



First Presbyterian
Church of Littleton



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AUGUST 2026

THIS MONTH!!!!

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 used books, puzzles, games, DVDs, and CDs 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

DAILY BREAD, DAILY JOY

"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day.'" — Exodus 16:4

There are seasons in life when we long for dramatic miracles. We pray for mountains to move, impossible situations to resolve, and clear answers to difficult questions. Yet one of Scripture's most enduring stories reminds us that God often works in quieter ways.

The Israelites have just escaped slavery in Egypt. Freedom, however, has not yet become comfort. They are exhausted, uncertain, hungry, and wondering whether God has brought them into the wilderness only to die. Their complaints sound surprisingly familiar:

What if there isn't enough?

What if tomorrow is worse than today?

God responds — not with condemnation or punishment — but with provision.

Each morning, the ground is covered with something the people have never seen before.

They ask one another, **מָה הוּא (man hu?)** — "What is it?" (Exodus 16:15). From this question comes the name **manna**. The gift itself carries a question. God's provision arrives in a form they did not expect and could not have imagined.

I would argue that is still true today.

God's grace often comes disguised as ordinary moments: *a conversation that restores hope, a meal shared with friends, strength to face another day, laughter in the midst of grief, forgiveness after conflict, or the simple beauty of another sunrise*. We sometimes overlook these gifts because they do not appear miraculous enough. Yet Scripture reminds us that heaven's bread often looks remarkably ordinary.

Another important Hebrew word appears throughout this passage: **דָּבָר (dābār)**, meaning "word," "matter," or "instruction." God gives not only bread but direction. The people are instructed to gather only what they need for that day. The miracle is paired with trust. Every sunrise becomes an invitation to believe that tomorrow's provision belongs to God, not to our anxious attempts to control the future.

The Israelites are also told to gather an **עֹמֶר (omer)** for each person (Exodus 16:16), a measured portion. Later we learn that *"those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage"* (v.18). God's economy is not built on accumulation but on sufficiency. There is enough because the community shares what has been gathered.

This challenges a culture that often tells us that security comes from having more. God's wilderness lesson is different: joy comes from trusting the One who provides enough and from ensuring that everyone has enough. We are all traveling through a wilderness and each of our wildernesses look a little different.

Living This Out Individually

Imagine beginning each day with one simple question: *Where is today's manna?*

Perhaps before reaching for the phone or opening the news, we pause and ask God to help us notice today's gifts. By evening, we might write down three pieces of "manna" we received:

- encouragement from a friend,
- strength to complete difficult work,
- a child's laughter,
- an answered prayer,
- a beautiful sunset,
- or unexpected peace during a stressful day.

Over time, this practice reshapes our hearts. Instead of measuring life by what we lack, we begin to recognize the countless ways God continues to provide each day.

LIVING THIS OUT TOGETHER

Imagine if we all practiced this way of seeing.

A member prepares a meal for someone recovering from surgery. Volunteers fill backpacks with school supplies or a gift card for supplies. Weeding a neighbor's garden. Someone quietly pays for another family's camp scholarship. Prayer quilts are created. Cards are written. Hospital visits are made. Groceries are delivered. These acts may seem ordinary, but together they become manna — God's daily provision made visible through the hands of God's people.

Our church's food pantry, mission projects, visitation ministry, and shared meals are not simply programs. They are signs that God's daily bread continues to fall. We become participants in God's provision, ensuring that our neighbors, like the Israelites, discover there is enough.

Joy grows wherever gratitude and generosity meet.

The wilderness story reminds us that faith is not merely believing God once did miraculous things. Faith is waking each morning expecting that God is still providing exactly what we need to love God and our neighbors today.

May we become people who notice the manna.

May we trust God's daily gifts.

May we share freely so that no one has too little.

And may our lives become an answer to someone else's prayer, as together we discover that God's mercies are indeed new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23)



The Reverend Jonathan Murray
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Littleton



A MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP – PER CAPITA UPDATE

“There are many parts, but one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:20)

As we continue our focus on per capita this year, our team would like to share a brief update and a word of thanks.



So far, we’ve received **\$3,858.96** toward our **2026 per capita goal of \$5,120**. That goal reflects our active membership of 160 members at \$32 per member. Your response has been encouraging, and we’re grateful for the way this congregation continues to support the shared ministries that connect us as one body—locally, regionally, and nationally.

Looking ahead, our **2027 pledge card will include a dedicated section for per capita**. This small change will make it clearer how each member can participate in this commitment and how FPCL contributes to the wider work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

We want to acknowledge the congregation’s engagement this year as we’ve worked to communicate and educate around per capita. While meeting our \$5,120 goal won’t fully cover the **\$7,000** assessed to FPCL by Denver Presbytery (remember, that amount is based on active membership from two years prior) it will make a meaningful difference. Last year, we collected only **\$700**, so your support this year significantly reduces the impact on FPCL’s operating budget.

Thank you for your generosity, your questions, and your willingness to learn more about how per capita strengthens the ministries we share as one church.



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

WINDOWS RENEWED: PRESERVING BEAUTY AND HISTORY AT FPCL

By Matthew Dailey

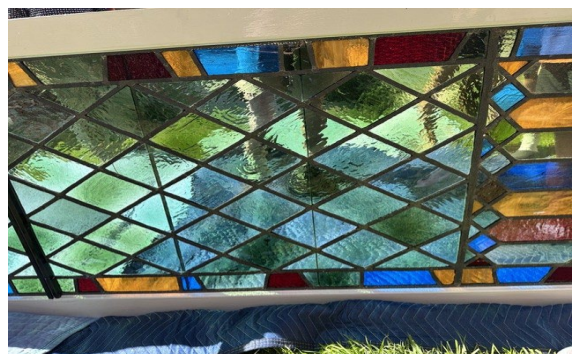
One of First Presbyterian Church of Littleton's most cherished architectural features has been given new life. After years of weather exposure and natural aging, the Sanctuary's historic stained-glass windows recently underwent a careful restoration, ensuring that their beauty will continue to inspire generations of worshippers to come.

Restoring a stained-glass window is no small task. The project required the window to be safely removed from its opening, transported for restoration work, and then reinstalled with great care. As these photographs show, the process involved a remarkable combination of craftsmanship, planning, and teamwork.



The restoration began with the careful removal of the large stained-glass panels from the exterior wall of the sanctuary. Volunteers and skilled workers assembled scaffolding and worked together to support the delicate windows as they were lifted from their frame. Protective blankets were laid out to ensure the glass remained safe during every stage of the process.

The removed panels revealed both the complexity and the artistry of the original design. Up close, the textured glass and geometric patterns showcase the craftsmanship that has been part of FPCL's story for nearly a century. Over time, aging lead, environmental wear, and structural concerns can threaten stained-glass windows. Restoration helps stabilize these elements while preserving the original character that makes each window unique.



The project was also a wonderful reminder of the strength of our church community. Several volunteers lent their time and energy to assist with the process. Their efforts helped protect an important piece of FPCL's heritage while demonstrating the spirit of stewardship that has long been a hallmark of our congregation.

After restoration work was completed, the windows were carefully returned to their place in the sanctuary wall. The results speak for themselves. The colors are vibrant, the structure is secure, and the windows once again fill the interior with beautiful light. Sunlight passing through the restored glass creates colorful reflections that enhance the warmth and sacred atmosphere of the worship space.

While stained-glass windows are often admired for their beauty, they also serve as a connection to the faith and vision of those who came before us. By investing in their preservation, FPCL honors the generations who built and cared for this church while ensuring that future generations can experience the same beauty and inspiration.



The successful completion of this restoration project is a testament to thoughtful planning, skilled craftsmanship, and the dedication of church members who value the historic character of First Presbyterian Church of Littleton. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to this effort and celebrate the renewed beauty of a window that will continue to shine for many years to come.



A MINUTE FOR MISSION



The Mission Committee thanks all who bought peaches. **33 boxes** were purchased.



Our church, along with 4 other Presbyterian churches, fund the digging of water wells at Presbyterian schools and churches in Zimbabwe, Africa.



This mission started in 2012 and the cost of just one water well is **\$18,000–\$20,000.**



The total amount raised this year was over

\$3,100!



BACKPACK PROJECT

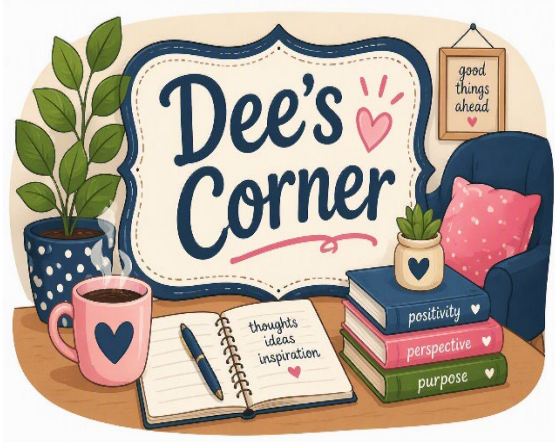
It is with much gratitude that we collected **40 backpacks** along with enough donations to purchase **40 \$50 gift cards.** The backpacks and gift cards were blessed in our Sanctuary and then delivered to Field Elem School, Little Raven Elem School, Valverde, Bethel, and Vietnamese Fellowship.

This was a very *special project*, and we again thank everyone in our church for your generous gifts and blessings.



Thank you!





Thankful for —

ALL the time and energy Don Meersman did to finally get the A/C working. He never gave up and “made sure” it happened!!

All the time Dave LeMay, Jeff Colwell, and others spent to get our beautiful windows repaired and back “with us” to enjoy! They were relentless to get it done and chose the best craftsman!

For Paul Parish and Pastor Jonathan coordinating the amazing article in the Littleton Independent newspaper for us to let the community know how we are protecting our beautiful historical church!

For Cheryl Baughman and her team to get more money than asked for to give gift cards and back packs to children who really need them at Field Elementary, Little Raven Elementary, Vietnamese Fellowship, Bethel and Valverde! That “unexpected” extra, helped them to give to more children! And one is going to a young boy in need who comes to the Community Dinner! This is such an amazing thing we do for children who are ultimately “our future.”

For the concert on July 26th that Mary Dailey planned for us to have at our “little church on the corner,” that will hopefully bring the community to us!

And speaking of communities — “How does a group of individuals, all with different backgrounds and different perspectives on life, become a united community? Well-known author and newspaper columnist David Brooks believes that the answer lies in how we see each other. ‘That’s what a community is,’ he says, ‘a bunch of people looking after each other. A bunch of people seeing each other, and seeing each other deeply. Taking the time to really enter into relationships with each other and to depend upon one another. That’s the glue that’s holding us together.’”

Brooks also said, “If we open our eyes to see and our hearts to understand, we can build a community. After all, we all share a common humanity. We all want happiness and peace; we all want to make a difference, because we’re more alike in important ways than we are different. We already have it in us to see and know each other deeply, to look after each other, and to build a strong community. None of us is truly solitary or alone in this world. If we see and know each other deeply, we will come to understand that we all share common roots. We all need each other. That’s where we get our strength. That’s what a community is.” And to ME, that’s what First Pres is!!!! That’s what makes our church family!

While watching the World Cup games, I was amazed at how people all got along! How players on opposite teams reached out a hand to help the other up when they were knocked down! Isn’t that what God wants us to do? I also heard a coach say, “We either work as a team or we die as individuals and have no team!” That hit me very hard — if all of us in our church works as a team, I believe we can do anything. It takes all of us!

Sometimes the most powerful sermon isn’t preached from a stage. It’s lived out on an ordinary day through an ordinary act of kindness. A listening ear. A helping hand. A warm meal. A word of encouragement. A moment of compassion for someone who feels

forgotten. Jesus didn't simply tell people they were loved. He showed them. Again and again. ❤️

As followers of Christ, we're invited to do the same. The world doesn't need more perfect Christians. It needs more people willing to love, serve, forgive, and care for others the way Jesus did. You never know how far a small act of kindness might travel... or how deeply it may touch someone's heart.

May God hold us all in His loving hands to be a team for our amazing “little church on the corner.”

Blessings,

Dee



AUGUST 9th

Dr. Bill Graves, saxophone

AUGUST 16th

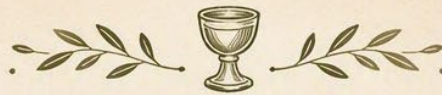
Megan VanDeHey, **WESTERN SUNDAY**

AUGUST 23rd

Nolan Baker, tenor

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.

There is a place for you at His table.

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)

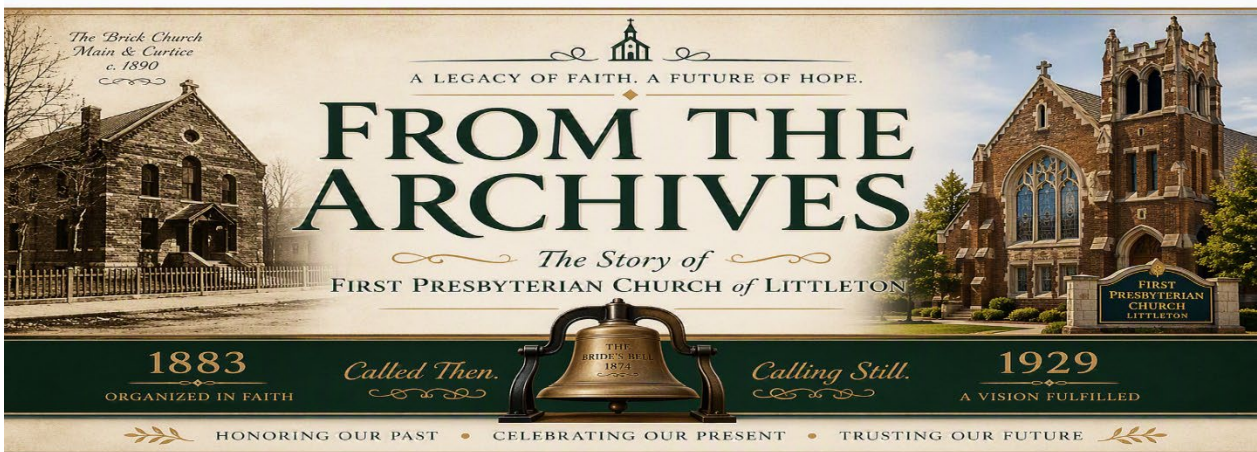
9/13



Restoration
(Luke 15:25-32)

FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST."

— LUKE 19:10 —



The Ficklins: The Family That Gave FPCL a Home

By Matthew Dailey

Every church has moments in its history when the future hangs in the balance. For First Presbyterian Church of Littleton, one of those moments arrived in the 1920s when the congregation had outgrown its downtown home and faced the daunting challenge of building a new church. At the center of the story were two faithful members whose vision, generosity, and leadership would forever change the course of FPCL's history: **Mabel and William Ficklin**.

The congregation that would become First Presbyterian Church of Littleton was organized in 1883 and eventually purchased a church building at the corner of Main and Curtice Streets in downtown Littleton. As the town grew, so did the church. Additions were made to accommodate expanding programs, but by the early twentieth century the congregation found itself increasingly crowded. Noise, traffic, and dust from the growing business district often disrupted worship services, and church leaders began discussing the possibility of finding a new location.

In June 1926, the Board of Trustees recommended construction of a new church building. The congregation had a dream, but it needed land, resources, and leadership to make that dream a reality. At that critical moment, **Mabel Ficklin stepped forward with an extraordinary gift**—a parcel of land at the corner of what was then known as Littleton Broadway and Sixth Avenue, today the intersection of Littleton Boulevard and Windermere Street.

The donation was significant in more ways than one. At the time, many residents considered the site to be on the far eastern edge of town. Church history records that some longtime members grumbled about building so far from downtown, describing it as being "way out east of town." Yet Mabel clearly saw possibilities that others did not. Littleton was growing, and she understood the congregation would need space if it hoped to serve future generations. Her gift provided not only land but a vision for the church's future.

Mabel was not content merely to donate property and walk away. Historical records show that she attached several conditions to her gift. Construction needed to begin within a specified period, a competent architect had to be engaged, the building was to be substantial and worthy of the congregation, and provision had to be made for the beloved church bell from the original sanctuary. These requirements reveal something about her character. She wanted the church to build thoughtfully, permanently, and with respect for its history.



Alongside Mabel's generosity stood her husband, **William Ficklin**, whose contributions were equally important. Church records describe a generous financial gift from William that helped launch the project. Even more importantly, he accepted the demanding responsibility of serving as chairman of the General Building Committee. Under his leadership, the church organized fundraising efforts, coordinated numerous subcommittees, selected architects and contractors, and guided the project from vision to reality.

The Ficklins' faith was soon visible in brick and stone. Renowned Colorado architect **Jules Jacques Benois Benedict** was selected to design the new church. Groundbreaking took place on July 7, 1929, and the congregation's long-held dream began to take shape. The completed building included the sanctuary, balcony, fellowship and education spaces, and a tower to house the congregation's treasured bell. The first worship service was held on January 12, 1930.

Unfortunately, the congregation moved into its magnificent new home just as the nation entered the Great Depression. Membership declined, pledges went unpaid, and the church struggled under the debt incurred during construction. Once again, William Ficklin's leadership became crucial. Church history recalls that he spent months personally contacting members regarding their financial commitments. Some paid what they could, while others admitted they were simply "flat broke." Through perseverance, sacrifice, and the generosity of many faithful members, the church weathered those difficult years.

The Ficklins' commitment to FPCL did not end with the completion of the church building. Nearly three decades later, Littleton experienced another period of dramatic growth. By the early 1950s the church again found itself running out of space. Remarkably, **Mabel Ficklin once more stepped forward and donated additional land** for a major education wing expansion completed in 1955. The new three-level addition nearly doubled the church's usable space and enabled FPCL to continue serving a rapidly growing community.

Few individuals have had such a lasting impact on the life of First Presbyterian Church. The original church building stands today as one of Littleton's most recognizable historic landmarks. What some members once viewed as a location too distant from town became a central part of the city's development and history. The foresight demonstrated by Mabel and William Ficklin helped position the church exactly where it needed to be for the decades that followed.

Today, every worship service, fellowship gathering, mission project, wedding, concert, and community event held on the FPCL campus is part of the legacy the Ficklins created. Their gifts extended beyond land and money; they offered vision, leadership, perseverance, and faith in a future they would never fully see. Through their generosity, they provided a home where generations of people would gather to worship God, serve others, and build community.

As FPCL approaches a century in its historic building, it is fitting to remember the family whose faith made it possible. The story of First Presbyterian Church of Littleton is, in many ways, the story of the Ficklins—a family whose generosity transformed a congregation's future and whose legacy continues to bless the church nearly one hundred years later.



	June 2026		Year to Date 2026	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$35,527.38	\$25,450.00	\$ 225,541.59	\$ 216,599.00
Expenses	\$33,758.65	\$39,554.36	\$ 223,089.92	\$ 232,368.13
Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$ 1,768.73	(\$14,104.36)	\$ 2,451.67	\$ (15,769.13)

June was a good month financially for FPCL. Strong pledged support and member support increased the monthly income over June 2025. Our investments also paid out a total of \$4,232.14 for the month of June. Thank you for the generous fair well donations for Blakeley. I'm sure he felt appreciated. I was able to send him a total of \$2456.76. He will be missed. A grant was received for the stained glass window project and that is well underway. Thanks to your donations the Mission Committee was able to help smaller Presbyterian churches in the Denver metro area as well as other local missions.



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

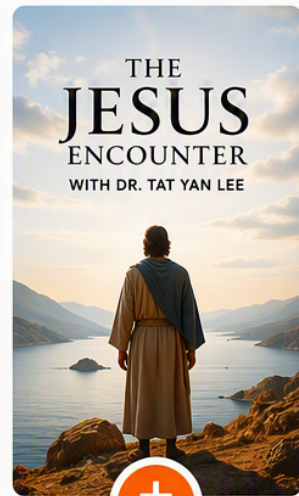
Have you ever thought about the central role the table plays in the lives of Christians?

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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FOR EVERY GENERATION



GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER



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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

