



First Presbyterian Church of Littleton



***But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'* "**

Luke 15:30-32 (NRSVUE)

Sunday, September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

All are welcome in this sacred space, including the wiggles and giggles!

◆ **PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT**

*Please be seated, silence all devices, and **prepare yourself for worship.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Murray

PRELUDE

My Tribute arr. Hayes

Mary Dailey

~~~ **GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE** ~~~

◆ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dave LeMay

*Come, for God has prepared a table of grace.*

**We come, carrying our joys and our wounds,  
our hopes and our hesitations.**

*Come, for God welcomes the lost, the found, the searching, and the certain.*

**We come, remembering that none of us  
has earned our place at this table.**

*Come, for Christ calls us beyond resentment toward reconciliation.*

**We come, ready to release what keeps us divided  
and receive what makes us whole.**

*Come, for there is room at God's table.*

**There is room for us, and there is room for our neighbors.**

*Come, let us worship the God who restores what is broken  
and makes strangers into family.*

**We come to the table with open hearts, open hands, and open lives.  
Let us worship God!**

◆ **SHARING THE PEACE**

*The Peace of Christ be with you!*

**And also, with you!**

◆ **HYMN 506 (vs. 1-3) *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table***

Congregation

~~~ **LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD** ~~~

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

I'll Fly Away

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 45:1-11 (The Message)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we are often more comfortable with fairness than with grace. We keep track of who has done what. We remember old wounds. We hold tightly to our grievances. We decide who deserves another chance and who should remain outside. We confess that sometimes we would rather be right than be reconciled. Sometimes we have mistaken forgiveness for weakness, mercy for compromise, and restoration for forgetting the harm that has been done.

Forgive us, O God. Free us from the need to keep score. Teach us to seek justice without abandoning mercy, to name harm without becoming prisoners of resentment, and to pursue reconciliation without ignoring the truth. Make our hearts more like yours. Amen.

HYMN 578

O Lord Have Mercy

Congregation

**O Lord, have mercy (x3) have mercy on us.
O Christ, have mercy (x3) have mercy on us.**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Dave LeMay

...Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel: God's grace is greater than our failures, God's love is stronger than our divisions, and God's table has room for us all. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

◆ HYMN 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* Congregation

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

◆ GOSPEL READING: LUKE 15:25-32 (NRSVUE)

Pastor Murray

This is the Word of the Lord. **God is still speaking.**

~~~ PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD ~~~

MESSAGE

*Reconciliation*  
Sermon Series "Tables Shared"

HYMN 754

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

Congregation

~~~ RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD ~~~

OFFERING

Pastor Murray

OFFERTORY

In This Very Room

Chancel Choir

◆ HYMN 606

Doxology

Congregation

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



◆ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Murray

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Written for "Tables Shared" Sermon Series

**We believe in God, who prepares a table of grace for all people,
whose abundance is greater than our fear, and whose mercy reaches
farther than our imagination.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who shared meals with saints and sinners,
strangers and friends, rich and poor. At his table, barriers were
broken, welcome was extended, and God's kingdom was revealed. In
giving himself, Christ became the Bread of Life for the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gathers us as one family, opens
our hearts to hospitality, and sends us to live with justice,
compassion, and peace.**

**We believe God's table is wide enough for all. So we will follow Jesus,
share what we have, welcome whom Christ welcomes, and proclaim
with joy: The table is ready. Come, for all is prepared by God's
grace. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

◆ HYMN 539

We Will Go Out with Joy

Congregation

~~~ CARRYING GOD'S GOOD NEWS INTO GOD'S WORLD ~~~

◆ BENEDICTION

Pastor Murray

POSTLUDE

*Soon and Very Soon arr. Hayes*

Mary Dailey

WHO IS SOMEONE YOU HAVE BEEN KEEPING OUTSIDE YOUR TABLE —  
AND WHAT MIGHT IT LOOK LIKE TO MAKE ROOM FOR RESTORATION?

## Today's Service

Music

Mary Dailey & Chancel Choir

Liturgist

Dave LeMay

Trustee

Jeff Colwell

Ushers

Linda Diekvoss, Paul Parish, Dennis & Sheri Wyatt

Flowers Scott & Sue Chandler in honor of Rowan's (Grandson) 2<sup>nd</sup> B-Day

**MUSIC DEDICATION SUNDAY!!**

Please join us for worship on *Sunday, September 20th* to dedicate our musicians in sharing their talents through music ministry. Joyful music will abound, and the singers and ringers would love to see you there to celebrate alongside them!

*"...God, our God, the world's composer, hear us, echoes of your voice. Music is your art, your glory, let the human heart rejoice!"*

*We'll see you on September 20th! ♥*

# FPCL Book Club

— ♥ All are Welcome ♥ —

We are a small, friendly group and we welcome anyone who likes to read for casual discussions about books. We share thoughts about the books and about our lives with *no judgement*.



Group will meet the **Second Thursday** of each month, (except August), at 12:30pm in Ayers' Parlor (Zoom is available as well).



Reach out to Janice Fagan with any questions: [jlfagan69@gmail.com](mailto:jlfagan69@gmail.com)

TEAM OF RIVALS — DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN (non-fiction)

THEO OF GOLDEN — ALLEN LEVI (fiction)

THE EDGE OF THE GRACE PERIOD — DOROTHY HAGAN ♥ (fiction)

## OUR UPCOMING BOOKS



### SEPTEMBER

Team of Rivals –  
by Doris Kearns Goodwin  
(non-fiction)



### OCTOBER

Theo of Golden –  
by Allen Levi  
(fiction)



### NOVEMBER

The Edge of the Grace Period –  
by our very own Dorothy Hagan ♥  
(fiction)

Good books.  
Great friends.  
Meaningful  
conversations.  
♥

♥ Read. Share. Connect. ♥

# OPEN DOOR CIRCLE

All Women of FPCL Are Welcome

— Faith • Fellowship • Service —

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1



**3rd Thursday  
of Each Month**



**10:30 a.m.**



**Shabby Sheep Room  
(4th Floor)**

### GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Open Door Circle is a community of women who gather for prayer, Bible study, friendship, and service.

*Join Us!*

Build friendships, deepen your faith, and support ministries that make a difference in our community.

### MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT



MEALS  
ON WHEELS



SCHOOL  
BACKPACK PROJECT



CHURCH  
MISSION INITIATIVES

*For more information:*

**Kathy McDaniel  
or  
Linda Diekvoss**

OPENING HEARTS

OPENING FAITH

OPENING DOORS



## DEEPER STUDY: WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

*Perichoresis* is a Greek word meaning mutual indwelling or divine dance. It describes how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit live and work in perfect unity while remaining distinct Persons. Together they are **One God**.

- ✓ **Father:** Creator
- ✓ **Son:** Redeemer
- ✓ **Holy Spirit:** Sustainer



**AGES 1-3**

**Jesus Storybook Bible**

Every story whispers His name and points children to Jesus.

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

**iBIBLE**  
The World's First Animated Bible

**iBIBLE**  
Animated Scripture that brings the biblical story to life.

**ADULTS**

**A Steady Faith in Shaky Times**

Learn how to trust God and stand firm amid uncertainty.



*Know God. Grow in Faith. Make Disciples.*



# SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

*Join us as we grow together in God's Word.*



**1st & 3rd SUNDAYS**



**IMMEDIATELY**  
*Following Worship*



**CHURCH BASEMENT**  
*(Accessible location for all participants)*

GROW  
IN FAITH.  
TOGETHER  
IN CHRIST.

*All Are Welcome!*

Whether you're new to Bible study or have been studying Scripture for years, come for discussion, fellowship, and spiritual growth.



**Office Hours** 9am-2pm Monday-Thursday \*Appointments Encouraged

**Office Phone Number** 303-798-1389

**Office Email** [fpcl@fpcl.org](mailto: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**, Office Administrator

**Jessica Lund**, Bookkeeper



SERMON SERIES:

# CULTIVATE

*a Life In Christ*

Cultivating a Life Rooted in Christ



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*

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.

### **Mission Statement:**

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



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