

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Learning for Life

**Adult Faith Formation**

**Winter/ Spring 2010**



## **More than Just Classes**

- Supporting Adult Faith Formation
- Emphasizing Small Groups
- Developing a Learning Community

## A LEARNING COMMUNITY

The mission of the Adult Faith Formation ministry at FUMC is to support your spiritual growth and that of the community at large by providing education, resources and community that empower you to grow in faith, deepen in theological reflection and become agents of transformation in our world.

As adults we grow spiritually and theologically through discussion with others and through reflection on our own experience. We learn from each other, whatever our age and stage in life. We realize that others have the same questions and doubts. As members of the Body of Christ, we are instrumental in each other's growth.

“When two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”  
(Matthew 18:20)

Here at Fort Collins First United Methodist Church, you will find multiple opportunities for gathering and engaging with others: classes, support groups, and groups that bring together people with similar interests such as theatre, book discussion, and Bible study. There's a place for everyone to make connections with others.

We invite you to get involved in our adult learning community of faith -- take a class, join a study group, view a film, or, start a new group if you don't find one that matches your interests. We're each on a faith journey and while we aren't traveling the same path, we're traveling together. Please join us!

*Martha Conant*

Martha Conant, Adult Education Director



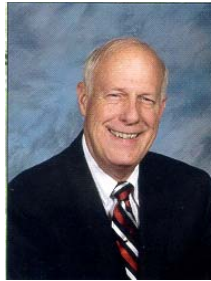
## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

We know there are many reasons why Christians participate in continuing education classes and why churches, like ours, support educational programming. Some of the most important work we do involves the theological discussion we have with each other. We learn about our own beliefs as we discover how other people see things. The diversity of thought is stimulating and instructive.

In recent years we have come to think of our approach to adult studies as a part of a spiritual journey of faith and we realize the journey is more important than the destination. We have classes that are heavily intellectual, but some are intensely practical. Our classes are interactive and many encourage creative expression through writing or drama or community building.

In this listing of adult classes you will notice a vast variety of offerings. Some of the leaders are imported from distant places. Some of our leaders are members of the current church staff. Many are members of the church.



Our classes are open to all who would like to participate. You are invited to study, to explore, to delve deeply into the new areas of your faith.

This church has a long history of adult study. Join with us this fall. If you have been in classes in the past, please return. If you have never taken a class here at the church, please consider attending one.

We are proud of our program for adults and we are confident you will be enriched by your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Schuster". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles Schuster, Senior Pastor First United Methodist Church

**First United Methodist Church**

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Registration

Learning for Life encourages prior registration and payment of applicable fees, if any. To assist with this process, a registration form is inserted in this catalog. Additional registration forms are available in the Church office.

To register for a class, please complete a registration form and return it to Fort Collins First United Methodist Church with your check, if applicable. You may also register for some classes during special enrollment sessions or at the first meeting of each class.

In general, registration is accepted on a first come, first served basis. **Please make every effort to register early. Signing up in advance ensures that the classes can be offered at the scheduled time.**

Class size is limited in two ways. Instructors may choose to limit enrollment if they feel the value of the course will be enhanced. In addition, available room size may also require a limit to be placed on class size.

If you have questions about registration, please call Martha Conant, Adult Education Director, at 227-5659.

### Books

Many of the books will be available at reduced cost, either prior to the class or at the first class meeting. Payment is expected when the books are received.

### Childcare

Childcare is provided at Fort Collins First United Methodist Church for all worship services. For childcare during classes

at other times, we request that you pre-register for the class, using the form inserted in this catalog. Please be sure to include your children's ages so that appropriate childcare can be arranged. With advance registration, the Kid's Club Program is available for children in kindergarten through Grade 5. **Please note: childcare will only be available by advance request at times other than Sunday morning.**

### **Transportation**

Transportation to evening classes will be available **by advance request only** using the form inserted in this catalog.

### **Fees and Donations**

The Learning for Life program is supported by the membership of First United Methodist Church. In addition we have received a generous donation from the Good is Not Good Enough program. Your voluntary contributions are also appreciated. It's through the generous gifts from individuals that this program can expand its offerings and reach beyond the walls of Fort Collins First United Methodist Church.

Some classes have a small charge for books and materials. These fees are listed under individual course descriptions. Please contact Rev. David Dalke (482-2436) if you need financial assistance.

### **Ticket Information**

For Learning for Life events requiring tickets, prices are indicated in the description of each event. For events sponsored by FUMC, tickets may be purchased at the Adult Faith Formation table on Sunday mornings or at the Church office.

## **Course Cancellations**

Learning for Life reserves the right to cancel any class. In this event, notice will be given and the applicable fees refunded if an alternative class is not chosen.

## **Contact Information**

Adult Faith Formation Team

Martha Conant, Adult Education Director  
Roberta Binder   Rev. Charles Schuster  
Alyce Kaehler   Rev. Rebecca McFee  
Ross Loomis   Rev. Joel Kershaw  
Kay Lybecker   Rev. David Dalke  
Marilyn Meyers   Rev. Ray Miller  
Diane Peterson  
Diane Smith  
Rafael Ubico

Adult Faith Formation Catalog: Lynne Ellison, designer

Fort Collins First United Methodist Church  
1005 Stover Street  
Fort Collins CO 80524  
970-482-2436

email:

Martha Conant: [Martha@LifeWiseCoach.com](mailto:Martha@LifeWiseCoach.com)

For up-to-date information about the staff, worship opportunities, classes and events, visit FCFUMC on the web at

[www.fcfumc.net](http://www.fcfumc.net)

## BEGINNINGS

Start here to learn more about this congregation and how or where you might connect with others. Whether you're new to Fort Collins, to this church, or to United Methodism, these gatherings are designed as a foundation for your faith journey.

“We all have a journey to make into that true self, the person God wants us to be, wills us to become...”  
- Esther de Waal

### **Fort Collins First United Methodist Church** **Orientation**

Jo Ann Belk, Membership Coordinator; Rev. Charles Schuster, Senior Pastor

Orientation is open to anyone desiring to know more about this congregation. You will:

- Enjoy good food and warm fellowship.
- Meet others who are exploring all that First United Methodist Church has to offer.
- Learn what's unique about First United Methodist Church.
- Begin to get connected to other people through fellowship, study groups and/or service opportunities.
- Hear the expectations and responsibilities of membership.

Register for the Orientation Session of your choice by contacting Jo Ann Belk or the church office, 970-482-2436. Child care available by reservation 1 week in advance.

Sunday, January 3 12 noon – 1:00 pm  
Sunday, February 7 12 noon – 1:00 pm  
Sunday, March 7 12 noon – 1:00 pm  
Sunday, May 2 12 noon – 1:00 pm

### **Crash Course in Methodism**

Sundays, January 3, March 7 and May 2  
10:45 – 11:45 am  
FUMC clergy

This class, offered bimonthly, presents an overview of



Methodism for anyone hoping to learn more about what makes our denomination different from the thousands of others in the world. What makes us unique? Our way of doing things and our beliefs stem from an interesting history and an even more interesting man, John Wesley. We will explore our roots and kick start our understanding of just what it means to be Methodist in the 21st century.

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”  
– John Wesley

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, once said, “I am a man of one book.” He was referring to the Bible. The Bible is the basis of the faith we profess and by which we live. Any congregation of God’s people will be infused with greater power of the Holy Spirit by knowing the story of how God has worked and is now working in human history.

### **Invitation to Genesis** - Short-term Bible Study

Mondays, 10 weeks starting Spring 2010

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Rev. Ray Miller, Pastor

This study will take us into the rich tapestry of Genesis as we explore the interaction between God and very human people. Pride, family relationships, conflict and journey all showcase the well-known stories of Creation, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Rebekah and Joseph.

We’ll discover the meaning and mystery in the stories through discussion of readings and video segments we’ll watch as a group at each class session.

If you want an in-depth study of Genesis and Israel's story, this is the class for you. Watch the Carillon & bulletin for dates. Fee: \$8 for Participant’s Manual

### **Uppity Women: Ruth, The Beloved Convert Who Exemplifies Devotion**

Sundays, February 21 and 28

10:45 – 11:45 am

Alyce Kaehler and Inara Rudmanis, leaders

Who was Ruth and why is she called an uppity woman – a woman who assumes equality with others? The Book of

Ruth is one of only two books in the Judeo/Christian Bible named for a woman, so it's especially fitting to study this book during Women's History month. Everyone - men and women – are invited to learn more about this valiant woman who answered God's call to step out of the female sphere prescribed by culture and changed the world forever.

The class is the first in a four part series that examines the gifts, valor and legacies of Ruth, Esther, Song, and Judith.

### **Men's Breakfast Bible Study**

Fridays, ongoing at The Egg and I, 2809 S. College Ave.

6:30 - 8:00 am

Rev. Charles Schuster, Senior Pastor

Fee: \$8 for menu items, \$2.50 for coffee and muffin

Men of all ages are invited to join Charles for a lively discussion about Scripture and its application in their lives.

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

- C. S. Lewis

## BOOK AND SPECIAL STUDIES

Book groups are flourishing and sales of books about religion and spirituality are at an all-time high. Our various book studies offer opportunities to share books we are reading that are especially insightful and/or challenging for us as persons of faith.

### **Women of Worth (WOW)**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, September 9 – May 26

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Vonna Kent, 223-1693 and Pat Jungmeyer, 221-3990

WOW reads a variety of authors focusing predominately on faith issues as an avenue to learning more about our world, our society and our selves. WOW has lively, heartfelt discussions about topics that are often controversial, raising more questions than answers. New members are welcome anytime – call Vonna or Pat for more information.

### **Readings in Christian Literature – Part 2**

Thursdays, January 15, 22, 29

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Eddy Hopkins, librarian, Northern Colorado Faith Library,  
416-6432



In part 2 of Readings in Christian Literature we will test our working definition of Christian literature -- "this is that," or, history is meaningful in light of the story of God's people -- by examining modern and contemporary prose and fiction (primarily fiction). We will read books that seem obviously Christian and ask whether they really are, and we will read books not con-

sidered Christian and ask why. All the while we are reading in the light (or shadow) of the proleptic New Testament.

We will most likely discuss the following books: selections from *Inferno* (Dante), *Paradise Lost* (J. Milton), and possibly *Pilgrim's Progress* (J. Bunyan). We will also read *Gilead* (M. Robinson), *The Road* (C. McCarthy), *The Collected Stories* esp. "Revelation" (F. O'Connor), and *The Shack* (W. Young). I would also like to include Dostoevsky, Tolstoy and Sigrid Undet's *Kristin Lavransdatter*, but that may not be possible.

Our goal will be to learn how to swim in the vast waters of Christian literature. Participants receive a bibliography entitled "An Incomplete but Nevertheless Pretty Decent List of Great Christian Literature."

"Grace has a grand laughter in it."  
- Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead*

### **Wednesday Theological Study**

Wednesdays, ongoing

Noon – 1:00 pm

Rev. Charles Schuster, Senior Pastor

We will continue with the study of Robert Wright's book *The Evolution of God*. We will trace the development of religion from primitive society, to tribal society, to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will look at the ways we are different and the ways we are the same. The book is available for \$17 and, although the class is already under progress, new participants are invited to join.

"Education is what survives when what has  
been learned has been forgotten."  
- B.F. Skinner

**Practicing Christian Community in the World:**  
**A study based on Jean Vanier's *From Brokenness to Community***

Wednesdays, April 7 – 28

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Rafael Ubico, leader

Our church provides a wonderful opportunity for us to pray, worship, celebrate the sacraments, study and work together within a community of faith. Last fall's study of Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* examined the community formed in an underground German seminary during World War II through these shared practices. By participating in these same shared experiences, we too can come to develop a strong sense of communal life within the church.

Is it then possible to carry our vision of Christian community from the church into the world we live in outside the church? If so, how can we put our sense of communal life into practice beyond the church? These questions will be addressed by studying pertinent extracts on practicing Christian community from books by Wendell Berry, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Parker Palmer, M. Scott Peck, Jean Vanier and others. Vanier's little classic *From Brokenness to Community* will serve as the primer for our study. It contains the two lectures given by Vanier at Harvard Divinity in 1988 on the lessons learned in his L'Arche communities for mentally disabled adults. The basic principles set forth in that book will guide our study of the other relevant writings.

**CLASS OUTLINE:**

Week 1: The Current State of Community Life in Society

Week 2: Life in Christian Communities

Week 3: Living in the World with a Sense of Christian Community

Week 4: Our Larger Community: The Unity of All Creation

Text: *From Brokenness to Community* by Jean Vanier (available for \$6)

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Go to: <http://www.nocofaithlibrary.org/> and click on: "Northern Colorado Faith Library Blog."

"Life is a succession of crises and moments when we have to rediscover who we are and what we really want."

- Jean Vanier

## PARENTING

### Confirmation 2.0 – for Parents

First Sunday of the month

6:30 – 7:30 pm, concurrent with UMYF

FUMC clergy

Many of us have been through confirmation and made commitments to the church but for most that experience was in the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grades. **This program is open to all FUMC members, whether you have children in confirmation classes or not. It provides an opportunity for you to refresh your knowledge of the church.** Join together with others to explore and deepen your faith.

## RELIGION AND THE ARTS

Our experience of faith is enriched when we engage in the world around us through our intellect, our emotions, and our spirit. The opportunities in this section will help us experience God through music, theatre and visual arts.

“Truth is eternal. Knowledge is changeable. It is disastrous to confuse them.”

- Madeleine L’Engle

### **Ukrainian Easter Egg Class for Adults**

Saturday, March 6

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Lynne Ellison, artist and FUMC staff member

Once again we’re offering a Ukrainian Egg Design class, so if you’ve been wanting some of these beautiful eggs, this is your chance! The class will begin with a short video on “How to Do Ukrainian Easter Eggs” and then followed by a brief instruction on the use of the dyes. We will have the dyes, drying rack, varnish, paper towels, design instructions, wax paper and matches. You will need to bring (4) room temperature eggs\*, soft cloth (old t-shirt), used tapered candles (not more than 4” high) in a flat candleholder, pencil and your lunch. Coffee/tea provided.

**Deadline to register for this class is February 17, 2010.** For those who have not taken this class you will need kistka (writing tools) and bee’s wax. We will order these supplies for you, cost to be determined at the time of purchase. In the past the cost was approximately \$18 per person.

\*Purchase eggs from a local farm or at the grocery store, avoiding eggs with cracks, bumps or soft spots. Eggs with a smooth, hard shell produce the best result.

“The artist does not see life as a problem to be solved but as a medium for creation.”  
- Dorothy L. Sayers

### **A German Requiem**

Friday, April 2

7:00 pm performance; pre-performance lecture by Dr.

James Kim at 6:00 pm

FUMC Sanctuary Choir, CSU Chamber Choir conducted by Dr. James Kim, FUMC Music Director

*A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms will be presented in our Good Friday service (sung in English). More than 70 singers from the FUMC Sanctuary Choir and the CSU Chamber Choir, together with a 45-piece orchestra, will present this concert.

*A German Requiem* was originally written in German, but will be sung in English. Rather than beginning with prayers for the dead, as in the traditional Roman Catholic Requiem Mass, *A German Requiem* emphasizes comforting the living. It is more about hope and triumph than death.

### **Drawing Closer to God: A Creativity and Journaling/Sketching Workshop**

Saturday, May 8

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Susie Mottashed, artist, author and workshop leader, 303-499-0984

Nature often opens us to God’s presence in the world. In this workshop, you’ll have an opportunity to discover or re-discover your Christian creativity and therefore relate to God in a new way. The Spiritual sketchbook journal you’ll create may be kept private or you may want to pass it on to children or grandchildren.

No prior sketching experience is necessary – all are wel-

comed. You'll improve your observation skills while nurturing your creativity.

Attendance is limited to 15 people, so be sure to **pre-register for this workshop by May 2nd.**

Susie Mottashed is the author and illustrator of the award winning book, *"Who Lives In Your Backyard? Creating a Journal that Opens Your Eyes and Heart to Nature's Nearby Wonders"*. The book is not required for the workshop, but will be available for purchase for those interested. She has taught sketching and nature journaling classes in various locations along the Front Range since 1997.

Fee: \$20

"As I enjoy my time outdoors with my journal and pen in hand, it's with love and quietness that I give thanks."  
- Susie Mottashed

### **Spirituality and Film**

Second Tuesday of each month in the Cinema Center  
Viewing of the film at 5:00 pm; discussion at 7:00 pm  
Rev. Ray Miller, pastor, and Martha Conant

The medium of film engages us in a unique way. According to Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, authors of *Spiritual Literacy*, watching films becomes a spiritual experience when we watch for evidence of practices such as compassion, enthusiasm, imagination and hope. We'll use the full list of 37 practices developed by the Brussats to get our discussions underway. Join us each month for a fun and enlightening evening!

“The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious - the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science.”  
“Albert Einstein”

### **Theatre and Theology**

*“The Moving of Lilla Barton”*

Friday, February 19, 2010

Bas Bleu Theatre

Curtain time 7:30 pm

If you enjoy theatre, join us at Bas Bleu Theatre Company for a performance of *The Moving of Lilla Barton*. When Lilla Barton, wife of the pastor of All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Lowndes, Alabama, is widowed, she refuses to leave the rectory, her home of twenty-three years. The new pastor is about to assume his duties, but as long as Lilla remains steadfast, there is no place for him and his family to live. When the vestry committee cannot persuade Lilla to leave, formal eviction proceedings are initiated. Set against a background of conflict between the “Old” and “New” South, the play explores the challenges of letting go of a painful past in order to embrace the future.

**Reserve your tickets at the Adult Faith Formation table in Fellowship Hall starting January 30.**

### **“Is He Dead”**

Sunday, April 25

Lincoln Center Mini-Theatre

Curtain time 2:00 pm

In this newly discovered Mark Twain comedy and recent Broadway hit, the original master of American humor dishes

out a sly critique of the art world with acerbic wit and social commentary well ahead of his time. Cleverly adapted for modern audiences by David Ives and staged by OpenStage Theatre & Company, *Is He Dead?* is a fast-paced farce about a struggling artist who stages his own death to drive up the price of his paintings. As the riotous scheme unfolds, Twain poses daring questions about fame, greed and the value of art, and pokes his signature, mischievous fun at everyone involved.

**Reserve your tickets at the Adult Faith Formation table in Fellowship Hall starting April 11.**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Looking At Today Through The Eyes Of Tomorrow

Saturday, January 9

3 hour workshop 9:00 am - noon

Stacy Plemmons, 229-1395

“It isn’t what we don’t know that gives us trouble. It’s what we know for sure, that just ain’t so.”

- Will Rogers



What if we could see today from a point ten, five or even three years out into the future? What do we worry about today, that from future view will be seen as much less, or perhaps of no importance at all... then again it might hold even greater meaning, understanding and more highly focused attention? How does one choose what to let go of, or what to hold on to?

This workshop provides no crystal balls or magic time machines, but it will explore how a long-term view might help us see *the reality of today* from a different vantage point. In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to examine today’s issues, with the goals of considering what *really matters* to them and how they might put today into a more productive framework....

FUMC member Stacy Plemmons is a faculty member at Daniels College of Business, teaching MBA and corporate executive-level seminars world-wide in Leadership Intelligence, Execution Competence, Teamwork, Innovation and Sustainable Enterprises. He joined the Daniels faculty in 2005, after a thirty-two year business career, including 24

years with Hewlett-Packard. His last 6 years were as Country and Regional General Manager with HP in New Delhi, India, and Singapore. He then *retired* to become CEO for Village Earth/International Institute for Sustainable Development, and in June 2002 was appointed US Peace Corps, Country Director for Samoa.

“We ask for long life, but ‘tis deep life, or noble moments that signify. Let the measure of time be spiritual, not mechanical.”  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

### **Global Exposure 2010 – Mission Study**

Wednesdays, January 13 – February 10

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Grace Harris, Coordinator and FUMC member

Join us for a tour of some of the areas of the world where United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM) are active.

January 13: Members of FUMC who studied *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan* at the Conference School of Missions in Highlands Ranch in July will share their learnings about the geography, history and culture of Sudan, the largest country on the African continent

January 20: We’ll hear how businessman Steve Reilly is developing a water project to make more livable an area in the Nuba Mountains of northern Sudan. He teamed up with two of the “Lost Boys of Sudan” now living in Denver, and will bring us the amazing story of their project.

January 27: Rev. Jim Gulley, an ordained UM pastor and agricultural development specialist with 15 years experi-

ence in Nigeria, followed by recent rural community development with UMCOR in Cambodia and Haiti, will discuss what UMCOR is doing in Sudan.

February 3: In 2008 our own Rich Fisher worked as a VIM to transform a classroom into a library in Meru, at the base of Mount Kenya. He will report on how that experience inspires him to lead a team to Kenya in 2010.

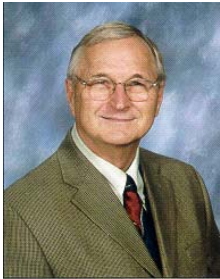
February 3: LAMMP's VIM teams this year to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Guatemala will put on a dinner for the congregation where they will show-and-tell about their trips.

### **Men's Winter Retreat**

Friday evening, January 22 – Saturday afternoon, January 23

All men are welcome to participate in the Men's Winter Retreat at Saint Walburga Abbey. We will be exploring the challenge of "Behaving our Beliefs" with Bishop Bruce Blake as facilitator. Men who can only attend on Saturday are welcome. The Abbey is about 45 min north of Fort Collins on US 287. Meet at the church at 4pm on Friday to carpool or drive yourself. Contact Rich Fisher (970-481-6468) or Rev. David Dalke (970-482-2436) if you need more information.

Fee: \$60 for lodging and meals



### **Positive Communication Skills For Couples**

Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17 and 24

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Rev. David Dalke, leader

"We've just lost the ability to communicate with one another." This is a common

phrase uttered by couples, regardless of how long they have been in a relationship. It is time for a tune-up. We need to revisit the basics - how to speak with clarity, how to listen sensitively, how to be open and make room for one another's feelings and thoughts (especially when they are different from our own) and how to take our stand assertively, not aggressively.

Our sessions will be packed with stimulating and practical ideas, one-on-one experiences as well as group discussions and handouts to support our communication concepts.

David has been teaching Positive Communication Skills for 39 years with couples, families and organizations. His emphasis is on being aware of and practicing behaviors that support meaningful relationships. "To treat one another as sacred and unique we must communicate with every fiber of our bodies."

### **The Second Annual Valentine's Day Feast**

Sunday, February 14

6:30 pm

We had so much fun last Valentine's Day that we have decided to do it again! Join us on for a sumptuous meal, fellowship, and after dinner remarks on love from Rev. Rebecca McFee. Come by yourself and meet new people or

bring a friend or loved one. Tickets are \$10/person. Child care will be available upon request. Please sign up early since seating is limited to 50 people.

“Without love, what are we worth? Eighty-nine cents! Eighty-nine cents worth of chemicals walking around lonely.”  
- M\*A\*S\*H, Hawkeye

### **Understanding the Role of Central Asia in Today's World**

Sundays, February 21 — March 7

1:00 — 2:30 pm

Dr. William Griswold

Central Asia is the focus of major conflicts in today's world. In this series of classes, Dr. Griswold will discuss the political history of the region, including Afghanistan, Turkey, Russia, China and the countries of the former Soviet Union. We'll examine the major problems President Obama will face as he continues his involvement in the region. We'll look at the roles of oil and of Islam, both of which contribute significantly to the problems in this part of the world.

Dr. Griswold is a Colorado State University History Professor Emeritus and is well known for his knowledge of the Middle East. His last series of classes at First United Methodist Church in January 2008 sparked our interest in interfaith dialogue, which contributed in part to the appearance of The Faith Club authors in November 2009 and to the ongoing interfaith dialogue between our youth and their Jewish counterparts.

### **Ethics 101**

Tuesday, April 13

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Rev. David Dalke, leader

There's lots of talk these days about ethics – in business, in churches, in people's personal lives. What is ethics anyway? What are the steps in making ethical decisions? In this class we'll reflect on our personal ethics, examine some challenging questions regarding professional ethics, and discuss a variety of case studies. After attending this class, you'll reflect on and perhaps modify your own code of ethics, both personal and professional.

### **Earth Day Celebration**

Sunday, April 18

Earth Day is observed each year on April 22, which falls on a Thursday on 2010. We at FUMC, as a part of God's creation, will remember and celebrate our connectedness to life, to all of God's creation. Our second annual Earth Day will be observed April 18 during the worship services. Information about the challenges and opportunities we face living on planet earth will be available in the Fellowship Hall.





**Stewardship in the Age of GRIN Technologies (Genetics, Robotics, Information Technology, Nanotechnology)**

Monday, April 19

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Dr. Daniel McFee, professor and ethicist

Join us as Dr. Daniel McFee leads us in a seminar on the implications of GRIN Technologies. In the first hour Dr. McFee will offer a brief survey of the landscape of GRIN technologies and how these technologies are challenging humans to rethink traditional notions of "human nature." In the second hour Dr. McFee will guide conversations on both case studies and notions of stewardship as these pertain to GRIN technologies.

Dr. Daniel McFee is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Co-Director of the Evelyn Lincoln Institute for Ethics and Society at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania. He has published and lectured widely in the areas of environmental ethics and religious ethics.

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Spiritual formation is a lifelong journey of living in relationship with God through spiritual disciplines and life practices. According to *Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey*, “Spiritual formation is the process of being shaped according to the image of Christ by the gracious working of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the world.” These classes and programs offer opportunities for you to deepen your relationship with God and to be shaped and transformed through that process.

“The spiritual life does not begin in an arrogant attempt at some peculiar kind of other-worldliness, a rejection of ordinary experience. It begins in the humble recognition that human things can be very holy, full of God.”  
- Evelyn Underhill

### **Short-term Classes**

#### **Mysticism: Experiencing God’s Presence in Your Everyday World**

Sundays, January 24 – February 14

10:45 – 11:45 am

Rev. Ray Miller and Martha Conant, leaders

The mystical experience is always there, inviting us on a journey of ultimate discovery.  
- Wayne Teasdale

What is mysticism? Are you a modern day mystic? Following a brief overview of the development of Christian mysticism, we’ll be introduced to a number of Christian mystics, male and female, across the centuries and the continents. Also included in the discussion will be an offering of practices and suggestions that will help us see how mysticism

can be a part of our spiritual experience today.

### **An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality and Saints**

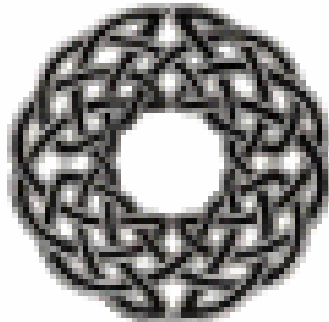
Sundays, March 7-28

10:45 – 11:45 am

Rafael Ubico, Inara Rudmanis, Alyce Kaehler, Martha Conant, FUMC Adult Education committee members

The resurgence of interest in Celtic spirituality in recent years has created a disparity of views as to its meaning. For some, it refers to the beliefs of the ancient Celtic Church in Ireland and Scotland. For others, it takes on a New Age perspective that seeks simplicity and freedom from religious institutions. Understood rightly, Celtic spirituality is neither a subject of historical interest nor a modern phenomenon, but the continuing tradition of a spirituality based on the goodness of creation and on a humanity made in the image of God.

This four-week class will begin with an overview of Celtic history and spirituality from the fourth century to modern times. The life and enduring teachings of the three Celtic patron saints of Ireland – St. Patrick, St. Brigid and St. Columba – will then be explored in successive weeks.



### **Lectio Divina**

Tuesdays, April 20 – March 11

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Louann Reid, FUMC member and CSU faculty member

*Lectio divina* is Latin for "divine reading" and is an approach combining prayer with the reading of scripture. The goal of this contemplative practice is greater communion with and knowledge of God. Dating back to about 220 A.D., *lectio divina* comes from the monastic tradition; today a wide variety of Christians are exploring its possibilities and finding it a powerful tool for contemplation in their otherwise hectic lives.

M. Basil Pennington's book *Lectio Divina* will be available for purchase (\$12) for those who are interested in a deeper understanding of this practice. Everyone should bring a bible.

"Saints are simply men and women who have fulfilled their natural obligation which is to approach God."

– Evelyn Waugh

### **Ongoing Groups**

#### **Centering Prayer Group**

Wednesdays, ongoing, Chapel

12:00 – 12:30 pm

Charlene Loomis, 495-1122

Centering Prayer is a method of praying in interior silence, helping us to respond to the Spirit of Christ by consenting to God's presence and action within. This on going group

welcomes anyone who wants to experience Centering Prayer in a community setting.

“Faith is opening and surrendering to God. The spiritual journey does not require going anywhere because God is already with us and in us.”  
– Father Thomas Keating

### **Course in Miracles Study Group**

Mondays, ongoing

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Diane Smith, FUMC member and long-time Course in Miracles leader, 493-2572

This ongoing group reads and studies the book *A Course in Miracles*. The goal is to help us to look past the flawed, sinful creature made by the ego so we can experience the whole, complete, and perfect Child of God each of us truly embodies. We do this by releasing the demands of the ego and learning to follow the Will of God. Forgiveness is a major tool in this effort. Newcomers are always welcome to the group.

### ***Adult Sunday Morning Classes***

#### **Life Applications Bible Class**

Sundays, ongoing, Conference Room

10:45 – 11:45 am

Contacts: Forrest Walters, 484-7413, and Susan King, 266-1609

In this class, we study bible teachings for their relevance to daily living. Classes are usually self-taught using the flow of church and bible literature available on-line, in our library, and other sources. Class participants are from all walks of life and a broad array of social groups.

### **Open Hearts Class**

Sundays, ongoing, Village Commons

10:45-11:45 am

Marjie Woodring, Coordinator, 226-8621

Open Hearts is an adult class with studies of substance and theological grounding. The studies have a defined starting and ending point. The class is self-taught with study leaders from either inside or outside the class. Videos presentations are often explored and discussed. Guest presenters are involved from time to time. Past topics/materials include *Serious Answers to Hard Questions* (Video Series), *United Methodist Church Book of Discipline*, a study of prayer, a series on Islam, and the book *Open Secrets* by Richard Lischer. Projects, activities and social events are an integral part of the class. We invite adults of all ages to participate and become long-term members of the class.

“Sometimes people get the mistaken notion that spirituality is a separate department of life, the penthouse of existence. But rightly understood, it is a vital awareness that pervades all realms of our being.”

- David Steindl-Rast

### **Samaritan Class**

Sundays, ongoing, Parlor

9:15-10:15 am

Lorraine Shuler, 493-1683, and Elaine and Dick Irwin, 493-6957, Coordinators

Discussion topics range from Bible study, the history of our (Methodist) faith and church, current issues of importance, and applying Christian teachings to everyday life.

The class meets from September through July. Anyone is welcome to join at any time.

The class holds a fellowship potluck monthly.

### **Serendipity Class**

Sundays, ongoing, Conference Room

9:15-10:15 am

Wayne Viney, Coordinator, 482-8269

The Serendipity Class was founded in the early 1960s by Maurice Albertson, Marcile Wood and Jim Boyd. The class embraces the Wesleyan tradition that truths are discerned through experience, reason, scripture, and tradition. Most members accept the idea that revelation is ongoing; there are new truths, and spiritual truths yet to be discovered. The class looks for these spiritual truths in books such as Keith Ward's book *Is Religion Dangerous?*, Bart Ehrman's *Misquoting Jesus*, David Holmes' *Faith of the Founding Fathers*, and Gary Gardner's *Inspiring Progress*. The next topic will be *The Art of Listening*. Future topics will be announced in the church bulletin. The class meets quarterly for potluck dinners and regularly supports outreach projects such as Safe House and Village Earth.

**Upper Room Sunday School Class**

Sundays, ongoing, Room 235 Education Wing

9:15-10:15 am

Linda Hall, Coordinator, 686-7157

This is a small group of couples and singles involved in Bible based study for contemporary application and fellowship. Past studies include *Companions in Christ*, self described as “a powerfully transforming experience in spiritual formation, opening lives to a deeper relationship with God”. They have studied the Scriptures as interpreted by Max Lucado, Phillip Young and Richard Foster, among others and dug deeply into the lives of several people of note such as Martin Luther King, Henri Nouwen, Mahatma Gandhi, and Mother Theresa. A social activity is held at least once each quarter outside of the church. Discussion is essential to this group and everyone is welcome.

## **THEOLOGY & CONTEMPORARY LIFE**

### **Thursday Theological Study**

Thursdays, ongoing, Youth Basement  
4:30 – 5:30 pm  
Rev. Charles Schuster, Senior Pastor

Beginning January 7<sup>th</sup> we will continue to explore how United Methodists think. We will consider our primary and foundational assumptions and will try to develop some direction for the Faith and Order Committee as they work on a national level to frame United Methodist doctrine. The class members will do some writing and reacting to the fundamental marks of what make the United Methodist Church an effective and important denomination.

“America today is full of amateur theologians: people who are searching for a fullness of knowledge about their own faith and that of others, and who find this search to be intellectually thrilling and spiritually nourishing.”  
- Krista Tippett

### **The Next Generation Church**

Tuesdays, March 2 and 9  
7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Rev. Rebecca McFee, Pastor

Much is changing in what our younger church-goers say about faith, religion, and spirituality. Some sociologists have declared that we are now experiencing a shift in religious views as great as the Protestant Reformation some 500

years ago. True? Learn about current research and studies that help us understand these changes and what it means for experiencing God and doing ministry in our own church and community. Join in discussions about your own experiences of creating a New Generation Church.

“Postmodern culture is hungry for the intimacy of psycho spiritual transformations. It wants a “re-enchantment of nature.” It’s aware of its ecstasy deprivation. It wants to know God “by heart.” It wants to light an inner fire, the circulating force of divine energies flowing in and flowing out. The primal scream of postmodern spirituality is for primal experiences of God.”

- Leonard Sweet

## **MINISTRIES**

### ***Women's Ministries***

#### **Committee on Status and Role of Women (COSROW)**

Meets intermittently

Alyce Kaehler, 484-1463

COSROW's purpose is to serve as advocate, catalyst and monitor to empower women and to transform the church so that we as inclusive people of God might be in ministry to a hungry and hurting world. Women are offered a variety of opportunities for spiritual expressions and growth, exchange ideas for development of new ministries involving women of any age, and support existing women's ministries. Please contact Alyce if you are interested in becoming involved.

#### **United Methodist Women**

Monthly meetings, generally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday morning of each month

President: Dea Carroll, 223-6530

Membership Outreach: Lori Ailor, 490-1194 or Bev Winsett, 484-8447

United Methodist Women (UMW) is a creative, supportive fellowship of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ. UMW is one of the largest women's organizations in the world, with over one million members in the US and many more in over 100 countries around the world. For nearly

140 years, we have been women organized for Mission, primarily to women, children and youth. All women are invited to join.

In addition to monthly meetings for our entire membership, we have eight small groups or Circles that meet for close social and spiritual support. Members enjoy special events such as potluck luncheons, mission studies, and an annual Tea and participate in the global ministries of the Church. There are also opportunities to join District and Conference UMW members at wider gatherings throughout the year.

#### UMW Daytime Groups:

- Kezia – meets the fourth Thursday at 9:30 am in homes or at church.
- Lois – meets the fourth Thursday at 9:30 am in the Parlor.
- Mary – meets the fourth Thursday at 9:30 am in the Village Commons or in homes.
- Rebekah – meets the fourth Thursday at 1:30 pm in the Parlor.
- Sarah – meets the first, third and fifth Wednesdays at 9:30 am in the Parlor. Childcare is provided.
- Vashti – meets the fourth Tuesday at 1:30 pm in the Parlor.

#### UMW Evening Groups:

- Abigail – meets the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Parlor. Child care is provided.
- Hannah – meets the third Wednesday at 7 pm in the Conference Room.

### **Men's Ministry**

Contacts: Rich Fisher, 221-4389 and Rev David Dalke, 482-2437

The purpose of our men's ministries is to provide fellowship opportunities that help men experience and understand God's plan in their daily lives.

We sponsor several on-going events including the Breakfast Bible Study and the Annual Men's Retreat usually held in the spring. We also provide support for a variety of other ministries of the church such as Buckhorn camp, Habitat for Humanity, the church's website and the Northern Colorado Faith Library. Fun, meaningful activities are available for men of all ages.

We welcome men who want Christian fellowship through involvement in any of these ministries or possibly a new one.

### ***Seasons of Life Ministries***

#### **Children's Ministry**

Sundays, ongoing

9:30 - 10:25 am

Bev Halperin, Christian Education Director

K through Grade 4 children learn Bible studies through art, cooking, computers, music, movies, drama/puppetry, and science in *The Village*. The second floor kid-pleasing classrooms have created the feeling of a Biblical village, where Bible stories come to life through a six-week rotational experience. Two through four year olds meet in cheerful first floor classrooms. Loving, safe childcare is provided during

worship services, classes and meetings during the week. A Preschool weekday program for three, four and five year olds with active parent participation parallels the public school calendar, and the popular Mom's Day Out program offers school-year drop in child care service to meet the needs of the Mom (or Dad) looking for a few hours to shop, keep an appointment, clean house or just have some *personal time*.

### **Club 56**

Sundays, ongoing

9:30 – 10:25 am; 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Hillary Parson, 980-6636

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend Club 56 on Sunday mornings and evenings. Lessons and activities are specifically designed to engage students in transition from elementary to middle school. For more information, contact Hillary Parson. Hope to see you there!

### **Youth Ministry**

Sundays, ongoing

9:15 – 10:15 am; UMYF meets Sundays at 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Rev. Joel Kershaw, pastor

Exciting opportunities for youth include Sunday School Classes, a Confirmation Class and United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF). Sunday School classes are at 9:15 am in the Youth Area: A Junior High class (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades) and a Senior High Class (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>). Confirmation, an introduction to the Christian Faith, is offered to youth in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and higher. It begins each October and runs through April. United Methodist Youth Fellowship meets Sunday evenings from 6 - 8 pm for fellowship, worship, singing, games and

discussion. The group also participates in retreats, lock-ins, service projects, mission trips and worship leadership for the congregation.

### **Teens United in Faith (TUF)**

Dea Carroll, 223-6530 or Bev Winsett, 484-8447

This is a group of junior and senior high age young women who are part of the larger United Methodist Women community. They generally meet on the 2nd Sunday at 4 pm in the Brides' Room, gather at other times for social events and participate in mission activities.

### **Wesley Foundation at Colorado State University**

Contacts: Rev. David Dalke, Rev. Rebecca McFee, Hillary Parson and Ross Loomis

Sunday worship and free lunch plus larger events as scheduled

College-age students attend Sunday worship and enjoy fellowship and noon luncheon at the church. Weekly activities and special events include ski trips, retreats and opportunities for serving through music, Christian education, youth work, ushering and missions. **Church members are invited to adopt or sponsor students and young adults offering support, encouragement and relaxation in a loving home environment.**

Coming in May - **San Francisco College Urban Mission Trip, May 16-22, 2010** We have room for 25 students to travel to San Francisco to engage in service projects. The base cost is \$300 but there will be opportunities to fund-raise. Please contact Rebecca McFee (482-2436) or Hillary Parson (980-6636) to sign up.

### **The Verge (20s and 30s)**

First and third Thursdays, on-going

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Contact: Jen Hanna, 232-9554

We're on the verge...of new vocations...marriage ... children...life.

If you are in your 20's or 30's and seeking a faith community that gathers to share experiences and discusses faith together, please join us Thursdays, twice a month from 6:30-8:00 at the church. Bring friends, \$3-5 for dinner; childcare is provided.

### **Couples Group**

First and third Thursdays, on-going

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Coordinators: Tracey and Rob Bean, 266-0252 and Emily and Rob Vangermeersch, 407-1084

FUMC has a vibrant and growing group of couples that meet for food and fellowship as part of the FUMC Couples Group. The group meets every Thursday evening as often as you can make it (*when work, family and health allow!*) Free childcare is provided. Adults meet in the Village Commons (*upstairs to the west of the stairs*) for potluck at approximately 6:00 pm. If you're joining us for the first time you do not need to bring anything to share, but just come...meet. We also share various topics at 7:00. After the meal we explore various topics, including but are not limited to: marriage issues, social concerns, Biblical studies, and guest speakers, or simply enjoying fellowship time. The group meets at church during the school year, according to Poudre School District's calendar. In the summer, we meet in local parks and enjoy time together with our families.

We are very informal and like to laugh a lot. If that sounds like a group you would like to join, contact one of the coordinators or email [tracey\\_bean@hotmail.com](mailto:tracey_bean@hotmail.com).

### **Older Adult Ministries**

Senior Council, Double Nickel Luncheon

Contacts: Gretchen Bennett, 897-2764 and Kathy Schuster, 223-1859

The Senior Council meets the first Thursday each month at 1:00 pm at the Church and is open to anyone interested in attending. You can become involved with the Older Adult Ministries at Fort Collins First United Methodist Church by attending the Double Nickel Luncheon (***that's for the young at heart aged fifty-five and older***), held the second Friday of each month at Noon at the Church. For only \$2.00, you can get a good lunch, hear an interesting program and find fellowship and support.

Our bus trips are always fun outings. We've traveled to view fall foliage, attended a Rockies game, and visited Celestial Seasonings in Boulder. *Watch for more details on this season's outings.*

**Senior Council also coordinates transportation on the church van to Sunday worship and other events. Drivers are always needed, so contact Gretchen, 897-2764 or Kathy, 223-1859 to sign up.**

### **Additional Small Group Opportunities for Adults**

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Centering Prayer Group

Course in Miracles Study Group

Women of Worth (WOW)

and many others...

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE , HEALTH AND SPECIAL INTEREST MINISTRIES

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

- John 10:10

### **Yoga at FUMC**

Mondays, in the Parlor

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Michael Lloyd-Billington, certified Integral yoga instructor

Yoga is a practice that integrates body, mind and spirit creating awareness, joy, relaxation and connectedness. Benefits include increased flexibility and balance, corrected alignment and posture, toning and strengthening. All levels are welcome.

Dress in comfortable clothing

Fee: \$10 per session.

### **Sketching Group**

First Saturday every month

10:00 am – noon

Contact: Joan Richards, 223-6571

Sketching is like play -- it exercises certain creative muscles that would otherwise either atrophy or snap from overwork. It sharpens your sense of observation and contributes to an overall sense of relaxation and well-being. All this is true regardless of your level of experience – after all,

most of us stopped drawing when we were 7 or 8. This group started after Susie Mottashed's workshop "Drawing Closer to God" last September, and we're practicing to be ready when she returns in May. Please join us – just bring your drawing paper and pencil(s).

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Knit In - third Saturday every month

9:30 – 11:30 am

Contact: Elva Petring, 482-0983

*All are welcome – no experience necessary!* Now in its second year, this group gathers once a month in the church parlor for a monthly knit-in: good snacks, friendly chatter, and to see how each shawl is growing. When completed, each shawl is blessed in preparation for loving service.

A lively and active group, our shawls of many colors to provide comfort for those in need of the loving warmth that only being wrapped in these handmade treasures can provide. Members both knit and crochet and there is always a helping hand for those who are eager to learn, or stuck on a problem. We have a great yarn collection and lots of patterns to get you started. We are also always happy to receive gifts of yarn, which quickly become new masterpieces.

Shawls have traveled to both coasts, and many states in-between. Their love and healing energy has been shared with veterans as they heal at the VA hospital in Wyoming. Members of our church family and the community at large have been touched with their comfort. *If you are aware of someone in need of a shawl, please contact Rev. Rebecca McFee*

## **Pastoral Care Groups**

### **Stephen Ministry**

Contacts: Cynthia Khoo, 492-9505 and Jill Phipps, 229-9784

Our confidential Christian caring ministry serves people who feel a need for spiritual and emotional support during times of need. Lay caregivers, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge.

If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister or know of someone else in need, contact Cynthia at 492-9505 or Jill at 229-9784.

### **Caregivers Support Group**

Tuesdays, ongoing, Rev. McFee's office  
3:00 – 4:00 pm  
Rev. Rebecca McFee, Pastor

### **Chronic Ailment Support Group**

Wednesdays, ongoing, Club 56  
Rev. David Dalke, Pastor

### **Early Stage Memory Loss Support Group**

Third Thursday of each month  
3:00 – 4:00 pm  
Contact: Emmalie Conner, 472-9798

### **Grief Support Group**

Tuesdays, ongoing, Conference Room  
4:00 – 5:00 pm  
Rev. Charles Schuster, Senior Pastor

Whether your loss is that of a spouse, child, parent, grandparent or friend, no other life experience can be as isolating and painful as bereavement. This group is designed to offer healing, growth, understanding and comfort for persons grieving the loss of a loved one.

### **Love in Action**

The LOVE IN ACTION program provides a network of caring volunteers from the entire membership of First United Methodist Church. This program matches those with particular needs to others who can help meet those needs.

- LOVE IN ACTION works like a co-op. People who are reluctant to ask individuals for help find it easier to call on an organized network.
- There is a place for everyone to help in some way, whether it be running errands, transportation, meal preparation, minor household repairs or providing companionship.
- Persons needing emotional support are provided with an additional avenue to access the clergy or a Stephen Minister.
- The benefits of LOVE IN ACTION are unending: not only are immediate needs met, but fellowship within the church is enhanced. Here is a chance for everyone to be a part of a real caring community. This is LOVE IN ACTION!

To request assistance, call the Church office (970-482-6997).

### **Women's Intercessory Prayer Group**

Tuesdays, ongoing

9:30 – 11:30 am

Contact: Margaret Hotze, 223-8539

Members currently commit to daily reading of the scripture and meditation in the Upper Room Discipline, then come together for discussion and prayer. Prayer concerns are then passed on through the Prayer Chain to several other persons. Occasionally we bring in other books on prayer for further study.

### ***Health Ministries***

#### **Blood Pressure Checks**

Second Friday of each month at the Double Nickel lunches

Noon – 1:30 pm

Stop by to take advantage of this free assessment by a registered nurse.

#### **Care Closet**

Health aids such as canes, walkers, crutches, etc. are available for loan. Call the church office (970-482-6997) for more information.

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