



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



Seventy Times Seven

September 17, 2023 | 9:30 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.

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

YOUNG CHILDREN are invited to the Toddler Room on the lower level.

ELEMENTARY children start in worship with their family and leave with Deborah

as designated in the Bulletin. **YOUTH** begin in the Grace Gallery on the lower level.

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. Kajsja 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, Patrick Mason *Interim Music Staff*

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

Angie Dickinson Mickle and Nick Mundinger *Lead AV Techs*

The banners in the Chancel were designed and created by our McMane Arts Ministry to celebrate our Congregation Covenants. From left to right they express our commitments to: Just Peace, Inclusive Language, Accessible to All, Creation Justice, WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged for Mental Health), and Open and Affirming of LGBTQ+ people. We view these covenants as manifestations of what God calls us to be and to do in the world.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Dreaming, Op. 15, No. 3
Jessica Kressin, piano

Amy Beach

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Linda Kowatch

*PASSING THE PEACE

During the Passing of the Peace, feel free to offer a word, wave, elbow bump or bow, in lieu of handshakes or hugs.

*HYMN #18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Chris Braudaway-Bauman

Gracious and Loving God,
You have given us Jesus as the light of the world,
the light that overcomes darkness.
Stay with us, O God, for it is morning,
and the day has just begun.
Let your light shine throughout this day
and illuminate your church.
Open our hearts and our minds
that we may praise you and learn from your holy words. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21-35

REFLECTION

Seventy Times Seven

MUSICAL MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

HYMN #292

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
(please remain seated)

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

OFFERTORY

All God's Children
Pick-Up Choir
Patrick Mason, Director

Baker Lawrimore

For children all, a sense of welcome.
For children all, a belly fed.
For children all, strong minds that wonder.
For children all, a loving friend.

For we're a world of diverse people,
And all our needs here on earth are broad.
So look around, see the beauty in difference,
And work to love all the children of God.

For those ignored and those alone, a sense of welcome.
For those ignored and those alone, a belly fed.
For those ignored and those alone, strong minds that wonder.
For those ignored and those alone, a loving friend.

For we're a world of diverse people,
And all our needs on the earth are broad.
So look around, see the beauty in difference,
And work to love all the children of God.

For enemies, a sense of welcome.
For enemies, a belly fed.
For enemies, strong minds that wonder.
For enemies, a loving friend.

For we're a world of diverse people,
And all our needs here on earth are broad.
So look around, see the beauty in difference,
And work to love all the children of God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Be Now My Vision

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

September, Op. 37a, No. 9

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

With the start of the school year, a return to gathering indoors, and COVID immunity waning a bit, we are seeing a rise in illness. Medical professionals in our congregation have underlined recommendations for care and vigilance. Wash your hands and look for well-stocked hand sanitizers and mask stations around the building. During the Passing of the Peace, offer a word or a wave, an elbow bump or a bow, rather than handshakes or hugs. Get your flu, RSV, and the next Covid vaccine when it's ready! Finally, if you aren't feeling well on a Sunday morning, please wrap yourself in something soft, and join us for worship online. Let's do all we can to keep our community healthy, so that we can stay together.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday School for Young Children - Sundays at 10:30 AM

Our toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarteners start at 10:30 AM in the Toddler Room with Ms. Ginger for play, story, craft or activity, and a simple snack. In September the theme for our Young Children is "Making Friends". The Toddler Room is located in the lower level to the right of the stairs/elevator. New children are always welcome!

Elementary Sunday School - Sundays at 10:30 AM

Our elementary children begin in worship and leave with Deborah (or another teacher) for Sunday School as designated in the bulletin or by the worship leader. They will be exploring the meaning of communion in preparation for World Communion Sunday on October 1st. They will be waiting in the Link, just outside the sanctuary doors for parents to pick up.

8th Grade Questformation Q&A - Sunday, 9/17 at 11:45 in Plymouth Hall Lobby

Questformation is our Confirmation Program for 8th Graders which will start in October. Deborah will be at the desk in Plymouth Hall following worship with schedules and information, and will answer parents' questions.

Sunday LOBO Youth Group at UCC Longmont, 5 to 7 PM

Last week, our middle and high school Youth Collaboration with UCC Longmont and Community UCC met for the first time! Games, dinner, small group conversations, and a prayer closing is the pattern most weeks. This Sunday evening, to change things up a bit, the high school youth will walk and talk their way to Boba Kulture (boba drinks and bubble waffles about 1/2 mile from the Longmont church). UCC Longmont is located at 1500 9th Avenue, Longmont.

Family Gathering for Young Children and Elementary Children & Families - Sunday, 9/24 at 1 PM

Families will meet at the Junkyard Social Club, 2525 Frontier Avenue, Unit A, Boulder 80301, (www.junkyardsocialclub.org) for lunch, tons of fun for the kiddos and socialization for the adults. Admission is \$12/child (under 2 years is free). Suggested donation for Adults is \$5. Look in your emails for more information!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Climate Action Team (CAT) Forum - Today at 9:15 AM - Standish Room

CAT is committed to providing learning opportunities to mitigate climate change. Please join us as First Cong Member, Steve Nerem, who is the Director of the Center for Astroynamics Research at CU, will discuss his work on "Sea Level Rise: A Result of Climate Change and Predictions for our Future." The more informed we are, the more action we can take to heal God's creation and leave it healthier for future generations.

FALL 2023 Small Groups Fair & Booklet Fair – Today at 11:45 AM - Plymouth Hall

Small groups are an important way for people to connect with others while pursuing spiritual transformation in our lives. The Small Groups Booklet Fall 2023 edition has just been updated. Click here to peruse the small groups available at FCC. Take special note of the first section titled New This Fall. Also we will have a Small Groups Fair on Sunday, 9/17 during Coffee Hour for you to ask questions of members of various small groups. If you have more questions, contact Julie Griffiths.

Fourth Soil Initiative - Please take the short Survey in your Bulletin

Our congregation has been selected to be one of 20 congregations across the country to participate in a project called the Fourth Soil Initiative. It's hosted by Vibrant Faith, an organization we've partnering with for the past year. As they collect information to develop this program for children, youth, families, and congregations, we've been asked to respond to a survey. If you have children or teens in your life, and haven't already filled out a survey, please take a few minutes to complete the multiple choice questions on the enclosed form and place it in the offering plate later in the service.

Be a Member of the Chancel Choir.

No matter your voice type or your background in choral singing, we would love to have you as a part of our fun and dedicated group. We meet on Thursday from 7-9 PM to rehearse and on Sunday morning at 9:45 AM to prep for the service. Contact Patrick at patrickcmason@gmail.com and join us in leading worship at FCC.

September Food Drive - Donations Run Through Friday, 9/22

Donations go to food pantries, BCAP (Boulder County AIDS Project), and EFAA (Emergency Family Assistance Assoc). See your Weekly Friday morning email for details.

All Church Fall Picnic (RSVP by Wed. 10/27) - Sunday, 10/1 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Foothills Community Park - 800 Cherry Avenue Boulder, CO

Please join us on Sunday, October 1st following worship for our All Church Fall Picnic. This year Lindsay's Deli of Boulder will be providing box lunches and BCL will provide drinks. To RSVP for this event please visit <https://tinyurl.com/335kderk>. You can also reach Julie Griffiths at julie@firstcong.net or on Sundays when Julie will have a clipboard. All are welcome and warmly encouraged to join us for food, fellowship, games, and a playground!

Faith and Politics Conversation - Sunday, September 24 - Sanctuary (Childcare Provided until 12:45 PM)

As we get ready to participate in Voter Engagement as a congregational activity and our Social Justice Ministries are becoming more involved in advocacy, we will take time on Sunday, 9/24 to reflect together on the relationship of Faith and Politics. During Worship, Chris Braudaway-Bauman will preach on this topic. Following Worship, Stewart Hoover will facilitate a Community Conversation. Join us as we explore together the intersections and edges of faith and politics.

Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) - Sunday, 9/24 from 9:15 – 10:00 AM

Even Talking About Suicide is Frightening, it's a topic that we'd rather avoid. In this month of Suicide Awareness, the Mental Health Ministry is hosting a forum about QPR. This proven and practical method for suicide prevention and Mental Health First Aide (MHFA), is a training course that teaches about mental health and substance abuse issues. These programs, much like CPR, present easy to use techniques and valuable information for dealing with those in mental health crisis. Presenters will be Jay Winstead and Annette Visbeck from Mental Health Partners.

Vegan Potluck Dinner with Boulder Food Rescue - Saturday, 10/21 at 5:30 PM - Plymouth Hall

Join us for our vegan potluck featuring a presentation from our community partner, Boulder Food Rescue. Register (<https://tinyurl.com/5apfhaez>) and pick-up a recipe following Sunday Worship services in October. If you won't be attending church on any of those Sundays, please email Julie at the church julie@firstcong.net. Let us know how many there will be in your party, and what you will bring. If you need a recipe, simply request one and it will be emailed to you. All are welcome, including children!