



Next Issue: April 10, 2025

Submission Deadline for Next Issue: April 15, 2025

Submit articles using the announcement request form at  
[firstconggreeley.org/announcements](http://firstconggreeley.org/announcements)

Volume 80, Issue 3

# The Church Bell

## Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust: Ash Wednesday

*Many of us joined together on Ash Wednesday for a holy evening as we began Lent, the season where we get ready to experience the mystery of Easter. May you feel God's peace and love this season.*



## Join Us this Season!

There are a joyful amount of things happening around FCC this season. Check out what's happening and come when you can; we can't wait to spend time with you!

### Lenten Devotionals: Anytime

[Coming Back to Life](#) for adults & older youth,  
[Love Builds Up](#), for families with children in mind. Use the links to access the digital versions or pick up your printed copy in the narthex.

### Holy Week Worship: Wednesday, April 16

5pm for foot washing, 5:30pm for a meal at tables, 6:15pm for Tenebrae service.

### Easter: Sunday, April 20

- 6:15am Sunrise Service in the Courtyard, weather permitting
- 8am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
- 10am Worship Service in the Sanctuary (live stream available), Easter Egg Hunt for children through 5th grade immediately after the service

### Wednesday Night Live: Every Wednesday through April 9

5:15-6:00pm: Dinner (\$3/person, \$9/family max)

6:00-7:00pm: All-ages programming options:

- **Community Coffee Shop:** Bring your knitting, a favorite book, art supplies or simply a desire to spend time in community for this hour of supported slowing down
- **Being Mindful, Being Christian:** A group exploring ways to intentionally Practice the Pause. With spiritual director, Dr. Sandy Varley.
- **For Kids:** Supervised gym and play time!

### Welcome Lunch

There will be a Welcome Lunch on **Sunday, March 30 from 11:30am-1pm**. Welcome Lunches are an opportunity for those newer to the community to learn more about FCC from staff and lay leaders and to meet others who have recently started attending FCC. Please contact Rev. Ben if you are interested in attending ([revben@firstconggreeley.org](mailto:revben@firstconggreeley.org)).

### Lanyards: A Welcome Tool

An important piece of creating welcome and safety on Sunday morning is knowing and easily identifying who is available to respond in emergency situations. To that end, we will be introducing a few new lanyards over the next several weeks:

- **Red** lanyards for those willing to respond in health emergencies
- **Yellow** lanyards for those willing to respond in mental health crises
- **Purple** "Volunteer" lanyards for those serving as hosts each week
- **Silver** "Safety First" lanyards for those responding to other emergencies.

Are you a medical or mental health professional willing to be available in emergency situations on a Sunday morning? We'd love to know! Please reach out to Laura Gurney ([laura@firstconggreeley.org](mailto:laura@firstconggreeley.org)).

### Spring Cleaning? Donate Clothes to the GIA Clothing Bank!

Have some clothes that need a new home? Drop them off at the Greeley Interfaith Clothing Bank (228 N 9th Ave, Greeley) **Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10-2**. The GIA clothing bank offers clothes to members of our community at low-to-no cost. Members of our church volunteer at the clothing bank weekly. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, please contact Rev. Ben ([revben@firstconggreeley.org](mailto:revben@firstconggreeley.org))

### Photo Directories are Here!

New photo directories are here! Printed copies are available in the narthex. Digital copies can be [requested here](#) or by contacting the church office. (Please note that a request is necessary to protect your personal information.) Looking through the directory and notice that your information is incorrect or you're missing a photo? Please reach out to Laura in the church office to have it updated!

### They're Here - From Home!

We are delighted that so many folks join us for worship each week - from home! Did you know that each week, somewhere between 30 and 50 people watch our service online? We continue to highlight those who are among us each week, even though we don't always see them in the pews.

- Jody Lininger & Russ Doty
- John Houtchens
- Trystan Cline
- Kay & David Foxe (Heather Schulte's parents!)
- Edie Kammerer
- Claire McNear

Additionally, twice this month, our ministers have been out and about (at a coffee shop and at the gym) and have been approached by someone saying "I know you! We watch your service every week!" What a delight it is to know that people feel connected to our community, even though they may never have stepped in our building!

If you are joining us online, please let Rev. Ben know so we can share our welcome and gratitude with you!

### Special Edition of The Church Bell Coming Soon!

We had a plethora of stories this month about our community. So many, in fact, that we decided to put out a special edition of The Bell in early April celebrating community and the stories that bring us together. Keep your eyes peeled for this special Bell edition - coming soon!

# Happenings

*There are great things happening in our church and our greater community.  
We'd love to see you at any and all of these events!*

## Holocaust Remembrance Month Events

April is Holocaust Remembrance Month. Several events are offered in Greeley to commemorate the month. We invite and encourage you to participate as you're able. Here are three events we are highlighting:

- **Holocaust Interfaith Memorial Service**, co-led by FCC: **Sunday, April 6, 6pm** at Beth Israel Congregation (1625 Reservoir Rd, Greeley, CO 80631)
- **Holocaust Survivor Janet Singer Applefield: Wednesday, April 9, 7pm** at the Aims Community College Welcome Center. Carpool with us following Wednesday Night Live or meet us there!
- **Viewing of the Film Nazi Civil Religion during the Third Reich: Secular Religiosity and Violence in Hitler's Germany: Thursday, April 10, 11:30am** at Aims Community College, Student Commons Room 114. Carpool with us at 11am or meet us there.

A full list of Holocaust Remembrance events is on the "Happenings" wall outside the children's area. Feel free to take a copy or [access the schedule here](#).

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## Volunteer at the Weld Food Bank, April 10



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 10 from 5-7pm** we will gather at the Weld Food Bank to help our neighbors.

Registration is required in advance and is available at <https://gqr.sh/5a3a> or scan the QR code. If you have questions or problems registering, please contact Bob Lowenbach at [jrlconsulting@outlook.com](mailto:jrlconsulting@outlook.com).

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## John Mills Orchestra Jazz & Dance Concert, March 31

The John Mills Orchestra will be presenting a Jazz and Dance concert in Chadwick Hall here at FCC on **Monday, March 31 at 6:30pm**. The concert will feature singer Kris Pierce and many popular and well known big band jazz favorites. The event is free and open to the public, though donations are appreciated. There is space on the dance floor, and dancing is encouraged! Bring your comfortable shoes and enjoy a night of great jazz, top notch performances, and the incredible John Mills Orchestra!



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## Conversations on Race: Book & Podcast Introduction, April 2

Conversations on Race, whose focus is to learn about our racial biases and how to show up in the world as anti-racists, invite you to their next event. On **Wednesday, April 2 from 6-7:15pm** (during the regular Wednesday Night Live time), Bob Lowenbach will introduce the book and podcast, *The Sum of Us*, by Heather McGhee. Those interested in continuing to read and discuss the book will be invited to sign up for a continuing book study. For more information, please contact Heather Schulte [schulte101@ymail.com](mailto:schulte101@ymail.com), (970)396-4609.



## Rosebud Reservation All Ages Service Trip

Save the date for an all-ages service trip to the Rosebud Reservation **June 1-5** where we will throw a party for the consecration of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church! This historic church, built in 1890, was burned to cement and rebar in October 2023, following an early morning arson.

Most who have journeyed with us to Rosebud have worked on this historical site, most recently staking out the footprint for the new building. Building will commence this spring and we've been invited to be part of the consecration and throw a party for the Parmelee community!

More details will follow, but if you're interested in joining us, please [let us know here](#) or contact the church office, [laura@firstconggreeley.org](mailto:laura@firstconggreeley.org) or 970-353-0828.



## Financial News

### A Pledge Update

Thank you to all who have made pledges to our January 2025 - June 2026 Abound stewardship campaign! We currently have 156 pledges totaling \$558,190 towards our goal of 175 pledges totaling \$650,000. Haven't made a pledge yet? You can do so [here](#) or contact Laura in the church office.



### Giving 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](mailto:laura@firstconggreeley.org))!

### Special Gifts

The church is grateful to have received special gifts this month to honor the wonderful people and ministries among us:

- In Memory of Rick Mawson
- In Memory of Wally Aas
- In celebration of the Bell Choir

### Annual Meeting: Mark Your Calendar!

The 155th Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church will be held on **Sunday, May 4 at 11:30am**. Please join us to celebrate the year we're completing, look forward to the year to come, and vote on the budget, church leaders, and more.