

### Weld Food Bank Backpack Program

We will be collecting donations through the month of September for the Weld Food Bank Backpack Program. This program provides food over the weekend throughout the year to students in District 6 who are at risk of hunger. Donations can be made in an offering envelope marked "Backpacks" or online by selecting backpacks in the dropdown menu.

### Fall Picnic

Join us for our annual fall picnic - this year as a pizza party! We'll gather in the courtyard on **Sunday, September 15 following the 10am worship service.** You're invited to bring a side or dessert to share - but please remember that we don't have kitchen access during construction, so no refrigeration or serving utensils are available. And, of course, we'll have a bouncy house!

### Wholeness & Wellness Weekend at La Foret

Recharge your spirit and reconnect with your body and nature at the Wholeness & Wellness Weekend for adults at La Foret Conference & Retreat Center **September 13-15.** The theme for this year's retreat, "Sense & Sensuality," invites you to experience the fullness of being through your senses and bodily awareness. There are options for EVERY budget through scholarships and tiered pricing, as well as one-day registration options. You can register to save your spot for only \$50. Learn more or register at [laforet.org/events](http://laforet.org/events); registration closes **tomorrow.**

### Garden Share Table

Is your garden growing faster than you can eat? Bring some of your harvest to share on the Garden Share table in the narthex. Take what you can use and share your surplus!

### Fellowship of the Grape (FOG)

Our next Fellowship of the Grape (FOG) events will be:

- Saturday, September 21 from 5 - 7 pm at Jenny Sterba's home (1621 22nd Ave, Greeley)
- Saturday, September 28 from 5 - 7 pm at the Schulte's home (1205 102nd Ave, Greeley)

FOG events are open to all and are an opportunity to gather and enjoy community with others from FCC. You're invited to bring a beverage and appetizer of your choice to share. Come when you can and leave when you must; no RSVP needed. We hope you can join us!

### Women's Retreat

Women of First Congregational church ages 16-200+ are invited to join us for our first Women's Retreat in years! All who identify as women are welcome; mark your calendars for **November 1 - 3, 2024** at La Foret. This year's theme is Rest, Reflect, and Relax: A Woman's Retreat in the Wild. Registration is open now. Visit the announcements page on our website for more details and to register!

### Office Closed for Labor Day

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day. We will resume normal hours (10am - 2pm Monday - Thursday) on September 3.

### 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, WNL details, and more. [firstconggreeley.com/announcements](http://firstconggreeley.com/announcements) [firstconggreeley.com/calendar](http://firstconggreeley.com/calendar)



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  
September 1, 2024  
10:00am**

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

### PRELUDE

*Sonata No. 1 in E-flat major*

J.S. Bach

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

*You are invited to text prayers you would like included in our Prayers of the People to 970-573-6299 by the end of the Reflection. Please include your name with your prayer.*

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

*Creator God, awaken us to new vision and new possibilities.*

**Let us look through the lens of goodness upon one another and all creation.**

*Turn us away from negative and distorted lenses,*

**Through which we perceive one another as rivals or as threats.**

*Holy One, we were created in your image.*

**We are curious and creative; we long for connection and community.**

*Remind us of Your divine light, which burns within each human soul*

**So that when we see your face in the world around us, we will remember that we are not alone.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN

*I Woke Up This Morning*

NCH (black) #85

*I woke up this morning with my mind, stayed on Jesus (x3)*

*Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.*

*Walkin' and talkin' with my mind, stayed on Jesus (x3)*

*Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.*

*Can't hate your neighbor with your mind, stayed on Jesus (x3)*

*Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.*

*Love everybody with your mind, stayed on Jesus (x3)*

*Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.*

### COMMUNION

*The Lord be with you*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give God thanks and praise.*

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## COMMUNION RESPONSE

*As We Gather At Your Table*

NCH (black) #332, vs. 1

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; Let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

*\*Children & youth are invited to follow their leaders to faith formation at this time.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:4b-7, 18-23

## REFLECTION

Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Bring Many Names*

NCH (black) #11, vs. 1-3

Bring many names, beautiful and good, celebrate, in parable and story,  
holiness in glory, living, loving God. Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day, planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation, genius at play: Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child, feeling all the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving, till we're reconciled: Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

## CALL TO THANKSGIVING

### \*DOXOLOGY

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

NCH (black) #82, vs. 1, 2

Go, My children, with My blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In My love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever,

Go, My children, with My blessing, you are My own.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, closer to me;

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here My Spirit's power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you;

Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Allegro assai vivace* from Sonata Op. 65, No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn

## Children & Youth Faith Formation

**Children:** Today, we will wonder together about different ways we can hear God. All children 3 years old to 5th grade are welcome to join us!

**Youth:** Middle and High Schoolers are invited to join Josh at the youth group table in the narthex today after the children's message.

**Nursery care** is available weekly from 9:45 - 11:15 am for 0-3 year olds.

## Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live will resume **this Wednesday, September 4!** Please join us each Wednesday Night for a time of learning and fellowship.

**5:15pm - 6pm:** Shared meal in courtyard (Sept. 4th: taco bar from Luna's, \$5/person or \$15/family max). You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please [RSVP here](#) so that we know how many people to order food for each week. You may RSVP each week or for all of September at once.

**6pm - 7:15pm:** Structured play in gym for kids, Youth Group, Adult Education. We will kick off our Adult Ed as Revs. Ben & Tamara lead an 8-week series from The Colossian Forum, which invites Christians to cultivate mindsets and habits that build love and connection in our increasingly politically polarized times. This isn't about changing political positions, but learning how to hold others' beliefs and still be in relationship with them. Runs September 4 - October 30.

## Photo Directory Coming in October

We'll have new printed directories to distribute in October. Please stop at our photo booth during the all-church picnic on **Sunday, September 15** or send a family photo - formal or not - to Laura no later than **Wednesday, September 18** to have your photo included in the directory!

## Choirs are Returning

**Adult Choirs:** Bell and Chancel Choirs are back! If you ring, sing, or have any interest in learning more about choir, please join us. Rehearsals begin in the sanctuary this **Thursday, September 5th!** Bells rehearse **5 - 6pm** weekly, and Chancel Choir from **7 - 8:30pm** weekly. We also offer a choir social hour the first Thursday of each month from 6:15 - 7pm!

**Children's Choirs** resume on **Sunday, September 8 from 9:00-9:45am** in the choir room. All children ages 4 years old - 5th Grade are invited to participate! For more information, please contact Shona Royle-Grimes.

**Youth Choir** will meet sporadically throughout the year to prepare for special services and will be directed by Nicholas Gilmore. Stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead!

## In Loving Memory

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

### Marge Curtiss

March 9, 1931 - July 11, 2024

Services will be held Saturday, September 7 at 11 am in the sanctuary. A reception will follow at Allnutt-Macy Chapel. A livestream will be available. *\*Please note that the time has changed.*

### Nancy Jacobson

December 22, 1944 - August 5, 2024

Services will be held Saturday, October 12 at 11 am in the sanctuary.

### Bob Ruyle

April 17, 1934 - July 26, 2024

Services will be held Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 1 pm in the sanctuary.

**More Announcements on Back!**