



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



Gratitude Sunday

November 24, 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.

Flowers this morning are from Stephanie Angell. During this season of gratefulness Stephanie is overwhelmingly grateful for her friends and family at FCC, who have fed them through multiple surgeries over the years, and rejoiced with them in the good times.

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).

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.

Through **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. Kajsja Teitelbaum *Director of Music* | Rev. 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

Sanctuary
Rebecca Flintoft, Kajsa Teitelbaum

C. Newcomer

WELCOME

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman

*PASSING THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

A Song and A Psalm
Psalm 95:1-7 and We Praise You, O God

(singing)

***We gather together to ask for God's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; God forgets not his own.***

One: O Come, let us sing to God;
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

One: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

All: For God is a great God, And a great Ruler above all gods.

***We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.***

One: In God's hands are the depths of the earth.

All: The heights of the mountains are also God's.

One: The sea is God's for God made it,

All: And the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

***We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers;
Through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you never will forsake us,
And with your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.***

One: O come, let us worship and bow down,

All: Let us kneel before God, our Maker!

One: For God is our God,

**All: And we are the people of God's pasture,
and the sheep of God's hand.**

***With voices united our praises we offer,
And gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.
Our faith now professing, we pray for your blessing;
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!***

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

WITNESS OF GRATITUDE

Our "Thankfuls"

Steve, Amy, Natalie and Hazel Voida

CALL TO PRAYER

How Can I Say Thanks

How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?
Things so un-de - served, yet you gave to prove your love for me; the
voic-es of a mil-lion an - gels could not ex - press my grat-i - tude. All that I
am, and ev - er hope to be; I owe it all to you.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Can I Say Thanks'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Lianna Campos

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.

SONG

Let There Be Peace on Earth

J. Jackson-Miller

Nils Nordberg

S. Miller

(congregation sings 2nd time)

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be*

*Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow*

*With God our Creator
Children all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.*

*To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth*

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Membership Committee and Moderator

Travis and Marci Leveridge, Rich and Katie Mills, Paul and Linda Roberts, Rev. Lianna Campos

***COVENANT OF THE CONGREGATION**

With joy, we receive you as members of First Congregational Church.

We welcome you to this progressive Christian church
committed to faith as a journey, compassionate service, and inclusion of all.

We pray that through loving and being loved, through serving and being served,
we all may be strengthened by our mutual concern for one another;

and that through our shared witness this church may faithfully serve the realm of God on earth.

***WELCOME SONG**

1. Wel - come to this house, _____
o - pen and af - firm - ing.
In God's Love we are all one.
Hand in hand we stand _____
Wel - come to this house, _____ car - ing and ac -
- cept - ing. In God's Son
we are all one. Wel - come to this
house of God. _____

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

One Day Is Not Enough

L. Shack

Chancel Choir

Kajsa Teitelbaum, Director, Jessica Kressin, Accompanist

For trees bared in winter, the green leaf of spring,
The unrivaled glory of each living thing,
The rise and the fall of the sun and the moon,
One day is not enough to thank you.

For loved ones near to us, and those far apart,
For homes made of walls and the home in the heart,
For each lifelong friendship and those passing through,
One day is not enough to thank you.

With each pulse a thanksgiving, each breath a grateful song,
With each day a new reason to give thanks and respond,
With each morning and evening, we reflect on the ways
You have blessed us with mercy, with your Son, and your grace.
For infinite blessings and fathomless love,
The promise of life in your kingdom above,
For families of faith we express gratitude,
One day is not enough to thank you.

Our thanks cannot equal the things that you do.
One day is not enough, one year is not enough,
One life is not enough to thank you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures high and low. Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 439

Now Thank We All Our God

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. D. Cherwien

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Our **Nursery** is open for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. You'll find rocking chairs in the back of our Sanctuary for parents of little ones, and our Heritage Room, down the hall, provides a space for caregivers to watch the service on a large screen while supervising those who like to roam or need a break. **Elementary children and older** are staying in worship this Sunday for a special Gratitude Sunday worship service. There are tables at the front of the sanctuary with children's bulletins and quiet activities, and children are invited to sit together there or bring activities back to the pews to sit with their families.

Skittle Squad Bake Sale - Today After Worship

After worship, come to the Link for a bake sale held by our youth! Our newly formed LGBTQ+ and Ally Youth Group, dubbed "The Skittle Squad," are baking treats to make your Thanksgiving tables more colorful and to raise money for The Trevor Project. The Trevor Project is an organization that provides crisis counseling, peer support, education and advocacy for LGBTQ+ youth. Come get a plate of delicious, rainbow goodies for a free-will donation and support our youth near and far.

HAPPENING TODAY

Hanging of the Greens - Today at 11:45 AM - Meet in the Sanctuary

The Board of Spiritual Life invites you to help decorate the church for Advent. Deck the Halls, the Sanctuary, and the Chapel with wreaths, garlands, lights, and 12 foot trees! Hearty snacks set up in the Standish will fortify all the elves. A playlist of Christmas music will accompany our Joy to the World.

Gratitude Prayer Book

The apostle Paul's exhortation to "pray without ceasing" and "to give thanks in all circumstances" is the inspiration for putting together another prayer booklet for you - this one focused on Gratitude - prayers, poetry, music, and, as you come to the table to celebrate Thanksgiving, some table graces. Pick up a print copy in the Link or read it online here (<https://tinyurl.com/gratitudepb>).

Pilgrimage to Selma/Montgomery 2025 - SIGN-UP to go Today! Link

Join our Racial Justice Ministry on a pilgrimage to Alabama (March 17-21, 2025) to remember the civil rights struggle in Selma, visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, and learn about the work of the Equal Justice Initiative. This group trip is an opportunity to reflect intentionally on our country's deep history of racial violence and the ongoing movement for equity and justice, and finally, joy - on a jazz-themed River Boat cruise. For more information or to RSVP to go on the trip email linda@firstcong.net.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children & Youth Caroling Stroll - Sunday, 12/1, 10:30 AM

Kids keep your coat and mittens on when you arrive at church on Sunday so that you're ready to bring some Christmas cheer to the Pearl Street Mall. Meet in the Link, walk to the Pearl Street Mall with Anne Martinez, and return to Plymouth for hot apple cider.

Volunteer Ushers for Gentle Nutcracker - Saturday, 12/7 at 1 PM Vance Brand Civic Auditorium Longmont

The Longmont Symphony Orchestra & the Boulder Ballet present a sensory-friendly version of Tchaikovsky's beloved Nutcracker Ballet for people with disabilities/sensory needs and their families. The Gentle Nutcracker's adaptations include a "No Shushing" environment. Movement and noises are welcome. Staff train volunteers for this performance. We have spots for five volunteers to help usher, contact Jill von Trebra (vontrebj@gmail.com).

Calling All Cookie Bakers for Jingle Mingle - Bake and Deliver by Saturday, 12/7

Jingle Mingle is our Open House on the evening of Boulder's Lights of December Parade. The Board of Community Life needs 25 dozen homemade cookies to feed kids and families, including some with colorful frosting or colored sugar. If you would like to bake, please contact Marj Fowler marjfowler@gmail.com with the number of cookies you plan to make. Cookies need to be delivered to Plymouth Hall on Friday, December 6, 9 - 2 PM or Saturday, December 7, 6 - 7 PM. Thank you for your help!

Adopt a Family for the Holidays with FLC - Bring Gifts by Friday, 12/13

Family Learning Center, 3164 34th St. Boulder 80301

Adopt a Family for the Holidays with the Family Learning Center. Help brighten the season for families facing challenges. Receive a wish list, bring gifts by Dec 13, or make a monetary donation for our Holiday Helpers to pick out gifts. Drop off gifts at the FLC weekdays 9 to 4 or bring them to the church office. Let's make a difference together! Contact L'Shawn Howard at shawnh@flcboulder.org.

Have Yourself a Mystical Christmas - A Saturday Retreat - Saturday, 12/7, 9 AM - 3 PM

Chapel, Heritage and Standish Room. Cost: \$130 per person (includes lunch and snacks)

The Incarnation of Jesus is at the core of the Christian faith. Yet, the hectic pace of the holidays often clouds the profound spiritual significance of this sacred season. In this one-day retreat, we invite you to slow down and reconnect with the mystical essence of Christmas. Together, with retreat leaders: Rev. Elizabeth Jameson and Rev. Ian Cummins, we will explore the deeper meaning of the Incarnation as the birth of the Divine Word in each of us. Register with the QR code.



Grief Group Christmas Offering - Sunday, 12/8 from Noon to 2:30 PM - Heritage Room

Join those in our ongoing "Spiritual Support Group for those in Grief" in a special group experience that will honor the difficult journey we face at Christmas time. For many, Christmas accentuates the already difficult feelings brought on by loss. The loss can be recent or in the near or far past, an anticipated loss for those supporting a loved one, or a loss of any another sort such as loss of health or home. We will call on a supportive community and God's help to navigate this difficult time. All are welcome. Contact Bill Forbes (wmforbes1@gmail.com) or Jean Manifesto (jam@jeanmanifesto.com)

Art Show: Pastel Society of Colorado - Now until February 27

The McMane Arts Ministry is delighted to host a colorful and varied exhibit in our Heritage Room and Gallery hallway. Well-known and emerging artists from Colorado are showing their pastel paintings and other mediums including oils, watercolors, and drawings. Meet the artists and learn about soft pastels at a special Open House and Reception on **Friday Dec. 6 from 5 - 7:30 PM.**

Calling All Angels Shepherds and Magi - Christmas Pageant Sign-Up

At our 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service, our elementary children and youth will present the Christmas Pageant! To bring our Pageant to life, we need elementary-aged actors and middle school readers. We will have rehearsal on Sunday, December 22nd after worship from 12-2. If your children, grandchildren, or youth want to participate, please register here (<https://tinyurl.com/ye2y5uwa>)

Memorial Flower Fund: Poinsettias

Support the Memorial Flower Fund with donations in your loved one's name. The Fund provides a table arrangement for the first three Sundays of Advent and poinsettias for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve as well as flowers for the chancel on other Sundays. The minimum suggested donation is \$20. Names of those being remembered or honored this Advent will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22. The deadline to receive donations is Monday, December 16. Please put a memo for Flower Fund on your check, or visit (<https://tinyurl.com/memorial-flower>)

Conversation Magazine, Advent Issue

Advent begins on December 1 and the second issue of Conversation, our new quarterly magazine, is ready for you. You can access an online version here (<https://tinyurl.com/conversationmag>) or pick up a print copy in the Link when you are at the church. Find out about Advent devotionals, the Alternative Gift Market, Music Sunday, Christmas Eve, plans to Rise! for Stewardship Season in January, the MacKenzie Lecture in February, and more.