

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

MAY 2026



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 8-12

Register Online Today:

tinyurl.com/FPCsterlingVBS

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .



On April 19 we began a new series: **Risen, And Yet...**

For the Easter season, I often find myself wanting to search the scriptures for a *So What?* or *Now What?* On Easter Sunday we celebrate and joyfully proclaim: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! **And yet...** There are still a lot of challenges that we face. There's still a lot of brokenness in the world. How do we reconcile the good news of the resurrection with the harsh realities that color our world and our experience? If the resurrection is more than just a promise for *someday*, if it is also a promise for *today*, what exactly are we looking for in the day-to-day to experience the *life that really is life*?

In this Easter season, I'm bringing those questions to scripture to see what we can learn for the living of these days.

May the Living God open our eyes and our hearts to God's active presence, in this season and always.

Rev. Michelle

UPCOMING EVENTS...

First Friday @ First Presbyterian

**Sterling High School
Jazz Band**

Jazz Standards Old & New

May 1, 2026

12:05 to 12:35

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

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to **Ava Reeves**, a recipient of the First Presbyterian Church's Scholarship. Ava is currently enrolled Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. She is pursuing a career in psychology with the intention of entering the counseling field, specifically focusing on family and marriage counseling. In the last year, Ava has had the opportunity at Mesa to serve as a university ambassador which has given her the chance to meet people from a wide range of professional backgrounds. One interaction that "left a lasting impression" on her was with a marriage and family counselor, and she felt a strong sense of clarity and purpose after meeting her. She felt as if "I was being guided toward that same calling" and realized this specialty "best aligned with my passions and values". She feels certain that it is her calling to work closely with families and couples, supporting them through challenges and helping them strengthen relationships. Ava also stated in her application letter that she so appreciates knowing she has the encouragement of her church family which "has been a constant source of motivation and reassurance throughout my academic career." Congratulations, Ava.



Mason Boeff has been awarded the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship for the next school year. Congratulations, Mason. Mason plans to transfer to the University of Colorado Boulder where he will be a part of an exploratory studies program. He envisions that he will transfer to the CU Boulder School of Music, majoring in instrumental music performance. He is excited to be part of various ensembles and clubs, creating a network of people to help him succeed. Mason has had an exciting year at NJC, being a part of jazz band, concert band, and contemporary choir. Mason states that this year's scholarship helped him pay for tuition this year, and he is expected to graduate from NJC with an Associate of Arts degree. In his application letter, Mason states: "Truth be told, music has been the thing in that has excited me all my life. To be able to actively

pursue the thing that makes my day brighter would complete me." Congratulations, Mason, and good luck as you move on to your next big academic adventure.

CONGRATULATIONS...



Audrey Reeves has been awarded a scholarship from the First Presbyterian Church for next school year. Audrey will graduate from McCook Community College in May 2026 with an associate's degree in Biology where she states she has grown academically, personally, and athletically. Her classes in anatomy and physiology helped her realize how much she enjoys learning about the human body. She plans to pursue a degree in Kinesiology in a university that will best support her academic goals. In addition, Audrey has enjoyed her softball career at McCook. Being part of the team has been “a very positive and meaningful experience.” She is planning to continue with her softball career at the collegiate level. Audrey states that the Church's generosity and support have helped her continue her education and she is “very grateful for the opportunity

you have given me.” Congratulations, Audrey, on your upcoming graduation and good luck in your next academic adventure.

Colorado musicians/composers **Darla Korrey** and **JB Severin** were recently commissioned to write a theme anthem for the choir “Singers of Anthem Ranch.” The group of approximately 70 members has been together over a decade. The choir, also known as “SOAR,” currently under the direction of Gene Hainer, is comprised primarily of members who reside in the beautiful housing community of Anthem Ranch in Broomfield, Colorado.

“When We Sing We Soar” is an uplifting choral piece which lyrically highlights themes such as the value of community, and how singing together enhances a spirit of unity.

The song premiered during the community choir's Spring concerts April 24 and 25, 2026 where the composers were recognized.

What an honor for Darla and JB — we are proud of you!

UPCOMING EVENTS...



SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

10:30aM

Beginning May 3

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Tasty Favorites ~~Pie~~ AUCTION//SALE

May 17



At the May Fellowship Lunch we are having our popular
Tasty Favorites Auction/Sale!

What used to be a pie auction has evolved and expanded over the years
to include sweet and savory delights,
as well as a handmade quilt and fancywork.

The event will include a live and silent auction,
as well as some pre-priced items.

As always, all proceeds from this fun event will go toward mission.

Come for the auction/sale,
or just come for lunch and fellowship
and enjoy a good time for a good cause.

THANK YOU...

Thank you to all you wonderful church members who "gifted" all your noise makers to Hadley and Gavin after the Humor Sunday service. It has been very noisy at our house these last couple of weeks! And lots of fun!

Thanks, Lindsey Jackson



Join our AV TEAM!

In the spirit of "many hands make light work," we are looking to expand our AV Team. Let us know if you are interested in running sound or slides on a Sunday morning about once every 4-6 weeks.

Help Wanted...

THANK YOU!

MISSION...

Wings of Hope for trauma
counseling...therapy...education

أجنحة الأمل للخدمات النفسية
إرشادية...علاجية...تعليمية



Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of our entire team, thank you so much for your generous donation. We are truly grateful for your support and encouragement of our work.

Your donation supports our work in helping individuals and communities heal from the effects of war and violence. Through trauma care, counseling, and peacebuilding programs, especially with young people, we work to restore hope, strengthen resilience, and foster reconciliation.

Part of your gift will also support our partnership with a local initiative in Bethlehem, where women and children receive trauma support and opportunities for healing.

Thank you again for your kindness and solidarity. We deeply appreciate your trust in our mission and would be glad to keep you updated on the impact of your support.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Friederike Regel

Wings of Hope for Trauma

Discovered by FPC members on pilgrimage in the Holy Land, Wings of Hope is one of the missions supported by FPC Sterling.

MISSION...



Education
that *transforms*

April 10, 2026

First Presbyterian Church, Michelle Witherspoon
130 S. 4th St.
Sterling, CO 80751

Dear Michelle and Friends,

In this season of Easter, we bring you greetings from Guatemala. We celebrate the resurrection and the new life Christ brings, which touches every aspect of CEDEPCA's ministry. We are grateful for the ways you invest in us, as we educate, empower, and enable toward lasting change.

Because of you, pastors are understanding the Gospel in fresh ways and inspiring their congregations with its Good News. Women are discovering that they too can be leaders because God believes in them. Young men are learning a new masculinity based on Jesus and Joseph, and not on an oppressive culture. Young women are learning how they can reach their fullest potential in light of their God-given value. Overlooked communities are receiving life-saving water filters and vegetable seeds to support good nutrition.

Your faithful support in 2025 is making a difference! Whether a general contribution from your mission budget or designated funds for a particular project, it has opened pathways of hope and new life. It has kept individuals from feeling desperate and seeking the dangerous journey of migration. Please continue your support! And we also ask for your prayers.

We continue to face difficulties here. Our political situation is tenuous. Increasing numbers of deportees are arriving. CEDEPCA no longer has the presence of a Mission Co-Worker. Nonetheless, our commitment, grounded in the Resurrection, is unwavering. With you, we can work together for the world God desires, shaped by justice, compassion, dignity, and the fullness of life for all.

In Resurrection Hope,

Judith Castaneda
CEDEPCA, General Coordinator

CEDEPCA is one of the missions supported by FPC Sterling. CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies) is a non-profit education organization headquartered in Guatemala City. For more than 30 years, CEDEPCA has been transforming lives in four ministry areas: Disaster Ministry, Women's Ministry, Intercultural Encounters, and Biblical and Theological Education Program.

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
Family and friends of Jean Williamson
Michelle Wilson (friend of David Chrisp)

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. . .

Highlights of the March 17, 2026 Session Meeting

- Ann Leh entered life triumphant January 12, 2026. A service of witness to the resurrection was held February 21, 2026 officiated by Rev. Michelle Witherspoon
- Approved receiving as active members Scott Guenzi by profession of faith and Jayden Bechdel by profession of faith and baptism on June 14.
- Approved a bake sale/auction to raise money for budgeted mission on May 17.
- Approved a Pride Picnic for June 27, 4-6:00pm for the purpose of celebrating the belovedness of all people.
- Transaction Detail report for February 2026 was approved.
- Approved Lena Witherspoon to teach children's Sunday school during Sunday worship using "Follow Me" curriculum or other curriculum from PCUSA.
- Approved two church use requests: June 14, 4-6pm for a recital; and April 29, for the Crystal Apple Awards dinner.
- The Nominating Committee has begun meeting.



Held Together in Faith Since 1878

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sterling, Colorado

Your generosity makes
mission & ministry possible...

Thank you!

Profit & Loss Summary	Jan-March 2026
Total Income	\$72,632.84
Total Expense	85,441.61
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	(12,808.77)
Budgeted Transfers	0
Other Transfers	0
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers	(12,808.77)

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

Cake Mixes and Frosting,
and Egg Cartons (for donated eggs)

NJC Food Pantry:

Nutritious Non-Perishable
Prepared Foods

THANK YOU!

May

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Sue Weingardt**
- 5 Tessa Roumph**
- 6 Rashell Fritzler**
- 7 Don Jones**
Mike Werner
- 8 Erin Guenzi**
- 14 Linda Borner**
Jase Knutson
- 15 Dave Guenzi**
- 16 Shelby Harms**
Daisy Borner
- 20 John Fabela**
Dylan Cranwell
- 21 Bart Thiele**
Barb Thiele
- 25 Lilly Miller**
- 27 Marli Christenson**
Kinsley Rossen
- 29 Jenevieve DeSoto**
Rod Mari
- 30 Kay Fix**
- 31 Connie Sue Clark**
Cason Guenzi

Birthday Sunday:

May 10

Happy Birthday...
May your day be blessed!

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS: *Palm Sunday*



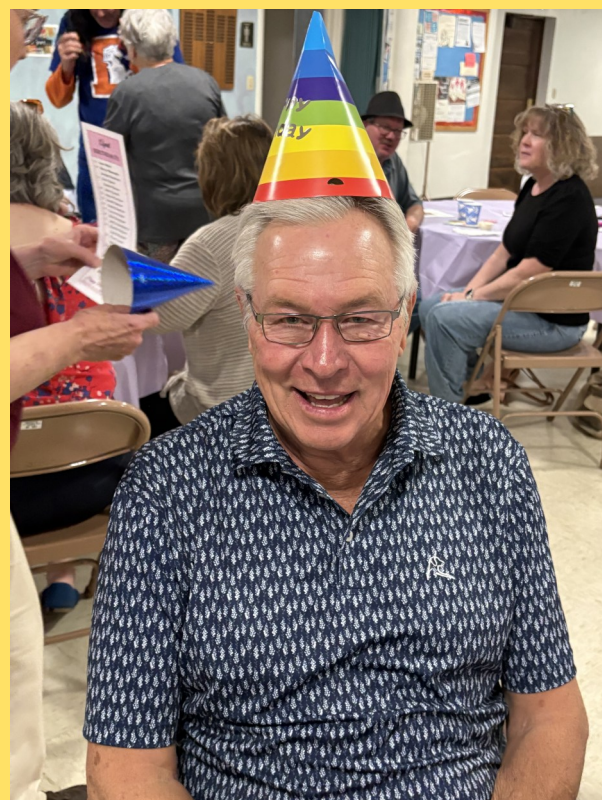
APRIL HIGHLIGHTS: *Easter Sunday*



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS: *Holy Humor Sunday*



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS: *Birthday Sunday*



SERVING IN CHURCH — MAY

USHERS

May 3	Brenda Christenson, Laura Guenzi
May 10	Liz Chaney, Jane Robinson
May 17	Sue Weingardt, Jill Vollmer, Leila Hutt
May 24	Carrie Lovenburg, Alex Hicks
May 31	Delinda Korrey McDowell, Ken McDowell



FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

May	Liz Chaney
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FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

May 3	Property Committee
May 10	Membership/Stewardship Committee
May 17	Fellowship Committee
May 24	Bell Choir
May 31	Worship & Sacraments Committee

LITURGISTS

May 3	Jeff Rice
May 10	Myra Westfall
May 17	Dean Boeff
May 24	Ted Park
May 31	Mike Tyson

COUNT OFFERING

May 3	Bev Cumming
May 10	Connie Ham
May 17	Linda Meisner
May 24	David Chrisp
May 31	Bev Cumming

AV TEAM

May 3	Jeff Christenson (sound) Myra Westfall (slides)
May 10	Justin Cranwell (sound) Callie Jackson (slides)
May 17	Justin Cranwell (sound) Myra Westfall (slides)
May 24	Dean Boeff (sound) Myra Westfall (slides)
May 31	Rex Witherspoon (sound) Pam Trimble (slides)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

May 10	Carrie Lovenburg
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ACOLYTES/BIBLE BEARER

May 3	Pam Trimble, Tanna Prince
May 10	Hadley and Gavin Jackson
May 17	Connie Ham, Linda Meisner
May 24	Beth Frye, Laurie McKenzie
May 31	

COMMUNION—MAY 3, 2026

Prepare	—Sue Weingardt, Tanna Prince
Serve	—Tanna Prince, Cheryl Kaan, Michelle Hawkins

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.

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					12:05 First Friday Concert	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:30 Worship/ Communion Children's Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship Coffee		12:00 Membership/ Stewardship 5:00 Zumba	10:00 Worship & Sacraments	4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Chancel Choir		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30 Worship Children's Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship Coffee with Birthday Celebration	12:00 Finance Meeting	5:00 Zumba		4:30 Zumba 6:30 Chancel Choir	Newsletter Deadline	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:30 Worship Children's Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship Lunch (Tasty Favorites Sale/Silent Auction)		5:00 Zumba 6:00 Session		1:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Zumba 6:30 Chancel Choir		
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30 Worship Children's Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship Coffee	Church Office Closed (Memorial Day)	5:00 Zumba		4:30 Zumba 6:30 Choir		

Mother's Day Prayer*

O God of love, it is such a joy to bless our moms—those who have carried us in their bodies, and in their hearts, and in their minds, and all those who have mothered us in some form or fashion. We thank them and honor them all, those we can hug today, and those who are now gone or distant from us. We ask your blessing too on those for whom mothering is complicated, difficult, heartbreaking, or incomplete. Bless and heal and restore and rebuild all generations, forwards and backwards in time. God, with all the genius of Your creative power, rain down Your blessing upon the mothering we give, and that which we have received. Be to us the nurturing embrace we need to lead us to eternal life. Amen.

**adapted from Kate Bowler*

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:

PASTOR MICHELLE WITHERSPOON
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