

On the Move!





Dear First Pres,

"You are most cordially invited to attend..."

Is it a warm welcome to escape a cold January night? Or is it a challenge? A dare even — to take a step of faith and find what you are looking for? The One who invites is ready for you to come.

The invitation on the facing page is a real one, offered by founding pastor Rev. Henry Gage to his Colorado Springs neighbors. It was a courageous offer of new life in Christ. Come to First Pres for preaching and prayer at 7 p.m. on a January night in 1877 — you may just experience revival.

It was an invitation made with **boldness**. January nights in Colorado are not an easy sell.

It was an invitation made with **urgency**. No waiting around for June weather and warm nights. Christ calls us to act today!

It was an invitation made with **wisdom** and a value on making the most of every opportunity. For miners, frontiersmen and fortune-hunters, the cold, dark winter may have provided the only quiet moments of their year — moments ripe for reflecting on life's larger purposes.

It was an invitation made in **collaboration**. Together with the pastor of the First Congregational Church, First Pres offered this invitation to the glory of God, not the glory of a particular church.

It was an invitation made with **love**. To invite someone into worship is to invite them to be transformed into exactly what they were always meant to be — a worshiper of the One true God, a disciple of Jesus Christ; whole, forgiven, restored and commissioned with a purpose.

In short, it's an invitation that has caught my attention and captured my imagination. It is an emblem of the very DNA of First Pres. Sometimes we see our future more clearly when we look deep into our past. I hope this invitation inspires something in you!


And right now, as we gather on a January night in 2017, the Spirit behind this invitation is the same Spirit breathing life into our church today. As we look forward to the coming year.

- We celebrate what God has done in 2016, including His call on me to join the First Pres family, for which I am so grateful.
- We rejoice in the ways the Lord has allowed us to be His hands of care and feet bearing Good News to our neighbors, both here in Colorado Springs and around the world.
- We give thanks for the resources the Lord has generously provided and commit to using them strategically to advance His Kingdom.
- We elect and affirm leaders who will pray, discern and act, so that the whole body at First Pres can move forward together in the direction in which God calls us with Jesus Christ as our Head.

Grounded in God's faithfulness to us in the past, we move with confidence into the future, knowing that our God goes ahead of us to draw unbelievers to Himself and to form us into a people shaped for and propelled by His calling. God intends to use First Pres to bring salvation in Jesus' name, just as He has done before and in ways we have never seen or imagined.

The best is yet to come!

Yours in Christ,





What will First P

A Church in the City

We love where God has planted us — right in the middle of downtown — and we want to see our city flourish. Our doors are wide open, offering shelter from the storm. We're investing in the peace and prosperity of Colorado Springs, pouring ourselves out for our neighbors.

Christ Our Hope

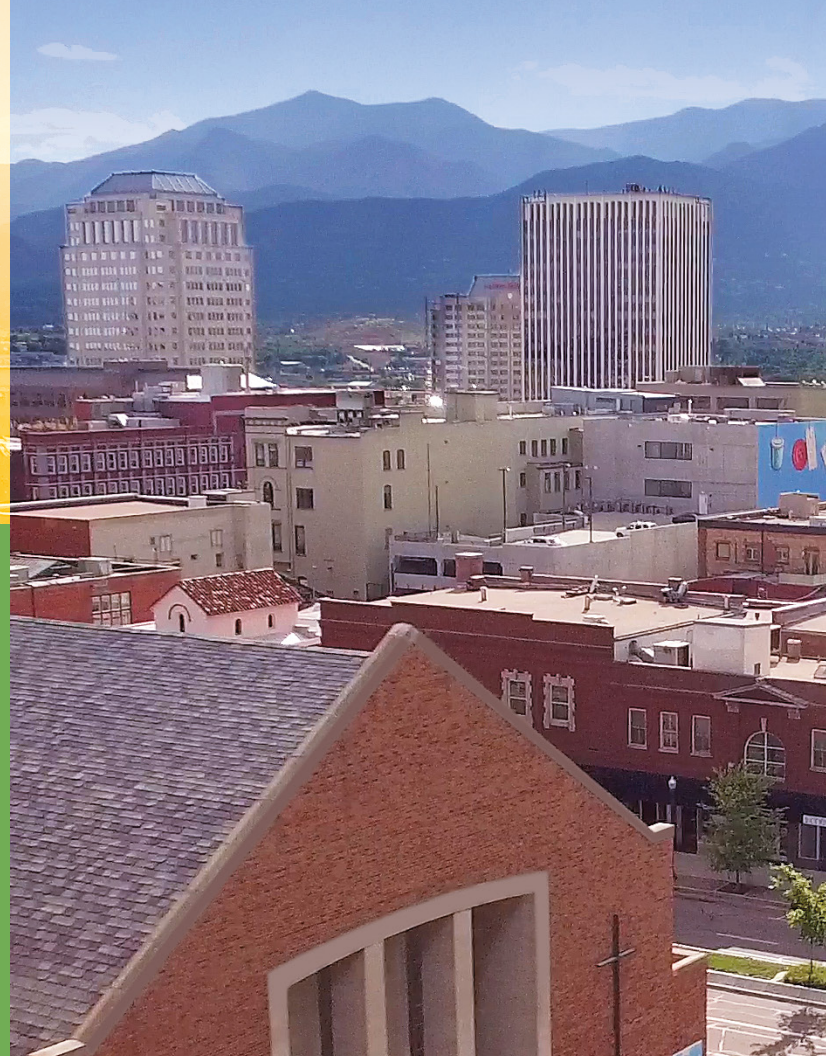
We know we can't save ourselves. We daily count on Jesus to rescue us from the dead-end pursuit of empty dreams that is our natural bent. And we're bringing the light of Christ to the darkness around us, the life of Christ to souls bent on useless desires. We are the church, bearing the Good News of Jesus Christ in 2026.

Full of Joy, Light and Life

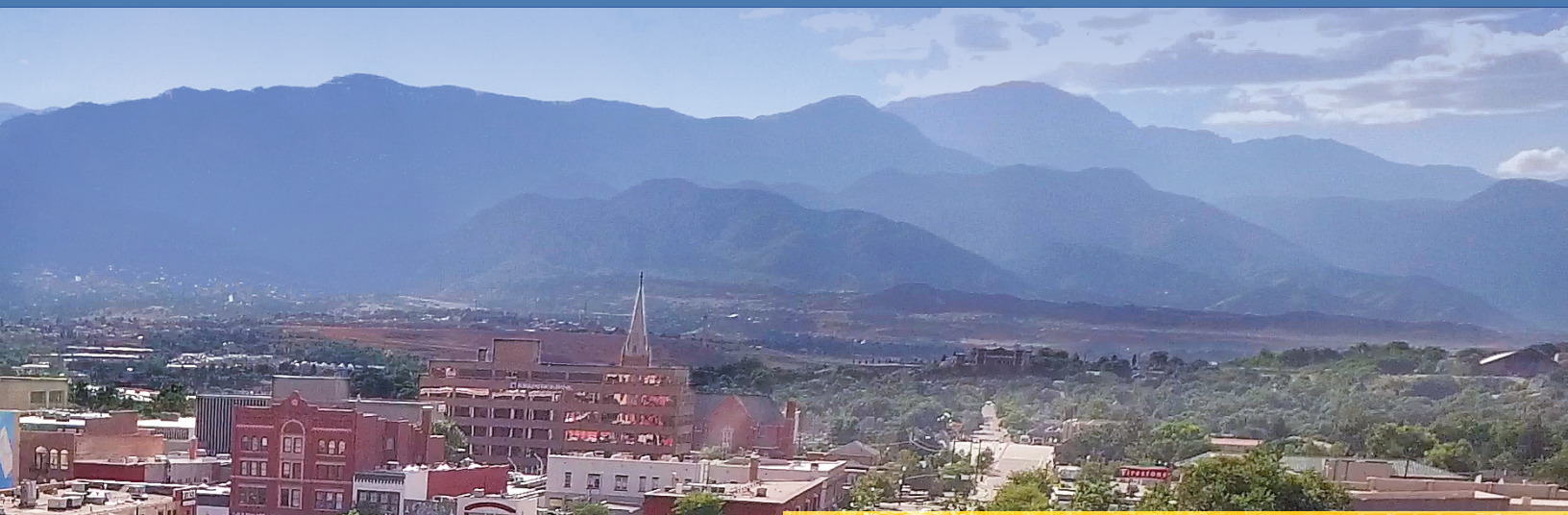
Those who come in here — or meet us out there — encounter a joyful invitation to know the life that is truly life. Here, there is warmth. Traditional and modern spaces are intentional, inviting and prepared. Joyful disciples are using their gifts and skills to create beautiful things for Jesus. The Good News is good and we want everyone to know it!

Alive in Worship

Worship is the highlight of our week. Whether old or new, the music is fitting, engaging and excellent. It turns over the soil of the heart. Our spirits are warmed and softened by prayer. The Word comes in truth and power; the Word implanted is able to save our souls. Ancient truths, and relevant ones, renew our minds. Then we are sent out — launched into the world — to live what has been imparted to us.



res look like in 10 years?



Rich with Generations

Families grow together here. In worship a grandfather, father and son all sit with Bibles open. The boy watches his grandfather clasp his hands in prayer and silently resolves to be that kind of man. People of all ages are invited in. We give ourselves away for the sake of the next generation. Our passion is to pass the faith as a runner passes a baton — full sprint, arm outstretched, straining to make the handoff well.

Living Life Together

Thousands who worship together also gather as dozens in circles, where we know each other by name. There's laughter; there's prayer; there's true concern. No one walks alone, especially through difficult times.

On the Move

Nobody here sits still — literally or figuratively. Some invisible current sweeps us along and draws us deep. We want Jesus. As we know Him more and love Him better, we can't help but act. We want to become like Him. We're the Church on mission with God. We're His hands and feet, voice and heart. Whether just beginning the journey or decades in, whether across the street or around the world, we're using all our energy to follow His call.

The past is valued. The dreams of the future are even more compelling. We take Christ's hand and He leads on.

You have heard the vision that we have for First Pres in 2026. We want to be a vibrant, and critical part of the city we call home, especially our downtown. As Rev. Tim McConnell said, “We love where God has planted us—right in the middle of downtown—and we want to see our city flourish. Our doors are wide open, offering shelter from the storm. We’re investing in the peace and prosperity of Colorado Springs, pouring ourselves out for our neighbors.”

There are a lot of facets to that investment. We continue to invest in the future of the church with projects like the Worship Center. We continue to invest in the future health of the city through outreaches like CityServe Weekend. And we continue to minister to the least of these with our partners through projects like the Springs Rescue Mission expansion.

But to really live into that vision, we have to understand where our city is going. What does Colorado Springs look like? How is it changing? The answers to those questions are the key to understanding how we can fully live into our vision.

Rapid Growth, Changing Demographics

According to the 2010 Census, Colorado Springs boasted a population of 416,427. Just six years later, Colorado Springs has grown by 40,000 residents. As of 2016, Colorado Springs was the 40th largest city in the United States with a population of more than 456,000.

Officials don’t expect that growth to slow down any time soon. Accord-

ing to the projections from the Southern Colorado Economic Forum, Colorado Springs could balloon another 300,000 by the year 2040.

But it’s not just the overall size of the city that’s changed, it’s the composition of Colorado Springs as well. As we’ve grown, we’ve gotten younger, too. The median age in the United States is 37.8 years old. The median age in the state of Colorado is 36.4 years old. But the median age in Colorado Springs is now 33.8 years old.

According to the research from the Southern Colorado Economic Forum, the profile of those coming to Colorado Springs is highly-educated, tech savvy Millennials. Despite rapid population growth the jobless rate keeps falling. In 2010, the unemployment rate in Colorado Springs was 9.6 percent. In 2016, that number dropped to just 3.4 percent.

The reason, in part, has been rapid job growth. In 2015, Colorado Springs created 8,000 new jobs. As of late in 2016, the Southern Colorado Economic Forum noted the city was on track to create another 8,000 jobs. But that rapid job creation is also necessary to keep unemployment rates low while continuing to grow. The group estimates that 5,400 new jobs must be created each year to keep the unemployment rate below five percent.

The job creation has coincided with an explosion



THE FUTURE OF CO

of new business in downtown, too. FOX 21 news reported in early January that Colorado Springs saw a record number of new business open in 2016 with 23 new street level business opening in downtown. The most popular kinds of businesses were retail boutiques, restaurants and co-working spaces.

New Challenges for Church Leaders

In October, as part of CityServe Weekend, more than 100 pastors from throughout Colorado Springs gathered to hear from Mayor John Suthers. He shared some of the highlights of where Colorado Springs is moving, noting that we've become a premier destination for those involved in the tech sector. He also shared that the city is taking a look at its 15 year plan, including a big focus on improving the transit system.

But as a large city with a large infrastructure, there is only so much the city can do on its own. The gathering was a chance for Mayor Suthers to challenge churches in the ways they can help make the city great and fill needs.

He highlighted three key areas. First, Mayor Suthers noted the increase in the homeless population that has not been accompanied by additional supply. The new addition at Springs Rescue Mission helps this issue, and Mayor Suthers praised the work done by Catholic Charities and the Marion House. But he also challenged churches in Colorado Springs to be thinking of how they can partner with these non-profits to meet this critical need.

Second, he talked about the changing demographics of the American family and the great need that exists, particularly among children and youth, to have adults pour into their lives. Mayor Suthers noted the tremendous opportunity for volunteerism, praising events like CityServe as ways to get the ball rolling. But he challenged churches to live that out throughout the year.

Finally, he noted the reality that comes with being in a state where marijuana is legal, and the impact it's having on our youth. He challenged churches to be among the leaders in starting honest conversations around this issue and helping those who have fallen prey to addiction.

Where do we go now?

We are a city that's rapidly growing and rapidly changing. We're one of the biggest cities in the nation, yet we maintain that small town feel in our neighborhood outposts throughout the city. That presents its own set of challenges. We're home to the Olympic Movement and dozens of natural wonders. But we're also home to increasing poverty and addiction.

Mayor Suthers challenged churches to step into that void and fulfill the role that only the people of God can. Rev. Tim McConnell challenged us, in setting a vision for 2026, to live into our identity as a downtown church. Those two challenges go hand-in-hand.

The question now is how we meet those challenges. What is God calling First Pres to in 2017 and beyond? How will you be a part of it?



First Pres on

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Psalm 105:1-4

For 2016, we should give praise to the Lord and proclaim His name. We experienced growth in our giving which enabled us to increase ministry and begin to dream about what our future looks like as we grow to meet the challenges of our future.

In 2016, we finished the year with a surplus. Here's what we were able to do over and above the ministry activity we had already planned.

» We were able to thank our amazing staff with a bonus at the end of 2016 for ministry well done. **Thank you, Lord.**

» We were able to provide extra funds to Springs Rescue Mission, Catholic Charities, Family Promise and other local agencies and global partners to assist with their ministry. **Thank you, Lord.**



» We were able add to our Capital Reserve Fund (the funds set aside annually in anticipation of major infrastructure repair and replacement). **Thank you, Lord.**

» We were able to add money to the Worship Center project. **Thank you, Lord.**

» We were able to make capital improvements (fix and upgrade equipment) which keeps our buildings in good repair and supports our ministry partnerships with Mission Catering (First Pres Kitchen), Fuller Seminary (Café 225) and Pikes Peak Young Life Chapter (Weber Street Center). **Thank you, Lord.**

» We were able to unleash and support the needs of a new Facilities Taskforce (a committee of the Trustees). This Taskforce is studying how our facilities meet the needs of future ministry. **Thank you, Lord.**

» We were able to support an intern for College Ministry. **Thank you, Lord.**

n the Move!

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Matthew 25: 35-36*



Ours is a congregation constantly on the move. We are in partnership with ministries in Cuba, Egypt, India and Mongolia. We are on mission to the Dominican Republic and the Peoples' Republic of China and many other places. We write and visit more than 1,100 Compassion Children. We provide for clean water in South America, outreach to the Muslim world and refugees here locally. We provide a different future for abandoned kids who would otherwise face lives of extreme poverty and uncertainty.

Locally, we continue in partnership with more than 20 different agencies who serve the dislocated, poor and homeless. We continue to focus our energy and resources into three distinct areas:

- » Eliminating chronic homelessness and healing addiction
- » Active partnerships renewing the impoverished Southeast area of our City.
- » Hospitality and Healing for refugee families being relocated to Colorado Springs.

In addition to the partnerships we have established as a congregation, many among us are also engaged in individual ministry. You visit women and men who are in prison, you advocate for at-risk children at CASA and abused women at TESSA,

prepare food at Marion House, provide Bible studies all over town, visit folks in the hospital, pray, teach English as a second language to refugees, teach reading to elementary kids, provide tutoring, mentor young Moms, volunteer at food banks and community centers and support individual missionaries both here and abroad.

The generous sharing of faith, encouragement, time, creativity and resources can be seen all over our church and in how we allocate the gift of wealth that God directs us to direct to others.

- » 15 percent of the resources in our annual operating budget is directed to help others including traditional services in our Missions budgets, Get Set, MOPS and ministry programs uniquely resident in Café 225, among others.



- » In 2016, you gifted \$180,065 to organizations who both spread the Gospel and help people in need. Recipients included the **First Pres Deacons Fund**, recipients of the **Give Back the Blessing** offering, ministries included in the **Something Significant for Christmas** Catalog, **Hope Community Church** in Wilmington, North Carolina, led by Rev. Nate Stratman, among others.
- » \$90,000 additional monies were directed to individual missionaries and organizations by our First Pres Sunday Communities.

Jesus calls us to serve Him, and as we serve Him, we serve others.

We are on the move.

FINANCIALS

First Presbyterian Church Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016

Assets	<u>\$25,785,574</u>
Liabilities	\$ 112,631
Net Assets	<u>\$25,672,943</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$25,785,574</u>

Statement of Activities

	2017 Budget		2016 Actual		2016 Budget
Total Income	\$6,831,373 100%		\$6,653,209 100%		\$ 6,428,541 100%
Expenses	<u>\$6,781,373 99%</u>		<u>\$6,068,606 91%</u>		<u>\$ 6,378,541 99%</u>
Capital Reserve	\$ 50,000 1%		50,000 1%		50,000 1%
Change in Net Assets	— —		\$534,603 8%		— —

OPERATING BUDGET 2017

Contribution income	6,283,898
Other income	547,475
TOTAL INCOME	6,831,373
Salaries and wages	3,230,305
Benefits	934,028
TOTAL LABOR EXPENSES	4,164,333
Program expenses	1,012,780
* Missions expenses	575,000
Support expenses	1,029,260
TOTAL NON-LABOR EXPENSES	2,617,040
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,781,373
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	50,000
Board designated capital reserve	50,000
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	
AFTER RESERVES	0

*Total missions and outreach spending is \$1,030,142, or 15 percent of total operating budget.

First Presbyterian Church Foundation

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016

Cash	\$61,241
Investments	\$1,545,302
Donated Land	\$1,004,448
Total Assets	<u>\$2,610,991</u>
Liabilities	\$0
Net Assets	<u>\$2,610,991</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,610,991

First Presbyterian Church Foundation

Statement of Activities

December 31, 2016

Contributions	\$261,651
Gain/Loss on Investments	\$107,113
Total	<u>\$368,764</u>
Grant Payouts	\$ (50,132)
Administrative Expenses	<u>\$ (3,000)</u>

Change in Net Assets **\$315,632**

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 2016



MEMBERS RECEIVED IN 2016 – 131

CONFESSION OF FAITH - 6 REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH - 33 YOUTH CONFIRMATION - 32 TRANSFER IN MEMBERSHIP - 42



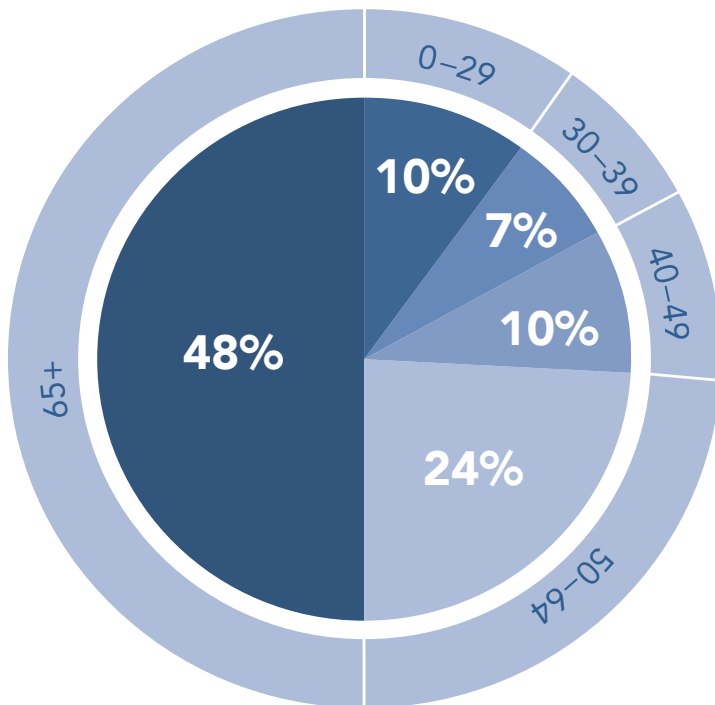
TOTAL LOSSES - 80

REMOVED FROM ROLL - 16 TRANSFERRED OUT - 5 DEATHS - 59



BAPTISMS

Infants 14
Child and Youth 13
Adult 4



0-29 yrs	334
30-39 yrs	248
40-49 yrs	328
50-64 yrs	821
65+ yrs	1592
Unknown	33

TOTAL MEMBERS: **3,376**

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: **1954**



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