

## SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR JULY YEAR W

July 3	The Reverend Sue Artt	<a href="#">Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8</a>
July 10	The Reverend Dr. Eric C. Smith	<a href="#">Luke 10:25-37</a>
July 17	The Reverend Dr. Eric C. Smith	<a href="#">Luke 10:38-42</a>
July 24	The Reverend Wesley Snedeker	<a href="#">Luke 11:1-13</a>
July 31	The Reverend Alix Wright	<a href="#">Luke 12:13-21</a>



Worship with us in-person at 10:00 AM

Worship with us remotely at 10:00 AM at

<https://firstplymouthchurch.org/worship/>

or view previous services on the [FPUCC YouTube Station](#).

## INTRODUCTION TO NEW PARISH VISITOR

Hi Members and Friends of First Plymouth Congregational Church! My name is Wesley and I'm excited to join the First Plymouth team as your Parish Visitor / Pastoral Care Liaison!

A little about me: I'm an ordained UCC pastor from Southwest Florida. After finishing my MDiv at Chicago Theological Seminary in 2018, I spent about three years doing bi-vocational ministry as Community Minister at Fort Myers Congregational UCC and Hospice Chaplain at Avow Hospice of Naples. My partner Hanny and I relocated to Colorado last fall so I could begin my PhD in Religious Studies in the DU/Illiff Joint Doctoral Program. After a period as a hospital chaplain with Centura Health, I am overjoyed to join First Plymouth to serve as a listener, supporter, and advocate for this community.

I will be available much of the week during the summer for phone calls and visits. If you need a pastoral visit, if you find yourself working through difficult feelings and need a sounding board, if you need support in times of grief or a companion to reflect in a time of change or trial—please reach out! The direct Congregational Care phone number is 720-667-1329 or you can reach me at [pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org). If you would like to drop by during the week, my office hours are every Tuesday afternoon from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

Thank you for your generous welcome and I look forward to getting to know the First Plymouth community!

The Reverend Wesley Snedeker  
Parish Visitor / Pastoral Care Liaison



**Thom Amabile**  
**Steve Barber**  
**Verlyn Barker**  
**Teena Brenkendorff**  
**Leigh Brightwell**  
**Scott Broertjes**  
**Wanda Coleman**  
**Rich Dangremond**  
**Jessa Decker-Smith**  
**Dalyce Due**  
**Paxton Erickson**  
**Pat Gregg**  
**Pat Harwood**  
**Amanda Henderson**  
**Diane Hoagland**  
**Elaine Hoss**  
**Sue Hovland**  
**Jo Ickstadt**  
**Sidney Jackson**  
**Jack Kleinheksel**  
**Don Kludt**  
**Bonnie Larson-De Paz**  
**Doug Lindsey**  
**Mason Mangiameli**  
**Sophie Mangiameli**  
**Donald Nagel**  
**Phil Norrish**  
**Nini Post**  
**Elijah Antonio Sainz-Carrasco**  
**Scott Schindelar**  
**Anna Serio**  
**Phillis Shimamoto**  
**Jason Spillman**  
**Madi Spillman**  
**Gigi Van Egeren**  
**Matt Westlund**  
**Rhiana Westlund**

### 2022-2023 FIRST PLYMOUTH CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator**  
Steve Haskins  
**Vice Moderator**  
Deborah Arca  
**Treasurer**  
Carole Westphal  
**Church Clerk**  
Colleen Egan

**Members at Large:**  
June 2023:  
Robert Henderson, TBD  
June 2024:  
Tammy Weatherly and Beth Irtz  
June 2025:  
James Baack and Steve Wilson

### FIRST PLYMOUTH OFFICE CONTACTS

**Teaching Minister**  
Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith  
[esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org)  
**Director of Children's Ministry**  
Rev. Alix Wright  
[fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org)  
**Director of Music**  
Joel Rinsema  
[jrinsema@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:jrinsema@firstplymouthchurch.org)  
**Parish Visitor**  
Rev. Wesley Snedeker,  
[pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org)

**Director of Administration**  
Carol Hainsey  
[chainsey@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:chainsey@firstplymouthchurch.org)  
**Office Coordinator**  
Lisa Medina  
[office@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:office@firstplymouthchurch.org)  
**Communications Coordinator**  
Amy Turner  
[editor@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:editor@firstplymouthchurch.org)  
**Facility Manager**  
James Trotter  
[jtrotter@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:jtrotter@firstplymouthchurch.org)

## FAITHFUL FUTURE'S UPDATE

More than 100 members of the congregation attended a number of Faithful Future Forums and small group meetings in May and June to learn of the work the Faithful Futures Committee is doing to discern a way forward for First Plymouth.



Given the difficult financial challenges we face, the committee is examining three different scenarios for our church's future.

One involves **partnering** with other UCC churches in the area to combine one or more congregations into one larger and stronger congregation. This could include several churches moving in together in one of the current church buildings or creating and moving into an entirely new space together.

A second scenario involves **repurposing** our church building into something called "An Interfaith Center for Worship and Social Justice." First Plymouth would be just one of several congregations leasing space in our building. Other tenants could include Christian, Jewish and Muslim congregations. Also in place would be a Progressive Theology Research Institute.

The third scenario involves **relocating** and envisions selling our building and either renting space in another building, buying an existing building, or building an entirely new facility for our community.

An additional idea that congregants brought up several times was combining two or more of the scenarios into a fourth scenario. The committee will be reviewing that concept as well.

Through the forums, we have been grateful to hear your many voices and opinions. A very brief summary of what we're hearing includes:

- ◆ Excitement and energy around this process of discerning our future
- ◆ An openness to move if that is the best financial option, but also a concern that we explore all paths for staying before making any final decisions
- ◆ Need for more strategic marketing efforts to grow membership and pledging
- ◆ Need for more visioning around who we are as a church now, who we want to be in the future, and what kind of worship experience might attract more people.

For its next steps, the committee will flesh out each of the scenarios to determine their financial feasibilities and implementation requirements. The final Faithful Futures Forum was conducted on June 14 on Zoom and was recorded. Members who would have missed any of the earlier sessions can view the recording on the church website on the Members Only webpage. (Contact the church office should you need assistance.)

The Committee is also available to make presentations to smaller church groups and/or make a personal visit to discuss the scenarios. Contact a committee chair to arrange.

The committee continues to meet every other week and will begin to hold congregational updates once a month, most likely beginning in August. Additional updates will be provided via e-mail and church newsletters.

Faithful Futures Committee:  
David Nestor, Deborah Arca, Carole Westphal

## Stay in Touch!

First Plymouth uses **MailChimp** to send semi-weekly and monthly updates to those who "opt-in" via a subscription form, whether members or not at <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-Emails>.

Join virtual meetings and classes from the church calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-Calendar>.

The Church directory can be found in ShelbyNext. Need assistance getting access? Contact Amy Turner at [aturner@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:aturner@firstplymouthchurch.org).

## RECENT NOTABLES

**Jean Sharer**, beloved member of First Plymouth, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 23. Please hold Jean and her entire family in your prayers. A Celebration of Life will be held August 7 at 2:00 PM in the First Plymouth Sanctuary.

**Rita Alexander**, 19-year church member, died unexpectedly on Saturday morning, June 18. Please keep Rita and her family in your prayers. A Celebration of Life will be held in the First Plymouth Sanctuary on September 29 at 3:00 PM.

**Bob Backus**, 54 year member of First Plymouth, passed away Sunday morning, June 26, 2022. A Celebration of Life is being planned with details forthcoming.



## Temporary Transition Team Update

The Temporary Transition Team was created by Church Moderator, Liz Mascitelli, to address the immediate spiritual needs of our community in response to the unexpected resignation of Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas. This information was received by the congregation on May 22, 2022 and the team began meeting on May 24, 2022. As a team, we have met weekly since that time, and this report offers a synopsis of our work to date.

Jenny's decisions, her exit interviews and her final Sunday with us were discussed and planned. On June 12, the congregation was supportive of Jenny and her family and was present to show our appreciation and love with a send-off celebration.

The team focused on pastoral care and the need for a person to be available on staff to assist with members that require all types of spiritual service with Jenny's departure.

Rev. Wesley Snedeker, is now serving as our Parish Visitor. He is available to everyone via email at [pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org) and by phone at 720-667-1329.

The team has met with Rev. Sue Artt, Rocky Mountain United Church of Christ Conference Minister, and Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott, Rocky Mountain United Church of Christ Associate Conference Minister to discuss next steps and procedures for securing an interim minister for our congregation. A plan is being developed to analyze the immediate needs of the church and to write the temporary job description.

A pulpit schedule has been finalized and is presented following this report.

The team members are listed below. The group encourages you to reach out with your thoughts and comments. This is a process that is ongoing. We will continue to meet weekly to ensure that our spiritual needs, and support for community wellness are met.

In peace and community -

Liz Mascitelli, Moderator (2021-2022)

Harry Adair, Ken Hoagland, Jan McCoy, Suzie Wrenn

Attending - Steve Haskins, Moderator (2022-2023), Carol Hainsey

## Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM This Summer @ First Plymouth

- ◆ July 3 - The Reverend Sue Artt with a Talk-Back session after worship
- ◆ July 10 - The Reverend Dr. Eric C. Smith
- ◆ July 17 - The Reverend Dr. Eric C. Smith
- ◆ July 24 - The Reverend Wesley Snedeker
- ◆ July 31 - The Reverend Alix Wright
- ◆ August 7 - The Reverend Dr. Eric C. Smith
- ◆ August 14 - The Reverend Dr. Eric C. Smith
- ◆ August 21 - Sophia Hayden
- ◆ August 28 - The Reverend Wesley Snedeker

## Adult Forum: July 3 A Special Summer Event

Please join UCC Conference Minister Rev. Sue Artt for "Talk Back with Sue" in the Commons Room immediately following worship on Sunday, July 3. Rev. Artt will lead worship on this Sunday, and her sermon is titled "A Time to Listen." She has a long history with First Plymouth and many years of experience guiding congregations in transition. Pick up some snacks in the Conversation area and bring your questions for Sue. Members of the Temporary Transition Team, Moderator Steve Haskins (2022-2023) and Vice Moderator Deb Arca will be on hand to respond to questions as well. You may join the conversation by zoom, and it will be recorded and available for viewing later on line if you're out of town for the July 4th holiday.

## MINISTRY NEWS

**Children's Ministries:** Welcome to Summer! The Nursery will not be open throughout the summer. Should you need childcare on Sunday mornings, please contact Alix Wright. Join us on July 10 for Summer Sunday School with a family community meal following the worship service. On July 21, families will meet at the Denver Zoo (scholarships available, please reach out to Alix at [awright@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:awright@firstplymouthchurch.org)). Hope to see some of you at Community Camp July 24-30.

**Creation Justice Ministry** continues to educate the FP community in ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Please familiarize yourselves with signage for the green compost bins, blue recycling bins and black landfill bins.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Community Camp Registration has ended.** Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/FP-CC-Pymts> to pay the balance of camp fees. Contact Dean Elizabeth Thompson at [FP-CAMP@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:FP-CAMP@firstplymouthchurch.org) with your questions.

**Hiking with Friends, Old & New:** After a lovely walk along Bear Creek in June, this month it's time for another hike! We are planning to meet at the upper west trailhead of White Ranch Park on July 7 at 9:30 AM. There will be an option for 2-4 miles hiking. (Reminder: We are limiting dogs to walks only.) We look forward to seeing you on July 7. Please contact **Susan Harman** so that we can expect you and send you specific information about where to meet. Contact information is located in the church directory in ShelbyNext, or by contacting the church office.

**The Spillionaires!** are back live in concert on Sunday, July 10 at 7:00 PM at Clocktower Cabaret. This 9-piece funk and soul band is comprised of Madi, Ian, Patrick, and Jason Spillman backed up by some of the best musicians in Denver. Featuring funk and soul music from the 1960s thru present, this dynamic and tight band puts on an unforgettable show. Seating is limited so do not wait to get your tickets, which are available at [www.cloctowercabaret.com](http://www.cloctowercabaret.com). Come on out for a fun night of unforgettable live music!

**First Plymouth is Hiring:** With the pandemic somewhat at bay, and with more organizations renting our facility, First Plymouth is hiring part-time custodians. Interested parties should contact the Director of Administration, Carol Hainsey at [director@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:director@firstplymouthchurch.org) or by calling the church office.

**Men's Fellowship** monthly Saturday breakfasts/programs will, as usual, not occur in June, July, and August. Fellowship and activities continue weekly through the **Yacht and Donut Club** which meets Wednesdays at 8:30 AM in the Commons Room and via ZOOM.

## July Share-the-Plate Archway Communities

Since its founding by FP member **David Nestor** in 1995, Archway Communities, initially established as Rocky Mountain HDC, has remained steadfast to its commitment to provide service-enriched affordable housing for very low-to-moderate income families in the Denver Metro region and Colorado Springs.

With 10 properties in the Denver metro and Colorado Springs, they have been developing affordable housing communities, expertly managing properties, and providing essential supportive services to individuals and families for more than 20 years.

By integrating housing and supportive services, Archway Communities is helping 1,516 residents improve economically and socially. They are a faith-based non-profit that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.



## July 4 Holiday

The Church office will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.



First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC  
3501 South Colorado Boulevard  
Englewood, CO 80113

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER