



The Church Bell

Volume 80, Issue 6

Next Issue: August 1, 2025

Submission Deadline for Next Issue: July 25, 2025

Submit articles using the announcement request form at
firstconggreeley.org/announcements

A Movement of Many Voices

Join us this summer as we celebrate Pentecost with our early summer series, *A Movement of Many Voices*. We're exploring our faith through many different voices and communities:

- June 22: Borderlands Theology - The God of Migrants Moves With Us
- June 29: Queerly Beloved - An Exploration of a God of Margins and Liminal Spaces
- July 6: Indigenous Wisdom - Shaped by Story
- July 13: Theology of the More-than-Human World



Tending Our Soil

Rooted in God's Love

Fiscal Year? Pledge Year? I'm Confused.

If you're trying to figure out how our pledge and fiscal years line up, you're not alone! We've received a number of questions in the past few weeks about how it's all working.

The background: Last summer, we adjusted our fiscal year to run from July - June, which better aligns with our program year. But our pledge year was still running January - December, which made things... complicated. Last fall, we decided to run a one-time 18-month pledge campaign that began in January 2025 and ended in June 2026.

Right now: We're almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way through our 18-month pledge year. If you prepaid your pledge already, we're applying the balance through June 2026. If you're paying monthly, we're applying month by month.

If you're planning giving from a retirement account: We understand that some folks will need to make disbursements from their retirement accounts in December. If you're planning to do so, please let us know if you'd like it applied all to the 2025 fiscal year, all to the 2026 fiscal year, or half to each.

Please reach out to Laura with any questions (finance@firstconggreeley.org or 970-616-5352).

Baptism: Kooper Gregory and Charlie Pool



On Sunday, June 1, we were delighted to celebrate the ritual of baptism for two of our young children!

Kooper Gregory and Charlie Pool were baptised with their family and the children of FCC surrounding them.

Welcome to the family of God, Kooper and Charlie!



Did you know...

We can save nearly \$500 a year, just by purchasing whole bean coffee, instead of ground coffee. There's just one problem... we don't have an efficient way to grind bulk whole beans! Thanks to choir member Sarah Lopez, who is a barista at [Spotlight Cafe & Creamery](#) downtown, we are able to purchase bulk whole beans and drop them off at Spotlight to be ground. Thanks to Sarah and Spotlight for bean-ing part of our Sunday grind!

Accessing the Online Directory

On Sunday, June 22, you will receive an email from us that will invite you to use a link to create an account in Breeze and provide detailed instructions to do so. Creating an account will not only allow you to access our online directory, but also give you access to your pledge and giving records from 2025 on, update your information on file in the church, and change how you wish to receive giving statements. If you don't see an email from laura@firstconggreeley.org that day, please check your junk folder. If you still don't see it, please reach out to Laura and request access!

Buying Books? Support the Church!

If you're book shopping, check out bookshop.org/fccgreeley! The Bookshop affiliate program allows you to purchase online from a local bookstore *and* have 10% of the proceeds donated to the church, supporting a small local business and the church at the same time! While you're there, you can also check out our recommended reading lists. Watch the Bell each month for our book spotlight!

What's That By the Bell Tower?

You may have noticed that there has been some recent construction by the Bell Tower. In the coming weeks it will become a natural play area for kids. We are thrilled that this final piece of our outdoor revitalization is underway!



Slow Summer in Community

Nourished on Our Spiritual Journeys

Thanks for Supporting the Youth Pilgrimage

Thank you to all who helped to donate sponsorships for the spiritual pilgrimage that our youth are on right now. With your support, we raised over \$1,900 which covered the cost of all fuel, excursions, and several days of meals for the group! If you contributed, your postcards are on their way and should arrive very soon.



Summer Movie Series

Pack your dinner and join us this summer for our summer movie series! Each all-ages event will begin at 6pm in Chadwick Hall. We'll provide popsicles and water and we invite you to bring the rest (comfy chairs, blankets, libations, and PJs welcome)!

- Wednesday, July 16: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (run time: 1 hour, 29 minutes)
- Wednesday, August 6: *Encanto* (run time: 1 hour, 42 minutes)

Embracing a Slow Summer

This summer, join the Family Faith Formation team in embracing a Slow Summer. Grab the booklet of ideas from the narthex or Chadwick and pick some "Slow Summer" things to do. This is for the young and anyone who has an ounce of wonder and play left in them. Join us - and don't forget to grab a Flat Jesus to bring on your adventures! (Joining us from afar? [Here's the digital copy](#) of Slow Summer!)



Rev. Ben on Sabbatical

Rev. Ben will be on sabbatical until July 14. While he is away, Ben will not be available to be reached. He expresses his deep gratitude to the congregation for the gift of this time of rest and renewal.

Fellowship of the Grape

FOG events are open to all and are an opportunity to gather and enjoy community with others from FCC. You're invited to bring a beverage and appetizer of your choice to share. Come when you can and leave when you must; no RSVP needed. We hope you can join us! Our next FOG events are:

- Saturday, June 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the home of Rok & Judy Kron (1929 Homestead Rd, Greeley)
- Saturday, July 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the home of Jim & Yvonne Zack (3539 Pinewood Ct, Johnstown)
- Friday, July 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the home of Lori McCarty (100 S Maple Ave #5, Eaton)

Farewells

This summer we're sending our blessings to a number of families in the FCC community who are moving! Please include a prayer for our friends as they settle into their new homes.

- Jody & Mike Heatherly have found their dream home in Fort Collins.
- Dick & Jean Hoffman have moved to senior living in Fort Collins and will continue to join us online. They've already connected with Jody & Mike and see each other regularly!
- Russ Doty & Jody Lininger are headed to New Jersey to be closer to Jody's family.
- Lindsay, Philip, Gabriel & Rebecca Fulcher are moving to North Carolina for Lindsay to be able to begin a new job at Appalachian State University. North Carolina is home, so they're headed back towards family!
- Vicky & Desirae Salomon-Kapuras & Benji Arce are headed to Hawaii (the big island) to be near Desirae's family and pursue a freedom they've been working towards for a long time! Desirae has been in Hawaii the last semester already, so they're anxious to all be back together.



A New Talent for Rudi Herrig!

Along with double majoring in English and Statistics and getting a certificate in Geographic Information Systems at CU Boulder, Rudi has taken up crocheting. One of his recent creations is a Seraphim. This angelic creature described in the Bible doesn't make it onto many hallmark cards - but it makes for great home decor!



Congratulations, Liz!

This month church member Liz Mock-Murphy received the Lumies Award from the Gates Family Foundation for her continued commitment to climate literacy.

Congratulations, Liz! Thank you for your commitment to our community and our planet.

In Loving Memory

Please hold the following in your prayers as they celebrate the life of their loved ones:

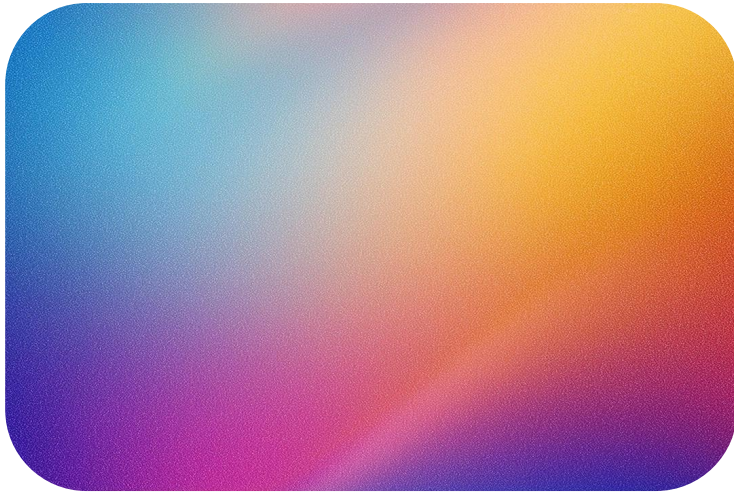
Bob Mitchell

March 11, 1923 - April 5, 2025

Services will be Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the Allnutt-Macy Chapel (6521 W 20th St, Greeley, CO 80634). Read about Bob's life and legacy [here](#).

Unfolding God's Realm

Growing as an Inclusive Presence in Northern Colorado & Beyond



FCC Featured in NOCO Style

Rev. Tamara and Rev. Ben are featured in an article for Pride month called "Love Without Limits" found in the June edition of NOCO Style!



Truths about Immigration: The Power of an Organized Faith Voice

Rev. Ben and Rev. Tamara signed onto an initiative from faith leaders all over Colorado to publicly release the "Faith Leader Statement: Truths About Immigration." Read the press release and find the full statement [here](#).

Women2Women Luncheon

In 2009, a few organizations in Greeley were serving women's financial needs but none provided immediate assistance. That same year, Women2Women Founder and FCC member, Kay Broderius shared her idea of an organization that provided financial assistance to women in need with nine other Weld County women. Within the first month they had collectively raised \$11,000 and the organization was up and running. Thirteen years and 1.5 million dollars later, the organization has acted as a hand up for thousands of women in Weld County offering financial assistance in times of emergency.

It is no surprise that the luncheon was attended by many FCC women. But there were also two FCC people who were honored at the event. Kristi Helzer was celebrated with "The Kay Broderius Hand-Up Award" and a wonderful poem written by member Nancy O'Brian, and Rev. Ben with the "Boots on the Ground" award. It was a meaningful celebration and reminder that, no matter how small or inconsequential we may feel, each of us is capable of contributing in ways that create meaningful change in the lives of others.



Anthem Commissioned for 150th Anniversary sung at Dallas Church

Former member Roger Hohnstein contacted us to let us know that his current church, Northway Christian Church was singing "Deep Blessings of Earth Be with Us." This anthem was commissioned for our 150th Anniversary in 2020! A recording of Northway choir singing this piece can be found [here](#).



Volunteer at the Weld Food Bank

FCC volunteers work a shift at the Weld Food Bank on the second Thursday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. In June, FCC showed up strong and packed 209 senior food boxes in just two hours!

Our next shift is Thursday, July 10. Contact Bob Lowenbach (irlconsulting@outlook.com) with questions or to get signed up. We hope you'll join us!

Global Refugee Day

You are invited to celebrate Global Refugee Day, Honoring Immigrants & Refugees at the Immigrant and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado on Wednesday, June 25th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Araceli Calderon (acalderon.sunrise@nocooha.org).

1946 Film Screening with PFLAG

PFLAG invites you to a special film screening on June 25th at 7 p.m. in Chadwick Hall. "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture" is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946. It chronicles the discovery of archives at Yale University which casts significant doubt on any biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. There will be a discussion after the movie. Contact Jan Scales, (events@pflaggreeley.com).

Greeley Family House Needs Bath Towels

Do you have any gently used bath towels that are looking for a new home? Greeley Family House would love to have them! Greeley Family House provides temporary housing to families currently experiencing homelessness in our community. Due to a recent flood in their lower level, their towel supply is running a bit low. You may bring new or gently used bath towels and place them in the bin in the narthex through June 29.