

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

SEPTEMBER 2026



A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .

Tell Me Something Good

Humans are naturally inclined to take notice of things that are upsetting. Our “negativity bias” isn’t a character flaw — as a species it has helped humans avoid real danger by being able to quickly perceive and respond to threats. Most people today tend to be more sensitive to problems than we need to be, or more reactive than is helpful. In other words, we worry a lot. We doom scroll. We are anxious and afraid. Some of it is human nature, some of it is probably a result of technology and culture.

But, we aren’t condemned to wallow and worry. It may be our instinct, but it isn’t our fate. On the contrary, we are made in the image of God, in goodness, for goodness. So, in September we begin a new series: *Tell Me Something Good*. In this series we’ll practice turning our attention toward what’s good. We’ll think about what’s good about our faith, and how the good news matters today.

This isn’t something we do to avoid the real problems in the world, and it isn’t something we do just to soothe our anxious souls. Tending to what’s good is our **calling**. When we can see what’s good and point others toward what’s good, we are able to share hope with the hopeless.

We’ll have different scripture lessons each week, reminding us of some of the essentials of our faith, but our guiding text for the series is:

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him,
rooted and built up in him
and established in the faith, just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving.
~Colossians 2:6-7*

When we are rooted in the gospel (good news), we will abound in thanksgiving.

Let’s tend to our spiritual roots this fall, and see what grows.

Rev. Michelle

Potluck Supper

Sunday, September 27

We're having a potluck! Bring your favorite dish to share at the potluck supper following the service.

Dessert, side, or main... anything goes.

And if you forget or aren't able to bring something, come anyway! There will be plenty.

Tell me
something
good

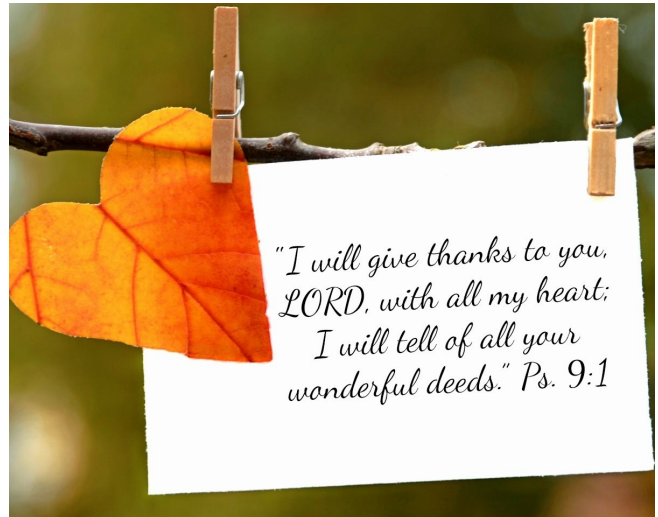
*There's always
something good
at a potluck supper!*



MISSION...



One of FPC's missions is Hope House in Sterling. Every month, we receive a thank you note from the Executive Director, Shaun Wilson, and her staff. Each month they tell us specifically how our support is being used.



Hope House is a nonprofit organization established May 2017 to help individuals on their journey to recovery and self sustainability, to have a complete break in recidivism. Breaking the cycle of addiction starts with having the right environment. Hope House understands the critical importance of a safe environment.

Read more about Hope House on their website:
www.hopehouseeasternco.org

Pastor & Congregation,

Hope House has received your July donation of \$200.00! We want to extend our gratitude for your support, which allows us to keep our mission alive.

We will be using this to help our youth with school supplies and/or clothes, to gear up for the school year.

May you all have a blessed month.

Shaun & Ashley
Hope House

CONNECTIONS...

Dylan Cranwell is serving with the Peace Corps in Albania. He shares reflections regularly through email, and he recently sent a postcard to the church (see below). We've been praying for Dylan — what a blessing to stay connected even across a great geographical distance! If you aren't receiving his email reflections and would like to be added to the list, let us know and we'll put you in touch.



ROMA - PALAZZO DORIA PAMPHILJ
David TENIERS il Giovane (1610 - 1690)
Kermesse flamminga
Flemish Kermes

Pershendetje! (Hi)
Church family,
I have missed you
all so dearly. I made
a trip to Rome & this
painting was a great
reminder of home.
Dylan



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First Presbyterian Church
130 S 4th St
Sterling CO 80757
United States of America

UPCOMING EVENTS...

In Person & on YouTube
First Friday @ First Presbyterian
Dennis Fuller



100% Live - One-Man Band

September 4, 2026

12:05 -12:35

130 South 4th Street, Sterling

www.youtube.com/@fpc.sterling

Free and Open to the Public

UPCOMING EVENTS....



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13
10:30 A.M.

Sunday, September 13

Blessing of the Backpacks

*Start off the school year (and fall season) with a blessing.
We'll have encouraging backpack tags (or luggage tags) for everyone.*

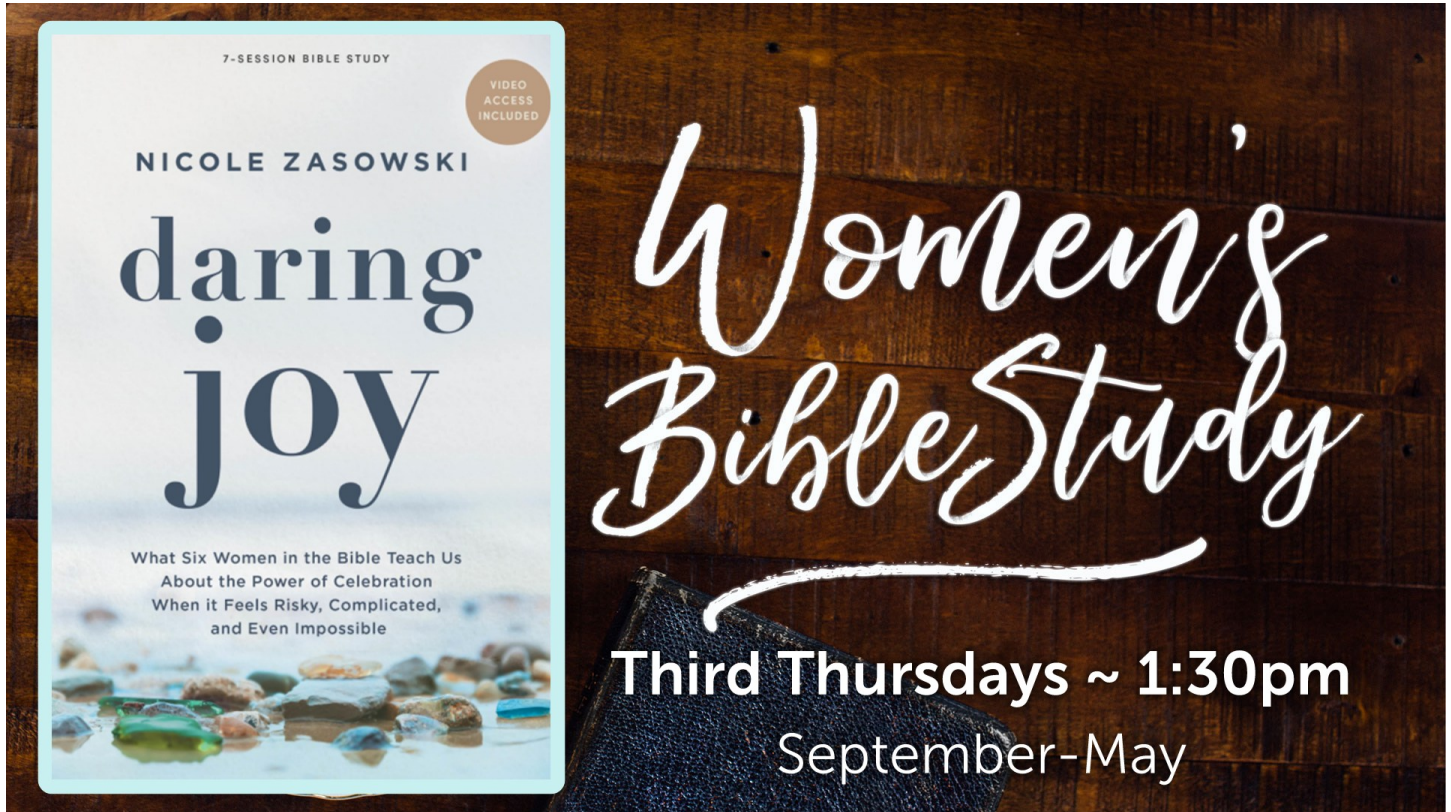
Chancel Choir returns!

*We appreciate the solos and special music in the summer,
but there's nothing like having the choir lead us in worship.*

New series begins: ***Tell Me Something Good***

It's going to be a great kickoff Sunday!

UPCOMING EVENTS....



Daring Joy by Nicole Zasowski is the Bible/Book Exploration for women beginning on **Thursday, Sept. 17 at 1:30 pm** in the fireside room of the church Fellowship Hall.

The *Daring Joy* Exploration consists of 8 sessions with meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except December, through May, 2027. Ann Blackburn is the facilitator.

The Exploration will focus on 6 women of the Bible and how they experienced the fullness of God's joy. The goal is to train participants to more quickly recognize God's goodness and faithfulness in His Word and in their stories.

Nicole Zasowski is a licensed marriage and family therapist and an adjunct professor at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York.

The Simple Things

I would not be too wise — so very wise
That I must sneer at simple songs and creeds,
And let the glare of wisdom blind my eyes
To humble people and their humble needs.

I would not care to climb so high that I
Could never hear the children at their play,
Could only see the people passing by,
And never hear the cheering words they say.

I would not know too much — to much to smile
At trivial errors of the heart and hand,
Nor be too proud to play the friend the while,
Nor cease to help and know and understand.

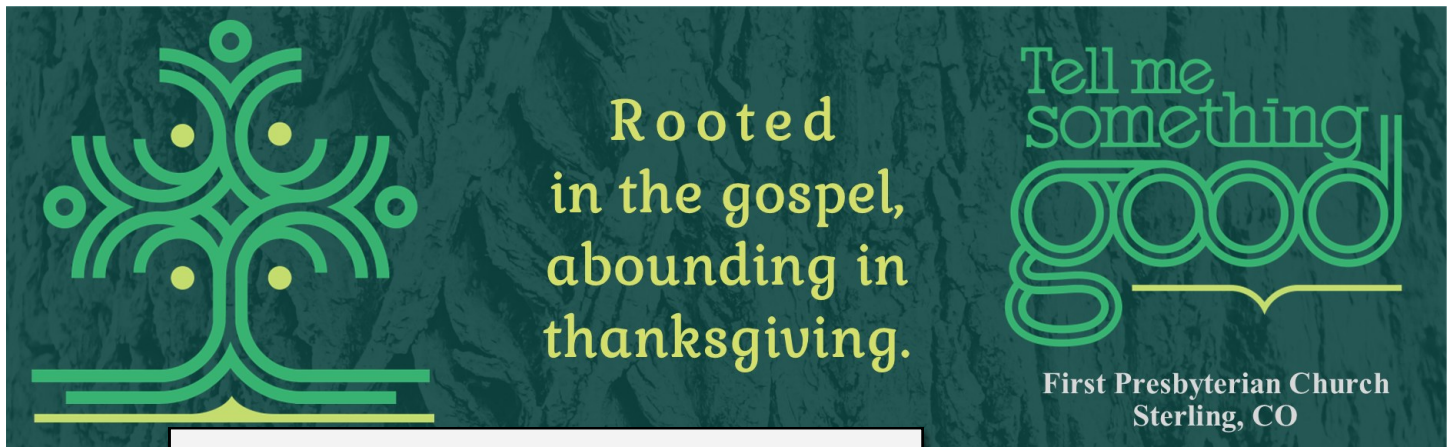
I would not care to sit upon a throne,
Or build my house upon a mountain-top,
Where I must dwell in glory all alone
And never friend come in or poor man stop.

God grant that I may live upon this earth
And face the tasks which every morning brings
And never lose the glory and the worth
Of humble service and the simple things.

Edgar A. Guest



SESSION. . .



2027 Estimate of Giving

\$_____

2027 Estimate of Giving cards are going out soon. What's an Estimate of Giving (EOG)? It's just a way of letting the church know how much you plan to give in the coming year. Sometimes people call this a "pledge" because it's also a spiritual practice, a commitment between you and God, to give in faith and gratitude for all God has given you.

Spiritually, taking the time to fill out an EOG card helps us grow in faith.

Practically, it helps us make financial plans for the coming year.

*You're deeply rooted in Christ...
Let your living spill over into thanksgiving.*

Colossians 2:6-7 (MSG)

Your faithful and generous gifts make ministry possible.

Thank you for turning in your 2027 Estimate of Giving.

We will be dedicating the Estimates of Giving on Sunday, November 1.

SESSION. . .

Session did not meet in June or July.

Check out the highlights from the August meeting in the October newsletter.



*For they are transplanted into the Lord's own garden
and are under his personal care.*

~Psalm 92:13 (TLB)



Your generosity makes
mission & ministry possible...

Thank you!

Profit & Loss Summary	Jan-July 2026
Total Income	\$150,831.55
Total Expense	195,368.20
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	(44,536.65)
Budgeted Transfers	28,369.44
Other Transfers	0.00
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers	(16,167.21)

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....

Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)
Jackie Barton
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
Taylor Cranwell
Jeanne Crouch & Family
Dave & Marsha Davis
Sarah Davis
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)
Family Resource Center
Brad Fitzgerald Family (Connie Sue Clark's
Cousin)
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)
Highlands Camp
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)
Dennis Kaan
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)
Delinda Korrey McDowell
Jim Leh
Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's
step-father & mother)

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
Jim Stegman
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle
Hawkins)
The family of Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura
Guenzi)
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Under the Umbrella
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)
Jeff Weskamp
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!

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: September
Shopper's Choice (something that you
like at home)

NJC Food Pantry:
Nutritious Non-Perishable
Prepared Foods

THANK YOU!

September **BIRTHDAYS**

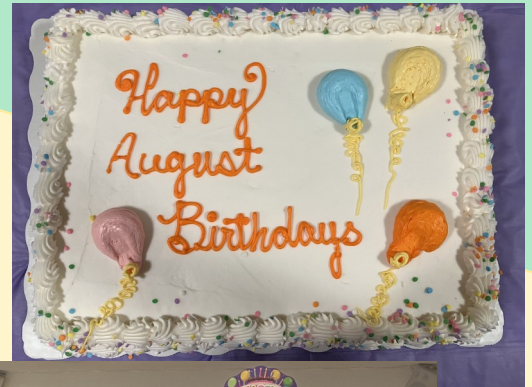
- 1 Bruce Kelley
- 3 Florence O'Neil
- 10 Bailey Jackson
- 12 Naioma Benson
- 15 Kim Weingardt
- 16 Alie Sheldon
- 17 Jamie Spicer
- 20 Terri Rhodes
Grace Reeves
- 24 Curtis Clark
- 27 Ellis Jackson
- 28 Jace Rhodes
- 30 Janet Forinash
Connie Ham

Birthday Sunday:

September 13

Happy Birthday...
May your day be blessed!

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS



SERVING IN CHURCH — SEPTEMBER

USHERS

Sept. 6	Jill Vollmer, Jackie Barton
Sept. 13	Laura Guenzi, Jane Robinson, Leila Hutt
Sept. 20	Carrie Lovenburg, Alex Hicks
Sept. 27	Delinda Korrey McDowell, Ken McDowell

FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

Sept.	Jane Robinson
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FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

Sept. 6	Bell Choir
Sept. 13	Membership/Stewardship Committee
Sept. 20	Finance Committee
Sept. 27	Worship & Sacraments Committee

COUNT OFFERING

Sept. 6	Bev Cumming
Sept. 13	Jerri Spear
Sept. 20	Connie Ham
Sept. 27	Linda Meisner

ACOLYTES/BIBLE BEARER

Sept. 6	Justin and Becky Cranwell
Sept. 13	Linda Meisner, Connie Ham
Sept. 20	Dean & Mason Boeff
Sept. 27	Tanna Prince, Lora Boren

LITURGISTS

Sept. 6	Sarah Davis
Sept. 13	Cheryl Kaan
Sept. 20	Jackie Reynolds
Sept. 27	Penny Propst

Thank you for serving!



CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Sept. 13	Michelle Witherspoon
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AV TEAM

Sept. 6	Justin Cranwell (Sound) Laurie McKenzie (Slides)
Sept. 13	Jeff Christenson (Sound) Myra Westfall (Slides)
Sept. 20	Dean Boeff (Sound) Callie Jackson (Slides)
Sept. 27	Alex Hicks (Sound) Pam Trimble (Slides)

PREPARE & SERVE COMMUNION—SEPT. 6

Prepare	Elsie Fetzer, Bev Cumming
Serve	Pat Borner, Rex Witherspoon & David Chrisp

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.

September 2026

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



Be rooted and
grounded in love

Ephesians 3:17-19

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

MICHELLE WITHERSPOON

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

E-mail office@fpcsterling.org

RASHELL FRITZLER

BOOKKEEPER

E-mail finance@fpcsterling.org

KARLEE MANUELLO

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