

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Greeley, CO

Sunday, September 17, 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:

- Becoming a Member at First Congregational
- Centering Prayer
- October FOG
- Chili Cook Off Details

You can access the church calendar at firstconggreeley.com/calendar.

First Congregational Church Staff Contacts

Rev. Ben Konecny (he/him), Minister, Head of Staff
(RevBen@firstconggreeley.com)

Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern (she/her), Minister, Head of Programs
(RevTamara@firstconggreeley.com)

Tammi Van Drunen (she/her), Children's Minister
(Tammi@firstconggreeley.com)

Nicholas Gilmore (he/him), Director of Music
(Nicholas@firstconggreeley.com)

Shona Royle-Grimes (she/her), Pianist, Jubilation Choir Director
(Shonarg@comcast.net)

Kathy Azari (she/her), Rainbow Choir Director
(kathyazaria@comcast.net)

Colin Williamson (he/him), Genesis Choir Director
(colin@firstconggreeley.com)

Kati Rittner (she/her), Organist
(kati@firstconggreeley.com)

***Whitney Janzen-Pankratz** (she/her), Community Coordinator
(Whitney@firstconggreeley.com)

Laura Gurney (she/her), Church Administrator
(Laura@firstconggreeley.com)

*Whitney is currently away on parental leave and will return in late October. Questions that are traditionally directed to Whitney should be directed to Tammi or Rev. Ben until she returns.



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.**

PRELUDE

This Is My Father's World

Dale Wood

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

M. M. Ippolitof-Ivanof

English texts adapted by N. Lindsay Norden

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)

In the beginning God created all things,

And saw that they were good.

At our beginning, God created us:

Unique and irreplaceable, loved and wanted by God.

In all our new beginnings, God creates something new.

We seek God in the freshness of this morning,

In the laughter of friends and the colors of creation,

In the beauty of this gathered community as we worship.

Holy One: open our eyes to see your presence.

Open our souls to sense your presence.

Open our hearts to love your presence,

Here and now, and through all the days of our lives. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

I Woke Up This Morning with My Mind

NCH (black) #85

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 3:1-13,21-24

REFLECTION

Rev. Ben Konecny

CHORAL ANTHEM

Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One

CALL TO THANKSGIVING

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

NCH (black) #106

My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace
to those who seek their Maker's will in every time and place.

The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.
The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away.
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.

The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
for God has come in power to save, to set all people free.
Remembering those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Benediction

Dorothy Elder

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Nine

Eugene Butler

Weld Food Bank Backpack Program

Between now and September 30th, we will collect money for the Weld Food Bank Backpack Program. This program provides food for children who are at risk for hunger over the weekend. Sponsorship costs \$100 per student. This year, we aim to sponsor 50+ backpacks to represent the 50+ kids who are regularly involved in the FCC community. We've already reached 30 backpacks for the year!! You may give online, or mark checks or cash "Backpack."

Developing Capacity for Extraordinary Relationships

Often, we live in ordinary relationships. They're what we're used to, but nothing extraordinary. But what if God is inviting us into *extraordinary*? What if we could develop the capacity for *extraordinary* relationships? We believe you can - and it's what God desires for us!

Join us for this new WNL offering beginning October 4. We'll explore different relational skills, practice using them, and reflect on how the practice went. This is a participatory course with a 10-week commitment, including some at-home practice. Generally a \$175 course, we're offering it to you at no cost!

To ensure that there are enough materials, please let Tammi VanDrunen know you're coming: tammi@firstconggreeley.com.

Giving Statements

Giving statements reflecting giving through mid-August will be available this Sunday between services and after the 10am service. Please be sure to pick up your giving statement. We will mail any statements remaining on Monday. If you'd like to go paperless and receive your statements electronically only, please sign up on the salmon papers at the Giving Statement table or use this link to sign up online.

Kids & Youth Faith Formation

Children: Today we're hearing the story of creation re-imagined through a beautiful storybook. All children 3 years old - 5th grade are welcome!

Youth: Today Middle and High School Youth are invited to the youth room after the children's message.

Nursery care is available weekly from 9:45 - 11:15 am.

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live begins this Wednesday! On September 20 we will hear from past District 6 board members Julia Richards, Bruce Broderius, and Rhonda Solis. On September 27 we will host a forum with this year's school board candidates.

5:15 - 6:00 pm: Dinner in Chadwick Hall. \$3/person or \$9/family. Gluten free and vegetarian options are provided.

6:00 pm - 7:15pm: Organized Games in Gym begins (K-5th grade)

6:00 pm - 7:15 pm: Youth Group & Adult Education

Stewardship Special Events

This October we will have a number of special events for our stewardship month. Please plan to join us! More details for each event will be forthcoming.

- October 1: Stewardship & Finances Town Hall, 11:30am
- October 8: Unveiling of FCC's new stewardship video during worship. This week will be a shorter service to allow for a new way for Ministry Groups to meet. Please plan to stay - childcare will continue until 12:30.
- October 15: Associate Conference Minister Erin Gilmore will be preaching and we'll host a Chili Cook-off at 11:30am. Details available now on our website.
- October 22: A Special Cabaret performance & refreshments