



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



Fifth Sunday of Easter
The Mountaintop and a Balcony
May 15, 2022 | 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.

Last week's flowers were placed in honor of Brett and Stephanie Angell's mothers, Sue Clark and Joanie Angell. The flowers on the communion table today, are in celebration of Chris' sabbatical.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

There is Childcare for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarteners in the Toddler Room & Playground located downstairs and to the right, up the short stairs and to the left. Ginger Johnson, our Childcare supervisor will greet you and welcome your children. All youth and elementary children are invited to stay for Worship and Communion. There is a children's bulletin available in the Narthex. The ushers can direct you.

COVID PROTOCOLS: Masks are recommended, but not required.

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.

If you would like to **DEDICATE FLOWERS** in a loved one's honor or memory for an upcoming Sunday service, please contact Anne Byrne, annebyrnehome@comcast.net or 303-601-7671.

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 and mail to: First Congregational Church Boulder, 1128 Pine St. Boulder, CO 80302. Contribute by **TEXT-TO-GIVE** by texting: 73256 with the message joy2givefcc. Contribute **ELECTRONICALLY:** Sign in to your account in Realm, the church's database, where you may make an ACH payment from your bank account or contribute by credit card.



IS THIS YOUR FIRST VISIT?

Please scan the QR and have a look around our website, be sure to sign up for our weekly email.

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*
Calvin Hardy *Director of Youth Ministries* | Julie Griffiths *Office & Facilities Manager*
Christopher Carter *Communication Specialist* | Renee Loewen *Accountant*
Julia Wirth *Director of Children's Music* | Jessica Kressin *Chancel Choir Accompanist*
Boheng Wang *Children's Choirs Accompanist* | Ginger Johnson *Child Care Coordinator*
Angie Dickinson Mickle and Sam Botnick | *Lead AV Techs*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in A Major, BWV 888
Jessica Kressin

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman

CALL TO WORSHIP

To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars,
before a snow-covered mountain or beside an ocean at sunrise.

To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the earth.

To worship is to work with dedication and with skill,

and to pause from work for a Sabbath to listen for the still small voice.

Worship is a longing reaching out for communion,

a thirsty land within crying out for rain.

Worship is the kindred fire within our hearts
and the holy ground beneath our feet.

Worship is the mystery within us reaching out to the mystery beyond.

It's an inarticulate silence yearning to speak,

and the wandering of our souls seeking the way home.

Worship is a wade into the water of the world's deep need
and God's unfathomable love.

It's the tuning of our hearts to sing God's praise.

As we draw near to God in prayer and praise,

**may God give us the courage to proclaim the love we profess,
and the will to live as people of the God we bless.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

*HYMN 18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Linda Kowatch

Eternal God,
We need your living presence, so come to us and stay.
Sing to us of your mercy. Whisper to us of your love.
Draw near to tell us of your hope for us,
your desire for our healing and our wholeness.
Be as hands upon us and revive us by your care.
Be as warmth within us and fire us with courage.
Be as strength beside us and bring companions for our journey.
Abide in our prayers, the spoken and unspoken,
and teach us to listen for the movement
of your Spirit in our lives.
Write your covenant of love upon our hearts,
and call us into your service.
Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 24:12-18

SERMON

The Mountaintop and a Balcony

Chris Braudaway-Bauman

SOLO

Sanctuary
Kajsa Teitelbaum

C. Newcomer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley
I fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*HYMN 59

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

ANTHEM

The King Of Love My Shepherd Is
Chancel Choir
Accompanist, Jessica Kressin

E. Bairstow

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.
Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.
In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.
Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

*SONG OF PRAISE

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, whose giving knows no ending,
we give you thanks for all your gifts;
for life, for love, and for your light along our pilgrim way.
Bless now the offerings we dedicate in return.
Bless every gift and every giver
as you send us to shine your light,
to care for all life,
and to share your love with the world. Amen.

A LITURGY OF SENDING AND BLESSING

We bring before you our sister in Christ, our pastor and friend, Chris Braudaway-Bauman. We send her on sabbatical with our earnest prayers, asking God's blessing upon her, and upon this First congregation she serves.

May this sabbatical be for Chris a time of adventure and discovery. May her travels introduce her to people and places new to her.

May God guide her steps. May she know the Spirit's accompanying presence on each journey and find God waiting for her, welcoming her, at each destination.

May Chris enjoy, in these weeks away: a release from responsibilities, a renewal of curiosity, and a thorough refreshment of body, mind and spirit.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heaven burdens, and I will give you rest."
(Matthew 11:28)

Let us pray:

Gracious God, in this time of sabbatical rest, give Chris time for reading, time for recreation, time for deep contemplation and rich conversation of both leisurely dreaming and focused reflection. Enable her to gaze in wonder at the beauty of your creation.

"O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" "How manifold are your Works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." (Psalm 8:1; 104:24)

Hear your servant when she prays to you, Holy God. Help her to worship you freely, whether in multitude or in solitude, joy or sorrow, in strength and in weakness. Watch over her, and draw her close to you.

"Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing." "I will sing of loyalty and of justice; to you, O Lord. I will sing." (Psalm 100:2; Psalm 101:1).
Amen.

We now seek her counsel and blessing as well as God's.

Beloved, hear these words from the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. Let them be my word to you as well as God's: "Finally, siblings in Christ, God be with you. Be cheerful. Keep things in good repair. Keep your spirits up. Think in harmony. Be agreeable. Do all that, and the God of love and peace will be with you for sure. The amazing grace of the Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you." (1 Corinthians 13: 11&14, The Message).

"You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace." May God be above you, beside you, behind you and before you. May the love of God's Spirit surround you every side. Amen
(Isaiah 55: 12a)

*HYMN 391

In the Midst of New Dimensions

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major

D. Buxtehude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Coffee Hour

Join us in Plymouth Hall following worship for community coffee hour.

Summer Worship Hours and Summer Office Hours

Summer Sunday Worship Service time will change to 9:30am for in-person and online worship beginning Sunday, May 29 through Labor Day. Forums will be held at 8:30am unless otherwise noted. Summer Church Office Hours will start on Monday, May 23 and going through at least Labor Day. Monday-Friday the church office will be open 9am-2pm. If you need to speak to Julie Griffiths, please plan to come by during those hours.



NEW - Pick a Party Signups!

Sign up for one or more of our first wave of pick a party signups! More parties are on the way and will be added to our signup page soon. For now peruse all of the awesome events being hosted by members of our congregation in support of our high school mission trip. Check out all of the parties available so far and get signed up with the QR code.

Caregivers Support Group - Sunday, from Noon – 1:30 pm

This is an open door group. You are welcome to join if it is your first time or even if it's been a while. For more information, contact - Bill Forbes wmforbes1@gmail.com

Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health and Wellness

For those who are living with mental health challenges as well as their family and friends: This confidential, non-denominational group, which welcomes all faith traditions or none, provides a safe and comfortable environment in which to share experiences and gain support. We meet on the second and the fourth Monday of the month from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm. We are currently meeting virtually but we hope that we'll soon have both in-person and virtual meetings. For more information and link to meetings contact anne.weiher@gmail.com.

Is Closure a Myth? - May 15 and 22 at 9:30 am in Plymouth Hall and Zoom

When we experience loss – whether a death or a major life change – how can we process the loss and move on? The Ministry of Last Things will present a two-part series exploring this topic, May 15 and 22 at 9:30 am in Plymouth Hall and on Zoom. Join group discussions on the concept of ambiguous loss and the importance of resilience.

BCAP & Interfaith AIDS Candlelight Memorial - Sunday May 15 at 7pm

BCAP and the Interfaith AIDS Coalition will be holding a Candlelight Memorial remembering those in our community whose lives were lost to complications of living with HIV/AIDS. We will be meeting at BCAP Sunday May 16 at 7pm. Rev. Gail McDougle will be offering a reflection. For more information, please call Judy Cardell 608-216-6954.

City Council Meetings on Gun Violence Prevention - Tuesdays, May 17 and June 7 from 6:30 – 10 pm

Boulder City Council will be meeting on May 17th and again on June 7th to discuss issues relevant to gun violence prevention. On the agenda are proposed ordinances to ban assault weapon sales and ghost guns, raising the age limit for purchase of weapons, limitations on open carry of guns, and more. Council meetings are scheduled to be held both in-person and virtually, with open public comments encouraged. Your support for these ordinances would be appreciated. For more information, contact Carol Young at ccyoung2010@gmail.com

Gun Violence Prevention - May 19, from 4:00 – 5:30 pm

The Gun Violence Prevention Ministry would like to invite our congregation to an open meeting of Colorado Faith Communities Against Gun Violence (CFCU). The meeting will feature two speakers: Dr. Emmy Betz who leads the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative and Araceli Rascon from the Handgun Intervention Program (a restorative justice program helping youth arrested for first time gun offenses). The meeting is May 19 from 4:00 – 5:30. If you are interested contact Susan Oakes at soakes1219@gmail.com for the zoom invitation.

NAACP Boulder County - May 23, at 7:00 pm - Zoom Webinar

You are invited to a Zoom webinar hosted by NAACP Boulder County - Religious Affairs Committee. Bystander Intervention to Stop Police-Sponsored Violence and Anti-Black Racist Harassment. In this interactive session, we will train people on how to safely intervene in the face of police violence and anti-Black racism using Right To Be 5D's of bystander intervention. Register in advance for this webinar: here...

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__YkErwyhSuO54OAKmgDbEQ

Singers Needed

The Chancel Choir is welcoming new members to all sections, but especially altos and basses. There has never been a better time to join the choir than right now! If you are unsure because of the weekly commitment, be on the lookout for opportunities to join a "pop-up choir" this summer. We gather on Sunday morning, learn an anthem on the spot, and sing it during the service. As a Chancel Choir member, you not only get to hang out with fun people and sing together, but you are worship leaders as well. Come join us, and support the congregation in a new way. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7:15 pm in the choir room. For questions or to sign up, email kajsa@firstcong.net

Fundraising Concert for Ukraine - Saturday, June 4 at 7:00 pm

Our Director of Music, Kajsa Teitelbaum, is organizing an evening with classical music to raise funds for the people of Ukraine. On Saturday, June 4 at 7:00 pm, come listen to music by Saint-Saëns, Andrée, Monti, and others. Suggested donation \$15. All proceeds will go directly to the cause. Performers: Bruna Macary, violin, Christine Mallery, cello, Kajsa Teitelbaum, piano.

BCL Refreshments

Cookies, Veggies & Other Snacks Needed! Board of Community Life needs cookies, veggies, fruits and other savory snacks for Coffee Hour each week. This is where you come in! If you click on the link below you can volunteer to provide refreshments for coffee hour and other events. Provide your favorite home baked cookies or if you don't cook, you can bring in your favorite store-bought cookies and snacks!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4caca622aafdc52-fellowship>

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed - Sunday, May 22 - Sign-Up Here

We need your help! Soup Kitchen is next Sunday (5/22) and we would like to start providing hot meals for our siblings in Boulder. We need volunteers to work each shift and we will train you on the spot. There is no need to be nervous! The first shift is 9:00-11:30am and you will help prepare food and serve it. The second shift is 11:30a-2:00pm and you will serve food and clean up. Sign up here as an individual, family or small group. If you have questions about Soup Kitchen contact: Soo Rhee soo.rhee@colorado.edu

Welcoming Ushers

Join us in the call to be a radically welcoming congregation as an Usher. The Board of Spiritual Life oversees this undertaking, but we need your help as we care for one another. We are on this journey together. Training is provided; you can sign up to serve on Sundays that fit your schedule. Contact Susan Pfretzschner for more information: susanpf2@comcast.net, 303-440-6346

Reproductive Justice: In response to the leaked Supreme Court ruling draft that would strike Roe v. Wade, and this moment when abortion rights are under assault, please know this: the United Church of Christ faithfully supported reproductive justice and access to safe abortion since the 1960's and the church faithfully supports it now. You can find our more on the Reproductive Justice page on our national UCC website.

<https://www.ucc.org/reproductive-justice/> No matter our personal views on abortion, let us stand together in concern for those whose life circumstances bring them to the place of needing to consider choosing abortion. Let us hold them in our prayers.

A special Thank You to our ministry partner, Mindful Works, for donating 3 sets of blue, yellow and sunflower festival flags in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. You will see these festival flags hanging outdoors on the Pine Street and Plaza sides of our building. If you are interested in purchasing some of the flags or other products please click on <https://mindful-works.org/>

Day Trip to Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site - Saturday, May 28, 2022

The Sand Creek Massacre: profound, symbolic, spiritual, controversial, a site unlike any other in America. Join the FCC Racial Justice Ministry for a day trip to this historic site that changed the Great Plains forever. Please arrive by 10:00 am (the Site is an approx. 3.5 hour drive from Boulder/Denver, each way). Participants will provide their own transportation, food & drink, and any overnight arrangements (carpooling assistance provided by trip leaders, as needed). Learn more and register here (<https://tinyurl.com/yed9rk68>). For more info contact Marrton Dormish: (720) 771-6655, marrton@everydayepics.com or, Christine Quinlan: (303) 358-0470, cquinlan@comcast.net

“Sabbaths – 1979, IV”

By Wendell Berry

The bell calls in the town
Where forebears cleared the shaded land
And brought high daylight down
To shine on field and trodden road.
I hear, but understand
Contrarily, and walk into the woods.
I leave labor and load,
Take up a different story.
I keep an inventory
Of wonders and of uncommercial goods.

I climb up through the field
That my long labor has kept clear.
Projects, plans unfulfilled
Waylay and snatch at me like briars,
For there is no rest here
Where ceaseless effort seems to be required,
Yet fails, and spirit tires
With flesh, because failure
And weariness are sure
In all that mortal wishing has inspired.

I go in pilgrimage
Across an old fenced boundary
To wildness without age
Where, in their long dominion,
The trees have been left free.
They call the soil here “Eden”; slants and steep
Hard to stand straight upon
Even without a burden.
No more a perfect garden,
There’s an immortal memory that it keeps.

I leave work’s daily rule
And come here to this restful place
Where music stirs the pool
And from high stations of the air
Fall notes of wordless grace,
Strewn remnants of the primal Sabbath’s hymn.

And I remember here
A tale of evil twined
With good, serpent and vine
And innocence of evil’s stratagem.

I let that go a while,
For it is hopeless to correct
By generations’ toil,
And I let go my hopes and plans
That no toil can perfect.
There is no vision here but what is seen:
White bloom nothing explains.

But a mute blessedness
Exceeding all distress,
The fresh light stained a hundred shades of green.

Uproar of wheel and fire
That has contained us like a cell
Opens and lets us hear
A stillness longer than all time
Where leaf and song fulfill
The passing light, pass with the light, return,
Renewed, as in rhyme.
This is no human vision
Subject to our revision;
God’s eye holds every leaf as light is worn.

Ruin is in place here:
The dead leaves rotting on the ground,
The live leaves in the air
Are gathered in a single dance
That turns them round and round.
The fox cub trots his almost pathless path
As silent as his absence.
These passings resurrect
A joy without defect,
The life that steps and sings in ways of death.