

# THE COMMUNICATOR

*Foothills Unitarian Church's Mostly-Bimonthly Newsletter*



## Are We Essential?

*by Rev. Gretchen Haley, Senior Minister*

For generations, September at Foothills has meant the start of the church year.

Even as our programs and ministries have shifted to a more year-round schedule, we've kept with this rhythm, launching new groups for kids, gathering together for Water Communion and Buckhorn Family Camp, and in October, the Pumpkin Carving gathering (held now for over 40 years in Foothills' sanctuary!).

Despite the pandemic, this year is no different. We are still beginning a new church year. Only, like most things in 2020, we need to think a little differently. Which doesn't mean throwing out our traditions; but, it also doesn't mean just replicating them online either.

Instead, we've taken this opportunity to re-imagine.

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## Minister's column, continued

Early on in the pandemic (and sometimes still) people talked about “essential workers,” or “essential businesses.” As we’ve thought about how to begin the church year, and how to do ministry at all this year, we’ve tried to stay in touch with the question:

What would make Foothills essential? Essential to our members, and essential in our wider community.

After all, if our ministries aren’t essential in the middle of times like these, when would we be?

For our Water Communion service, this question led us to setting up eight sites across Northern Colorado where people could come to bring water from their own backyards, into a shared container. These containers were then intermingled in a small ceremony on our church campus. All of the sites and the shared collection were filmed into recordings that we watched together on Sunday.

The total experience was both intimate and grand. A feeling of being among close friends, while also being a part of

something much larger. It was powerful, reassuring, and meaningful.

These experiences echo what we’ve heard from people



who have been active in their Circles over the last few months. Some of our longest-term members have shared that they haven’t felt so personally connected to others in the church for years. Newcomers also express gratitude for a chance to connect so easily in a small group. Members going through a life transition or health concern are surrounded in care by other members - with meals and cards and check-ins.

At the same time, all of these circles are a part of something greater, represented most visibly on

Sunday morning when over 300 people are regularly engaging with our services, and so many are actively helping to create the service with chalice lightings and

testimonials, and by serving as breakout leaders. The Circles themselves have engaged a whole new crop of leaders and members of our Caring Team, and the times around us are calling more and more of us into justice work, especially the critical and important work of inner growth and change.

It hit me the other day that what we’re experiencing together is basically the best parts of being a part of both a smaller and a bigger church. We’re seeing the

intimacy, sense of ownership, and the deepening chance for belonging you get in a smaller church, alongside the power, professionalism, variety, and

openness to growth and change present in a larger congregation.

And I believe that at the intersection of these strands - the intimate, and the ultimate; the personal and the

**300+**

people regularly  
engaging with our  
online services

collective; the small and the big - lies the path where our ministry and our community is most essential.

Which brings us to our next challenge: how will we take what has been stirred up during this time, and allow it to grow and to impact us for the long run? How can we keep finding ways to create essential ministry, long past the pandemic?

This is the big question that a bunch of leaders and many individuals have been taking up through a project that was at first just thought of as “re-visioning our Circles,” and

(as we’ve realized it might end up looking very different than Circles have), we are now calling: Courageous Love Here and Now.

**\$20,000+**

Earned by our first mostly-virtual auction

This design process is looking at how we can take the lessons of this time and embed them into our systems and our ways of doing church long into the future. Find out more about this inquiry process below, in the article from Rev. Sean.

Back in March, when I thought about not getting to experience Water Communion or other pieces of our usual start of the church year in the same ways, I had a lot of anticipatory grief, and anxiety.

But now that we’re on this side of September, I have to admit - I loved these rituals even more than ever! It’s a great lesson as we look ahead to the holiday season, a time filled with traditions we could understandably worry we will miss if they aren’t exactly as we have done them in the past.

Instead, I’m excited to see how we will adapt, and how we will keep being an essential part of each other’s lives, and an essential part of our community.

Sending love to all of you, especially in these last few weeks headed into the election!

*Rev. Gretchen*

## Community Circle Update

*by Rev. Sean Neil-Barron, Associate Minister*

Over the past few months, our community has embarked on a journey to re-imagine itself. COVID upended our lives with no signs of relenting any time soon. Our church was quick to adapt: worship moved online, church groups and events went virtual or were put on hold, and many people came together to create Community Circles to enable our community to connect and care for each other.

Initially, these shifts were thought to just be short term adaptations, but in the last few months, as the ever-changing reality has come

into focus with more clarity, we’ve realized we need to broaden our scope. Moving from short term to long term pivots in how we gather and ‘be’ and act as a Foothills community.

In the past few months, we’ve been wondering what it would look like if we lean into this reality instead of fighting it. Remembering that growth and courageous love have everything they need to exist here and now.

While the rapid and ongoing disorientation of so much of our lives continues, we see a



powerful opportunity for us as a church to re-orient.

- Re-orient to the way our lives work (or don’t) now.
- Re-orient to what is most important.
- Re-orient to long haul impact of COVID.



- Re-orient to how our community can enable each and all of us for more courageous living.

Which is why we are launching **Courageous Love: Here & Now - Designing How Together**

a communal discernment & design process where our community will wrestle together with the question:

What can our community learn during this time and disruption about how we can creatively and sustainably respond to unleash deepening belonging, spiritual grounding and resilience, and deploying our people to be agents with courageous love?

Our community will not have just one answer to the question; we expect there to be many.

Each growing out of a particular set of life circumstances: life stage, history and involvement with Foothills, how deeply COVID has impacted everyday life, and many oth-

ers. We want to harness these diverse backgrounds, to design a future for our congregation that not only takes these realities into accounts but

also finds the unique way our mission calls us to serve and be in relationship with each other and our greater community.

To facilitate this undertaking we have

partnered with **Agncy** ([agency.org](http://agency.org)) a nonprofit design organization whose mission is to use design to reduce structural inequity in America. A group of us has been working closely with Agncy to craft a process where members of our community working in affinity groups with people of similar life realities will design

a possible path forward and then be brought into the conversation to see what emerges. We are not imagining we will come up with the answer, but the next stage

for our development as a church, answering questions that have been around longer than COVID, about how we should operate if we truly lived up to our values.

77

Hours of interviews so far in the Here & Now project

35

Congregational leaders in the Here & Now project

## Faith Family Hospitality Hosting

You probably know that during the building closure, we are housing the Faith Family Hospitality families in our building, so they

don't have to move around. But did you know we are still hosting? We just finished hosting from 9/27 through 10/4.

Our scheduled weeks for 2021 begin on the following Sundays: 1/24/21, 5/16/21, 8/8/21, and 10/31/21.

## What's Next in Worship

### *You Are Here*

**Oct 4** - "Whelm'd"

**Oct 11** - "Zooming Out"

### *UU The Vote*

**Oct 18** - "UU The Vote!"  
Special Guest: Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen

### *Moments & Movements*

**Oct 25** - "How We Eat the Stars"

**Nov 1** - "Anatomy of a Movement"

**Nov 8** - "Endgame"

**Nov 15** - "Genesis of an Uprising"

**Nov 22** - "Conspiracy of Kindness"

### *Sources*

**Nov 29** - "UU Sources"  
Special Guest: Rev. Kimberly Debus

### *Holiday Series*

Starts Dec. 6

*Mark your calendar for Fire Communion Jan. 3*

# Update from the Board of Trustees

by Sue Sullivan, President

Foothills' annual board retreat—like so many other things this year—looked pretty different logistically, but felt reassuringly deep, connective, and inspirational, much like the many other ways that we have been re-envisioning being in beloved community together.

Your 2020-21 Board of Trustees agreed that we could safely meet with masks and social distancing under the cottonwoods on the east beach of Long Pond one evening in early August, for a getting-to-know-each-other-more-deeply small group experience.

Gathering live and in person for the first time, after two months of online meetings with our new board members, felt sweet and connective, even if we had to concentrate to hear each other through facemasks, traffic noises, birdsong, and wind in the trees. (If you saw our chalice lighting at the August 9th service, you experienced some of our sonic challenges!)

Recently elected board members Andrea Delorey and Doug Powell joined the five continuing members of the board—Sara Steen (who very graciously agreed to add a fourth year to her board service to help us maintain continuity in the face of all the change that 2020 has brought), Glenn Pearson and Brendan Mahoney, who are

beginning their third and final years of board service, Debbie Gentry, who is starting her second year, and me, Sue Sullivan, on my third year of board service and the first of two years of Board Presidency.

Senior Minister Rev. Gretchen Haley joined us as well, in her role as *ex-officio* board member (and as technically the longest-serving board member, she often serves as our holder of institutional memory). She also provides pastoral care to the board and tends to the spiritual grounding that keeps our work feeling meaningful and connected to the mystery and the sacredness in Life and in our work together.

We then spent a full Saturday on the usual work of a board retreat: setting personal development goals for ourselves as leaders and collaborators, crafting a board covenant, setting whole-board learning goals for the year, making committee and role assignments, and setting the board's primary work goals for the year.

And yes, we are more aware than ever that no matter how much we plan, life still throws its curveballs, so we also committed to staying in covenantal relationship with each other, accepting that we will sometimes make mistakes or drop balls or fail even. We committed to each



other to take responsibility, make amends if needed, pick ourselves back up, try again, and give ourselves and each other the grace of changing course if need be.

With that grace offered to ourselves and to each other, we settled on the following five goals for the year:

- Strengthening our financial and fiduciary literacy: making our financial oversight a whole-board affair rather than the domain of the finance committee, and further refining our financial policies and our monitoring practices.
- Beginning the work of becoming an anti-racism board: educating ourselves and making explicit our collective commitment to anti-oppression work, to seeing with a multicultural lens, and to recognizing and changing racism as we find it in our personal interactions and our institutional policies and practices.
- Making previously-identified necessary policy book revisions and creating a system for updating both the policy book itself and

*Continued on next page*

the monitoring schedule we created to ensure compliance with our policies.

- Completing our Restoring Wholeness narrative and archival materials: our commitment to the congregation to be compassionately transparent about Foothills' history of misconduct so that we speak our truth clearly, establish and support healthy boundaries through policy and monitoring, and communicate our commitment to maintaining a safe congregation for all who seek to join our beloved community.
- Beginning the process of rewriting our church bylaws and getting the congregation's input and feedback on them prior to a future congregational vote. To be effective guidance for the board, the Ministry, and the congregation as a whole, bylaws should represent policy governance as we currently inhabit it and the best governance practices as identified by the UUA and other large policy governance churches in our denomination.

We are excited to dig into this work, to communicate it out to you regularly, and to further the work of previous boards who recognized the benefits and utility of policy governance in living out our mission more efficiently, joyfully, purposefully, and creatively!

In faith and courageous love,  
Sue Sullivan  
Board President

## Held by the Ocean, Being the Ocean

by Rev. Elaine Aron-Tenbrink, Assistant Minister

A wise mentor of mine once said, "Sometime we are held by the ocean, and sometimes we are the ocean."

For me, this is the essence of how we show up for each other in a faith community. Something rocks our world and we find ourselves adrift and in need. In community, we are held by an ocean of witnesses, friends, ancestors, and listeners. We are buoyed by gestures of care, meaningful worship, a compassionate word, and the grounding reminder that we are beloved and we are not alone.

Other times, we are a part of that very ocean of care. We join the ocean of care when we show up for one another with compassion: offering a listening presence, a meal, a ride, and so much more.

This is a sacred reciprocity. Whether we are giving or receiving care, we are engaging with a healing, life-giving force that is as vast and mysterious as the ocean itself.

I'm in awe of the ocean of care and I believe in its power.

As your Assistant Minister, I come to you with over a decade of experience in chaplaincy, hospice, and large church ministry. My role at



Foothills is to support and empower our ministry of spiritual companionship and care in times of crisis and transition, as well as through the regular ups and downs of living.

Life can be hard -- especially in the midst of a pandemic. Whether you're coping with family and relationship struggles, grief and loss, mental health challenges, addiction issues, or another hardship, I hope you will reach out to the caring network at Foothills in one of these ways:

- By email at [caring@foothillsuu.org](mailto:caring@foothillsuu.org).
- By phone at 970-493-5906.
- By filling out our online Prayer and Support form.

If you are feeling called to be the ocean right now and offer a listening ear, a meal, or another form of care, please reach out through those contacts as well. I would love to hear from you!

Feel free to reach out to me personally at [Elaine@foothillsuu.org](mailto:Elaine@foothillsuu.org) or leave a message for me at the church by calling 970-493-5906. I can't wait to get to know you.

With care,  
Elaine



## Introducing Katie Watkins, Our New Dir. of Operations & Finance

I am thrilled to join the staff team at Foothills Unitarian and am so excited to get to know the congregation more! After one month on the job, I feel so excited to be surrounded by such an amazing group of people! Every member and staff person I have had the honor of interacting with has been so welcoming and wonderful.

I bring with me over a decade of nonprofit experience working in Fort Collins at BASE Camp and No Barriers, as well as several years in the corporate sector. I've spent time in every facet of nonprofit management, including financial oversight, program development, communications, fundraising, HR and more. I love finding opportunities for efficiency and working with others to increase capacity

that results in more impactful outcomes. I have a passion for youth and families in need in our community, and am well networked within the agencies that serve them in Northern Colorado. One of my highest values is embracing diverse perspectives. I believe strongly that different viewpoints enable better, more thought-out, helpful and kind solutions.

I have two amazing daughters. Emmaline is six and interested in how things work, loves using her imagination and creating things, whether it's art, songs or whole make-believe worlds. Esmae is four and very empathic and sweet. She loves all the babies all the time. I'm incredibly blessed to share this life with my partner and best friend, Steven, who is the Assistant



Principal at Wellington Middle School, as well as an excellent cook and master camper. Together we love to be outdoors, whether it's at Chamber's Lake for a week, on our back patio (just across Drake from the church!) or visiting a new place.

I'm so excited to join the intentional GOOD force that Foothills is in our community. I am hitching my courageous love to yours – and can't wait to see what we get to do together. Thank you for letting me join you on the journey!

## Foothills Youth Group During the Pandemic

by Eleanor VanDeusen, Director of Family Ministry



Foothills High School Youth Group for 9th - 12th graders (we call it Yuuth Gruup!) has been meeting regularly since

pandemic began in mid-March. All in all, this strange time has proven to be a gift to this group.

I have noticed a deeper sense of connection and care happening in the virtual space. Maybe it's because we aren't distracted by sitting on top of each other on the couches and the snacks? We miss those things a lot but Youth Group during the pandemic has been unexpectedly successful!

We gather on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 11:15 am with anywhere from six to fifteen youth in attendance. We always start by checking in with our names and pronouns and a response to a check-in question like, "what was a high and a low of your past week?" We have had some deep conversations about topics related to our church worship themes and great conversations about race and privilege after the murder of

*Continued on next page*

George Floyd. And of course, we have had a lot of fun playing games using online tools like scriblio and google jam board. The youth are so much better at these games than we adult youth advisors are!

Speaking of youth advisors, I want to give an extra special shout out to Emilea Burton and Megan Thorburn, our two steadfast youth advisors who bring deep care, commitment and listening presence to this group of kids.

Once a month we have gathered in person, at Foothills, outdoors, with masks and social distancing, taking walks

to the park to play frisbee and volleyball as well as social justice focused activities. We made posters to support essential workers and delivered treats. We put the Foothills signs back up on Drake Street and we helped with the Back to School Blessing Event for younger kids at Foothills.

It has been such a wonderful



surprise to see so many youth joining in every week and to find that our relationships have been actively deepening during this time of separation.

## Church History Quiz *by Bill Miles, History Project Member*

Your Church History team has been working to put together a new history of Foothills for the 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2023.

As we've been researching, we've found many interesting factoids. See how many you can get right by doing this Trivia Quiz, and have fun!

**Answer questions 1-6 with one of these years:**

**a. 1906 \* b. 1998 \* c. 1971  
d. 1903 \* e. 1970 \* f. 1990**

1. First time the entire Board of Trustees resigned. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Year an email option for the church newsletter became available. \_\_\_\_\_
3. First year a woman became a Trustee. \_\_\_\_\_

4. The dedication of the current church building was this year. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Two Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00 began in this year. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Year the first Medieval Faire was held: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Early church members such as Dr. Charles Lory (college president) were prominent figures at the agricultural college. How many buildings on the CSU campus are named for these Unitarians?  
a. 6   b. 9   c. 4   d. 13
8. The early years of the church saw another denomination wishing to purchase the building at

College and Mulberry. Were they:

- a. the Congregationalists
  - b. the German Lutherans
  - c. the Christian Scientists
  - d. the Methodists
9. In 1948, the church budget was this amount:  
a. \$2,500.00  
b. \$25,000.00  
c. \$5,000.00  
d. \$50,000.00
  10. Pauline Birky, a prominent church member, helped create what international organization at CSU?  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(Answers on page 15)*



## 2020 Holiday Highlights

by Gretchen Haley

Even though things will be different this year, we are excited to welcome the gifts of the holiday season in new ways, and to reclaim the magic and mystery at the heart of our traditions. Here are a few previews of what December has in store:

- A personalized path that will help you create a holiday season that most allows YOU and your family to experience magic, mystery and hope (even if your way is to check out from the holidays entirely this year)
- A holiday healing service to hold any grief you are carrying
- Creative ways to engage the music and stories of the season
- Meaningful ways to give and serve and be a part of something something greater
- Neighborhood pocket gatherings on



Christmas Eve with readings, candlelight and a mini nativity

- A self-directed audio guide to celebrate winter solstice
- A traditional Foothills Christmas Eve service broadcast from the fully decorated sanctuary
- An art-installation-like experience of fire communion where we let go of all the things we'd like to be rid of in the new year

**\$1700**

You donated to the updated UU History book project

## A Thank You Note from the History Project Team

What a joy it was to present to you, our UU family, some stories from our rich church history during the special collection on Sunday, October 4th. You responded with enthusiastic support for the creation of an updated Foothills UU history book, donating \$1700

towards the effort. We are humbled by the amount and deeply appreciate your generosity. Your donation will help move the project forward for editing and eventual publishing. Thank you.

Each day we all make a little history in our own way. Here's to all those determined UUs in our past who made our history so vital, educational, and entertaining.

*Bonnie Inscho, chair,  
Jennifer Crane,  
Lynn Young,  
Bob Bacon,  
Ben Manvel,  
Ed Meek and*

## Publication Information for *The Communicator*

We strive to publish six times a year (but appreciate your patience when we don't).

Standard articles include: Note from our ministers \* Update from our Board of Trustees \* Upcoming Series information

\* Financial Updates \* Member Milestones \* Building News \* Data points about our congregation. Each issue will also feature two or three of our ministry areas. For more timely news, visit [foothillsuu.org/subscribe](http://foothillsuu.org/subscribe).

Editors: Anna Broskie and Katie Watkins

*Feedback or Questions,  
email [katie@foothillsuu.org](mailto:katie@foothillsuu.org)  
or call the church office,  
970.493.5906*



This is a brief report to provide an overview of Foothills Unitarian's financial position as of July 2020.

# Financial Overview

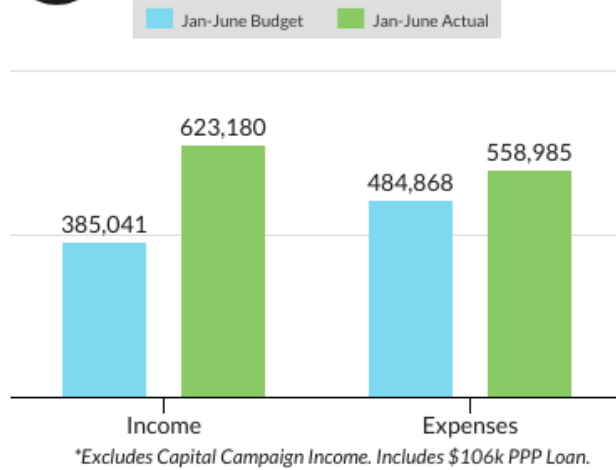
## We Appreciate Your Continued Support!

Foothills Unitarian has continued to experience a strong financial position through the second quarter of 2020 (June) in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were recipients of the payroll protection loan, bolstering our security through these uncertain times. We have also continued to see faithful giving of both annual and Building Courageous Love pledges throughout this time.

While our financial security has remained intact, we have used our resources to support others in need during this time. Please see the figures below for a brief overview update.



## Budget vs. Actual



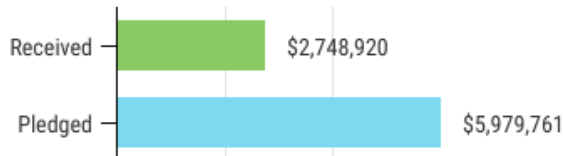
## Giving (non-capital) through July 31

Year	Pledges	Total
2020	\$424,947	\$782,364
2019	\$346,621	\$547,902

**19% INCREASE OVER 2019**  
**64% FULFILLED**  
**58% OF YEAR PASSED**



## Capital Campaign



## Community Outreach

**SHARE THE PLATE RECEIVED \$38,353**

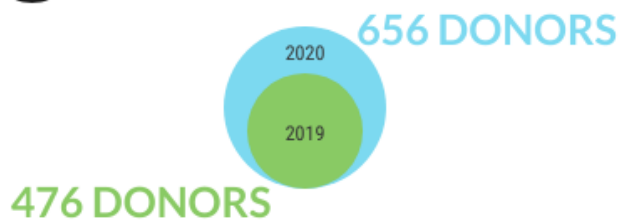
**SHARE THE PLATE GIVEN \$15,100**

### Recipient Organizations:

Homeward Alliance, Alianza Norco, The Food Bank for Larimer County, BIPOC and ISAAC



## Donors



## How to Check Your Pledge Balance Online

Visit [foothillsuu.org/balance](http://foothillsuu.org/balance) to see the steps, with images that walk you through finding your pledge balance in Planning Center Online (PCO).

## Books YOU Love!

by Amy Gage, Program Coordinator

We asked you to “**Share the title of a book you love or have recently read and would recommend,**” and you answered. We received an incredible response (thank you!) and have compiled a complete list of your book recommendations. Enjoy!

### Fiction

*The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dream*, by Paulo Coelho, 1989

*The Alice Network*, by Kate Quinn, 2017

*A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amoré Towle, 2019

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, 75th anniversary edition, by Betty Smith, 2018

*Ahab's Wife: Or, the Star-Gazer*, by Sena Jeter Naslund & Christopher Wormell, 2005

*American Dirt*, by Janine Cummings, 2020

*Beach Music*, by Pat Conroy, 2002

*The Best Queen*, by Louie Erdich, 2006

*The Book of Women of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michelle Richardson 2019

*Centennial*, by James Michener, 1976

*Crazy Rich Asians*, by Kevin Kwan, 2018

*The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett, 2019

*Fierce Invalids Home From Hot Climates*, by Tom Robbins, 2001

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, by Mitch Albom, 2003

*Giver of Stars*, by Jojo Moyes, 2019

*The Glass Hotel*, by Emily St. John Mandel, 2020

*The Good Earth*, by Pearl Buck, 1959

*Hawaii*, by James Michener, 1959

*Hyperion*, by Dan Simmons, 1989

*Life After Life*, by Kate Atkinson, 2014

*Lonesome Dove*, by Larry McMurtry, 1986

*Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, 2007

*Maybe in Another Life*, by Taylor Jenkins Reid, 2015

*The Martian*, by Andy Weir, 2014

*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, by John Berendt, 1999

*The Name of the Wind*, Kingkiller Chronicle Book 1 of 3, by Patrick Rothfuss, 2009

*The Night Watchman*, by Louise Erdrick, 2020

*Pillars of the Earth*, by Ken Follett, 2007

*The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, by Taylor Jenkins Reid, 2018

*The Signature of All Things*, by Elizabeth Gilbert, 2013

*The Sparrow*, The Sparrow Series by May Doria Russell, 1997

*The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett, 2020

*This Tender Land*, by William Kent Krueger, 2020

*The Way of Kings*, Book One of the Stormlight Archive, by Brandon Sanderson, 2014

*Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens, 2018

*White Chrysanthemum*, by Many Lynn Bracht, 2018

*Why Fish Don't Exist: A Story of Loss, Love and the Hidden Order of Life*, by Lulu Miller, 2020

### Non-Fiction

*All Creatures Great and Small*, by James Harriot, 2014

*America in the King Years:*

–*Parting the Waters* (America in the King Years 1954-1963), 1984

–*Pillar of Fire* (America in the King Years

1963-1965), 1999

–*At Canaan's Edge* (America in the King Years 1965-1968), 2007



*Becoming Michelle Obama*, by Michelle Obama, 2018

*Bittersweet: Thoughts on Change, Grace, and Learning the Hard Way*, by Shauna Niequist, 2013

*Born a Crime*, by Trevor Noah, by Trevor Noah, 2019

*Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown, 2014

*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, 2015

*The Basque History of the World: The Story Of A Nation*, by Mark Kurlansky, 2001

*The Broken Ladder: How Inequality Affects the Way we Think, Live and Die*, by Keith Payne, 2018

*Circe*, by Madeline Miller, 2020

*Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour*, by Lynn Olson, 2011

*Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country*, by Pam Houston, 2020

*Eat and Run: My Unlikely Journey to Ultramarathon Greatness*, by Scott Jurek and Steve Friedman, 2013

*A Field Guide to the Soul: A Down to Earth Handbook of Spiritual Practice*, by James Thompson, 2000

*The Gifts of Imperfections: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are*, by Brené Brown, 2010

*Great Plains*, by Ian Frazer, 2001

*He Chose the Nails: What God*

115

participants in Water  
Communion events  
around NoCo



*Did to Win Your Heart*, by Max Lucado, 2017  
*Heart of the Buddha's Teaching: Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy, and Liberation*, by Thich Nhat Hahn, 1999  
*How to Be an Adult: A Handbook for Psychological and Spiritual Integration*, by David Richo, 1991  
*How to Be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi, 2019  
*How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression and Transcendence*, by Michael Pollan, 2019  
*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson, 2015  
*Illusions: the Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah*, by Richard Bach, 2001  
*Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Student*, by Richard Bach, 2014  
*Mao's Last Dancer*, by Li Cunxin, 2005  
*Me Talk Pretty Some Day*, by David Sedaris, 2001  
*Meditations: A New Translation*, by Marcus Aurelius, 2003

*Modoc: The True Story of the Greatest Elephant That Ever Lived*, by Ralph Heifer, 1998  
*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander, 2010  
*The Newcomers: Finding Refuge, Friendship & Hope in America*, by Helen Thorpe, 2018  
*Not Nice: Stop People Pleasing, Staying Silent, and Feeling Guilty and Start Speaking Up, Saying No, Asking Boldly, and Unapologetically being Yourself*, by Aziz Gzzipura, 2017  
*Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*, by David Epstein, 2019  
*The Rocks Don't Lie: A Geologist's Investigates Noah's Flood*, by David R Montgomery, 2012  
*The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Unique Path to Spiritual Growth*, by Christopher L. Heuertz, 2012  
*The Sacred Enneagram Workbook: Mapping Your*

*Unique Path to Spiritual Growth*, By Christopher Heuertz  
*Salt: A World History*, by Mark Kurlansky, 2003  
*Seabiscuit: An American Legend*, by Laura Hillenbrand, 2002  
*Seat of the Soul*, by Gary Zukav, 1989  
*The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family and Defiance During the Blitz*, by Erik Larson, 2020  
*Taylor Branch Trilogy*, by Taylor Branch  
*Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, by Karen Anderson, 2018  
*We Build Reality: How Social Science Infiltrated Culture, Politics and Power*, by Jason Blakely, 2020  
*Your Money or Your Life: Nine Steps to Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence*, by Vicki Robin, 2018  
*Zamba: The True Story of the Greatest Lion That Ever Lived*, by Ralph Heifer, 2006

**6+ & 36+**  
 Years & sessions of  
 Tangled Blessings  
 grief group, includ-  
 ing this year.

## Member Milestones

### Celebrating:

The ordination of our Music Lead, Rev. Christopher Watkins Lamb

### Happy birthday to those who hit a new decade:

**July:** Mike Stroyan, Teresa Morgan, Winfield Bassage

**August:** Megan Haynes, Michael Thiemann, Jinna Fohrman, Jerry Hanley, Cathy Watson, Marion Osterhout,

Dick Walsh, Leona Ayer, Doris Bice, Sean Reifschneider, Lyn Atencio-Thurston, Adele Eastman

**September:** Sveta Tyschenko, Corry Petersen, Jeff Donaldson, Loren Jones, Jennifer Kutzik, Rosemary Coslit, Linda Talarico, Muriel McIntire

**Special Happy Birthday notes to** Allen Pierson (91), Bill Weddel (92), Dorothy Baker (96) Edith Held (98), Burnell Held (99), Leona Ayer (100), Doris Bice (104).

### Holding in our hearts the families and friends of those who lost a loved one:

Kevin Cashen, Jean Weitz, Clarice Rutherford

### Welcome recent new members:

Phyllis Smith and Karen Marcus

## Building Update *from the Building Expansion Team*

We're back!

After our pandemic break, the Building Expansion Team (BET) is back on the job. When we left you, the board had authorized going forward with our building project and the congregation approved the financing plan. Since then much has changed. The BET has been looking at our new world and identified some questions to address:

- Do we need to make some design changes to provide safer indoor air quality?
- Will congregants be able to continue making capital campaign pledge payments?
- Are there other budgeting issues?
- Do we need to reprioritize?
- Can we move ahead?

We have been meeting, discussing and talking to Ewers architecture and YES! we believe we can and should move ahead. We are behind schedule, but plan to give our architects the go ahead to begin the final design within the next few weeks.

Peter Ewers has done some research and

has many ideas on how to provide for social distancing and air circulation to improve indoor safety, and some possible ideas for expanding into the outdoors when weather permits.

We are still on track with pledge payments. Our financing plan had a gap that we may not be able to fill and our plan to use rental income to make loan payments is not feasible at the moment. We are working with Ewers and Pinkard (our general contractor) to determine how much of the project we can accomplish with the amount currently pledged.

The congregation overwhelmingly chose the sanctuary as the top building priority. We still feel that is the correct

course. We know many of you are dreaming of the day we can meet in person again. We hope we can have a beautiful space to do that when the time comes.

We will be in touch, keeping you updated as plans progress. Thanks to all of you who made pledges to the capital campaign. We are so excited to be moving forward again!

### *Our Team*

The Building Expansion Team is Peg MacMorris, Chris Betlach, Jerry Hanley and Margaret Cottam. Katie Watkins is our staff contact. You can reach us at [buildingexpansion@foothillsuu.org](mailto:buildingexpansion@foothillsuu.org).

If you would like to receive the building team e-mail, opt in at [foothillsuu.org/teams/building-expansion](https://foothillsuu.org/teams/building-expansion)





Foothills Unitarian Staff Is Here to Serve You!



970-493-5906



**Katie Watkins**

Director of Finance & Operations

[katie@foothillsuu.org](mailto:katie@foothillsuu.org)  
 Budgeting | Financial Oversight  
 Stewardship | Communications &  
 Marketing | Operations | HR | Risk  
 Management | Facilities



**Vanessa Way**  
 Bookkeeper

I need help with a donation I made.  
 I am trying to set up an event.  
 I want to promote something.  
 I am having issues with accessing services.  
 I want to receive the newsletter.  
 I have a question about my pledge.

**Admin Team**



**Amy Gage**

Program Assistant  
[amy@foothillsuu.org](mailto:amy@foothillsuu.org)  
 Reception | Member Support  
 Connections | Contact Info  
 Calendars | Zoom Rooms

I'm new!  
 I have a general question.  
 I am interested in getting more engaged.  
 I want to help others.  
 I need technical help with Zoom.  
 I want to update my contact info.

How can we help?

**Ministry Leadership**



**Rev. Gretchen Haley**

Senior Minister  
[gretchen@foothillsuu.org](mailto:gretchen@foothillsuu.org)  
 Strategic Direction | Policy  
 Implementation | Worship  
 Community Leadership &  
 Resourcing



**Rev. Sean Neil-Barron**

Associate Minister  
[sean@foothillsuu.org](mailto:sean@foothillsuu.org)  
 Community Circles & Small  
 Groups | Newcomers  
 Membership | Worship



**Eleanor VanDeusen**

Director of Family Ministry  
[eleanor@foothillsuu.org](mailto:eleanor@foothillsuu.org)  
 Children and Youth  
 Programs | OWL



**Lauren Farley**

Family Ministry Coordinator

**Family Ministry**

[hello@foothillsuu.org](mailto:hello@foothillsuu.org)

I want to get my kids involved.

I need help or support.



**Rev. Elaine Aron-Tenbrink**

Assistant Minister  
[elaine@foothillsuu.org](mailto:elaine@foothillsuu.org)  
 Pastoral Care | Parish  
 Visitors | Worship

Rev. Christopher Watkins Lamb  
 Music Lead







2020

## November

- 1 (Sun.) Remembrance Service
- 5 & 19 (Thu) Tangled Blessings
- 8 (Sun.) Food Bank @Foothills
- 11 (Wed.) Budget Presentation
- 11 & 18 (Wed.) New Jim Crow
- 14 (Sat.) Wake Up! Coffee and Conversation on Race
- 15 (Sun.) Congregational Meeting
- 19 (Thu.) Priestley Book Discussion
- 26 (Thu.) Thanksgiving Holiday
- 27 (Fri.) Seasonal Supper

## December

- 2 & 9 (Wed.) New Jim Crow
- 3 & 17 (Thu.) Tangled Blessings
- 9 (Wed.) Holiday Healing Service
- 12 (Sat.) Wake Up! Coffee and Conversation on Race
- 13 (Sun.) Food Bank @Foothills
- 15 (Sun.) Congregational Meeting
- 17 (Thu.) Priestley Book Discussion
- 20 (Sun.) Winter Solstice Community Social
- 24 (Thu.) Neighborhood Pocket Gatherings and Christmas Eve Sanctuary Broadcast
- 25-28 (Fri.-Mon.) Christmas Holiday
- 27 (Sun.) Small Group Reflection Circles
- Jan 1 (Fri.) New Year's Day Holiday

## Weekly Groups

Sun.: Kids' Small Groups

Youth Group

Mon.: T'ai Chi Chih

Online Meditation w/Kelly Dignan

Wed.: Online Meditation w/Kelly Dignan

*Keep up to date with all of Foothills events at [foothillsuu.org/events](https://foothillsuu.org/events)*

1. a, 2. b, 3. d, 4. e, 5. f, 6. c, 7. a, 8. c, 9. c, 10. Peace Corps

**History Quiz Answers**

## Long-Haul People by Rudy Nemser

You find them in churches  
 When you're lucky;  
 Other places too, though I mostly  
 Only know the ecclesiastical varieties.

Long-haul people,  
 Upon whose shoulders  
 (and pocketbooks and casseroles  
 And daylight/nighttime hours)  
 A church is built and maintained  
 After the brass is tarnished and  
 Cushions need re-stitching.

They pay their pledges full and on time  
 Even when the music's modern;  
 Support each canvass  
 Though the sermons aren't always short;  
 Mow lawns and come to suppers;  
 Teach Sunday School when  
 There's no one else and they'll miss the  
 service.

Asked what they think of the minister,  
 Or plans for the kitchen renovation,  
 Or the choral anthem, or Christmas pageant,  
 Or color of the bathroom paint,  
 They'll reply: individuals and fashions  
 Arrive and pass.  
 The church – their church – will be here,  
 steady and hale.  
 For a long, long time.  
 It will.  
 For long-haul people bless a church with a  
 very special blessing.

*Bless the Imperfect Meditations for  
 Congregational Leaders,*  
 Kathleen Montgomery, Editor,  
 Skinner House Books, 2014.

1815 Yorktown Ave.  
 Fort Collins, CO 80526  
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