

***"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you." — Luke 7:27b***

As we enter this holy season of Advent and draw near to Christmas, we remember again the hope, peace, joy, and love revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent is far more than a countdown to December 25. It is a sacred journey of preparation—a time to make space in our hearts, to listen for God's whisper of Emmanuel—"God with us"—and to allow the light of Christ to enter the places within us that long for new beginnings.

This season meets each of us differently. Some of us arrive rejoicing, while others carry grief, uncertainty, or quiet burdens known only to God. Yet Advent speaks to all of us the same promise: hold fast to hope. The God who came to us in a manger walks beside us still and will come again in glory. As we move through these Advent days, may you feel God's closeness with each step we take together toward Christmas.

We often think of traveling in terms of the destination. The moment someone announces they are heading out of town, the first question is usually, "Where are you going?" Destinations help shape our plans, but it is the journey that forms us. The unexpected moments, the delays, the beauty along the way—these become the memories that linger long after the trip is over.

This Advent, we will pay attention not only to the destination of Christmas but also to the places along the biblical journey that led to that star-lit night in Bethlehem. These locations remind us that God's work unfolds "on the way"—in the long roads, the waiting rooms, the quiet towns, and the humble spaces where God's promises take root. As we reflect on these holy places, we will also consider our own milestones—the progress, the detours, and even the potholes that shape our path.

Rome: A Place of Longing (Hope)  
Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting (Peace)  
Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity (Joy)  
Bethlehem: A Place of Humility (Love)  
The Manger: A Place of Care  
Persia: A Place of Return



May this Advent journey draw us deeper into the story of God's love—leading us not only to the cradle in Bethlehem but also to a renewed sense of purpose, wonder, and hope in our own lives.

Grace and Peace  
Pastor Leah



## UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE



12/1  
Through  
12/22

Food Drive



12/7  
1:30 P.M.  
SUN

CUMC  
CHRISTMAS PARTY



12/7  
Through  
12/28

HEIFER  
INTERNATIONAL



12/14  
SUN

CUMC  
Christmas Cantata



12/24  
5:30 p.m.  
WED

Christmas Eve  
Service



### Congregational Care Team

The goal of the Congregational Care Team (CCT) is to reach out to those in our community of faith who have special needs and to help make our church a friendly, nurturing faith community.

When the Care Team is made aware of someone who needs a little extra encouragement, they do their best to be there with cards, phone calls and visits. During the past month CCT members sent 46 cards and emails, made 8 calls and 2 visits.

The Congregational Care Team (CCT) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the church lounge to update, review and to assure that the known needs of those in our community of faith are being met. You are invited to join the Team!

For more information, please call Linda Glover, 970-481-1415.

## *Christmas Joy*

Get into the joyful spirit of Christmas at the **CUMC Annual Christmas Party** on Sunday, December 7, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The celebration is sponsored by the CUMC United Women in Faith and will feature music, music, and more music.

The **Dickens Carolers** (from the Larimer Chorale) will bring **Christmas In Music** to our ears and hearts. All of us will join in singing our favorite carols as well. We'll also enjoy refreshments and visiting. Bring your neighbors and friends. All are welcome and wanted!!

**Sunday**

**7 December, 2025**

**1:30 p.m.**

**CUMC**

**301 E Drake, Fort Collins**







# Happy Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Reagan Freese	5	6
7 Philip Vadnais	8 Laura McMeeking	9	10 Don Novy Joyce Lathrop	11 Quincy Gutsche	12	13 Jonna Yarrington Ron Perkins
14 Santee Merriam	15	16	17	18 Carol Theilgaard Valerie Utter	19 Dwight Hopson	20
21	22	23	24	25 Matt Butler	26	27
28	29 Craig Zimmerman Nathalee Novy	30	31 Kevin Stuckhoff			



# Heifer International

## OUR MISSION

We're on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities.

## OUR WORK

Since 1944, we've helped more than 52.6 million families build sustainable farming businesses to support their families. We know that having a secure source of income can be truly transformational for farmers and their communities. Our work has always focused on farming, because we believe ending poverty begins with agriculture. Cows, goats, chickens and seeds can provide nutritious milk, meat, eggs, food, fodder and so much more for communities living in hunger and poverty. And with the right training and support, families will be able to take these assets and support their families in ways that allow them to thrive.

## OUR GOAL

Our goal is to increase incomes so families can afford nutritious food, shelter, clean water, access to health care and a safe environment to raise their children without worrying when unexpected needs arise.

**Please consider donating to help this worthy cause!**



**Heifer International** will have a table in the Narthex the first four (4) Sundays in December. Passing on The Gift is the heart of our sustainable community development philosophy. Every family who receives an animal must pass on one or more of the animal's offspring, along with training and skills, to other families in need. This unique approach creates a ripple effect that transforms lives and communities. Recipients build new levels of self-confidence and fulfillment as they become donors themselves. "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Luke 3:11. Stop by the table for order forms and Christmas Cards.





**MONDAY 9:30 A.M. BIBLE STUDY:**

The Monday Morning Bible Study in room 107. Our current study, The Acts of The Apostles, from the New Testament shows the growth of the early church after Jesus' crucifixion. We follow the ministries of Peter, Stephen, Philip, John and others to Samaria, Antioch, Jerusalem and Damascus. Sound exciting? Come join us!

**Seekers Bible Study**

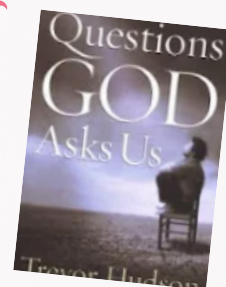
We have begun a NavPress study of John's Revelation. The group meets in room 107 each Tuesday morning at 9:30.

All are welcome. Contact Carol Hopson (817-228-3452) for additional details.

**Adult Sunday School**

ALMOST CHRISTMAS! Adult Sunday School is looking at this Advent Experience on video each Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. in December. Join us in the Lounge for viewing and discussion. All are welcome!

Sue Ptacek 970-218-8701.

**Tuesday Afternoon  
Bible Study**

In December, the Tuesday afternoon Bible Study will continue the study: Questions God Asks Us by Trevor Hudson. God wants to enter into a conversation with us, His children, and the questions He poses in the Bible draw us into a deeper sharing and intimacy with Him. Come join us on December 9th at 2:00 pm in the Lounge for interesting insights and discussion. We will not be meeting on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, but will return in January.

Contact Carma at [Mynacee@aol.com](mailto:Mynacee@aol.com) for materials.



## Memorial Committee Summary Report for 2025

The committee continues their work on keeping track of Memorial Funds, seeing that they are put to good use by recommending ideas to families and letting the congregation know of the items purchased with memorial funds. The committee has a database of gifts using Excel, a family contact representative and a person to handle communications.

The largest use of memorial funds in 2025 were for improvements in the Narthex to make it more inviting, attractive and comfortable. Bench cushions, chairs and little side tables were purchased using two memorial funds. Many of the other memorial gifts used in 2025 were for relatively small items but items that were needed and very much appreciated.

The memorials used in 2025:

Family	Used for	Date
Reid, Jack	Cushions, chairs and tables for narthex	04/15/2025
Cornetet, Jerry	Choir music	05/15/2025
Brubacher, John	Table cloths for Fellowship Hall and narthex furniture	08/15/2025

Remaining Memorials:

Allen, Nellie	Howe, Alan
Beardmore, Dick	Kibler, James
Brubacher, John	Pratt, Laura
Cornetet, Jerry	Reid, Jack

The total remaining as of 10/31/2025 is \$3,590. Some of these funds are designated as "use as needed" by the families. If you have an idea for something the church could use that you believe would be a lovely memorial to one or more of the names listed here, please let Laurel Kubin know and she can see if the cost will work with the balance left. Thank you.

Joyce Lathrop, Laurel Kubin  
Memorial Committee





### Update on Habitat for Humanity



Faith Build 2025 homes are on track for dedications in late January. Faith Communities will be collecting groceries to "Fill the Pantry" for these homes. The H4H Restore on Taft Hill is now collecting clothing for resale. Drop-off is behind the Restore. Habitat purchased 8 lots in Bloom (on Mulberry) with grant money. Thanks CUMC for all you do.

Any questions, check with Sue Ptacek.



### FFH Volunteers Needed

We decided to take an additional rotation in 2025 to help cover for the loss of several Host churches. Therefore, our last rotation of this year will be 12/28 - 1/4. Since this rotation includes a Holiday, we're starting the sign-up process earlier than usual. Please watch for your e-mail invite and prayerfully consider volunteering if you are available. Use SignUpGenius to get first choice of available slots. New volunteers are always welcome so encourage a friend to join you. If you have questions about the upcoming rotation or need help with the electronic sign up, please feel free to contact  
Nathalee Novy at 970-224-5331.





## Notes from Finance for December 2025 Newsletter

The Finance Committee chose as the theme for 2025, "You Faith Can Move Mountains". Our committee, sees the financial reports each month, with some months showing a pretty significant negative where expenses exceeded income. But this is one of the reasons we chose that theme. We do have faith. We have faith that the money will come, while still being 100% aware that we might fall short and plan for ways to cut expenses when that happens. We believe some amount of "Mountain Moving" took place this year.

Commitment Sunday, 11/2/2025 was the official end of the pledge campaign for 2026. And the finance committee wants to thank everyone who took part and turned in a pledge card. And if you have not yet sent in your card, we will be happy to receive it at any time.

There were 44 pledges received as of the date of this article, with \$184,540 pledged to the operating fund. This is greater than the pledges for 2025 by \$5,560. This is very encouraging. The faith that can move mountains is alive in our congregation. Thank you all who pledged. It is a tangible show of support and faith in this church.



The building fund received pledges of \$24,020, slightly less than for 2025.

The budget for 2026 was approved at the all-church conference on 11/15/2025 and the total is \$313,761. This is down about \$20,000 from 2025. You can see the details of this budget in the all-church conference book available in the office. Many people helped gather the figures for the budget and we are thankful for their input.

As with most churches, the pledge campaign does not bring in as many promised dollars as the budget plans to spend. How does this then work out? First, the Holy Spirit has a hand. The Spirit moves among us and in our community. This can mean new givers, additional pledge cards turned in, and current members seeing a need and finding ways to bridge that gap. We pray that those of you reading this today will find it in your heart to continue to support our church in any ways that feel right to you.

Joyce Lathrop, Chair of Finance Committee



# MORNING GLORY PRESCHOOL

## DECEMBER NEWS



### *Pre-K Highlight*

#### **WHEN DO CHILDREN WRITE THEIR NAMES?**

This is a question I'm asked a lot. At five years old, children are mastering the fine motor skills that prepare them for writing, cutting and self-care. Through play with beads, blocks, tweezers and crayons, they strengthen hand muscles and coordination. Every squeeze, pinch and twist helps build confidence and independence- one small movement at a time! Once they've mastered those skills, they are ready to tackle the task of learning to write their name.



#### **On the horizon:**

Christ United Methodist Church and Morning Glory Preschool will be joining Poudre School district's Teen Parent program to support families in need of Christmas cheer.

If you're able to help, pick a tag off the tree in the Narthex and return the wrapped gift and tag to the tree by December 15th.

We'll get the blessings delivered in time for the holiday



### *Whats happening*

We wash our hands...a lot! Cold and flu season is here and we're keeping germs away the fun way! Morning Glory friends love washing hands with bubbly soap while singing cheerful songs. Clean hands mean fewer sniffles, more smiles and more healthy playtime at Morning Glory!

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.



Christ United Methodist Church  
301 E. Drake Road  
Ft. Collins, CO 80525

*Return Service Requested*



DECEMBER 2025  
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