

### LaForet Blessing

Some of our youth are at La Foret, our denomination's camp, for the weekend. We know they are having a blast and we can't wait to hear their stories when they return! *Since our youth leaders are at La Foret, there will not be youth group this weekend.*

### Give From Your RMD

If you are aged 73 or older and have a retirement account with a required minimum distribution, you can direct part of your RMD to the church to fulfill your pledge or giving in a tax-advantaged way. Please talk to your investment advisor for more details. If you plan to give in this way, please let Laura Gurney know, as it does not always arrive with your name attached and we want to thank you appropriately (laura@firstconggreeley.org)!

### Staff Contact Information, Additional Announcements, and Calendar

Contact information for the entire staff is available on the table in the Narthex, which is just outside the sanctuary. Please feel free to ask a Host for help finding it. **Please note that staff emails now end in .org instead of .com.**

Find additional announcements and calendar online including Centering Prayer, Scripture Seminar, WNL details, and more on our website at firstconggreeley.org.

### Volunteer at the Weld Food Bank

As a community of faith in Weld County we seek opportunities to assist others in receiving things that we take for granted. On Thursday, April 10th we will gather at the Weld Foodbank from 5:00-7:00 pm to help our neighbors.

Registration is required in advance. Register by clicking this link:

<https://weldfoodbank.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/FirstCongregationalChurch> If you have questions contact Bob Lowenbach at jrlconsulting@outlook.com

### Holocaust Remembrance Events

April is Holocaust Remembrance Month and several events are offered in Greeley to commemorate the month. We invite and encourage the FCC community to participate in these events as they are able. FCC will help lead the *Holocaust Memorial Service* on Sunday, April 6 at 6:00 pm at Beth Israel synagogue. We will be carpooling to the presentation by Janet Singer Applefield, Holocaust Survivor, on Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm, and the viewing of film *Nazi Civil Religion during the Third Reich: Secular Religiosity and Violence in Hitler's Germany* on Thursday, April 10 at 11:30 am at Aims. A full list of Holocaust Remembrance events is on the "Happenings" wall outside the children's area. Feel free to take a copy!

### Bell Choir

There are openings in the FCC Bell Choir! The Bell Ringers are a fabulous family of music makers, and we would love to have you join us! Contact Nicholas Gilmore for more information.



First Congregational Church is a community who seeks to be rooted in God's love, nourished on our spiritual journeys, and growing as an inclusive Christian presence in Northern Colorado and beyond.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
You are welcome here.**

**First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Sunday, March 16, 2025  
10:00am**

*\* You are invited to rise in body or spirit at this time.*

### PRELUDE

*Attende Domine*

Jeanne Demessieux

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR INTROIT

*Like a Tree* by Ruth Elaine Schram

### WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

*You are invited to text prayers you would like included in our Prayers of the People to 970-573-6299 by the end of the Reflection. Please include your name with your prayer.*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader/People)

*God whose voice brings new life,*

**God whose song recreates our world:**

*when the news discourages and the scene before us is one we wish we could turn off,*

**may we close our eyes and listen for your still small voice.**

*May the landscape we create within ourselves*

**calm us when we need to be calmed,**

*inspire us when we need inspiration,*

**and encourage us when we need new courage.**

*So that we may be a people*

**whose lives witness to the truth**

*that even when it seems a dead end is ahead*

**there is a path where the buds of hope and new life are emerging.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN

*Morning Has Broken*

TWC (red) #362

*Morning has broken like the first morning,*

*blackbird has spoken like the first bird.*

*Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!*

*Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,*

*like the first dew fall on the first grass.*

*Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,*

*sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning*

*born of the one light Eden saw play!*

*Praise with elation, praise every morning,*

*God's recreation of the new day!*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19:1-10

### REFLECTION

Rev. Ben Konency

### CHORAL ANTHEM

Danny Boy

arr. Joseph Flummerfelt

### CALL TO THANKSGIVING

*Gifts and pledges may be made in the baskets in pews or in the offering boxes as you exit. To make a gift or pledge online, please visit [firstconggreeley.org/give2](https://firstconggreeley.org/give2). Thank you for your generosity.*

### \*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly host  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

### \*CLOSING HYMN

Be Now My Vision

NCH (black) #451, vs. 1-3

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;  
nothing surpasses the love you impart.  
You are my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
you, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & BENEDICTION

### CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

### POSTLUDE

*Variations on There Is a Fountain*  
Undine Smith Moore

### Children & Youth Faith Formation

**Children:** We will hear the story of Jesus' encounter with Bartimaeus, a blind man. All children 3 years old - 5th grade are welcome!

**Nursery care** is available weekly from 9:45 - 11:15 am for 0-3 year olds.

**Youth:** Middle and High Schoolers are invited to join Rev. Tamara for youth group after the children's message.

### King Soopers Community Rewards

Did you know that when you shop with your King Soopers card, 1% of your purchases can be donated back to a nonprofit of your choice, including the Church? Just this month, the church received a check for \$532 from the Kroger Community Rewards Program! **This Sunday after the 10am service**, someone will be available in Chadwick to help you be sure you're enrolled in the program. You'll need your King Soopers account login information or your King Soopers mobile app.

### Being Mindful, Being Christian - Wednesday Evenings

Do you long for a more grounded connection to the Loving Presence of the Divine during this Lenten Season? Do you need more peace and less stress in your everyday life? Join us for a 6-week journey into Christian mindfulness, where we'll increase calm and decrease chaos as we center into our Grounding Source. We'll introduce one tenet from contemplative theology and one centering practice each week, with time to practice what we're learning. *Practice the Pause*, a wonderful book on Christian contemplation by Carolyn Oakes will be our guide. Reading is optional; journeying together is the goal! This will happen during the normal Wednesday Night Live time (6:00-7:15 PM). Questions? Contact Sandy Varley [svarley@comcast.net](mailto:svarley@comcast.net) or 970-352-6830.

### Welcome Lunch

On Sunday, March 30 at 11:30am we will offer a Welcome Lunch for all who are new(er) to the church! If you're new-ish and haven't attended a welcome lunch before, we'd love to have you join us! Please sign-up on the Happenings wall outside the children's area or online at <https://firstcong.breezechms.com/form/da622e>.

### Lutheran Family Services Support Team

LFS support teams help recently arrived refugee families get settled into our community. If you are interested in learning more about being a part of a support team, please come to the orientation at church this Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 pm or contact Rev. Ben.

### Lent Devotional

Our Lenten season devotionals are now available to help you on the journey. *Coming Back to Life* is designed for adults, although some activities are child-appropriate. Families with kids are encouraged to pick up *Love Builds Up*, a devotion designed for families with children.

### Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live is **each Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 pm**. Dinner will be from 5:15-6pm. During the Lenten season we will be offering a "Community Coffeeshop" drop-in space. Bring your knitting, a favorite book, art supplies or simply a desire to spend time in community for this hour of supported slowing down. Dr. Sandy Varley will offer a "Being Mindful, Being Christian" class on contemplative practices in the chapel (see other announcement for more info). There will also be supervised gym time for children from 6:00-7:00 pm.