



The Church Bell

First Congregational Church, UCC
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April 6, 2024

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Silver Circle

Water is Life...and it is an increasingly precious resource in our area. The Silver Circle (60+) will be diving deep into the waters of our daily lives with a two part offering in April and June. In May we will continue the theme of earthcare with a look at supporting pollinators.

On **April 18th** you are invited to tour the Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility in Greeley. We will meet at the church at 11:30 for a light lunch. The van will depart at 12:30 for a 1pm tour.

On the morning of **May 16** we will enjoy a presentation on "Gardening for Pollinators" offered by the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster. Learn what it takes to liven up your garden with a flurry of local butterflies! More details to come.

On **June 27th** the Silver Circle will head to the Boyd Lake Water Treatment Plant for a 10am tour. Ability to walk stairs will be necessary for this event. Please be at the church by 9:15 am to travel by van.

The cost for each trip is \$10 and will include lunch. Please let Rev. Tamara know about any dietary restrictions when you RSVP. Space is limited. Reserve your spot by emailing revtamara@firstconggreeley.com.

Earth Day Church Clean-Up

Help us keep our outdoor space looking beautiful! Join us on Earth Day weekend (**April 20, 10:00 am - Noon**) as we clean our newly landscaped church yard. Please bring work gloves and gardening tools if you are able.

Climate Care Postcard Campaign

Celebrate Earth Day by filling out a "Climate Hope" postcard. The Climate Hope postcard initiative is an effort by the United Church of Christ to encourage people of faith to include their voices as advocates for Creation care and environmental justice. Postcards will be available at church starting on **April 21**.

April WNL Offerings

Join us at Wednesday Night Live for Adult Education from 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Offering A: Faith Like a Child Book Conversations

April 3 - May 8, 2024

A well-known challenge of Jesus to his followers is to become like little children. But it's often difficult to remember the natural patterns of our childhood selves that enabled us to live freely in God's wonder-filled presence. Is childlike faith simply an unquestioning faith, or is it being present with ourselves in a way that invites healing and wholeness?

Faith Like a Child by Lacy Finn Borgo considers Jesus' invitation to childlike faith and explores seven distinct ways of welcoming the child within. Join Tammi, our children's pastor, during the next 6 weeks of WNL as we explore what new invitations await us as adults if we, once again, begin to embrace "faith like a child". Reading the book is encouraged, but not required. The author will join us via Zoom for one of our sessions!

The book is available for purchase on Amazon or bookshop.org. The audiobook is available to borrow from the Hoopla library app.

Offering B: Greeley Through New Eyes Conversations

Offering B: Greeley Through New Eyes Conversation Series

Bryan Cooke (long time FCC member, retired UNC Professor of Public Health, Rotary International Coordinator for the "End Polio Now" campaign and much more!) has worked to create a unique 3-week lineup of speakers for WNL, each representing a particular voice and perspective from the Greeley Community.

April 3rd: Weld County's First Latino Commissioner, Bill Garcia will help guide a discussion about agriculture in Weld County. Attorney Garcia comes with a unique perspective as a first generation Mexican American, and as the Commissioner who was serving during the raid on JBS in 2006. He has also served on Upstate Colorado Economic Development, Weld Project Connect and the Weld County Board of Equalization. While a Weld County Commissioner, Mr. Garcia drafted, reviewed and participated in the enactment of numerous provisions of the Weld County Code giving him a unique insight into the regulatory environment, land use and development in Weld County, Colorado.

April 10th: Dr. Barry Rothaus, author and UNC Professor Emeritus of History, and taught classes in Modern European History, Revolutionary European History and the European Holocaust 1933-1945, to name a few. As a professor Dr. Rothaus had a reputation for encouraging vibrant and exciting academic interchange. He also participated in a major research grant from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and two others from the Holocaust Educational Foundation, which took him to extermination camps in Eastern Europe and to Jerusalem's Yad Vashem (Israel's central institute for Holocaust scholarship). Our conversation with Dr. Rothaus will also point us to Greeley's Holocaust Memorial Observances which take place April 14 - 21, 2024. For more information about those offerings please visit: https://www.holocaust-memorial-observances.org/hmo_schedule.php

April 17th: Writer, scholar and teacher, Professor of Africana Studies, Dr. George Junne, is a specialist on African Americans and film, the Black American West, the Civil War and general African American history and culture. He has published six books and more than 50 book chapters and articles on periods ranging from the Civil War and emancipation to the Harlem Renaissance and Colorado's participation in the civil rights movement. He has also worked to save and chronicle the history of an early 20th century African American settlement called Deerfield, located about 25 miles east of Greeley.

April 24, May 1, May 8 and May 15:

Revs. Tamara and Ben will offer a series called *Engaging Spiritual Practices in your Every Day*. With activities ranging from gentle movement to breathwork, Lectio Divina to contemplative meditation, this four week set of classes will offer tangible tools for deepening your spiritual practice.

the
breath of life
dan forrest

april 21st, 2024
10:00am
first congregational church

with the first congregational chancel choir
and
chamber orchestra

free and open to the public

conducted by nicholas gilmore featuring "trees"
director of music by doctor keenan boswell
presented by the bill elder memorial fund

2101 16th street | greeley, co

Music Sunday

The FCC Chancel Choir, accompanied by a chamber orchestra, will be presenting Dan Forrest's "the breath of life" on **Sunday, April 21** during our regular 10am service. Its profoundly moving texts (ranging from medieval to modern) trace the arc of life from the joy and miracle of birth to the bereavement of death, and the love that makes life worthwhile. The service will also feature "Trees" by Keenan Boswell on the poem by Joyce Kilmer - a world premiere presented by the Bill Elder Memorial Fund. *Please note that for Music Sunday on April 21, we will only have a 10:00 worship service.*

Colorado Hosting Asylum Network

We are working with Colorado Hosting Asylum Network to partner with a family with an active Asylum application here in Greeley. Our team is hoping to add a few more folks who can help with connection to community services, transportation, and general support. Please join us **Tuesday April 16 at 1:00 pm** in Slighter Hall for more information, or contact Mel Jensen melissasjensen@gmail.com

Women's Retreat

We are excited to announce planning has begun on a First Cong Women's retreat that will be held at LaForet Retreat Center **November 1-3**. All those 16 to 200+ years old who identify as women are welcome. Details are currently being worked out so stay tuned for more information to come in the next few months.

Thanks for Helping Share the Joy!

On Easter, we again had a joyous and successful Easter Egg hunt. Over 45 children participated in our hunt. Together and with the congregation's help, they chose to donate over \$500 to our partner organizations: Habitat for Humanity, Rosebud Episcopal Mission, and Soccer Without Borders. Thank you for supporting this alternative way of doing an Easter egg hunt and helping all our kids share their joy!



Kentucky Derby Event

FOG, Fellowship of the Grape, will sponsor a Kentucky Derby Event on **May 4 at 3:30 pm** at the Village Cooperative. Don your favorite fancy hat and clothing and bring Kentucky Derby themed food or any dish of choice to share.

Notice: Special Meeting of the Congregation

At the Church's Annual Meeting in February, the congregation approved changing the church's fiscal year to run from July 1 through June 31. Previously, the fiscal year had been January 1 through December 31. Due to this shift in the fiscal year, at the Annual Meeting in February, the congregation approved a 6-month budget (from January 1, 2024-June, 31 2024) rather than a 12-month budget. Please mark your calendars for a Special Meeting of the Congregation that will be held on **May 5 at 11:30 am**. At this Special Meeting, we will have two items to vote on:

1. A year-long budget for our new fiscal year (July 1, 2024-June 31, 2025). The proposed budget will be available for review by the congregation by mid-April.
2. Amending our Constitution and Bylaws to move our yearly Annual Meeting from being held in Jan or Feb to being held in May or June.

Capital Campaign Update

Completing our new look outside: The final phase of our exterior landscaping project is nearly done! We added some lovely hardscaping and new irrigation around the trees by 16th St. and 22nd Ave. This work will both save significant water as well as help our trees stay healthier. In the late spring we will have native grasses planted along 22nd ave across from the Health Middle School cross walk. We are grateful for a grant from the Greeley "Life After Lawn" program that is helping to cover over half the cost of this final phase of our landscaping project.

Interior Renovation: We are on track for work to begin on our interior renovation project next month! Once this project begins, please be prepared for access to parts of the building to be limited over the summer months. We will continue to worship in-person in the sanctuary, though the west entrance will likely be closed for a number of weeks. We will keep you posted! If you are part of a group that uses church space, church staff will be in touch with you about alternative spaces for you to use during construction if you space is included in the renovation work.

Welcome New Members

We are excited to welcome the following new members to First Congregational Church:

The Inglis Family

Dan & Sage Inglis along with their children, Cian (16), Eamon (13), Róise (11), Declan "Ducky" (9), Izzie (8), came to First Congregational after trying other churches, and deciding to look for an open and affirming congregation. They were intrigued by the UCC because Dan was a pastor's kid at the Henrietta UCC Church in Henrietta, New York, and he was a music minister for 5 years. They are cousins to Karen Inglis!

They have stayed at FCC for love and community. They shared, "Every church tries to be welcoming and says that they are welcoming. Here people keep on coming up to us and wanting to make friends with us. We aren't just there on Sundays but we enjoy Wednesday nights, and getting together with people outside of church as well." Sage grew up in the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City. Traveled to New York to work as a nanny. They moved to Colorado to be near Dan's family. Sage enjoys cooking and sewing. Service is her love language and she loves to tangibly help others. Dan looks forward to doing things with the choir, and is a voice teacher.



Paige Baldwin

Paige Baldwin came to First Congregational because she is a part of the LGBTQ community and heard that we are an affirming faith community. Prior to coming to First Congregational she was attending Atlas, and decided to look for a church with more gatherings offered when they went to only meeting monthly. She is happy to find FCC so welcoming. Paige grew up in a busy congregation with a lot of opportunities to gather with the community. She was born in the Denver area, but considers Elizabeth Colorado her hometown. Paige is an elementary school teacher, and enjoys playing the clarinet.