



First Presbyterian Church of Littleton



“ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the progress of the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ, and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.”

Philippians 1:12-14 (NRSVUE)

Sunday, August 9, 2026
Eleventh 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.***

PRELUDE

Mary Dailey

OPENING HYMN 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Congregation

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Murray

◆ SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also, with you!

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

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP

Taylor Ann Meersman

*We gather because God's Spirit is still on the move.*

**Christ continues to call disciples,  
build community, and send us into the world.**

*Though empires rise and fall, though obstacles appear,  
God's love cannot be contained.*

**The good news is not chained.**

**God's grace is not imprisoned.**

*We have come to worship the One*

*whose kingdom continues to grow in unexpected places.*

**We will praise God with joy, receive Christ's peace,  
and be sent by the Spirit to love and serve the world.**

◆ HYMN 35

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

Congregation

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Bill Graves, soprano saxophone

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Taylor Ann Meersman

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 1:12-21 (NRSVUE)

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us to proclaim your love with boldness, yet we often choose comfort over courage. You invite us to welcome strangers, yet we build walls of fear and suspicion. You send us to share hope, yet we become discouraged when the work seems difficult. Forgive us when we forget that your Spirit is already at work beyond the places we can see. Renew our trust in your promises. Expand our compassion. Strengthen our witness. Teach us to live with the confidence that nothing can separate your world from your redeeming love. Set us free to serve with joy. Amen.

HYMN 579

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)

Congregation

Kyrie eleison (3x) Christe eleison (3x) Kyrie eleison (3x)

SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Taylor Ann Meersman

... Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

◆ 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.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 28:16-31 (NRSVUE)

Pastor Murray

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

~~~ PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD ~~~

MESSAGE

*An Unfinished Story*

Sermon Series "*Spirit on the Move*"

HYMN 310

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

Congregation

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

OFFERING

Pastor Murray

OFFERTORY

Dr. Bill Graves, Irish whistle

◆ 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

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third
day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and
sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence
he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life ever-lasting. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

King Soopers

Dave LeMay

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 313

Lord, Make Us More Holy

Congregation

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

◆ BENEDICTION

Pastor Murray

POSTLUDE

Mary Dailey

Where have you seen God continue working through unexpected people or difficult circumstances, reminding you that the gospel is still "without hindrance"?

Today's Service

Music

Mary Dailey & Dr. Bill Graves, saxophone

Liturgist

Taylor Ann Meersman

Trustee

Sue Chandler

Ushers

Linda Diekvoss, Paul Parish & Connie Strandberg

The flowers in the sanctuary today are in honor and celebration of **Taylor Ann Meersman's** birthday this Saturday, August 15th. They are given with much love and many hugs from her family! **xoxo**

*Cover Photo taken by Matthew Dailey

First Presbyterian Church of Littleton



Presents the 23rd Annual

Western Welcome Week

Quilt Show &

Used Book Sale

Come enjoy the beautiful quilts displayed in our Historic Sanctuary (built in 1929 by Jules Jacques Benois Benedict) and Used Book Sale!

Quilt Drop-off Day: Thursday, August 13th 12-6pm

Quilt Show & Used Book Sale: Friday, August 14th 12-6pm

Quilt Show & Used Book Sale: Saturday, August 15th 8:30am-3pm

****Quilts must be picked up on Saturday, August 15th @ 3pm**

A beautiful hand quilted mission quilt has been generously donated to the Peacemakers to be included in a chance drawing on Saturday August 15, at 3:00pm. All proceeds from the Quilt Show will benefit "Faithfully K-9" - a service to our veterans, who provide individual dog training.

Chance Tickets: \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Proceeds from the Used Book Sale will benefit Whiz Kids Tutoring.

We will begin collecting books July 1st in the Welcome Center.
Contact Kathy Frear at 303-241-3405 or kathyfrear@gmail.com
to arrange a drop-off or pick up.

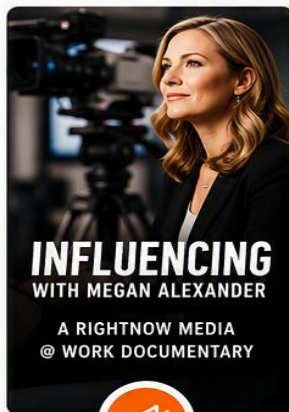
**** LAST DAY TO DONATE BOOKS: SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th ****

1609 W. Littleton Blvd. Littleton, CO 80120

www.littletonpresbyterian.org www.westernwelcomeweek.org

rightnow MEDIA

— Biblical teaching for every person in every season. —

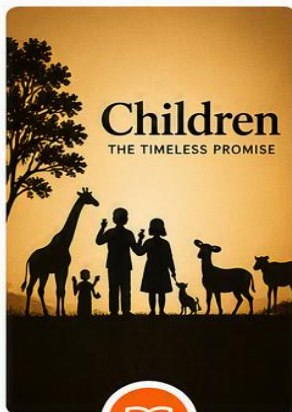


Influencing

While the world is influencing people in every area of life, Megan Alexander, national news correspondent for Inside Edition, believes that Christians can have just as much influence on the world.

In this RightNow Media @ Work documentary, Megan shares how she has been able to live as a believer while working in mainstream media. When we're offered a seat at the table, we can in turn offer a different perspective. Megan's story shows that there are many ways to engage the media while holding fast to integrity and faith.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/335167>



Children

Ancient stories come to life through timeless, imagination-provoking shadow puppets, unveiling the enduring thread of God's promises.

From creation to eternity, each episode reveals how faith, trust, and redemption weave together in the grand narrative of Scripture, ultimately pointing to Jesus and God's plan for redemption.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/881483>



Table Fellowship

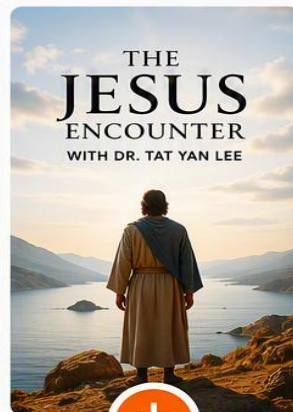
Have you ever thought about the central role the table plays in the lives of Christians?

The Bible is full of references about food, drink, eating, and fellowship. Jesus knew the power of the table and used it to teach and embody truth about himself.

And when we sit down for a meal with others, we get to know them better while we nourish our bodies and souls.

In this seven-session series, complete with simple yet delicious recipes, Bianca Juárez leads us through Jesus's interactions around the table, inspiring us to invite people into our homes, open the Word of God, and break bread together.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/720472>



General

Unravel the mystery of Jesus — God eternal and yet, a man like us.

Whether you're new to faith or a seasoned believer, Dr. Tat Yan Lee offers fresh insights for a richer faith and closer walk with Christ.

Step in and be transformed.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/916535?session=921277>



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GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER

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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

WORSHIP PLANS

NEW SERIES: *Tables Shared*

August 16: *Mission & Mercy*

Luke 5:27-32

August 23: *Self-Righteous vs. Repentance*

Luke 7:36-50

August 30: *Wilderness Banquet*

Luke 9:10-17

UPCOMING MUSIC

August 16: Megan VanDeHey (Western Sunday)

August 23: Nolan Baker, tenor

Mission Statement:

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



**First Presbyterian
Church of Littleton**

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