

THE FIRST PRESS

From Tom's Study

"And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'" – Mark 1:17

Our Mission – "Growing disciples of Jesus through Knowing God, Loving each other, and Serving the world."

Before diving into some thoughts for this next month of life together, I want to express my and Deb's gratitude for your beautiful welcome. Thanks also for your willingness to come to one of the small groups at our house. It has been a great gift to begin getting to know each of you, and I look forward to our relationships deepening over time. It is a blessing to be journeying with you. Thanks again.

In our worship time together we have been reflecting on both our vision statement and our mission statement. Through July we are going to focus our attention on the central concept of discipleship. What is discipleship? Discipleship to whom? Why discipleship? And perhaps most importantly how do we go about growing in our own discipleship, so that we can then carry out our mission of growing disciples?

Throughout Jesus' ministry his primary invitation to people was "Follow me!" The reality for most of us is that we are a disciple of a variety of people, movements, or belief systems. Sometimes we are disciples for a short time, other times for longer periods. Often we are unaware of our decision to be a disciple.

To whom or what are you a disciple? Maybe you have a political commentator that you follow closely. Maybe you have a cultural commentator you read regularly. Maybe you follow a health or fitness expert who has been a great help to your life. Maybe you have a respected leader from your area of discipline or occupation that you enjoy reading. Maybe you have a podcaster you never miss. Maybe you have an author who you have read everything she/he has written. Maybe you have a family member or a teacher who you regularly ask for advice. We are all disciples. Do we have an awareness of our discipleship?

Jesus calls each of us to be disciples of the Jesus Way, the Kingdom of God Way. Jesus invites us to follow him. To be a disciple of Jesus is a conscious choice that will forever change our life's journey. To be a disciple of Jesus is to consciously choose to enter a process of transformation as we grow into the fullness to which God created us. To be a disciple of Jesus means we are growing in awareness of God's Spirit calling and leading. To be a disciple of Jesus means that we are intentionally building defining practices into our life that help us grow-up and mature in the Kingdom of God way of life.

Our mission statement proclaims that we are a community of people focused on growing disciples of Jesus. Through July and into August we are going to ponder together how we can more fully embrace this core piece of our identity as a community. How are you and how are we as a community choosing to grow in our discipleship to the Jesus Way?

Christ's Peace be with you - Tom

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Sermon Information July 2019

July 7 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost – Communion

Scripture Reading: Micah 6:6-8, Acts 10:9-16, Micah 6:9-16

Sermon Title: “Our Mission – Serving the World”

Synopsis: The third aspect of our mission statement is “Serving the World.” Serving the world sounds easy, but in reality, for most of us, if we are going to serve the world it means opening our lives to some significant transformation. We see this reality take place for Peter in Acts chapter Ten, when God challenges Peter to change his understanding of what is clean and what is unclean. What transformation needs to take place in me, in you if we are truly going to serve the world?

July 14 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 1:16-20, John 3:1-10

Sermon Title: “Disciples of . . .”

Synopsis: Our mission statement begins: “Growing disciples of Jesus through . . .” At the center of living out our mission is understanding ourselves as disciples, but not just disciples of anyone or anything, but disciples of Jesus. The fact is we are all disciples of someone or something; it is just how we are wired. To be disciples of Jesus is a very intentional choice and act. Growing disciples means we understand discipleship as an ongoing process. In other words we are never done at becoming disciples. So how do we help ourselves and each other grow as disciples of Jesus?

July 21 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:1-7, Matthew 5:13-16, Matthew 21:12-17

Sermon Title: “Growing in Discipleship - Witness”

Synopsis: One avenue to helping us grow in our discipleship to the Jesus’ Way is through witnessing. Witnessing however is a word that carries tremendous baggage. What if we thought of witness in terms of these three things: Show up, speak up, stand up! How do we live out these three aspects of witness in our daily lives? What practices are we building into our lives to help us grow as witnesses to the truth of God, and the beauty of following the Jesus’ Way?

July 28 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-23, Matthew 18:10-14, 18-20, Colossians 4:12-17

Sermon Title: “Growing in Discipleship - Prayer”

Synopsis: When we think about prayer, our focus tends toward intercession, praying for the needs of ourselves and others, particularly those we know. When we think about the defining practice of prayer, we are considering prayer that supports our defining vision. What would our prayer life look like if we were praying in ways that supported our defining vision of “God’s dream for the world, nothing less”?



Youth News

The theme for our high school mission week in June was “Unlearning Distance” — something we sought to do as we explored the city and served the poorest of those who live there. It was an eye-opening and sometimes heart-wrenching week. Our kids worked so hard and wrestled with big ideas about God and our world as we spent time in the San Francisco Bay area. I am so proud of them for the ways they allowed themselves to be stretched outside of their comfort zones to meet people

where they were at.



Thanks to
Our Youth
in Mission




This month of July our kids who just completed 7th or 8th grade are heading out to serve as well. That team will head to Wyoming to serve on the Wind River reservation, July 7-12. Please be praying for us: for safety in all things, for joy in deepening of friendships, for courageous hearts to try new things, and for minds and hearts open to what God is doing both on the reservation and in our own lives. Our team

is: Lane Baker, Ellie King, Connor McConathy, Radana Myers, Megan Rhude, Nate Calderone, and me—Hilary Downs.

Mark your calendars: Middle school students will be heading to Water World in Denver for a day of fun on Wednesday, July 17. There's still room to sign up!

Thanks for all your support!
Hilary



Youth



Sunday School:

In July, Sunday School classes are learning that God is worthy of our praise, so we can celebrate God. We are all great at celebrating sports, holidays, and birthdays. We want the children to get into the celebrating spirit and learn to better connect with God.

Thanks to the following teachers: Trish King, Lesly Ely, Justin Anderson, Emily Anderson, Sheri Talbot, and Jane McBride.

Thank you for creating a space for our children to learn and love church each Sunday.

Mission Day:

Last year, we helped glean the fields for a food bank in Alamosa. It was very rewarding for those that attended. We have had many people who have already signed up to attend this year to glean, on August 31. It is a wonderful way to serve others who do not have enough to eat. We gleaned beets last year.



All are welcome to join us in serving others. On Friday, August 30th we will invite everyone to camp at the Sand Dunes Hot Springs Pools in

Hooper, CO. Katie Lady has booked group of reservations at the campground at the Sand Dunes Pool. Please contact Katie, if you would like a campsite. We plan to glean the fields for an Alamosa Food Bank on Saturday morning. We are done with gleaning around lunch time. Last year, many of gleaners went out for lunch, before heading home or onto another adventure.



⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 19:9

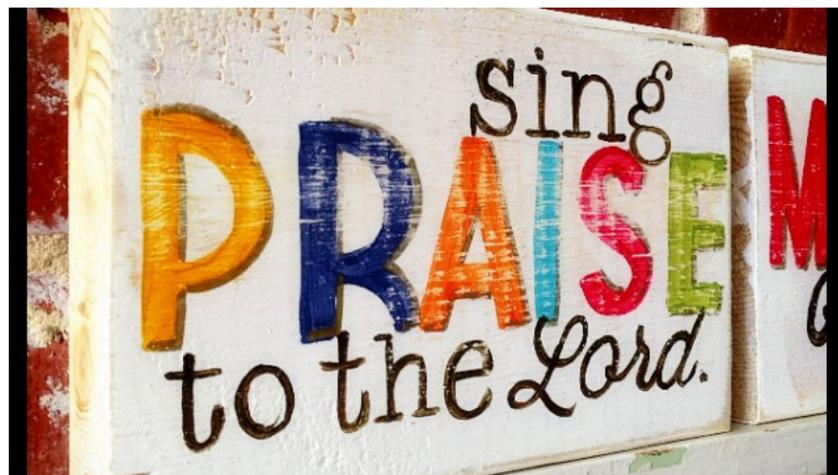
MUSIC MINISTRY

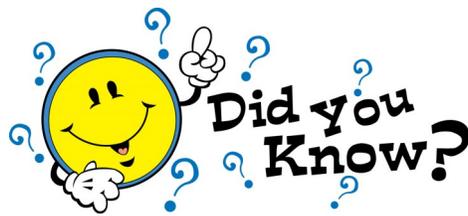
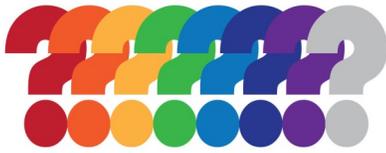



Wow...we are already half way through 2019 and summer has finally arrived. Wait, we are definitely half way through the year but I am not so sure summer is here. On a recent weekend we saw snow in the mountains and temps dipping down in the 40s. I guess nothing is for sure these days concerning weather but one thing is for sure; God is alive and well! I don't know about the rest of you but there is a feeling of direction and certainty in the midst of our church family. This doesn't mean we have been lacking in either but we are feeling that the transition period is ending and growth is about to happen. One of my main objectives this next two quarters is to have more youth involvement in our services. I have several ideas where I believe we can lean on our young people to enrich the worship experience. The first step will be happening here in a couple of weeks. I will be putting out a notice to invite anyone interested in helping with video and sound. It will not be limited to youth but I do hope we will have some participation from that group. This will include learning the computer used for words and helping us run the sound board during services. Stay tuned for more on this and if you or your kiddos have an interest please reach out to me.



In Christ's Love,
Danny





July 4th Ice Cream Social

8:30 PM

In the Lower Parking Lot

Bring a chair-stay for the fireworks

Admission-Donations of non-perishable items for the food pantry

Showers to the People Ministry

The middle of August will be FPC's "Showers to the People" Ministry's 2nd Anniversary!!

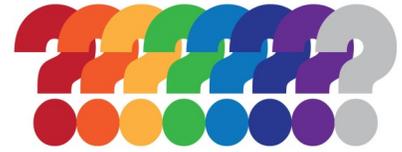
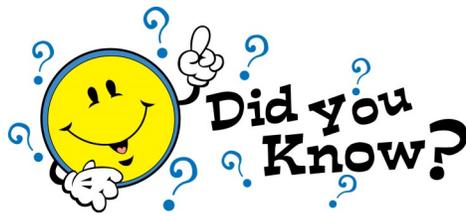
As we continue to provide free showers every Friday, 1:30-3:30 PM, to anyone stopping by the church we want to say thank you. Your donations of towels, shower supplies, razors and shaving cream, clean new socks, warm hats and gloves in the winter months are so appreciated! We have local folks who come by almost every Friday to shower, we also see people who are passing through town or are here on a temporary basis. Almost all who stop by have no permanent housing and are living in their car, van, tent or somewhere outside. A hot shower, a safe place even for a short time, is often a respite...a chance to feel clean and refreshed and so appreciated! Caring volunteers are always here to listen to stories and perhaps help with a referral to other organizations/agencies when appropriate.

Again, thank you for your continued support and a special thanks to the church for providing the space and hot water that make it all possible.

It is often in the giving that we receive...

If you are interested in volunteering or want more information contact: Nancy Konvalinka, 719-539-2421 or Konvalinka-2@charter.net.

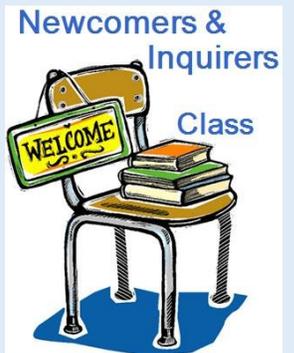




Small Groups at the Abbotts: The Abbotts are grateful for the opportunity to get to know the First Pres. family. Thanks to everyone who has already participated in a small group. If you would like to participate in one of these get to know each other gatherings it is not too late. You can sign up in the church office during the week or on the table outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. These meetings are taking place on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at 744 F. St. Deb and I look forward to getting to know each of you.—Tom



Inquirers Class: Do you have questions about the Christian faith? Do you wonder about the Presbyterian denomination? Do you have questions about First Presbyterian Church of Salida? Do you wonder what it means to become a member of First Pres? Pastor Abbott will be leading an inquirers class for people who would like to investigate these questions. The class will take place on a Saturday morning in August. The date is still yet to be set. So please be checking the Sunday announcements for updates.



You are invited to join in celebrating a
Service of Installation for Rev. Tom Abbott on

Sunday, August 4th

10:00 AM

(we will have only one worship service that Sunday)

The WELL Service Project

The WELL Women's Ministry is sponsoring a service project to help Longfellow Elementary School Teachers. We hope to provide classroom teachers with supplies they need during the school year. We will be collecting here at the church through Sunday, July 28. If you would like to contribute, please place items in the box in the hallway. Everything will then be sorted and taken to the school before the year begins in August. Supplies needed include glue sticks, erasers, tape, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, markers, paper, Ziploc bags, tissues, wipes, paper towels, stickers and small prizes. Thank you for your generosity!



The Well Leadership Team-Pam Groebner, Kathy Moore, Jeannie Snow, Ann Thomas & Bonny Yaeger

The WELL invites all ladies to a Potluck BBQ, Friday, July 12th, 6:00 PM at the home of Pam Groebner. Pam will provide the meat for grilling and we ask everyone else to bring a side, salad or dessert. RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the foyer or by contacting the church office. Invitation is open to ALL women!





Wonder When They Meet?

Card Ministry.....10:00 AM-2nd Fri each month
 Cast.....5:30 PM-1st Thurs each month
 Ladies Hiking/Snowshoeing.....9:30 AM-Wed
 Meditative Walking.....10:00 AM-Mon each week
 Mens' Breakfasts at Patio Pancake...7 AM-Tues or Wed
 Prayer Time9:30 AM-Mon each week
 Quilting Group.....2:00 PM-3rd Thurs each month
 Sainly Sinners.....11:30 AM-4th Tues each month
 Session.....6:00 PM-4th Tues each month
 Sisters of Deborah.....1:30PM-3rd Tues each month



FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund Financial Report as of May 31:
 (Salaries, insurance, utilities, missions, curriculum, etc.,
 funded by the Sunday offering).

Call Dawn Wassel, 539-2645 for information.

Income	\$ 118,384.35
Expenses	<u>(\$ 96,772.77)</u>
Difference	\$ 21,611.58

Love Fund— YTD as of June 25, 2019: \$2,975.13 in
 local emergency assistance (rent, gasoline, lodging,
 medicines, etc.) has been provided.

Call the office at 539-6422 for information.

Energy Outreach Colorado—Utility assistance—
 natural gas, electric, propane or firewood
 For grant period starting 10-1-18: \$3,448.69
 Call Jeanni Landry, 719-395-5638 for information.

Endowment Fund, Money Market, Cash Assets
 YTD as of May 31: \$302,385.01. A detailed financial
 report is available upon request.

Prayer Requests

As you go through the month please continue
 to keep Martin Perry, Linda Fritz, and Sheri
 Cannon and their families in your prayers as
 they continue to face health issues.

ELDERS

Linda Colling	719-539-8634	lrcoll327@yahoo.com
Bob Grether	719-530-1788	grether@outlook.com
Russ Johnson	719-221-9374	russ_011@live.com
Phil Maes	719-530-1224	philmaes@yahoo.com
Debbie Quintana	719-221-2557	spikewee4u@yahoo.com
Gaylene Stevens	719-239-0999	tnmolecular1@aol.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY-9:00 AM-5:00 PM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY-CLOSED



Happy 4th of July!

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED ON
 THURSDAY, JULY 4TH. PLEASE
 JOIN US AT 8:30 PM FOR OUR
 ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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