

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

OCTOBER 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AUTUMN



*In October 2014, Gene & Linda Meisner celebrated their
50th wedding anniversary.*

It was a glorious and happy fall day at church.

*See inside for an article about Gene and Linda Meisner's
ongoing philanthropy in our community.*

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .



I am excited about our upcoming worship series: *Let Love Rise*.

There are so many bread-related stories and metaphors in scripture, from “the kingdom of heaven is like yeast” to “I am the bread of life.” God sends manna from heaven; Jesus multiplies five loaves to feed the multitudes. There are verses about planting and sowing, reaping and harvesting...

Beginning on October 8 with a special communion service, we will explore some of these rich stories from scripture as we

Let Love Rise.

This is God’s specialty: Love rises above hate, above despair, above sin, even above death. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, God invites us to let love rise in our lives.

What are the raw materials in your life from which love might rise?

Worry...? Fear...? Anxiety...?

Let’s watch together for God’s hand in our lives. Let’s *Let Love Rise*.

Rev. Michelle

HOLY LAND PRESENTATION

On Sunday, October 15th following the church service, our Holy Land Pilgrimage group is looking forward to sharing the experience of our lifetime with the congregation.

We hope to convey a small part of our journey through the Holy Land, traveling the same paths Jesus walked, taught and lived.

We'll share our memories through a slide show presentation and commentary. To tempt your taste buds (hopefully!), we will prepare and serve a meal typical of present day Israel.

We invite you to

**“taste and see
that the Lord is good!”**

We hope you can join us on Sunday, October 15th in the Fellowship Hall following worship for the lunch and presentation.

**Linda Borner, Pat Borner,
Jomari Lechtman, Linda Meisner,
Pam Trimble**



Sunday, October 15
following worship

**HOLY LAND
LUNCH
&
PRESENTATION**

A MOMENT FOR MISSION...

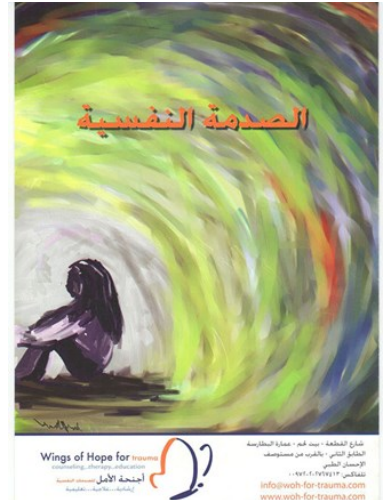
In September the Session voted to support an organization named Wings of Hope for Trauma. Our church members who visited the Holy Land in June were introduced to this organization while on their pilgrimage. They were invited into the home of Kamal, one of their tour guides. Some of his family members are involved in this unique organization.

According to their website, “Wings of Hope for Trauma” is an independent and non-profit organization which serves people in the city of Bethlehem. It was established to provide Palestinian people who suffer from psychological stress and trauma due to political, economic and social pressures.

The major focus of the organization is to provide psychological support and counseling services for people of all ages who suffer from trauma related symptoms, including PTSD. A second major goal is to provide training for therapists and practitioners. In addition, it provides educational programs to raise awareness about mental health issues. Mental health services are now provided to Palestinian people who live in Israel by local and international specialists, including psychologists, mental health workers, and social workers.

The purpose of our church is to **serve one another as we live God’s love.**

As a church we are led by a set of **Core Values**. One of those Core Values is **Compassion...** in which we extend mercy and understanding to all people.



Linda Meisner and family were recently featured in the South Platte Sentinel as a local family who love their community and are ardent supporters of Logan County. According to the article written by Callie Jones in the September 20, 2023, South Platte Sentinel, both she and her husband Gene were born and raised in Logan County.

Over the years they have had a long history of volunteering and supporting the region. Linda and Gene have supported many organizations over the years, including serving on the Fair Board, Relay for Life, Community Caring Hands, and 4-H leaders for 25 years. Gene served 3 terms as County Commissioner. Linda states that “we just have always felt it was important to participate and give back to the community that was always good to us.”

Linda and her family are ardent supporters of our church. She is currently serving her second term as a member of the session and is chair of two important committees—Finance and Property. She watches over our money and over our beautiful church building! She also serves on the Fellowship Committee and most Sundays can be found serving in the kitchen in some capacity. She is famous for the fixing of the lamb for our yearly Seder supper. Congratulations, Linda and family, for being featured in our local newspaper. We here at the church appreciate you and your love and service to our church these many years.

Welcome back, Rashell!

When you stop by the church you will be greeted by a new person sitting in the office! In April of this year, Rashell Fritzler became the Presbyterian Church's new Office Administer.

Rashell was born in Grants, New Mexico, but her family moved to Akron when she was a young child. She graduated from Akron High School. Through a vocational program while still in high school, Rashell worked for a dentist, in an insurance office and for the local Akron newspaper. She enjoyed those work experiences so decided to major in business law at NJC where she graduated.

After doing a little "figuring" she remembered that she began to work at our Church in 1989 after graduation and was recommended for the job by previous church member Anne Kelly. She continued to work here until 1996, the year found a new job and married Bill.

Rashell and her family live on a farm west of Merino where Bill continues to farm. She has one daughter, Larissa, who now works for the Family Resource Center and is attending NJC in the agricultural program. She wants to be a farmer like her parents!

Rashell enjoys time with her family. Her husband is "into cars" and she tags along when they attend car shows. She keeps the financial books for her family and the farm which keeps her busy. She also loves to shop!

Rashell is excited about her "new" job at the church. She likes administrative/accounting work because she likes numbers and organization. They are "either right or wrong," she quips. She states, "I like my new job here. It is challenging." She likes learning new things and learning how to use the Publisher program has been quite a challenge! She says that it is nice to be back and see both people she has known from her previous time here and meet new people. Welcome back, Rashell!



THANK YOU...

Tasty Favorites
~~Pie~~
AUCTION
thank you...



**Thank you to all who
contributed
by donating items &
by purchasing items.**

**We raised \$2,847
for mission!**

We hope you enjoyed your tasty favorites!

~ Thank You ~

Dear FPC Family,

Words seem inadequate to express my thanks to all of you for your support before and after Chuck's passing. Thank you for all of the prayers, the expressions of sympathy, the food, the cards, the phone calls, the memorial donations, the beautiful plant and especially the hugs. Even though Chuck and I had a "long goodbye," I could not make it through without you, my church family.

Lovingly,

Bev Cumming

UPCOMING EVENTS...

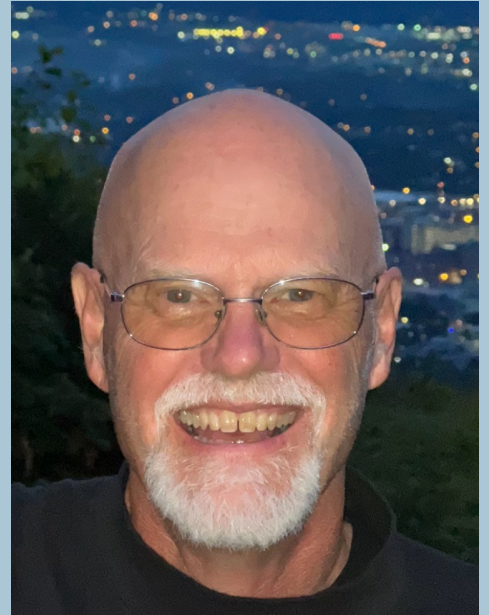
First Friday @ First Presbyterian

Pastor Jeff Hanson,
Baritone

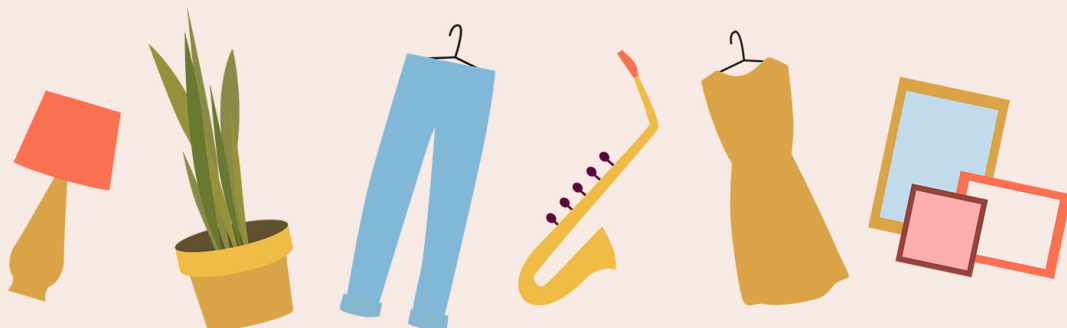
October 6, 2023

12:05 to 12:35

Onsite or online: facebook.com/fpc.sterling



FPC RUMMAGE SALE



SAVE THE DATE

November 6-10

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
Florence Annan
Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)
David Balabanis Family
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)
Norm Blackburn
Brenda Boeff
Gabe Chapin
Confirmants & Mentors
Cooperating Ministry
Jeanne Crouch & Family
Cierra Davis (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)
Edith Evans
Family Resource Center
Norman Foos
Koehn Gertner (Mike's grandson)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)
David Hashman, SCF Inmate
Highlands Camp
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)
Holy Land Pilgrims
Hollis Jackson
Chris Jutz
Josh Jutz & Kaylee
Dennis Kaan
Janae (Klindt) Kerr
Kiel/Alva Family (friends of Weingardts)
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)
Ann Leh and Family
Jimmie McCaffree
Emerson McClanahan (Ellen Bernhard's daughter)
Delinda Korrey McDowell
Ken McDowell and Hannah

Aline Marquez (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Rev. Betsey & Eric Moe, & the people of Guatemala
Rose Neblett
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
Frances Rhodes (Dave's mother)
Jerry Rich (Gary's brother)
Agnes Rundus
Betty Scharf
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Steven Shinn (friend of Jim Leh)
Dennis Sloan (Rev. Michelle's uncle)
Darrell Smith
AJ, Sara, & Baby Leo Sonnenberg (friends of Weingardts)
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Nebletts)
Peggy Thompson (Carol Arnold's daughter)
Mike Tyson
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Under the Umbrella
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Norma Wagner (Jana Lock's mom)
Declan Nash Warner (Jason Rose's grandson)
Derek Weingardt (nephew of Rhodes and Weingardts)
Masi Wells (friend of Taylor Cranwell)
Jeff Weskamp
Jim & Jean Williamson

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!

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: October

Manwich or Sloppy Joe Mix

NJC Food Pantry:

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.


THANK YOU!

October **BIRTHDAYS**

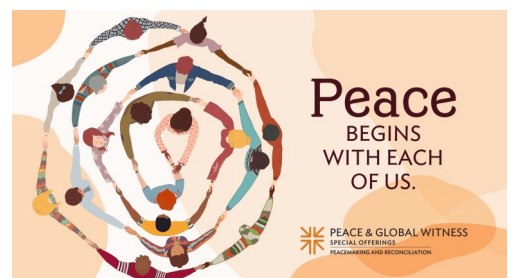
- 4 Sandra Condon
- 6 David Rhodes
- 6 Marcia Panice
- 8 Lindsey Jackson
- 9 Sarah Davis
- 10 Charles Reynolds
- 10 Jane Robinson
- 12 James Leh
- 17 Meghan Jackson
- 17 Tom Westfall
- 21 Haley Mead
- 23 Marilyn Ross
- 24 Leila Warden
- 25 Penny Propst
- 25 Marc Reck
- 27 Jennifer Reck
- 28 Jan Mari
- 31 Norm Blackburn

Happy Birthday...

May your day be blessed!



The trees are about to show us
how lovely it is to let things go.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Sterling, Colorado held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the conference room.

IT WAS VOTED to elect Tanna Prince to take minutes.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

A written report was received.

Thank you notes were received from:

John Curlee; PCUSA Mission Co-Workers

Rev. Betsey and Eric Moe; Connie Clark

Weddings:

Timothy Davis and Jill Austin were married at their home with Rev. Michelle officiating.

Funerals:

A memorial/inurnment service was held for Albert and Peachie Fritzler with Rev. Michelle officiating.

Miscellany:

Kay rich has resigned from her position as Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, effective August 31, 2023.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Correspondence:

A thank you note was received from BJ Eaton for the blessings and monetary gift. Membership:

- i. Sandy Ills has been removed from the membership roll because of death.
- ii. **IT WAS VOTED** to remove two members from the active member roll upon their request.

Miscellany:

BJ Eaton has resigned from session in order to attend seminary. His last meeting was May 16, 2023.

MISSION:

IT WAS VOTED to donate \$2000 from the DD&E Fund to the Wings of Hope for Trauma, an organization that helps the people of Palestine overcome PTSD.

IT WAS VOTED to schedule the fall Rummage Sale for November 6-10, 2023.

IT WAS VOTED to donate \$2000 from the Session Mission line of the budget to the Red Cross of Maui to assist with the recent fires.

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS:

IT WAS VOTED to move communion from October 1 to October 8, 2023; to approve Rev. Fred Bunning as the guest preacher for October 1, 2023, and to change the time of worship on September 17, 2023 (Sugar Beet Days) to 5 pm for a potluck meal/worship service.

PERSONNEL:

Annual performance reviews with the staff have been scheduled for August 28-29, 2023.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

VBS was cancelled this year due to low enrollment. Materials purchased will be saved for next year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The church has an opening for an additional elder Presbytery Commissioner to presbytery.

Upcoming presbytery meetings: August 26 in Alliance, NE, October 26 in Longmont, CO.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Session Meeting is Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

| | Jan-Aug 2023 |
|---|---------------|
| Total Income | \$169,792.98 |
| Total Expense | \$218,688.82 |
| Net Ordinary Income (Loss) | (\$48,895.84) |
| Budgeted Transfers | \$24,719.78 |
| Other Transfers | 0.00 |
| Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers | (\$24,176.06) |

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, October 29** following worship for the purpose of **electing officers** and **amending the by-laws** to reduce the size of the session from twelve (plus one youth) to nine (plus one youth), beginning in 2025.

Current By-Laws:

XI. Elders

The congregation shall elect up to twelve elders divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at a special meeting for a three-year term, and may be eligible for reelection according to the Book of Order. (G-2.0404) The congregation may elect one youth elder.

Proposed By-Laws:

XI. Elders

The congregation shall elect up to nine elders divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at a special meeting for a three-year term, and may be eligible for reelection according to the Book of Order. (G-2.0404) The congregation may elect one youth elder.



Current Church Officers... Thank you for serving!

| | SESSION | |
|--|--|---|
| Taylor Cranwell Jackie Reynolds Pam Werner Ava Reeves (youth) | Pat Borner Jomari Lechtman Linda Meisner Tanna Prince | Becky Cranwell Bob Smith Mike Tyson |
| | DEACONS | |
| Tammie Malone Delinda Korrey McDowell Traci Reeves Sue Weingardt Audrey Reeves (youth) | Dean Boeff Mason Boeff Justin Cranwell | Michelle Hawkins Alie Sheldon Kim Weingardt |

October 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee | | 5:15 Fellowship | | 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir | 12:05pm First Friday Concert | 5:30pm Spooky Organ concert |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 10:30 Worship/ Communion 11:30 Fellowship Coffee | | | 5:15 Finance | 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Lunch & Holy Land Presentation Newsletter Deadline | | 5:30 Session/ Finance | | 1:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship | | | | Presbytery (Longmont) 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | <div> <div> SAVE THE DATE </div> <div> <p>To help us imagine the communion of saints, please bring framed photos of loved ones you'll be remembering this All Saints' Sunday, November 5.</p> </div> <div>  </div> </div> <div> <i>All Saints Sunday</i> </div> | | | |
| 10:30 Worship/ Congregational Meeting 11:30 Fellowship Coffee | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

SERVING IN CHURCH — OCTOBER

USHERS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| October 1 | Audrey Reeves, Traci Reeves |
| October 8 | Dean Boeff, Michelle Hawkins |
| October 15 | Sue Weingardt, Alie Sheldon |
| October 22 | Delinda Korrey, Ken McDowell |
| October 29 | Justin Cranwell, Tammie Malone |

FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| October | Alie Sheldon |
|----------------|--------------|

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| October 1 | Worship and Sacraments |
| October 8 | Stewardship/Membership |
| October 15 | Fellowship |
| October 22 | Finance |
| October 29 | Bell Choir |

COUNT OFFERING

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| October 1 | Bob Smith |
| October 8 | Connie Ham |
| October 15 | Linda Meisner |
| October 22 | Bev Cumming |
| October 29 | Bob Smith |

LITURGISTS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| October 1 | Jackie Reynolds |
| October 8 | Alex Norell |
| October 15 | Connie Ham |
| October 22 | Jim Neblett |
| October 29 | Ted & Penny Propst |

AV TECHS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 1 | Justin Cranwell (sound) Jacob Paiz (slides) |
| October 8 | Downstairs Service |
| October 15 | Dean Boeff (sound) Myra Westfall (slides) |
| October 22 | Tanna Prince & Rex Witherspoon (sound) Pam Trimble (slides) |
| October 29 | Jeff Christenson (sound) Callie Jackson (slides) |

COMMUNION: OCTOBER 8, 2023

PREPARING/SERVING COMMUNION

Preparing

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Sue Weingardt | Darla Korrey Gertner |
|---------------|----------------------|

Serving

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Liz Chaney | Tanna Prince |
| Becky Cranwell | Jackie Reynolds |
| Taylor Cranwell | Bob Smith |
| Connie Ham | Mike Tyson |



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 S. 4TH STREET ~ STERLING, CO 80751

WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

onsite ~ online ~ radio

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

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

RASHELL FRITZLER

E-mail office@firstpressterling.org

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

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

TAMMIE MALONE
AND JACKIE REYNOLDS

E-mail newsletter@firstpressterling.org



Our purpose is . . .
*to serve one another
as we live God's love.*

We value . . .
Compassion
Grace
Transformation
Reverence
Inclusion
Community
Proactive Commitment
Joy
Integrity

