



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



Duccio, di Buoninsegna, -1319?. Healing of the Man Born Blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition

Fourth Sunday of Lent Jesus Heals the Man Blind from Birth

March 19, 2023 | 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.

The flowers on the chancel are in honor and memory of all who lost their lives to gun violence.

If you would like to **DEDICATE FLOWERS** in a loved one's honor or memory for an upcoming Sunday service, please contact Stephanie Angell at flowers@firstcong.net. Also, people may contribute for flowers using this giving form. <https://onrealm.org/firstcong/give/flowers>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The church office is open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 2 pm. If you need to visit the church or speak with Julie Griffiths please plan to come by during those hours.

INFANTS, TODDLERS, PRE-K & K meet with Miss Ginger (lower level).
ELEMENTARY CHILDREN start in Worship, and may leave worship as indicated in the bulletin.
MS & HS YOUTH at 10:30 am start in the Grace Gallery on the Lower Level (left of the stairs/elevator).

We have a **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 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.

You may contribute **BY CHECK** to the church, First Congregational Church Boulder.

Contribute by **TEXT-TO-GIVE** by texting: 73256 with the message joy2givefcc.

Contribute **ONLINE** at - www.firstcong.net/give - click on the Give Now button

Or simply use this QR code...



STAFF

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman *Senior Minister* | Rev. Linda Kowatch *Associate Minister*
Rev. Deborah Voss *Director of Christian Education* | Dr. Kajsa Teitelbaum *Director of Music*
Julie Griffiths *Office & Facilities Manager* | Christopher Carter *Communication Specialist* | Renee Loewen *Accountant*
Julia Wirth *Director of Children's Music* | *Interim Music Staff* - Susan Carl, Jessica Kressin, Patrick Mason
Er-Hsuan Li *Children's Choirs Accompanist* | Ginger Johnson *Child Care Coordinator*
Angie Dickinson Mickle and Sam Botnick | *Lead AV Techs*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

The Little Prelude and Fugue in G Minor
Susan Carl, organ

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Linda Kowatch

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN 42

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

After the hymn we bless the children as they leave the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.

INVOCATION

Steve Volda

Holy One,
We lift our voices together in praise,
thanking you for your unending grace.
You sit with us in the darkest nights,
calming our fears and bidding our sorrows cease.
Discerner of hearts,
look beneath our outward appearance
and see your image in each of us.
Heal in us the blindness
that prevents us from recognizing truth,
so we may see the world through your eyes
and with the compassion of Christ who redeems us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-7

SERMON

Jesus Heals the Man Blind from Birth

MUSICAL MEDITATION

DEDICATION OF THE SOUL BOX PROJECT IN REMEMBRANCE OF KING SOOPERS TRAGEDY AND ALL IMPACTED BY GUN VIOLENCE

Alma Alber, McMane Arts Ministry
Carol Young, Gun Violence Prevention Ministry

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord
And take not Thy holy spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I Dream a World (Langston Hughes)
Chancel Choir Patrick Mason, director
Er-Hsuan Li, piano

Andre J. Thomas

Of such I dream, of such I dream,
Of such I dream, of such I dream.
I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Of such I dream, of such I dream,
Of such I dream, of such I dream.

Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, of such I dream,
Of such I dream a world.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Merciful and gracious God,
from whose open hand we all have received much:
We ask you to accept the offering of your people.
Remember in your love all who lay it before you
and all who need to be encouraged in this day.
Bless the offering and your creation
so that all of its inhabitants and earth itself
will thrive as you intended.
Amen.

*HYMN 547

Amazing Grace

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Denier Kyrie

F. Couperin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - Today - 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 www.firstcong.net/give - and click on the Give Now button or make checks out to First Congregational Church and put OGHS in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Nowruz (New Year) Celebration - Today at 12:30 PM - Standish Room

In celebration of our current exhibit of art from Afghanistan, the McMane Arts Ministry invites you to a Nowruz celebration at 12:30 PM in the Standish Room. Nowruz, which means "new day" is a holiday marking the arrival of spring. Celebrated for more than 3000 years, Nowruz is also the first day of the new year in Afghanistan and other Middle Eastern countries All are welcome.

Soul Box Project Exhibit - Open to the Public

The Soul Box Exhibit will be open Tuesday 3/21 - Thursday 3/23...

Tuesday, 9 AM - 2 PM

Wednesday, 9 AM - 8 PM - Closed 5:00 - 7 PM for Boulder Day of Remembrance at eTown Hall

Thursday, 9 AM - 2 PM

Day of Remembrance - Wednesday, 3/22 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM - Doors Open at 5 PM

The City of Boulder, along with several local partners, will be holding a remembrance event to mark the two years that have passed since the March 22, 2021 mass shooting in Boulder. That day, Boulder lost 10 beloved community members. The community is invited to join us in person or via livestream as we remember those who are no longer with us, offer support to one another and come together as a community. eTown Hall, 1535 Spruce St. in Boulder, free and open to the public.

Advance registration is required and in-person attendance is limited (<https://tinyurl.com/mry9atwh>).

Receiving New Members - Sunday, March 26, 10:30 AM Worship

We invite you to jump in, roll up your sleeves, and enter deeply into the life and ministry of our congregation. We're receiving new members during 10:30 am worship on Sunday, March 26. Please contact julie@firstcong.net for more information.

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Still Needed - Sunday, 3/26/23 SignUp (<https://tinyurl.com/mejbvesk>)

Our next Soup Kitchen Sunday, March 26, 2023, and we still need four volunteers for the second shift from 11:30a-2:00pm you will serve food and clean up. We will train you on the spot. Please plan to stay until 2pm until cleanup is complete.

For info or questions contact: Soo Rhee soo.rhee@colorado.edu or linda@firstcong.net

Easter Flowers - Orders Being Accepted Now

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, April 2nd here (<https://tinyurl.com/fccflowers>). If you have questions, please contact julie@firstcong.net

Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith - Three Devotionals for Lent

During this Lenten season of spiritual seeking, reflection, and growth, we are pleased to offer three devotional resources:

- A Booklet of art, poetry, Scripture, and reflections in print or as an ereader.
- Daily Devotional Cards with questions and prayers for 52 days.
- Faith at Home resources for children and families following the same themes as the devotionals for adults. (<https://tinyurl.com/FCCLent>)

Sawyer Organ Concert 2023 - Sunday, March 26 at 2 PM

Join us on Sunday, March 26th, 2023, at 2 PM for a free concert featuring Stephen Hamilton, a renowned organist. Hamilton will perform Marcel Dupré's masterpiece, *Le Chemin de la Croix*, Op. 29 (The Stations of the Cross), accompanied by poetry by Paul Claudel, and art curated by members of our McMane Arts Ministry. The poetry will be read by Nancy Wade and Susan D'Autremont, adding a unique element to the performance. This is a must-attend event for music lovers, poetry enthusiasts, and anyone who appreciates the beauty of art. This event is made possible by the Sawyer Organ Memorial Fund of the First Congregational UCC, Boulder Endowment. Don't miss this unforgettable experience!

Peace Camp 2023 - Monday-Friday, June 26-30, 9:00-Noon | Ages K-5th Grade

Peace Camp is an ecumenical camp hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian, Longmont UCC, Community UCC, and FCC for children K-5th grade. Our theme is "Become a Changemaker!", an interactive half-day camp where children learn that everyone can make a difference in the world! Using five Bible stories we provide a model for asking hard questions, working together to solve problems, reaching across differences, caring for all people, and imagining a new world. Cost: \$25/camper. Register (<https://tinyurl.com/camppeace>).

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - April 2

8:30 AM - Worship in Chapel

10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary and Online

10:00 AM - Ecumenical Blessing of the Palms Outdoors on Pine Street

Maundy Thursday - April 6

Service of Shadows and Holy Communion

7:00 PM - Worship in Sanctuary and Online

Good Friday - April 7

Service of Scripture and Silence

5:30 PM - Worship in Chapel

Easter - Sunday, April 9

9:00 and 11:00 AM - Worship in Sanctuary

Extended Musical Preludes at 8:45 and 10:45 AM

(11 AM Worship will also be Online)

Services of Joy with brass and bells concluding with singing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah.

Festive fellowship hour between the services. Childcare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers is available.

