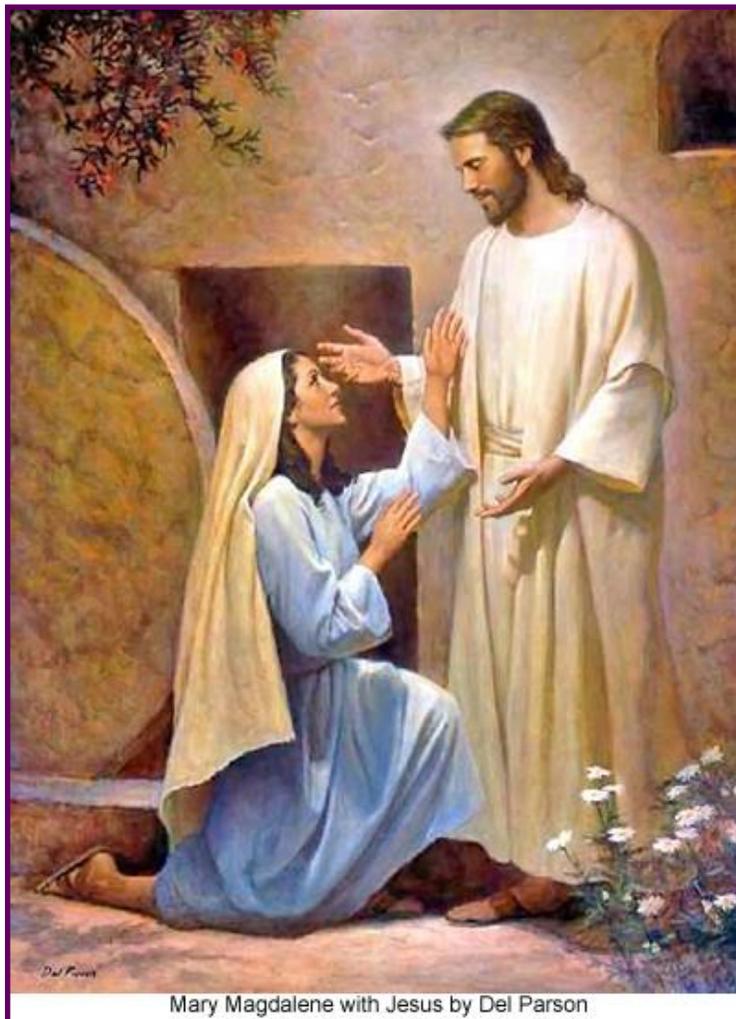


April 1, 2020

*Mary Magdalene went
and announced to the disciples,
“I have seen the Lord..”*

John 20:18a



Mary Magdalene with Jesus by Del Parson



First Presbyterian
Church of Littleton

First Word

The Resurrection of Jesus

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20:1-18

Happy Easter!



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What a difference a month can make! I doubt any of us would have imagined the particular journey we have been on due to the ongoing health concerns. This disruption, and the journey that it has caused, reminds me of two things from the Bible.

First let me take you to the Gospel of Luke. In Luke 9:51, Jesus begins his journey toward the Holy City and the fate awaiting him there – “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” Interestingly, Jesus doesn’t *arrive* in Jerusalem until Luke 19:28 – “After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.” That’s ten chapters! Keep in mind that Israel is very small, so the journey would have taken only a few days at most. And yet Luke records ten *chapters* worth of Gospel content between Jesus deciding to journey to Jerusalem and Jesus actually arriving in Jerusalem.

In a similar way, **the Gospel often does the most inside us when we are on an unfamiliar journey.**

My second Biblical reminder comes from Acts 2:42-47. This text comes immediately after Pentecost and the founding of the Church as we know it. To my mind, this is the shortest and most complete description of the Church anywhere in Scripture. As you read what the Church is and what the Church does, think about whether you have seen these things happening during this unexpected journey:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

I have seen more examples of our church being the Church during this journey than at any other point in my time here. Challenged by our inability to gather, you have responded with Christ-like faithfulness. I am proud of our phone calls and relational check-ins. I am proud of our video gatherings. I am proud of our grocery shopping and porch drop-offs. I am proud to be your pastor during this time.

I pray for the Holy Spirit’s strength and resolve as we continue to find our way forward during this unfamiliar journey. I also pray for eyes to see and ears to hear and hearts to feel ten chapters worth of Gospel in our disrupted lives. And I pray for the joy of the Lord within our hearts.

In Christ’s Service Together,


Pastor Cody

A Minute for Stewardship – Navigating Through the Storm

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

During this unprecedented time of "social distancing" and crisis due to the Coronavirus Disease, the Stewardship team encourages you to consider how you can be the hands and feet of Christ and continue the ministry of FPCL while we are not able to gather, meet and worship in person. We've included below some different ways that you can offer your time, talents, and treasure:

Time

- Make a daily commitment to stay in contact with others to keep "social distancing" from turning into "social isolation." Make a call for no reason! Or text, e-mail, send a card, video chat, etc.
- Offer to pick up groceries or other necessities for someone who is unable to leave their home.
- Contact Pastor Cody for information on volunteering at FPCL to hand out King Soopers gift cards to those in need.
- Contact Pastor Carol and/or your Deacon and ask how you can help them in their ministry to our congregation and community.

Talent

- Prepare and deliver a meal to someone (whether they are in need or just as a nice surprise).
- Share inspirational messages with each other (thanks to Dee for our closing message below).
- Offer a musical devotional for our weekly online worship.
- Teach others how to communicate and connect remotely (Facetime/video chat, e-mail, etc).

Treasure

- Please continue to keep up pledging and financial gifts to support the ministry, mission and staff of FPCL. We encourage you to use online giving through [FPCL.org/give](https://www.fpcl.org/give). You can also mail in contributions or drop them off in the church office.
- Consider sharing supplies you may have in abundance with others in need (food, sanitizer, toiletries, and yes... toilet paper).

- Support our community (small businesses, neighbors, family, friends) by giving them business, financial support, etc. For example, many restaurants are still open for take-out and delivery.

Finally, in a time of worry and anxiety, when we may feel stuck in our homes, many of us not working or studying as we need to be, Stewardship hopes the following words might bring some comfort to you:

“And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.”

~Kitty O'Meara~ , And the People Stayed Home

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Financial update

	February 2020		Year to Date 2020	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$44,757.40	\$37,731.62	\$ 90,626.52	\$ 80,611.45
Expenses	\$35,479.36	\$39,811.27	\$ 71,697.50	\$ 75,489.40
Surplus/Deficit	\$9,278.04	(\$2,079.65)	\$ 18,929.02	\$ 5,122.05

February numbers are still very healthy. I'm hoping you are. We are going into this time of self-isolation with a surplus that will help the church ride out the first part of the storm. Please continue to support the church by mailing in your monthly pledge. You will also find online giving options on the church website. Thank you for your continued support.

Sharing Our Faith

Reflections in Faith

By Dee Getzinger

How often do we actually take the time to pause and reflect on the past to see when God was “talking to us?” When God was making sure His plans for us were happening? I began to do that after my husband died. I went to see my daughter in California, and she took me to a park with a lake where people from all faiths went to pray. It was amazing. I saw a bench next to a sign that said, “Be still and know that I am God.” PSALM 46:10. As I sat there and prayed, I knew God wanted me to read that, because He knew I just needed to be still, be quiet and slow down so I could hear that voice of God and what He had in store for me.

The day my late husband died, I prayed for God to give me a purpose and a “plan for me - a plan to give me hope and a future” as it says in Jeremiah 29:11. And as I sat praying, I thought about David and me doing the class on “The Purpose Driven Life” right before his cancer had returned, which showed us how “God has a plan and a purpose” and has “every moment laid out for our life.” And it was at that moment, I knew that God did “have a plan for me,” and I just needed to be patient for Him to show me in His time. It was also comforting that God was already “taking care of me” two years earlier when David and I heard about that study and decided to do it. Finally, ten months after losing David, God used my dear friends, Lynda and Jim, to contact me and say they wanted to take me to church. I did not even ask what church, but when we drove up to First Pres, I cried — and I knew that church was part of God's plan for me. David and I used to drive by there, and he would say, “We need to go there sometime;” so I knew for sure God had David bless First Pres for me, and that this church was His plan for my future. Therefore it was clear that decades before David died, “God was looking out for me and making plans for me and for my future.” The moment I entered the sanctuary, I knew I was where I belonged; and that has never changed. Looking back, I have been comforted in the fact that David and I knew Lynda and Jim in the early 60's in Texas and that even all those years ago, God was making plans for me! To this day, I am in awe about that and wonder how we cannot know and trust that He has plans for us!

All of this has caused me to take time to reflect on my life — my early life; and I have now seen that with each hurt, each hurdle, that God was making plans for me. What a gift that is! What a comfort that is to know He loves me that much. Now I spend a lot of time rewinding events in my life, and when I do, I feel even more loved and protected by Him; and the more I reflect, the more I see Him “being there” for me and showing me what He wants me to do. I saw it a lot when I worked with the Venture Crew kids. Those youth needed love, yet the love and care I gave them was nothing compared to what they gave to me — they were part of God's purpose for me — to help youth in trouble and in turn have them help me; and for that, I shall be forever grateful! As each Wednesday night ended, we would say, “God was here

tonight;” and He was!

One of the most powerful places God led me to was to David Campos and his three children. The moment I heard their story and heard his name — the same name as my husband had, I knew God opened my ears to hear his story. What a journey that has been — seeing those precious children finally be safe and nurtured. They expect nothing, yet appreciate everything like nothing I have ever witnessed in children. And the miracle of it all, is that God tapped me on the shoulder to be there for them and share their story with others. And one day, Cody called me to tell me an anonymous donor from First Pres had an envelope for David and his family. When I met David in the parking lot at First Pres one night, and gave him the envelope, he cried when he opened it. There was a lot of money inside — for things the kids really needed. He said that no one had ever done anything like that for him. When he finally got out of the car, I cried and thanked God for the gift of His “being there” in that parking lot that night and blessing me with the opportunity to “be the messenger” for the generous member at our church, to this awesome young father.

What if I had not “listened” when God was tapping me on the shoulder? I would have missed some of the best parts of my life! I could share story after story about my “God things,” but I am so thankful that God has shown His love for me by guiding me to take time to listen and reflect! And today, I still get excited just wondering what plans He has yet ahead for me! My hope is that you will also take time to reflect and see all of the times He has “been there” for you, planning your days ahead when you were unaware and would need Him the most!

As I finish this, I smile — as Elinor said April would be a good month for me to write my story. Another God thing! April 22 is my late husband’s birthday.

Share Your Story!

If you are interested in contributing your faith story, please let us know. Sharing your story maybe just what someone needs. Encouraging each other in our walk with God is so essential to bringing us all together. Contact Elinor Packard or Cody Sandahl with questions or to request help . 303-798.1389 or fpcl@fpcl.org or cody@fpcl.org

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Renovation Study Underway

A new church renovation study group has been formed as a subcommittee of Properties. The last major renovation study was completed nearly 15 years ago. The result of that study resulted in a 2009 overall renovation plan which identified 7 major projects which were to be completed as funds became available. Several projects were completed from this list including the parking lot expansion, Chandler Hall and office area remodel, kitchen area refurbishment and the Windermere entry and lower classroom areas work. Due to heavy usage, even some of these areas are needing attention again.

The plan for the current renovation study is to revisit all areas of the church. We will seek input from all user groups, church committees and individual members of the church. We hope to combine any newly identified renovation needs with the remaining projects identified in the previous 2009 renovation plan. Working with Session, we hope to reprioritize the needed work and determine associated costs. Our timetable is to have the renovation study completed this fall with some specific project(s) identified early next year.

You will be hearing more about our work as we progress. We look forward to visiting with all of you in the coming weeks. Dave White, Chairman.



COVID 19 Updates:

PASTOR'S BREAKFAST: Update on April 19th Pastor's Breakfast: Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus and in an effort to prevent its spread, we have decided to cancel the April 19th Pastor's Breakfast.

HELPFUL INFO OF WHAT RESTAURANTS DELIVERY FOOD AND ARE OPEN STILL IN LITTLETON. <https://littleton.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=36276910c34e4c3eb2964b17a81b6e07>

CDC'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR COVID-19 UPDATES:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

COLORADO'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR COVID-19 UPDATES:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/>



ALL ABOARD!

Climb aboard the ROCKY RAILWAY FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020!

We will need **LOTS** of energetic and loving volunteers to help out with this faith-filled Rocky Mountain adventure!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

June 1st - 4th, 9:00am-Noon

Please contact Kate Ballard at children@fpcl.org with any questions!



Many, many thanks to my friends at First Pres. that took time to send me birthday cards for my recent 90th celebration. Your cards and the good wishes that they contained made the day a joyous occasion ! Not sure how I managed to reach 90 years, but your blessings along the way certainly helped !
God bless you. LOVE, MARY AKE

A Journey Through Lent

To Easter



Easter Blessings!

In Service to Our Country

Prayer List

- Jon Heggie
- Gloria Pool
- Jim Biner
- Joyce Lei
- Eleanor Spence
- Joyce Fuller
- Wilmajean Coate
- Kent Griffith
- Jean Wilbur
- Joy Carreño
- Rollie Fuller
- Lonna Williams
- William Hults
- Jay Radcliff
- Doug Lemieux
- Joanie Coffey

- Capt. Ricky Casburn
- Capt. Connor Venrick, Hawaii
- Brett Wilson, at sea
- Sgt. Benjamin Lund, Afghanistan
- Bobby Johannsen
- LCDR. Per Rychecky, USS Harry S. Truman
- Connor McDaniel, Army
- Donnie Donahue, PFC, Marines, Prague
- Nathaniel Syron, Aide to the Army Chaplain
- Pvt. Isaiah Boehm, Ft. Polk, LA
- Jeremy Colwell, Afghanistan

Missions

- John Altemus
- Jory Bayne, Metro Denver
- Presbytery of Zimbabwe
- Cross Cultural Community
- South Asia Mission
- Jeffco Action Center
- Highline Place
- Love, INC

Staff Directory

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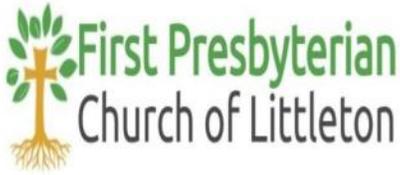
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00pm to 4:00 p.m. DURING THE CORONA VIRUS SITUATION, THE OFFICE WILL ONLY BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 2PM.

Office is closed on Saturdays.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- ◆ Sunday Worship: online at fpcl.org
- ◆ Children's Sunday School check out Kate's recorded message during online worship.
- ◆ **FIRST WORD NEWSLETTER: The DEADLINE for the May Newsletter is Friday, April 17**

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