I have been.

—Kalista Consol

# FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION

## CONSOL HEADS TO THE PHILIPPINES WITH YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS

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When I applied for the youth ministry position at First Pres in the summer of 2016, I was surprised but excited about the opportunity toward which God was directing me. In the three years since then, God has poured out blessings on me that are far richer than I ever would have imagined. Becoming a part of the FPC staff has led to what I am certain will be life-long friendships. In joining FPC's worshipping body, I inherited a family, which is a sentiment I know many of you readers can echo. Grander still, God blessed me with the profound privilege of getting to know the youth in our church community.

I struggle to find words which adequately express the power, beauty, and wisdom that God has birthed in each one of these students. It is an understatement to say these youth blessed and taught me more than I ever could have given them. I would love to tell you each one by name and describe to you the unique fire which God has set ablaze in their souls.

This is why when I recognized the Spirit's gentle pull towards ministry outside of my current position, I was torn, but after much prayer and reflection, I knew God was leading me somewhere new. At Pastor Corey's suggestion, I applied and was accepted, to be a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) through PC(USA).

As an international YAV I have the remarkable privilege to spend a year in the Philippines living with a host family and serving in a volunteer-role in partnership with the local church and university. I am excited about having been placed in the Philippines because of parallels in our political climate with theirs, and the possibility that I could learn from those who are leading gender and immigrant advocacy there. In the process thus far, I have been impressed by the Young Adult Volunteer program's intentionality and preparation in creating a sustainable and empowering impact. They are quite clear that I am not going abroad to "save" or "change" anything. I am blessed with the opportunity to go and "be," to learn, and to serve with humility.

Because God has blessed me with this incredible opportunity and because I know that I will leave the youth ministry in God's good and powerful care (where it has always been), it is with gratitude that I prepare to say some goodbyes, and with joy that I look ahead to the Philippines. With these same sentiments, I ask that this family at First Pres would join me in this beautiful adventure. Above all, I ask for prayer. I know many of you have prayed for me and for the FPC youth ministry in these past years, and I ask that you would continue



to pray for both even as the ministry thrives here, and I begin to grow across the ocean. If you would also like to partner with me financially, you can do so at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E210501/>. If you are able, I would love a partner to help me practice my Tagalog. Finally, if any of you are interested, I invite you to witness what God has in store for this coming year as I share and reflect through a blog at <http://kalistaconsol.home.blog/>.

Thank you to each of you who has made this church my home, and for your prayers and excitement as I follow God along this beautiful and ever-winding path.

—Kalista Consol



**Inspirational!** Self-reflecting! **Renewed my faith**  
 Opportunity to meet and interact  
 with so many marvelous women! **Thoughtful!**  
*Loved the fellowship!* Met new women & renewed old acquaintances.  
**MEANINGFUL SMALL GROUP SESSIONS**  
 Great to see multi-generations in attendance!  
*Meditative, balanced, and relaxing.* I feel blessed to  
 have been here!



These are but a few of the responses to evaluations from the April 5–7, 2019 First Presbyterian Church Women's Retreat held in Estes Park at the lovely YMCA of the Rockies. Sixty FPC women spent time in fellowship with one another based on the theme *Sister Disciples*, a concept taken from biblical texts, Luke 10:38–42; John 12:1–8, and John 11:1–7 and 17–44. The weekend focused on insight into the personalities of sisters Mary and Martha, devoted disciples of Jesus, and the practical meaning of their lives for us in our lives today.

Through large and small group discussions we grappled with such issues as the nature of women's hearts for service, hospitality, and welcome; finding balance in our busy lives; and our tendencies toward anxiety and worry as we are wrapped up in everyday tasks and busyness. With the scriptural base, being in deliberate relationship-building, singing together, worshipping together, sharing meals, celebrating communion, taking walks, chatting, spending personal time, and even a mission project activity, we were reminded that Jesus' response in the story shows a great deal of compassion and understanding for both Martha and Mary. He acknowledged Martha's industry and Mary's rapt attention. Being together enabled us to try to understand and remember that God ultimately desires our attention and obedience. Those of us in attendance chose to let tasks, worry, and distractions go, in order to sit at Jesus's feet with other sisters in Christ.

—Madgetta Dungy





# RED, RED ROBES NEWLY SPRUNG IN JUNE

FOLLETT ESTATE LEAVES A LEGACY OF LOVE FOR MUSIC



Barb Follett was raised in LaPorte, a member of the prominent Delahoy family. She met and married Hunter Follett and moved to Manhattan, Kansas where he was a professor at Kansas State University. In 1982, Hunter and Barb returned to the Fort Collins area when Hunter joined the faculty of Colorado State University. Shortly after arriving back in Fort Collins the couple began to attend First Presbyterian Church. Rich McDermott was a few years into his tenure as Senior Pastor. Hunter and Barb engaged in the newly introduced Bethel Bible Series where they began to meet folks and assimilate into our congregational life.

Unfortunately, Hunter was later diagnosed with terminal cancer. After Hunter's death, Barb began singing in our Chancel Choir in the late 1980s. The Choir usually sang in the second of our two Sunday morning services. When the Chancel Choir was disbanded, Barb joined the Sanctuary Choir.

Shortly after Marv Crawford moved to Fort Collins in 2007 to become the

Director of Music and Arts, Barb joined him in Sanctuary Choir leadership by becoming one of the Choir librarians. This often frustrating and thankless job entails keeping each copy of hundreds of compositions in easily retrievable order, preserving the personal notes of each Choir musician, so they have them the next time the Choir sings the composition. Barb continued in that position until her progressing illness forced her to retire after approximately nine years of service.

Barb loved all sorts of athletics. Rarely, if ever, did she miss a CSU Ram's Football game (in Hughes Stadium), or a CSU Men's Basketball game (in Moby Arena). She was part of a family of athletes. As much as possible, Barb would follow her grandchildren in their accomplishments. She would often tell the Choir of an upcoming trip to see one of the grandchildren compete in various venues throughout the country.

Barb loved the Lord, she loved her family, she loved FPC, and she loved the Choir with whom she ministered—and

the Choir loved her! To our surprise, upon her death, we learned Barb had left the church a sizable gift from her estate, half of which was to benefit the Music Ministry and half of which was to benefit the church at large. The music ministry portion has been used to meet two long-standing needs, new robes and music folders for the Sanctuary Choir which were first used on Easter Sunday, and a significant down payment on new choir loft chairs. A few others in the congregation, inspired by Barb's gift have stepped in to complete the purchase of the new chairs after using our current chairs for nearly 40 years. The new chairs will be in our use by June 1, 2019!

Please join the Sanctuary Choir, and the Worship, Music, and the Arts Center in a huge thank you to Barb for her foresight in helping to sustain and enhance our Choir's ministry.

With deepest gratitude,  
Bob Powell for The Sanctuary Choir and  
The Worship, Music, and the Arts  
Center



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'THE MESSENGER' (U.S.P.S. 562110) is published five times yearly by First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Collins, CO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 'THE MESSENGER', First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524. The publisher of this periodical reserve the right to edit all material submitted.



**SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM, MAY 26–SEPTEMBER 1**  
**WITH PLAYGROUND CHURCH FOR KIDS**