



First Congregational Church is a community who seeks to be rooted in God's love, nourished on our spiritual journeys, and growing as an inclusive Christian presence in Northern Colorado and beyond.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.**

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
June 23, 2024
10:00am**

** You are invited to rise in body or spirit at this time.*

NOTES & DOODLES

A large grid of dotted lines for taking notes or doodling.

PRELUDE

*Summer Solstice
In The Sacred Gardens*

James Michael Stevens

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader/People)**

What if your whole life was shaping you for some greater purpose?

Who? Me? I don't think so. I am just a regular person, living an ordinary life.

But what if that life with all of your stories, your experiences, your triumphs and even your unique hardships is exactly what the world needs?

My stories? My experiences? Are you sure you are talking to the right person?

Yes! You! No matter where you are in your lifespan, there is a place where your passions meet the world's needs. There is a place where your gifts are wanted and needed in the here and now.

Holy God, you who are with us through all of our days: the ups and downs, the surprising and mundane, forge us with your love so that we might become like keys, able to unlock new possibilities in the world.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Enter, Rejoice and Come In

NCH (black) #73, vs. 1, 3, 4

Enter, rejoice, and come in.

Enter, rejoice, and come in.

Today will be a joyful day;

enter, rejoice, and come in.

Open your hearts everyone...

Don't be afraid of some change...

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:30-32

REFLECTION

Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern

***HYMN**

For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH (black) #28

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love, which from our birth, over and around us lies,
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.
God of all to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

CALL TO THANKSGIVING

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN**

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

NCH (black) #393

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other’s woes, each other’s burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sweet Chariot

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Children & Youth Faith Formation

Children: This week, we continue our summer series on *shalom*. What can we imagine about enough food for all? All kids 3 years old to 5th grade are welcome to join us!

Youth: Middle and High Schoolers are invited to be at the activities table in the narthex during worship.

Nursery care is available weekly from 9:45 - 11:15 am. *Please note that we have begun moving some of our lesser-used items out of the nursery in preparation for construction, so it will appear "minimized" over the next few weeks!*

In Loving Memory

Please hold the families and loved ones of the following in your prayers:

Bruce Broderius

December 8, 1935 - June 1, 2024

Services will be held on Saturday, July 13 at 1:30pm at Greeley West High School. (Please note the location change.)

Rev. Ben on Sabbatical

Rev. Ben will be on sabbatical through July 2. Please note that he will not be available to return emails or calls during his time away.

The Silver Circle

Water is Life... and it is an increasingly precious resource in our area. The Silver Circle (ages 60+) will be diving deep into the waters of our daily lives. **This Thursday, 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 is \$10 and will include lunch. Please RSVP to Rev. Tamara and let us know about any dietary restrictions when you RSVP. Space is limited.

Sign Up for Summer Camp!

Registration is open for summer camps at the La Foret. Camping opportunities are available for incoming 2nd graders - high school seniors, as well as adults! Check out La Foret’s website to learn more and to register: laforet.org/events/camps. **Registration closes tomorrow, June 24.** Please contact Rev. Tamara with any questions. Need-based scholarships are available.

Grab Your Name Tag!

One of the fastest ways to be welcoming to folks in our community is to wear your name tag! Even if you’re a long-time member, your name tag helps folks in those forgetful moments. If you need (or just want) a new name tag, please request one!

Final Construction Preparations!

Our giant interior renovation project begins this week! We are grateful for the financial and physical support of this community as we get ready to give the main floor a massive upgrade. *If you’re able and willing, please stay **after the 10 am service today** and help clear the final things from the main floor, put up tape and signs, and make our final preparations for construction! All the heavy lifting is already done.*

Staff Contact Info, Additional Announcements & Calendar

Contact information for the entire staff is available on the table in the Narthex, which is just outside the sanctuary. Please feel free to ask a Host for help finding it.

Find additional Announcements and Calendar online including Centering Prayer, Scripture Seminar, and more.
firstconggreeley.com/announcements
firstconggreeley.com/calendar