As a clergywoman in her mid 40’s, I have received messages that my body should be modest, small, covered up, androgynous and asexual. But, if you have ever met me, you would assume that I did not get this memo. I’m like the Erin Brockovich of the cloth: high heels, red lipstick, passionate about God’s justice, and a child on my hip.

We all have bodies. And yet, most of us have mixed feelings about them. We want to Botox them, shrink them, tighten them, Crossfit them, cover them up, Keto Diet them, keep them youthful. We compare our bodies to other bodies in unrealistic ways. We inspect them, judge them, ignore them, betray them, deny them, and obsess about them. We check ourselves out in the mirror with analyzing disgust or with reserved approval. We turn off the lights so that they cannot be seen. Or we expose them in ways that leave little to the imagination.

I have been thinking a lot about bodies this Lent. The season of Lent begins with the imposition of Ashes, remembering that our bodies are made of the same stuff of the stars and that our bodies will one day return to the dust. Some people choose to fast from beer, chocolate, sugar, or meat, to embody a sacrifice with Christ. Others take on contemplative practices, where the simple act of physical stillness can get us in touch with the trembling feelings of what is really troubling us. During Lent, we hear a string of embodied stories from Scripture that include baptism, anointing, shouting, eating, drinking, sleep, a kiss, suffering, and dying.

Perhaps my lipstick and heels are a rebellious act of feminine protest to the Church’s long line of patriarchy. But, more likely, it is how I express my theology. As a Christian, I believe in a joyously consenting incarnated God, fully human, fully divine. I am curious about how God chose to express love in a human body. And because God became incarnate, I am guessing that God does not have the same kind of hang ups about bodies that we do.

continued on next page...
So here’s the good news: our bodies love too. As of late, I appreciate all kinds of bodies and how they express the love of God. I love the chubby feet of babies and the wrinkled hands of grandmothers. I admire both round, soft bodies and strong, Olympian bodies. I feel compassion towards bodies in transition, bodies that fall ill, bodies that are actively dying. I delight in hands that hold, lips that kiss, feet that march, and eyes that gaze. I am in awe of bodies that nurse babies, bodies that scar, bodies that recover from addiction. I never want to take the wisdom of our bodies for granted ever again.

“This is my body,” Jesus says. Jesus was God’s dwelling place. And after Christ’s body was broken, hung on a cross, buried, and resurrected, the body of Christ was passed on to us. This means that as communities of faith, God dwells in us, in how we express love in the world.

In the remainder of this holy season, let us invite Lent into our bodies by bringing all of who we are to God: our skin, our cellulite, our muscles, our ’dis-ease’, our grime, our full humanity. Let us deeply know the One who put skin on and moved into the neighborhood so that abiding love might be revealed and expressed in you and in me.

Two Lenten Studies Continue...

**Lovers and Fools**

What: The two Bible Studies with Pastor Heather continue through this season of Lent. Using the United Church of Christ Devotional, entitled “Lovers and Fools”, we have opportunities to do both private study during the week and group study once a week. The Lenten season and its stories set us apart, put us on a different timeline. We spend our days worshipping a God in love with weakness; following a foolish savior, even to the cross. Join us in deepening our souls during this holy season.

Leader: Pastor Heather Haginduff

When: Wednesdays at 5:30-6:45 p.m.
(March 7, 14, 21, 28)
and/or
Fridays at 10 a.m.
(March 2, 9, 16, 23).

Where: Wednesdays: Carey Chapel
Fridays: Founders’ Room

Bring: Bible, Journal, UCC Devotional,
or just yourself

Cost: $5 for the UCC Devotional
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 4

During this Multi-Generational service, **Pastor Heather** will preach "Undo Expectations", based on the scripture text from John 2: 13-22. **Iris Lund** will share a piano solo, and the Chancel Choir will sing Craig Courtney’s arrangement of “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” at 11:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 11

**Pastor Heather** will preach a sermon entitled "Undo Judgement", referring to the scripture text, John 3: 14-22. The Chancel Choir will share special music during the 11:00 a.m. service. Daylight Savings Time begins on this day, so don’t forget to spring forward, and make it to worship on time!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 18

**Pastor Jacque** will preach a sermon around the idea of "Undo Fear of Death," based on the scripture text, John 12: 20-33. The Bells of St. Vrain Handbell Ensemble will share worship music, and the Chancel Choir will sing the “Kyrie” from Bach’s *Missa Brevis in A Major* at 11:00 a.m.

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY  
MARCH 25

Worship begins with fun and festive music featuring **Russ Ware, Brian Hofflander, Mike Gerbig**, and **Luke Tripp**. Leading a sermon on "Undo Safety," **Pastor Heather** will refer to Mark 11: 1-10. We will have a palm parade with shouts of “Hosanna!” and our donkey friend, Munchkin, and transitions to the foreshadowing of the crucifixion with the ritual draping of the Chancel by liturgical dancers.
THE FORUM IN MARCH
by Ardith Hanson, The Forum Co-Chair
ardithmarie@gmail.com

AMERICAN EATING, GARDENING IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION, & THE JOY OF UNCERTAINTY

MARCH 4: Nanna Meyer
A Return to Simple Eating; A Nutritionist’s Insights
Nanna is Associate Professor in Health Sciences at the University of Colorado (UCCS). She founded the UCCS Sport Nutrition Graduate Program. She has worked in Olympic sport nutrition for 20 years, supporting US athletes at 5 Olympic games, while helping to found professional sport nutrition organizations nationally and internationally.

As the world’s urgency to address climate change and health is rising, Nanna’s time is now devoted to localizing the Rocky Mountain region’s food systems. With its multitude of challenges and opportunities, she will address food through health and sustainability. Between 2013 and 2014, Nanna was instrumental in helping UCCS transition its food system from corporate to self-operation, opening the doors for endless opportunities in research and education.

In 2016 UCCS launched Grain School in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance with the goal of regionalizing heritage grain production throughout the Western and Southwestern mountain states. Nanna integrates grain literacy in all aspects of this emerging grain chain. She supports the needed infrastructures, grain research projects, and collaborations among farmers, millers, bakers, brewers, chefs and eaters through council, educational programs, photo journalism, and grant solicitations.

MARCH 11: Julie McIntyre
Simple Ways to Grow Healthy Veggies in the Pikes Peak Region
Julie McIntyre is the owner and operator of Summerland Gardens. She has owned the nursery (at 124 East Cheyenne Rd.) for twelve years. Julie has a Master’s degree in horticulture from Colorado State University. She is a member of the Colorado Nursery Professionals and writes an article every week for The Gazette in their Home and Garden section, during the spring and summer. Bring your gardening questions!

MARCH 18: Pam Shockley-Zalabak
The Joy of Uncertainty
Pamela Shockley-Zalabak, Ph.D. is President of CommuniCon, Inc., an organizational and leadership development corporation. She is Chancellor Emerita of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), in addition to being author of nine books and over a hundred other publications and productions. She is the founding member of the UCCS Communication Department.

As Chancellor, Dr. Shockley-Zalabak was responsible for guiding a 75% increase in students, supported new academic programs, and was part of an over $500,000,000 expansion in campus facilities. Dr. Shockley-Zalabak, as part of her consulting responsibilities, currently is the Interim CEO of the United States Olympic Museum and Hall of Fame which is under construction in Colorado Springs. She holds two degrees from Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Today, Dr. Shockley-Zalabak will explore challenges in uncertain times and how these challenges can translate into new opportunities and new solutions. She will bring practical examples from her current work in the community and with the United States Olympic Museum to illustrate the need for embracing uncertainty and moving forward to new and creative solutions.

MARCH 25: No session of The Forum
(Palm Sunday)
The next session will take place on April 8.

The Forum is brought to you through the efforts of your Forum Team: Ardith Hanson, Don Allred and Cathy White. Send your questions, comments, and ideas to Ardith Hanson (ardithmarie@gmail.com).

To be added to The Forum newsletter list, sign up during The Forum or contact Emily Bond (Emily@fcucc.org). To listen to recorded sessions of The Forum, visit the FCC website (www.fcucc.org).
ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN MARCH

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

WHITE PRIVILEGE CLASSES
Registration is closed, but this class will be running through March in the Gregg Library during the Faith Formation Hour on Sundays (9:45-10:45 a.m.).

LENTEN BIBLE NERDS BIBLE STUDY
All are invited to join Kathy Beck and the Bible Nerds for a special Sunday edition of Bible study for Lent! The group meets every Sunday during Faith Formation Hour in the Music Room. The Bible Nerds meet regularly in the Gregg Library on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. This informal bible study is open to all who wish to attend.

HOLY WEEK, 2018

MAUNDY THURSDAY
March 29 - 7:00 p.m.
This contemplative service includes foot-washing, Holy Communion, and a service of Tenebrae.
The Labyrinth will be available to walk, 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 30
The Labyrinth will be available to walk at First Congregational Church, 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ecumencial Service at First Presbyterian Church, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY
April 1
Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m.
Multi-Generational Services: 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

We begin with a Sunrise Worship Service on the Front Portico, led by Candace Datz and FCC’s Youth Group at 6:30 a.m.
During the Multi-Gen Services, Pastor Heather preaches "Undo Certainty," (scripture: John 20: 1-18)
Special Music includes the Bells of St. Vrain Handbell Ensemble, BrassWorks 5 Brass Ensemble, and Chancel Choir.
After our exciting and draining and sometimes frustrating Annual Meeting, I wanted to take this public opportunity to say, “WHOA! I’m sorry for saying things out of frustration, and isn’t it great how we are constantly receiving opportunities to learn and grow and be challenged!” That’s where I’m at right now, grateful for the ways in which God gives us the grace to tackle new things and to constantly be learning.

As we are learning as a congregation what it means to continue leaning into our Open and Affirming status, I heard questions after the Annual Meeting about some terminology. There were questions about both gender identity and gender inclusivity. So, imagine me putting on my Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith hat, and let’s talk about definitions! Note: one should never make assumptions about a person’s gender identity or how they understand their own identity. If you are in relationship with someone and you have the kind of relationship to ask, ask that person how they describe their own gender identity! In Youth Group and OWL, we spend time sharing our pronouns (which are tied to gender identity), so that we can honor one another and not misgender our neighbors.

Gender Identity Terms:¹

- **Gender identity** — noun:
The internal perception of one’s gender, and how they label themselves, based on how much they align or don’t align with what they understand their options for gender to be. Common identity labels include man, woman, genderqueer, trans, and more. Often confused with biological sex, or sex assigned at birth.

- **Gender non-conforming** — adj.:
  1. A gender expression descriptor that indicates a non-traditional gender presentation (masculine woman or feminine man)
  2. A gender identity label that indicates a person who identifies outside of the gender binary.

Thinking about gender inclusivity, I’m amazed by the ways in which our congregation and denomination have already done so much to include people with genders that are outside of the traditional understanding of what a “pastor” is (we ordained women as early as 1853!). Our bylaws currently open up membership and serving on the Church Council and being our Pastor to men and women. However, there are those for whom man and/or woman are not comfortable gender identity markers. Therefore, the goal of gender inclusivity in our constitution (which can also be talked about as gender-neutrality) is to progressively move toward making space in our church’s culture and language for people who don’t identify as either man or woman.

Ultimately, this is about people: honoring how people identify themselves, honoring their God-belovedness, honoring their gifts and talents and what they have to bring to our community of faith. As we do the work of learning new terms and ideas, we are better able to honor people in all of their beautiful forms.

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¹ Taken from [http://itspronouncedmetrosexual.com/2013/01/a-comprehensive-list-of-lgbtq-term-definitions/](http://itspronouncedmetrosexual.com/2013/01/a-comprehensive-list-of-lgbtq-term-definitions/)
Hello friends and mentors at FCUCC!

As you may know, I am the interim leader for Kids’ Community Worship I’m filling in for Del Hokanson. What you may not know are the many roles I have witnessed Del play. She is not just a leader or teacher, but she is an organizer, a counselor, a role model, and more. She spends her time making sure all things run smoothly for everyone. She creates lessons that provide for learning community and fun. Although she is the leader, she seems to erase the generation gap between herself and the children. I am not the only one filling in for Del; there are several of us filling her shoes!

I am honored to be given this gift and to be working in the service of God. I will work hard to fill Del's position. However, I will bring my own zeal, style, and creativity as I give and receive from the children. Thank you.

Scenes from Shrove Tuesday 2018
If you have worshiped with other mainline Protestant churches in the US, you may notice that FCC is unique in one very specific way. It is uncommon for the majority of the congregation to remain seated and attentive during the Postlude. In many churches, worship ends with the Benediction, and the Postlude serves as the “moving music” to get people out of the Sanctuary. However, at FCC, the Postlude serves as an integral, final part of our worship experience. We are blessed to have amazing musicians who work hard to prepare musical pieces that are liturgically and thematically selected to enhance worship. At FCC, the Postlude is the final sending forth that motivates us to do the work of Jesus in the week ahead.

The Prelude is a different story. Like in most churches, the Prelude at FCC doesn’t tend to get a lot of attention. We have come to discover that the priority for our congregation before worship is to greet and connect as Christ’s community. There is a passion and a joy that is immediately apparent when you step into the Sanctuary on Sunday morning at 8:28 a.m. and 10:58 a.m. We are so happy to be together! In fact, it is sometimes hard to get us to settle down during announcements. It is a beautiful thing, and yet, also poses a challenge to the musicians who are working weekly to prepare music that will be most fitting for each element of our worship.

To that end, we, the music and pastoral staff at FCC, have decided to make some adjustments. You may have noticed that we are no longer using the term “prelude.” Instead, we are calling the music that is being shared in the 10 minutes before worship begins what it is: Gathering Music. The purpose of this music is to help create the sacred space in which we will worship. During that time, you are invited to do whatever helps you prepare for community worship. For some, it might be connecting with a friend, or reaching out to meet someone new. For others, it might be sitting in silent prayer. For some, it might be looking over the bulletin with your children to help them understand the liturgy of the day. Any and all of this is welcome and appropriate while our musicians play the Gathering Music. As musicians, we are aware that the attention will not be on the music at that time, and that is okay. (Don’t worry, we’ll adjust our practice time accordingly!)

Many Sundays, there will be an Introit following the Announcements. The Introit will set the tone for the service and provide an opportunity to root deeply into the sacred space we create as we gather together.

The musicians in this congregation, both professional and amateur, are talented beyond measure. We are also aware that music shared in worship is not a performance. Instead, it is an opportunity to help all worshipers commune with the divine. We are so grateful for your deep appreciation of the music ministry at FCC, and we pray that through our music, you find the Spirit in our Sanctuary each and every Sunday.
WHAT IS IHN?
Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), part of the larger nationwide FAMILY PROMISE network, works to provide temporary, transitional, and permanent housing for local families experiencing homelessness. IHN has been operating in Colorado Springs for about twenty years and besides housing, also works to give food, support, and a path for moving forward finding jobs, learning budgeting, locating healthcare, etc. The program exists in great measure due to the current support of thirty-seven El Paso County congregations. Some donate money, some house families; others provide food, cars, clothing, books, toys, furniture, household goods, and a few even give houses or mobile homes.

A FEW STATISTICS:
In 2016, IHN provided the following to the local community:

- 15,133 meals
- 5,137 bed nights of shelter
- over 14,300 hours hosting families
- 2,854 hours in Day House work teams

HOW ARE WE INVOLVED?
FCC currently participates in a few different ways. We donate funds to IHN through your financial gifts and pledges. We shelter a group of families in our building for one week three times every year and occasionally pitch in cooking at other churches as needed. We’ve also provided emergency shelter and meals. Typically, we house fifteen to twenty people at a time and provide meals for everyone during those seven days. Dinners are cooked by FCC IHN volunteers who arrive around 5 p.m. each evening to prepare food and share the meal with our guests in the Founders' Room. Breakfast and lunch foods are available in our Kitchen each morning for families to prepare or pack for later use. Each family unit has their own “bedroom” in one of our education classrooms, set up by FCC volunteers. Each night, two FCC volunteers arrive after dinner to stay overnight in the Church with guests.

WHAT CAN I DO?
FCC volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Setting up beds and other equipment
- Laundering linens
- Cooking dinners and sharing meals with guests
- Providing food for breakfasts and lunches
- Staying overnight in the Church
- Shopping
- Donating Christmas gifts
- Donating items needed for the Day House*
- Raising or donating funds for a shower facility within our church

*The Day House is where families may spend daytime hours with their children, use facilities for job searches, etc., when not working).

Want to help? Contact Jerry White (gerald.white@mindspring.com) - Set up and/or Overnights or Laura Pfender (llpfender@earthlink.net) or Alyce Morgan (afmorgan53@yahoo.com) - Providing Meals

Check out the local website: https://www.ihn-cos.org
2017 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS & 2018 ELECTRONIC GIVING
by Ruth Roland, Director of Financial Ministry
ruth@fcucc.org

Are you getting ready to work on taxes and looking for your 2017 Contribution Statement? They are available online anytime through My Primo Congo (http://www.fcucc.org/my-primo-congo), our church’s online portal for members. However, if you’ve never signed in to the portal, your statement is probably waiting for you in the church office.

Questions?
Do you need me to place your statement in the mail or attach it to an email?
Feel free to call me in the church office (719.635.3549) or email me (ruth@fcucc.org).
Thank you so much for your generosity last year!

And how about trying something new for 2018? If you’ve not signed up for electronic giving in the past, I would love to talk with you about this easy and effective way to make contributions to your church. With electronic giving, you don’t have to worry about writing and remembering checks; you can set it up and forget it. When the Offering Plate is passed on Sunday morning, you are encouraged to touch the plate as a sign of your gift and as an act of worship. It’s great for the church office too as electronic gifts process automatically, the way you intended, to the local church, mission giving, or capital projects.

Blessings and big love to you all as we travel through Lent together, on our way to our Easter celebration.

Parents Out Partying Somewhere (POPS)
Saturday, April 14, 6:00 p.m.
A Gathering of Dinner and Fellowship!

at the home of Jill and Drew Robinson

Please look for an Evite around Easter.

While most of us have older school-age, college-age or young adult kids, we welcome parents of any description.
For more information about POPS or to be placed on the distribution list, contact Jane Ridings (janeridings@hotmail.com).
Over the past years I've purposely avoided writing about people I've known personally. All too easily opinions can replace historical facts. However, I've had too many requests, that I talk to our longest member Rosemary Landon, to ignore. So it was with some apprehension, that I accepted her invitation for a chat. After a nearly two hour session with the charming lady, I'm glad I went.

Rosemary’s parents, Hamilton Aley and Dasey Gorham, married in New York in 1915 and soon moved to Colorado Springs, which made her, born in 1919, a Colorado Springs native. She was baptized by the Rev. Fred Staff, who from later years she remembers as short and of ill health, but with a ramrod straight posture. Rosemary and her elder sister Marion were confirmed at FCC in 1929 by the Rev. Seeley Tompkins. She recalls that both he and his successor, the Rev. Charles Brown, were quite popular with the youth of the church, but remembers little about the clouds under which they left.

Rosemary’s father Hamilton Aley was a druggist who died in 1932. Her mother, Mrs. Aley had a house built in the Old North End shortly after his passing. That’s where Rosemary now lives with daughter Melody. It was here that pediatrician F. Rodman Landon came to dinner for the first time, showing too little appreciation for Mrs. Aley’s food, because he had just been on an eighteen-hour shift. However, Mrs. Aley approved of him and Rosemary and Rod were married by the Rev. Ed Manthei in 1949. Rosemary and Rod were among the charter members in 1948 of the Focus Club of Colorado Springs, a photography group. An accomplished photographer, she was the first president and regular award winner over its fifty-some years of existence. Later she supported wildflower conservation efforts with her photos.

From her teenage years Rosemary also recalls the Rev. Manly Ormes, Librarian at Colorado College and early FCC historian, for his membership of the “Saturday Knights” hiking group. She also remembers the stately old lady, Mrs. Josephine Gile, whose diary depicted life at FCC until 1938. Other early memories are of the church picnics at the Jordan Ranch. Rosemary didn’t much notice the FCC membership decline between 1925 and 1945, but commented on a draw to First Presbyterian, because of the excellent pastors and sermons. Her opinion of FCC in that period is of an intellectual church, largely due to the many members from the staff at Colorado College. From 1945 there was the revival under “handsome” Pastor Dick with his emphasis on free speech.

Standing out in her recollections are the sponsorship of FCC at the founding of the Broadmoor Community Church in 1958, with George Otto as its first pastor and the later return of Rosemary’s favorite pastor, Rev. Ed Manthei to that church. At FCC, the fairly rapid succession of four pastors from 1954 till 1972, which had little attention in our own annals, didn’t leave much of an impression with her either. The exception was the hint of a financial scandal. All in all, I had to realize how much the personal experience of life at FCC could differ from the “cold eye of history.”
WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS
- JANUARY 21, 2018

CAYTH BRADY
Cayth is married to Jim Brady and has two adult children. She is a counselor, educator, and licensed mediator. She is drawn to FCC’s Just Peace designation and longs to bring Just Peace to the wider community. Cayth is also interested in getting to know more people through a 9 To Dine group. An interesting thing about Cayth: she tap dances, and says music and dancing can get her through most anything!

MIRIAM DEPLOMB
Miriam is joining the church for the welcoming community. She first got acquainted with us when she attended with her late husband Gene Yelken. Miriam is Jewish and likes to describe herself as a red diaper baby. (If you ask, she will explain!) She sings in the Chancel Choir and loves attending opera and symphony performances. She really likes the idea of a Senior Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith class!

REBECCA FRITH
Rebecca is mom to Grant (9th Grade) and Ally (7th Grade). She loves the Open and Affirming status and emphasis on Social Justice at FCC. She would like to join a 9 To Dine group. Rebecca works as an IT project manager and is a gifted organizer. Her passions are to travel.

JESSE GILBERT
Jesse attends with his parents Michael and Deirdre Gilbert. He would like to be involved in a Bible study group. He has a gift of organization. Jesse is a Palmer High School graduate and attended college in Wisconsin. He also loves to travel.

MICHAEL GILBERT
Michael has been attending with his wife Deirdre and their son Jesse for some time and has decided to join as a member. Michael is a dentist and is good at construction. Interesting fact: Michael rode a 4,000-mile bike centennial bike trip in 81 days.

HEATHER AND JOSHUA HAGINDUFF
Josh and Heather have two daughters Lula (3rd Grade) and Ruby (1st Grade). Heather came to Colorado Springs for a job and Josh followed his wife! In addition to being the new Lead Minister here at FCC, Heather would like to be involved in more teaching. She is a gifted vocalist and a former opera singer. Josh is a math teacher and is already involved in the FCC Cooking School. He once ate 121 oysters in an oyster eating contest and didn’t even get sick!

REBECCA HIBBARD
Rebecca is married to Tyler and they have a three-year old son, Oliver. Oliver participates in Kids’ Community Worship and Rebecca and Tyler are involved in the Young Families Group. Rebecca is a Middle School teacher and Tyler is a bank investigator. Rebecca is interested in art and music. Cool facts: Rebecca used to show horses and livestock, and once had her picture taken with Hollywood actor, Kevin Bacon!
JUDI INGELIDO
When she began looking for a new church in 2010, Judi’s daughter and grandchildren brought her to First Congregational Church. She joins this Congregation because she feels strongly about Social Justice as a follower of Christ. She served a short time in the Air Force and was a High School teacher and Middle School principal. Judi is passionate about public education and politics – she was a Hillary Clinton delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2016. She is interested in getting more involved in Outreach.

SARAH AND ROB LUND
Sarah and Rob have two children, Iris (2nd Grade) and Gus (Preschool). Sarah is a Teacher and Rob is a Software Engineer. They are both involved in the Young Families Group and Children’s Ministry. Sarah plays the clarinet and loves hiking. Rob loves tinkering with electronics!

BRIAN AND MELISSA MCCORMICK
Brian and Melissa are parents to Abigail (3rd Grade) and Kristofer (2nd Grade). Melissa is an Adjunct Instructor at UCCS and Brian is an Engineer. They have been attending FCC for three years, and decided to join because it is a good fit for their family. Melissa would like to be involved in music and Brian loves to fix things. He was most excited during the facility tour! Melissa was a former Park Ranger for the City of Colorado Springs!

JAN NETZER AND CAROLYN DICKERSON
Jan and Carolyn are married and are getting involved in 9 To Dine. They are joining FCC because the church is their community. Carolyn appreciates the focus on thought and exploration rather than dogma. Jan would like to try ushering. She is a die-hard Cubs fan, a retired police officer who once guarded Betty Ford and, on a different day, posed as a hooker on South Nevada Ave! Carolyn sings with the Pikes Peak Threshold singers and works as a Database Analyst at Colorado College.

NATASHA RIVERON
Natasha is a recent graduate of Colorado College and works as a Community Outreach Coordinator. She is drawn to this welcoming community and Social Justice. Natasha is already involved in the Young Adults Group, What Would Jesus Brew?, Exchange, and was a kitchen wench in The Madrigal. She is passionate about homelessness, working with Blackbird Outreach and loves Scottish country dancing.

MOLLIE WILLIAMS
Mollie was raised in a Congregational church. She is already involved in Just Peace and the Sanctuary Coalition. She would like to get more involved in Outreach groups. Mollie used to be a School Counselor and is interested in Stephen Ministry. Mollie is involved in the Civil Rights movement and League of Women Voters.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, COLORADO SPRINGS

Special Meeting: Sunday, March 11, 2018 – 12:15 p.m.

ARTICLE 4

I move to amend Article 4 of the Bylaws of First Congregational Church by striking the words “his or her” after the words “the dictates of” and inserting the words “the member’s”.

The revised sentence will read:

Each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the Word of God according to the dictates of the member’s own conscience...

ARTICLE 7.6(e)

I move to amend Article 7.6(e) of the Bylaws of First Congregational Church by striking the words “Each Council Member” in the first sentence and inserting the words “Council Members” and striking the words “his or her” after the word “accountability” and inserting the word “the”.

The revised Article will read:

Council Member: Council members will support and provide accountability for the ministry area (or Core Resource area, in the case of Council Officers) in collaboration with church staff members who are also assigned to the given area.

ARTICLE 8.1

I move to amend the third sentence of Article 8.1 of the Bylaws of First Congregational Church by striking the words “his/her” after the words “upon completion of” and inserting the words “the member’s”.

The revised third sentence will read:

…Council members shall be eligible for election to the Committee immediately upon completion of the member’s Council term but shall not serve on the Committee while serving on Council.

ARTICLE 10.1(c)

I move to amend the second sentence of Article 10.1(c) of the Bylaws of First Congregational Church by striking the words “his or her” after the words “to propose” and inserting the words “the candidate’s”.

The revised sentence will read:

The search committee, having settled upon the one who in their judgment should be called to the pastorate, shall introduce the candidate to the church at a duly called meeting to propose the candidate’s election.

ARTICLE 10.2

I move to amend the second sentence of Article 10.2 of the Bylaws of First Congregational Church by striking the words “have under his or her care” before the words “all services of public worship” and inserting the words “care for”.

The revised sentence will read:

…administer the sacraments, and care for all services of public worship.

ARTICLE 10.4

I move to amend Article 10.4 of the Bylaws of First Congregational Church by striking the words “his or her” in the first sentence and inserting the words “the Minister’s”, and striking the words “his or her” in the second sentence before the words “call and employment” and inserting the words “that person’s”, and striking the words “his or her” before the words “contract terms”.

The revised sentences will read:

Likewise, the Minister shall give sixty (60) days notice in case the Minister wishes to leave of the Minister’s own volition. But in the case of loss of ministerial standing on the part of the Minister, that person’s call and employment shall cease at once, subject to contract terms.
This is an example of a question you get about our recent annual meeting, and the frustration that can be caused by our process. We actually navigated through quite a number of actions in alignment with the process: Motions, Seconds, Amendments, Sending to a Committee, Postponing a Topic to a Later Date and Calling the Question. Did the process let us down? Why do we have to follow it? Isn’t it outdated?

Robert’s Rules enshrine some important principles:

- Speakers are respected and must be heard on topics before the organization.
- All members must know what they are voting on, with the actual words in front of them, with time to understand and discuss.
- Organizations have a published set of bylaws with which we conduct business.

Robert’s Rules let us become an Open and Affirming Church and a Just Peace Church. Robert’s Rules allowed organizations to stand up to apartheid, support voting rights for all, and make hard decisions about becoming sanctuary churches. Robert’s Rules encourage pushing all the issues into the open, hashing out a direction, and unifying behind it before asking the body to approve. The Rules aren’t broken.

Robert’s Rules and our Bylaws tell us what’s important when we need consensus on an issue. Look at some items that require 2/3 votes to understand what we value:

- **Calling a Lead Minister**
  We are required to achieve consensus about our spiritual leader.

- **Calling the Question**
  It is so important that we hear all sides of an issue that we make it difficult to stop discussion.

- **Changing our Bylaws**
  Our rules are open, not secret, and their changes should be viewed with scrutiny.

“It’s a poor workman who blames his tools.” Our problem was that we didn’t use our tools properly. In hindsight, we ended up where we should – complete the task (including achieving broad consensus), inform the people, and come back to the Congregation quickly. But couldn’t we have done it faster?

In the words of Winston Churchill:

“Democracy is the worst from of government, except for all the others.”

For a nice shortcut to understand Robert’s Rules of Order, you can visit [http://www.diphi.web.unc.edu/files/2012/02/MSG-ROBERTS_RULES_CHEAT_SHEET.pdf](http://www.diphi.web.unc.edu/files/2012/02/MSG-ROBERTS_RULES_CHEAT_SHEET.pdf) (but even that is 5 pages!).

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**DID YOU KNOW “ROBERT’S RULES FOR DUMMIES” IS 432 PAGES?!?**

by Scott Tetrick, Church Council Vice-Moderator

scotttetrick@gmail.com

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The first edition of the book, whose full title was Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies, was published in February 1876 by then U.S. Army Major Henry Martyn Robert (1837–1923) with the short title Robert’s Rules of Order placed on its cover.
THANK YOU to Rev. Tammy Garrett-Williams, Josh, Lula & Ruby Haginduff, Nancy Henjum, and Deidre and Xavi Schoolcraft, who served as liturgists. Sean Drevs, Kiara Nath, Kaitlyn O’Donnell, Hannah Rockey, Casey Scott, and Becky Weiss provided KC Worship support. Denise Ellsworth, Sandy Johannsen, Cyndi McFarland, and Jeanie Tate provided leadership in Godly Play Worship. We cast a spell of thanks over Prof. Ted Lindeman and the 2018 Sunday School Teaching Team for being terrific ‘Hogwarts staff’ and for promising great teaching to the kids of FCC until May. Thank you to Liz Eden, Lee Lehmkuhl, and Russ Ware for gifts of special music. Thank you also to Susie Marten and Sarah Groh-Correa for their support of the music program. Finally, as we look back on Rev. Heather Haginduff’s first month, we offer special thanks to the Transition Team and Search Committee for hosting wonderful welcome receptions and especially to Becca Gurney Powe, Judy Kolz, Lois Matthews, Sylvia Strubel, Susan Tetrick, Jean Tidball, and Patti White for providing delicious baked reception nibbles.

We offer PRAYERS for those undergoing cancer treatment, including Charlie Hall, Gayle Jordan, Linda LeMieux, Marilyn Turner, Nancy Wenzlau, and Mary Yates. We also pray for those who are recovering from hospitalization or surgery, including Handi Jo Dolloff-Holt, Don Drake, Kay James, Isabelle Kemp, and the Trujillo Family’s aunt, Kathy Casey. Prayers are lifted to Carolyn Dickerson’s mother, Vera Dickerson, in hospice care in PA; to Ann Lantz, Director of ESM, whose father is in hospice care; and to Mo Morrow as she navigates issues with housing. Finally, we offer prayers for Del and Pete Hokanson as they embark on a three-month sabbatical in Australia!

CONGRATULATIONS to Chloe Kemp, who sang in the Middle School All State Choir and to Jeremy Lloyd’s sister, Kristolyn Lloyd, who received a Grammy!
**MESA HOUSE JUBILANT VOLUNTEERS**

by **Hope Woodhead**, Kitchen Witches Leader

`trombone4me@gmail.com`

Did you know that many of our members and friends are involved in volunteer work at Mesa House? These fine people volunteer three Sundays a month to serve meals to the people at Mesa House - which is a half-way house for those who have recently been released from prison.

I really want to thank everyone who is involved for this marvelous year of 2018. **Angie Adams, Michelle Blessing, Chris Carlson** and **Marty Wolf, Ellie** and **Bruce Coriell, Heather DeZarn, Diana DiMara, Polly Fiedler, John Fuller, Deirdre** and **Michael Gilbert, Chad Glang, Pete Hokanson, Carol Keenan, Mindy Matthes, Carol Maynard, Jill** and **Drew Robinson, GL Scarborough, Casey** and **Sue Scott, Joan Selman, Celia** and **John Snyder, Amanda Terrell-Orr, Patti** and **Jim White, Hope** and **George Woodhead**.

I also want to acknowledge **Casey** and **Sue Scott** for getting us involved in this very worthy effort.

Volunteers from First Congregational Church help to provide meals and share time at the dinner table for Sunday evening meals at Mesa House. This important service supports men who have recently been released from prison. If you would like to learn more and/or get involved, please contact anyone on the list above.

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**FCC Cooking School**

This year’s Cooking School kicks off on March 23, at 11 a.m. in the FCC Kitchen. Join **Alyce Morgan** for “An Italian Dinner”.

Save the date for the April session with **Susan Schenk**. Susan will present ”A Touch of Spring” on April 27.

All are invited to the FCC Cooking School!

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**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

by **Lois Matthews**, Stephen Leader

`ldmatt333@comcast.net`

Do you know these interesting AND wonderful facts about Stephen Ministry?

- Congregations or other organizations with Stephen Ministries: **12,788**
- Countries with Stephen Ministry congregations: **29**
- Denominations represented: **179**
- Number of pastors and lay leaders trained as a Stephen Leader at a Leader’s Training Course: **73,865**
- Approximate number of people trained as a Stephen Minister in their church or organization: **600,000 plus**
- Approximate number of people cared for by a Stephen Minister: **Millions**

**Stephen Ministers Provide Christian Care**

Every day you see people who are hurting: those who have lost a job, lost a loved one, gone through a divorce, or are battling a terminal illness. Stephen Ministers are God’s representatives who bring his love to those who are hurting. God is waiting to make a difference in their lives through the Stephen Ministers at FCC. If you want to find out more about this one-to-one caregiving ministry, contact **Pastor Jacque Franklin** (719.635.3549).
As I begin this article, I’m listening to “You Can Make It If You Try,” a song Pastor Heather Haginduff played during the service on February 4th. Her challenge was for the congregation to “Just Try Something,” a sermon about imagining possibilities, listening, learning, trusting God and loving people.

This song from Sly and the Family Stone’s 1969 album, Stand!, “You Can Make It If You Try” is an anthem for free choice and a dynamic world. In this scenario, the universe contains possibilities, hope, and endless capacity for ideas, change, growth and becoming.

Contrast this with “Que Sera Sera,” the song made famous by Doris Day a decade earlier. It represents a diametrically opposed view that presupposes a quite different reality. If the world is on a fixed course, “...whatever will be will be.” Some truly believe that the universe is set in motion, one which will not be disturbed by human or (sometimes even) divine intervention. This fatalistic worldview is expressed in sayings like, “If it’s meant to be,” and “everything happens for a reason.” Seeing the world through this lens has led to various ideas from fatalism (Why should I look when I cross the street? If I get hit by a bus, I get hit by a bus!)—to Calvinism and ideas about predestination.

These two songs represent two very different philosophical worldviews—two very different approaches to life. Not only can they affect how we live our lives, but also how we relate to God.

I think God presents themselves as dynamic beings who are intimately involved with us on a moment-by-moment basis. God even changes their mind when people change. God is constantly adjusting, adapting and creating. Because of this and the other reality that I have free will, my relationship with God and how I live my life are constantly changing. God moves, and as a dance partner, I move. Conversely, I move and God moves. It’s a dance. It’s dynamic. It’s awesome.

As we move through Lent and into the spring (and Easter season), let us have renewed hope. Springtime brings new life from the death and dormancy of autumn and winter; it brings a fresh reminder that we can always escape the trappings, failures, and disappointments of the past and get a new lease on life. You may be tempted to feel hopeless and a victim of things that are outside your control. Whatever will be will be.

Or you can make it if you try! View yourself as an architect of your destiny, knowing that how you think and what you do really do matter in the world!

JUST TRY SOMETHING!

(Other articles by Debra Buenting can be accessed at GetControlOfYourLife.org)
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Rev. Dr. Jerry Jordan
(1973-1988)
Rev. Dr. James White
(1989-2005)

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Visitation Ministry
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNICATOR?

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

The DEADLINE for the next issue (April 2018 Issue) is Thursday, March 15, 2018. Please send to Emily Bond - emily@fcucc.org

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.