



THE COMMUNICATOR

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2023



Jump In!

by Jane Ridings, Council Secretary
janeridings@hotmail.com

Every summer, for my whole life to date, I have spent a week or two at the cabin my grandfather built on a lake in eastern Maine. Until we installed plumbing two years ago, a dip in the lake was a near-daily hygiene requirement, rain or shine. There, where the lake water can often be described as “refreshing,” my brain and body wrestled with this dilemma: do I wade in slowly or take the plunge?

What about at church? Whether newly joining, re-joining or faithfully maintaining, you probably know that being part of a church can be so much more than attending Sunday worship. Anything might have brought you through our doors that first time, but the people who stay and thrive have laid down roots. They seek belonging and purpose, and understand they need to look beyond the pews to deepen their experience and their connection with others, with our church’s mission and with God.

It is that way with me. My relationship to FCUCC is strong because of the synergies created by deeply engaging (POPs, All-Church CampOut!, youth group volunteer, Council officer, fundraiser, handbell ringer), in addition to putting my butt in the pew and my coin in the plate. My best friends are those I’ve cultivated at church and I come on Sunday to see them as much as to enjoy the sermons and beautiful music. I feel loved and appreciated. I know that I need my church, and also that my church needs me.

Offering you a refreshing splash!

FCUCC’s leadership (Leadership Cultivation Committee, Church Council, and Rev. Lee Ann) invites you to get energized by this (likely incomplete) list of groups, teams, committees and other ways to engage with our church community. Sometimes the water might feel a little chilly, and it might take courage, but we urge you to jump in.

It’s a new program year, brimming with excitement, energy and new beginnings. Try something new. It’s a great time for an invigorating plunge! Take a look at the following pages!



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Service – Administrative Support

Membership Clerk

Lois Benson loisbenson412@gmail.com
Responsible for tracking and updating members status and updating and maintaining membership roles

Usher Team

Leader: Judy Cunningham & Tom Healy
jgcunningham3734@gmail.com / thealy719@gmail.com

Provide Ushers for worship services and other church events, provide training for Ushers to deliver on their responsibilities for every service

Maintenance Team

Leader: Sid Shelton dsidshelton@gmail.com
Completes needed repairs and renovation to Church facilities and engages consultants and contractors when required for more complex repairs

Grounds Team

Leader: Steve Getty stephen.getty@coloradocollege.edu
Provides maintenance of the outdoor Church environment

Kitchen Witches Team

Leader: A leader is needed!
Maintenance of the Kitchen, ensuring cleaning & sanitizing protocols are followed. There is a real need to re-start this team. If interested in being a member, or the leader, contact Sid Shelton.

Risk Reduction & Response Team

Leader: John Stefoniak jstefoniak@earthlink.com
Provides an annual review and updating of policies related to any risk exposure, and conduct risk reduction and response training

Safety Team

Leader: Tom Healy thealy719@gmail.com
Implements and refines policies regarding safety protocols related to Church buildings and events and advises Council on needed actions

A/V Team

Leader: Carolyn Dickerson dickersondesign@gmail.com
Members operate the AV sound board to provide AV support during worship services and other church events, ensures systems are maintained

A/V Upgrade Team

Leader: Paul Schwotzer pschwotzer@mac.com
Evaluate and recommend needed upgrades to A/V and live stream capabilities, engage outside consultants to develop final contracts

Live Streaming Team

Leader: Rachel Rumble rachel@fcucc.org
Members operate the live streaming computer during worship services and other church events, ensures systems are maintained and updated

Historical Team

Leader: Karol Finch & Chris Steenbergen
kbfin@comcast.net / chris.steenbergen@yahoo.com
Organizes the annual Historical Sunday, records noteworthy church events that occur each year and provides support to the Church Historian

Financial Advisory Committee

Charles Kiskiras chaskiskiras@icloud.com
Creates the Church investment and gifts policies and advises Council on investments

Advancement Team

Leader: Lisa Mason liasamason@hotmail.com
Conduct the annual fundraising appeal and seek additional paths of church funding

Clergy Congregation Relations Committee

Leader: Marsha Garrett colorosemlg@gmail.com

Provides a confidential sounding board to the called pastor

COVID-19 Response Team

Leader: Paul McNeil pdmcneill@att.net
Monitors the level of COVID-19 levels locally and nationally and provides recommendations to Council regarding mediation efforts

Personal Enrichment and Support

Friends of Emerson and Thoreau

Leader: Charlie Coon charlescoon@gmail.com
Meets twice each month to read aloud and reflect. No prior reading or knowledge of Emerson or Thoreau required, just be prepared to have fun

Book Discussion Group

Leader: Cynthia Franklin cynthfran@comcast.net
The group members select a book from a variety of genres and then meet to discuss the book

Entering the Scriptures

Leader: Kathy Beck beckrk@aol.com
A lectionary-based lively and welcoming weekly Bible study and discussion group

Soul Feast

Leader: Aimee Martz-Dick aimeemdlpc@gmail.com
Small group meets weekly to select, read, contemplate, and discuss a book

FCUCC Cooking School

Leader: Christine Hall christine_c_hall@msn.com
Cooks from FCUCC and other venues are invited to share their recipes and cooking lore to inspire and encourage healthy meals. Meets monthly Lent to Oct.

Caregiver Support Group

Leader: Cynthia Franklin cynthfran@comcast.net
Group catering to the needs of on-going caregivers

Grief Education & Support

Leader: Kathy Sparnins kathy@sparnins.com
Focuses on offering services to both the congregation and the wider community regarding lifelong issues of grief and loss

Group for Understanding

Leader: Charlie Coon charlescoon@gmail.com
A monthly group meeting to discuss what is common & different among religions, now focuses on aspects of religion, spirituality, and non-duality

Solace Seekers

Leader: Kathy Kreps kbkreps@msn.com
Small group meeting weekly, supporting widows and widowers

Community Outreach

Creation Justice Team

Leader: Jan Erickson jan@janska.com
Exploring the possibilities when we imagine and implement a responsible way forward to living sustainably.

Just Peace Team

Leader: Sky Foerster skyfoerster@gmail.com
Striving to be a community where respect & justice are foundational

Mission Giving & Outreach Committee

Leader: Pauli Hubbard paulijhubbard49@gmail.com
Making funding decisions for how to share FCC funds to engage with outside organizations based on a congregational survey

Immigrant Advocacy Team

Connie Kreider & Barb Smith - 719-213-7903 / 719-375-4004
Supports the work of the Accompaniment & Sanctuary Coalition of COS whose mission is to support immigrants facing obstacles in everyday life

Service to the Congregation - Education**Children's Ministry Team**

Leader: Ellen Miller ellenranzmiller@yahoo.com

Meets monthly to provide support and generate ideas for children's ministry to the Director of Children's Ministry

Kids Community Worship Assistant

Leader: Sarah Lund sarah@fcucc.org

Occasionally assist the Director of Children's Ministry (1-2 times per year) with Kids' Community Worship during the worship service

Faith Formation Teacher

Leader: Sarah Lund sarah@fcucc.org

Teach fifth grade children with another adult during Faith Formation Hour for 3-6 weeks at a time during the program year. Lessons are simple yet engaging, with all the supplies prepared ahead of time for you.

Youth Ministry Team

Leader: Josh Rumble josh@fcucc.org

Supports the youth ministry by developing a strategy for the faith formation and social engagement for middle and high school students

The Forum Planning Team

Leader: Rob Lund rob.f.lund@gmail.com

Organize weekly presentations that provide for the exchange of diverse ideas selected for engaging with Christian faith creatively and critically

JWW Lectureship Planning Team

Leader: Lynne Stefoniak stefolc@comcast.net

Orchestrates an annual lecture/workshop event featuring a speaker of substantive background or a credible emerging voice

Service to the Congregation - Music & Arts Participation**Chancel Choir**

Leader: David Acton david@fcucc.org

SATB choir for ages 16+, all skill levels welcome. Rehearses weekly on Thursday evenings

Bells of St. Vrain

Leader: David Acton david@fcucc.org

Handbell ensemble accepting a variety of skill levels. Rehearses weekly on Tuesday evenings

Flute Choir

Leader: Phyllis White phyllisvwhite@gmail.com

Vibrant group of flautists with varying ages and skill levels. Rehearses weekly on Wednesday evenings

Madrigal Dinner Participant

The Madrigal takes place on biennial basis, next presentation is in 2024. Leadership and volunteers are pending until next year.

Service to the Congregation - Music & Arts Planning**Music and Arts Team**

Leader: Gigi Holman gigigal2101@gmail.com

Provides support and ideas to Director of Music to uplift and enhance the Music and Arts Ministry

Chancel Stewards

Leader: Jill Cameron & Connie Raub

ricojill@comcast.net / ceraub@gmail.com

Decorate the Chancel and Sanctuary for each Sunday worship service and for special event / seasons during the year

Visual Arts Curator Team

Leader: Christine Hall & Larry Patzer

christine_c_hall@msn.com / larry@larrypatzer.com

Arrange for a new display of artistic and creative work created by FCUCC members to be displayed in the Atrium each month

Madrigal Dinner Planning

The Madrigal takes place on biennial basis, next presentation is in 2024. Leadership and volunteers are pending until next year.

Service to the Congregation - Congregational Care**U-Care Casseroles**

Leader: Melissa McCormick mccormick_melissa@hotmail.com

Group convenes as needed to prepare casseroles for meal support to those undergoing any kind of challenge

Transportation Team

Leader: Tom Healy thealy719@gmail.com

Volunteers provide rides to and from weekly Sunday services and other church events for people with short or long-term transportation needs

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Leader: Jane Gazel jane.gazal@yahoo.com

Knitters and Crocheters united in prayer and production of prayer shawls

Visitation Team

Leader: Elizabeth Vincent joatforever69@gmail.com

Members offer comfort, companionship, and assistance through in-person visits, correspondence and phone calls as needed

Intercessory Prayer

Leader: Agnes Kehoe aggylee1128@gmail.com

A group of prayer partners dedicated to praying for others in their time of need - prayers are confidential within the group

Stephen Ministry

Leader: Judy Kort ajkort@msn.com

Congregation members trained as Stephen Ministers provide regular one-on-one companionship and support during emotionally challenging times

Fellowship / Social Engagement**POPs**

Leader: Jane Ridings janeridings@hotmail.com

PARENTS OUT PARTYING SOMEWHERE: Parents of all ages/stages gather every other month for shared dinner in homes

9 to Dine

Leader: Lynne Stefoniak stefolc@comcast.net

Monthly opportunities to share a meal with nine fellow congregants

Trail Trekkers

Leader: Karen & Bob Jones sailorbob30@gmail.com

Monthly opportunities to join other congregants on both urban and mountain hikes

Service – Fellowship Planning

5th Sunday Fellowship Team

Leader: Sue Predinger sepdiny@gmail.com

Provides food and drink in the Founders' Room for Fellowship opportunities on months with five Sundays

Silver Threads Planning Team

Leader: Connie Raub & Patti White

ceraub@gmail.com / pattigirlwhite@gmail.com

Organizes and presents an annual luncheon gathering of congregants aged 75 and older for food, fun, and fellowship

All Church CampOut! Team

Leader: A leader is needed! Contact the office if interested.

Organizes the annual weekend event at La Foret

Thanksgiving Lunch Team

Leader: A leader is needed! Contact the office if interested.

Organizes the annual Thanksgiving Lunch held at church.

Service – Positions Elected by Congregation

Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC)

Leader: Kisti Felps kistib@gmail.com

Cultivates future leaders for FCC and annually prepares a slate of nominees for open positions on the Church Council and the LCC. Members are elected by the Congregation and serve a three-year term.

Church Council

Leader: Rich Law lawrt55@gmail.com

Provides leadership and strategic direction to support the FCC staff, as well as safeguard the assets of FCC and ensure that FCC has adequate resources to carry out its mission. Council members serve a three-year term with some of the positions being elected each year.

Service – Positions Appointed by the Church Council

Human Resources Committee

Eric Ridings michalum@hotmail.com

Advises the Council and Staff regarding staff compensation and Human Resources best practices

School Boards: Why They Matter

by **Josh Rumble**,
Director of Youth Ministry
& Pastoral Care
josh@fcucc.org



School boards and their elections have gained national prominence in the last few years. For a long time, the responsibilities of the school board was anything but news-worthy. Recently, though, they have been lightning rods for political controversy, making front page headlines, with school board meetings being the staging ground for protests. National political debates have trickled their way down to the extremely local, and formerly non-partisan, school boards.

This is a moment and issue that we cannot ignore. The school board is supposed to represent the voice of the community concerning public education, but it has instead become a weapon of partisan politics. The success and welfare of students and educators alike are under threat because of this. This is happening all across the country, including right here in Colorado Springs.

Our community, the whole community, benefits from having a functioning and equitable school board. Even if you are not involved in public education, or your children have long since graduated, I believe you should still be concerned about what is happening in our school boards. We will be having an ongoing conversation about the issues facing our local school boards.

In fact, there is an upcoming forum for school board candidates happening on October 12. There will be ways for you to get involved in supporting this forum and engaging in this critical issue.

The welfare of our students should be a priority, and this is one way we can make it a priority.



The Forum this Fall

by Rob Lund, Chair of The Forum
rob.f.lund@gmail.com



I'm so excited to be starting a new Forum season on September 10! Our team has expanded also, adding **Wendy Demandante**, an avid participant of The Forum.



The Forum

We have a great lineup of speakers and invite you to join us from 11 a.m. to noon on most Sundays in the Sanctuary.

As always, please bring any suggestions or questions to **Rob Lund, Deb Buenting, or Wendy**. See you soon!



SEPTEMBER 10: COLORADO SPRINGS MAYOR, YEMI MOBOLADE

We are thrilled to announce A Conversation with Your Mayor! Councilwoman and FCUCC Member, **Nancy Henjum** will converse with Mr. Mayor, **Yemi Mobolade**.



SEPTEMBER 24: JUST PEACE CHAIR, SKY FOERSTER

An Update on the Russian - Ukraine War given by **Sky Foerster**



OCTOBER 1: MG&O CHAIR, PAULI HUBBARD

A refresher on FCUCC's Mission Giving & Outreach Committee and Status, given by **Pauli Hubbard**.



OCTOBER 22: LIZ KOCHIS

A presentation on Musical Therapy



OCTOBER 29: DR. TRAJN BOUGHAN

The architecture of FCC: An Aesthetic Appreciation and Regional Perspective



NOVEMBER 5: LISA NOVEMBER

A presentation on Thich Nhat Hanh and Plum Village



DECEMBER 3: DAN STUART

The AdAmAn: Its History, Legacy, and Future



DECEMBER 10: NINET SINAI

Epidemics: What Happens During an Outbreak and the Roles of WHO and CDC / NIH



Capital Project: New Audio/Visual Desk & System

by **Rachel Rumble**, Director of Finance & Technology
rachel@fcucc.org



Curious about the work at the back of the Sanctuary? If you've attended a recent service, I'm sure you've noticed some changes. However, by the time you are reading this, we will truly be in the thick of the installation process for our new A/V system. We are first working on the utility aspect of the installation - getting all the equipment online and usable - but it will still take time over the coming weeks and months to get the whole project refined and finished. It is a really big change and a really big project so thank you in advance for your patience as all the pieces of this process come together!

Why upgrade? We want the technology to blend seamlessly into the worship experience. It should enhance not detract from worship, and our old system has been clunky and obvious. We've continuously cobbled together new elements as we've added the live stream, more power point presentations, and teleprompting over the past few years. Technology also ages very quickly, and we've simply run up against all the limits of our old A/V system.

WHAT IS BEING UPGRADED?

1. **THE DESK.** FCUCC member, **Larry Patzer**, is building us a new desk that will house all the equipment plus provide workspace for up to three volunteers. It is a much larger piece of furniture than we are used to seeing at the back of the Sanctuary. In order to make space for it, we will be removing one additional pew.
2. **THE CAMERAS.** Instead of wobbly, unsightly cameras impeding two thirds of our wheelchair accessible spaces, we will have three new cameras mounted up on the walls of the Sanctuary, out of sight. The cameras will also give a crisp, clear picture for the viewers at home.
3. **THE SOUND SYSTEM.** Our audio capabilities are expanding and upgrading to current technology. We want to ensure that our equipment can adequately accommodate all of our biggest events at FCUCC like Music Presentation, Folk, and Jazz Sundays.
4. **THE PROJECTOR.** Long story short – our old projector is dying. It's fuzzy and dim. Occasionally it's green. It's outdated. And it's no longer serviceable. We are upgrading to a laser projector which will better cut through the ambient light streaming in the stained glass windows.
5. **FOUNDERS' ROOM TELEVISION.** Our goal is to add the live stream view to the Founders' Room so that anyone viewing from up there can also see the Chancel. It will also be used during music rehearsals, memorials, and for other technical needs.
6. **THE NURSERY.** We are going to add an audio feed of the service to the Nursery. This will add a layer of security in communication from one side of the building to the other so that the children's area can receive automatic notification of anything, including emergencies, that may occur. It has the added benefit of allowing the nursery workers to listen in on the worship service as they're able.

Why now? **Kris Anderson**, who was a member of First Congregational Church for fifty years, joining in May 1962 at the age of thirteen, left a bequest to the church. She passed away in May 2022. Her generosity has made it possible to do this capital project without needing to pull from the church reserves nor run a capital campaign to raise the needed funds. Kris joined The Seven Pillars Fellowship in 2010. We are so grateful to honor her legacy and continue to commit to our mission and ministry as a church through this project.

The Seven Pillars Fellowship, named for the seven pillars holding up our Front Portico, welcomes all church members and friends who name First Congregational as a beneficiary of their will or estate plan. Beyond this criteria, there are no other requirements to joining The Seven Pillars Fellowship. If you're curious about Seven Pillars or how to become a member, reach out to **Rachel Rumble** (rachel@fcucc.org).

Lastly, I want to offer a huge thank you to the team that has been working on this project for over a year. We are led by the very capable and knowledgeable, **Paul Schwotzer**. Other members include **Sid Shelton**, **Carolyn Dickerson**, **Dave Morgan**, the church Moderator – **Bill Kemp** and then **Rich Law**, and **Rev. Lee Ann Bryce**. There have been other several people who have weighed in, advised, and done work as well – thank you to all of you.



Church Financial Audit for Calendar Year 2022

by **Charles Kiskiras**, Church Council Treasurer
chaskiskiras@icloud.com

On July 20, the Church audit results for 2022 were presented by Erickson, Brown & Kloster, LLC (EBK) to the Church Council and the Financial Advisory Committee.

Council approved EBK as the Church Financial Auditor through 2026 after a review of bids from four audit companies. Audits are important to ensure that the Church finances are in order according to generally accepted account principles (GAAP) and can suggest ways to improve our accounting methods and financial security.

The audit company worked with our accounting firm (Crystal Clear Solutions, LLC) and **Rachel Rumple** to review financial statements and have inquiries answered. We prepared a Management Representation Letter for them describing our financial structures, asset ownership, and declaring there is no pending or threatened litigation against the Church.

I am happy to report that there were no significant findings for this Review Audit and that EBK is not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the Church Financial statements for 2022. There will be another Review Audit for 2023 followed by a Full Audit in 2024, then Review Audits for 2025 and 2026.



Seven Pillars

by **Polly Strovink**, Financial Advisory Team
pstrovink@gmail.com

Many years ago, one of my first events as the newly-minted Church Council Treasurer was to welcome people to a Seven Pillars Society dinner. While I knew most of the people at the dinner, that was my first introduction to the group who wanted to be part of our church's future even after they had passed away. As various people talked about their reasons to remember FCUC in their estate plans, they told of the difference the church had made in their lives. The stories were individual, but everyone wanted to help pass along those experiences. They all gave in the offering plate, and they saw their estate plans as a chance to keep giving.

I was inspired by those stories and by the quiet love they all shared for our church. The next year, I wasn't just welcoming others. I was welcoming fellow Seven Pillars members. I wanted to be part of that commitment to the mission and ministry of First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs. I didn't even have to create a new will; I just handwrote an attachment. It was exciting to think that my small gift could combine with all the others, larger or not, to create an endowment that would fund programs I couldn't even imagine.

I owe a deep gratitude to all those who showed me the way and have joined since. You continue to inspire me. On behalf of the entire church, thank you.

The church gratefully receives planned gifts of many types and sizes and uses them as our donors direct. There is no minimum gift amount to become a member of the Seven Pillars Fellowship.





Jubilate Deo: Kicking off a Sesquicentennial Celebration!

by **David Acton**, Director of Music Ministry
david@fcucc.org

The Latin phrase *Jubilate Deo* is often translated as “O be joyful unto the Lord” and is based on the text of Psalm 100: “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve God with gladness; come into God’s presence with singing.” As we enter into our church’s 150th Anniversary in 2024, the idea of joyfully lifting our voices and our hearts in celebration will guide the direction of the Music Ministry. We will look to

Psalm 100 and, naturally, Psalm 150 to inspire us as we do what we love to do: joyfully enhance worship with hymns songs songs, pipes & strings, bells & flutes, dancing & art, drumming & strumming, and much more. It’s going to be a great year, and you could be a part of it by joining one of our ensembles at First Congregational Church. Below are many of the ways in which you can be involved in the FCUCC Music Ministry.



Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir begins rehearsals for the Fall on Thursday, September 7, 2023. We rehearse every Thursday night from 7-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir welcomes anyone of any musical ability, and we would love to have you join us! To find out more about Chancel Choir and other choral opportunities this year, like Multi-Gen Choir, Men's & Women's Ensembles, etc., please contact David.

The Bells of St. Vrain

The Bells of St. Vrain has openings for volunteers with music reading experience and a strong sense of rhythm. The Bells of St. Vrain rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. and ring monthly in worship. Please contact David if you are interested in learning more.



Flute Choir

The First Congregational Flute Choir, under the direction of **Phyllis White**, is open to flute players of varying levels. Contact Phyllis, if you’d like to learn more (phyllisvwhite@gmail.com).

M.A.S.S. - Music and Arts Support Squad

This group is our “on-call” group to assist the Music and Arts Team behind-the-scenes with receptions, set-ups, and anything else we can think of. No musical ability required, simply the desire to support the Music and Arts Ministry at First Congregational Church. Contact David if you are interested.

That's Not All

Love music, but not sure how to be involved at FCUCC? Not sure if you’ll fit in the choir or ring in tune? Think you’re too young? Too old? Don’t want to sing, but play an instrument instead? Contact David, because there is a place for you!

Peace and love to all!





BE-coming...

A new ADULT offering for ALL ages on Sunday mornings – hey, we invite YOU to “Be-come” with us, to build together ... over FCC’s program year.

WHAT IS THIS?

This is a casual, multi-generational, multi-sensory, group bonding, ALL in, coffee-minded, community-building, spirit-minded opportunity that may entail some meditation, humor, music, poetry and most of all, YOUR VOICE.

WHEN IS THIS?

It will begin on September 17, alongside the various Faith Formation Hour offerings for children and youth, and The Forum. That means, we will meet after the 10 a.m. worship service, in the Gregg Library... with coffee!

WHO IS GUIDING THIS?

Over the fall, a squad of facilitators, including **Del Hokanson, Nancy Law, John Felps, and Lisa November**, will guide sessions, in the hope that as we “BE-Come” more in tune with the desires of the participants, more participants may want to engage as the visioning team.

WHAT DOES THE FALL SESSION LOOK LIKE?

September 17 and 24:

We will focus on gathering together, hold some introductory rituals, have the opportunity to share visions, icebreakers, and connectors, and of course COFFEE! Be sure to talk it up with your “mates” so that we can include more and “BE-come” an energized and diverse group.

October 1- November 12:

BECOMING WISE: An Inquiry Into the MYSTERY and ART of LIVING by Krista Tippett will provide us with a start-up series of conversations. Books will be available to purchase from the Church Office, but not necessary as the discussion guides make access to the information on each chapter easy to share each week. (Many may not have time to read during the week, and “BE-coming” is also an invitation to take a breath and just BE.)

November 19, 26: Thanksgiving break

December 3, 10, 17, 24: Our Advent program will be based on the salt project's E.E. Cummings and The Joyful Poetry of Advent

In honoring the purpose of “BE-coming” we will see how themes and ideas evolve over the year, in response to what EACH OF YOU BRING as we “BE-come” together.



Below are a few examples of Krista Tippett's guidance for us, based on five themes: Words, Flesh, Love, Faith, and Hope.

- The point is we need to have “conversations across time and generations, across disciplines and denominations...a cartography of wisdom about our emerging world.”
- This is an opportunity “for people who want to take up the great questions of our time with imagination and courage, to nurture new realities in the spaces we inhabit, and to do so expectantly and with JOY.”
- “Our spiritual lives are where we reckon head on with the mysteries of ourselves, and the mystery of each other.”
- “Our questions are intimate and civilizational all at once – definitions of when life begins and when death happens; the meaning of marriage and family and identity; of our relationship to the natural world; of our relationship to technology and our relationship through technology.”

Creation Justice Discernment is Underway

by Jan Erikson, Chair of Creation Justice

jan@janska.com

As our earth faces unprecedented change, our church is exploring what possibilities will emerge when we come together as a congregation to imagine and implement a responsible way forward to living sustainably and reverently.



On May 7, our church made a commitment to begin the discernment process to determine whether to become a Creation Justice Church as defined by the UCC. Although the steps laid out by the UCC inform our work as we move through the year, each congregation is encouraged to find their unique calling. We are operating from the core belief in building community and getting to know one another while we learn about the many facets of how we can contribute to creation justice is key.

To lay the foundation for building a vital community a survey was sent out inviting members to share and rank interest in various environmental/creation justice issues. From more than 160 survey responses individuals shared questions, heart-felt concerns as well as several offering suggestions, ideas and resources. Based on what we learned, the Creation Justice Leadership Team offered several activities during the summer:

- a tour to the Denver Botanic Gardens.
- a visit to **Barb and Mike McAdams'** organic vegetable and flower gardens.
- a visit to **Jan Erikson** and **Jon Thomas'** permaculture gardens and a first-hand look at their solar energy, heat pumps for water, cooling and heating as well as how they use rainwater for irrigation.
- a visit to Food to Power, a community garden and composting site located in the Hillside neighborhood.
- an all church reading of *Cathedral on Fire*, a church handbook for the climate crisis written by UCC minister Brooks Berndt. Over fifty copies of this book were purchased. At the time of this writing, one spirited discussion has already been moderated by **Dave Seyfert** and **Lisa November** with a second scheduled for August 23. Feedback indicates that more book group discussions would be welcome. Watch for these...

COMING THIS FALL:

As we move through this time of discernment, we will continue to focus on building a supportive community while learning and discovering what we are each personally and collectively called to BE.

Earth Holders: A Meditation, Writing and Walking Series will be offered by **Lisa November**, **Ceil Malek**, and **Emerson Hauber**. Beginning September 26, this gathering will take place in the Carey Chapel on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month through the fall (6 p.m. - 7 p.m.).

Potluck and Film Series: For five consecutive Friday nights beginning October 6, the Creation Justice Team will host a 6 p.m. Potluck Supper in the Founders' Room to precede our fall film series. The potluck will showcase food raised sustainably and prepared nutritiously. The films (chosen by **Bob** and **Karen Jones** and **Jerry White**) will begin at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and will explore different aspects of our complicated relationships with the natural world and each other, how human activities are damaging the earth, and consider opportunities to treat creation, and each other, more justly.

Visit us at our table in the Founders' Room before and after the worship service every Sunday this fall. We will be mixing up our offerings each week, so come by, ask questions and check out new resources— from quotes, to book recommendations to tax credit information and more. Please stop by and share what's on your mind. Or reach out to us:

CREATION JUSTICE LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Jan Erikson, **Rev. Lee Ann Bryce**, **Lisa November**, **Bob Jones**, **Dave Seyfert**, **Ceil Malek**, **Judith Rice Jones**, **Emerson Hauber**, **Rich Law**, **James White**, **Karen Jones** & **Ani Rose Whaleswan**.



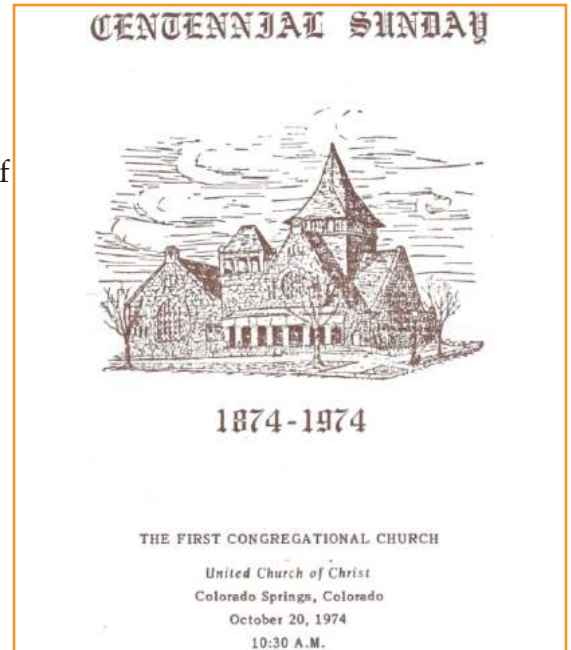
Peek in the Past: 100 Years

by **Chris Steenbergen**, Church Historian
chris.steenbergen@yahoo.com

FCCUCC's centennial celebration wasn't as elaborate as the 75 years' full week of activities had been, but the occasion spawned some memorable creations. I already wrote about the "Raising the Roof Cookbook," published by the Women's

Circles, which probably covered the cost of the festivities. The other publication was "First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs, Colorado. The First One Hundred Years 1874-1974," wherein our first appointed historian, **Mary Elizabeth Burgess**, assisted by **Wanetta Draper**, painted a picture of our church's first 100 years from **Prof. Gregg's** memoirs, Manly Ormes' earlier summaries, and her own scrapbooks and recollections.

The culmination came with the Centennial Sunday Service, led by recently installed young pastor **Rev. Jerry M. Jordan**. A Centennial Committee, led by **Betty Lindeman**, had coordinated the service, inviting the **Rev. Herbert Hosanna** to hold the Greeting from the Rocky Mountain Conference and previous pastor **Rev. Edward Manthei** to preach the sermon ("Past, Present and Future"). The flowers had been given by **Louise and Mary Elizabeth Burgess** in memory of their grandparents, **Frederick and Maria Martin**, founding members of the church.



Mary Elizabeth Burgess and Gratia Belle Haney in historical costume on Historical Sunday, 1979.

Other noticeable contributions came from the Chancel Choir, expanded with a group from Colorado College, (Mozart's "Gloria"), **Martha Booth** (Bach's "My heart ever faithful"), and organist **Judy McGuire** (Vierne's "Pastorale"). The Congregation sang "For the Glory and the Beauty" a new hymn by **Roy Bramwell** on the tune of "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken," sung at the establishment of the church in 1874. It is still in use on our anniversaries.

The 50+ year members of that day were recognized and our longer term congregants may still recall some of them: **Mrs. Alfred L. Brown** (1907), **Clara Perley** (1907), **Louise Martin Burgess** (1909), **Frances W. Zimmerman** (1917), **Mrs. William H. (Alice Allen) Preston** (1919), **Marjorie Davis** (1918), **Mary Elizabeth Burgess** (1920), **Sophia Parker** (1920), **Joan Wells** (1922), and **Mrs. J. Donald (Gratia Belle) Haney** (1923).

After the service, concluded with the hymn "Our God, our help in ages past," a birthday celebration was held in the Founders' Room. The back of the program featured a somewhat modified text from the Record Book of FCC's First Clerk: "At a meeting on Sunday afternoon, October 25, 1874,... the Sacrament was administered and a Congregational Church was formally organized with the (23) names already received."

Shape the Vision & Focus of Our Church

by **Deb Buening**, Leadership Cultivation Committee
doctordeb55@gmail.com

The Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC) invites you to be a part of shaping the vision and focus of our church into the future.

The LCC is actively looking to match the passions and gifts of FCUCC members with key leadership positions on our Church Council and LCC. The purpose of the LCC is to recruit and present to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting the most qualified candidates to fill vacancies on the Church Council. The LCC strives to match the passions and gifts of members with open positions, enabling the work of the church to set the table for all who hunger and thirst.



For more information on the Council and LCC, visit www.fcucc.org/about/our-team. If you are interested in possibly serving our church, please complete the Statement of Interest Form on that page, by October 31, 2023. Interviews will be conducted in November.

Purpose of the First Congregational Church Council:

To prayerfully and thoughtfully interpret and enact the Church's mission, vision and values, and to provide leadership and strategic direction. To safeguard the assets of FCC and to ensure adequate resources (human, spiritual, financial, and property) to carry out FCC's mission. To support, direct, and partner with leadership staff. To be ambassadors to the community on behalf of FCC.

In addition to self-nominations, we welcome referrals of others you believe would bring positive impact for these or future openings. If you have referrals, please submit these names to one of the LCC members.

Through conversations and interviews, the LCC will identify the roster of candidates to present to the Congregation in the January issue of *The Communicator* that will also be presented at the Annual Meeting (January 28, 2024) for a vote. The upcoming Officer and Council positions (starting in February 2024) are 1) Secretary, 2) Worship & Spiritual Life, and 3) Outreach.

Officer Position of Corporate Secretary: The Secretary is the custodian of the corporate records of our church, specifically creating records of congregational proceedings and Church Council meetings.

Council Member for Worship & Spiritual Life: This Council member will support the work of the Music Director and Music & Arts Ministry Team and provide direction to the programs of the church.

Council Member for Church Outreach: This Council member will support the work of FCUCC's outreach to our community and provide direction to the programs of the church.

General Church Council Expectations:

Fundraising

FCUCC Council Members will pledge to the church and act as leaders in the importance of giving to the church. This will include participating in annual campaign phone calls and conversations with members about giving. So that FCUCC can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organizations, and individuals, FCUCC expects to have 100 percent of Council Members make an annual pledge that is prayerfully considered and reflects commitment to the church.



Council Terms and Participation

Council positions are approved by a vote of the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. Council members will serve a three-year term. Monthly Council meetings usually begins with a meal shared together and Council members provide dinner for the rest of the Council one time during the year. Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., plus pre-meeting preparation time.

Qualifications

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about FCUCC's mission and has a desire to serve the church. Ideally, candidates will have the following qualifications:

- Non-profit board experience is appreciated and desired, but not required.
- Good listener and reflector with appreciation of the importance of communication and candor
- Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus.
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for the vision and mission of FCUCC.

Additionally, the **Leadership Cultivation Committee** is seeking new members to join our committee:

Members for the Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC) bring a diversity of perspectives and involvement to building leadership in our church, from “connectors” who love meeting and getting to know people, to those who are great at discerning people's strengths and potential, to those who just care about building leadership abilities within FCC. Previous experience with leadership development is not necessary!

For more information, please e-mail the Chair of the Leadership Cultivation Committee, **Kisti Felps** (kistib@gmail.com) or reach out to any committee members: **Rebecca Hibbard** (reba.hibbard@gmail.com), **Debra Buenting** (dkbuenting@gmail.com), **Bill Kemp** (billcc@joyfuljourney.net), **Tom Healy** (thealy719@gmail.com).

POPS

Save the Date
for the next
**PARENTS OUT
PARTYING
SOMEWHERE!**



Saturday, October 14, 6:00 p.m.
Home of Sue Taylor and Steve Getty

Evites will be sent out closer to the date. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact **Jane Ridings** (janeridings@hotmail.com).

TRAIL TREKKERS

The Trail Trekkers have been “Green” since **Howard Ray** started the group. The goal is to be in nature, converse,



and stay healthy. Cheap Therapy. We've been hiking in the mountains to avoid the summer heat and to enjoy the bountiful abundance of wildflowers. Now we will return to some of those same trails to enjoy the Fall Colors later in September and October. Contact **Emily Bond** if you would like to be added to the mailing list (emily@fcucc.org).

Wednesday, September 6

Monument Valley

Friday, September 15

Downtown Art Walk

Friday, September 29

Mueller State Park

Friday, October 6

Mule Creek

by Woodland Park

Wednesday, October 11

Red Rocks Park

by Woodland Park

Thursday, October 19

Cheyenne Mountain State Park

Friday, October 27

Colorado Women's Forest

Friday, November 3

Fountain Creek Nature Center

We Are Your Representatives To Our Community!

by **Pauli Hubbard**, *Chair of Mission Giving & Outreach*
mgo@fcucc.org

Do you want **Change**? Join us by pledging your volunteer hours and money to the work of FCUCC. Your interest changes lives in Colorado Springs and beyond.

Who are you investing in 2023? What can we do together in 2024?

Accompaniment & Sanctuary (ASC)
 Depression/BiPolar Support
 Alliance
 Family Promise
 Finding Our Voices
 Food to Power
 Fostering Hope
 Homeward Pikes Peak
 La Puente
 Partners in housing
 Project Angel Heart
 The Place
 We Fortify
 Westside Cares



**Together, we
 aid these groups in the
 area following areas: Hunger,
 Homelessness,
 Mental Health, Refugee Support,
 Temporary and Permanent
 Housing, and Youth Support**

Upcoming Events:

October 1: The Forum: MG&O Presents four Grantees for in-depth Conversation

November 12: Mission Mixer

You are welcome to join our MG&O Team! Contact us!

Our recent tour to Food to Power:



Our recent tour to Project Angel Heart:



CHURCH PROGRAM & OFFICE STAFF**Rev. Lee Ann Bryce**

- Lead Minister

David Acton

- Director of Music Ministry

Josh Rumple

- Director of Youth and Pastoral Care

Emily Bond

- Director of Administration & Communications

Rachel Rumple

- Director of Finance & Technology

Sarah Lund

- Director of Children's & Family Ministry

CHURCH COUNCIL**Rich Law**

- Moderator

Sid Shelton

- Vice Moderator

Charles Kiskiras

- Treasurer

Jane Ridings

- Secretary

Cathy White

- Care & Fellowship

John Felps

- Outreach

Cynthia Riley

- Worship & Spiritual Life

Alysa Webb

- Education

AD HOC STAFF**Sarah Groh**

- Wedding Coordinator

Connie Raub, Ani Rose Whaleswan

- Memorial Services Coordinators

Amy Colwell

- Receptions Coordinator

CHURCH STAFF**Ani Rose Whaleswan, Curt Daniel**

- Sunday Sextons

Doris Fletcher, Robert Scheafer

- Custodians

Maren Felps, Doris Fletcher, Katelynn**Hoyle, Lilly Hitipeuw, Sarah Sampson**

- Nursery Attendants

PASTORS EMERITI**Rev. Dr. Jerry Jordan**

(1973-1988)

Rev. Dr. James White

(1989-2005)

LEADERSHIP CULTIVATION COMMITTEE**Kisti Felps**

- Chair

Debra Buenting**Tom Healy****Rebecca Hibbard****Bill Kemp****VOLUNTEER POSITIONS****Ceil Malek**

- Communion Coordinator

Nancy Lippincott

- Congregational Nurse

Marsha Garrett

- Liturgist Coordinator

Tom Healy, Judy Cunningham

- Head Ushers

Phyllis White

- Flute Choir

Judy Cunningham, Curt Daniel,**Agnes Kehoe,****Dave Montgomery,****Sue Prendinger, Phyllis White**

- Office Volunteers

Pete Hokanson- *The Communicator* Proof-Reader**OPEN**

- Flowers Coordinator

ASSOCIATED IN MINISTRY**Rev. Lyn Boudreau****Rev. Patty Walker**

- 4-Way Covenant

Liz Shelton

- Seminarian

Samantha Garrett**Josh Rumple****Ani Rose Whaleswan**

- Members in Discernment

APPOINTED OFFICERS**Lois Benson**

- Membership Clerk

Chris Steenbergen

- Historian

VOLUNTEER CHAIRS**Lisa Mason**

- Advancement Team

Carolyn Dickerson

- Audio/Visual

Cynthia Franklin

- Book Discussion Group

Ellen Ranz Miller

- Children's & Family Ministry

Sid Shelton

- Facility Improvement

Charles Kiskiras

- Financial Advisory

Kathy Beck, Jeanie Tate

- Gregg Library

Steve Getty

- Grounds

Karol Finch

- Historical

Eric Ridings

- Human Resources

Agnes Kehoe

- Intercessory Prayer Network

Sky Foerster

- Just Peace

Lynne Stefoniak

- JWW Lectureship Series

OPEN

- Kitchen Witches

Jill Cameron

- Sanctuary Arts Ministry

Sid Shelton

- Maintenance

Pauli Hubbard

- Mission Giving & Outreach

Gigi Holman

- Music & Arts Ministry

Lori Goodwin, Lee Lehmkuhl

- The Mystery

Jane Gazal

- Prayer Shawl Ministry

Paul McNeill

- Reopening Task Force

John Stefoniak

- Risk Reduction & Response

Tom Healy

- Safety Team

Ceil Malek

- Spiritual Life

Judy Kort

- Stephen Ministry

Rob Lund

- The Forum

Elizabeth Vincent, Marsha Garrett

- Visitation Ministry



20 EAST SAINT VRAIN STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS | CO | 80903



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Congregational UCC is an Open and Affirming Congregation. We invite people of every age, race, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression, means, ability and spiritual tradition to join us in the love of God and neighbor through Christian worship, dedication to education and commitment to service.



THE COMMUNICATOR is usually published bi-monthly, and takes a break during the summer. The next issue will be November/December, 2023.

The Communicator includes information about the life of First Congregational Church and the people of the church. Instead, The FCC Weekly (our weekly eblast) will be more of an informational notice of upcoming events and worship. You can sign-up to receive this weekly notice via our website: www.fcucc.org.

If you have something you would like to contribute to The Communicator, please make a note of the deadline to submit an article. Articles should be 500 words or less. We invite you to submit articles relevant to the life of our congregation. Accepted submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and correctness. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect official FCC policy.

**The DEADLINE for the next issue
(November/December 2023 issue) is October 15.**

Please send your materials to **Emily Bond** - emily@fcucc.org.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Include author's name, church role, contact email, and contact telephone number.
- Include a title suggestion and, if desired, photos, etc.
- If articles include photos or graphics, please submit a shorter article.