



Laura Gurney <laura@firstconggreeley.org>

This Week at First Congregational Church

1 message

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To: Laura Gurney <laura@firstconggreeley.org>

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2101 16th Street, Greeley, CO

970-353-0828

firstconggreeley.org

Worship Weekly at 8am and 10am

Sunday, February 2, 2025

If you're joining online, we'd love to know! Please text a hello and your name to 970-573-6299. You may also text your prayers to the same number. Texts are received by several staff members.



This Week at First Congregational Church

This week, Rev. Ben continues our series, "*Learning to Live Like Jesus: Gospel stories of community*" with the story of Jesus visiting the Pharisee's house for dinner found in Luke 7:36-50 ([read it here](#)). In the story, a woman bathes Jesus' feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair before Jesus shares a parable about forgiveness. This week's story ends in a similar way to last week's story, with Jesus saying "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Join us as we continue our exploration through what we can learn from the life of Jesus and the first disciples about being a radically welcoming and inclusive community - one that often offended the religious sentiments of others of their day. *I wonder where God will speak to you this week?*

Online Worship

Support Our Partners at Lutheran Family Services

This week we had a chance to visit with our partners at Lutheran Family Services regarding the impacts that ongoing federal changes are having on them and those they serve. Funding sources are in flux and long-term impacts remain to be seen. They have shared that staff morale is incredibly low at this time. If you would like to support the LFS staff, they would welcome your encouragement. You may send a note to them in the mail or drop by a small treat for their staff of 22 people.

[815 9th Street](#)

[Greeley, CO 80631](#)

Question of the Week

Each week we offer a question of the week as one of our fellowship hour table options. This week's question of the week is:

What helps you breathe easy?

In addition to the question of the week, we also offer tables for sermon chat, connection for folks raising young people and those who want to support them, and open conversation.

Please join us!

This Week At-A-Glance

Coming Up This Week

New Announcements

- Worship
- Kids' Choirs Rehearsals
- Centering Prayer
- Navajo Taco Fundraiser
- Wreath Ring Return
- Youth Fundraiser for Homelessness Prevention
- Staff Retreat
- Wednesday Night Live Resumes
- Faithwalking Begins
- Choir Rehearsals
- Grand Opening
- Office Closure
- Cookies for Grand Opening
- Youth Fundraiser for Homelessness Prevention
- Guest Preacher Next Week
- Dollars & Donuts

Quick Links

[Give or Pledge Online](#)

[Centering Prayer](#)

[Church Calendar](#)

[Weekly Events](#)

In The Loop



Navajo Taco Fundraiser

Join us for a fundraiser lunch on **Sunday, February 2 at 11:30am** in Chadwick Hall! Experience the rich flavors of traditional Navajo cuisine while supporting a great cause. Our menu features freshly made fry bread topped with seasoned ground beef, beans, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, and your choice of salsa. Vegetarian and vegan options available. Honey butter and powdered sugar will be available if you'd rather have a sweet treat.

This community event will take place in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, perfect for gathering with friends and family. A suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 will not only satisfy your taste buds but also contribute to our fundraising goals. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enjoy a hearty meal and support Sage Inglis and her family.

Donations will be accepted on site (cash or check), and through apps such as Zelle, Venmo, and PayPal. Please contact Sage directly if you would like to contribute before the lunch.



Youth Fundraiser for Homelessness Prevention

Every year Plymouth UCC hosts a homelessness prevention fundraiser run by the youth of that church. As in years past, FCC youth are invited to attend and participate **tonight!** High school students are invited to stay overnight, while middle schoolers are invited for the event with a late evening pick up time. Because of the event there will be no youth group Sunday evening. Please contact Mike with questions: (970) 372-74446



Office Closed for Staff Retreat

The church office will be closed **this Monday and Tuesday** while staff is on our annual staff retreat in Estes. Thank you for providing this time away to allow us to plan for the upcoming year! The staff also extends a special thanks to the donors who generously provided us with the space!



Dollars & Donuts

Please join us on **Sunday, February 23** after either service for a brief update on our financial position after the first half of our fiscal year. You will find updated information on our financial position in the February Bell published February 18. Please bring your questions; Lola Fehr (Treasurer) and Judy Kron (Chair of Trustees) will answer them!



Guest Preacher Next Week

We are excited to welcome Pastor John Smith as our guest preacher **next Sunday**. John is the Founding Pastor and Pastor Emeritus at Crossroads Church in Loveland. Crossroads is firmly committed to LGBTQ+ inclusion and is in the process of joining the United Church of Christ. Pastor John has been joining us regularly for worship for over a year. We are delighted that he has agreed to move from the pew to the pulpit for a Sunday!



Faithwalking: Extraordinary Relationships

Many people desire to be better friends, parents, and partners. They've done all they can independently but would appreciate extra help moving from ordinary relationships to extraordinary ones. If this sounds like you, you're invited to journey through *Developing Capacity for Extraordinary Relationships*, a **10-week course beginning this Wednesday, February 5, during Wednesday Night Live**. You'll learn about, discuss, and practice skills to help your relationships deepen and grow in 2025 in a safe and supportive environment. Light homework will be encouraged to get the most out of the material. All are welcome, but registration is required. Please RSVP to tammi@firstconggreeley.org.



Wednesday Night Live Resumes



Mark your calendars! Wednesday Night Live will resume on **Wednesday, February 5 from 5-7pm!** Dinner will be

from 5:15-6 pm, followed by Adult Education programming and supervised gym time for children from 6-7 pm.

Like to bake? We need you! We're seeking volunteers to help provide cookies for our Grand Opening Celebration on

Saturday, February 8. We are asking volunteers to drop cookies off by **12:45 pm** that day. Please contact Lola Fehr (lolafehr@comcast.net) or sign up on the volunteer wall if you can help!



Grand Opening

We hope you can join us for our Grand Opening on **Saturday, February 8, from 1-3pm!** Thank you for all that you have done to make the renovation of our church's first floor possible. This beautiful new sacred and welcoming space would have remained a dream had it not been for the extraordinary generosity of so many church members. We are thrilled to hear of the joy and warmth people from both our church and wider community feel being in our newly renovated spaces.

The schedule of events for the day is as follows:

- 1-1:30pm - Refreshments & Exploration of the Space
- 1:30-2pm - Ribbon Cutting, Blessing, Recognition & Proclamation
- 2-3pm - Music, Self-Guided Tours, Featured Spaces

This even is open to the public - please invite someone who might be curious to see what's been happening!



Trivia: The Musical!

The Labyrinth Theatre is thrilled to invite you to our upcoming event! Join us in Chadwick on **Saturday, February 15 at 7pm** for a night filled with fun and surprises at *Trivia: The Musical!* This one-of-a-kind trivia night invites contestants - ages 16 and up - to enjoy a lively evening where answers

aren't just spoken—they're performed live by our talented cast.

Form a team of up to 7 and come ready to laugh, think, and compete for incredible prizes. Tickets are \$20/person and can be purchased online using the link below or at the door. All proceeds from this event will support our upcoming production. We can't tell you what it is, but it rhymes with Bodsmell.

For all additional questions, please email the Labyrinth at thelabyrinth.theatre@gmail.com.

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)



A Place at The Table

We are excited to announce the return of A Place at the Table this February.

In the past, this program paired a group of people/families together for a 3 month period in which you would gather for dinner (or another family friendly activity) once a month, if possible. Get togethers could be held at the homes of people involved in the group or at a chosen location, like the church or a restaurant. A number of friendships have been born through this program!

For questions or to sign up, please contact Heather Schulte (970-396-4609 or schulte101@ymail.com).



In Loving Memory

Please hold the loved ones of the following in your prayers as they celebrate and remember a life well lived:

Frank Ottesen

November 25, 1930 - December 28, 2024

A celebration of Frank's life will be announced at a later date, to be held in the summer of 2025.

Rev. Richard "Rick" Irl Mawson II

September 20, 1935 - December 16, 2024

Services are scheduled for Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 2pm in the sanctuary. A livestream will be available.



Children & Youth

Children: This week, we hear the story of Jesus calling the disciples. 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. There will be no youth group this evening.



Wreath Ring & Accessories Return

We hope the wreath you made during Advent Workshop made your life a little brighter this holiday season. In order to make the most of our resources, please return your wreath ring *and* any re-usable accessories to the narthex this month so we can use them next year. Thank you!



Centering Prayer

A time of centering prayer is available in **the Living Water Soul Care office** (across from Rev. Tamara's office) on **Sundays from 9:30-9:45am, on Mondays from noon-12:30pm in the chapel, and Tuesday-Friday from noon-12:30pm on Zoom**. Centering prayer is a form of Christian meditation that seeks to connect us with God's presence through a practice of inner silence and receptivity.