

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

AUGUST 2022

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd:
I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .



New Worship Series

We are kicking off a new worship series on August 7 — *Psalms for All Seasons*. I always feel like August/September is a great season for recalibrating and for cultivating new routines and nourishing practices. I know the New Year is the more traditional time for resolutions, but for me “back to school” season has always felt like a better time to find a fresh start (even though I haven’t been in school for many years!).

This August I invite you to join me in coming back to God, or coming closer to God, in more intentional ways. I’ve been away from the church for awhile, recovering from surgery and taking some vacation. Some of you have probably also been away from the church... maybe you’ve done some traveling this summer, maybe health issues have kept you from church, or maybe you’ve just gotten out of the habit of coming to church for one reason or another. Let’s turn “back to school” season into “back to church” or “back to God” season and let’s return once again to the community of faith and to God who always invites us to come home. And, even if you haven’t been away from church recently, I invite you to join me as we renew our faith and as we turn our minds and hearts toward the scriptures — to the psalms — to ground ourselves for a new season.

It won’t be long now before leaves begin to change colors and fall, and as one season gives way to another, let’s take the opportunity to turn over a new leaf together.

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....

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



1	Jomari Lechtman
1	Ryker Jackson
2	Jana Lock
2	Marryn Sheldon
3	Dennis Kaan
5	Connie Brown
9	Mike Tyson
10	Jenilee Spicer
10	Chris Jutz
12	Logan Guenzi
14	David Ruygok
15	Cody Weingardt
16	Don Korrey
16	Chad Borner
19	Kim Jackson
19	Emi Reeves
19	Danny Duodu
26	Dan Torres
27	Alex Hicks
30	Rick Meier
30	Tammie Malone
30	Pat Borner
31	Kay Rich
31	Bev Fritzler



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!

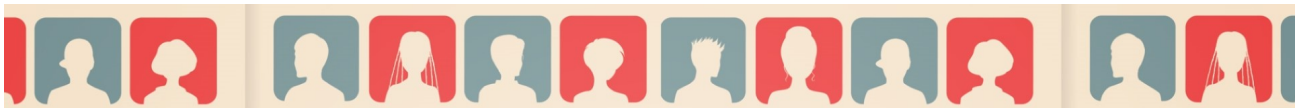
UPCOMING EVENTS. . .

COMMUNION

AUGUST 7



Beginning August 7, we will offer communion elements from the communion table again. Elements will be prepared by the worship & sacraments committee and served from communion trays. Pre-packaged elements will also continue to be offered, or you are welcome to bring your own elements if you prefer.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

We're updating the church directory!

Let us know if you'd like to update your photo or contact information.

Please submit by September 30.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

& POTLUCK

SUNDAY,
AUGUST 21
10:30 A.M.

Fall back in the swing of things with this FPC favorite service.

Bring your backpack, briefcase, bag, or purse
and receive a small gift & blessing to start the season off right.

**We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal during this service,
so bring your favorite dish to share and join us!**



New AV System

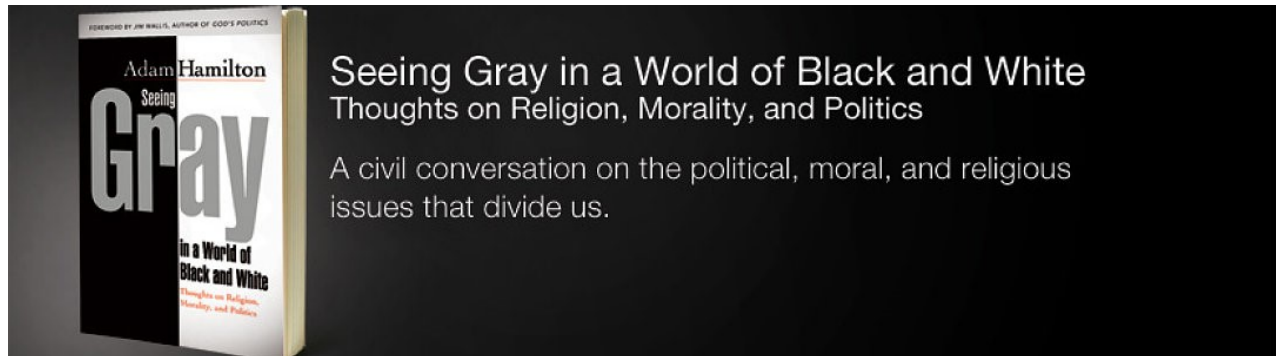
Sunday, August 28

Help us launch and dedicate the new audiovisual system.

**We appreciate your patience as we learn how to use the new system, but
we're excited to try it out with a special service with extra music... Join us!**

UPCOMING EVENTS. . .

2022-2023 Women's Book Study:



Women's Bible/Book Discussion begins Thursday, September 15 at 1:30 pm in the church basement. Adam Hamilton's book *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* will provide a variety of topics such as "the logic of hell," "where is God when bad things happen," and "will there be Hindus in heaven" that will definitely inspire discussion. Mr. Hamilton gently encourages Christians to "stop straining at gnats" and "find the sweet spot."

Now, just what could that mean? Come and See!

Books and a sign-up sheet are available on the table outside the church office.

Ann Blackburn is the facilitator.

Third Thursdays ~ 1:30pm
Study begins September 15
\$13/book

Upcoming Worship Series ... begins Sept 4

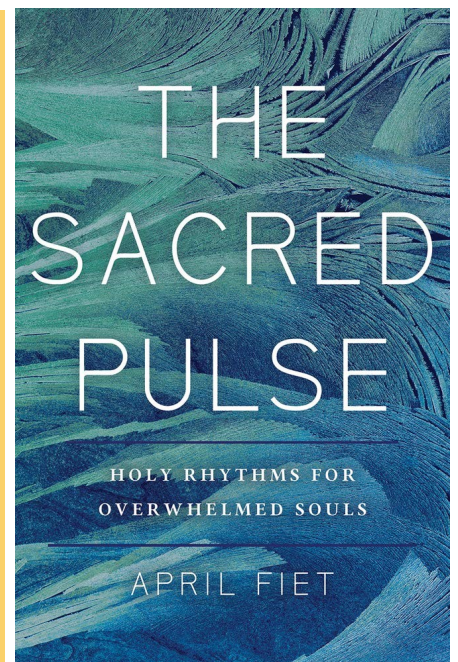
Book Discussion

Mondays, September 12 & 19
5:15pm

Meet the Author

Sunday, September 25

Suggested Donation: \$12/book



UPCOMING EVENTS. . .



FPC Deacons & Heart Strings Work Day October 1

Need help in the yard or around the house before winter arrives?

Be thinking what we can do to help you out!

(Painting, handyman work, window cleaning, etc.)

Forms are on the table outside the church office. Fill out a form and put it in the offering plate or turn it in to the office. Someone will be in touch.

Also, if there is anyone who would like to help the deacons on the work day we would appreciate it!!! Please contact Sue Weingardt (970) 520-3972.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS. . .

The Session of First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Sterling, Colorado, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, **May 24, 2022**, at 5:15 p.m. in the conference room.

Deacon Representative, Delinda Korrey McDowell, was seated and given voice.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- A written report was received.
- Wade David Guenzi, son of Carson and Erin Guenzi, was baptized on May 15, 2022, during worship by Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon.
- Members & friends of FPC are invited to participate in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2023, organized by Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cherry Hill, NJ.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Thank you received from the Family Resource Center for our continued support.
- Thank you from Sarah & BJ Eaton for the warm welcome back to Sterling.
- Update on the AV Installation.
- The following E-votes were affirmed: (1) to contribute \$500 from Session Mission to participate in the local CCOA (Community

Churches Offering Assistance) program with the Logan County Faith Council. (2) Approve the baptism of Wade Guenzi. (3) Approve up to \$200 from Session Mission to pay for registration fees for the Pride 5K.

OTHER BUSINESS

- It was voted to appoint a Task Force of Jackie Reynolds, Jomari Lechtman, Pat Borner, Linda Meisner, and Tara Guenzi to work with the Family Resource Center and explore the possibility of a warming center in the Manse.
- Worship & Sacraments will begin offering communion elements from the table beginning on August 7, 2022. People can still bring their own elements or use prepackaged elements which are available.
- Two church use requests were approved.
- Revisions to the Personnel Policy sick leave were approved; a new job title and revised job description were approved for Kay Rich.
- \$200 donation to the Center on Colfax was approved.
- One campership to Highlands for \$510 was approved.
- Approved sending the local portion (40%) of the Pentecost offering to Life Source Program.

	<u>June 2022</u>	<u>YTD 2022</u>
Income/Offerings	33,403.33	150,254.54
Expenses	<u>30,751.67</u>	<u>170,599.72</u>
Income / (Loss)	2,651.66	(20,345.18)
Quarterly Investment Transfers	<u>9,463.28</u>	<u>16,227.06</u>



MISSION. . .

Twelve members from CO and NE of the Plains and Peaks Presbytery traveled to the village of Leona Vicario, Mexico working at YPM (Yucatan Peninsula Mission). YPM is committed to serving the needs of the Mayan/Mexican people in the Zona Maya region of the Yucatan Peninsula. YPM provides opportunities for positive change to children, adults, families, and communities in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico -- through service projects, education, health care, cultural exchange and spiritual support. The base of YPM is located in Leona Vicario, Quintana Roo, Mexico, (about 35 minutes SW of Cancun). In 2021, YPM held a graduation ceremony for their first class of university students and also began their first high school classes, taught by some of the graduates of the university.

Our mission team quickly became friends, co-workers, travel buddies, roommates, confidants, and teammates in every sense of the word. We worked hard while singing in unison (some of the time) and sweating together (all of the time!). We also played together and enjoyed God's beautiful creation in the Yucatan Peninsula. Our work consisted mostly of moving 23 foot, 880 pound cement beams to the top of the 1st floor of the newest wing of YPM University (no heavy machinery to assist here!) and also moving many cement blocks (mucho bombadillos) to be stacked on top of the beams. Concrete will soon be poured over this layer we added to create the floor of the 2nd level of the building. We slept in hammocks, were fed delicioso meals, endured living in extreme humidity and heat, which really helped us to enjoy our cold showers and especially the air-conditioning in the bedrooms. We practiced our Spanish and we learned about the Mayan culture and had a great time visiting some of the surrounding tourist attractions, along with enjoying a little beach time (when you're staying at the Riviera Maya that's definitely a requirement). Despite two broken bones, a bout of heat exhaustion and a loss of power for 12 hours or so (no AC that night!) We had a fabulous week together doing God's good work. (Buen trabajo!)

Our team would like to extend a warm thank you to all who helped make this trip possible by your support of prayers, supplies, donations of funds and your moral support. You have helped YPM continue their mission of improving the lives of so many. This mission team and YPM are very grateful for you!

If you'd like to learn more about YPM and their mission and future vision or if you want to donate to help YPM continue the good work they are doing, please visit <https://www.ypmusa.org>

Gratefully submitted,
Cindy Cassens
Westminster Presbytery Church,
Fort Collins, CO

June 2022 YPM mission team members:

Rev. Amy Morgan
Dean Morgan
Brenda Beliel
Brad Cassens
Cindy Cassens
Sherry Coffey
Lizzy Gross
Mary Gross
Comm. Rev. Mike Gross
Connie Ham
Haley Mead
Celia Turner





Garden of God's Abundance

Have a bumper crop from your garden?

Want to share with your church family?

Membership & Stewardship Committee
will have a table in the fellowship hall for
garden produce beginning in June. People
will have the opportunity to purchase
items on the table with the proceeds
going to support FPC Missions.



He leads me
beside
quiet waters

Psalm 23:2

Congratulations to the 4th Quarter SHS honor roll students:

Mason Boeff
Carlee Hicks
Audrey Reeves
Ava Reeves
Addison Steele
James Waite
George Witherspoon

Food Pantry Needs

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.

Cooperating Ministry:

Chili Beans;
Relish (in plastic
containers)

NJC Food Pantry needs:

Nuts, Dried Fruit, Trail
Mix; Jerky; Tuna or
Salmon (cans/packets);
Protein Bars; Peanut
Butter; Nut Butter;
Crackers; Granola; Fruit/
Nut Bars; Instant
Oatmeal; Popcorn;
Microwavable meals.



AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		2:00 Worship & Sacraments Committee 5:15 Fellowship Committee	10:00 Membership/Stewardship Committee			9:00 Fair Parade
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:30 Worship Communion	AV Install 6:00 Christian Educ. Committee	5:15 Finance Committee				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 Worship Newsletter Deadline	AV Install	5:15 Session	7:00 Choir			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30 Worship & Pot Luck Blessing of Backpacks	AV Install		7:00 Choir		AV Training	
28	29	30	31			
Launch AV System 10:30 Worship			7:00 Choir			

SERVING IN CHURCH

USHERS

August 7	Traci Reeves Ava Reeves Audrey Reeves
August 14	Mason Boeff Dean Boeff
August 21	Justin Cranwell Sue Weingardt
August 28	Delinda Korrey Ken McDowell

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

August 7	Worship & Sacraments Committee
August 14	Chancel Choir
August 21	Pot Luck
August 28	Personnel Committee

COUNT OFFERING

August 7	Connie Ham
August 14	Linda Meisner
August 21	Bev Cumming
August 28	Bob Smith

SOUND ROOM

August 7	Steve Burnham
August 14	Tanna Prince, Rex Witherspoon
August 21	Dean Boeff
August 28	All sound people to work with new AV

FIRST RESPONSE

August	Ava Reeves
September	Dean Boeff
October	Jeff Christenson

LAY READERS

August 7	David Chrisp
August 14	Darla Korrey Gertner
August 21	Sarah Davis Eaton
August 28	TBA

BULLETIN DELIVERY

August	Ava Reeves
September	Dean Boeff
October	Justin Cranwell

COMMUNION AUGUST 7, 2022

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

Preparing Communion

August 7	Steve Burnham & Elsie Fetzer
September 4	Nancy Mann
October 2	Jomari Lechtman Darla Korrey Gertner

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

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



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)

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
ASSISTANT ORGANIST	MARSHA DAVIS
CHOIR DIRECTOR	DARLA KORREY GERTNER
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR	LINDSEY JACKSON
PROPERTY MANAGER	JANET KLOBERDANZ
COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES	KAY BRIGHAM RICH
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