

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

APRIL 2026



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

at

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .



We are nearing the end of the Lenten season, and soon heading into **Holy Week**:

On **Palm Sunday**, we recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. People waved palm branches and cried, "Hosanna!" as he entered the city. Jesus entered the city from the east, humbly, on a donkey — a stark contrast to the show of military might taking place on the other side of the city as the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate entered Jerusalem from the west with a full military procession.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. It was the meal at which he instituted the Lord's Supper (the sacrament of communion), with the invitation to "Remember me." And so we do. It is our custom at FPC to mark this occasion with a seder supper and service.

Good Friday is the day when we remember Jesus' crucifixion. We pause to contemplate the darkness, pain, and uncertainty that mark this moment in the story of our faith. You could set aside time to be in prayer — perhaps at the start or end of your day. Here are a couple of recommendations for brief guided prayer resources: [Sacred Space](#) or [Three Minute Retreat](#).

Holy Week invites us to slow down and walk with Jesus through these days. When we give attention to the whole journey, our Easter celebration becomes even more meaningful.

May the Spirit inspire us in this season.

Rev. Michelle



Palm Sunday
March 29

*Hosanna in the highest,
the little children sang.*

Join us on Palm Sunday for a meaningful service
with special music, including children's choir!

Maundy Thursday Seder Supper

Come...

*not because you are strong,
but because you seek God's strength.
not because you must,
but because you may.*



THIS IS THE LORD'S TABLE

April 2

6:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

All Are Welcome | Please RSVP: 970-522-2708

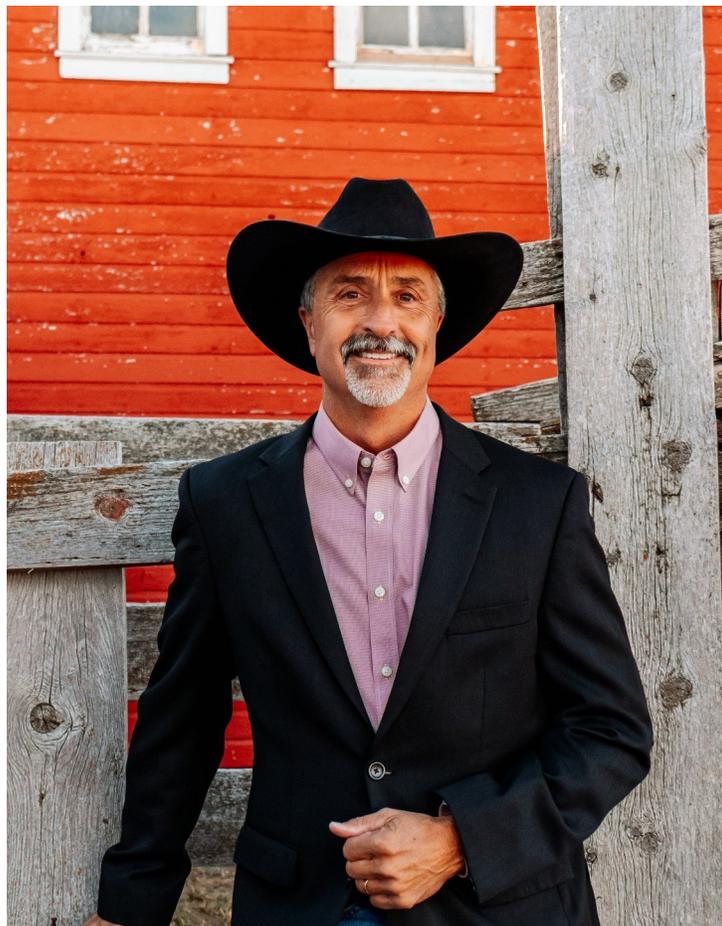
UPCOMING EVENTS...

First Friday @ First Presbyterian

Jim Yahn

Tenor

Songs of the Cross



April 3, 2026

12:05 to 12:35

onsite, or online: www.youtube.com/@FPC.Sterling

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Holy Humor Sunday

Holy Humor Sunday is back!

Holy Humor Sunday has its roots in the 15th century, when churches would designate the Sunday after Easter to celebrate the *risus paschalis* (the Easter laugh). Priests would tell jokes, and people would play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. The laughter that ensued was a way of celebrating Christ's resurrection – “the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.”

Apparently, they were having too much fun – the observance of *risus paschalis* was outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. In recent years, many Protestant churches have picked up the practice, designating the Sunday after Easter as Holy Humor Sunday. For the past couple of years, we've been marking the occasion at FPC with a lighthearted, casual service that combines refreshments and fellowship with worship and laughter. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am on April 12 for this year's Holy Humor service.

One Holy Humor Sunday practice is to wear silly hats, clothes, or accessories to the service. At our service, you may wear something silly, OR... if you'd prefer to bring a silly hat or accessory you'd like *Rev. Michelle* to wear, you may do that! You're also invited to **bring your favorite knock-knock joke, Bible pun, church meme, etc.**

Ann Lamott has written, “Laughter is carbonated holiness.” Let's see what holy fun bubbles up on Holy Humor Sunday!

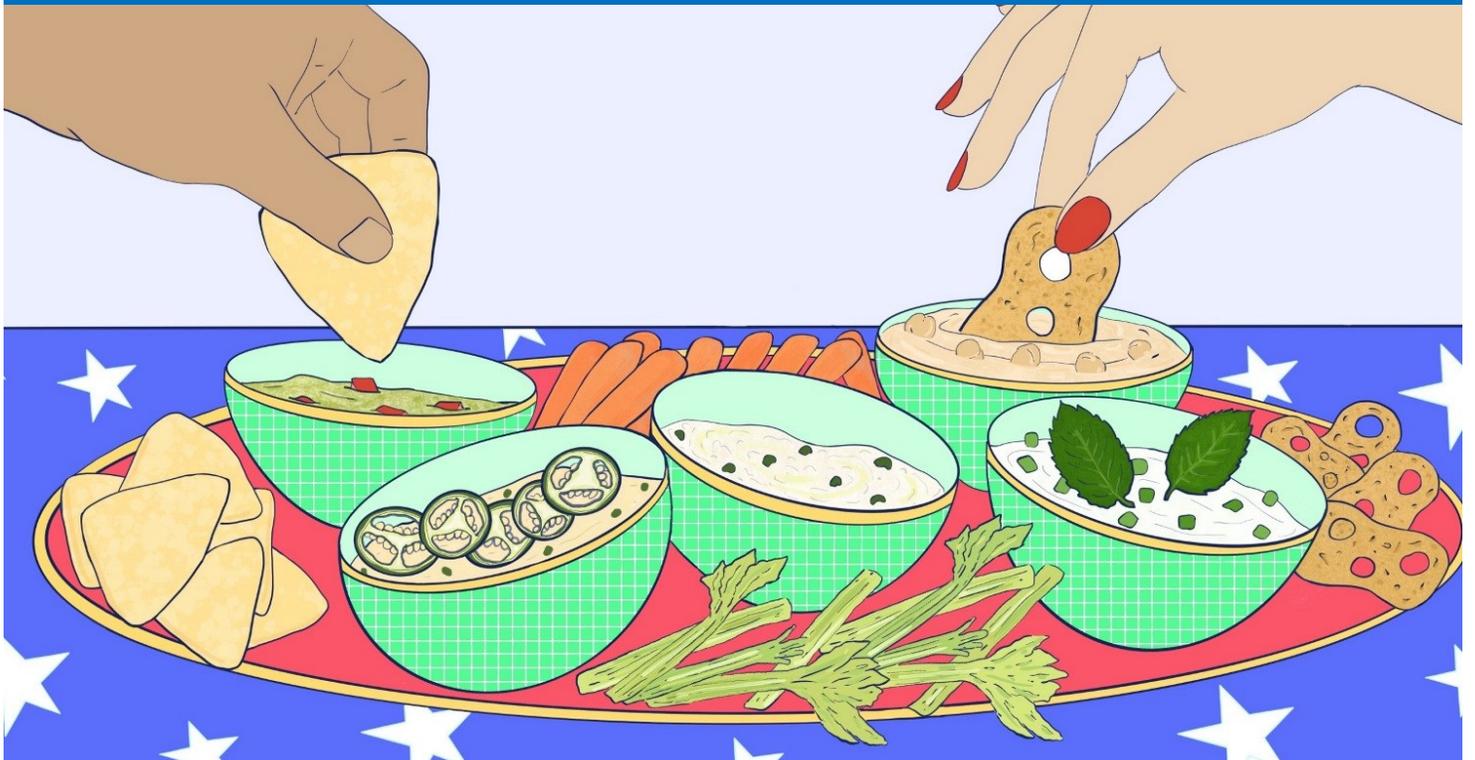
This service will not be streamed online – come in person!

3rd Annual
Holy Humor
Sunday
April 12



Let's DIP into joy!

Bring your favorite dip and accompaniment (chips, fruit, veggies)
to Holy Humor Sunday worship/fellowship.



UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

Presbyterian Church Rummage Sale

April 20-24



*** Please join us at this fun, semi-annual event ***

Wednesday, April 22nd, 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
(\$2 per person, early buyer's fee)

Thursday, April 23rd, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Friday, April 24th, 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
(Purchase a bag and fill it for one flat fee of \$3 or \$5, based upon the size of bag!)

*Look for interesting clothing, collectibles, dishes, appliances,
unusual household items or furniture at this well organized sale.*

(Note: There will be no fellowship coffee after church on April 19.)

MISSION — ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) benefit Presbyterian ministries to end **hunger and poverty**, provide assistance after **disaster** strikes, work with sustainable **community development**, and come alongside **immigrants, migrants, and refugees**. This is an opportunity to do our part to participate in God's ongoing repair of the world God so loves.

In Isaiah 58, the prophet exclaims, "Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in" (Isaiah 58:12). As the people of Israel returned from the cloud of exile and struggled to rebuild their lives, Isaiah questioned their efforts: [Are you not called] "to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?" (Isaiah 58:7).

When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), we are combining our efforts with thousands of churches across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to repair peoples' lives — people who are hurting, oppressed, lost or on the margins of society. The exact people about whom Isaiah is speaking of. The people we are called to connect with every day, but especially in the light of the Good News of the resurrection. So, we collect the OGHS offering throughout the season of Easter (April-May).

RESPONDING TO CHRIST'S CALL TO MINISTRIES OF
COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE.



What does the Lord require of you?

...to do justice

and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8



ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING

To donate, use the special offering envelopes at church or simply write OGHS on the memo of your check.

OUR HISTORY . . .

Our Third Church Building 1898-1918



By 1897, the existing building for the First Presbyterian Church at Fourth and Main Street was too small for the growing congregation in the growing town. Sterling had become an important center in northeastern Colorado. It had developed as a railroad center, and improved transportation had brought more and more settlers and facilitated the movement of agricultural products to market. Irrigation development continued. These were exciting times in Sterling—and in our Church.

In 1897 the Session appointed three members of the congregation to obtain plans “for enlarging our church building.” By 1898 they determined that “estimates of cost of materials to be \$2050 and that we will need at least \$3000 or cash pledged” before the building could be completed.

Interestingly, history of the building project, and of the church’s activities, plunged into darkness after this entry, which was the final one of the first volume of the Official Church Register. There are no official records covering the next 8½ years.

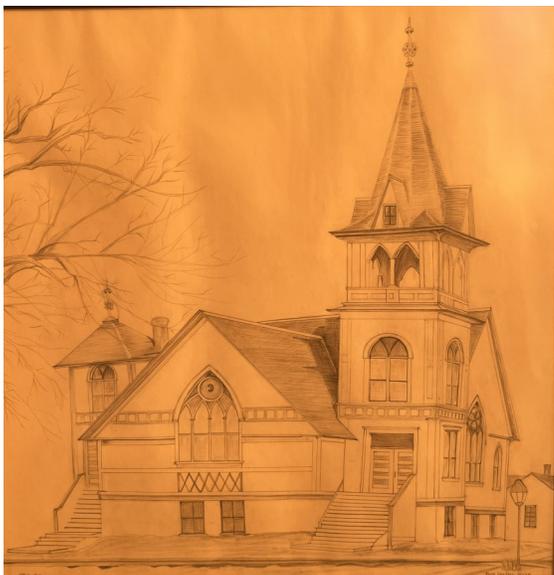


From other records we know that the old building was sold in 1898 to the Evangelical Church and moved to the corner of North Fourth and Poplar Streets. During that summer a new building was erected on the old location, and the congregation began holding services in the new sanctuary on Sunday, November 6, 1898.

Rev. Cameron wrote: “The second frame building was more beautifully built and much larger than the first. It contained a full basement, mostly above ground, a large, sloped-floor sanctuary on the main floor, and some classrooms in the tower, which was crowned with a high, pointed steeple. The large windows were Gothic and were of stained glass. It was lighted by 4 huge kerosene lamps suspended from roof girders. The two main entrances faced Main Street and were reached by a flight of 13 steps. This building was described by a visitor as a credit to the town of nine hundred population....Much of the labor was donated...so that the cash outlay was but approximately \$6,500. Being so reasonably constructed, it was dedicated without debt.”

Over the next few years, the sugar beet industry greatly expanded in the region, which brought many more farmers to the area. The sugar factory, built in 1905, provided a major new seasonal payroll for three to four months a year. The North Sterling reservoir and development of the huge North Sterling Irrigation District were completed. In 1902, W.C. Harris launched the cattle feeding industry in Northeast Colorado to utilize sugar beet by-products. He became one of the major cattle feeders in the United States.

By 1910, the population of Sterling had tripled to 3044 residents. It was obvious that the Presbyterians were outgrowing their third church and a new larger and grander one was being planned.



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....

Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)
David Balabanis Family
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)
Jackie Barton
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)
Clark Bernhardt
Norm Blackburn
Brenda Boeff
Randy Brigham
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Roumph)
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)
Cooperating Ministry
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)
Dylan Cranwell—Peace Corps
Jeanne Crouch & Family
Dave and Marsha Davis
Sarah Davis
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)
Family Resource Center
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)
Highlands Camp
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)
Jim Leh
Delinda Korrey McDowell
Rose Neblett

Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)
Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
David Prince (Tanna's brother)
Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
Cadie, Hailey and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)
Leslie Rudolph (sister of Mike Tyson)
Betty Scharf
Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Darrell Smith and family
Montelle Smith
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Roseanne Thompson (friend of Nebletts)
Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Under the Umbrella
Jeff Underhill
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)
Jeff Weskamp
Michelle Wilson (friend of David Chrisp)

Our condolences to the family of Jean Williamson who died on March 20.

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!

SAVE THE DATE!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 8-12

Save the date for FPC's **Vacation Bible School: Snowball Mountain Challenge!**

More information coming soon!

SESSION. . .

Highlights of the February 17, 2026 Session Meeting

- Approved an ELMST Fund request for \$340.09.
- Rev. Michelle is serving on the future staffing taskforce for the Presbytery.
- Rev. Michelle officiated at the wedding ceremony of Anna Werner and Brendan Francois on January 24, 2026.
- Thank you letters were received from Help for Abused Partners and Hope House for mission donations.
- Ordination and installation of officers took place January 11, 2026 during worship.
- Received a report on the February presbytery meeting.
- The Periodic Report for 2026 was filed with the Secretary of State's office on January 30, 2026.
- The Annual Statistical Report was submitted to the Office of the General Assembly on February 5, 2026.
- The Personnel Policy is being reviewed.
- Transaction Detail reports for November and December 2025; and January 2026 were approved.
- Revisions to the Investment Policy, the Financial Policy and Procedures and the ELMST Guidelines were approved.
- Approved a motion to apply for a grant to fund access control and cameras to increase safety and building security.
- Approved the baptism of the daughter of Lilly Nelson (Guinn) and Cade Nelson.
- Approved donating \$500 from Session Mission to the Community Churches Offering Assistance fund.
- Scheduled the Spring Rummage Sale for April 20-24, 2026.



Held Together in Faith Since 1878

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sterling, Colorado

Your generosity makes
mission & ministry possible...

Thank you!

Profit & Loss Summary	Jan-Feb 2026
Total Income	\$52,014.94
Total Expense	48,676.61
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	3,338.33
Budgeted Transfers	0
Other Transfers	0
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers	3,338.33

Food Pantry

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.

Cooperating Ministry: March

Canned Pasta
and Variety of Spices & Seasonings

NJC Food Pantry:

Nutritious Non-Perishable
Prepared Foods

THANK YOU!

April

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 **Gary Rich**
- 8 **Bexyn Manuello**
Jocelyn Knutson
- 9 **Jerri Spear**
Emily Werner
- 10 **John Guenzi**
- 12 **Rena Morrison**
- 13 **Daniel Salazar**
- 14 **Kaleb Knutson**
- 19 **Grayson Steele**
- 20 **Mike Burnham**
- 23 **Quentin Roberts**
Isaac Diamond
- 24 **Wren Guenzi**
Ted Propst
- 25 **Layton Miller**
Melissa Kaan
- 26 **Hadley Jackson**
- 28 **Chloe Hutt**
Pam Trimble
- 29 **Darla Korrey**
Gertner

Birthday Sunday:

April 12

Happy Birthday...
May your day be blessed!

HIGHLIGHTS: *March*

Birthday Sunday



Children's Moment



HIGHLIGHTS: *March*



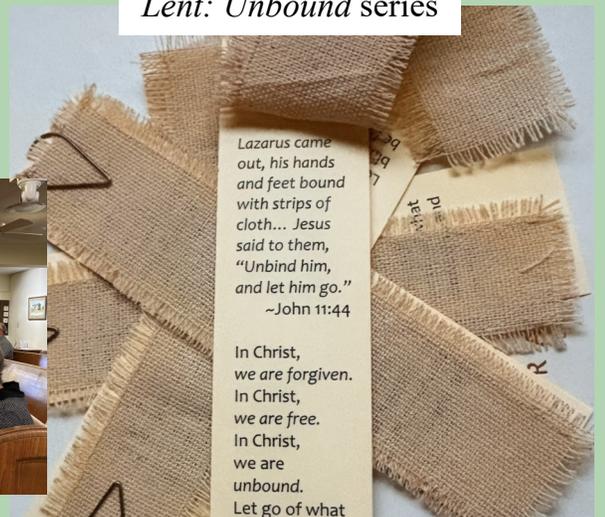
Sacrament of Baptism



Church Safety Presentation by Sterling Police Department



Lent: Unbound series



Lazarus came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth... Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."
~John 11:44

In Christ, we are forgiven.
In Christ, we are free.
In Christ, we are unbound.
Let go of what

SERVING IN CHURCH — APRIL

USHERS

- April 5** Laura Guenzi, Sue Weingardt,
Liz Chaney, Lora Boren
April 12 Jill Vollmer, Jane Robinson
April 19 Carrie Lovenburg, Alex Hicks
April 26 Delinda Korrey McDowell, Ken McDowell



FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

- April** Carrie Lovenburg

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

- April 5** Fellowship Committee/Easter Breakfast
April 12 Membership/Stewardship Committee
April 19 No Fellowship Coffee
April 26 Nominating Committee

LITURGISTS

- April 5** Ann Blackburn
April 12 Jomari Lechtman
April 19 Becky Cranwell
April 26 Beth Frye

COUNT OFFERING

- April 5** Bev Cumming
April 12 Connie Ham
April 19 Linda Meisner
April 26 David Chrisp

AV TEAM

- April 5** Justin Cranwell (sound)
Myra Westfall (slides)
April 12 N/A
April 19 Justin Cranwell (sound)
Callie Jackson (slides)
April 26 Dean Boeff (sound)
Pam Trimble (slides)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

- April 12** Connie Clark

ACOLYTES/BIBLE BEARER

- April 5** Dean Boeff, Mason Boeff
April 12 N/A
April 19 Jeff & Brenda Christenson
April 26 Ashlee Glaser, Chuck Glaser

COMMUNION—APRIL 5, 2026

- Prepare**—Jomari Lechtman, Bev Cumming,
Mike Tyson
Serve—Jim Neblett, Pam Werner, Jackie Reynolds,
Liz Chaney, Linda Meisner, Connie Ham,
Becky Cranwell, Tanna Prince

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.

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			3:00 Scholarship Committee 5:30 Bells 6:30 Chancel Choir	6:00 Seder Supper	Church Office Closed 12:05 First Friday Concert	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 Easter Breakfast 10:30 Worship/ Communion		12:00 Membership/ Stewardship 5:00 Zumba		4:30 Zumba		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30 Worship in Fellowship Hall with Birthday Celebration	12:00 Finance Meeting	5:00 Zumba	10:00 Worship & Sacraments Newsletter Deadline	1:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Chancel Choir		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 Worship Children's Sunday School No Fellowship Coffee	Rummage Sale	Rummage Sale 6:00 Session	Rummage Sale	Rummage Sale 5:30 Bells 6:30 Chancel Choir	Rummage Sale	
26	27	28	29	30		
10:30 Worship Children's Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship Coffee		5:00 Zumba		4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir		

easter

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9:30am Brunch/Easter Egg Hunt
10:30am Easter Celebration

April 5

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

130 S. 4TH STREET ~ STERLING, CO 80751

WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

onsite ~ online

www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling

www.youtube.com/@FPC.Sterling

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:

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E-mail pastor@fpcsterling.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR RASHELL FRITZLER
E-mail office@fpcsterling.org

BOOKKEEPER KARLEE MANUELLO
E-mail finance@fpcsterling.org

MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST ELSIE FETZER

CHOIR DIRECTOR DARLA KORREY GERTNER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR LINDSEY JACKSON

PROPERTY MANAGER JANET KLOBERDANZ

NEWSLETTER TEAM BEV CUMMING
TAMMIE MALONE
JACKIE REYNOLDS