



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



*Let All Creation Dance - Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity*

*From each cardinal direction, a triangle of Holy Spirit fire faces inward, pointing us to baptism and transformation. When we do the good that is ours to do, we bear good fruit – fruit that repairs and nourishes, fruit that grows into the four corners of the earth.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Words for the Beginning: Do the Good That Is Yours to Do**

December 22, 2024 | 10:30 AM

1128 Pine Street Boulder CO 80302 | 303.442.1787 | [www.firstcong.net](http://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 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](http://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

Jul  
Kajsa Teitelbaum, organ

O. Olsson

WELCOME

Rev. Linda Kowatch

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Kajsa, Ben, Signe, Liv, August Teitelbaum

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!*

\*PASSING THE PEACE

\*HYMN #122

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Chris Braudaway-Bauman

Listening God,  
We know that you are constantly speaking to us.  
Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships,  
you make yourself known again and again.  
In gratitude, we long to return the favor.  
In gratitude, we long to meet you halfway.  
So in this moment,  
we are quieting the noise in our heads.  
We are closing our eyes.  
We are leaning in.  
We are listening.  
We are doing the good that is ours to do.  
Speak to us through the chaos.  
Speak to us as only you can.  
With hope in our hearts  
we listen, we pray,  
Amen.

by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

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

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Hugh Barnes McDonald

Parents: Jane Shiverick and Jed McDonald

Brothers: John McDonald, Angus McDonald

Godparents: Kerrie & David Law

### THE COVENANT PROMISES OF THE CONGREGATION

We will, with the help of God. Through this act we welcome this child into the fellowship of Christ's church and invite him to share with us the cost and joy of discipleship. We promise to receive him as a fellow pilgrim on the Christian way, to guide him by our precepts and example, that all of us may grow in the knowledge and love of God, according to the measure of the fullness of Christ. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

God of our fathers and mothers, and our God, we thank you for this, your child, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the spirit. Grant us grace to receive, nurture and befriend this new member of the body of Christ. Give to the newly baptized strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom to love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

### MUSICAL PRAYER

Away in a Manger

*Unison*

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord  
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for -  
Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked  
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in  
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

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

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58:9-12

Luke 3:10-16

### SERMON

Do the Good That Is Yours to Do

## 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.

#### PRAYER RESPONSE In the Bleak Midwinter verse 3

*Angels and arch angels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

### INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

**OFFERTORY** The Advent Candle B. Chilcott  
Chancel Choir Jessica Kressin, piano

#### \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE In the Bleak Midwinter verse 4

*What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;  
but what I can, I offer: all my heart.*

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### \*CAROL SING Chalice Carols (red book) verse 1 of each song

7: The First Noel  
19: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
9: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
17: Once in Royal David's City

#### \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** Dialogue and Fugue on M. Joseph  
"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

# POINSETTIA DONATIONS

## In Loving Memory of...

**Richard Alber**

by Alma Alber

**David and Faith Bauman & Donna and Gordon Braudaway**

by Chris, Phil, Sam and Nicki

**Mark Steven Edlin and Matthew Shawn Edlin**

by John and Mailand Edlin

**Edward Robert White**

by Shirley Harkess

**Roy Lonzo Gibbs**

by Michelle and Fenton Hill

**Jean Lee Ash**

by the Priscilla Lacy and family

**Shirley Whiteley**

by the Monday Breakfast Gang

**Linda Oakes**

by Tony and Marci Leveridge

**Zarel Audric Estrella, Zairel Adriano Estrella, Cezar Calinawagan Jr, and Salvatore Mascioli, Jr.**

by Cezanne and Tore Mascioli

**Thomas L Moody, and Kie and Hija Ahn**

by Sarah Ahn and Chris Moody

**My parents, Ernest and Bertha Myhren**

by Signe Myhren

**Marvin and Margaret Stone**

by Martha Stone Palmer

**KC Robbie, for 53 years together**

by Emily Robbie

**Ray and Millie Peterson and Julian and Gladys Rogers**

by Linda Rogers

**Parker Calkin**

by Harriet Simons

**Loved ones**

by Sarah Thompson

**Elizabeth Weiher**

by her family

**Luke Wylie and Sam Wylie III**

by Anne Wylie Weiher

**Joanne Kelly and Mark Thomas**

by Anne Wylie Weiher

## In Honor of...

**Scott Charles Edlin**

by John and Mailand Edlin

**Sophia Henze and Andres Cancino**

by Martha and Gregor Henze

**Margaret and Lars**

by Karen and Kirk Nordstrom

**Our Church Staff**

by Dan and Deborah Raessler

## 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.

### HAPPENING TODAY

#### **Alternative Gifts International Market - Today at 11:45 AM - Plymouth Hall**

Last Week for Alternative Gifts Market and Mindful Works Shopping!

"Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed..." This sentiment from a favorite hymn captures the gift that you give when you support Alternative Gifts International, Noor El-Salam, Kenya Education Fund (KEF), and Mindful Works. This is the last week these markets will be open during coffee hour. Meet Bonny Odhiambo, a beneficiary of KEF. Thanks for putting your faith into action by supporting these light-dawning efforts. For important links and to read an article about AGI by Sherry Leach, visit <https://tinyurl.com/259xsy6z>.

#### **Support Mindful Works - Today at 11:45 AM - Plymouth Hall**

Our local mission partner, Mindful Works, will be selling hand-crafted creative gifts, including poufs, pillows, and other home décor, that make a difference in the lives of the program participants during coffee hours in Advent. Mindful Works provides empowering work to individuals striving to overcome obstacles due to mental health challenges. Every stitch a purpose! Visit <https://mindful-works.org>

#### **Advent Gatherings - Today at 9:15 AM (Heritage Room)**

Join Rev. Lianna Campos for reflection and discussion during Advent.

#### **Advent Quilt Design Bookmarks**

Collect weekly bookmarks in the Link, featuring quilt designs from our Advent devotional prepared by the Board of Spiritual Life. Enjoy coloring them to enhance focus and relaxation on your Advent journey.



## CHRISTMAS EVE - DECEMBER 24

#### **Family Worship with Children's Pageant, 4:00 PM | Sanctuary (and on YouTube)**

Mary and Joseph join angels dancing, shepherds scurrying, and magi searching to find the baby Jesus lying in a manger in a story narrated by our middle school youth. Joyful Noise and the Faith Singers will provide choral music.

#### **Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols, 7:00 and 9:00 PM**

Rejoice in the promise coming, the starlight guiding, the new life being born. Celebrate how God has come to be with us! In both services, our worship culminates in the soft singing of *Silent Night*, lighting candles, and the sounds of *Joy to the World!*

##### **7:00 PM, Sanctuary (and on YouTube)**

Enjoy the music of the season with our Congregational Bells and Chancel Choir. Extended prelude beginning at 6:45 PM.

##### **9:00 PM, Sanctuary (and on YouTube)**

Christmas music will be offered by our Brass Ensemble and Vocal Soloists. Extended prelude beginning at 8:45 PM.

### **Ushers Needed for December 24 - Children's Pageant at 4 PM**

Help us offer Christmas Eve hospitality at the 4 PM Christmas Pageant on December 24! The youth magi collect the offering during the service, but there are still spaces open for folks to welcome our many visitors to this service and hand out bulletins. Sign up here to usher at 4 PM.

### **Christmas Eve Offering - Soup Kitchen and Undue Medical Debt**

Each year, we select two organizations to receive 100% of our Christmas Eve offerings. They are: our own *First Cong Soup Kitchen*, whose mission is to be directly connected – face to face – with our unhoused neighbors. Over the last 11 months, we've served 1,580 meals on the fourth Sunday of each month. *Undue Medical Debt* focuses on relieving medical debt for people burdened by significant financial and mental distress. A donation of \$100 can provide up to \$10,000 of debt relief. To give use the QR code.



### **Join Us and Be a Vital Part of Brunch Church! - Sunday, 12/29 at 10:30 AM - Plymouth Hall**

We are eagerly seeking your support and participation. All individuals, regardless of age, are warmly invited to volunteer to make New Year's Eve Brunch Church a good worship experience for all. Sign up as an individual, family, or ministry/board. There are numerous ways you can contribute! Sign-up to set up, bake on Saturday, prep and serve on Sunday, or clean up afterwards. <https://tinyurl.com/bdxcfxvh>

### **Sunday, 12/29 - A Storybook Christmas - One Morning Service Only at 10:30 AM - Plymouth Hall**

Christmas has inspired some of the world's most memorable children's literature. Join us as we read aloud the classic stories *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* as well as a newer story you're sure to love. Worship includes a flute and string ensemble and a duet by Marj and Dean Fowler. There's also Brunch! Frittatas, fruit, and cinnamon rolls!

### **Advent and Christmas Concert Online - Sunday, 12/29 at 10:30 AM - YouTube**

Not able to join us for Brunch Church on December 29? We warmly invite you to attend an online only concert of the best of Advent and Christmas music offered by First Cong's choirs, soloists, and instruments. Watch your Sunday email or go to the home page of [firstcong.net](http://firstcong.net) to get the link to the YouTube Premiere video on Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 AM. After Sunday morning, the video will be available to enjoy anytime!

### **Sunday, 1/5 - Epiphany Eve Celebration at 4:30 PM**

In addition to Sunday morning worship at 8:30 AM in the Chapel and 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary, we'll gather in the evening to join the Magi following the star to find the Christ child. This festive service includes a candlelight procession and baptism renewal:

4:30 PM *Crown Making in the Standish Room*

5:00 PM *Worship in the Chapel and Sanctuary*

5:45 PM *Potluck Dinner in Plymouth Hall*

Bring something delicious to share. Since warming space in the oven will be limited, bring it in a crock pot, or bring a salad or finger food. Come for the whole evening or whichever part works best for you. While you are here, you can pick up your Star Word to guide you through the year.

### **Sunday, 1/19 - Martin Luther King Celebration**

*Contemplative Prayer Worship, 8:30 AM - Chapel*

Gather for a quiet service of readings by Martin Luther King, Jr., extended moments of silence, African American Spirituals, and songs of the Civil Rights Movement.

*Service of Justice and Peace, 10:30 AM - Sanctuary and YouTube*

Hear from our pilgrims who traveled to the sites of the Sand Creek Massacre, the Koshare Museum of Native American Art, Fort Bent, and Amache, the WWII Japanese American Internment Camp. Together we will explore what we learned and what we as a community are being called to do as we continue in our work for Racial Justice.