



First Presbyterian
Church of Littleton



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SEPTEMBER 2026

CULTIVATING A LIFE WITH CHRIST

We have been exploring one of the striking themes throughout the Gospel according to Luke – Jesus is often found around a table.

- He dines with tax collectors and sinners (Luke 5:27-32).
- He feeds thousands in the wilderness (Luke 9:10-17).
- He accepts invitations from Pharisees, where difficult conversations unfold (Luke 11:37-54; 14:1-24).
- Zacchaeus joyfully receives Jesus for a meal after climbing a tree just to catch a glimpse of him (Luke 19:1-10).
- On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathers his disciples around the Passover table and offers bread and cup as signs of God's new covenant (Luke 22:14-23).
- Even after the resurrection, the disciples recognize him only when he breaks bread with them on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).

Again and again, meals are places where God's grace is served, assumptions are challenged, strangers become neighbors, and lives are transformed.

As we continue our worship series, **Tables Shared**, we continue to explore these meals and discover that Jesus never intended the table to be merely a place to eat. The table becomes a classroom, a sanctuary, a place of healing, and a launching point for discipleship.

But what happens after we leave the table?

I believe sharing a meal with Christ leads to sharing a life with Christ.

Starting September 20, FPCL will begin exploring in a sermon series what it means to **Cultivate a Life in Christ**. Just as a gardener tends the soil with patience and intention, disciples cultivate habits that enable faith to take root and bear fruit. Growth rarely happens by accident. It comes through the small, faithful decisions we make each day.

Our culture constantly encourages us to hurry, consume more, accomplish more, and measure our worth by productivity or possessions. Jesus offers another way.

- He invites us into a rhythm of work and rest.
- He calls us to examine our priorities.
- He teaches us that "**life does not consist in the abundance of possessions**" (Luke 12:15).
- He encourages generosity over accumulation, trust over anxiety, and gratitude over scarcity.

Following Jesus is not simply about believing certain things. It is about allowing the Spirit to reshape how we spend our time, our energy, our attention, and even our money. That invitation raises some honest questions.

- What fills your calendar?
 - What does it reveal about what matters most?
- When was the last time you intentionally rested without feeling guilty?
- What do your spending habits illustrate: your deepest values or your strongest impulses?
- What possessions have become burdens instead of blessings?
- Is there enough margin in your life to notice a neighbor, welcome a stranger, or hear God's gentle voice?
- What practices help you remain connected to Christ when life becomes busy?
- Where might God be inviting you to simplify — not as deprivation, but as freedom?
- If someone observed your schedule and bank statement, what story would they tell about your priorities?
- Who has a place at your table, and who might God be inviting you to welcome?

These are not questions meant to produce guilt. They are invitations to freedom. Jesus never shamed people into discipleship. Instead, he continually invited people into abundant life — a life marked by joy, generosity, justice, compassion, and trust in God's daily provision.

Cultivating a life in Christ is less about perfection and more about small, intentional decisions that lead us to ask, again and again: ***Am I becoming more like Jesus?***

This season, we invite you to linger at the table with Christ. Listen to the stories. Break bread together. Then allow those encounters to shape the rhythms of everyday life — how you pray, how you work, how you rest, how you spend, how you share. Because at FPCL, we welcome all to love, share, serve, and grow in Christ.

***May our tables become places where Christ is recognized.
And may our lives become places where Christ is reflected.***

May Christ's Grace and Peace be with you,

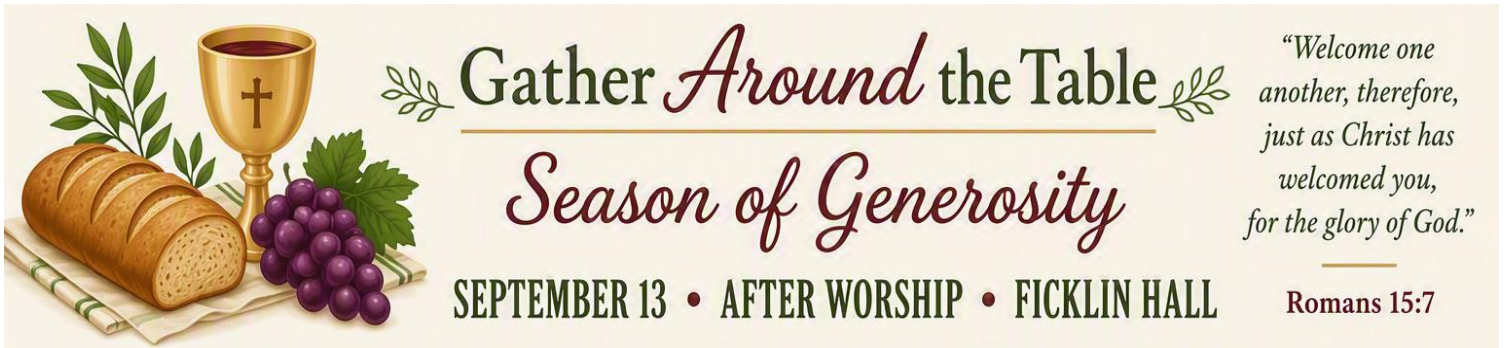


The Reverend Jonathan Murray
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Littleton



A MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

TABLES SHARED: YOUR GIFT MAKES ROOM FOR OTHERS



Dear Members, Friends, and Staff,

As we enter what Stewardship has traditionally called our Season of Generosity, we invite you to gather around the table for a catered lunch, fellowship, and conversation. Together, we will celebrate God's abundant blessings and reflect on how we can cultivate the gifts and resources entrusted to us as we strengthen our ministries and look toward 2027.

Sunday, September 13, immediately following worship in Ficklin Hall. FPCL leadership will provide the meal, likely from our friends at Romano's Italian Restaurant.

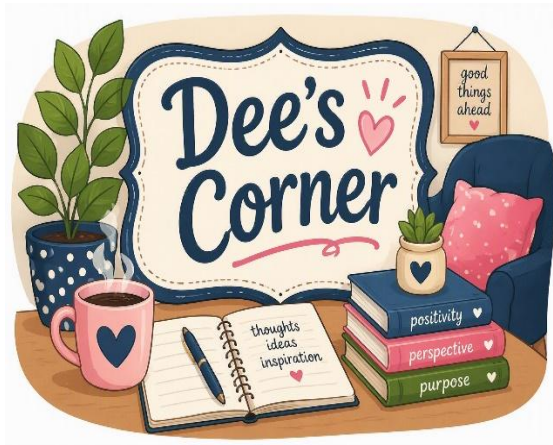
Please RSVP by contacting Matthew in the church office by phone or email. Because our planning timeline is short, your response will help us prepare a welcoming table for everyone.

Just as Christ welcomes us, generosity creates space for worship to flourish, mission to thrive, and hospitality to become tangible. Every gift shared in faith helps set the table for ministry.

We hope you'll pull up a chair and join us!

Your Stewardship Team
Dave LeMay (Chair)
Sue Chandler
Dee Getzinger
Trey McDowell
Don Meersman
Nat Opperman
Don Wendell





Thankful for —

The Backpack Mission program donating a backpack with gift card to a young man, William, who comes to the Community Dinner and sits at my table and who is also a Cub Scout here. He was so thankful they were doing that, he drew a THANK YOU note for them to thank them. As Cheryl Baughman said, “our backpack mission is not only imperative to the education of the youth in our community, but also greatly appreciated by those we serve.”

The Peacemakers sharing they want to make a quilt for the two sons of Col. David Nagel, head chaplain of the Colorado National Guard, and my friend who came to FPCL as a Sgt. to be blessed in 2012 before he left for Kuwait. His two young sons, about four and six, were with him - along with his wife and young daughter! Now, fourteen years later, one son is headed to the Air Force fire academy to be a firefighter; and his other son, is in the Army ROTC training program to be a helicopter pilot! When he shared that with me, he asked for our church to pray for them. I did, and Blythe Lund told me after hearing that, the Peacemakers wanted to make each son a patriotic quilt! I cried when Blythe shared that and am now as I write this message. THIS is who we are at First Pres. We are there for “all the community” around us!

For ALL who helped so much with the Quilt Show and Book Sale for Western Welcome Week. Kathy Frear guided the many volunteers to perfection! It brings in money to helping others, but also, it brings the community into our little church on the corner. What we want for WWW each year, is an opportunity for the community to see who we are!

A very special member, who prefers to remain anonymous, cut some tree limbs, at church, pulled weeds, and cleaned the gutter in the Columbarium. A member told me that her joy was that the tree over the bench by the parking lot, is trimmed back, so people don't bump their heads on the branches when they sit there! We are so blessed to have this done for us all to enjoy! Just shows all what can be accomplished, “One person at a time.”

For Loretta Davis sharing during church about Whiz Kids and for Teagan Wille sharing her personal story about what Whiz Kids meant to her when she was in the third grade and began Whiz Kids, with Kathy Frear her tutor! She was very excited to share that she will now be a volunteer tutor to “give back” to kids and “plant seeds,” as Loretta stated!

The opportunities to love others aren't always grand. More often, they're found in the ordinary moments... a kind word, a helping hand, a patient response, an encouraging message, or simply making time for someone who needs it. Every act of goodness, no matter how small, reflects the heart of Christ. And to me, each act of kindness shows WHO we are at First Pres. We may never fully know how God uses our simple acts of kindness, but He truly loves every seed of love planted in His name. As John Wesley wrote, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” And may we all remember that kindness has more power than we think!

"The way we treat people often speaks louder than the words we say. It's easy to be kind when life is going well. It's easy to be gracious when everyone agrees with us. But Christ calls us to something deeper. To notice the overlooked. To serve without recognition. To offer compassion when it's inconvenient. To love people not because they deserve it, but because He first loved us." (Anonymous)

Our faith was never meant to stay inside church walls. It was meant to be carried into our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and everyday conversations. I read an "anonymous" message that said, "Our most powerful testimony is how we TREAT others AFTER the church service is over and how we reflect Him! May we all try to be a person that people see as a reflection of His love for us! And may we all go out to "plant seeds" by our behavior!

So VERY THANKFUL for our church family!!!!

Blessings,

Dee



What happens to *lost treasures?*

We are always finding lost items at the church. Right now we have **jackets**, a hat and **carry bags** in the coat rack outside Ficklin.



Please take a look and see if any are *your missing treasures!*

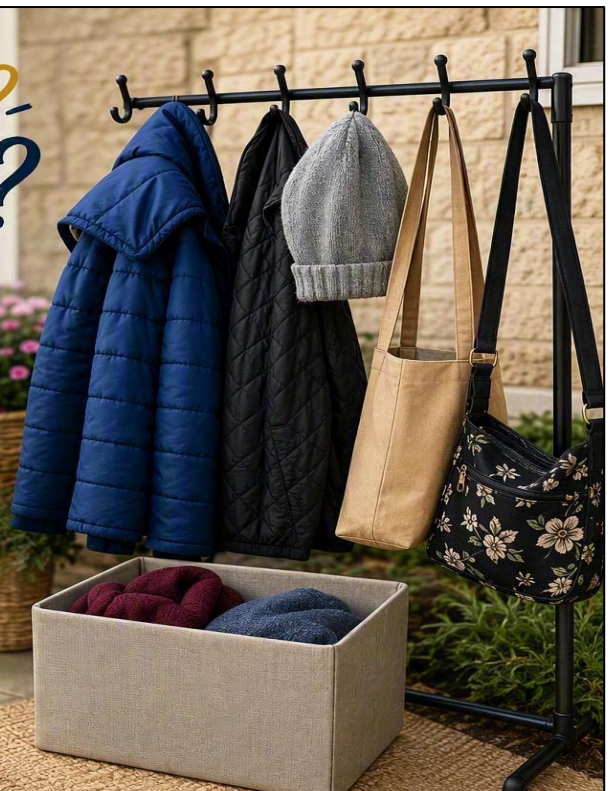


If they're not claimed, eventually we give them to **ARC.**



October 1st
they will go to ARC

ready for a new owner in the cold weather.



TRAILS & TAILS - SUMMER 2026!



Your FPCL handbell ringers added a few more “ding-a-lings” to the group this summer, of the canine and kinsfolk (human) kind!

We gathered at Ketring Park with our furry and (not-so furry) friends each week, and everyone enjoyed the 1.8 mile fellowship time socializing, chatting, and sniffing our way around the lake and park. After the treks, we stopped at the water fountain and

enjoyed a cool drink and snack treats provided by the humans, along with several photo shots by the “pup-parazzi”!

Special thanks to Taylor Ann, Jill and little Poppy, Maria and Franklin, Avery, Henry, and Clover, Dee and big Poppy, Ari, Mimi, and Blueberry!!

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the animals you’ve brought into our lives and for trusting us to care for them. Please bless these animals we love, as well as all of Your creatures on earth. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

Keep waggin’ and walkin’ for Jesus!

Miss Karen



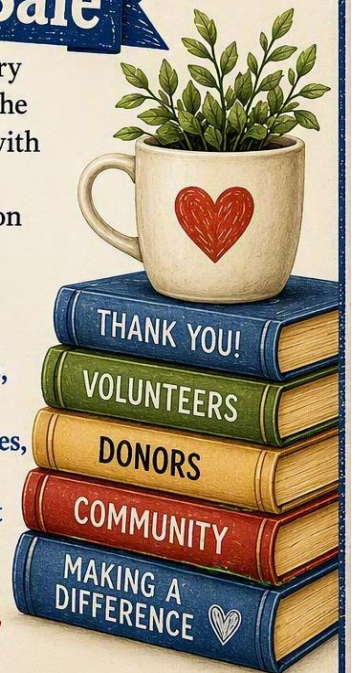
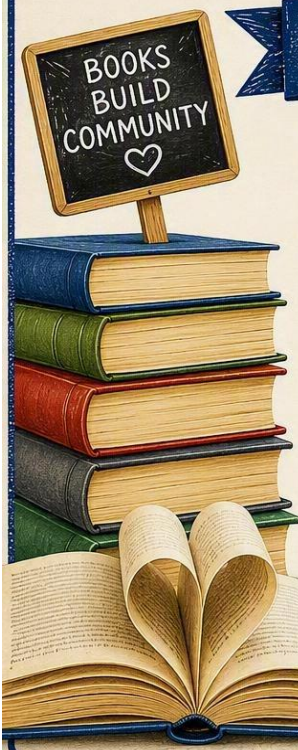
Thank You!

2026 WWW Used Book Sale

Many, many thanks to all who participated in this years' fun and very successful WWW Used Book Sale! A final total of **\$1,234.30** over the 2 days of the sale will certainly benefit our Whiz Kids site! Along with our wonderful volunteers, we couldn't have done it without the tremendous amount of books donated by our gracious congregation and the community over the last few months.

From book sorting to book set-up (including card table lending) and, ultimately, to the 2 day book sale itself and clean up following the sale, assistance from Ruth Mandrell, Mary Lareau, Mary Doner, Justie Ellis, Joy Carreno, Cheryl Baughman (and son, Matt!), Jeanie Ayers, Don Meersman, Matthew Dailey, Ed and Linda Miller, Dick and Cathy Graves, Jess Karet, Diane Caby, Heidi Taylor, Sue Chandler, Doug Lemieux, Dorothy Hagan, Dave LeMay, Deb Graham, Tappy Scanlan, Boy Scout Troop 444, and Bill and Kathy Frear, over the last few months was very much appreciated to keep the process running like a well-oiled machine!

Thanks to all for your time and dedication!



Thank You!

2026 WWW Quilt Show

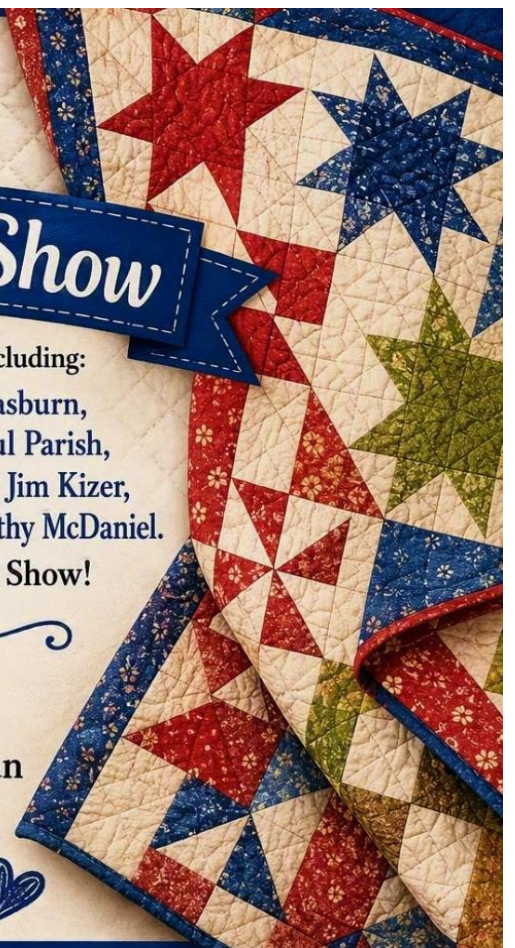
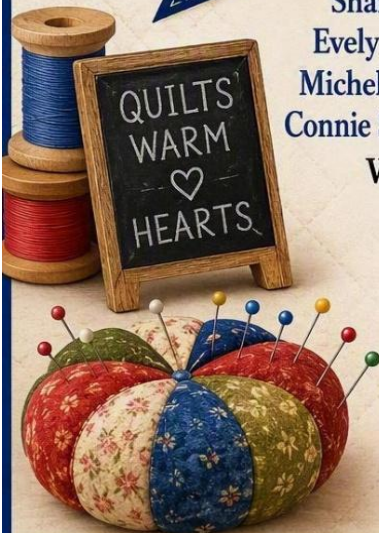
Thanks to everyone who helped with the Quilt Show including:
Sharon Jones, Sharon Piccin, Joyce Fuller, Rory Casburn,
Evelyn Casburn, Linda Diekvoss, Monica Klein, Paul Parish,
Michelle Bateman, Justie Ellis, Mary Doner, Lynda & Jim Kizer,
Connie Strandberg, Donna Boatright, and especially, Kathy McDaniel.

Without your help there would be no Quilt Show!

The quilt for Faithfully K9
made **\$700.00!**

And our very own Rev. Jonathan
had the lucky ticket!

*Thanks to all who shared
your quilt with us!*





TABLES SHARED

A SERMON SERIES IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



Throughout the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus is constantly found at a table, on the way to a meal, or sharing food with others. Around these meals, barriers are broken, strangers become neighbors, sinners discover grace, and disciples learn what God's kingdom looks like.

In this 5 week sermon series, *Tables Shared*, we will follow Jesus through Luke's Gospel, discovering that every table becomes a place where God's abundant welcome, justice, and mercy are made visible. As we gather around these stories, we will hear Christ's invitation to practice that same generous hospitality in our own lives and communities.



8/16

Mission
& Mercy

Luke 5:27-32



8/23

Self-Righteous
vs. Repentance

Luke 7:36-50



8/30

Wilderness
Banquet

Luke 9:10-17



9/6

God's
Guest List

Luke 14:15-24



9/13

Restoration

Luke 15:25-32

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." LUKE 19:10



SERMON SERIES: CULTIVATE *a Life In Christ*

Cultivating a Life Rooted in Christ

Discipleship is more than a single decision — it is a lifelong process of being shaped by the love, grace, and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

Like a well-tended garden, faith grows through intentional care, faithful practices, and the quiet work of the Holy Spirit.

In this ten-week series, we will explore how Scripture invites us to cultivate habits that nurture spiritual growth, deepen relationships, strengthen communities, bear fruit for God's kingdom, and more fully become who God created us to be.

Together we will reflect on practices such as prayer, generosity, simplicity, wisdom, gratitude, compassion, forgiveness, hospitality, and faithful stewardship.

This series offers an invitation to tend the soil of your heart, trust the Spirit's transforming work, and grow into the life God is cultivating within you.



SEPTEMBER 20*:
RHYTHM & BALANCE
Luke 10:38-42

*Music
Dedication
Sunday!



SEPTEMBER 27:
PRIORITIES &
BOUNDARIES
1 Timothy 4:4-16



OCTOBER 4**:
SIMPLICITY
Matthew 4:1-11

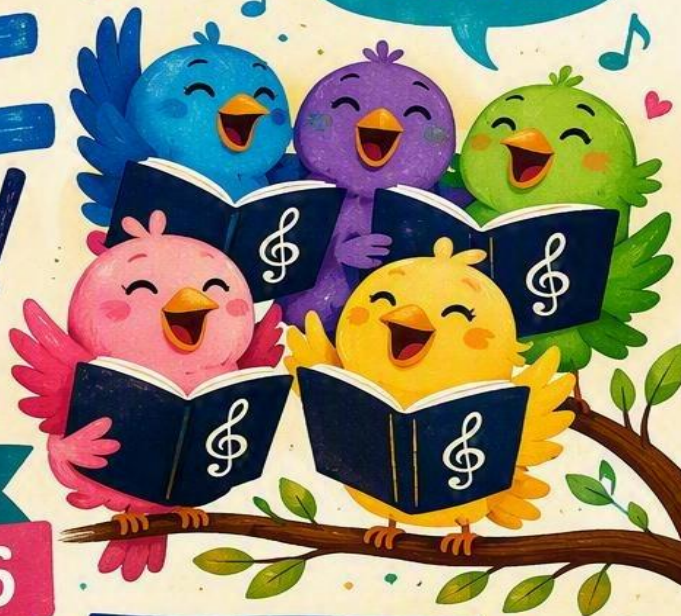
**World
Communion
Sunday

Let Your VOICE Be Heard!

CHANCEL CHOIR
Returns

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

SING.
BELONG.
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!



Do you love to sing? ♥

The Chancel Choir is beginning a new season, and **all voices are welcome!**

Whether you've sung in choirs for years or simply enjoy making music, we invite you to be part of this meaningful ministry that enriches worship and inspires our congregation.



JOIN US!



First Rehearsal:

Sunday, September 13, 2026



Time: **8:30 a.m.**



Location: **4th Floor Choir Room**



The Chancel Choir sings at several **10:00 a.m.** worship services each month from **September through May.**

ALL ARE WELCOME! ♥

ALL VOICE
PARTS WELCOME

HIGH SCHOOL AGE
AND OLDER
ENCOURAGED TO
PARTICIPATE

NO NEED TO
READ MUSIC

NEW MEMBERS
ALWAYS WELCOME

Through music, fellowship, and worship, the choir shares God's message in a unique and powerful way. *Your voice can make a difference!* ♥

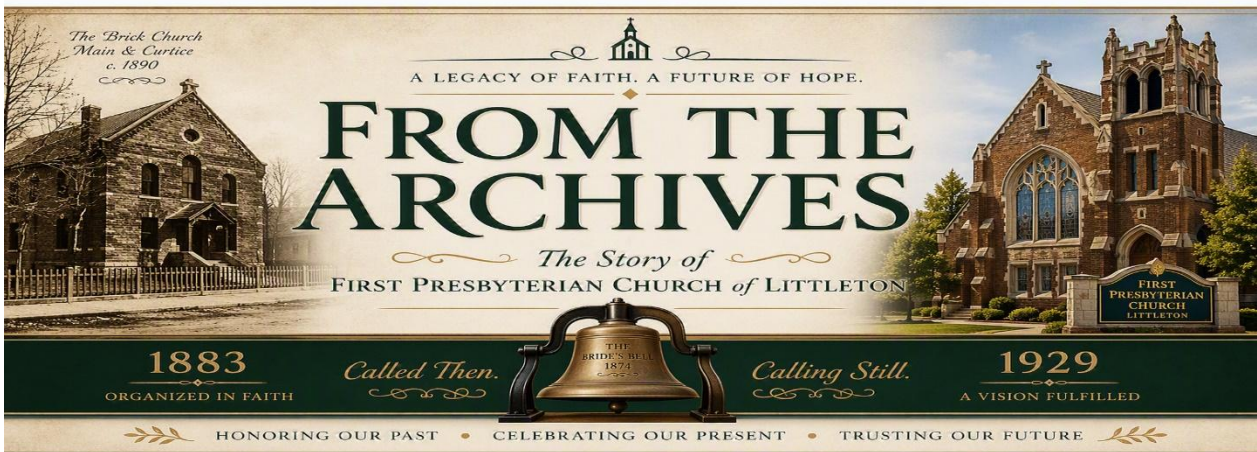
Come
Sing
With Us!

Questions?

Contact
Mary Dailey,
Director of
Worship Arts

Or simply join us on
Sunday, September 13,
and discover the joy of
sharing your gifts
through music!

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord!" – Psalm 100:1



Architects of Faith, Builders of a Town: The “Original 18”

By Matthew Dailey

On November 4, 1883, eighteen individuals gathered in a Littleton schoolhouse to sign a church charter. Looking back today, it's clear they weren't simply founding a congregation; they were helping shape Littleton itself.

These "Original 18" were among the people who built the town. They established farms, opened businesses, maintained roads, shaped local government, and helped transform a frontier settlement into a thriving community. The story of First Presbyterian Church and the story of Littleton are, in many ways, the same story.

The Civic Pillars

Many of the church's earliest leaders were also among Littleton's most respected citizens. Founding Elder **Robert McKelvey** belonged to one of the area's pioneering families. Arriving in the South Platte Valley during the territorial era, the McKelveys witnessed Littleton's transformation from prairie to community. Deeply involved in civic life for generations, they viewed church life as an essential part of community life. The church was where neighbors built trust, organized charitable efforts, and discussed the town's future.

Alongside the McKelveys stood the **Bennett family**, represented by **Fred S. Bennett**. Before Littleton achieved incorporation, leaders like Bennett helped establish the structures necessary for growth. They were the people called upon when decisions needed to be made and problems solved.

The same individuals serving as elders and trustees were often organizing civic improvements, supporting schools, and guiding Littleton through its formative years.

Builders of a Growing Town

The congregation included people whose work literally shaped the landscape. Among them was **Charles G. Louthan**, contractor, builder, and entrepreneur. Louthan constructed more than eighty-five homes in early Littleton, helping transform a frontier village into a permanent community. Families raised children in houses he built, businesses operated from structures he constructed, and today Louthan Street still bears his name.

During the week Louthan built homes and businesses; on Sundays he helped build a church that would endure for generations.

Law and Order on the Frontier

A growing town needed more than buildings and businesses. It also needed leadership and public trust.

Among Littleton's respected citizens was **Edward Livingston Chatfield**, Civil War veteran, farmer, and member of the prominent Chatfield family. After surviving Union Army service, including imprisonment at Andersonville, he settled along the South Platte River. The family's landholdings became so significant that generations later their name would be attached to **Chatfield Reservoir**.

The family's connection to the church extended beyond civic prominence. When Edward died in California in December 1924, his body was returned to Littleton, and his funeral was held at the Littleton Presbyterian Church.

The family's involvement continued through **James Herrick Chatfield**, Edward's first cousin, who served for many years as a church trustee. His obituary described him as "a staunch Christian and worker in the church."

Together, the Chatfields represent the close relationship between civic and church leadership in early Littleton. Their legacy remains woven into both the community's landscape and the history of First Presbyterian Church.

Labor and the Land

Not every founder held public office or earned recognition through a street name. Many were skilled workers and business owners whose labor sustained daily life.

John and Clyde Hoskin, local blacksmiths, supplied and repaired the tools essential to frontier living. Farmers, ranchers, merchants, and builders all depended on them. Likewise, **Harry Nutting**, owner of the Littleton Lumber Company, helped supply the materials from which the town was built. Homes, barns, businesses, schools, and churches depended upon lumber moving through his yard.

Nutting also preserved the church's earliest records in his company's fireproof safe. Because of efforts like his, portions of our earliest history survive today.

Women Who Built a Community

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Original 18 is often overlooked: **eleven of the eighteen charter members were women.**

In 1883, decades before women gained the right to vote nationwide, First Presbyterian's founding membership was overwhelmingly female. These women organized charitable activities, nurtured families, supported schools, cared for neighbors, and sustained the social fabric of the community.

Names such as **Sarah J. Rice, Elizabeth Taggart, Mary McKelvey**, and the other founding women remind us that building a town required more than businesses and public offices. It required hospitality, compassion, perseverance, and faith.

While history books often focus on elected officials and businessmen, church records reveal a broader truth: women were among the principal architects of both the congregation and the community.

A Church and a Town Growing Together

Just three years after organizing, members raised approximately **\$1,500** to purchase their first permanent church building at Main and Curtice. For a frontier congregation, this was an extraordinary commitment.

By establishing a permanent church home in the center of town, they helped anchor downtown Littleton. The church became a gathering place, a landmark, and a sign that the settlement had become a permanent community.

The story of those eighteen founders reminds us that faith and civic life were deeply intertwined on the frontier. The people who worshiped together also worked, governed, and dreamed together.

When we remember the Original 18, we remember farmers, builders, merchants, veterans, craftsmen, mothers, civic leaders, and pioneers whose faith helped shape an entire town. Their legacy lives on not only in our congregation, but in the streets, neighborhoods, landmarks, and institutions of Littleton itself. More than 140 years later, we continue to worship in the town they helped build.

The “Original 18” Charter Members

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton, November 4, 1883

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Robert McKelvey | 10. Harry Nutting |
| 2. Margaret McKelvey | 11. Charles G. Louthan |
| 3. Mary McKelvey | 12. Mary Louthan |
| 4. Annie McKelvey | 13. Edward Livingston Chatfield |
| 5. Fred S. Bennett | 14. Anna E. Chatfield |
| 6. Sarah J. Rice | 15. Jennie Bennett |
| 7. Elizabeth Taggart | 16. Martha Hoskin |
| 8. John Hoskin | 17. Eliza Nutting |
| 9. Clyde Hoskin | 18. Clara Rice |



	July 2026		Year to Date 2026	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$42,315.33	\$26,725.00	\$ 267,856.92	\$243,324.00
Expenses	\$26,704.01	\$35,576.35	\$ 251,606.24	\$267,944.48
Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$15,611.32	(\$8,851.35)	\$ 16,250.68	\$ (24,620.48)

July was a good month financially for FPCL. Strong pledged support and member support helped the bottom line. Personnel expenses are running under budget due to Blakeley's departure and the elimination of paid nursery staff. We paid some big bills lately. The air-conditioning and stained-glass window invoices were paid. Totalling \$103,980. Generous donations to Heart & Home as well as the stained-glass window grant helped cover those improvements. There was no need to use the church's investment accounts for those expenses. The backpack mission donations totaled \$1,521.85. Gift cards and backpacks were purchased to help the young ones in the community succeed.

Thank you for your continued support of the missions here at FPCL.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LITTLETON
1609 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton, CO. 80120

Office Hours 9am-2pm Monday-Thursday

Office Phone Number 303-798-1389

Office Email fpcl@fpcl.org

Pastoral Care Emergency Line 720-662-7277

Staff Members

Pastor Jonathan Murray, Minister of Word and Sacrament

Mary Dailey, Director of Worship Arts

Karen A. Meersman, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music

Joan Lund, Financial Secretary

Matthew Dailey, Interim Office Administrator

Jessica Lund, Bookkeeper

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 10:00 am Sunday Worship

Vision Statement

We Believe the Good News that all of Littleton is called
Beloved by Jesus Christ
And together we Belong to God's Kingdom

Mission Statement

We Welcome All to Love, Share, Serve and
Grow in Christ



First Presbyterian
Church of Littleton