

# **FIRST PRES**

March 2019



**Dear First Pres,**

When did you first find yourself at the foot of the cross? Was it a long journey to get there, or a sudden, surprising arrival? What was it like—coming face to face with Jesus' sacrifice and its powerful implications for you? Do you remember? Maybe that moment was decades ago. Maybe it was last week. Perhaps you're still on the journey to the cross and that moment is on the way.



The cross is at the very center of our faith but, ironically, it can become a thing we pass by without noticing. It disappears in familiarity. For the next few months, we're going to strip everything else away and focus on the cross of Christ, viewing it from many different angles through preaching, music, prayer, reflection and art. On this earth, we'll never fully grasp all that happened on the cross, but we can know it better than we do now. The cross is the single most significant event in all of human history. What Jesus did there changes everything. Will you take the journey to the cross? Will you invite a friend to join you on the way? Jesus has done it all for us—on the cross.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim McConnell'.

Tim McConnell  
Lead Pastor

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## FIRST PRES MAGAZINE

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First Pres Magazine | March 2019  
Volume Eleven, Issue One  
© First Presbyterian Church of  
Colorado Springs, CO. Published by  
First Presbyterian Church,  
a non-profit organization.

To contact First Pres Magazine:  
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Printed in the U.S.A.



# THE Journey TO THE Cross

In many Christian traditions, Lent is a six-week period leading up to Easter when followers of Christ prepare to remember Jesus' suffering and sacrifice during Holy Week and to celebrate His resurrection on Easter. Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. Sometimes we give up normal routines and comforts to help us focus on Jesus; sometimes we add spiritual practices to help fix our eyes on Him.

## Here's what Lent looks like at First Pres this year:

### Wednesday, March 6—ASH WEDNESDAY

Dinner in the Worship Center at 4:45 p.m. and worship in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. will begin the Lenten season. Worship includes having a cross of ash placed on our foreheads—a reminder that we are made from dust and are deeply in need of Christ.

**Sunday, March 10—THE CROSS** sermon series begins and two special art exhibits open with a reception in the Narthex. These exhibits will run throughout the Lenten season (see page 8).

### Friday, April 5—FIRST FRIDAY

First Pres welcomes the community to view *The Cross—A Lenten Experience* as part of Downtown Colorado Springs' monthly Art Walk, 5–8 p.m.

### Sunday, April 14—PALM SUNDAY

In our morning worship services, we'll celebrate Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem and take a special Give Back the Blessing Offering for one Local and one Global Mission Partner (see page 6).

**Palm Sunday Concert**—At 4 p.m., the Sanctuary Choir will present "The Passion of Christ," featuring stirring music from the St. Matthew Passion and art from our Lenten exhibits.

### Monday, April 15—SERVICE OF GUIDED PRAYER AND REFLECTION

A lunchtime service (12–12:45 p.m.) in the Sanctuary provides an opportunity to begin Holy Week in prayer and meditation on Scripture.

### Thursday, April 18—MAUNDY THURSDAY

A 7 p.m. service of communion in the Sanctuary remembers Jesus' Last Supper. Drew Archer will perform the Gospel of Mark from memory beginning at 6 p.m. and continuing during the worship service. We'll also begin a 24-hour prayer vigil to take us into Good Friday.

### Friday, April 19—GOOD FRIDAY

First Pres will host the 106th annual Downtown Colorado Springs Good Friday service, held in cooperation with other downtown churches from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Worshipers are invited to come and go as they please between the seven segments of this service in our Sanctuary.

### Sunday, April 21—EASTER

We'll go all-out to celebrate Resurrection Day with six worship services. Our Sunrise Service begins at 6:30 a.m. on the Weber Street Center back lawn. We'll worship in the Sanctuary at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m., and in the Worship Center at 8:30 and 10 a.m.

# Cross View

There is no more central symbol of Christianity than the cross. Paul declares the cross to be the very core of the gospel. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John devote one-third of their gospel narratives to Jesus' passion, crucifixion, death and resurrection. How we understand the cross of Christ changes everything about how we understand God, the world—even life itself.

In anticipation of spending our Lenten season gazing at the cross from many different angles, First Pres pastors, staff and ministry leaders reflect on the impact of the cross on their own lives:

## O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

The cross reveals Jesus' deep, unconditional love. This is the love I needed! It was profound for me to realize that His love motivated Him to die on the cross so He could have a relationship with us. This resulting love relationship brings me joy, healing, forgiveness, purpose for living and assurance of life to come. I'm eternally grateful!

— Kirkie Morrissey  
Women's Life Ministry Team



## Evil Upended

I once heard a sermon about the cross being the worst torture mechanism that the people of Jesus' time could come up with. My pastor said, "If Jesus could make something good come out of cross—the worst thing humans could think of—imagine what He can do with the worst thing going on in your life." To me, that's what the cross is all about: Jesus bringing the greatest good from the worst humans could imagine.

— Heather Houston  
Middle School Associate

# e w s

## Costing Not Less Than Everything

The cross to me represents a God Who loves unconditionally and Who sacrifices everything for someone who deserves none of it.

– Ina Meyer  
Discipleship Ministries



## Our Undoing and Our Salvation

The cross means that even though God holds a righteous standard by which to measure us, as He holds the plumb line to the wall for Amos in Amos 7:7–9, He is also the One who makes us to measure up to that standard. He stands among us, the measure of what is true *and* the One who reaches out His arms to bring us to Himself.

– Dorothy Alvarez  
Elder



## Where We Lay Down Our Lives

The cross is the center of my faith. It confirms the height, depth and breadth of God's love for me. That God would give the life of His only Son so that I might have life, and have it abundantly, is mind-boggling.

The cross is not just Jesus' cross—it is my cross. It is where I offer myself to be crucified, so that the fallen nature in me dies and Christ comes alive in me. For me, the cross is not a point of departure into the Christian life: it is the destination of the Christian life. It's where at once I both die and live—the miracle of God. Only in the cross does God at the same time preserve His holiness and forgive our sinfulness.

– Pat Hartsock  
Pastor to Men

# GIVE back the BLESSING

God pours out His blessings on us, and one way we show gratitude is by giving back. Each year on Palm Sunday, we take a special offering called **Give Back the Blessing** to provide tangible help to one **Local Mission Partner** and one **Global Mission Partner**. Meet this year's Give Back the Blessing Recipients:



volunteering through City-Serve at FLS.

Currently, FLS is able to serve nine families at a time by providing safe, stable housing during the time a family participates in their residential program. They have a vision to serve 20 families in this way. All of their current building and housing units are old and

## Family Life Services Renovate Living Space for At-Risk Families

Family Life Services (FLS) supports single moms and their children in crisis situations. First Pres and Family Life Services have been faithful friends for many years. Our Local Mission Partnership provides resources, donations and volunteers to support FLS and the families in their programs. Every fall you can find First Pres folks

not in great condition. Their vision is to undertake a renovation and expansion effort so that their residences can eventually reflect the dignity of the residents.

The first building to be renovated is affectionally referred to as "the Spaceship Building." Once this building is renovated, FLS can move forward with their plans to build more housing. With only cosmetic changes since the mid-1900s, the Spaceship Building

is long-overdue for renovation. First Pres has opportunity both to give financially toward this project and to reduce the total cost by offering donations of materials and labor. With our Give Back the Blessing Offering, we hope to sponsor the first phase of the Spaceship Building renovation.

**Goal: \$50,000**



## Heliopolis Evangelical Church

### Mercy Ministry to Families in Egypt

Egypt is our most long-standing Global Partnership, launched in 1995 out of the Holy Spirit's prompting to take key mission relationships deeper. First Pres regularly sends teams to work alongside our Egyptian brothers and sisters in Christ. Most recently, we have chosen to focus on a church-to-church partnership with Heliopolis Evangelical Church, pastored by Youssef Samir, who visited us in January of this year.

Heliopolis Evangelical Church (HEC) has a holistic mission strategy for all of their local, regional and international ministries. One key component of their mission is Mercy Ministries—a focus on caring for impoverished families who are not able to work. Recipients might be widows caring for children or disabled parents. HEC conducts a thorough investigation of the families, including home visits, to ensure that these families are in genuine need and cannot provide for themselves. HEC then provides financial assistance to these families so that

their basic needs can be met. With our Give Back the Blessing Offering, we hope to provide income assistance for 288 families for one year.

**Goal: \$30,000**

Watch for a Give Back the Blessing offering envelope to arrive in your mailbox in the days before Palm Sunday, or pick one up at the Plaza Reception Desk starting in late March. Place your special offering in the plate during worship on Palm Sunday, April 14. You can also designate Give Back the Blessing when you give online.

Call Mission Engagement at 719-884-6233 if you're interested in donating materials or labor for the Spaceship Building renovation or in connecting with our Egypt partnership through prayer or a trip to Egypt.



# The ART of the CROSS

First Pres will abound in art during Lent this year, with three different art experiences happening. Be sure to take in the beauty of the story of the Cross through these artistic offerings, and invite a friend who would enjoy partaking.

## The Cross of Christ A Lenten Experience

The Classic Bible Art Collection visits First Pres

*Matt Lockhart is a First Pres member. He spent 25 years in Christian publishing, and one of the tangents of his professional journey was becoming the owner and steward of a collection of Classic Bible Art, which he is generously sharing with our church family this Lent.*

*Here, Marlene Kort, a leader in the First Pres Arts Community, interviews Matt about the exhibit and the experience that has been crafted to accompany it.*

**Marlene:** Matt, please share about the Classic Bible Art Collection and how you ended up with it.

**Matt:** For 10 years, I was part of the team at Standard Publishing in Cincinnati, Ohio. Standard had its start in Christian publishing back in the

late 1800s, in the early days of the Sunday school movement. Standard invested in color printing presses in the early 1900s, at a time when Sunday school materials were printed in black and white. In part to showcase their new four-color technology, as well as to provide engaging educational materials, Standard began commissioning original Bible art to feature in a variety of church resources.

The creation of this unique collection of high-quality Bible art began in the early 1900s and ran into the late 1950s and early 60s. Standard utilized the art as part of their Sunday school curriculums—both for adults and children—and as complementary teaching visuals. I became familiar with the collection during my time at Standard, where the originals were literally kept in a vault, and I developed an appreciation for both the artistry and scope of the collection.

Fast forward to 2015: As I was helping Standard wrap up the sale of various assets to other Christian publishers, an opportunity arose to make an offer on the art. While our initial offer was turned down, through what I believe to be God's hand at work, about a year later we found ourselves as the new stewards of this amazing collection!

**Marlene:** Who are the artists in this collection?



**Matt:** The collection itself is quite large—with hundreds of different Bible scenes illustrated by a cast of more than 50 different artists, spanning a period of more than 50 years. Part of the fun, as the curator of this collection, is researching and putting together the various puzzle pieces of information related to the different paintings. Some of the illustrations were commissioned from art schools in Europe, while other pieces were created in-house at Standard. While there are a number of unsigned works within the collection, the majority carry a signature. Of the signed works, one of the artists that has become a personal favorite of mine is Cleveland L. Woodward. One of the more prominent European artists within the collection—his work possibly done by his studio and students—is the German painter Bernhard Plockhorst. Both Woodward and Plockhorst paintings are among those included in *The Cross of Christ—A Lenten Experience*.

**Marlene:** What is the relevance of this work to our current culture?

**Matt:** We live in a time when information is largely conveyed visually. More often than not we receive a combination of text and visuals. But recent Bibles for adults are nearly all text, with few or no illustrations. Art as a component of worship and Bible study is a tool that can help illuminate the Word.

I am finding that in addition to grandparents appreciating the Bible rendered as fine art, there is growing interest and hunger from younger parents and their children to see and experience Bible stories in a way that is more authentic than the car-

toon or comic styles that have dominated new children's Bibles for the past several years. This isn't a knock against well-done resources that engage people where they are; rather, it's an observation that there is an audience for realistic Bible art among the young and old alike.

**Marlene:** How do you suggest the art be experienced during our current Lent season?

**Matt:** It is my hope during this Lenten season that folks of all ages and at all stages of relationship with Christ—from seasoned follower, to those on their way back to God—would take time to make a visual journey through Holy Week. Along with the art installation, we'll provide instructions to guide viewers through a new or evangelical experience of Stations of the Cross, grounded in Scripture.

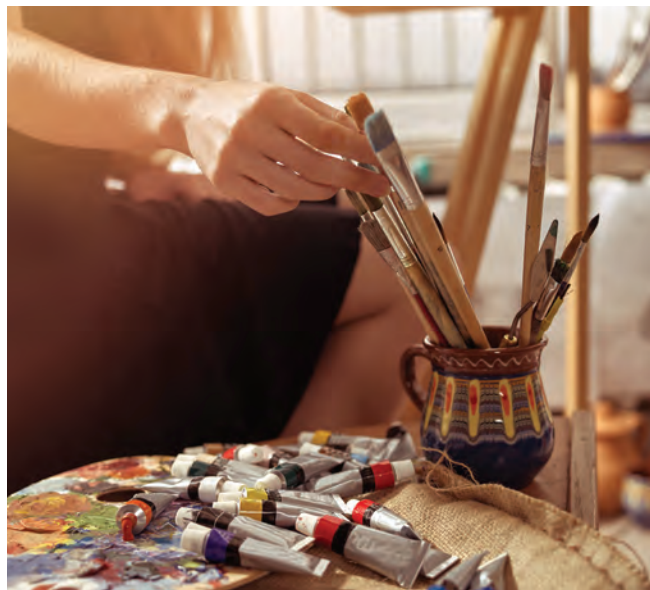
It is my prayer that those of us who are seeking a new encounter with Christ during Lent will be inspired and challenged by Scripture and the art depicting a particular passage. It is also my prayer that those who might not otherwise visit a church would feel welcome and take interest in the art as a cultural experience—viewing these classic Bible art originals, many of which are more than 100 years old.

***The Cross of Christ—A Lenten Experience opens Sunday, March 10, on the second floor near the Sanctuary. The exhibit will be part of Downtown Colorado Springs First Friday Art Walk on April 5. The exhibit will also be open for guided tours Wednesdays 5–7 p.m., and Thursdays 3–5 p.m., from March 13 through April 11.***

# The **ART** of the **CROSS**

## Hands-On Art at GTW

During the Winter/Spring session of **Growing Together Wednesdays**, our Arts Community has hosted a creative walk through the Stations of the Cross, encouraging experienced and budding artists and writers to embody the Holy Week story through their creations, working on a different project during each session of class. Here, they share some of the pieces they have created:



Agony in Gethsemane / Val Purswell

### **Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane**

Christ—Alpha and Omega, fully human and fully divine—faced separation from Abba and the Holy Spirit. He who was without sin became sin to take away ours. In the quiet of the night, intense agony enveloped Christ in the garden among the olive trees. Blood seeped through Jesus' pores. Fully human, fully God—Christ knew every breath, lash, heartbreak and sin he was about to take upon himself. Red blood had already begun to be spilled for you and me.

—Val Purswell and Craig Bubeck



Betrayal / Pegi Ballenger

### **Judas Betrayed Jesus**

The questions about Judas abound. Why betray Christ? Did he ever truly know Jesus? The looming tragedy of Judas is his lack of belief in the depth of God's redemptive love. Judas states his sin to the Pharisees, which absolves nothing; tosses the money on the stone floor, wanders further from God towards abject darkness and ends his life in absolute despair. Judas' sin ruptures his faith's remaining roots; he doesn't just miss Jesus, he severs his ties to everything.

The disciples—Judas included—at the time do not understand the crucifixion as more than their and Jesus' undoing. They do not understand it as their and our deliverance. We have the choice to withhold belief or parts of ourselves. Or to see events as our complete undoing. Or to allow Jesus to be the glue—to hold on—for Jesus to be the resurrection. Do we bring our whole selves—the entirety of our sin and brokenness—to Christ, Alpha and Omega, fully human, fully God? Equally challenging, do we believe that those we treat as other—as the 'Judases' of the world with hearts of stone—can be healed, washed, restored and redeemed by God with gut-wrenching, scales-dropping, eye-tearing, volcanic-awe-inspiring, earth-shaking, eternal love? God's mercies start new each day with redemptive love beyond human measure.

– Val Purswell

**To connect with our Arts Community, contact  
Worship and Music at 719-884-6113.**

**The First Pres Arts Community will also present a Lenten exhibit,  
opening March 10 on the first floor near the Sanctuary.**

# MINISTRY NEWS

## We Pray for You!

**“Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.”**

– Soren Kierkegaard

One of the best and simplest ways we care for each other as a church is to lift one another up in prayer. If you need prayer, there are two ways to quickly connect with someone who is glad to pray for you.

First, make your way to the front of the Sanctuary or Worship Center on Sunday after worship and someone from our **Prayer Team** will meet with you in prayer.

Second, write your request or circumstance on a prayer card found in worship on Sunday, email **prayer@firstprescos.org** or call 719-884-6145. A team meets every Monday to lift up all of the requests received.

Vesta Fulghum has been part of the Monday Prayer Team since Martie Sheffer began it in the late 1970s. For Vesta, the time spent in prayer over the decades has not only been time well spent before the Lord, but has fostered rich community and long relationships. Her friendship with a woman named Joan began after Joan turned in a prayer card and included her name and number for follow-up.



Vesta Fulghum

As was often the case with more serious requests, explains Vesta, “I’d keep them in mind and call back in maybe a month to see how they were.” With Joan, the phone call turned into a friendship and an ongoing prayer partnership: “She has lots of friends that she’s praying for and she’ll call me and we’ll pray for them together,” says Vesta.

If you need prayer or are interested in ministering to others through either our Sunday or Monday Prayer Teams, call 719-884-6145.



## Life After Death

For the next six weeks, we’ll focus our attention on the cross. What happened there? What does the cross say about God? What difference does it make in the world? But after Easter, then what?

On the Sunday after Easter, it is a First Pres tradition to celebrate **Life After Death**, because Jesus’ resurrection forever changes the truth about death. Those who die in Christ live on, and that brings hope for their loved ones who grieve.

On Sunday, April 28, join First Pres for a special service of worship, when the names of those who have passed away since last Easter will be remembered. Then, on Wednesday, May 1, we’ll hold a **Candlelight Memorial Service** to provide an opportunity for friends and families grieving the loss of a loved one to reflect, remember and honor that person.

# First Pres Fellows

This year, First Pres will launch as the newest site for **The Fellows Initiative**, a national program that equips and empowers recent college graduates to integrate faith, work and relationships and make the transition from college to career in strength. Though the first class of fellows doesn't arrive until fall, important work is already underway, and the investment of the whole congregation is needed.

**Here are the top 5 ways you can help to bring our first cohort of young professionals to First Pres:**



- 1) Offer a part-time paid internship for eight months. Interns work Monday through Wednesday, 8–9 hours per day from September through April. Employers need only to provide wages, not benefits.
- 2) Network within your field and connect First Pres Fellows with leads for part-time internships.
- 3) Sign up to host the fellows class in your home for one Thursday evening Roundtable Discussion during the 2019–2020 program.
- 4) Coordinate one special event such as a trip to the Colorado State Capitol, ski day with Tim, Christmas dinner, outing in the mountains, weekend retreat or visit to major Colorado civic location or government office.
- 5) Walk with an accepted fellow to complete an onboarding to-do list that takes them from acceptance to arrival at First Pres.

To participate or to learn more about First Pres Fellows, contact Floyd Sebald, Director, at 719-985-1014 or [fsebald@firstprescos.org](mailto:fsebald@firstprescos.org), or visit [firstprescos.org/fellows](http://firstprescos.org/fellows).

## Life Groups

In a large church, it's important to find a small group of people to grow in Christ with. **Life Groups** are smaller groups where we know each other's names, where we pray meaningfully for one another, and where we begin to trust one another enough to speak Scripture into each other's lives. They're communities where we try to live life together in Jesus' way.

A new round of Life Groups begins this month for the season of Lent. Visit [firstprescos.org/lifegroups](http://firstprescos.org/lifegroups) right away to sign up.



# Summerlin



## UPWARD BOUND OVERNIGHT CAMP

**June 2 to 7 at Camp Elim**

5 p.m. Sunday to 4 p.m. Friday

*Incoming 3rd through 6th graders*

Cost: \$400 before March 29, \$425 March 29–April 26, \$475 after April 26; \$150 non-refundable deposit due at registration.

Questions: 884-6126

Enjoy swimming, archery, skits, campfires, crafts, the zipline and the obstacle course, plus great food and a great camp staff. Draw closer to Christ through Bible study and time with your counselors and friends in your cabin. This could be the best week of your summer!

## HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY CAMP

**June 9 to 13 in Glorieta, New Mexico**

*Incoming 9th through outgoing 12th graders*

Cost: \$499 before March 25, \$549 after March 25; \$99 non-refundable deposit due at registration.

Questions: 884-6221

Join hundreds of students from across the country for fun, food, friendship and energetic worship at beautiful Glorieta Conference Center.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY—THE GREAT ESCAPE

**June 23 to 28 in Gunnison, Colorado**

*Incoming 6th through 9th graders*

Cost: \$499 before April 2, \$525 April 2–May 31, \$550 June 1–9; \$99 non-refundable deposit due at registration. Questions: 884-6221

Middle school students from around the U.S. converge at Western State Colorado University for activities, skits, great worship music, awesome speakers and the beauty of the mountains. You don't want to miss this week of growing in Jesus together.

# me

Summer is alive with fun, friendship and growth at First Pres. Get away to camp or find excitement, learning and community right here at home. Find details and register for any of these events at [firstprescos.org/summer](http://firstprescos.org/summer).



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**July 8 to 12**

*Age 4 through incoming 5th graders*  
in the Worship Center.

Cost: \$10

Questions: 884-6126

Five mornings packed with songs, games, Bible stories and a clear message that Jesus loves every kid! Invite your friends to join in the fun!

## SERVE VBS

**July 8 to 12 at First Pres**

**Students:** Incoming 6th through outgoing 12th graders—Teens are a vital part of VBS, leading younger kids to know Jesus better. Middle schoolers will begin each day with a light breakfast and devotion, then spend the morning serving at VBS. On Friday afternoon, we'll have a fun activity to celebrate a week well-spent. High schoolers can serve too—a fun and meaningful way to earn community service hours to meet school requirements.

**Adults:** VBS is our opportunity as a church to get on eye-level with kids and tell them that Jesus loves them. Won't you be part of this amazing week as a group or activity leader? Sign up to serve 884-6126.



These creative adventures are hosted right here at First Pres and are a wonderful opportunity for us to invite young artists and musicians from our community into our church. Make friends, grow your skills and give God glory through music and art! Find details and register for any of these events at [firstprescos.org/summer](http://firstprescos.org/summer).



### UPBEAT CAMP

**June 17 to 21**

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday  
*Incoming 3rd through 8th graders*

Cost: \$110

Questions: 884-6126

Upbeat Day Camp is perfect for kids who love to sing, dance and act. Campers learn and perform an entire musical in a week that's also full of fun, friends, exciting games and growth in Christian faith.

### STRING CAMP

**June 10 to 14**

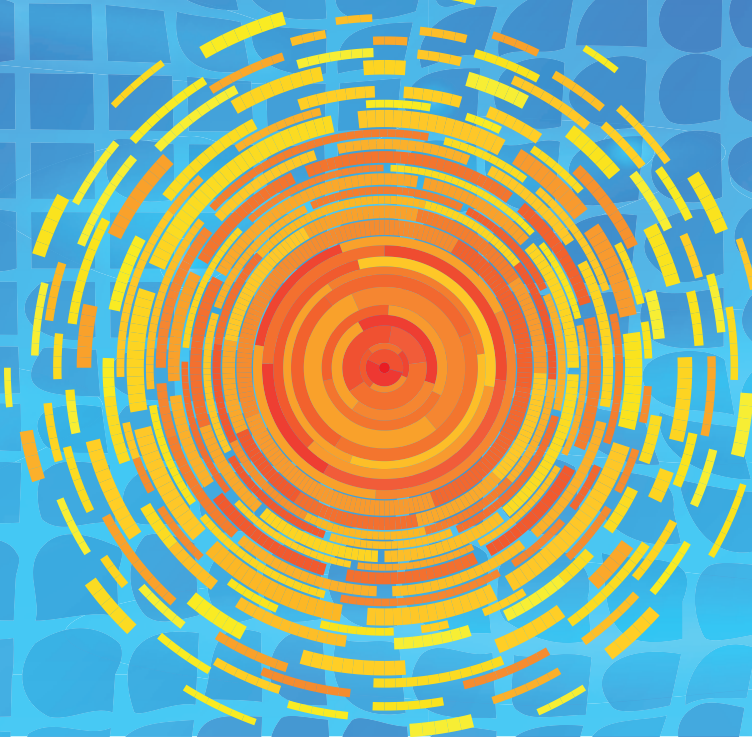
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday  
*Advanced musicians in middle school through college*

Cost: \$90

Questions: 884-6113

String Camp offers young musicians a week of expert instruction at a fantastic price. It's a unique opportunity to grow as a musician and learn to play as part of an orchestra. Three orchestras of different skill levels will rehearse as a large group, in smaller groups and as individuals. Camp will conclude with the performance of a concert, Friday, June 14 at 6 p.m.





## HANDBELL CAMP

**July 8 to 12**

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday  
*Beginning to advanced musicians in 3rd through 12th grades and beginning adults*

Cost: \$20

Questions: 884-6113

This fun and unique music camp serves as an introduction to handbell ringing, as well as a concentrated time for advanced ringers to improve their skills. Ringers will receive expert instruction and prepare for a concert on Friday, July 12, at 11 a.m.

**Back by popular demand:** our adult ringers segment, in which adults with little to no experience can begin learning to play handbells.

## FINE ARTS WORKSHOP

**July 15 to 19**

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday  
*Middle school and high school students*

Cost: \$85, includes art supplies.

Questions: 884-6113

The Fine Arts Workshop gives middle school and high school students the chance to express themselves in a variety of media.

From drawing to painting, 2-D to 3-D, artists will explore the partnership between art and faith. It is in our DNA to be creative, and our experienced camp staff will help campers tap into that desire. Students will have a chance to display what they've learned in an Art Exhibition.





## INTRODUCING THE NEW MY FIRST PRES [my.firstprescos.org](http://my.firstprescos.org)

**O**n March 3, First Pres will launch a new tool for connecting people to each other and to our church. The software behind the system is called Rock RMS ([rockrms.com](http://rockrms.com)), but most of us will know it as My First Pres.

The tool is an intentional effort to give ourselves away to the next generation. As Pastor Tim McConnell has asserted: "If you're in your twenties or thirties and your church doesn't exist on your device, your church doesn't exist." This new software brings communication standards such as simple, on-the-go management of communication preferences to First Pres.

Here are just the first few things you'll be able to do using My First Pres:

### **Update your Contact Information**

If you've moved or changed phone numbers or email addresses, all you need to do is enter your new information here, and we'll be sure to update how we communicate with you. You can also update the information on file for the members of your family.

### **Add a Photo**

If you wish, you can add a photo so that groups can better put names with faces and build relationships.

### Manage Communication Preferences

Let us know which ministries you'd like to receive news from. More options will be added as we move all of our e-news to My First Pres from other tools we have been using to communicate.

### Give and View Giving History

This new tool completes the process of bringing giving and giving history together in one place online. Use My First Pres to manage online giving and track all of your giving.



## Amy Julia Becker

Author of *White Picket Fences* and *A Good and Perfect Gift*



### A FAMILY EVENING: Wednesday, April 3

As we seek to reach the next 1,000 people for Christ, it's vital to be able to enter into winsome and gracious conversation. Amy Julia Becker is a reliable guide for us as we learn to listen well and speak with grace.



*On the Cover* Duane Johnsen of Duane Johnsen Carpentry builds one of the crosses that will stand in our worship spaces this Lent and help us to focus and reflect on Jesus' work on the cross.



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