



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST · BOULDER



The Good Samaritan, Vincent van Gogh

The First Sunday of Lent
Everything In Between: Stranger and Neighbor
March 9, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

1128 Pine Street Boulder CO 80302 | 303.442.1787 | www.firstcong.net

Welcome to First Congregational Church, 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 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." Like our Pilgrim forbears, we trust "there is yet more light and truth to break forth from God's holy Word."

Inspired by God's boundless grace as revealed in the radical love of Jesus Christ, we aim to make the words "All are Welcome" as inclusive as they sound. 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

ENVELOPE

Cash or Check



Our **TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS** start in the Toddler Room with for play, a story, and a simple snack. The Toddler Room is located in the lower level to the right of the stairs/elevator. New children are always welcome! Parents of little ones will also find rocking chairs in the back of our Sanctuary.

ELEMENTARY CHILDREN AND YOUTH (K-12) Children and Youth are staying through worship. They are invited to the tables at the front where there are quiet worship activities.

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

Canon in D
Christine Boys, Rachele Crowell, flute

J. Pachelbel

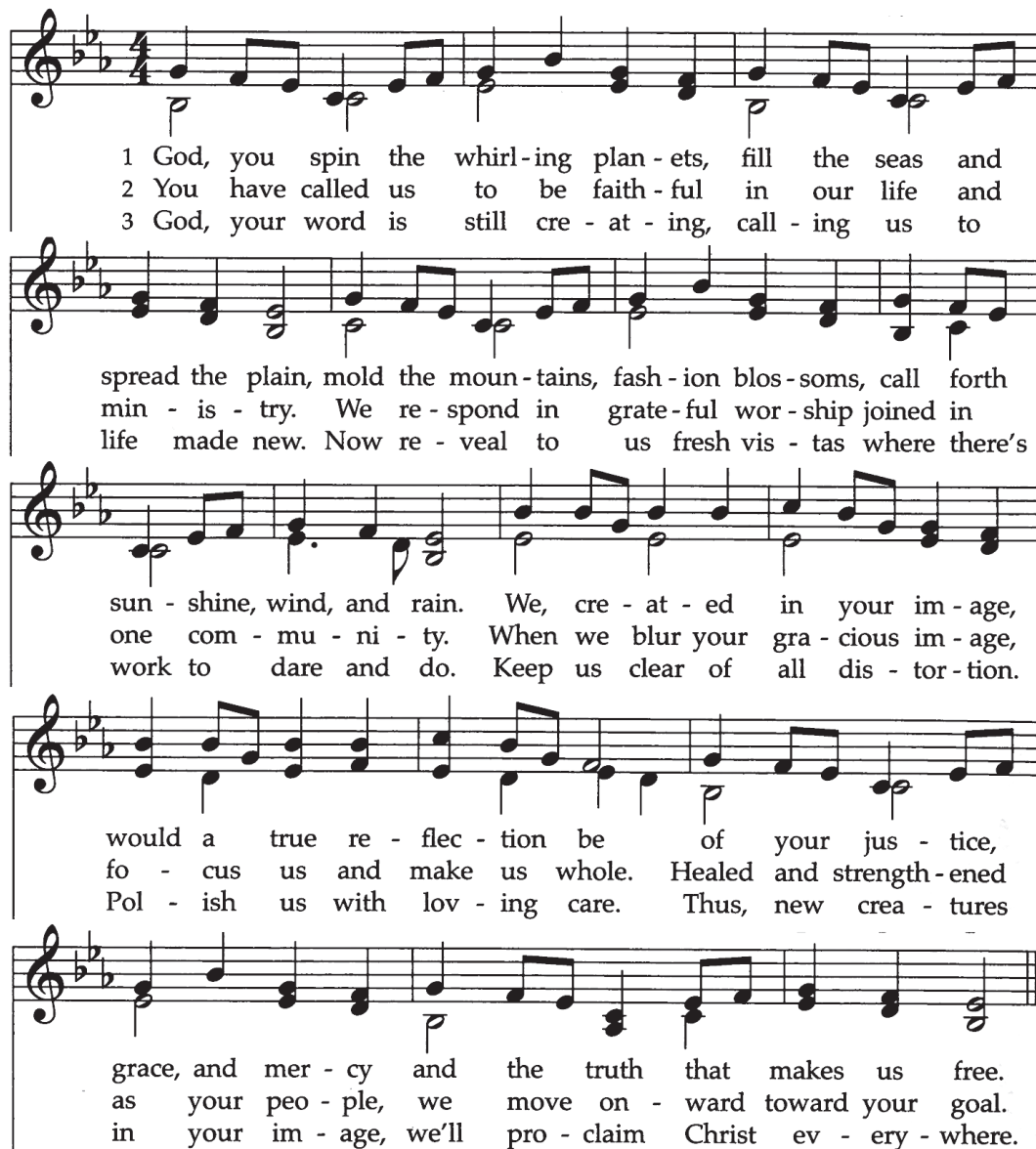
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christina Braudaway-Bauman

*PASSING THE PEACE

*HYMN

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets



1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and
2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and
3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

spread the plain, mold the moun - tains, fash - ion blos - soms, call forth
min - is - try. We re - spond in grate - ful wor - ship joined in
life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,
one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,
work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion.

would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,
fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened
Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.
as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.
in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our Guide and Guardian, we humbly confess
that we have failed to respond fully to your presence in our lives.
We have not loved you with all our heart and mind and soul and strength.
We do not always loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Our world does not live in peace.
Around us and within us we see the tragic brokenness of our ways.
Forgive us. Heal our wounds. Heal our world. Increase our faith.
In the silence of our prayer and our song, knit our hearts to yours.
Live in us that we may live in you . . .

HYMN 290

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart
please remain seated




1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid us love you ev - ery way?



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;



Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
I see your cross— there teach my heart to stay:



and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
O let me seek you, and O let me find.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10: 25-37

SERMON

Everything In Between: Stranger and Neighbor

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Amy Ostwald

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

Achat Sha'alti
Rachelle Crowell flute

P. Schoenfield

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

OFFERTORY

Doubt Not Thy Father's Care
Chancel Choir
Kajsa Teitelbaum, Director
Jessica Kressin, Accompanist

E. Elgar

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE (565)** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN 543** Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Suite No. 1 for organ
I. Fantasy

F. B. Price

HAPPENING TODAY

Support Groups for Grief and Caregivers-Today

Support Groups for grief and caregivers meet every month. These groups are always open to new participants, including first time visitors and folks who haven't attended in a while.

Grief in person meeting: Noon – 1:30 p.m., Room 312.

Contact Bill Forbes (wmforbes1@gmail.com) or, Jean Manifesto (jam@jeanmanifesto.com).

Caregivers Zoom meeting: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Bill Forbes (wmforbes1@gmail.com).

Youth Group Excursion: Get Air Longmont-Today, 4:15-5:45 p.m. | 2251 Ken Pratt Blvd, Unit C

Hosts: Sarah Schulte and Carol Young

Get your jump on! For youth group this week, we are meeting at Get Air Longmont. This giant trampoline park excursion is open to all youth grades 6-12. Parents/Guardians, please sign those two required waivers ahead of time so the youth can get right to jumping at drop-off! One waiver is through Get Air (<https://tinyurl.com/5rvzb354>), and one is through First Congregational: (<https://tinyurl.com/2vx3dzzm>). There is no cost for youth tickets. There is a concession stand for which the youth can bring their own money.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Study on Prayer-Mondays, Starting 3/10 at 6:00 p.m.

Each week's session will begin with 25 minutes of centering prayer, followed by discussion of the book *Open Mind, Open Heart* (20th anniversary edition) by Father Thomas Keating, the Cistercian monk who founded the worldwide "Contemplative Outreach," teaching people the art of meditation. Along the way, the group will also explore other prayer practices including lectio divina and Zen meditation and read selections from other sources, such as *The Energy of Prayer* by Thich Nhat Hahn. Contact Kevin Pettit (kevin.pettit@comcast.net) for more information and to join the group.

De-Escalation Training-Wednesday, 3/12 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The hospitality of our congregation is enhanced by attentiveness to everyone's safety. We are glad to partner with Mental Health Partners for De-escalation training. This two-hour training will help you learn how to help individuals de-escalate during times of stress or crisis, manage a dangerous outburst, and recover from distress. Participants will talk through situations to practice implementing these strategies. If you are an usher, on our safety team, a volunteer in the Soup Kitchen, or are interested in signing up, contact Eric Nickell (justthefactssenor@gmail.com).

Book Group: *See No Stranger*-Wednesdays, 3/12 at 7:00 p.m. (3/26 and 4/9 at 5:30 p.m.)

Gather to discuss this year's One Book One Boulder selection by Valarie Kaur. *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* invites readers to embrace revolutionary love as both a remedy for our times and a path to a better future. Valarie Kaur, renowned Sikh activist and civil rights lawyer, shares her transformative philosophy – a radical, joyful practice that connects us to others, opponents, and ourselves. On April 27, we'll go together to meet Valerie Kaur in person. Contact: Chris Braudaway-Bauman (chris@firstcong.net).

Lenten Concert Series: Duet-Thursday, 3/13 at 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Join us for an evening of exquisite music with Colorado Symphony clarinetist Nick Davies and acclaimed pianist Alaina de Bellevue. Davies has performed with top orchestras nationwide, while de Bellevue is a sought-after pianist and music director in Colorado. Experience their artistry in this special Lenten concert.

Boulder Museum Exhibit: Bending the Arc-Opening, Friday 3/14 | Reception

First Congregational Church and our LGBTQ+ and Allies Ministry celebrates the opening of the exhibit, Bending the Arc. Opening on March 14 with a reception, the exhibit focuses on the first six marriage licenses granted for same-sex couples in Boulder in 1975, some of the first in this country. Our church's donation of \$2500 makes it possible for the Museum to offer scheduled tours with docents. Watch your Weekly and bulletin to find out when ours will be scheduled!

Timeless Light, The Photography of Dan Baumbach-Sunday, 3/16, from 9:15am - 10:15am | Chapel

Fine art photographer Dan Baumbach will speak about his career, process and inspiration. Dan states, "Art and music are my favorite entry points to the peace that comes from being internally quiet... It is my hope that my photographs express that inner quiet and bring peace to the viewer." Dan's work and that of other artists from Open Studios, are featured in "Our Best Shots," on view through April 25.

Usher/Greeter Appreciation Coffee-Sunday, 3/23, 9:15 a.m. | Heritage Room

We're grateful for this opportunity to gather for morning coffee and treats to thank all those who serve as representatives of our church's warm welcome on Sunday mornings and for every service of worship. If you are interested in joining this fine crew, please join us for this event and learn more!

Newcomers Coffee-Sunday 3/23, 11:45 a.m. | Heritage Room

Are you new to the First Congregational Church community, looking to find out more, and get better connected? Join us after 10:30 a.m. worship to get to know some of our staff and leaders, and learn more about the many ways you can get involved, including joining us as a member. Childcare is available. Can't make this one? There's another coffee on April 27.

Rabbi Michael Kengmana to Speak on Zoom-Wednesday, 3/26 at 7:00 p.m.

Please join FCC PIN on Zoom on Wed. March 26 at 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to hear Rabbi Michael Kengmana speak about his experiences growing up Jewish in America, how he became aware of Palestine, and his experiences running summer camps for Palestinian children at the Ramallah Friends School. As a teacher, he will challenge us to think about how we view Israel, Zionism, and antisemitism. Bring your questions! For more info, contact Jane Thomas (jane.thomas@colorado.edu).

Fellowship Hour Needs Your Help-Each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. | Sign Up (<https://tinyurl.com/y2cauf5m>)

Each Sunday after worship we meet in Plymouth Hall (or The Link on Soup Kitchen Sundays) for a time of fellowship, coffee and treats. Please consider providing 2-3 dozen baked or packaged cookies, or 2 loaves of fruit breads or 20-30 pieces of coffee cake, etc.... to be shared at Fellowship Hour. Contact Wendy Hall (whall8@comcast.net) if you have questions or are unable to sign up using the link. Thanks for sharing your sweet love with one another!

Our Annual Report for 2024 & the Latest Issue of Conversation are Here!

Last Sunday was our congregation's Annual Meeting and a new issue of Conversation magazine came out. You can pick up print copies of the in the Link. Or see your Weekly email to flip through the digital editions online. Read about Lenten Study Groups, our Thursday evening Concert Series, and special Worship Services and Events.

Everything In Between: A Lenten Devotional

Art, poetry, Scripture, and written reflections invite you to look, read, pray, reflect, and enter more deeply into the Scripture texts and themes of our Lenten series. A Sanctified Art collaborative creators have provided a special e-reader version (<https://tinyurl.com/5xcmd474>), which you can access on your computer and mobile devices. Print versions are available to pick up in the Narthex and on a table in the Link. A collection of 52 Daily Devotional Cards for Ash Wednesday through Easter are also available. Each card has a question for reflection, and a short prayer. Pick up a set of cards in the Narthex or Link.

Join Our Collective Action Email List

Are you ready to bring more justice into the world? Sign-up (<https://tinyurl.com/2pbd59am>) to be added to our weekly collective action list. Led by our congregation's Coalition of Social Justice Ministries, we will send out a weekly email with something, one thing, you can do during the week to advocate for a more just world. Contact: Caitlin Smith (csmitty12@gmail.com).