As I write this, spring is in the air, at least in Colorado! Although it has not been a harsh winter, the warmth and light of spring awakens joy in me, and I begin to ponder Easter resurrection once more. Although, I am aware that in some parts of the world, Easter does not coincide with spring!

After the journey of Lent, a journey of wilderness and ashes, a journey of 40 days, not counting Sundays, we are awakened to the miracle of life and rebirth, of renewal and rising. While Lent is 40 days, which signifies suffering and pain, grief and mourning, the Easter Resurrection journey is 50 days, which signifies wholeness and liberation, 7 times 7, the Jubilee year when debts are erased, slaves are freed, burdens are lifted, and the community experiences freedom and joy! While Lent’s 40 days symbolize growing pains, the 50 days of Easter symbolize resilience, rebirth and rising above life’s clamor and discontent.

Kim Maguire puts it in the following words, which I have adapted: Have you thought of dandelions? When given even the slightest chance, life will spring forth from dandelion seed. Dandelions, even the ones that are not happily plucked, soon dry up and die. But to die is not to lose life. The witty dandelion is still abundant with life possibilities. The dying dandelion goes through a metamorphosis – from bright yellow joy, to puffy white tails attached to seeds of life.

From dandelion’s death comes new life.

Could Christ be our dandelion?

Christ, like the dandelion, is on the streets, is in the back alleys, with the poor, the homeless, the refugee, those afflicted with pain and anguish. Christ is their dandelion, their bit of bright yellow in a harsh world.

What is even more amazing is that God has given us each “dandelion potential.” We too carry the possibility of seeds of new life. We too carry the resilience of the human spirit that can rise above unimaginable odds. In fact, we are charged to nurture the soil so that the seeds may take root and grow, and spread the good news of hope and love, of justice and peace, of transformation and rebirth, of healing and rising.

Dandelions do not die. They tell us about our own resilience and tenacity. They teach us of determination and perseverance, of rebirth and rising to new life.

I pray that our interim transitional journey continues to be one of resilience, rebirth and rising as the Spirit continues to nurture us into a “dandelion church!” and nourishes, through the church, our dandelion potential.

Happy and Joyous Easter Resurrection to you,
Pastor Nayiri
**APRIL WORSHIP**

**with God, we will [witness] resilience, rebirth, rising**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Worship Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>02 April</strong></td>
<td><strong>fifth sunday of lent</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Today we gather for multi-generational worship as we continue to reflect Jesus' journey toward the cross. <strong>Rev. Karjian</strong> will reflect why Jesus had to die and what would have happened if Jesus was offered sanctuary. Communion will be served during both services with bread provided by the Cooking School, using local Colorado resources. The Chancel Choir will share Ingegneri’s “Tenebrae: Factae Sunt” at 11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>09 April</strong></td>
<td><strong>palm passion sunday</strong></td>
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<td>Worship begins with shouts of “Hosanna” and a palm parade, and ends solemnly with a men’s quartet singing “Were You There” while <strong>Sheryl Cline</strong> and <strong>Liz Ryan</strong> drape the chancel in preparation for Good Friday. <strong>Rev. Franklin</strong> preaches about the transition from a Parade of Palms to a procession of Passion and pain.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>16 April</strong></td>
<td><strong>easter resurrection sunday</strong></td>
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<td>On this Sunday of Resurrection we gather at 6 a.m. for an informal sunrise service, and at 9 or 11 a.m. for a multi-generational celebration of God’s mazing gift of rebirth and new life! <strong>Candace Datz</strong> and <strong>Rev. Franklin</strong> lead the sunrise service. <strong>Rev. Karjian</strong> preaches during the multi-generational services at 9 and 11 a.m. The Chancel Choir, BrassWorks and Bells of St. Vrain Handbell Ensemble share worship music. Kids arrive early to “flower” the Cross before worship begins.</td>
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<td><strong>23 April</strong></td>
<td><strong>second sunday of easter</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Today we continue to celebrate the gift of rebirth and resurrection even as we remember Holocaust Day and Armenian Genocide Day, both commemorated on April 24. <strong>Rev. Karjian</strong> preaches “It Is Not Finished!” The Chancel Choir sings at 11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>30 April</strong></td>
<td><strong>third sunday of easter</strong></td>
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<td>On this 3rd Sunday of Easter we open ourselves to an interfaith experience as we welcome <strong>Arshad Yousufi</strong> as our preacher. Arshad is the spokesperson for the Islamic Society of Colorado Springs, who is actively involved in building bridges and making connections with a variety of faith communities. The Chancel Choir sings at 11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Who Stole My Church?
By Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Interim Lead Minister
nayiri@fcucc.org

All I know is that someone stole my church and I’d like to get it back, says one of the congregants who had gathered to lament the loss of their church as they knew it, and to console one another in their grief.

Rev. Gordon McDonald tells the fictional story of church members over 60 who meet each week to discuss where their church has been and where its going as they witness the rapid changes in culture, leadership, music, use of technology, and wonder how they fit in, or not. The book explores how the challenge can strengthen a congregation and how generations can covenant to walk together into a new future.

Everyone is invited.
Pastor Nayiri and Pastor Jacque will lead the discussion.

Fridays, April 7, 21, 28
10:30 a.m. in the Founders’ Room

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Passion Sunday
Sunday, April 9
Palm Passion Sunday begins Holy Week. Both services begin with shouts of “Hosanna” and a palm parade and end solemnly with a men’s quartet singing “Were You There” while the chancel is draped in preparation for Good Friday.

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary
This contemplative service will use liturgy of a Seder meal and will include foot-washing, Holy Communion, and a service of Tenebrae/darkness. Childcare (through 5th Grade) will be available.

Good Friday Ecumenical Service
Friday, April 14 at noon - 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Karjian preaches on the 3rd Word (John 19:25-27) at 1:00 p.m., with a musical offering by the Chancel Choir.

Easter Resurrection Sunday
Sunday, April 16
Join us at 6 a.m. for an informal sunrise service, and at 9 or 11 a.m. for a multi-generational celebration of God’s amazing gift of rebirth and new life! Kids are invited to arrive early to “flower” the Cross before worship begins.
Sometimes adults can underestimate the spirituality of children. As Leanne Hadley observes in her book *Blessed to be a Blessing*, “Young Children are capable of deeply spiritual experiences. At the same time, they are certainly not adults and do not experience God in the same manner and with the same intellectual capacities. Rather than use simplified adult theology and lessons, we must begin by understanding the true nature of the young child.” Taking on that premise, during Lent we are exploring prayer using a variety of tools to help them explore, play, and settle into solo time with God.

What a life-time gift prayer can be - I dare say as important to practice as a math equation or a soccer skill. Through the Lenten and Easter seasons, we will be introducing kids to seven prayer centers - a breathing ball, prayer stones, sand meditation, praydough meditation, the Buddha writing board, labyrinth mat, and gratitude cards. Hopefully each child will get to experience all seven if they come every week. We will rotate and experience a different one each week and have a sticker sheet to record and take home at the end of the program year in May. As Lent progresses, we will lengthen the amount of time in meditation with the help of soothing music.

We will use prompts to help focus the weekly prayers and meditations using a different theme each week and expand upon the idea of “opposites” being needed to fully understand each side or other, our over-riding Lenten theme. We will explore how darkness is not bad and helps us to see light, how losing is needed to make a game work and can teach us more about how to improve our skills. We need sleep to be able to be fully awake.

I am excited to share this Lent with kids and believe it truly can be transforming, different and fun.

Photographs this page:
Top: Amelia DeZarn at the weaving station
Middle: Labyrinth with figurine toys
Bottom: Xander Kellner at color station
Lower Left: Sabrina Strehlau Dela Cruz and Joshua Delwiche share the “praydough” station
2017 MULTI-FaITH
CAMP UPDATE

The team of Faith leaders from the Islamic, Jewish, First Congregation and Buddhist communities are meeting monthly to coordinate this summer’s Multi Faith Camp. We are excited to announce it will be held on July 30-August 4. The brochure and registration details will be available in April and May.

I am also excited to share that John Dorhauer, our UCC president has requested that I submit nine photos and a 90-second description of the camp to be a part of his National Synod sermon in Baltimore this July. The article that featured in the UCC newsletter has also prompted requests from six different UCC congregations on how I got started as they too are excited to create their own Multi Faith camps in their areas such as Maine, Vermont, and Philadelphia. I have also been asked by a Church Resources Organization to provide a webinar on the camp in May.

I am grateful to feel I am able to create something that may be a small ripple to elevate our UCC core values of love, justice and welcome. By opening to this opportunity, children as well as adults, grow to understand and deepen into their own faith practices while gaining greater understanding and tolerance of the faiths of others.

Shalom, Del

Photographs, this page:

Top: The Newbrough sisters with inhale/ exhale prayer breath
Middle: Emily Delwiche and Bella Buchanan share the sand station
Bottom: Anna Shelton leads prayer stone meditations with Ella Mavety
confirmation begins a continuing discipleship

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

This April will see the Confirmands heading to La Foret for our final Confirmation retreat this program year. As we’ve been exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus throughout the past number of months, we’ll be getting particular about how the United Church of Christ’s unique presence in the world tries to follow Jesus. This will be the time during which our youth decide whether or not membership in our specific iteration of the church as FCUCC is right and good for them at this point in their lives. We’ll be diving into the confirmation vows and talking about what membership means. Mostly, we’ll be talking about what continued discipleship looks like. That the process of following in the ways of Jesus is a lifetime journey, one that can grow and change with them as they develop in life. That this is not a one-time decision of “conversion” but that we are continuously in the process of being converted and transformed into the people that Jesus calls us to be.

I hope that as we discuss these things, our youth will be able to think about those of you in the congregation who have modeled this for them. That they will find joy and hope in knowing that there are those of us who are on this journey with them, from whom they can learn and to whom they can give energy and revitalization. Find a confirmand and tell them that you’re proud that they’re exploring our faith. Encourage them with a story from your own journey. If you need help finding one to talk to, ask me to point someone out to you, I’d be happy to make a connection!

Registration Opens Soon! Watch for notices via email, in the bulletin, and online at www.fcucc.org

save the dates
may
12 - 14, 2017

Peter Rollins

ESTD 2007
JAMES W. WHITE
LECTURESHIP

3rd MISSION TRIP SOUP FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, APRIL 30
12:15 PM - FOUNDERS' ROOM
- Homemade soup by the FCC Youth Group
- All are welcome
Support FCC Youth as they raise funds for this summer’s
Youth Trip to Alaska
Middle School Youth: La Puente, Alamosa
High School Youth: DOOR organization, Chicago
upcoming adult faith formation

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

April 2
Final session of the Leadership Cultivation Committee class | Gregg Library
White Privilege Class | Classroom East 3

April 9
Palm Sunday | No Adult Faith Formation other than The Forum

April 16
Easter Resurrection Sunday | No Faith Formation classes for any age group

FAITH FORMATION I | JWW Lectureship Prep and Follow-Up
(April 23 and 30; May 7 and 21) | Gregg Library

April 23
Conversation on Peter Rollins’s book *Orthodox Heretic* facilitated by Ethan Everhart

April 30
Conversation on *Idolatry of God* facilitated by Debra Buenting

May 7
Conversation on *The Divine Magician* (facilitator TBD)

May 14
Peter Rollins is in town! Discussion with Peter | Sanctuary

May 21
Follow-up discussion and conversation facilitated by the JWW team

FAITH FORMATION II | “The Violence of Easter” with David Bribach
(April 23 and 30; May 7 and 21) | Classroom East 3

Why did Jesus have to die? The traditional answers require his violent death to save us from God’s wrath. But what then do those answers say about a loving God? We will explore the traditional views of the atonement and their implications. Then we will look at a nonviolent alternative that provides a different vision. Maybe God is not angry at us after all.

April 23
The traditional views of the atonement

April 30
A parable and an alternative

May 7
What are the implications?

May 21
Class TBD
April Forum - Connecting with the Sacred, Poetry, A Sense of History, and Downtown

By Howard Ray, FCC Member
hray99@gmail.com

Each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. the Forum meets for an hour in the Carey Chapel to listen to members of our own congregation as well as selected outside speakers. The Forum satisfies both the soul and the intellect. We have four speakers lined up just for you:

2 April: Tom Stella - Connecting with the Sacred in Everyday Life. Like a stone skipping across the surface of a pond, many of us go from one activity to the next never slowing down enough to sink into the spiritual depths of who we are and what we do. When we fail to connect with the sacred center of life, we easily lose a sense of meaning, connection, passion, and compassion. Tom will focus on the everyday reality of spirituality and on how we might live in order to sense the sacredness of ourselves, others, and all creation. Tom Stella is the co-founder and director of Soul Link, Inc., a local non-profit whose mission is to create community among spiritual seekers. Tom is also Corporate Chaplain for Centura Health, a spiritual director, retreat facilitator, and the author of three books: The God Instinct, A Faith Worth Believing, and Finding God Beyond Religion.

9 April: Jane Hilberry - My Heart Learned to Sit at Its Desk: Poetry and Creative Process. Drawing on poems from her new book, Still the Animals Enter, Jane will reflect on the dynamics of order and wildness in the making of poetry. Jane Hilberry’s books of poems include Still the Animals Enter, published in 2016, and Body Painting, which won the Colorado Book Award for Poetry. Her poems have appeared in The Hudson Review, Denver Quarterly, Columbia Poetry Review and many other journals. With her father Conrad Hilberry, she co-authored This Awkward Art: Poems by a Father and Daughter, introduced by Richard Wilbur. In addition to teaching Creative Writing, Creativity, and Literature at Colorado College, she has facilitated creativity workshops and arts-based leadership development programs across the United States and at The Banff Centre in Canada.

16 April: No Forum [Easter Sunday]

23 April: David Mason - Amnesiac America: Why A Sense of History is Crucial to a Civil Society. As Alexis de Tocqueville observed in the 1830s, the egalitarian principles of the United States of America come with a cultural tendency to reject the past and emphasize the new. On the whole, Americans have become even more ignorant of history - our own and that of other countries - making us vulnerable to anyone’s “alternative facts.” Many Americans do not even know where they live - the local stories that give meaning to place. David Mason will emphasize some stories of Colorado and America that are worth telling and retelling. David is a former Poet Laureate of Colorado and is a CC professor. He has written the verse novel Ludlow in which he tells of one of the cruelest, bloodiest chapters in the history of American labor (you may remember his last visit to the Forum in April 2014). He has written for periodicals like The Wall Street Journal, The Hudson Review, and The Sewanee Review. He wrote the libretti for an opera with Tom Cipullo, After Life, which premiered in Seattle and San Francisco in May 2015, and The Scarlet Letter (with composer Lori Laitman) premiered at Opera Colorado in Denver in May 2016. Plan to join us as together we examine this profound national dilemma.

30 April: Sarah Humbargar - What the “Experience Downtown Masterplan” Means For Our City. Sarah Humbargar is the Director of Business Development & Economic Vitality for the Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs. She works to ensure that downtown is an exemplary urban environment and a place that attracts and retains talent and new businesses. Sarah is a graduate of the University of Denver, with deep roots in Colorado (a sixth generation Coloradan!). Since joining Downtown Partnership in 2013, she has managed and led several of downtown’s newest projects, including the update to the Experience Downtown Master Plan. Sarah will give us an overview of that Master Plan, and lend her knowledge, insight, and energy to a lively discussion of the ongoing challenges of urban development.

The Forum is in session most Sunday mornings September through May at 9:45 a.m. in the Carey Chapel through the efforts of your Forum Team (Howard Ray, Don Allred, Bruce Latimer, Cathy White, and Leah Davis Witherow). Send your questions and comments to hray99@gmail.com. To access the Forum schedule, use the FCC website www.fcucc.org and select Faith Formation, Adult, then Forum, or select Listen to the Forum to hear previous recorded Forums.
A ball was had by all at the Shrove Tuesday All Church Event! Members of the FCC Youth Group flipped pancakes under the watchful eyes of Tom Francis and Charles Kiskiras. Photos below include pancake flippers: Tom Francis, Charles Kiskiras, Jessica Shelton, Ivy Chiroux, Ellen Francis, Aili Foss and Amber Khederian; musicians: Lee Lehmkuhl (bass guitar), and Mandy Todd Director of Music and Arts (piano) with Jim White looking on. The annual event also included the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary and the burying of the Alleluia Banner in the basement.
THANK YOU

Thank You to the following people who served as liturgists: Linda LeMieux, Drew, Jill and Sylvie Robinson and Ben Sloan. Mallory Everhart provided special poetry, special music was offered by Victoria Hansen, Miriam Giese, and Ruth Roland, and Adam Gibbs provided words of witness. Erin Miller and Deidre Schoolcraft, Scott Campbell and Ellen Thompson have all provided support to the Kids’ Community Worship. We thank the wonderful Sunday School teachers of the winter: Melanie Mays, Julia Kellner, Phyllis Rhinehart, Jennifer Malenky, Jill Cameron, Joan Landrum, Brian Nicklas, Karen Chiroux and David Babin. And, now we thank the new Sunday School teachers of the springs: Kathy Buchanan, Melanie Mays, Mike Aragon, Susan Tetrick, Bridget Duffy, Amanda Terrell-Orr, Karen Clere, and Heather DeZarn. Thank you to Rick Shick and Sarah Groh-Correa who are the 5th/6th Grade OWL Sexuality and Our Faith facilitators. Dave Nath fixed the sound desk tambour and many generous folks donated towels to the FCC Kitchen. Nancy Forgy and Nance McCullough created the glorious Mystery display in the Founders’ Room display case. Thank you to Royce Field for providing The Mystery photographs (and many others)! Tom Francis and Lee Lehmkuhl helped to make the Shrove Tuesday All-Church event a wonderful success – with pancakes and bass-playing! Many thanks to all who supported the youth in the 2nd Soup Fundraiser on March 12. Trig and Char Bundgaard, Casey Scott, Victoria Hansen, Ani Rose Whaleswan, and ALL involved in coordinating the Memorial Service for Raven Canon.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to Lisa and Jennifer Cook who were married on March 6, and to Jill Robinson and her company TRG Arts have just been awarded the Create Award from the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA).

PRAYERS

Prayers were given for Rose Enyeart, who underwent knee surgery and is now healing. Skye Willis has been recovering from surgery and Mary Jane Ray is resting a broken ankle. Marcy McNeill, Charley Hall, and Jennifer Cook are going through cancer treatment, while Lisa Cook is undergoing tests. Jim White’s brother, Charlie White was incarcerated, and Cathy Victorson and Katherine Fatica both requested prayers. Bruce Downs’ parents, Richard and Agnes were hospitalized in Arizona while Ed Holman has been hospitalized. Ken Painter’s son Frank and his family were displaced from their home following a tornado in Ottawa, Illinois.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences were extended to Tom Valentine and his family on the passing of his sister, Diane Helser in Alabama. Condolences to Claire Swinford and Max Ferguson on the loss of Max’s grandmother, Virginia Ryder whose service was held at FCC on March 4. Condolences to the family and friends of Henry Rodriguez. Condolences are given to Miriam de Plomb, friends and family of FCC member Gene Yelken who passed away on March 7. Services were held on March 20 at FCC. Condolences to the family and friends of Raven Canon who passed away on March 3. Services were held at FCC on March 12. Lane Cornforth and Ken Painter lost their adopted son James Einhorn who passed away on March 15.
Finding Our Voices (FOV) is grateful for the support of MGO grants from FCUCC that have helped us to fulfill our mission of supporting adult survivors of intimate violence. We invite members to witness how their contributions are being used to empower the healing and recovery of survivors by attending the opening of the 2017 Art Exhibit on Saturday April 8, 2017 from 1-5 p.m. at Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave. This event is part of world-wide SAAM (Sexual Assault Awareness Month).

FOV visual art from survivors and their allies will be on display in the entry gallery at Cottonwood the entire month of April. Visual art as well as original jewelry will be available for purchase. At the Opening Reception on April 8, you will have opportunity to speak with artists, enjoy refreshments, and win door prizes. The second floor theater at Cottonwood will feature performance art and survivor stories. There are several bonus events: at 11a.m the screening of the film Boys & Men Healing from Child Sexual Abuse; at 1 p.m. Poetry: at 1:30 p.m. Joyce Aubrey presents “Aftershocks: Painting a Survivors Journey;” (2:30 p.m. break); at 3 p.m. Poetry and Performance; and at 4:45 p.m. the Closing Ceremony with Threshold Singers.

FOV advocates in the community for the prevention of sexual assault and collaborates with other organizations. FOV recently hosted the SA/DV Networking Group where representatives of five military installations, TESSA, Women’s Resource Agency, PPCC, UCCS, and other area organizations shared their plans for raising awareness during SAAM (Sexual Abuse Awareness Month) in April. The schedule of these events is available on our website at www.findingourvoicescs.org.

FOV offers weekly support groups, monthly healing art workshops, and an annual weekend retreat for adult women survivors of sexual assault. Advocacy in the community this year has included presentations at community service organizations, art displays and workshops at AFA and healing art workshops with groups that serve survivors of trafficking.

FOV is grateful for the support of FCC members including Margaret Reiber, Jennifer Ross, John Beavers, Patti White, Katherine Fatica, and Connie Bractenbach. We welcome your inquiry if you are interested in supporting the mission of FOV through volunteering.
WISH House: Women in Safety and Hope, a new housing program of ESM

By Blake Pelton, Interim Chair, Mission Giving and Outreach
bpelton@fvs.edu

Ecumenical Social Ministries (ESM) will hold an open house on April 6 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. to celebrate their new women’s housing program. WISH House is described in the following paragraph from the ESM website www.ecusocmin.org

“WISH House is a strength based program that provides nightly shelter and intensive case management services for single women experiencing homelessness. Our Case Managers assist guests in the development of an individualized case plan with strength based goals and action steps to help them reach self-sufficiency. The achievement of these goals will result in increased physical, behavioral, mental and spiritual health, employment, income, food security, transportation, interpersonal skills, and permanent stable housing. With assistance from Case Managers, partnered with other Ecumenical Social Ministries services, guests are empowered to overcome barriers and challenges and educated to achieve their goal of self-sufficiency.”

WISH House will provide safe and stable housing, intensive case management, and life skills training for up to 16 women who are currently without shelter. The photo shows what a nice job ESM did in converting office space into comfortable rooms for their new guests.

ESM was established in 1982 by the eight historic downtown churches, including First Congregational Church, as a collaborative Christian response to low-income and homeless people in crisis. They assist with emergency social service needs, promote self-sufficiency, and restore dignity to those served. ESM provides services to over 74,000 individuals each year.

If you are interested in donating to WISH House, these items can all be found on the Amazon wish list: bit.ly/ESM_WISHHouse and can be shipped directly to

Ecumenical Social Ministries
201 N. Weber Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

1. Mattresses
2. Bed frames
3. Mattress covers
4. Computer desks
5. Sheets
6. Free standing closets
7. Storage bins

Editor’s note: Please see invitation on page 16 - welcoming you to visit the new WISH House.
As I sit down to write this article for this April newsletter, I am simply overwhelmed with gratitude for this congregation’s generosity in response to the Matching Gift Opportunity. Though we will not announce the final results until Easter Sunday, you have been generous enough that Pastor Nayiri and Church Council felt confident enough to extend an offer to an Organist/Office Administrator! I would say the “A-------a!” word but it’s still Lent, so I shouldn’t.

In case you have somehow missed the news, several church families have created an incredibly generous Matching Gift Opportunity. They did this out of thanksgiving for this church’s ministry and in anticipation of our call to a new Minister. During the Season of Lent (March 1 – April 15), when our theme is Returning Gifts, Repairing Hearts, Restoring Community, these families will match new and increased financial pledges $1 for $1 up to $20,000.

Participating in this opportunity is simple:

- Make a gift via the offering plate (marked “Match My Gift”).
- Soon, you will be able to Text to Give to share your gifts with the church. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.
- Go to the church’s website to share a gift at http://fcucc.org/giving/online-giving/ via your credit card or personal checking account.
- Go to the church’s website to make a new or increased pledge commitment online at https://fcucc.org/estimate-giving-pledge-form.
- Contact me in the church office (719.635.3549) or at ruth@fcucc.org.

Thank you for your generosity and all that you do to make this church a welcoming ministry full of wonder and an active witness for the gospel of Jesus Christ.
The search is underway

By Jill Robinson Co-Chair of the Search Committee
jrobinson@trgarts.com

Our search committee has been busy, busy, busy as we prepare to make our Church Profile accessible, develop good process and get ourselves ready to review applicants. Want to know more? In detail:

1. **The Profile’s Been Submitted!**
   And THANK YOU to everyone who contributed ideas, corrections, thought-partnership and refinements! In general, your feedback was enormously positive, confirming that our listening sessions, congregational conversations and more paid off in a Profile that reflects US as individuals, as a congregation, and a body of Christ. Now, current and potential applicants can read it and do some discernment themselves!

2. **Next-Step in Process: Considering All Candidates.**
   Conference Minister, Rev. Sue Artt met with us in Colorado Springs March 20 and helped us lay out process for the next stage of our work, which is Step #3, “Considering All Candidates.” You can stay updated on the specifics by visiting the Search Committee half of the bulletin board in the Founders’ Room, but we know we’re going to be busy reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates this Spring!

3. **Communication in general.**
   Expect to hear from us regularly here in The Communicator and via e-blasts; in addition, we’ll update you as a congregation during worship on a monthly basis, and search committee members wear buttons that say, “Ask me about the Search!”—so, if you have a question, stop one of us!

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**Saturday April 8 6:00 p.m.**

**A Night Out In Manitou!**
organized by Allison & Mike Gerbig
Watch for an Evite and RSVP promptly to secure a dinner reservation. Please contact Jane Ridings at janeridings@hotmail.com for more POPS info or to be added to the distribution list.

*Put on your walking shoes for dinner at the Loop, then horse racing at the arcade, and wine at Swirls for anyone who wants to extend the night.*

POPs = Parents Out Partying Somewhere
(a social group for seasoned parents.
Parents of any description, looking to share the joys and stresses of of parenthood, are welcome.)

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**Overheard**

“Thanks, Miss Del! I loved doing communion with Emily, and as you know, I have always wanted to do communion, and this is a big thing for me. I would most like to do communion again. Miss Lesli Weaver was so nice as to help me learn what to do. Thanks again!!!!!! God be with you, Sarah Newbrough”

Sarah Newbrough (10 yrs) served communion at the 1st service on March 5 with Emily Delwiche (8 yrs).
The Odle block on Cucharras as backdrop for a marching band; Pikes Peak Library

The first money towards the building of our present church was $1,000 (equivalent to about $250,000 today) from church member and grocer Graham Odle. Odle, who joined FCC in 1877 by confession, had been a staunch supporter of the church, serving as trustee from 1880 until 1885. An affluent businessman, he would later also contribute large sums to the founding of South Congregational Church and to the Pierson Fund to shore up Colorado College's finances.

Born in Kentucky, Graham Odle had to help provide for his family at the young age of 14, due to the death of one of his parents. Consequently, he had a limited formal education. After moving to Mason, Illinois, he married Lydia Ann Tarter and started his own grocery business. In later stories he recalled having done business with young lawyer Abraham Lincoln. It is unclear how long past 1850 the couple lived there, but shortly after the Civil War their residence was in Chillicote, Michigan, where they befriended Judge James McFerran and his wife.

In 1872 the couples decided to move to the Colorado Territory and the Odles moved out first, to supervise the building in Colorado Springs of both the judge’s home and theirs. In that year they lived in the first Colorado Capitol building in (Old) Colorado City. Graham also established the Odle block next door to his house at 122 East Cucharras Street, which contained the grocery and upstairs rental units. McFerran would own the People’s Bank in town. The Odles brought with them their five-year-old orphaned niece Ethel. In 1878 Lydia Odle was among the founders of First Christian Church. She died only a year later, aged 50.

Graham Odle remained a widower the rest of his life. Ethel lived with family friend and early FCC member Elisabeth Campbell, while Graham dedicated himself to his businesses and traveled. Shortly after Ethel’s marriage in 1888 to local John Keys, Odle moved in with them and sold his businesses. He died in 1898. His estate contained, among other property, two thirds of the Garden of the Gods.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE
SUMMER CAMPS AND EVENTS

Register Today!

FCC Camperships are immediately applied for 1/3 of the cost of the early registration price.
Contact Candace (candace@fcucc.org) for more info!

Registration Deadline is May 15 for published prices, which reflect Early-Bird rates! Scholarships are available.
Visit RMCUCC.ORG for more information.

we have great news!
By Mandy Todd Director of Music & Arts

mandy@fcucc.org

We have an Organist and an Office Administrator!

David Acton, a highly-qualified organist, will join our Staff Team on July 1. David will graduate in May with a masters in music from Western Michigan University. David currently serves as the organ scholar at First Congregational UCC Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In addition to his role as organist, he will serve as our Office Administrator. David has gifts and skills for both positions. This creative, full-time position makes it possible for David to join us all the way from Michigan, and helps us remain fiscally responsible in filling two much needed positions. Thank you to all of the amazing volunteer musicians who stepped up this past year to continue our tradition of high-quality worship music at FCC, including Russ Ware, Susie Marten, and Susan Holman. Thank you and Thank you!
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

CHURCH PROGRAM & OFFICE STAFF
Rev. Nayiri Karjian
  Interim Lead Minister
Rev. Dr. Jacque Franklin
  Minister of Pastoral Care
Mandy Todd
  Director of Music & Arts
Candace Datz
  Director of Youth & Adult Ministry
Del Hokanson
  Director of Children’s & Family Ministry
Ruth Roland
  Director of Financial Ministries
Emily Bond
  Communications Coordinator

CHURCH COUNCIL
Connie Brachtenbach
  Moderator
Scott Tetrick
  Vice Moderator
Michael Gemm
  Treasurer
Lisa Mason
  Secretary
Lynne Stefonik
  Care & Fellowship
Alyce Morgan
  Outreach
Chris Reimer
  Worship & Spiritual Life
John Beavers
  Education

AD HOC STAFF
Gail Rogers
  Wedding Coordinator
Victoria Hansen, Ani Rose Whaleswan
  Memorial Services Coordinators
Amy Colwell
  Receptions Coordinator

CHURCH STAFF
Ani Rose Whaleswan, Curt Daniel
  Sunday Sextons
Doris Fletcher, Bob Scheafer
  Custodians

NURSERY STAFF
Kiara Nath
  Nursery Attendant Supervisor
Sean Drevs, Karen Knabe, Evan Latimer
Kiara Nath, Kaitlyn O’Donnell
  Nursery Attendants

APPOINTED OFFICERS
Lois Benson
  Membership Clerk
Chris Steenbergen
  Historian

PASTORS EMERITI
Rev. Dr. Jerry Jordan
  (1973-1988)
Rev. Dr. James White
  (1989-2005)

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS
Pete Hokanson
  Communicator Editor
Rose Enyeart
  Communion Coordinator
Ann Benson
  Flowers Coordinator
Marsha Garrett
  Liturgist Coordinator
Virginia Carson
  Dave Doman
  Head Ushers
Mindy Matthes
  Sanctuary Steward
Phyllis White
  Flute Choir
Blake Pelton
  Lay Representative to ESM
Lesli Weaver, RN
  Congregational Nurse
Curt Daniel, Christy Kessler,
  Mindy Matthes, Sue Prendinger,
  Margaret Reiber, Lucy Shick,
  Pat Steffens, Phyllis White
  Office Volunteers

ASSOCIATED IN MINISTRY
Rev. Steve Alsum
Rev. Darlene Avery
Rev. Lyn Boudreau
Rev. Stephen Brown
Rev. Pat Dolin
Rev. Derek Krehbiel
Rev. Patty Walker
  4-Way Covenant
Candace Datz, Mallory Everhart
  Seminarians
Logan Bennett, Candace Datz
  Jeff Dodson, Mallory Everhart,
  Samantha Garrett, RoMa Johnson
  Members in Discernment

VOLUNTEER CHAIRS
Paul Schwotzer
  Audio/Visual
Alysa Webb
  Children’s & Family Ministry
Lucy Shick, Open
  Clergy/Congregation Relations
Sid Shelton
  Facility Improvement
Julia Nace
  Financial Ministries
Michael Gemm
  Financial Advisory
Pam Shockley-Zalabak
  Grant Writing
Kathy Beck, Jeanie Tate
  Gregg Library
Steve Getty
  Grounds
Peggy Weissman
  Health Ministry
Karol Finch
  Historical
Gordon Riegel
  Human Resources
Jerry White
  Justice & Peace
Gloria Latimer
  JWW Lectureship Series
Hope T. Woodhead
  Kitchen Witches
Jessica Gemm
  Leadership Cultivation Committee
Lane Cornforth
  Membership Connection Committee
Derek Krehbiel
  Ministry Discernment
Blake Pelton (interim)
  Mission Giving & Outreach
Susie Marten
  Music & Arts Ministry
Nancy Forgy
  The Mystery
Connie Raub
  Plymouth Circle
Kathy Kreps, Sharron Waterhouse
  Prayer Shawl Ministry
Dennis Kleinsasser, John Stefonik
  Risk Reduction & Response
Eleanor Law, Connie Raub
  Sanctuary Arts Ministry
Margaret Reiber
  Stephen Ministry
Reba Holmes, Verl Holmes
  Stewardship
Howard Ray
  The Forum
Judy Kolz
  Visitation Ministry
We welcome you to contribute to The Communicator!

The Communicator invites articles, notices, and letters relevant to the life of our congregation. Accepted submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and correctness. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect official FCC policy.

DEADLINE for the next issue (May 2017 Issue) is Saturday, April 15, 2017. Please send to: emily@fcucc.org AND petehokanson@gmail.com

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