



# FIRST PRES

M A G A Z I N E



AUG 2017

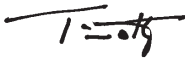
# Dear First Pres,

Hey, is summer getting shorter every year? The pool's not even closed, but school is starting and the fall schedule is up and running. At least we have football on the way... and Pumpkin Spice Lattes.

At First Pres, we're kicking off our fall season a little earlier than in the past, and it's for good reason: we want to put first things first. Our fall sermon series, *First Things First: The Power of Priority*, begins August 20, complete with an evening worship service to accompany the teaching through October. An All-Church Picnic and dedication of the Worship Center will happen on Wednesday, August 23, with Growing Together Wednesdays classes starting August 30.

We want to get our commitments to God on the calendar first! So we are launching fall ministry in concert with the community and school calendar. Instead of backfilling our most important things later, we will put *First Things First* this year and establish our priorities with God first on our calendars.

This is an exciting magazine. Our church is full of great opportunities to grow in faith in Christ and connection to community. I pray you find in these pages one solid way to take a step forward to Jesus this season.

In Christ,  
  
Tim



## FIRST PRES MAGAZINE

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Happy Birthday First Pres .....         | 3  |
| <i>Compiled by Dale McClure</i>         |    |
| Worship Well. Worship Weekly.....       | 4  |
| <i>By Tim McConnell</i>                 |    |
| Love My People.....                     | 6  |
| <i>An interview with Jim DeJarnette</i> |    |
| Make Your Own Mobile .....              | 8  |
| CityServe 2017.....                     | 10 |
| <i>By Laura Mueller</i>                 |    |
| Global Partner Update .....             | 11 |
| <i>By Susan Buenger</i>                 |    |

**Editor:** Lindy Keffer  
**Graphic Design:** Beryl Glass  
**Executive Director:** Alison Murray  
**Proofreading Team:** Mary Bauman, Deb Berwick, Christine Dellacroce, Matt Fox, Betty Haney, Daisy Jackson, Marty Kelley, Karen Kunstle, Linda Pung

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, © 2011 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

First Pres Magazine August 2017 © First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs, CO. Published by First Presbyterian Church, a non-profit organization.

To contact First Pres Magazine: 719-884-6161 or 219 E. Bijou Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-1392 or [magazine@first-pres.org](mailto:magazine@first-pres.org). Printed in the U.S.A.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY FIRST PRES

145 YEARS

*Compiled by Dale McClure*

## FIRST THINGS FIRST THROUGH THE YEARS

### Actions Speak Louder

No matter what we say our priorities are, our actions give away what's truly important to us. If it matters, we do something about it. This is as true for churches as it is for individuals. It's sometimes breathtaking to discover how deep our values run, and that what we hold in high regard today has roots far back in our history.

### Reaching the Lost

**1877:** Henry Gage co-hosted revival meetings with First Congregational Church, reaching out to unbelievers with boldness and love.

**Early 1900s:** We planted chapels and Sunday Schools around Colorado Springs so that everyone in the city could hear about the saving work of Jesus Christ. Some of these chapels developed into self-sustaining churches.

### Egalitarian Leadership

**1932:** Margaret Honnen was the first woman appointed to the Board of Trustees. In the same year, three of our 12 deacons were women.

### Equipping Young Leaders

**1880s:** Partnership with the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor imparted leadership and ministry skills to youth for service within and outside the church. First Pres teens held worship services in the surrounding communities, sang in tuberculosis sanitariums and staffed a Sunday School for Chinese immigrants.

**1980s:** John Stevens created a robust internship program that launched dozens into lifelong service. Their contribution shapes the global church today.

### Blessing Our City

**1874:** Two First Pres Elders were on the original YMCA Board. Today we continue in partnership with the Y: First Pres hosts YMCA summer camps and their 7th Grade Initiative, and the Y hosts Pathfinders Sunday School weekly.

**1980s and 1990s:** First Pres began relationships with the Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (Marian House), Ecumenical Social Ministries (ESM) and Springs Rescue Mission (SRM). First Pres now partners with more than 20 front-line service providers to give support to our neighbors in need.



## Give First Pres a Birthday Present

In celebration of 145 years as God's people embedded in Colorado Springs, we're planning a birthday gift to First Pres. A generous giver has committed to match any gift given for the completion of the Worship Center. When you designate "Worship Center" on your gift in the offering plate or online, you become part of taking First Pres into the future, and your gift will be doubled!

# Worship Well. Worshi



by Tim McConnell

## *Worship is the purpose of the church.*

**F**riends, I've been among you for more than a year now, so I hope you're getting used to hearing me say that worship is the purpose of the church. Maybe you're even getting tired of hearing me say that—which means I'm saying it *almost* enough.

It's true! God gave His people one purpose when we get together, and that's to give Him glory—to worship Him. All of the church research is telling us that the most you can expect out of a mature Christian disciple is attendance in worship about half of the time. Maybe three-quarters of the time if the disciple is a real overachiever.<sup>1</sup>

Let me tell you, this is one place in our culture where *normal* is not *normative*. The

fact that it *is* this way doesn't mean it *should be* this way. Haphazard church attendance is not good for us—it's not good for our souls. When we live like this, we miss out on God's richest blessings.

### **First Things First On Our Calendars**

As we turn the corner into fall, we're launching into an examination of priorities in every area of our lives. And we're starting with worship.

On the first day of the week, let's give an hour to the Lord as the first fruits of our time. Time is our most valuable asset. Putting worship first on our calendars gives us the opportunity to stop. It allows us to put God in

the right place. It gives us a chance to hit the “reset” button every seven days and get ourselves centered on the Lord. It is life-giving. But it’s not easy.

Showing up for worship every Sunday takes commitment. It means deciding, “Sometimes when I don’t feel like it, I’m still going to do it. Sometimes when other things compete, I’ll say no to them and yes to worship.”

## We’re Going to Help You Out

Put God first with your most valuable possession, your time, and you will see how God starts to put the rest of your week in new order. This fall, I challenge you to attend worship every week for 11 weeks straight. Be there for every Sunday of this sermon series. (And then on the last Sunday—Reformation Sunday—we’ll reflect together and see how things went.)

To help you have a better shot at succeeding at this challenge, we’re adding a Sunday night service for the duration of the **First Things First** sermon series (August 20 to October 29).

This service will truly be “Come as you are.” If you’re mowing the lawn, just hop in the car. If you are returning from a soccer tournament, cleats are welcome! If the mountains are calling on Sunday morning, you can roll into worship in your hiking boots on Sunday night.

Will you accept the challenge? I’ll be here in worship. I hope you will too!

## Guiding Ideas for Evening Worship

As we’ve imagined this fall’s evening worship service, a group of young adult leaders under the direction of Katie Fowler has come together to give it shape. Out of our conversations, some great ideas have emerged as guiding principles for our worship time together:

### ► Purposefulness in Worship

We desire to participate in a liturgy with heart. We want to consider the *whys* of the various movements of worship. We want to be invited into the deep things of God. We don’t want to just go through the motions of worship, but to see how all of the pieces fit together in a cohesive arc.

### ► Participants, not Spectators

The worshiping congregation is called to participation and ownership whenever possible.

### ► A Sense of Family

Worship is a place to be real. A warm, authentic service with fellowship before and after gives a sense of being in a family living room. It allows those who are leading in worship to know those who are participating.

### ► Dialogue

Each evening service will include a sermon-based question-and-answer time so we can dig deeper in God’s Word together.

<sup>1</sup> <http://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/139575-7-startling-facts-an-up-close-look-at-church-attendance-in-america.html>. This article defines a “regular attender” as someone who comes to church three out of every eight weekends, and it notes a number of other trends pointing to the deprioritization of worship.

# Love My People

## JIM DEJARNETTE ON 35 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT FIRST PRES

This year marks 35 years of ministry for our Minister of Music, Jim DeJarnette. At a church-wide reception on Sunday, July 9, the congregation celebrated the milestone with Jim and his wife, Barb, and honored them for their years of joyful service.

Leading up to the anniversary date, Jim reflected on his decades of ministry at First Pres. His answers point to a God who, in His loving faithfulness, has become dearer to Jim as the years have rolled on.

**FPM:** Describe yourself when you arrived at First Pres. What would you say to that young man now?

**Jim:** I was so excited to come to First Pres! It was like coming home. I had spent my youngest years growing up in Montana, and Barb had grown up in Denver. We were returning to the mountains! Barb was eight months pregnant with our first little one, so this was a dream come true.

I was a pretty serious guy in those days, having just come through grad school and time spent in the operatic world. If I could say a word to that young man, it would be, “Don’t take

everything quite so seriously—relax a bit! Truly lean into the Lord. The One who called you is faithful, and He will do it.”



**FPM:** Can you name a few of the most memorable pieces or performances in which you have led Big Blue?

**Jim:** Big Blue is a community of worship—we exist to praise God! There is nothing like singing extraordinary music with a community that is founded on glorifying our Lord. As a result, the privilege of singing Scripture with people who know their Savior is unparalleled in performances of Brahms’ *A German Requiem*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, and Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*.



Certainly among the most memorable performances would be our recent presentation of *The Song of Forgiveness* on this past Palm Sunday. It has also been a singular privilege to annually sing of our hope in the birth of Christ through our *Christmas Joy* performances.

**FPM:** Tell a story of God moving you along the path of discipleship—what was the catalyst for a significant step closer to Him?

**Jim:** I have a place up in the mountains I call my “prayer perch.” It is just a pile of granite—my “Ebenezer”—a place where I go to pray, seek God’s leading and remember His faithfulness. About 14 years ago, I began a journey of asking for God’s principal direction for the rest of my life. The journey lasted for many months.

One day, I heard clearly what I believed was God’s word for me: “Love my people.” So straightforward; so simple. I have tried to walk in the joy of that word ever since. My goodness, how often I have needed

grace from others when I have failed in that calling. But, I feel God allowed me the privilege of an intimate and joy-filled answer to how I should live.

**FPM:** What does it mean to worship well? How has your understanding of worship grown over the years?

**Jim:** First Pres has a long and deep heritage of worshiping well. I am the beneficiary of all those who have desired to glorify our Lord with all their hearts in this place over its long history. Consequently, my teachers are many!

I have found that worshiping well is richly experienced in a “community of agreement” that understands we exist, as a people, to worship and glorify God! Worshiping in spirit and in truth is not defined or limited by human constructs of style and expression; rather, it is coming before our Lord in utter humility and gratitude, proclaiming Him King of kings, and Lord of lords, bearing testimony that He is the One and Only, and there is no other.

I pray to have grown in that understanding over the years. I know, to the extent I have failed to worship well, I have missed a complete love relationship with our Lord. When I have pursued it fully, I have known deep joy and contentment in the Lord, and sought to live according to His purpose—it has, and always will, make all the difference!



# MAKE YOUR OWN

Our fall sermon series, **First Things First**, challenges us to examine our priorities and put God in first place. Picture a mobile hanging from your ceiling. If you've got the top piece at the top, the whole thing falls into place and balances. If you try to hang it any other way, chaos results.

1



Each week of the series, your worship bulletin will have a leaf image on the front that you can use to build your own mobile as a tangible expression of examining your priorities.

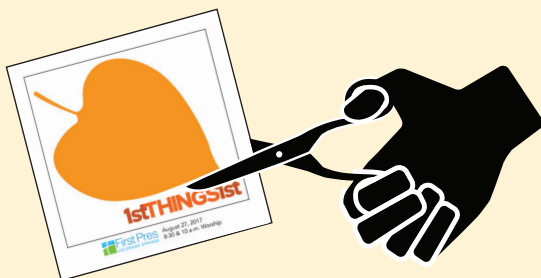
**Here's how:**

2



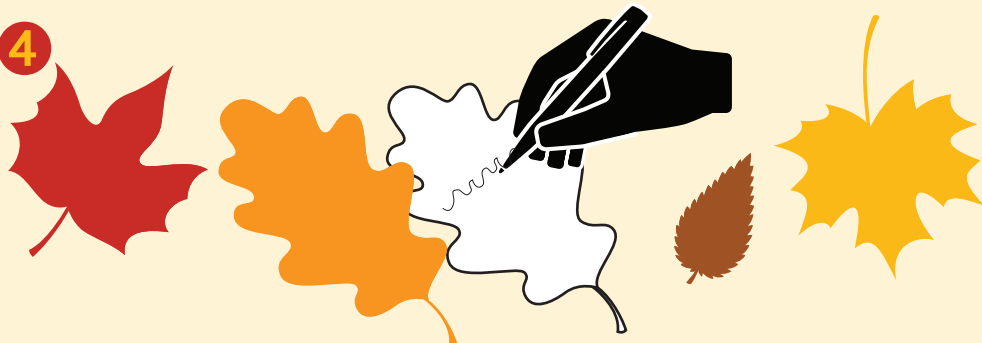
Choose something to be the top piece of the mobile. It could be a wire hanger, a jar lid, or a wooden die-cut from a craft store.

3



Cut out the leaf on the front of your worship bulletin and spend some time praying and reflecting on your priorities in that area. Use the reflection questions from this page if you wish. Talk it over with your family or small community.

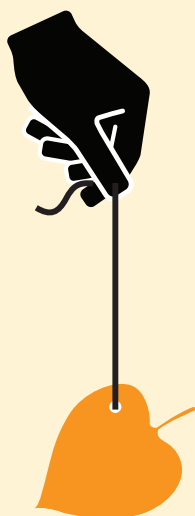
4



You may choose to glue a blank sheet on the back of your leaf so you can write your reflections down and include them in your mobile.

5

Use yarn, string or ribbon to hang the leaf from your top piece. Be as creative as you want!



6



Take a photo of your in-progress or completed mobile and post it on the First Pres Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/firstprescs](http://www.facebook.com/firstprescs)). Or post to Instagram or Twitter and tag [@firstprescos](https://www.instagram.com/firstprescos).

## Questions for Reflection

- 1) What would I say my priorities are in this area?
- 2) Do my calendar, my commitments and my bank statement reflect the same priorities, or do they point to different priorities?
- 3) How is God asking me to respond to Him in this area? Do I need to ask His forgiveness? Do I need to rest, stop striving and receive His mercy? Do I need to lay something down and trust Him?
- 4) What is one tangible change that I/we will make in order to put God first in this area?



by Laura Mueller

# 2017 CITYSERVE

**C**an you swing a hammer, shove a shovel, use a paintbrush? Can you organize shelves or offer a friendly smile? Then you can be part of **CityServe 2017**. Born out of First Pres' long history of serving Colorado Springs, *CityServe* began to grow in 2015, involving other congregations and stretching across the city.

This year's *CityServe* Weekend is Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1, beginning with worship on Friday night and ending with worship on Sunday morning. On Saturday, September 30, we'll have the chance to work for the good of our city with brothers and sisters in Christ from dozens of churches.

## Where Will You Serve?

Here are just a few of the service sites included in *CityServe 2017*:

**Crossfire Ministries** puts God's love into action by assisting those in need in Colorado Springs with the necessities of daily living. Crossfire helped more than 17,000 families in 2015 through their food pantry, clothing and toiletry bank, household vouchers and Bible distribution.

**Mary's Home** works to end family homelessness in the Pikes Peak region by providing safety and hope to those working to rebuild their dreams. Homeless single mothers are able to build relationships and succeed long-term through offerings such as transitional housing and guidance in budgeting and parenting.

**Springs Rescue Mission** (SRM) is a place where lives are transformed and the hopeless are filled with hope. It's a place where our community works together to fight homelessness, poverty and addiction. SRM provides relief, rehabilitation and empowerment services such as dinner, year-round overnight shelter for men and women, and a day center with showers, laundry and access to social services.

**The ARC Stores and ARC Chapters** are Colorado-owned and -operated non-profit thrift stores that benefit Coloradans living with intellectual or developmental disabilities by helping with advocacy and employment.

**The Habitat for Humanity ReStore** accepts donations of new and gently used furniture and building materials and sells the items to the public below retail price. Proceeds benefit Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity as it continues to build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter in Colorado Springs.

**The Fountain Creek Watershed** covers 927 square miles along the central front range of Colorado and feeds the Arkansas River. Fountain Creek contributes 15 percent of Colorado Springs drinking water and provides irrigation for more than 100 farms and ranches. Flood and erosion mitigation are vital to protecting aquatic habitats and preserving farmland, roads and homes.

Watch [www.first-pres.org/cityserve](http://www.first-pres.org/cityserve) for details and links to sign up for service sites.

# Global Partner Update

by Susan Buenger

**O**n Sunday, October 1, we'll participate in the Lord's Supper in solidarity with believers around the world as part of World Communion Sunday. We prioritize global partnerships all year long by building deep relationships with believers across the globe, particularly in Cuba, Egypt, India and Mongolia. We are also prayerfully considering opportunities in Guatemala.



Mongolian friends Bayaraa and Gerlee

**EGYPT AND INDIA** – Mission teams will travel to Egypt in October and India in November to teach basic business skills to those interested in starting businesses. This represents a healthy movement toward sustainability for our partners.

Financial independence is a huge challenge for most of our global partners. The opportunity to encourage entrepreneurship and income-generating activities by providing basic business training is healthy and helpful.

**MONGOLIA** – A Mongolian family of five has relocated to Colorado Springs so that wife and mom Gerlee can study toward her M.A. in Biblical Counseling. First Pres will be their home church while they are here, and the First Pres family has helped them to set up a household thousands of miles away from their home.

Their presence among us shows the depth of our partnership with Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ, and how God uses relationship to do big things. It is a privilege to support the Church and people of Mongolia through building their leaders. Read more of Gerlee and Bayaraa's story on the First Pres Blog ([www.first-pres.org/blog](http://www.first-pres.org/blog)).

We will send two mission teams to Mongolia in August, and some Mongolian friends will join us in Cairo for the business courses we will teach there.

**CUBA** – A Team is forming to minister in Cuba in February 2018. Watch [www.first-pres.org/globalpartners](http://www.first-pres.org/globalpartners) for details.

**GUATEMALA** – Discernment is important when we consider new Kingdom relationships and partnership opportunities for our congregation. An intergenerational team will travel to Guatemala in September to focus on listening for the Holy Spirit, learning what God is doing through His Church and people in Guatemala and discerning potential opportunities to join Him there.



- August 20 - Sunday School Fall Kickoff  
First Things First series begins  
Evening Service begins
- August 23 - All Church Picnic & Worship Center Dedication
- August 30 - GTW begins
- September 29 - October 1 CityServe Weekend
- October 22 - "First to Give" Commitment Sunday

VISIT [WWW.FIRST-PRES.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.FIRST-PRES.ORG/CALENDAR) FOR MORE!

219 E BIJOU ST  
COLO SPGS CO 80903  
[WWW.FIRST-PRES.ORG](http://WWW.FIRST-PRES.ORG)  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



219 E BIJOU ST  
COLO SPGS CO 80903  
[WWW.FIRST-PRES.ORG](http://WWW.FIRST-PRES.ORG)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage

**PAID**

Colo. Spgs. CO  
Permit No. 419