

# THE MESSENGER

| NEWS FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT COLLINS |

## COVID CHRONICLES



**FALL  
FESTIVAL  
FAMILY FUN**

**INTO THE UNKNOWN**

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## From the Editor | A REVIEW

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to review a product I bought into 10 months ago: the year 2020. The year dawned with great expectations...but it didn't take long for 2020 to show her true colors. Since the beginning of the year, we have been plagued by mystery drones over Colorado's skies, bushfires killing precious koalas and burning thousands of acres in Australia, locust swarms in Africa, and consuming wildfires in the western United States. What's more, social unrest and division over police brutality and racism have tormented our communities. And perhaps worst of all, this year has brought a pandemic that has taken the lives of over a million people worldwide and has infused the daily life of every individual and family with fear, economic and education insecurity, and logistic upheaval.

I want to return 2020 for a full refund.

And yet, for other reasons, I don't.

2020 overflows with silver linings, beauty from ashes.

- Families are coming together. Ordered to stay at home, families are unplugging, reconnecting— playing together, laughing together, growing together.
- Kindness is all around. From yard signs to inspirational rocks, people are reaching out to scatter goodwill in their neighborhoods.
- People are serving others. Whether we send cards to the homebound, make meals for the sick, sew masks for neighbors, donate water and Gatorade for firefighters, or pray for those in need, people take care of each other.
- Church is not dead. Ministry leaders have been challenged into creativity. We connect, teach, and minister by email and phone, on Zoom or live-stream, and even in person from six feet away. We have literally shared the word of God from the rooftops of FPC!
- What's more, our earth is healing. Reduced manufacturing and vehicle traffic reduce pollution. The environment is getting a break.
- Life is a bit slower. Gone are busy days of dashing from one to-do to the next. There's a stillness.

Is this what you have had planned from the start? After all, you said, "Be still, and know that I am God." In the hushed moments of 2020, have we grown closer to you? Do we see the power in the stillness? Do we rejoice in the quiet? Maybe 2020 has been exactly what we needed all along. Continue to bless 2020, we pray. My review: five stars.

—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

## DISCERNMENT AND DECISIONS

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Hello Friends,

*Knowing that important communications are best shared more than once and in more than one medium, I have sent the following letter out to FPC households through the mail and am sharing it again below:*

As Miriam and I begin our fifth year of ministry here, we are more grateful than ever for the joy and privilege of sharing this journey with our First Presbyterian Church family of faith. This year has certainly included challenges that none of us ever expected which has also heightened our appreciation for the strength, support, and hope that our faith and this community provide for us all.

Over the past several months we have seen firsthand the fruits of the Spirit in our midst as people have stepped up to teach children (including grandchildren and neighborhood children), deliver groceries and gifts, participate in drive-by graduations and birthdays, make calls and send cards—especially to those who are more isolated. Clearly, our church is alive and well and living out its call to shine light near and far. Thanks be to God.

In this Fall edition of *The Messenger*, I want to give you an update on our discernment and decisions regarding ministry and mission at FPC in the months ahead. Over the summer months, we have engaged a task force which includes health care professionals and Elders on Session, along with staff, leaders and myself to discern the best path forward for FPC — especially as we launch a new program year this month. We have also been in conversations with churches across the state and around the country to learn from best practices and challenges. This work has resulted in some clear insights and commitments as follows:

- As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are grounded in a calling to “love our neighbors as ourselves.” In this Spirit, we are committed to offering opportunities for worship, discipleship, pastoral care, and fellowship that are safe and inclusive of all of our members. To that end, we will continue to offer all of these opportunities online for the foreseeable future.
- If we were to attempt to move back to regular in-person worship in the sanctuary, abiding by the safety protocols, limited attendance, distancing, restrictions on singing, and no choir or fellowship opportunities it would result in a much-diminished version of what we can offer now through recorded online services.

Churches that we have surveyed that are offering in-person experiences have had mixed responses and increasingly reduced attendance as people realize that, for now, they mostly prefer to worship online.

- With this commitment to excellent online ministry in place, we also recognize that some people are comfortable having in-person gatherings as allowed within the public health guidelines. Following the success of events like Fellowship in the Park and study groups this summer, we will continue to offer some ‘over and above’ in-person opportunities this fall and will announce those in the weekly email and in our online worship services. We are also looking ahead to Advent and Christmas Eve to see what might be possible to offer in-person, but again, only in addition to online worship or fellowship experiences.
- We are also doing everything possible to utilize our FPC campus for ministry and mission in a way that is safe and effective. Some of our mission partners (like The Matthews House and McBackpacks for example) are utilizing the space to serve vulnerable families in the community. We are also beginning to offer limited church office hours and programs, seeking to balance a measure of safety alongside our desire to expand the ways in which we live out our calling.

I know that within our congregation we hold many viewpoints, perspectives and life experiences regarding this pandemic and our collective response. Discerning the best ways to serve our church and community is a challenging task in this environment. I’m grateful to the many leaders, staff, and volunteers who have been resilient, flexible, and creative over the past six months and invite your prayers and support as we continue for the foreseeable future. Let us know how we can continue to support you, nourish your faith, and how we as a church can better serve our neighbors. As always, my door is open, either in-person, by phone, or email and I encourage you to reach out to me or members of the Session if you have questions, concerns or feedback.

While this is a challenging time to navigate, I’m so grateful that together we are rising to the challenge and discovering anew the strength and hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Peace,  
Pastor Corey

# COVID CHRONICLES

## STORIES FROM THE 2020 PANDEMIC

### *Frontline Worker* SHELLEY MOORE, M.D.



When I was asked to write about my experience as a “frontline health care worker” during this pandemic, I said yes because I usually enjoy the process of reflecting on important events that happen in my life. Little did I know how painful or difficult it would be for me to put down in words and describe all the different emotions I’ve felt and all the highs and lows I have experienced during the last six months. I guess I could summarize by saying I’ve gotten really good at putting one foot in front of the other and trying not to look too far into the future. There have been so many things along the way that have helped me get through this. I’ve always found comfort in being a problem solver, and my involvement and leadership role in my medical practice has been a huge blessing for me. But most of all, my husband, Joseph, and my children have been my primary source of hope and comfort.

In early March, when everything around us started shutting down (schools, restaurants, local businesses, and ski resorts), I was suddenly busier than ever. I had to spend every waking minute either in a meeting, working on securing PPE for my practice, on my computer reading or writing, or working in our urgent care clinic.

While I probably deserve some resentment from my family from all the time I’ve spent away from them during the last six months, I have only received admiration, love, gratitude, and respect from them. Even though I don’t always succeed, I have tried to make our family time together meaningful, whether we are on an exciting camping adventure or having a rare peaceful and quiet afternoon at home.

Not having any previous military experience whatsoever, I have often felt like I’ve been in the middle of an invisible war. When it was first apparent to those of us who are lucky enough to work in health care that we had no choice but to face this new enemy head-on, I felt compelled to do everything I could possibly do to survive and make others feel safe.

As medical director of an Urgent Care, I knew that we had to act quickly to adopt hospital-grade infection control measures. It was clear that it was not safe for us to

continue to take care of patients in the usual manner. The fear that all of us practicing medicine were feeling was unprecedented. It was similar to the fear I had as a new doctor learning how to take care of patients by myself after graduating from medical school. But then, I had upper-level residents and attending physicians whose job it was to mentor me and make sure I didn’t make any grave mistakes. When this pandemic first hit, I realized that possibly for the first time as a physician, I did not have a textbook, medical app, or mentor to teach me how to take care of patients with this new SARS- COV-2 virus. Not only did I have anxiety about not knowing how to care for my patients, but I also had anxiety about my risk of getting sick while caring for my patients. I couldn’t help but read the heartbreaking stories about nurses, physicians, and other health care workers falling ill while taking care of their patients. Our medical practice knew that we needed to stay open for our patients, but we also knew that if we also got sick, then we would all be in trouble.

One of my most vivid low points came in early March, while I attended a zoom meeting run by the Colorado Medical Society. During this time, I listened to many different informative webinars providing education about COVID-19 to help Colorado physicians navigate the challenges that we faced during this pandemic. This particular webinar was about the U.S. Government’s available supply of PPE that was allotted to Colorado at that time. I remember listening in utter disbelief and shock at the small number of emergency PPE supplies that were available for our medical community if our current supplies ran out. I ran to Joseph in tears and



bawled for about 15 minutes in his arms. Feeling the weight of my medical practice on my shoulders, I was devastated to think that we might run out of masks for our providers and staff in the following weeks.

Much of the last six months have been a blur for me. Fortunately, we did create a few family traditions along the way. One of the things we started doing was having regular family meetings in the hot tub. Nothing really got accomplished during these meetings, but it forced my husband and me off our phone and away from our computers. We also started going for regular Saturday morning family hikes together. Our boys are heavily involved in competitive swimming, but we had time to go on hikes together since this was on hold for a while.

Perhaps my favorite thing we've done is to create a Sunday morning ritual called "Breakfast Church," which consists of watching church on our laptop computer while we sit at our kitchen table in our pajamas and eat our favorite breakfast of cinnamon rolls,

scrambled eggs, bacon, and fruit salad. Attending church even on a computer has been an incredibly cathartic experience for me. I don't often make take time out of my busy week to contemplate and feel the deep sadness and grief around me or feel the extent of God's love and mercy surrounding me. Even through a screen, being in church does this for me.

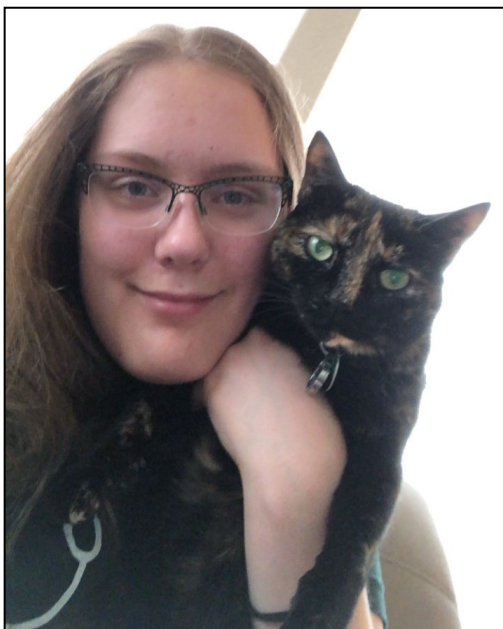
Growing up as a competitive swimmer, I have always known that regular exercise has an immensely positive impact on my mood and well-being. While it hasn't always been easy for me to find time to exercise, I have continued to run, do yoga, hike, or swim several times a week. During the first month of the pandemic, when I felt too exhausted to do much aerobic exercise, my husband Joseph and I made up our own 40-day yoga challenge where we did 40 minutes of yoga together each day. This not only encouraged us to spend time together, but it also created time in our day to slow down, breathe, and mindfully move our bodies. Several years ago, I became an avid meditator after

completing a Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction class and learned all about the health benefits associated with regular meditation. My commitment to meditation has waxed and waned since then, but in the last few months I have started meditating regularly again. Recently, I have found it to be especially helpful in dealing with some of my frustrations and difficult emotions around not knowing when this pandemic will be over, and life will return to "normal."

For me, spending time with my family (especially in nature), hearing God's word on Sundays, exercising, and meditating has kept me going during this tremendously difficult time. As this pandemic continues on, I will continue to put one foot in front of the other and try not to look too far into the future. I will continue to be thankful for the beautiful family that I have been blessed with and the incredible honor I have of being a physician in this community. And I will continue to lean onto others and take time to grieve when the sadness gets too much for me to ignore.

## *Student (age 16)*

HALEY JOSEPHSON



My junior year at Fossil Ridge High School began with virtual learning, in school Monday–Thursday for 90 minutes. Forty-five minutes are synchronous and the other 45 are asynchronous, although most teachers do mostly synchronous and then assign more work, which builds up and makes it hard to manage. Fridays are all asynchronous, and are supposedly for catch-up, but teachers assign more work and some use those days for test taking. On October 19, we will enter a hybrid format where I go to school Monday and Wednesday, and the other days are virtual. I think it won't take very long for someone to get COVID, and then we will be back to the virtual format. The only positive is that I get to see more friends at school, although the school is split in half into A + B groups, so I only get to see half of them.

What worries me the most is the possibility of getting COVID-19 at school and then spreading it to my family and friends, which is why I like virtual learning better — there is no risk of getting COVID-19 from your laptop. I also get to have my cats sitting on my lap while I am in class, which is frowned upon at normal school, so that is a bonus! Overall, I would rather participate in virtual learning than in hybrid learning, and I hope we get a vaccine soon so we can go back to school normally.

*Child (age 10)*  
THOMAS MACK

*Editor's note: The following interview was conducted by Thomas' mother, Ginny Mack.*



***What is Coronavirus?***

Coronavirus would really be just a little worse than the flu if we had a vaccine. Right now, though it is very bad because we have no way to stop it.

***What has changed for you this year?***

Basically, what has changed the most for me is not seeing friends as much or going out in public to fewer places, with the exception of grocery stores for shopping.

***What have you missed the most during COVID?***

What I have missed most of all is getting together with friends and playing a bunch since now I see fewer people outside of Zoom and playdates with masks that my Mom sets up.

***Do you have a mask? Describe it to me.***

I have two masks that I really like. One has a dragon design on it and the other one has soccer balls on one side and fish with fish hooks on the opposite side. My Mom's friend Patsy, one of her Navy friends, made them and I wear one of them every day.

***Who is your hero?***

My hero has been my Dad because he is a doctor and he's been caring for people with COVID for a while and he's been working a bunch at PVH, MCR, and Greeley hospitals.

***What is your favorite part of Sunday school with Miss Pam and Miss Kelly?***

My favorite part of Sunday school with Miss Pam and Miss Kelly has been the different activities that we do. We had a seed growing project and it was really fun to see the seeds we planted start to grow.

***What do you like most about COVID time?***

My favorite activity during COVID so far has been playing soccer since it's a chance to play outside with others. This year I'm part of a competitive soccer team and we've traveled to Boulder and Brighton so far. It's been fun.

***What is your favorite thing to do at home with your family?***

With my family, my favorite things to do are cards, boardgames and playing in the backyard different sports like baseball, soccer, and football. We also have been learning a new card game called Skyjo which has been fun together.

***What did you do this summer that was different?***

This summer I definitely did more fishing than before. Two different babysitters took me to ponds and lakes around town to fish and I caught a few. And my Dad and I did a float trip along the Green River for a few nights which was really fun. We only caught one fish, and I couldn't believe how cold it got at night. Our boots had icicles on them in the morning.

***What do you think will be different next summer?***

Next summer I think there will be a vaccine but not everyone will have it and people will still be cautious.





Confession: I cried in March when I learned my oldest son would not be returning to preschool.

It seems silly now, but back then, the idea of canceling school was unthinkable. My son is very social and intellectually curious. He has a ton of energy. I had always seen his three half-days of school as a necessity rather than a luxury.

With this development, we were forced to reconsider: What does our family really need?

The same news followed from our other community spaces. Even my husband's work travel was suspended. For two months, our family hunkered down. For perhaps the first time, it was truly just the five of us. We played board games, we baked, and we spent time in nature. We connected in new ways. It was a family honeymoon. It felt nice to have nowhere to be.

This, I thought. This is enough.

As time wore on, however, it became clear that something was missing. For our third month, we filled this void with a road trip, during which it was surprisingly easy to follow social distancing guidelines. It was a grand and memorable family adventure. There was something we needed out there—a whole wonderful world to discover.

We came home with wider eyes and broader smiles. The house felt safe and warm—if a little bit stale. We'd had a taste of adventure. The spark had been lit. We came to realize, this is enough for now—but this is not enough forever. Our family is the most important thing, but it is not the only thing. Life is more than this.

After four months – a third of a year, and half of our youngest child's lifetime—we attended our first social event. It was a small outdoor birthday party, and that's where we were faced, once again, with the spark. The smiles, the laughter, the moms catching up, and the kids playing tag...this is what we'd been missing. My children were more cheerful, and I was more patient and lighthearted. It felt as though we could all breathe again. This time, a different void was filled—a void that had grown deeper than we'd realized.

Of course, over the next week or so, the guilt settled into my chest. What had I been thinking, risking our health and the health of others? Were we stupid? Had we become lazy? Were we just unforgivably selfish people?

Or...were we learning how to parent in this "new normal" in a different, more sustainable way?

We are now passing the end of September—also known as the six-month mark. We wear masks, and we avoid large crowds. We keep six feet of distance. We opt for small-scale interactions in outdoor spaces. We wash hands and sanitize surfaces with a frequency that would have felt excessive just a year ago. However, our lives look very different than they did last Spring.

My husband is back to traveling for work - a "necessary evil." My oldest has started half-day kindergarten, which has been an incredibly positive developmental experience. My daughter attends preschool two mornings a week - although doing so looks very different than it did when my son was there six months ago. My baby cherishes this newfound one-on-one time.

As we choose to stray closer to "normal" amid rising COVID-19 cases, I sometimes fear we're reckless. In a sense, it's undeniable that we are. However, parents today face a lose-lose choice—that is, for those of us lucky enough to have a choice at all. Unemployment, divorce, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse rates are at an all-time high right now. This is not only a medical emergency. We are also facing a mental health crisis and an economic catastrophe. Newly single mothers are trying to navigate remote schooling while providing for themselves and their children. Small business owners are shutting their doors, knowing their new job prospects will be bleak. Most families we know, in one way or another, are simply struggling to stay afloat. We help one another as much as we can, but the time and energy to do so are scarcer than ever.

In this new world, we must each find our sense of balance. None are ideal. None are even pleasant – at least not all the time. Tomorrow though, as I drop my children off at schools I'm not allowed to enter and kiss my husband goodbye on a business trip some wouldn't take. I can count myself among the lucky ones. We've found a balance that works—for us—for now. Our boat may not look like our neighbor's, but for now, we are afloat, and it is beautiful.

## Ministry Leader

PAM ARMSTRONG



***“Detour: a long or roundabout route that is taken to avoid something or to visit somewhere along the way.”***  
***— Google Definition***

I was in the last hour of a five-hour journey to my parent’s house when I saw the detour sign. It was the final obstacle to my plan to get there before dark, or at least before supper. (The first five obstacles were due to procrastination.) So, annoyed and scowling, I followed the arrows through the back roads where the prairies of Minnesota blended into the prairies of North Dakota. Farmers on their tractors raised a hand of greeting. Their houses were quaint and homey; wash hanging on the line and Oreo-colored cows fenced in close by. Miles of honey wheat were interrupted by multi-colored windbreaks. Those well-planned rows of trees were new since the country drives of my childhood where nothing blocked the distant horizon. I slowed down to cross a bridge where a young girl was fishing. It is amazing how a whole conversation can happen in the flash of a grin. The little town I passed through had only been a name on the freeway exit sign until that moment. This detour had taken me to a place I had never been and would never return to. The detour was a mixed experience. I was both relieved to get back on the road to home and a little sad that my unplanned adventure was over,

***“Take a detour. Discover small towns and friendly faces that don’t grow along the highway.”***  
***— Khang Kijarro Nguyen***

Since March, we have been on this long detour from the road we anticipated for 2020. Arrows pointed us in different directions, and we have met signs reading, “Road Closed.” We have all found the detour to be difficult, frustrating, and disappointing. And yet, like so many detours, it has taken me places I had not gone before. The most valuable to me has been the opportunities to spend quality time with my church families. I realized that my conversations with the parents of my kiddos consisted mostly of “Hello!” or “Goodbye” and a lot of “Your child was awesome today!”

COVID has allowed me to drop off Sunday school bags with each family. I got to see each child’s home, yard, chickens, pets, and gardens. We had one-on-one time together. It has been priceless, and I hope to continue these visits even after we are back on our usual “road.” Zoom Sunday School has also had blessings: our kiddos are together (not in separate classes) and have gotten to know each other; we have “windows” into each other’s lives—and we know what each other’s houses and pajamas look like; kiddos that rarely could come to church are regulars on Zoom.

I look forward to the day when we can once again safely hold in-person activities at church, but I plan to incorporate the gifts God gave me on this COVID detour.

***“Perhaps the old man had chosen to look up through—or at least around—his problems while still smiling, knowing that a detour didn’t have to alter the destination, it merely changed the path.”***  
***— Kathy Harris,***  
**The Road to Mercy**



# LIBRARY CORNER

## THE WORD SOURCE

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### **Good News for Readers:**

Our FPC Word Source Library is OPEN. Like the FPC Office, the Library is open Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Visit the second floor of the Education Wing, in the northeast corner.

### **Book Returns**

Just place books on the cart inside the doorway; we will wipe down and re-shelve.

### **Checkouts**

The computer in the Library is NOT available, so for checkout, simply write your name, phone, book title, and book call number on the pad on the library desk (sanitized pencils provided). Although the library computer is unavailable in these no-touch COVID times, you can search the library collection by title or topic via [fpcfc.scoolaid.net](http://fpcfc.scoolaid.net) from your home computer, tablet, or smartphone.

A new display in the library features books on race relations and bible readings. Current Presbyterian periodicals are also on the magazine rack.

Need an autumn suggestion for a read relating to the recent FPC topic of stewardship of the earth? New by mid-October in our library, Edward Abbey's classic *Desert Solitaire* recounts both the beauty and the harshness of the Moab/Arches desert area, with Abbey's very candid viewpoints on the preservation of wilderness lands.

—Tom Tonoli and Carolynn Bond

# LEAVING A LEGACY

## KLON MATTHEWS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO TWO YOUNG WOMEN

**And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. —Hebrews 13:16**

A cherished member of First Presbyterian Church, Klon Matthews left a living legacy with the education fund he established through our church's Foundation. He was a life-long public-school educator and administrator, plus an outgoing and exuberant disciple of Christ. In 1999, his wife, Eileen, set up the Klon E. Matthews Scholarship Program to honor his commitment to education by supporting young Christian men and women in our church who have the desire to grow in their walk with Christ and pursue higher education.

Precious gifts like these to our Foundation are acts of charity and hope for the future of our church family. While the principle of these gifts is retained in the Foundation's perpetual fund, the income and earnings continue to provide secure, stable funding for God's work through our church for generations to come.

To date, the Klon Matthews Scholarship fund has distributed a total of \$18,550 in college scholarships to young adults in our congregation! The Klon Matthews fund currently makes available two \$1000 scholarships each year, with the goal of helping equip and encourage young adults at FPC. Two wonderful young women were awarded this year's scholarships:



Patrice Quadrel is currently in her third year at Creighton School of Dentistry in Omaha, NE. She didn't get much of a summer break this year because of COVID-19. All students are working in the clinic full time, wearing face shields and surgical gowns, so that they can hopefully stay up-to-date with their patients and graduate on time.

"The church has been a pivotal influence in my life by reinforcing my passion to care for others," said Patrice. "I am grateful to be in a profession that allows me to make others happier and healthier with my own two hands. Thank you FPC and the Matthews family for your generous contribution to my education!"



Bailey Bottoms applied for the Klon Matthews scholarship for many reasons, but mainly she committed to helping her family financially. "I also felt that I would fit the criteria well and would be honored to receive a scholarship that asked me about my faith and relationship with God," said Bailey. She is attending the University of Wyoming and couldn't be more excited! Even though she is currently

undecided in her major, her goal in life is to help people in whichever career path she chooses. "I am so incredibly grateful for this scholarship!" Bailey said. "The church and its members have always been so kind to me, have believed in me, and have encouraged me in everything I do. The church has shown me the love of a church family, and that made it possible for me to win this scholarship. I'm so thankful for this amazing opportunity, and I can't express how much it means."

On behalf of the Matthews family, the FPC Foundation Board, and the Klon Matthews Scholarship Committee, congratulations to Patrice and Bailey! All of us at FPC are so deeply grateful to Klon and Eileen Matthews and their legacy of charity and generosity that has benefited so many of our young adults, and will continue to do so in the years ahead.

—Audrey McDill



# Into the **UNKNOWN**

## WORDS OF FAREWELL FROM MARGE RICE

Venturing out into the unknown has always been a bit scary to me, but that is the direction I am headed—the unknown of Nebraska! As I reflected on my leaving my position at the church and moving to Nebraska, I realized that we have all ventured into the unknown these last six months. The “unknown” surrounded us, and we have all been looking for the courage to endure these times.

Someone once told me that “Bravery lives deep in every one of us, and there will be a day when you must reach down and summon it.” I think we’ve summoned it! I have been privileged to watch the resiliency in this church—not only to hang on and survive this crisis but to thrive. Through talking with many of you or reading your notes, I know that you have felt the love being poured on you by the staff, and especially by Miriam and Corey. We have had to get creative, think outside the box, and always try to remain tuned in to the congregation's needs. You have been an inspiration to us. I will always believe that our lives at FPC have been enriched because of our collective bravery.

I am a member of First Presbyterian Church, and I will remain a member of First Presbyterian Church. My time as Director of Caring has come to an end (though not the caring). It has been a humbling privilege to serve you and to love you. I have learned so much from all of you, and I will take that with me. There are no words to thank you for your generosity in these last days—not only monetary generosity but in loving notes and calls. I have shared many of these notes with my son in Nebraska, and he’s beginning to feel guilty for taking me away. (But that’s ok... it’s good for him!)

I can’t leave without my thanks to the staff as well, for those are the friends I had the privilege of working with every day. We have laughed with each other, encouraged one another, and prayed for one another. I have developed deep friendships there and will miss working with them. My heartfelt thanks to the pastoral team that I had the privilege of working alongside: Corey, Glenn, and Marv. I am a better person for having worked with them, watched them, listened to them, and prayed with them. I am leaving you all in great hands. Plus, now you have the bonus of Renee Brunsting, who will be the Interim Director of Caring. She will bring much to this team, and all of you.

We collectively have walked many roads together, and some of them were unpaved. I believe that we are on an unpaved road now. I will continue to pray for all of you, for this church, for healing of this deadly virus, for our nation in turmoil, and for equality for all. I am most grateful to our heavenly Father for my time here with you. I have felt the love.

—Marge Rice







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'THE MESSENGER' (U.S.P.S. 562110) is published quarterly 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.

**FALL**  
*festival*

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP  
GAMES  
CRAFTS  
12-2PM  
*family fun*

**SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 531 S. COLLEGE AVE