

FIRST PRES

August 2019

FALL
KICK
OFF



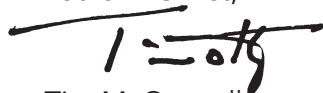
Dear First Pres,

How are you looking at the back half of 2019? For us as a church, it's time to ramp some things up and get going. As a new school year begins, we want to invite you to take a step forward with Jesus. The magazine you hold in your hands is an onramp, an invitation to get on board with something new at First Pres that will draw you closer to the Lord. Where is God calling you to engage in a new way?

We have a lot to celebrate from the summer. Full camps, lots of student outreach and a raucous Vacation Bible School that reached more kids with the love of Jesus than we have for many years. What's next? This month you will see a group of talented, energetic young professionals join us as our first class of First Pres Fellows. New Life Groups will form—is this your time to jump in? We'll hit the streets for CityServe in October. But maybe the most important shift is a subtle one. We are a great place for Christians, but we need to also be a great place to meet Christ. A new "Discover, Engage, Activate" track is coming together as we continue to reshape First Pres for more impactful evangelism, reaching the lost in this city for Christ.

In our messages on Sundays this fall, we will study what it means to be human in the eyes of Jesus. Dehumanizing forces push us away from full and joyful life, but Jesus came so we could have life to the full. Jesus came to make us human again, and now we get to help others find free and full life in Him as we ask Jesus to **Humanize Me**. Come see more of the life Jesus intends, and invite a friend to be inspired by the humanizing ministry of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,



Tim McConnell
Lead Pastor



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FIRST PRES MAGAZINE

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You're Invited to an

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

**Wednesday,
August 21
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

**on the
Weber Street Center Lawn**

As we head into the fall season, you'll have a chance to sign up for and connect with

- Growing Together Wednesdays beginning August 28
- CityServe on October 5
- Fall Life Groups
- Discover, Engage, Activate
- Men's Life
- Women's Life
- Family Ministries fall offerings for families with infants through high schoolers

**Pick up a FREE ticket
at the
Welcome Center
so we can be sure
to prepare
enough food.**



What God Has

while we've been having fun...

Summer is always an energetic time at First Pres. Hundreds of children and students join us for camps and Vacation Bible School. Every generation jumps in to help pass the faith along to the next. God is on the move, and we give Him glory for all that He did in our lives this summer.

"During worship on Wednesday night, I heard God speak to me for the first time. He told me He loves me, and that has changed my faith forever."

– Keira, Middle School Great Escape participant



More than 300 kids, ages 3 through 5th grade, went on a retro-video-game adventure during Vacation Bible School and were encouraged through 2 Peter 1:3 that God's power has given us everything we need as we live life in Him.



as Done



String Camp, Handbell Camp, Upbeat Music and Drama Camp and Fine Arts Workshop connected creative kids and students to their Creator. Many youth who are not normally part of First Pres joined us for these day camps and had the chance to connect with talented and caring leaders from First Pres ministries.



Upward Bound Camp was an action-packed time at Camp Elim for 3rd through 6th graders. From the zip line to forming habits of daily Bible study at "quiet tree," it was a life-changing week. Twenty high school students served as junior counselors, growing their own

community and receiving real-time coaching on how to lead their younger counterparts on a journey toward Jesus.



"Over 100 kids learned a clear message about what Jesus dying on the cross meant for them personally. With tons of interactive Bible Study, Scripture memory, caring camp counselors and fun activities, campers got the chance to really decide to follow Jesus."

– Allen Hunter

HUMANIZE ME



We're a planet of seven billion humans, but life on our planet can be

DEHUMANIZING.

Hunger, poverty, selfishness, loneliness and injustice leave us living beneath God's life-giving design for His creation. Jesus shows us what it means to be truly human.

Jesus makes us truly human.

He redeems and restores.

He calls us to carry His Light and Life to the world.

**August 18
through
October 27,
join us for
Humanize Me.**

August 18 | **Dehumanized** | Luke 10:25–37
August 25 | **Those Who Hunger** | James 2:14–28
September 1 | **Strong Bodies** | Luke 13:10–17
September 8 | **Made to Make** | Jeremiah 18:1–11
September 15 | **Dignity** | Luke 14:7–14
September 22 | **Progress** | Isaiah 65:17–25
September 29 | **Justice** | Luke 18:1–8
October 6 | **A City Lifted** | Isaiah 58:1–14
October 13 | **Community** | Luke 19:1–10
October 20 | **Get Rich** | Luke 16:19–31
October 27 | **Human Being** | Luke 18:9–14

Meet the



FIRST PRES FELLOWS

Since its inception in Falls Church, Virginia, in 1994, The Fellows Initiative (thefellowsinitiative.org) has spread across the country, giving recent college graduates an intentional bridge to move from college to professional life with their faith fully integrated. This fall, First Pres becomes the 27th Fellows site—one of only six locations west of the Mississippi River.

Nine fellows will spend nine months embedded at First Pres, working part-time in their fields, serving in the church, living with host families, building community and immersing themselves in both rich theology and its application.

Meet our inaugural class of Fellows:

**Sophie Hoekstra**

Hometown: Millersville, Maryland

University: Palm Beach Atlantic University and Bryant University

Field of Study: Business Management

About Sophie: NCAA D1 volleyball Northeast Conference Rookie of the Year 2015. Palm Beach Atlantic volleyball team captain 2018.

**Murphy Stadelmaier**

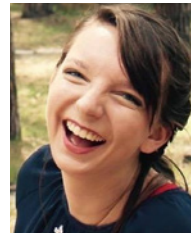
Hometown: Midland, Michigan

University: Hope College

Field of Study: Biology

About Murphy: Hope College women's soccer team Captain 2018, 2019. Hope College

Mortar Board Member 2018. Co-founder and student leader of Athletes in Action at Hope College.

**Mariah Stewart**

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

University: University of South Carolina

Field of Study: Russian and International Studies

About Mariah: Fluent in Russian, President of the Russian Club at the University of South Carolina 2018–19. As a National Security Educational Program Boren Scholar, she was awarded one year of immersive Russian study abroad in Daugavpils, Latvia.

**Cole Fuller**

Hometown: Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

University: Belmont University

Field of Study: Christian Leadership

About Cole: Heart for discipleship and mentoring. Belmont Scholars Honor Program and Theta Alpha Kappa member. Honors Thesis: "The Problematic Origins of the Modern American Prosperity Gospel."

**Justin Dingman**

Hometown: Helena, Montana

University: University of Portland

Field of Study: Chemistry, Biochemistry

About Justin: Intern with National Renewables Energy Laboratory (NREL) 2018–present. EIS Study Abroad in Arles, France. Moving toward post-graduate studies in astrophysics and astrobiology. Assistant football coach at Green Mountain High School in Lakewood, Colorado.

**Lindsay Kooy****Hometown:** Metamora, Michigan**University:** Hope College**Field of Study:** Business with an English minor**About Lindsay:** Awarded first prize in the Vienna Summer School Creative Writing Competition for a historical poem she wrote. Hope College Soccer team member four years. Co-founder and student leader of Athletes in Action at Hope College.**Olivia Massie****Hometown:** Richmond, Virginia**University:** James Madison University**Field of Study:** Geographic Science**About Olivia:** President of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at James Madison University 2018–19. Has already started in her internship with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.**Kyle Wood****Hometown:**

Dandridge, Tennessee

University: University of Tennessee, Knoxville**Field of Study:** Kinesiology**About Kyle:** Worked with officers, cadets and military families as a mountain guide in the Rocky Mountain High wilderness program of Officers' Christian Fellowship. Avid rock climber and snowboarder. Traveled with Young Life to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to encourage and equip indigenous Young Life leaders in under-resourced villages.**Jason Jones****Hometown:** Ernul, North Carolina**University:** Biola University's Welch College**Field of Study:** Christian Apologetics, Psychology, Theology**About Jason:** After graduation, studied Worldview and Cultural Engagement at the Ravi Zacharias International Ministries Academy. Spent a year as a traveling speaker and lecturer with Axis Ministries, resourcing youth pastors, teachers and parents in how to engage the next generation of youth. Currently pursuing an M.A. in Apologetics and aspiring toward a Ph.D. in cultural apologetics.

.HAPPY.
Birthday

FIRST PRES!

First Pres turns 147 years old on August 17. We'll have a birthday party for our church throughout the morning on Sunday, August 11, and we want to bless the church with a birthday gift. **This year, the special birthday offering will benefit the First Pres Fellows.** Designate "Fellows" when you give in worship, by mail or online at my.firstprescos.org.

BE KNOWN

PRAV
MEANINGFULLY
FOR ONE ANOTHER

APPLY
SCRIPTURE
TO LIFE TOGETHER

FOLLOW JESUS
WITH OTHERS

MY CIRCLE

Greg Hartnett, Stevens Fellow &
Interim Pastor of Discipleship

LIFE GROUPS AT FIRST PRES

Life Groups are where “big church” becomes small. They are places where you are known, where you can pray meaningfully for one another, where you trust others enough to apply Scripture to one another’s lives and where you follow Jesus with others.

LIFE GROUP STORIES FROM SPRING 2019

what leaders are saying:

"The group has been fantastic. Each of the participants has been faithful and a fully engaged group member. We have really grown to love being together. This has been a very rewarding experience!"

"Our group has really bonded. Members have had breakfast together, hiked and helped each other with transportation to doctor appointments. Our prayer time is meaningful with honesty and openness. With few exceptions all seven—eight including me—have been to each group session. All have a real commitment to be with each other in God's word."

what participants are saying:

"Worthy of my time and energy."

"A chance to share meaningful things among men."

"My Life Group challenged me to examine other perspectives."

"A fresh look at the Bible with each sermon."

"The support and prayers of our group during my surgery and recovery have been so helpful."

"Life Group really has been an important step for me. I lost my husband about a year ago,



and it was so hard for me to come to church by myself. A friend at church encouraged me to join a Life Group with her and it has made all the difference! We attend worship together and I have a circle of support."

"We have a very busy life with family and careers. This group has provided us with a way to get to know others in the church and develop a caring, supportive network."

"It has been a very good experience for our group, we plan to continue."

"This has been such a big step for us in helping to see First Pres as home."

"I absolutely love our group and so appreciate the openness we all have with each other!"

"God is definitely in the center of our group."

Fall groups are spread throughout the city for young families, couples, all adults, men, women and young adults. They will meet for 10 weeks, beginning in late August, with the option to continue beyond the end of the fall sermon series if the group wants to continue.

You can contact Ina Meyer (719-884-6117 or imeyer@firstprescos.org) with any questions, or inquire at the Welcome Center on August 4, 11 or 18. Registrations will take place at the Welcome Center on those days, or you can visit firstprescos.org/lifegroups for more information. We'd also love to hear from those willing to serve as leaders, or entire groups who have already connected and are ready to access Life Group resources and launch as an official group. Don't miss this opportunity to grow closer to Jesus with others this fall!

growing together

Fall 2019 Growing Together Wednesdays

Junior McGarrah

Wednesday nights beginning August 28, First Pres will gather for a meal and an opportunity to grow together as believers in Christ and those curious about Jesus and faith. Offerings for this fall include a Stephen King book and movie study, expanded Financial Peace University sessions, Old and New Testament studies, various musical opportunities and exciting programs for preschoolers through middle schoolers.

Find a course list, a dinner menu and details on how to participate at firstprescos.org/gtw.

HOW WE'VE GROWN THROUGH GTW



Financial Peace University

Long a GTW offering, Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will expand this fall to offer three options per week to attend the class:

- Wednesday nights at GTW, 6:15 p.m.
- Tuesday mornings, women-only class, 9 a.m.
- Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

Facilitator Louise Carlson shares the following stories of past FPU participants who have experienced amazing changes

and gained significant freedom by applying what they learned in the course:

- A military couple built an emergency fund and were able to pay for a broken windshield. For the first time ever, they saved up for Christmas rather than charging it.
- A couple in ministry learned to take control of their investments.
- A newly-married couple learned how to budget and pay for her going back to school for a Master's degree.
- Two self-employed people learned how to budget for an irregular income.



Songwriter Finds a Voice

In the Songwriter's Workshop, we met a guy who had become a Christian a couple years ago. He had enjoyed writing country music and blues songs, but now he wanted to write songs about Jesus. He was wondering if he could find a way to share his faith through music. He had become a little discouraged, but then his wife showed him this class in the GTW catalog. He came and was encouraged to find he was not alone. Playing in front of the class was a big step for him. He says—and his wife also told me later—that it changed his voice: "I realized I couldn't just sing halfway if I was going to do this in front of the group." We were stunned; what a wonderful and powerful voice he has!

I have noticed that it is our passions, even more than our talents, that God delights in. If you have a heart for music, come join us. Whatever your skill level, if you go in with God, He will bless whatever comes out!

– Steve Alvarez, workshop leader



New Believer Discovers the Richness of the New Testament

I had just accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and had never read the Bible in my 62 years of life. My husband and I signed up for Dave Freehling's GTW New Testament Survey class. It was outstanding and so very informative. Dave's teaching and the class materials brought the New Testament to life for me. They helped me clearly understand God's love for me, what it means to have a relationship with God, what it means to be saved by grace, that Jesus paid the ultimate price on the cross and what His teachings, His death and resurrection really mean—life everlasting for anyone who calls on the name of the Lord.

– Donna

MOPS & MOMSNEXT
to the full

Starts the week of September 8
Register at firstprescos.org/mops



DISCOVER ENGAGE

Starting this month, new workshops help those new to First Pres find their way to a vibrant, active connection to the church body.



ACTIVATE

Know someone who is newly connecting at First Pres? Invite them to take advantage of these opportunities!

discover

COFFEE WITH A PASTOR: Every Sunday at 10:10 a.m., one of our pastors takes time to visit with First Pres guests, hear their stories and answer questions. They meet just up the stairs by the Welcome Center.

CONNECT: Offered August 28 and September 22, this one-session workshop introduces Life Groups, First Pres ministries and opportunities to serve.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: Offered September 4 and 29, this one-session workshop introduces First Pres core beliefs and values.

Learn more at firstprescos.org/discover.

engage

MEMBERSHIP: Offered Wednesdays beginning September 11 and Sundays beginning October 13, this three-session workshop led by Pastor Jennifer Holz focuses on your story, the story of First Pres and how the two intersect. It completes the arc of becoming a First Pres member. Visit firstprescos.org/membership to learn more and register for this workshop.

activate

SERVE: You'll never be more fulfilled than when you're serving in your passion, gifting and purpose. If you are ready to serve at First Pres or with our mission partners, visit my.firstprescos.org/serve.



CityServe

Laura Mueller,
Program Coordinator
for Mission Engagement

For the past five years churches in our city, including First Pres, have tangibly recognized the importance of coming together and being the Church outside the four walls of our buildings to show love and support to our city. Through service, prayer, worship and celebration, CityServe is meant to act as a catalyst to start conversations, make connections and generate relationships and growth. The mission is simple: to unite and ignite the Church to love Colorado Springs so that every woman, man and child may experience the tangible love of God.

CityServe SCHEDULE FOR 2019

Leadership Gathering | Wednesday, September 4 | Lead pastors in our city come together to listen to Mayor John Suthers and learn how we as the Body of Christ can address the urgent needs in our city. Please pray for this important gathering, as over 200 faith leaders in our community convene!

CityServe Day | Saturday, October 5 | A no-strings-attached day of service. Join thousands of people from our city to help beautify, rebuild, restore and support special places in Colorado Springs. Individuals from over 50 churches serve alongside one another in an effort to meet

the immediate needs in our city. With over 100 project sites, there will be plenty of opportunities for all ages and abilities throughout the day to take part.

Citywide Worship | Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m. at the City Auditorium | Join this evening of song, prayer and celebration as we recognize and celebrate how God is transforming our city.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SITES WHERE WE CAN SERVE?

Whether you are looking to get your hands dirty or be an encouragement, there is a project for you! Many of our 20 Local Partners are project sites for CityServe Day, including Family Life Services, Hope and Home, ESM, Catholic Charities, Family Promise, Life Network and Springs Rescue Mission.

HOW CAN I SIGN UP?

Signing up is easy and registration is already open! Visit firstprescos.org/cityserve. Whether you're an individual, a life group, or a family, there are plenty of opportunities for all ages and abilities.



A NIGHT OF WORSHIP
September 19, 6:30 p.m. | First Pres Worship Center
Bring a friend with you!



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