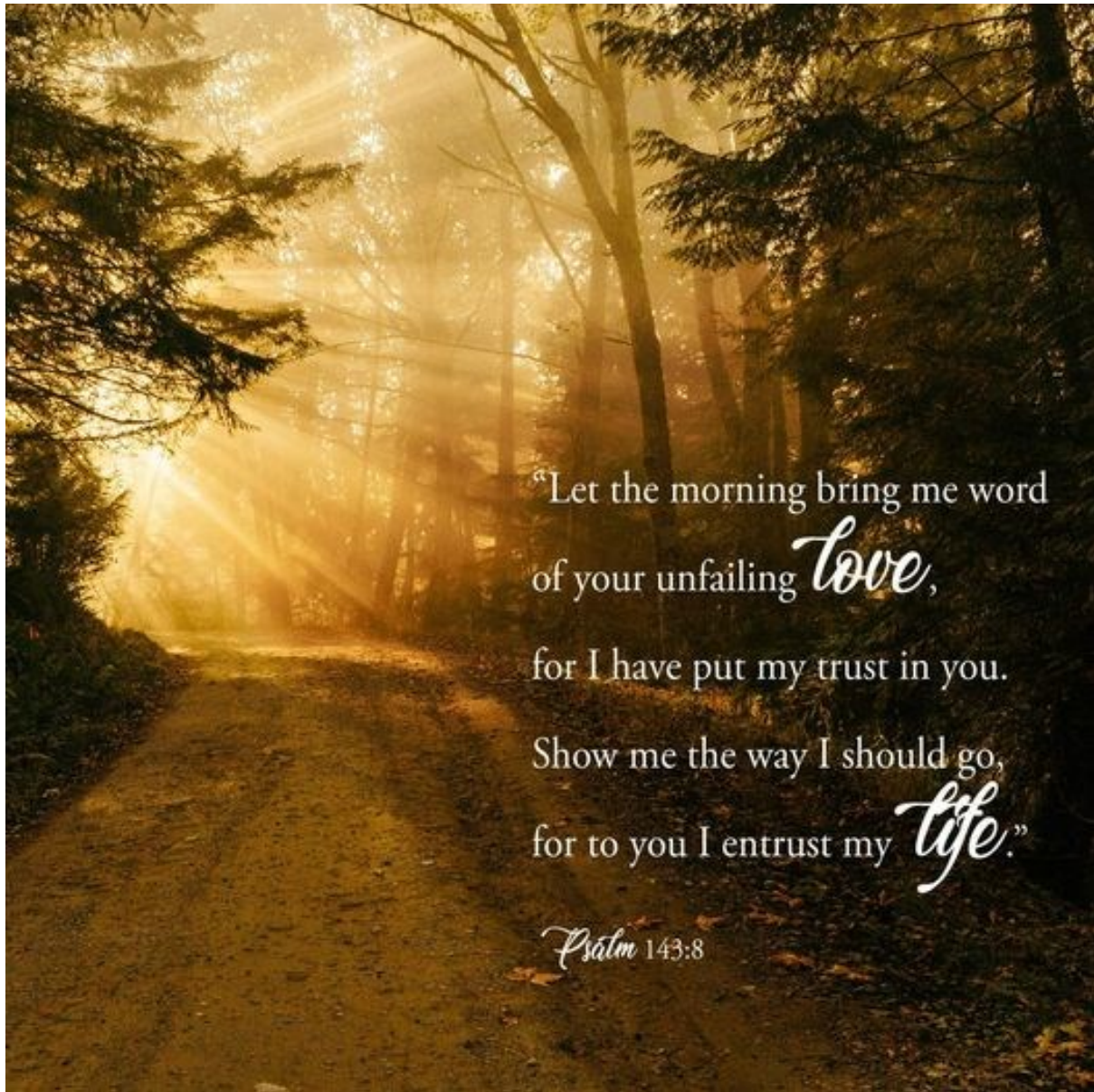


FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

FEBRUARY 2023



"Let the morning bring me word
of your unfailing *love*,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my *life*."

Psalms 143:8

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .



LENT 2023

The scripture readings for Lent offer us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the veil of night, Jesus approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight.

In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs – assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as disciples.

This Lent, we will be invited to ask honest questions for a deeper faith as we ponder:

What am I seeking? What is God seeking?

Join us for a season of seeking. . .

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....

| | |
|--|---|
| Carl Anderson | Delinda Korrey McDowell |
| Florence Annan | Aline Marquez |
| Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative) | (friend of Becky Cranwell) |
| Norm Blackburn | Rev Betsy & Eric Moe & the people of Guatemala |
| Brenda Boeff | Jeni Porter |
| Luke Brigham (Kay Rich's nephew) | (In-law of Blackburn's) |
| Randy and Terry Brigham | Frances Rhodes |
| Paul Budin | (Dave's mother) |
| Gabe Chapin | Jerry Rich (Gary's brother) |
| Cooperating Ministry | Agnes Rundus |
| Jeanne Crouch & Family | Betty Scharf |
| Cierra Davis | Steve Shinn (friend of Jim Lee) |
| (friend of Becky Cranwell) | AJ, Sara, & Baby Leo Sonnenberg (friends of Weingardts) |
| Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son) | Darrell Smith |
| Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family) | Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins) |
| Family Resource Center | Sid Tadolini |
| Norman Foos | Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Nebletts) |
| Koehn Gertner | Peggy Thompson |
| (Mikes grandson) | (Carol Arnold's daughter) |
| Meredith Goodwin | Mike Tyson |
| (friend of Propsts) | Amy & Byron Uhrich |
| David Hashman, SCF Inmate | (Jill Vollmer's parents) |
| Highlands Camp | Under the Umbrella |
| Sonja Holden | Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad) |
| (friend of Arden Fennell) | Norma Wagner |
| Hollis Jackson | (Jana Lock's mom) |
| Chris Jutz | Declan Nash Warner |
| Josh Jutz & Kaylee | (Jason Rose's grandson) |
| Janae (Klindt) Kerr | Derek Weingardt (nephew of Rhodes and Weingardts) |
| Robert Koehler | Masi Wells |
| (friend of Laura Guenzi) | (friend of Taylor Cranwell) |
| Debby Korrey | Jeff Weskamp |
| (Darla's and Delinda's sister) | Deb White (Ellen Mile's daughter) |
| Patty Moriarity Korrey | Joan Whitney |
| (Delinda and Darla's sister-in-law) | Jim & Jean Williamson |
| Haley Mead, Braxton & Kaisen | |
| Jimmie McCaffree | |
| Emerson McClanahan | |
| (Ellen Bernhard's daughter) | |

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

3 Kelley Jackson
4 Carson Guenzi
10 Rick Lock
11 Cindy Benson
14 Marcia Burnham
16 BJ Eaton
Karen Bargell
Sam Routh
17 Darrell Smith
18 Delinda Korrey McDowell
Kevin Vollmer
20 Carol Arnold
Wade Guenzi
21 Justin Cranwell
Chuck Cumming
Jackie Reynolds
24 Dustin Kaan
27 Brian Witherspoon

VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Condolences to the Family of Teri DeBord, who passed away January 13th.

FROM DUST TO DUST

ASH WEDNESDAY February 22

5:15pm supper

6:00pm worship with communion & imposition of ashes

@ First Presbyterian Church



LENT Wednesday Worship & LUNCH

Location: First English Lutheran Church

Schedule:

February 22 — Pastor Richard von Steinman/First English Lutheran Church

March 1 — TBA

March 8 — Pastor Jodie Harless/Faith UMC

March 15 — TBA

March 22 — TBA

March 29 — Rev. Michelle Witherspoon/First Presbyterian Church

April 5th — Pastor Lew Champ/First Christian Church

SESSION. . .

From the December 7, 2022 Session Meeting

IT WAS VOTED to seat and give voice to deacon representative, Mike Werner, and officers-elect: Alie Sheldon, Kim Weingardt, B.J. Eaton and Mike Tyson.

IT WAS VOTED to have communion at this Session Meeting,

PASTOR'S REPORT:

A written report was received.

Church has been asked to host the Presbytery Meeting on Tues., May 9, 2023.

William Fredregill entered life triumphant Oct 21, 2022. A funeral service was held at FPC Oct 29, 2022, with Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon and Rev. Brian Witherspoon officiating. He was not a member.

Stephen R. Burnham entered life triumphant Nov 13, 2022. A memorial service was held on Nov 19, 2022, with Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon officiating.

IT WAS VOTED to approve the following vacation time for Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon: Nov 21-25, 2022 and Dec 26-30, 2022.

IT WAS VOTED TO approve up to 6 weeks of paid sick leave for Janet Klobberdanz.

The Resonance Project was reviewed and discussed. The Session is considering offering a retreat with guest facilitators for our project.

CLERK'S REPORT:

IT WAS VOTED TO reinstate Jerri Spear as an active member.

Church Policies of Sexual Misconduct and Code of Conduct with Youth and Vulnerable Adults, were reviewed.

FINANCE:

The Investment Policy and the Finance Policy were reviewed.

PROPERTY:

Insurance Policies will be reviewed when the AV System is complete.

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS:

IT WAS VOTED to approve the following communion dates in 2023: first Sunday of every month (except April because of Easter) Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, Blue Christmas (date TBD) and Christmas Eve.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Officers were elected at the October Congregational Meeting.

There are two vacancies on the 2023 Nominating Committee (members at large), and there is one vacancy on the Board of Deacons (Class of 2025).

OTHER BUSINESS:

IT WAS VOTED to elect Tara Guenzi as Clerk of Session for 2023 and Robert Smith as Treasurer for 2023.

IT WAS VOTED to elect the following commissioners to Presbytery; Jomari Lechtman, Tanna Prince and B. J. Eaton.

NEXT MEETINGS/IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, January 15, 2023, Ordination and Installation of Officers. (during worship). Tuesday, January 17, 2023 - Session Meeting.

IT WAS VOTED to schedule the Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, Feb 12, 2023, following worship service.

There being no further business, Rev. Michelle Witherspoon closed the meeting with prayer.

Salt & Light – Called & Chosen

A series for the season of Epiphany exploring the theme of *call*.

Sunday, February 5 — *Salt & Light*
communion; Matt 5:13-20

Sunday, February 12 — *Choices*
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Cor 3:1-9; Matt 5:21-37

Sunday, February 19 — *Come Up to Me*
Transfiguration Sunday; Exodus 24:12-18; Matt 17:1-9



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**



Summer Camp 2023

It's a new season at Highlands and we're inviting you to GET WILD in the wilderness this summer!!

You may also check the website at www.highlandscamp.org

Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center
PO Box 66; Allenspark, CO 80510
303-747-2888

In Person & on Facebook
First Friday @ First Presbyterian

MIKE TYSON
Tenor



Classic Broadway
February 3, 2023
12:05 to 12:35

South 4th and Ash, Sterling
Free & Open to the Public
facebook.com/fpc.sterling

INHALE:

God has called you;

EXHALE:

and God is faithful.

FOOD PANTRY

For the Cooperating Ministry,
this month we are collecting:

Saltine Crackers

For NJC, we are always
collecting **nutritious non-
perishable food** items.

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



To the Church Elders,
Thank you so much for the
lovely poinsettia plant. Have
been enjoying it so much, it
make a bright spot to enjoy
on the dreary winter days

Sincerely
Joan Whelan

RETREAT

Sacred Time & Deepest Belonging

When: April 21-23, 2023

Where: YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park

Who: Current Elders, Deacons, and Church Members*

Cost: FREE!

Our guest presenters, Dr. Andrew Root and Rev. Kara Root will lead us in thinking about time and the way speed in our modern life creates pressures that are not life-giving for those attempting to follow Jesus and lead others in Christian community. Enter into time deeply and take away a centering in the basics of what it is to be Church that will help to renew and reroot after more than a year of disruption and fatigue.

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Retreat Sign-Up

Name: _____

Room Preference (each room has 2 queen beds and a private bathroom):

_____ **I would like to room alone.**

_____ **I would like to share a room.**

Roommate: _____

* Space is limited; priority will be given to current elders, others are welcome as space allows.



February 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | 10:30 Worship & Sacraments Committee | 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir | 12:05 First Friday – Mike Tyson | 9:00 Presbytery (Fort Collins) |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 10:30 Worship Communion | | 5:15 Fellowship Committee | | 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 9:00 Confirmation 10:30 Worship Annual Congregational Meeting | | 5:15 Finance Committee | Newsletter Deadline | 1:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 10:30 Worship Fellowship Lunch | Office Closed Presidents' Day | 5:30 Session | 12:00 Lenten worship & lunch (First English Lutheran) 5:15 Supper 6:00 Ash Wednesday | 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |
| 9:00 Confirmation 10:30 Worship | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

SERVING IN CHURCH

USHERS

February 5 Traci Reeves, Audrey Reeves
February 12 Dean Boeff, Sue Weingardt
February 19 Delinda Korrey McDowell, Ken McDowell
February 26 Justin Cranwell, Kim Weingardt

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

February 5 Personnel Committee
February 12 Board of Deacons
February 19 Lunch
February 26 Chancel Choir

COUNT OFFERING

February 5 Bob Smith
February 12 Connie Ham
February 19 Bev Cumming
February 26 Linda Meisner

AV TECHS

February 5 Jeff Christenson, George Witherspoon
February 12 Tanna Prince, Rex Witherspoon, George Witherspoon
February 19 Justin Cranwell, Jeff Christenson
February 22 Dean Boeff
February 26 Dean Boeff

FIRST RESPONSE

February Sue Weingardt
March Traci Reeves

LAY READERS

February 5 Myra Westfall
February 12 Pam Trimble
February 19 Kim Jackson
February 26 Sue Weingardt

BULLETIN DELIVERY

February Sue Weingardt
March Traci Reeves

COMMUNION

FEBRUARY 5, 2023,
FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Traditional elements will be served from trays. Pre-packaged elements will also be offered, or you are welcome to bring your own.

Serving Communion

Feb. 5
Tara Guenzi
Bob Smith
Jackie Reynolds
Feb. 22
Tanna Prince
Linda Meisner

Preparing Communion

Feb. 5
Mike Tyson
Jomari Lechtman
Feb. 22
Sue Weingardt
Darla Korrey Gertner

Remember to let the church office know if you trade serving dates with someone (522-2708).

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



February

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 (522-2708).

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-W-F, 9-noon ~ T-Th 1-4
(or by appointment)

Staff:

PASTOR MICHELLE WITHERSPOON

E-mail michelle@firstpressterling.org

Cell Phone 970.580.4358

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR BEVERLY CUMMING

E-mail bevc@firstpressterling.org

Cell Phone 970.466.0262

BOOKKEEPER KARLEE MANUELLO

E-mail karlee@firstpressterling.org

MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST ELSIE FETZER

CHOIR DIRECTOR DARLA KORREY GERTNER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR LINDSEY JACKSON

PROPERTY MANAGER JANET KLOBERDANZ

COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH,
AND FAMILY MINISTRIES KAY BRIGHAM RICH

NEWSLETTER EDITORS TAMMIE MALONE
AND JACKIE REYNOLDS

E-mail newsletter@firstpressterling.org