

Faith Like a Child Book Conversation

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, join us at Wednesday Night Live for Adult Education.

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 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.

April Five Points Tour

On **Saturday, April 27**, we will be touring the Blair Caldwell African American Research Library and the museum on its 3rd floor detailing the rich history of Five Points. This is one of only four such libraries in the country. Following the tour, we will enjoy a late lunch at one of Denver's most popular soul food restaurants in the nearby Park Hill neighborhood. We will **meet in the church parking lot at 9:45 am** to depart in the church van. We will **return no later than 5:00 pm**. The library/museum tour is free of charge. Lunch will be ordered off the menu on an individual basis. If interested in participating, please contact Misti Aas at 970-396-4266 or mistiaas1@gmail.com. RSVP is required to ensure space on the van.

Food Pantry

We are committed to providing food bags to anyone who comes through our doors requesting food assistance. Donations can be placed in the basket outside the sanctuary. We are currently in need of the following items:

- Canned Chicken or Tuna (pull top preferred)
- Peanut Butter

Climate Postcard

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 today**.

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.

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, Choir Rehearsals, Wed. Night Details & more.
firstconggreeley.com/announcements
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

April 21, 2024

10:00am

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

Large print bulletins and closed captioning devices are available from a Host.

PRELUDE

*For the Beauty of the Earth
Peace Like a River*

Conrad Kocher, arr. James and Stan Pethel
Philip P. Bliss, arr. Lani Smith

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Praise to God
Shona Royle-Grimes & Kathy Azari, *directors*

traditional Japanese melody

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader/People)

Praise God in this sanctuary, Praise God in the streets!

Praise God in our waking, Praise God in our sleep!

Praise God with the melody, and harmony too!

Creator of life, we make music for You!

In every culture, across every land, people create music

We sing and we dance.

Our voices sing prayers, our bodies dance praise.

Our joys and our sorrows, to you God we raise.

We gather this morning to celebrate living.

We gather to worship You, our music thanks-giving.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Trees
String Orchestra; Keenan Boswell, *piano*
Made possible by the Bill Elder Memorial Fund

Keenan Boswell

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

***GATHERING HYMN**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God NCH (black) #292, vs. 1-3
Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

CALL TO THANKSGIVING

***DOXOLOGY**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

MUSIC SUNDAY
(See insert for full program)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Earth Song Michael Jackson, arr. Keenan Boswell & Kati Rittner

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH EXTENDS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR MUSICIANS THIS MORNING!

Under the Direction of Nicholas Gilmore
Violins: Sarah Off, Bennett Stucky, Tom Nugent
Violas: Marda Turman, Lindsay Fulcher
Cellos: Sally Murphy (soloist), Robert Staley, Jaiden Ursich
Bass: Crystal Pelham
Percussion: Tim Feerst, Jake Spencer
Piano: Dr. Keenan Boswell
Organ: Kati Rittner
Vocals: The First Congregational Church Chancel Choir

Children & Youth Faith Formation
Children: This week, we are hearing the story of Jesus and his friends walking to Emmaus. All kids from 3 years old - 5th grade are welcome.
Youth: Middle and High Schoolers will remain in the sanctuary today for Music Sunday.
Nursery care is available weekly from 9:45 - 11:15 am.

Wednesday Night Live
Wednesday Night Live, our midweek programming, has something for everyone. Please see our website for full details.
5:15 - 6:00 pm: Dinner in Chadwick Hall. \$3/person or \$9/family. Gluten free and vegetarian options are provided.
6:00 pm: Organized Games in Gym begins (preK-5th grade)
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Adult Education

Help with Food Distribution
The Outreach Ministry Group is creating a new volunteer team to help with food distribution on **Wednesdays from 12:00 - 3:00 each week**. If you are interested in learning more about participating on this team, please contact Judy Kron - judykron@comcast.net.

Special Meeting of the Congregation
Please mark your calendars to attend a Special Meeting of the Congregation on **May 5 at 11:30 am**. This Special Meeting has been called for members of the church to vote on a year-long budget for our new fiscal year (July 1, 2024-June 31, 2025) and an amendment to our Constitution and Bylaws to move our yearly Annual Meeting from being held in January or February to being held in May or June. The proposed budget will be available for review by the congregation by mid-April.

Sacred Earth & Soul @ La Foret
Join us in a weekend retreat at La Foret **May 17-19**. In 2016 John Philip Newell began the Earth & Soul initiative, including a series of annual retreats to help reawaken awareness of the sacred in all things through the recovery of Celtic wisdom for today and to help translate this awareness into compassionate action in our lives and world. This is a three-day teaching and spiritual practice event. John Philip teaches from the wisdom of Celtic prophets over the centuries, applying this ancient wisdom to the most critical challenges of today. Cami Twilling invites us into spiritual practice bringing our inner attention to the presence of the sacred within us and within all things. To learn more or register visit laforet.org/events. **Registration closes on May 6th**. If you would like transportation in the church van, reach out to Rev. Ben.

Snap a Photo for the Directory!
We're working diligently to update photos in our church directory! If you'd like to have your photo taken, please stop by the photo station in Chadwick Hall **Sunday, April 21 from 9:15 - 10 am or 11:15 - 11:45 am** and have your photo taken by one of our volunteers. Alternately, you may email a photo for inclusion in the directory to Laura Gurney in the office.

Kentucky Derby FOG Event
FOG, Fellowship of the Grape, will sponsor a Kentucky Derby Event on **May 4 at 3:30 pm** at the Village Cooperative (4527 24th Street Rd). Don your favorite fancy hat and clothing and bring Kentucky Derby themed food or any dish of choice to share.