



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



Open and Affirming Sunday
Queering the Endzone: Leviticus 3:16
October 13, 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.

The flowers on the communion table today are given by Stephanie Angell in celebration of her son Carl's birthday tomorrow, October 14th. Carl is her miracle baby, a precious gift from God, and she thanks God every day for blessing her with him.

If you would like to donate flowers for a special occasion or in honor or memory of a loved one for an upcoming Sunday service, please contact Anne Byrne 303-601-7671 (annebyrnehome@comcast.net).

CHILDCARE is available in the nursery.

CHILDREN start in worship, and will go with Louisa for Sunday School.

YOUTH will stay in the Sanctuary for Worship.

We have a **HEARING LOOP SYSTEM** in the Sanctuary 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.

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*

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* | Christine Teng *Youth Choirs Accompanist*

Angie Dickinson *Mickle AV and Event Specialist*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prayer for the Innocents
Congregational Bells
Kajsa Teitelbaum, director

M. Helman

In memory of the 49 people killed at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, and for the families and loved ones of all those who have lost their lives because of hate, intolerance, and violence.

WELCOME

Rev. Linda Kowatch

*PASSING THE PEACE

*HYMN

As We Are, We Are Yours - *see back page for music*

H. Brown

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Jane Ireland

Holy One, today and every day
You love us with an everlasting love
equipping us to love You and one another.
On this anniversary of being an Open and Affirming Church
we thank you, God, for showing us how to love all of your children.
Open our hearts and our minds
so that we may be guided by your Spirit
to live as Jesus lived
and to be the people you have called us to be. Amen.

We bless the children as they go to church school with Louisa.

SCRIPTURE

John 3:16 and Leviticus 3:16

SERMON

Queering the Endzone: Leviticus 3:16

Dr. Emily Askew

SONG

Live in Charity (Ubi caritas)

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love.
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,

Live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line in the second system includes a triplet of eighth notes.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF JESUS

Adaptation by J. Philip Newell

Ground of all Being,
Mother of Life, Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.
May there be food for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our time of conflict,
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life, the vitality of life,
and the glory of life are yours now and forever. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

OFFERTORY

Somewhere
Chancel Choir
Anne Martinez, soloist
Karen Connolly, viola.
Jessica Kressin, piano

L. Bernstein & S. Sondheim

*There's a place for us,
Somewhere a place for us.
Peace and quiet and open air
Wait for us somewhere.*

*There's a time for us,
Some day a time for us,
Time together with time spare,
Time to learn, time to care,
Some day!*

*Somewhere.
We'll find a new way of living,
We'll find a way of forgiving
Somewhere . . .*

*There's a place for us,
A time and place for us.
Hold my hand and we're halfway there.
Hold my hand and I'll take you there
Somehow, some day, somewhere!*

***AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Moderators Sarah Schulte
& Carol Hasselbacher

Sarah: Let us renew our covenant as an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.

**All: Made in God's image, as persons loved by God,
we are called to fully accept ourselves and all people.**

Carol: We claim our Christian faith as the foundation of our values in human relationships.

**All: We envision a community in which all persons know, celebrate,
and have confidence in themselves as sexual beings.**

Sarah: We believe that sexual orientation and gender identity are gifts of God, which enrich our lives and deeply touch the reality of our own and others' humanity.

**All: We affirm that all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons
are welcome within our community and are expected and encouraged
to share their talents and gifts in the life, liturgy, and leadership of our congregation.**

Carol: We bless and celebrate with gladness the covenant promises that same sex partners make to each other in marriage as having their foundation in the faithfulness of God's love to us all.

All: We offer support and thanksgiving for loving families in every form.

Sarah: We recommit ourselves to working for justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in our community and society.

**All: We proclaim and participate in God's wide welcome,
extending the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ,
and boldly living out our faith in the practice of love.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.**

***HYMN 391**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah
Karen Connolly, viola

L. Cohen

HAPPENING TODAY

Indigenous Peoples Day Events - Today and Monday 10/14

Each year, the City of Boulder recognizes Indigenous Peoples Day through events and celebrations honoring the existence, culture and contributions of the original inhabitants of North America. See the schedule (<https://tinyurl.com/2tny7es4>) for events on Sunday and Monday at the Dairy Center, Equality Center of the Rocky Mountains, and the Roots Music Project.

Ordination of Lianna Campos

We rejoice with Lianna Campos, our Minister of Faith Formation, who was ordained to Christian ministry yesterday, Saturday, October 12, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Indianapolis. Chris Braudaway-Bauman traveled to join Lianna and represent our congregation at the service. What a blessing for the whole church everywhere!

Spiritual Support Groups Today

We were not created to travel through life in isolation. First Cong Church provides companions of care and support through various support groups. These are open door groups. You are welcome to join if it is your first time or even if it's been a while.

Grief meeting: Noon-1:30 PM, Room 312. Contact Bill Forbes at (wmforbes1@gmail.com) or Jean Manifesto at (jam@jeanmanifesto.com)

Caregivers Zoom meeting: 2:30- 4:00 PM. Contact Bill Forbes at (wmforbes1@gmail.com)

Mental Health meeting: Monday 10/14 from 6:30 - 8 PM

Contact: Anne Weiher (anne.weiher@gmail.com)

SEASON OF PRAYER

Prayer Booklets

Each week, during our Season of Prayer, you are invited to pick up a Prayer Booklet of Scripture, prayers, poetry, and art to prompt your reflection and accompany you through the week. If you have a reading or photograph you would like to contribute to this offering of edifying words and beauty, please send it to Chris Braudaway-Bauman at chris@firstcong.net. The booklets are available to you in print form in the narthex of the sanctuary or online (see your weekly email for links).

Contemplative Prayer Worship - Thursday Evenings from 6 to 6:45 PM - Chapel

Gather in the Chapel for a weekly service of silence, quiet singing, candlelight, and gentle community – a time to rest in God's presence, listen for Spirit's leading, and speak the prayers and concerns of your heart.

Prayer Walks - Continue...

Friday, 10/11 at 3 PM in Longmont

Wednesday, 10/16 at 3 PM in Lafayette

Join church member Jane Ireland for Prayer Walks in nearby city and town centers. The walk on Friday, October 11 at 3 PM will begin at 350 Kimbark Street, Longmont, the location of offices of Longmont's City Manager, City Clerk, and Mayor. Walkers on October 16 will meet in front of Lafayette City Hall. We pray for voters and elected leaders everywhere. You'll find more information about all the walks online at - <https://tinyurl.com/3y6s8rau>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Retreat at La Foret! 10/18 – 10/20 - Register Now!

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to La Foret for the Fall Youth Retreat. There, we will explore the theme "(I'm)permanence, leave your mark," learning to cultivate our own practices of spiritually grounded permanence and exploring leaving a lasting mark on the world around them. There will also have time to relax and enjoy nature in the beauty of our beloved La Foret with friends both new and old. To learn more and register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mshctpht>. Contact lianna@firstcong.net.

Racial Justice Pilgrimage

On October 19 and 20, forty members of our congregation will be traveling to southeast Colorado to visit the site of the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864 and Amache, the location of a WWII Japanese American Internment Camp. In anticipation of this pilgrimage, Sunday morning forums were held so that the whole congregation could learn more about these two episodes and how they have shaped the history of racial justice in Colorado. Recordings of both forums are available for you to watch here... (<https://tinyurl.com/2xuknr48>)

Crop Hunger Walk - Sunday, 10/20, 2:00 PM Walk Starting (Cairn Christian Church, Lafayette)

The Crop Hunger Walk raises funds and awareness for Community Food Share, committed to helping feed people in need in our community, and Church World Service, who provide disaster relief around the world. Walk and/or, donate to our team using the QR code, and stop by the Crop Walk Table at church to learn more. Contact Team Capt. Denise Cone (denise.cone@msn.com).



GOTV Voter Canvassing in Colorado - Sundays, October 27 & November 3 at Noon

(Congregational District 8)

The Election is coming and the GOTV Campaign continues! Colorado CD 8 (Thornton area) is a new district that may determine control of the U.S. House. We will canvass selected neighborhoods on October 27 and November 3 with support from Together Colorado. Meet at the church at noon to get instructions and handouts, then drive in pairs to the neighborhoods where we will canvass. Contact Alan Norton (valan.norton@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart With Brian McLaren

Friday 10/25 – 10/27 Pine Street Church, 1237 Pine Street

Tapping into the themes of his new book, Brian McLaren invites us to engage in the catastrophic failure of both political and religious leaders to address urgent realities of our time: ecological overshoot, economic injustice, and civilizational collapse. Come explore the complexity of hope, the necessity of grief, and discover new ways of thinking, becoming, and belonging for the common good. Learn more about Brian McLaren (<http://brianmclaren.net/about-brian>) and the book Life After Doom. Register for the Event Here (<https://tinyurl.com/2netbfdy>).

Forum: Caring for One Another - Sunday, 10/27 at 9:15 AM - Standish Room

“Fostering a caring community where everyone belongs” is Goal 3 of our strategic plan. When we see a need or hear a prayer request, what can you do? Join us and find practical ways we can better care for one another! Linda Kowatch (linda@firstcong.net) will facilitate this discussion with members of our visitation and care teams. We will explore ways we can care for one another through organized ministries, but also as individuals. Join us so all may know they belong!

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed - Sunday, 10/27 - Plymouth Hall

Soup Kitchen is October 27, and we need 2 volunteers the first shift (9:00 AM – 11:30 AM) and 6 volunteers for the second shift (11:30 AM – 2:00 PM). We will train you on the spot. Please sign up as an individual, family or small group or contact me at linda@firstcong.net and I will sign you up. For info contact: Soo Rhee soo.rhee@colorado.edu or linda@firstcong.net. Sign up here (<https://tinyurl.com/5yfsytxu>)

Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations - Take the Survey by 11/15!

Our church is part of a 5 year study aimed at gathering critical information about the changes in the religious landscape since the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers want to hear from you, members and friends, age 18 and older who attend First Congregational Church. Whether you are new to our church or a long-time participant, whether you attend in person or online or both, please take 10-15 minutes to fill it out. You can access it via the QR code or with the following link (<https://tinyurl.com/5n8dwx65>). Prefer a print version? Pick one up in the church office.



As We Are, We Are Yours

As we are, we are yours in the man-y forms we take

through the chang-es and the chal-leng-es we face.

As we are, we are yours with the man-y gifts we bring

Last time to Coda ♪

and our lives are made to mag-ni-fy your grace.

Verses

1. We are mov-ing through the world with dif-f'rent
2. We are show-ing who we are in man-y
3. We are bring-ing all our peo-ples and our

bod-ies; we are shar-ing what we know in sound and gen-ders; we are lov-ing who we love with hearts a-sto-ries; we are beau-ti-ful in shape and shade and

sign. We know all of us be-long so let's flame. You in-vite us to be bold as our style. Though we have been taught to hate free-dom

ren-o-vate each wrong till the world has an ac-lives and loves un-fold, each a col-or in your can no long-er wait so let's jour-ney on to

ces-si-ble de-sign. rain-bow with-out shame. As we are jus-tice mile by mile.

♪ Coda

lives are made to mag-ni-fy your grace! Our

lives are made to mag-ni-fy your grace! Our

lives are made to mag-ni-fy your grace!