

FIRST THINGS FIRST

NEWS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STERLING, COLORADO

NOVEMBER 2020

Give Thanks to the Lord

... for God's gifts are abundant
and our blessings are many.



Happy Thanksgiving!

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .

Through Anything

“Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can **make it through anything** in the One who makes me who I am.”
Philippians 4:13 (MSG)

On November 1 we begin a new series on *Nurturing a Resilient Faith*. I find it remarkable and inspiring to think about our church’s history, and the challenges and struggles that have been endured and overcome. Lately, I’ve been thinking in particular about the influenza pandemic of 1918.

While the times in which we are living are entirely new and uncharted *for us*, our ancestors in faith have been through this before. In 1918, churches in Sterling could not hold worship services because of restrictions on public gatherings due to the pandemic. The cornerstone on our current building was dedicated during that time, with just a handful of people and an informal ceremony. I imagine they were pretty disappointed to have to scale back such a momentous occasion, not to mention worried about embarking on a building project during such a time of hardship! Our inspiring church building is a tangible reminder of their triumph over those challenging times.

We are similarly determined to bounce back and even grow from the challenges we now face. Be on the lookout for a **stewardship packet** from the church. There’s a special collection of photos from the past year, a new directory, a budget snapshot, and an Estimate of Giving (EOG) card in the packets, which will go out beginning on November 1. We invite you to complete an EOG and return it to the church before November 20, so we can dedicate them during the service on November 22 as we give thanks and look forward to the coming year of mission and ministry together.

I believe God is nurturing a resilient faith in our church family, as we rise up together from the challenges we face. Join us as we press on in faith together. With God and each other, we can make it... **through anything!**

Rev. Michelle



PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son)
Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)
Cameron Venn (Doris Ramsel's grandson)

For those with special needs or concerns....

Carol Barrett	(Bev Cumming's Niece)
Norm Blackburn	Aline Marquez
Brenda Boeff	(Becky Cranwell's student)
Gabe Chapin	Emerson McClanahan
Cooperating Ministry	(Ellen Bernhard's daughter)
Jeanne Crouch & family	Delinda Korrey McDowell
Cierra Davis	Jackie McGannon
(friend of Becky Cranwell)	Katie Neblett
Jenevieve De Soto	Shannon Oyewole
Karol Dickson	(friend of Nancy Mann)
(Shane's daughter)	Jeni Porter
Family Resource Center	(In-law of Blackburn's)
Norman Foos	David Prince
Maryanne Forwood	(Tanna's brother)
Jim Gay	IdaMae Prince
Bryce Gilliland	(Tanna's mother)
(friend of Kaan's)	Frances Rhodes
Meridith Goodwin	(Dave's mother)
(friend of Propst's)	Ben Skeen
David Hashman, SCF Inmate	(Mike Gertner's nephew)
Sonja Holden	Darrell Smith
(friend of Arden Fennell)	Dorothy Swanson
Chris Jutz	Barb Thiele
Josh Jutz & Kaylee	Charlie & Roseanne Thompson
Nathaniel Kaan	(friends of Nebletts)
(nephew of Cheryl & Dennis)	Amy & Byron Uhrich
Robert Koehler	(Jill Vollmer's parents)
(friend of Laura Guenzi)	Under the Umbrella
Debby Korrey	Norma Wagner
(Darla's and Delinda's sister)	(Jana Lock's mom)
Glenna Langshaw	Declan Nash Warner
(Cheryl Kaan's mother)	(Jason Rose's grandson)
Gary & Deb Lauer	Masi Wells
(friend of Propst's)	(friend of Taylor Cranwell)
Dona Lightsey	Jeff Weskamp
Paige Marchant Pryor	Zach Westramus

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

2	Mikki Jackson
2	Glenna Langshaw
2	Bryce White
3	Tanna Prince
7	Jill Vollmer
10	Peachie Fritzler
10	Nancy Hall
10	Kim Schlup
11	Kale Christenson
11	Jim Neblett
14	Douglas Fritzler
15	Larry Fetzer
16	Rick Weingardt
16	Michelle Witherspoon
17	Beverly Cumming
18	Trae Miller
19	Sheila Fabela
19	Rick Jackson
20	Nancy Mann
20	Steve Parrish
21	Linda Meisner
25	Kay Dana
27	Harry Peterson

**May you be
Blessed in
Love, Peace,
and Joy**

Condolences to Bob Smith, his family and friends in the loss of his brother, who lived in Idaho.

Prayer List Updates

Do you have an update on anyone listed on our church prayer list? We'd love to hear the good news of recovery, healing and answered prayer. If you have a joy to report, let us know!

SESSION. . .

From the October 20, 2020 Session Meeting via Zoom/ Phone Conferencing

- It was **Moved** and **Seconded** to seat Deacon Representative Jill Vollmer and give her voice. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**
- **Pastor reported** there was one baptism in September and one in October.
- It was **Moved** and **Seconded** to approve the book Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism by Carolyn B. Helsel for adult education led by Rev. Michelle. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**
- It was **Moved** and **Seconded** to use the 2020 budget for 2021, with the exception of increasing Worship & Sacraments Supplies from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and decreasing the Guest Preachers from \$1,500 to \$1,000. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**
- **Personnel Committee:** It was **Moved** and **Seconded** to hire Kay Brigham Rich as the Innovator of Family and Youth Connection and Faith Development beginning Nov. 1, 2020. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**
- Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee **IT WAS VOTED** to accept the 60.6 shares of FarmBank Holding Inc. from the Walsh Estate, approve the Amended and Restated Shareholder Agreement of FarmBank Holding Inc., and authorize Tara Guenzi, Clerk of Session, to sign the agreement on behalf of First Presbyterian Church.
- **Worship and Sacraments reported** Communion was served on September 13, 2020 to 33 people who attended in-person worship and an unknown number who attended online.
- **Worship and Sacraments reported** Communion was served on October 11, 2020 to 35 people who attended in-person worship and an unknown number who attended online.
- **Membership/Stewardship reported** a 2021 Stewardship Campaign will kick off November 1, 2020.
- **Property reported** starting to get bids on refinishing doors, repairing front steps, manse painting and window trim painting.
- **Fellowship reported** The committee is providing items for FRC food pantry using the ASSET club lunch budget, as the FRC food pantry has taken the place of ASSET club lunches.
- **Nominating:** It was Moved and Seconded to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing officers for Sunday, November 1, immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary with provision for members to participate/vote in person or on Zoom. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**
- **Mission Contact reported** Peace & Global Witness Offering- we keep 25% to be used for local peacemaking ministries. It was decided to give our portion to Help for Abused Partners. We will wait until next month to see how much has been collected and discuss adding to the offering from the church's mission funds.

Financial Information September 2020

	<u>Sept. 2020</u>	<u>YTD 2020</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Receipts *	25,954.41	264,140.46	245,958.00	18,182.46
Total Expenses	<u>33,534.98</u>	<u>232,979.78</u>	<u>269,879.42</u>	<u>(36,899.64)</u>
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	(7,580.57)	31,160.68	(23,921.42)	55,082.10
Transfers from other assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>13,259.83</u>	<u>15,980.00</u>	<u>(2,795.11)</u>
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with transfers	(7,580.57)	** 44,420.51	(7,941.42)	52,286.99
* \$3,300 was received in 2019 as prepaid pledges				
** PPP loan was \$29,204; Walsh Bequest was \$19,157				

Holy Communion

Next Communion Sunday:
November 1

~ Bring your own elements ~

Join us at church or from home.



All Saints Sunday



Please email photos of loved ones you would like to remember during our All Saints Sunday service, or bring a photo with you to church.

If you have a loved one who has died in the last year, please contact the church office by October 28 to have your loved one's name included in the All Saints prayer.

November 1

November 1 Communion

Be sure to gather elements for communion if you are joining worship from home, and bring your own elements with you to church if you are coming to the sanctuary for worship.

"This book is spot-on for the kinds of conversations we need to be having."

— Walter Brueggemann, author of *Sabbath as Resistance*

What if I say the wrong thing? Is race really something that I need to talk about (I'm white)? Shouldn't I let people of color be the ones to bring it up? I don't want to offend anyone. I don't think I'm racist, but what if I say something that sounds racist? It's on the news all the time, but I don't know how to talk about what's going on. I'm worried someone will call me a racist. I don't see color. Why do we have to keep talking about this? I feel stupid when we talk about race. I realize there's a lot I don't know. But it's not my fault! I am not a racist. I work with people of color and I'm respectful and friendly to them. If I treat anybody else, I have friends who are people of color and who don't want to talk about race, so why should we? I get angry thinking you're trying to make me more politically correct. Leave me alone already. What does this have to do with faith? The Bible doesn't say anything about race. Let's leave it alone. But what I saw happening on the news, some people are crazy and racist. But that's not me. But how do I stop something like that happening in my town? I don't know. It makes me anxious.

Helping White Christians
Talk Faithfully about Racism

CAROLYN B. HELSEL

New book study discussion group!

Rev. Michelle will be leading a discussion of the book, "Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism"

Dates/Times TBD.

Let us know if you'd like to be part of this discussion group, and we'll find the times that work best.

Thank You!!

A big, big thanks to our Church Family

It is difficult to find words to express our feelings for the members who provided food on weekends for several months and other members who provided food at different times.

A special thanks to Pam Trimble for getting our groceries and still does!!

And special thanks to Kim Jackson for organizing all the meals and checking in on us!!

Myra the homemade ice cream you brought twice was Yummy!!

We are both taking physical therapy. McDonald's Group, came to the house for Jack's and I have 1 a week at home and 1 at the clinic.

I'm able to drive now, but only for appointments and other limited amounts.

Again, Many Thanks for EVERYTHING!!!

*Love,
Florence & Jack Annan*

Cooperating Ministry of Logan County

Donations of boxed cornbread mixes & spaghetti sauce are needed this month for their **Annual Christmas Baskets**.

We were asked for a total of 250. boxes of Cornbread mix or cans or spaghetti sauce.

You may bring your donations to the church & put them under the table outside the church office or in the box in the elevator vestibule.



— **VIRTUAL** —

First Friday @ First Presbyterian

Adele McConnell

Piano

Ragtime, Classical, Pop



Join us online for a **virtual** concert

[facebook.com/ FPC.Sterling](https://www.facebook.com/FPC.Sterling)

November 6, 2020

12:05 PM



November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30 Worship with Communion All Saints Sunday Called Congr. meeting		2:00 - Worship/ Sacraments Committee (Zoom)		5:00 Bell Choir	12:05 Virtual First Friday – Adele McConnell, Piano	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 Worship		3:00 Membership/ Stewardship 5:15 Finance Committee	Church Office Closed Veterans Day	5:00 Bell Choir		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 Worship Newsletter Deadline		6:00 Session (Zoom)		1:30 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Bell Choir		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 Worship				Church Office Closed Thanksgiving	Church Office Closed	
29	30					
10:30 Worship 1st Sunday of Advent						

SERVING IN CHURCH

USHERS

Nov. 1	Mike Werner Pam Werner Justin Cranwell Becky Cranwell	Nov. 22	Jomari Lechtman Pam Trimble Nancy Mann Terri Rhodes
Nov. 8	Pat Borner Chad Borner Dean Boeff Mason Boeff	Nov. 29	Jill Vollmer Jeff Christenson Bev Cumming Linda Meisner
Nov. 15	Laura Guenzi Becky Cranwell Connie Ham Tara Guenzi	Subs:	Justin & Becky Cranwell, Mike & Pam Werner

COUNT OFFERING

Nov. 1	Linda Meisner
Nov. 8	Connie Ham
Nov. 15	Bob Smith
Nov. 22	Linda Meisner
Nov. 29	Connie Ham

FIRST RESPONSE

Oct. 25-31	Kathy Rice
Nov. 1-7	Mike Werner
Nov. 8-14	Jill Vollmer
Nov. 15-21	Jeff Christenson
Nov. 22-28	Jomari Lechtman
Nov. 29-Dec. 5	Mike Werner

COMMUNION NOVEMBER 1, 2020

You are welcome to bring your own elements for communion. Pre-packaged, single serving communion elements will also be available.

Remember to let the church office know if you trade serving dates with someone.

Serving schedules subject to change. Check the website for most up-to-date schedules.
www.firstpressterling.org/servingschedules

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
130 SOUTH 4TH STREET
STERLING, COLORADO 80751

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



November

FIRST THINGS FIRST

If you wish to be taken off this Newsletter mailing list, please call the church office at 522-2708.

Newsletter Deadline is the 15th day of the month prior to publication. Items may be submitted on flash drive, on CD or in text format to Tammie Malone or Jackie Reynolds c/o the church office, by e-mail (newsletter@firstpressterling.org) or phone (522-5477).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship in person or
on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling

RADIO MINISTRY

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. On KSTC (AM 1230)

CHURCH PHONE 970.522.2708
Fax 970.522.1365
WEBSITE www.firstpressterling.org
OFFICE HOURS: M-F, 1-4 pm or by appointment

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MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST

ASSISTANT ORGANIST

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BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

LINDSEY JACKSON

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