

Responding to God's love, we are First Congregational United Church of Christ, an inclusive, ecumenical, and spiritual people, who through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach seek to embrace the mystery of God.



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Welcome
Wonder
Witness



A CALL FROM THE PASTOR

By Rev. Benjamin Broadbent

It was my recent joy to bring Holy Communion (and equally holy *conversation*) to the homes of many of our members. The ministers of FCUCC deliver Home Communion during the seasons of Advent and Lent. This year, Pastor Jacque and I identified 23 individuals who were home-bound and to whom we would deliver communion. It was a pleasure to catch up with church members who can't attend services, but who maintain an enduring spiritual connection with their church home.

Delivering communion to home-bound members twice a year is one of the ways we, as a church, serve members in need. Other ministries include:

- Visiting members at home or in the hospital
- Delivering chancel flowers
- Providing prayer shawls
- Coordinating rides or meals
- Offering pastoral counseling
- Planning and leading special services, including healing services, weddings and memorials
- Stephen Ministry (ongoing spiritual companionship)
- Lay care givers visit home-bound members regularly
- Intercessory Prayer Network
- Remembering members in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter

Given the number of ministries we provide, it is a blessing to have called last summer a capable full-time Associate Ministry whose primary focus is Pastoral Care. Rev. Jacque Franklin and I meet weekly for an hour to discuss the pastoral concerns of members. Currently, we have identified over 80 of our members, of all ages and life backgrounds, as needing some form of pastoral care. (We're sure there are more!) Based on each situation, we categorize folks into "frequency of visit" categories: once/week, twice/month, once/month, and per requested need.

Recently, Pastor Jacque and I heard the question: What does someone have to do to receive a visit from a pastor? In brief, please *request* a visit. We want to know what is going on in the lives of church members, but unless someone has made us aware of a concern, we do not have any other way of knowing. If you have desired or expected a visit and haven't received one, please request one by contacting one of the pastors directly. As we attempt to prioritize our tasks throughout the week, it is helpful to know whether a member desires a visit.

As our full-time Associate Minister with responsibility for coordinating pastoral care, Pastor Jacque assumes more of the pastoral contacts than I do. This makes sense as we divide up our duties. For the most part, I make visits when I've been specifically requested to do so, when I am filling in for Jacque, and when there is an especially large number of needs. I am grateful to be working with a capable colleague who loves coordinating pastoral care. It is my impression that members of our church are, on the whole, well served by the pastoral staff.

We know that sometimes folks feel left out or forgotten. Our hearts ache when we become aware of such situations. Our intention has been to reduce the number of these instances. We need the help of you, our sisters and brothers in the faith. Please communicate clearly and directly if you have a need. We want to know. The information will help us be better pastors.



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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
 UCC IS AN "OPEN AND
 AFFIRMING"
 CONGREGATION. WE INVITE
 PEOPLE OF EVERY AGE,
 RACE, MARITAL STATUS,
 SEXUAL ORIENTATION,
 GENDER EXPRESSION,
 MEANS, ABILITY, AND
 SPIRITUAL TRADITION TO
 JOIN US IN THE LOVE OF
 GOD AND NEIGHBOR
 THROUGH CHRISTIAN
 WORSHIP, DEDICATION TO
 EDUCATION, AND
 COMMITMENT TO SERVICE.**

Committee Chairs

Acacia Dinner Ministry

Olive Simonton

Audio / Visual

Paul Schwotzer

Bereavement Receptions

Karen Miskel

Sharron Waterhouse

Christian Education

Karl Mason

Samantha Garrett

Clergy / Congregation

Relations

Karl Mason

Community Life

Lance Tressler

Financial Advisory

Bruce Warren

Flowers

Guy McPherson/

Ann Benson

Historical

Bob Murray

Human Resources

Gordon Riegel

Justice & Peace

Cyndy Kulp

Kitchen Witches

Dolly Eager/Lois Benson

Library

Jeanie Tate

Marketing

Thom Andreas

Membership

Scott Huger

Mission Giving & Outreach

Angie Adams

Movement Ministry

Jenny Finn

Music & Arts

Victoria Hansen

Mystery Tradition

Nancy Forgy

Nominating

Karen Brown

Open & Affirming

John Shada

Planned Giving

Pam Shockley-Zalabak

Plymouth Circle

Marilyn Johnson

**Risk Reduction &
 Response**

Linda Boles

Kay Branine

Sanctuary Arts

Liz Ryan

Spiritual Formation

Karin Henriksen

Stewardship

Steve Brown

Whole Earth

Judith Rice-Jones

Church Council

COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Andrea Barker

Vice Moderator

Lee Lehmkuhl

Treasurer

Bruce Warren

Secretary

Eric Ridings

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Care & Fellowship

Jane Gazal

Outreach

Deidre Schoolcraft

Worship & Spiritual Life

Karin Henriksen

Education

Sue Scott

Staff Team

Lead Minister

Benjamin Broadbent

Associate Minister

Jacque Franklin

Business Administrator

Ruth Roland

Office Administrator

Christy Kessler

Administrative Assistant

Richard Grebenstein

Organist &

Director of Music

Frank Shelton

Choir Director

Mandy Todd-Moore

Handbell Choir Director

Carol Fields

Education Coordinator

Del Hokanson

Youth Director

Jeff Dodson

Nursery Attendants

Elizabeth Ash

Charlotte Ady

Alex Lindberg

Anna Stefanik

Custodian

Bob Scheafer

Sunday Sexton

Teri McCabe

Maintenance Technician

Randy Goodwin

Ad Hoc Staff

Wedding Coordinator

Gari Steadman

Funeral Coordinator

Carol Fields

Appointed Officers

Membership Clerk

Lois Benson

Historian

Wil Green

Volunteer Staff

Communicator Editors

Chris Bjork

Kris Jones

Flute Choir

Phyllis White

Head Ushers

Lisa Cook

Oscar Ridings

Lay Representative to ESM

Angie Adams

Liturgist Coordinator

Marsha Garrett

Communion Coordinator

Peggy Dyer-Weissman

Fellowship Coordinator

Lori Goodwin

Associated in Ministry

4-way Covenant

Rev. Darlene Avery

In-Care

Joe Bair

Susie Bjork

Lyn Boudreau

Derek Krehbiel

Seminarians

Jon Dodson

Deborah Saxon

Clare Twomey

Cathy White

Pastors Emeriti

Jerry Jordan

Jim White

To Inform & Inspire

The Communicator invites articles, notices, and letters relevant to the life of our congregation. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and correctness. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect official FCC policy. For the next installment, please make submissions no later than Friday, January 16th, 2009. Article submissions should be 500 words or less. Please use Times New Roman 12-point font and include your article as a Word attachment in your e-mail message to bjorkrobins@msn.com.

PLYMOUTH CIRCLE

Plymouth Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 7th at 1 p.m., in the Founders' Room. The hostesses are Ruth Connell & Marilyn Johnson. Devotions will be given by Beverly Ridings. Our program will be presented by Nora Gustafson. The theme will be about tartans & bagpipes. Come & enjoy this special program. Guests are invited to attend our meeting.

PAPERLESS COMMUNICATORS

Consider opting out of the print mailing of FCC's monthly *Communicator* newsletter. You can access the newsletter online at the church's website, or you can be emailed as soon as the newsletter is complete (about one week earlier than the print edition arrives in your mailbox!).

ADULT FORUM

January, 2009
10 - 10:50 a.m.

Sunday mornings in the Chapel

January 11 & 18
"God is not Great - How Religion Poisons Everything"
Dave Seyfert, facilitating a discussion of the book by the same title by Christopher Hitchens

January 25
"What Christians need to know about Pharisees"
Joe Pickle

(For updates, please check the FCC web site (www.fcucc.org) - select Opportunities/Adult/Forum Schedule.)

JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Calling All Singers 1st-6th grade

The Joyful Noise Children's Choir invites all interested singers in first through sixth grades to join us for our *first rehearsal of 2009* on Tuesday, January 6 at 4:30 p.m. in classroom E/F in the west building. Musical experience is not required, just a willingness to commit to weekly rehearsals and singing in church once a month. Come join us for musical fun and games. With the beginning of the New Year, it is a good time to become a member of this wonderful musical group. For further information please contact Frank Shelton, Director of Music, at frank@fcucc.org or at 635-3549.

Our ministry ...

Extravagant **W**elcome,

Openness to **W**onder,

Positive & proactive **W**itness to the possibility of a just world.

Welcome, Wonder, Witness

POOPED OUT PARENTS

Enjoy relaxed conversation and dinner with other "Pooped-Out Parents" in a cozy atmosphere at the home of Mary Tatum and Tamara Bartlett on Saturday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m. Please contact Mary (mtatum@sellingcolorado.net) for more information.

Newcomers are always welcome.

SHEKHINAH

Shekhinah:
A Movement Ministry of First Congregational Church

Shekhinah (shékhīnāh, shuh-khee-nah) is the Hebrew word for dwelling or settling of God's presence in the temple. When we move our bodies with prayerful intention we create a dwelling place for God's presence.

The mission of Shekhinah is to invite the members of First Congregational Church and the larger community to embody the healing love of God through movement.

Offerings:

The Moving Word

Saturdays: 8:45 a.m. warm up, practice begins promptly at 9 a.m.

Through dance, scripture, and prayer, we invite you to deepen in to an embodied relationship with God. We will be studying the Psalms this year. Childcare available at no cost.

TAIZÉ

Taizé prayer will be offered on Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Come and experience God's abiding grace chants, silence, and readings

Everyone is welcome!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

THANK YOU to... Taizé volunteers for weekly Advent services; **Ann Howard** for coordinating SCAP presents; **Carol Fields & Beverly Elwell- Ridings** for accompanying fellowship carols; **Julia Harris** for creating Christmas card packets; **Plymouth Circle & Karen Miskel** for coordinating the Salvation Army stocking project; **Music and Arts Committee** and musical groups who hosted the Old Fashioned Christmas; the **Confirmands** for 11/30 worship service; **Sanctuary Arts Committee** for the "Hanging of the Greens;" **Good Works Youth Group** for holiday decorations; **Nancy Henjum, Brooke Bell, Lyn Boudreau** for retreat planning & **Barbara Broadbent** for presenting SoulCollage® at the women's retreat; **Ann Broughton and Neil Lehmkuhl** for chaperoning Confirmation Retreat #2; the **Men's Quartet** for their musical offering; **Jenny Chapman & Paul Schwotzer's** musical offerings; **Matt Turner** representing Stewardship Committee; the **Children of the Church** who brought their enthusiasm for Celebration Sunday; **Pete Hokanson and Amy Colwell** for decorating a festival tree for ESM; **Church Family** support for **Jerusha & Robert Goebel** during the tense time of CA wildfire evacuation (their daughter's house still stands).

PRAYERS for... Bill Poulson recovering from surgery; **Louise Holladay** recovering from surgery; **Kris Anderson** with a broken leg; **Janis Hahn's** sister, **Karen Martin** of IL, with a rare disease; **Kandiss Horch** facing gall bladder surgery; **Janice Simonton** moving her mother, **Olive Simonton**, to a long term care facility; the **Hokanson Family** traveling to Australia; **members of our faith community** traveling over the holidays; **Ernie Ohle** at Village at Skyline; **Tamara Bartlett**, surgery; **Sharon Stine**,

cancer treatment; & **Rose Mary Clark**, cancer treatment.

CONGRATULATIONS to... Casey & Rock Welch's daughter, **Elizabeth Welch**, ordained as an Episcopal priest 12/6 at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco; **Betty Armstrong** on her 90th & **Ernie Ohle** on his 91st birthday; **Dick Ducommun** whose latest MRI came back clear; **Ernie Ohle** taking 50 steps in physical therapy; **Jimmy Sue Guggenhime** on the arrival of granddaughter **Charlotte Clare Wellens**, born 11/15/2008; **Jesse and Shannon Stichka** on the birth of **Caleb James Stichka** 11/23/2008, and to the grandparents **Rich & Rosie DeBacker** and **Zach DeBacker**; **Stephen Scott** for being chosen one of the 50 United States Artists for 2008, USA Simon Fellow.

CONDOLENCES to...friends and family of J. Donald Haney who died
(Continued on Page 5...)

STEWARDSHIP: THE POWER OF CONVERSATION

By Nancy Ekberg

One of the questions I have always been curious about since I was in my late 20's is, "when is it enough?" I've had endless variations on the "it." Is "it" sleep, friends, love, power, food, money, clothes, exercise, anger, jealousy or anything else?

I wrote myself a letter around age 29 as a snapshot of the important issues in my life so I could look back at a later date and ponder differences. In my letter, I earnestly expressed hope that I would always know when I had enough of anything in my life, and I also hoped and wondered if I would ever have my own children. I sealed the letter and did not open it for over 10 years. The questions and hopes never left me, but the memory of having written the letter did. My surprise upon finding it came with the realization that 3 beautiful boys later I still continue to monitor for myself what is enough, and also for our children. It's really a life-long process of monitoring those desires.

This fall, after re-reading Lynne Twist's book, "The Soul of Money," I realized she asks this same question, calling it the myth of scarcity. As she describes them, the circumstances of and reactions to "Black Monday" in 1987 are eerily similar to our present-day crisis but with even larger global implications. Everywhere, it seems, our public and private conversations often focus on net worth. Following the emotional ups and downs of the stock market generates deep fear and anxiety.

As we may be tempted to assess our wealth by the volatile stock markets and unstable financial institutions, we also have the chance to tap into the richness of our internal life and relationships. We can turn the conversations back to our values around love and connection. Lynne Twist said "our own inner resources...were not diminished—could not be diminished—by the fluctuations of the stock market."

She goes on to tell of a written Chinese lexicon character that defines "crisis" as "danger" or as "opportunity", depending on the context. Her deliberate choice to create "appreciative conversations" with friends and family gave all of them back their sense of well being and confidence about the future, in spite of losing money they never regained. These conversations redefined crisis as opportunity.

Perhaps this is one aspect of the current financial crisis. We can be filled with fear of the danger of not having enough resources, or we can transform our crisis into opportunity. For me, one of the opposites of fear is hope, so I remain hopeful that we all come to know when "it" is enough. I look forward to more conversations about our abundance, the antonym of scarcity. And now I think it is time to write myself another letter.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January Birthdays

1/1 Atticus Baker
 1/1 Betty Freudenburg
 1/2 Frank Jopp
 1/2 Donald Skarke
 1/2 Karen Toomey
 1/3 Kathy Kreps
 1/3 Ruth Lehmkuhl
 1/3 Howard Ray
 1/4 Sally Gorges
 1/4 Calieb Griffith
 1/4 Patty Lee
 1/4 Jeffrey Stine
 1/4 Sharron Waterhouse
 1/6 Mary Anne Calkins
 1/6 Eric Ridings
 1/6 Cathy Schwotzer
 1/7 Jenny King
 1/7 Jennifer Knapp
 1/7 Gari Steadman
 1/8 Hans Krimm
 1/9 Jason Hahn
 1/9 Deidre Schoolcraft
 1/9 Cathy White
 1/10 Brent Morris
 1/12 Laura Jane Dawson
 1/12 Marni Huger
 1/12 Ruth Koenigsamen
 1/13 Jared Leak
 1/14 Angela Morgan
 1/15 Margery Layton
 1/15 Lisa Riegel
 1/15 Robert Scheafer
 1/16 Alec Duffy-Webb
 1/16 Nancy Steffy
 1/18 Rick Steffens
 1/19 Adam Beal
 1/19 Meredith Bell
 1/20 Victoria Hansen
 1/21 Darlene Avery
 1/21 Anne Brown
 1/21 Ellen Francis
 1/21 Garrett Holslag
 1/21 Joanna Miller

Birthdays (Continued)

1/21 Liz Ryan
 1/22 Joan Ericson
 1/23 Ann Brown
 1/23 Isabelle Kemp
 1/23 John Stevens
 1/23 Sarah Warren
 1/24 Holly DeVore
 1/24 Denise Ellsworth
 1/24 Julia Harris
 1/24 Daniel Jun
 1/24 Christy Kessler
 1/25 Mike Espinoza
 1/25 Sue Prendinger
 1/25 Kyle Sundman
 1/26 Kris Anderson
 1/26 Charles Schnetzer
 1/26 Phillip Tencick
 1/27 Cody McKay
 1/27 Gail Rogers
 1/27 Kurt Strovink
 1/28 Dave Babin
 1/28 Luke Brooks
 1/28 Ben Newman
 1/28 Linda Pavian Roberts
 1/28 Ian Turner
 1/29 Joe Bair
 1/29 Jean Ferguson
 1/29 Melinda Hockensmith
 1/29 Kat Palen
 1/29 Scott Warren
 1/30 Kelly Cain
 1/31 Zack Parrinella
 1/31 Jane Warren

January Anniversaries

1/3 Jean & Ralph Hall
 1/4 Nancy Ekberg-Tynan & Daniel Tynan
 1/12 Sara & Scott Doud
 1/19 Tracy & Winter Rumans
 1/26 Karol & Ben Finch

Congregational Life (Continued from Page 4...)

12/11; **Rick Smith** on the death of his uncle, **James Heffner** of NC; **Alec, Nygel, & Mickella Duffy-Webb** on the loss of their grandfather, **Tom Fogerty**, who died 12/2; **Robbie Limpert, Patti White** and family whose mother, **Agnes "Rita" Limpert** of FL, died 11/27, services held in OH; friends and family of **Florence Wyatt**, who died 11/27; **Regina Rodriguez** and family on the loss of her father **Heinz Wilhelm Paul Gehrke** of Germany 11/21; **Pat Dolin** and family on the sudden loss of her brother **Mike Dailey**.

DEPLOYED MILITARY... Seth Sickels, Bruce Terry, Kris Mack, Justin Niemiec, Michael McClure, & Andrew Carpenter. Prayers of gratitude & safety surround them.

CONTACT Rev. Jacque Franklin, Associate Pastor, at 635-3549, or jacque@fcucc.org.

For more church event details, visit www.fcucc.org.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January Worship - Sunday Services at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	
<p style="text-align: center;">January 4 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany Sunday</p> <p>Today we celebrate Communion at both services, the Joyful Noise Children's Choir sings, and Rev. Jacque Franklin preaches.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">January 11 - Baptism of Christ Sunday</p> <p>Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon on Mark 1:4-11 entitled "Becoming Human" to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">January 18 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Rev. Broadbent preaches his annual sermon on Reproductive Rights, based upon Psalm 139, and entitled, "Searched and Known."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">January 25 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>On this day of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, we focus on the Our Whole Lives Sexuality and Our Faith program. Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon entitled: "Speaking the Unspoken."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>2008-2009 Worship & Program Year Theme:</i> "Sustainable Faith"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coming in February... Women's Sunday, Evolution Sunday, Ash Wednesday</p>