



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



The Fifth Sunday of Lent Wandering Heart: Forgiveness

March 17, 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 SCHOOL CHILDREN will leave for Sunday School as indicated in the bulletin

YOUTH will start in the Grace Gallery

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*

Dr. Kajsia Teitelbaum *Director of Music* | Lianna Campos *Minister of Faith Formation*

Rob Cronin and Sam Bauman *Directors of Youth Ministry*

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

Anne Martinez *Director of Children and Youth Music* | Jessica Kressin, *Chancel Choir Accompanist*

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

Angie Dickinson *Mickle AV and Event Specialist* | Nick Munding *Lead AV Tech*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Andante from violin sonata in A minor
Jacob Lei, violin

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman

*PASSING THE PEACE

*HYMN 26

We Worship You, God

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of truth, how difficult it is to be truthful before you.

**All: We want to hide our anxieties and fears,
our resentments and self-centeredness.**

**Cut through these evasions by the truth of your word,
and help us to be honest with ourselves and with you.**

One: God of mercy, your hopes for us are greater than our own,
yet our failures do not surprise you.

All: God of love, accept us as we are, so that we may accept ourselves.

One: Teach us to affirm what is good in our lives,
and to leave behind what is unworthy.

All: Tear down the walls that isolate us.

One: Make strong the ties that bind us.

All: Free our hearts to celebrate.

One: Help us to walk together with joy in all your ways.
In the quiet of this hour, in the silence of our prayers,
through the grace of Christ, turn our wandering hearts toward you . . .

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SUNG RESPONSE

Come O Fount of Every Blessing
verse 1

*Come, O fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.*

Elementary school children and Youth may go to Sunday School.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18: 18-22

SERMON

Forgiveness

**The asterisk is an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Attributed to Saint Francis

please remain seated

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
 dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.



3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so



much to be con-soled, as to con-sole, to be



un-der-stood, as to un-der-stand, to be



loved, as to love, with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kaudie McLean

THE LORDS PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

MISSION MOMENT

One Great Hour of Sharing

OFFERTORY

Benedictus
Women's Vocal Ensemble
Anne Martinez Soprano
Kajsa Teitelbaum, Directo
Jessica Kressin, Accompanist

*Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*



*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

*Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 436

God of Grace and God of Glory

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Andante from Violin Solo Sonata in D major
Jacob Lei, violin

S. Prokofiev

ARTIST STATEMENT

Seventy-seven Times

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 18:15-22

Digital painting

When I'm creating a mandala inspired by a text, I'm able to zoom out and see the bigger picture, and the image itself ends up looking like a bird's eye view, which I think is a helpful perspective sometimes. In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproof, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. In the center, a person is standing alone, isolated, with their arms crossed in a closed-off posture. If you're sinned against, Jesus says to go and "point out the fault when the two of you are alone" (Matthew 18:15).

When you move to the second ring of the mandala, there are pairs of people shaking hands, finding common ground, or at least attempting to. If this doesn't work, then you are to bring more people (one or two more) together to provide counsel and witness. In the third ring of the mandala, two people are engaging with the closed-off person, sharing a way forward. In the next ring hyacinth flowers—which represent sorrow, regret, and forgiveness—stretch, bloom, and grow, bringing beauty into the now open arms of the people in the last ring of the mandala, who are embraced and woven into the community. The person from the center goes from being alone and closed-off to embraced and open.

When I was drawing the figures from the center out, it began to look like a dance. Is this the picture that grace paints? Forgiveness cannot happen in isolation and certainly neither can reconciliation nor restoration. The movement toward wholeness is the movement toward one another.

Perhaps craving more tangibility and practicality, Peter asks how many times he should forgive someone who has wronged him, and Jesus says, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22). This piece contains seventy-seven people and flowers to represent the abundance of grace that Jesus calls us into. The gold represents the divine presence of empathy, compassion, grace, and love throughout this dance from isolation toward community, from brokenness toward wholeness, and from guilt and shame toward freedom.



- Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Today, 3/17

Young Children are invited to the Toddler Room (downstairs).

Elementary Children will leave for Sunday School as indicated in the bulletin.

Middle and High School Youth will start in the Grace Gallery.

Youth Group

No Youth Group on Today, March 17. Enjoy the weekend retreat at La Foret and School Vacation.

Palm Sunday, 3/24

Next week, all children and youth will gather in the narthex before worship. We will be leading the procession of palms into the sanctuary!

Upcoming Youth Events - Rock Climbing, 3/24 at 3 PM and Easter Treasure Hunt, 3/31 at 5 PM

On March 24, all middle and high school youth are invited to "The Spot" indoor rock climbing gym at 3240 Prairie Ave, Boulder, from 3 to 5 PM for an afternoon rock climbing adventure. Parents can sign waivers here. There is no charge to attend. **On Easter, March 31**, from 5 to 6:30 PM, the youth group will meet for a collaborative Easter Treasure Hunt at the church starting in Grace Gallery. As we wander through the building we'll bless each space along the way!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - Today - During 8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship

Through our financial gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), we enable the United Church of Christ to respond to disasters, build sustainable communities, and send support to refugees. You may give through this link or make checks out to First Congregational Church and put OGHS in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Meet and Greet Potlucks with Lianna - Today, at 11:45 AM and 4/7 at 5 PM - Standish Room

The Board of Christian Education invites you to Meet and Greet Potlucks with Lianna Campos, our new Minister of Faith Formation. Kids, youth, and parents are especially invited to attend. Please bring something delicious to share and an appetite for good food and fellowship. Contact: Susan Wilkinson (suemacnutson@gmail.com).

LGBTQIA+ and Allies Ministry - Today - 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

On the 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the worship service LGBTQIA+ Persons and Allies gather for food, fun and fellowship. Each person is responsible to bring their own lunch and drink. You can bring a snack to share if you like. If you are a visitor and would like to join us, please see one of the pastors after the service and we will help you find the group. We will have extra sandwiches to share with you. Please join us. If you would like more information please contact linda@firstcong.net.

Easter Flowers - Orders Accepted Until 3/19

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter we are accepting donations for the display of Spring potted plants for the chancel on Easter Morning. You can dedicate flowers In Honor of or In Memory of or you can give anonymously with no message. You can also donate a plant to be given as a Grace Gift. The donation for each plant is \$25. Orders can be placed until Sunday, March 19th by clicking here. If you have questions, please contact Julie Griffitts (julie@firstcong.net).

Interfaith Vigil for Table Mesa Tragedy - Friday, 3/22, 2024, 2 - 3 PM - 593 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder

The Gun Violence Prevention Ministry invites you to attend an Interfaith Vigil for Remembrance and Healing of the Boulder Table Mesa Tragedy that occurred on March 22, 2021. The event will begin at 2:00pm at the George Reynolds Branch Library (3595 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder) by visiting First Congregational Church's Soul Box Project (<https://tinyurl.com/5b3zxe4d>) which is on exhibit inside the library, followed by an outdoor vigil on the lawn of the library from 2:30pm-3:00pm. Please come and invite others to join us (<https://tinyurl.com/yatx46ks>).

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed - Sunday, 3/24 Sign-Up Here (<https://tinyurl.com/2smmjad7>)

Soup Kitchen is Sunday, March 24, 2024. We need 7 volunteers for the first shift, 9 – 11:30 AM. You will help prepare food and serve it. We need 5 volunteers for the second shift from 11:30 AM – 2 PM and you will serve food and clean up. We will train you on the spot. Sign up as an individual, family or small group. For info or questions contact: Soo Rhee soo.rhee@colorado.edu or linda@firstcong.net

Fellowship of the Grape - Friday, 3/22 from 6 – 8 PM - 3808 Florentine Circle, Longmont

FOG will gather at the home of Karen Cumbo and Jay Rourke, 3808 Florentine Circle, Longmont (970)-222-0176. Parking is on the street, enter on the drive between buildings. Bring wine from a place special to you—favorite winery, place you want to go, where you met your partner, your basement winery, etc. Couples should bring a bottle of wine and an appetizer; singles may bring either. Nonalcoholic beverages available. Everyone 21 and over is welcome, even if you don't drink wine!

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, March 24

8:30 AM – Has Evangelical Christianity Forgotten the Repentant Peter?

Faith and Art: Reflections with Mark Meyer, Chapel

Ever wish you could have a “Do over”? Need a “Back to the Future” rewind? Caught in a “Groundhog Day” moment? As part of our Saturday, “Spirituality and Art” Retreat, Mark Meyer will lead us as we reflect together on artwork of the life of the apostle Peter, considering his “do over” moments and their relationship to the current path of the larger evangelical church in America.

10:00 AM - Blessing of the Palms

A brief outdoor neighborhood service and parade in front of St. John's Episcopal Church on Pine Street. A live donkey and a combined ecumenical choir will lead us as we join Jesus on the way.

10:30 AM, Worship in Sanctuary and YouTube

Celebrate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and the beginning of Holy Week with choirs singing Hosanna songs and a Procession of Palms.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28

7:00 PM, Sanctuary and YouTube

A Service of Shadows with Holy Communion when the lights dim to darkness and we remember the Last Supper of Jesus, his anguished prayer in the Garden, his arrest by Roman soldiers, and his death on a cross.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29

5:30 PM, Chapel

The evening of Good Friday is met with our deepest prayers as we travel “the way of sorrows” to the cross through the eyes and experiences of one of Jesus' closest disciples. Our Scripture readings will focus on Peter's role in the crucifixion narrative as we imagine how we ourselves might have felt and acted had we been there as one of Jesus' followers and friends.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, Worship in Sanctuary and YouTube at 11 am

Extended Musical Preludes at 8:45 am and 10:45 am.

Services of Joy with Brass and Bells as we celebrate the Good News of Christ's Resurrection and sing Alleluia! all morning long! A festive fellowship hour is held between the services. Childcare for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers during worship is available.