

## First Congregational United Church of Christ

Greeley, CO

Sunday, November 19, 2023

10:00am

### Additional Announcements & Full Calendar

For more details regarding the following ways to engage, connect, and serve with First Congregational Church visit [www.firstconggreeley.com/announcements](http://www.firstconggreeley.com/announcements):

- Becoming a Member at First Congregational
- Centering Prayer
- Wednesday Night Live Schedule and Meal Rotation
- Choir Schedules & Info

You can access the church calendar at <https://www.firstconggreeley.com/calendar>.

### Thanksgiving Office Closure

The church office will be closed **November 23 & 24** for staff to enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.

### First Congregational Church Staff Contacts

**Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern** (she/her), Minister, Head of Programs

([RevTamara@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:RevTamara@firstconggreeley.com))

**Rev. Ben Konecny** (he/him), Minister, Head of Staff

([RevBen@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:RevBen@firstconggreeley.com))

**Tammi Van Drunen** (she/her), Children's Minister

([Tammi@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:Tammi@firstconggreeley.com))

**Nicholas Gilmore** (he/him), Director of Music

([Nicholas@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:Nicholas@firstconggreeley.com))

**Whitney Janzen-Pankratz** (she/her), Community Coordinator

([Whitney@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:Whitney@firstconggreeley.com))

**Laura Gurney** (she/her), Church Administrator

([Laura@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:Laura@firstconggreeley.com))

**Shona Royle-Grimes** (she/her), Pianist, Jubilation Choir Director

([Shonarg@comcast.net](mailto:Shonarg@comcast.net))

**Kathy Azari** (she/her), Rainbow Choir Director

([kathyazaria@comcast.net](mailto:kathyazaria@comcast.net))

**Colin Williamson** (he/him), Genesis Choir Director

([colin@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:colin@firstconggreeley.com))

**Kati Rittner** (she/her), Organist

([kati@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:kati@firstconggreeley.com))

### PRELUDE

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Joel Raney

Eli Schamane & Dorothy Elder, *piano duet*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### INTROIT

*Brother*

The Brilliance

Tim, Lucy, and Harriet Coons

### 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.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Bless You!*

Anthony Kouri Williams

Rainbow and Jubilation Choirs; Shona Royle-Grimes & Kathy Azari, *directors*

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

(based on the words of Br. David Steindl-Rast)

*There is no closer bond than the one that gratefulness celebrates. It is the bond between giver and thanks-giver.*

**For everything is a gift.**

*Grateful living is a celebration of the universal give-and-take of life.*

*It is a limitless yes to belonging.*

**For everything is a gift.**

*Can our world survive without gratefulness?*

*Perhaps, but to say yes to the mutual belonging of all beings will make this a more joyful world!*

**For everything is a gift.**

*And the greatest gift one can give is thanksgiving.*

**In giving gifts, we give what we can spare, but in giving thanks we give ourselves.**

*So let us worship with grateful hearts!*

**Let us pour ourselves out in thanksgiving!**

### \*GATHERING HYMN

*We Gather Together*

Chalice Hymnal #276

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,

To turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;

The pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.

O God, be present with us, and make your will known.

Beside us to guide us, O God, we perceive you

ordaining, maintaining the power of life.

Yes, yours be the glory, let all tell the story,

Our God be ever with us in gladness and strife.

*(hymn continued inside)*



We are 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.**

*(hymn continued from front)*

May all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant,  
Defend us, befriend us, whatever may be  
May your congregation escape tribulation,  
Your name be praised forever, O God make us free!

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

### SPECIAL MUSIC

One Voice

Wailin' Jennys

### REFLECTION

Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern

### MUSICAL RESPONSE

*The Cupboard's Full*

Tim Coons

### CALL TO THANKSGIVING

### \*DOXOLOGY

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

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Now Thank We All Our God*

NCH (black) #419, vs. 1, 2, 3 (words projected)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*May the Lord, May our God*  
Lucy, Harriet, and Tim Coons

### In Loving Memory

*Please hold the families of the following in your prayers as they celebrate the life of their loved one:*

#### Patricia "Pat" Ann Best

January 6, 1943 - November 1, 2023

Services will be held **Friday, December 15 at 2pm** in the Sanctuary.

#### Mary Behling

December 29, 1929 - November 8, 2023

Services will be announced at a later date.

### Kids & Youth Faith Formation

**Children:** This week, we're beginning our Advent story. We'll meet Isaiah the prophet and the Holy Family as we worship together. All children 3 years old to 5th grade are welcome!

**Youth:** The Middle and High School Youth Group will gather after the children's message in the Youth Room.

**Nursery Care:** Available weekly from 9:45 - 11:15 am.

### Advent Workshop

All ages are invited to join us for our annual Advent celebration **after the 10 am service on December 3**. Come craft, eat soup, and make fresh pine bough wreaths with your church community.

If you'd like to bring a crockpot of soup with a small side, please let Tammi know!

### Deck the Halls!

You are invited to help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas! Join us from **9 am - noon on Saturday, December 2**. No decorating skills required!

### Cold Weather Clothing Drive

Through the month of November we will be collecting donations of new adult hats, gloves, underwear and sports bras for the Housing Navigation Center. Donations can be dropped off in bins located in the church office and narthex.

### Wednesday Night Live

**There is no Wednesday Night Live this week.** Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday! WNL will resume next week with dinner for all, courses for adults, youth group for 6th-12th grade, and fun and games for the PreK-5th crew! All are welcome. Please see the announcement page on our website to learn more.

### FCC Food Pantry

We need your help to keep our food pantry well-stocked! Donations can be placed in the basket outside the sanctuary. We are currently in need of the following items:

- Individually-packed trail mix
- Jerky sticks
- Oatmeal packets

### Heath Giving Tree

We are once again collecting donations to help support Health Middle School families this Christmas. Donations can be dropped off via cash or check in the church office or in the offering on Sunday morning or made online **through December 3**. Donations will be used to buy gift cards that will be delivered to families through Health Middle School counselors.

### Progressive Dinner

We invite you to join our 2023 Progressive Dinner! Progressive dinners are an opportunity for fellowship while enjoying each course of a full meal at a different home.

This year's progressive dinner will begin on **Sunday, December 3 at 4pm**. Whether you're interested in hosting or just attending, please RSVP to Jody Heatherly (970-576-6270 or [jodytheatherly@comcast.net](mailto:jodytheatherly@comcast.net)) by November 26. The number of groups will be determined by the number of RSVPs, but space is limited, so please reach out soon!

### Fellowship of the Grape

FOG is an informal gathering where you are invited to bring a beverage of your choice and an appetizer to share in a gathering of all who wish to attend! Mark your calendar for our next FOG gathering on **Friday, December 8 from 5 - 7 pm** at the home of Don Schulz (2016 80th Ave Ct, Greeley).