



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



Woman at the Window - David Caspar Friedrich, 1774-1840. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Live the Light: Come and See

January 21, 2024 | 10:30 AM

1128 Pine Street Boulder CO 80302 | 303.442.1787 | www.firstcong.net

Welcome to The First Congregational Church Boulder, a community of faith on a journey of faith. Founded in 1864, the first church built in Boulder, we have been gathering ever since as a community of kindred hearts to worship, to learn and grow in the light of God's grace, to extend ourselves in compassionate service, and to be instruments of God's transformation in the world.

As a member congregation of the United Church of Christ, we believe "God is still speaking." We listen and open our lives to the movement of God's Spirit stirring us up in the new thing God is always doing in our midst. We trust as our Pilgrim forbears prayed, "There is yet more light and truth to break forth from God's holy word."

Our commitment to the extravagant love of Jesus makes the words, "All are Welcome," as inclusive as they sound. We are glad you are here: believers and agnostics, conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, people brimming with hope and those who wander in despair, people of all races, cultures, and abilities, of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

During 10:30 AM Worship...

YOUNG CHILDREN are Invited to the Toddler Room (downstairs)

ELEMENTARY CHILDREN will leave for Church School as indicated in the bulletin

YOUTH start in the Grace Gallery (downstairs)

In the Sanctuary...

We have a **NEW HEARING LOOP SYSTEM** which sends sound directly into a hearing aid/cochlear implant. Switch your hearing aid to T-coil. Or, in both the Sanctuary and Chapel, pocket-sized FM receivers are also available from the ushers. BYO earbuds or use the new ones provided. **WHEELCHAIRS** are also available, please ask an usher for assistance.

YOUR GIVING Online or in-person, you can count on the nurturing ministry of FCC Boulder Church. Each one of us plays an important part, including through our financial support.

MOBILE

Text JOY2GIVEFCC to 73256

ONLINE

www.firstcong.net/give

ENVELOPE

Cash or Check



STAFF

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman *Senior Minister* | Rev. Linda Kowatch *Associate Minister*

Rev. Deborah Voss *Director of Christian Education* | Dr. Kajsia Teitelbaum *Director of Music*

Rob Cronin and Sam Bauman *Directors of Youth Ministry*

Julie Griffiths *Office & Facilities Manager* | Christopher Carter *Communication Specialist* | Renee Loewen *Accountant*

Julia Wirth *Director of Children's Music* | Jessica Kressin, *Chancel Choir Accompanist*

Er-Hsuan Li *Children's Choirs Accompanist* | Ginger Johnson *Child Care Coordinator*

Angie Dickinson Mickle and Nick Munding *Lead AV Techs*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Fantasia in C Major
Er-Hsuan Li, piano

G. Telemann

WELCOME

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman

*PASSING THE PEACE

*HYMN 451

Be Now My Vision
Marj Fowler, piano

Elementary aged children may leave for Church School activities following the hymn.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

One: God our Loving Creator, day by day you invite us

**All: to follow the path that leads to peace and
to take our place at your table of grace.**

One: Day by Day, Christ calls us

**All: to seek justice, love kindness, walk humbly,
and pour out our lives in service to others.**

One: Day by day, the Spirit shows us

**All: how to be the people we are called to be and
the beloved community we may yet become.**

One: With every step we take, your goodness and mercy follow.

**All: On this journey, may we learn
to see the Spirit more clearly,
love You more dearly,
and follow Christ more nearly,
day by day, Amen.**

(Adapted from St. Richard of Chichester, 1253)

SCRIPTURE

John 1:35-51

SERMON

Live the Light: Come and See

The Summons



- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Linda Kowatch

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

OFFERTORY

I am the Light of Nations
Chancel Choir
Julia Wirth, Today's Director
Er-Hsuan Li, piano

Arr. H. Hopson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 173

You Have Come Down the Lakeshore

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rondo from Sonatina in F Major

Beethoven

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Young Children are invited to the Toddler Room (downstairs)

Elementary Children will leave for Church School as indicated in the bulletin

Youth start in the Grace Gallery (downstairs)

Combined Joyful Noise & Faith Singers Rehearsal – 11:45 AM, in the Chapel

All Church Youth Skate and After Party

Sunday, 3 to 5:30 PM - Longmont Skating Pavilion & UCC Longmont

All Church Youth – middle and high – are invited to a Collaborative Youth Group Skating Event and Party! Meet at the Longmont Outdoor Skating Pavilion at Roosevelt Park (725 8th Ave, Longmont) on Sunday afternoon from 3 to 4 PM. Afterwards, we'll carpool over to UCC Longmont (1500 9th Avenue) for games, snacks, and hot chocolate until 5:30 PM pick up. Gluten free, dairy free, and vegan snacks will be available. There is no charge for rink admission or skate rental. Come for the whole event or for whatever part you're available to attend.

ARTS Camp 2024 Registration Is Open! - Sunday 6/2 (4 PM) to Saturday 6/8 (9:30 AM), 2024

Each summer, Elementary (completing 2nd grade-5th grade) and Middle School kids produce a musical that is both fun and a reflection of our progressive faith. In addition to producing the musical, our fun will feature set/prop building, games, and activities such as canoeing, tree climbing, hiking, unbelievable counselors, vespers, all within an incredible faith community! AND this will be a wonderful time for our children to get to know our new Minister of Faith Formation! For more information and registration, go to our registration page. (<http://tinyurl.com/36sc3xtp>)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caregiving for People Living with Dementia: Balancing Stamina with Compassion

Forums: Today, 1/21 and 1/28 at 9:15 AM - Standish Room

Join the Ministry of Last Things for a video and group discussion on the various aspects of caregiving for People Living with Dementia and others with serious illnesses (Jan. 21st). The second session (Jan. 28th) will feature a caregiving panel who will share their experiences and the wisdom gained through their journeys

Proclaiming Colorado's Black History Exhibit Visit - Today, at 1 PM - \$10 entry fee

As promised, the Racial Justice Ministry again invites you to visit the Proclaiming Colorado's Black History exhibit at the Museum of Boulder after church. We'll lunch first at Rosetta Hall (meet Martha & Allison at the bottom of the south stairs by noon). Then onto the exhibit, meeting at the Museum doors by 1 PM (Pine and Broadway). Thanks to Susan Pfretzschner, Katrina Miller will be our guide. Please join us!

Your Voice Matters: Participate in Our 2024 Interest Survey

First Cong values your evolving interests and faith. Take our 2024 Interest Survey. Your responses will help us understand your passions, plan intergenerational activities, inform you of meaningful opportunities, and create flexible volunteer roles. A summary report will be shared to highlight our community's trends. Thank you!



Live the Light! - Sign up for Stewardship House Party!

Don't miss our small house parties! They start this weekend and go through the month. This is an opportunity for you to get to know other church members, hear about plans for the upcoming year and ask any questions you have about Stewardship. Sign up here (<http://tinyurl.com/ynj247nz>). We hope you received your stewardship mailing this week. We appreciate your time and consideration of your financial gift over the course of the next three weeks. If you did not get a mailing, please contact julie@firstcongreg.net (303-442-1787) at church. Don't miss worship this month as we explore what it means to Live the Light.



Women's Spirituality Group (WSG) - Dr. Anthea Butler Book Discussion

Tuesdays, Noon -1:30 PM - Heritage Room | Zoom

WSG will begin a new book discussion on Dr. Anthea Butler's book, *White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America*. Dr. Butler is our MacKenzie Lecture Speaker in February 23 & 24, 2024 of this year. If you have never attended WSG, now is the time to join us! For more information contact linda@firstcong.net. If you cannot be a part of WSG, please consider reading this book in preparation for the MacKenzie Lecture Series on Friday February 23 and Saturday February 24.

Ushers Needed! Sunday Morning Worship Services, 10 AM – 11:45 AM

Join us in the call to be a radically welcoming congregation as an Usher. As an Usher you are often first face someone sees when they come to First Congregational Church as a visitor. You are also the first "Hello!" to regular attenders. Please volunteer to be an Usher. Training is provided. You can sign up to serve on Sundays that fit your schedule below. Contact linda@firstcong.net for more information. <http://tinyurl.com/3cuuwsa9>

Reception of New Members - January 28

Interested in diving more deeply into the life of First Congregational Church? We'll be receiving new members on Sunday, January 28 during our 10:30 worship service. If you are ready to join us, or are simply curious about what that might mean for you, please contact Julie Griffiths (julie@firstcong.net) in the church office. We'll be glad to follow up!

Fellowship of the Grape - Friday, 1/26 at 6 PM - 905 Rain Lilly Lane

Roy and Laura McCutchen will be hosting FOG this month on Friday January 26 at 905 Rain Lilly Lane, 6-8 PM. We will enjoy wines that lighten our lives. Singles may bring a bottle of wine or a plate of finger food to share; couples may bring one of each. Sparkling water will be provided.

True Justice Film Screening - Sunday, 1/28 at 2:30 PM - First Congregational Church

In partnership with the Boulder County Branch of the NAACP, we are delighted to host a screening of the film *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality*, a documentary which follows Bryan Stevenson and the struggle of the Equal Justice Initiative to create greater fairness in the criminal justice system. The screening is a pre-event to prepare us for the NAACP Freedom Fund Celebration in February.

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed - Sunday, 1/28/24 - SignUp To Serve Hot Meals

Soup Kitchen is Sunday, January 28. We need 5 volunteers for the first shift, 9:00-11:30 AM. You will help prepare food and serve it. We need 1 volunteer for the second shift from 11:30 AM-2:00 PM and you will serve food and clean up. We will train you on the spot. There is no need to be nervous! Sign up below as an individual, family or small group. For info or questions contact: Soo Rhee soo.rhee@colorado.edu or linda@firstcong.net (sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/2u3dx9hr>).

2024 NAACP Freedom Fund Celebration - February, 2/18 - CU Boulder's Macky Auditorium

Join featured guest, the incredible Mr. Anthony Ray Hinton, who endured and triumphed over nearly 30 years on Alabama's death row for a crime he didn't commit. This celebration will kick off with the soulful sounds of Danielle Ponder, a talented entertainer and musician. While on our pilgrimage we visited the Equal Justice Initiative - the organization that provided representation for Hinton's exoneration. So, this will be an opportunity to share some of what the pilgrims learned on our journey. Learn more and register (<https://naacpbouldercounty.org/community/#Coming>)

I Wish There Was A Small Group For...

Deadline for New Small Groups Submission is 1/22/24

Is there a book you'd like to discuss with others? A subject you'd like to tackle? A spiritual practice you'd like to learn more about? A group of folks you would like to ski or hike with? YOU can organize that group! Most of the Small Groups at First Congregational are initiated and organized by members of the congregation. It's not hard to start a new Small Group; link below for ideas. Deadline for the Spring Catalog is January 22, 2024. Contact Susan Wilkinson (suemacnutson@gmail.com) for more information. <http://tinyurl.com/5cw72v3x>

Mindful Works Wins Non-Profit Organization of the Year - <https://mindful-works.org>

We just received great news on Monday of this week as Mindful Works, our ministry partner who resides in Plymouth Hall and Classrooms, is the winner of The 2024 Downtown Boulder Partnership Non-Profit Organization of the Year! They will be given their award on February 2, 2024 at the Downtown Boulder Partnership's Annual Luncheon at the St. Julien Hotel. Mindful Works is a social enterprise providing empowering work to individuals striving to overcome obstacles due to mental health challenges. Congratulations to Susan Williams (susan@mindful-works.org) and all the Apprentices!

2024 MacKenzie Lectureship Weekend - 2/23 and 2/24

Join us for the MacKenzie Lectureship on "Religion, Race, and the Struggle to Retain Democracy in America" featuring Dr. Anthea Butler. On Friday, February 23, connect with Dr. Butler at noon for a student meeting on the CU Campus. In the evening, don't miss the MacKenzie Lecture followed by a reception. On Saturday, February 24, from 9-11:30 am, engage in a workshop on Religion, Race, and Politics with CU faculty and graduate students interacting with Dr. Butler. Explore the intersection of African American religion, American religious history, race, politics, Evangelicalism, media, and popular culture with Professor Butler.

Men's Retreat: With A Little Help from My Friends - Friday, 3/15 at 6 PM – Sunday, 3/17 at 11 AM

The Beatles sang, "I get by with a little help from my friends" and that is the theme of this year's Men's Retreat March 15-17, 2024 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. We will explore characteristics of friendships, levels of friendships, what prevents us from developing friendships and how to nurture friendships. The retreat cost \$185.00 with partial and full scholarships available. For more info email peteroakes44@gmail.com or linda@firstcong.net. Sign here to register (<http://tinyurl.com/3xuscabp>).

How the Light Comes

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.

What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.

That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden,
what is lost,
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.

That it has a fondness
for the body,
for finding its way
toward flesh,
for tracing the edges
of form,
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still

to the blessed light
that comes.

by Jan Richardson