



THE COMMUNICATOR

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2023



The Ministry of Presence

by **Cathy White**, Council Member for Care & Fellowship
catherine.white@mindspring.com

It seems that friendship is on the decline in our society. In a newspaper editorial I came upon recently, the author spoke of an, “escalating loneliness” that appears to be seeping further and further into our culture. Backing up that troubling statement was his statistic reporting that half of the Americans he surveyed stated they had fewer than three close friends.

While interviewing a wide swath of folks (religious, secular, women and men, white collar, blue collar, Black and white) about friendship, the editorial author heard again and again that presence was regarded as the highest virtue of friendship. Being there for your friend. Showing up when needed. Actively listening to what your friend has to say. Paying attention. Being present.

Here at First Congregational we have a Ministry of Presence. There’s the Care Giver Support Group (Monday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Carey Chapel). **Cynthia Franklin** is showing up, actively listening, paying attention, being present for caregivers who are devoting so much of themselves to others and are often in need of someone who is present just to them.

Same with the Stephen Ministers. When you need someone to show up when the going is rough, to listen to whatever you have to say, to offer you focused attention, to accompany you on a challenging journey, your Stephen Minister can be present with you.

If you are grieving, **Kathy Sparnins** is the director of The Voices of Grief Center. She heads up a team of grief professionals who are ready to show up, listen attentively, and facilitate group sharing with steady and loving support.

As I write these words, my husband and I are preparing to travel to Canada to be with our son and his family in order to assist in caring for our daughter-in-law as she recovers from cancer surgery. When our son phoned us a few weeks ago to give us the news of his wife’s illness, he asked only one thing of us. That we come and be with him. As is so often the case in the wake of profoundly serious occurrences, we just want someone to be with us. Not to fix the problem, just to be present with us so we are not alone.



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FCUCC's 150th Celebration Year!

by **Connie Raub**, 150th Celebration Chair
ceraub@gmail.com

By the time you read this, you will have already seen the First Congregational Church 150th Celebration Logo. It has just been revealed during our Annual Appeal and used by the **Advancement Team**. The logo was beautifully and specially created by **Tiffany Schmid** to be used during our year-long celebration.

Look at it closely:

You will notice the colors are consistent with our current logo, but it is elongated. Well, of course, we have been around for a LONG time!

Highlighted across the top is First Congregational Church in bold letters - that's who we proudly claim to be.

We are celebrating 150 years ~ established in 1874 by visionaries and faith, continuing today.

We are "Rooted" in Unity, Community, and Continuity. This is our overarching theme for the year. Notice how cleverly those words also spell out UCC!

The concept and visual of being ROOTED reminds us of our past, but also allows us to continue to grow. The healthy green leaves bode well for the next 150 years. They remind us of our exploration into Creation Justice and our 2024 JWW Lectureship Series presenter, **Randy Woodley's** book titled *Rooted*.

Those green graphic designs represent more than leaves. Can you see the "happy, celebratory, people" represented? Yes, that would be us!

During the coming year, we will engage in many activities and events to help us remember our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to our future. The logo will be obvious everywhere - on mugs, tee shirts, church bulletins, letterhead, posters and even featured on the Colorado Springs city street Banners during the months of September and October.

We invite you to participate together in Unity; Celebrate in Community; and as we discover new things about ourselves, declare to our city, state and beyond the impact this church has had, and will continue to have through its spirit and desire for good, with God's help!

Thank you, Tiffany, for creating such a meaningful, powerful, and glorious logo as well as for your gift of time and talent!



Sesquicentennial

A 150TH ANNIVERSARY OR ITS CELEBRATION



The Treasurer's Report

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

I am so excited about the new energy at the church with **Rev. Lee Ann's** guidance and the 150th Anniversary Celebrations in 2024. The new budget contains funds to spend on the celebration and advertising activities. We are at a turning point with this anniversary and will grow as a church during the year. Please let all your friends know about the celebration events as they happen throughout the year to introduce them to FCUCC.

As we wrap up October and enter November, this change of months also brings the Annual Appeal and fashioning a budget. The Annual Appeal seeks to raise the funds needed for the 2024 church operations. Church Council received input from all the various teams and staff, and, after careful consideration, has created a budget for next year. The proposed budget is ~\$48K over this year's and two thirds of that increase is for a cost-of-living raise for staff along with increased premiums for medical insurance, and the church property/liability insurance. Please participate in this Annual Appeal with a pledge to help us realize the ministry and outreach goals we hope to achieve in our celebratory year. With just a 10% increase over your current pledge we can achieve a balanced budget for 2024.

During the Annual Meeting of the congregation last January, we voted for a significant deficit budget in 2023 that was funded by using Mission Giving and Outreach reserves and General Fund reserves. A balanced budget for 2024 will avert cuts to ministries and programs. We've done well this year overall and we want to maintain our positive momentum.

As was done in past years, **Rich Law** and I will be holding at least two budget Zoom meetings to go over our budget. This will give you the opportunity to see what has changed from last year and to learn the state of our reserves. This past year our capital reserves were depleted for a few reasons. Much of our A/V equipment was in dis-repair and needed to be upgraded if we were going to maintain our online worship option. The A/V upgrade included replacing the failing projector, adding the Founders' Room television with live-stream view, and dramatically improving the video streaming service for those unable to attend worship services in person. Our capital reserves were also hit very hard with plumbing repairs and a new security system for the Atrium glass doors. The Capital Reserve depletion/deficit for 2023 will be made up with General Fund Reserves at the end this year. Overall, we have a dear old building that needs care.



At our upcoming budget meetings, you will also learn what budget line items increased, what decreased, and why. It will be your opportunity to ask questions about the budget. I will be the host and Rich will be the emcee. **Our first budget meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m., and the second on a to-be-determined date in December.** If need be, we will hold a meeting in January to address any significant budget funding shortfalls and the proposed budget by Council for the Annual Meeting approval. We are holding these to ensure you know what the budget is in detail before decisions and votes are made. I sincerely hope you make time to attend.

Thanks to all of you who support FCUCC with your time and your talents and your much needed pledges. As we approach our 150th anniversary, please consider carefully what you can contribute.

Holiday Offerings in Music

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



Friday & Saturday, December 1 & 2 - OutLoud presents The Magical Music of Christmas!

Join the beloved OutLoud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, as well as special guests: our own Bells of St. Vrain! - in OutLoud's annual Christmas Concert.

Performances in the evenings at 7:00 p.m., and a Saturday Matinee at 2:00 p.m.



Sunday, December 3 - The First Sunday of Advent: Hope

Find hope in worship with song and scripture, words and prayers. Our own Chancel Choir sings Händel's *Messiah*, with other ensembles in our community, in a special concert at 3:00 p.m. Find out more closer to the date in upcoming eblasts and in the bulletin.



Sunday, December 10 - The Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

The Bells of St. Vrain provide music in worship as we contemplate peace in the Advent Story.



Sunday, December 17 - The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

Wear an ugly sweater and start the Joy early with a Carol Sing on the Front Portico at 9:30 a.m.

The FCUCC Flute Choir and the Chancel Choir will join us in a very Joy-filled worship service.

The Annual Christmas Mystery Pageant will follow that afternoon with an Organ Prelude beginning at 4:00 p.m.



Sunday, December 24 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love & Christmas Eve

There are three services as we celebrate Christmas Eve together. At 10:00 a.m.

the children of our church will put on a special production, directed by Sarah Lund.

Come back at 7:00 p.m. for a Festival Service in which the Chancel Choir sings and we celebrate Christmas Eve with traditional carols, readings, and a beautiful message. The final service, at 11:00 p.m., is more

meditative with carols, scriptures, candles, a message, and communion.



Happy Holidays,
and I'll see you in church!





Seven Pillars Fellowship

by Lisa Mason, Advancement Team Chair
lisaamason@hotmail.com



Go out on the Front Portico of our church and count those massive columns. There are seven of them, and they are critical for supporting the architectural design of this church. From a congregational point of view, the Seven Pillars Fellowship is equally as fundamental to who we are as a church. The Church Council created the Seven Pillars Fellowship to thank current supporters of FCUCC who,

extended their personal legacies of planned gifts to include the church in their estate plans or wills to further FCUCC's mission and ministry.

Estate Planning- Let's dispel one myth. Estate Giving/ Planned Giving does NOT have to be large or grand amounts. Any gift is a gracious extension of love and care for First Congregational Church. Most people think of estate planning to mean for people who have the means to have the beautiful mansion at the end of a tree-lined driveway. Estate planning is better framed as making sure you have designated where you want your "stuff" (as George Carlin would call it) to go upon your death. Your stuff might include a coin collection whereas for me it includes horses and saddles plus items that may fit into the categories I'll mention below. Some of the following examples of various vehicles for giving might show you what is possible on almost any level of financial strength.

- **CHECKING ACCOUNT:** you can go to your bank and fill out a POD (Payable on Death) to the church or name the church in your will or trust. When all your last expenses are paid, the church can have the residual.
- **RETIREMENT ACCOUNT:** name the church as a beneficiary. These are a wonderful choice as many charities receive tax benefits that individual beneficiaries don't. Therefore, more of your money can go to the charity rather than to IRS.
- **LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES:** sometimes people have policies that were taken out for various needs; for example, to pay off the mortgage, but maybe part or all of that mortgage won't use up the whole policy. You can then name the church as a beneficiary for part or all of that policy.
- **GIFT ANNUITY:** annuities are an instrument where you give/gift an investment amount to an insurance company that is the financial agent for an organization such as FCUCC and in return you receive income, usually for life. The original gifted amount can be designated to go to the church upon your death. There can be significant tax benefits to this technique.
- **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** You can designate to have your personal residence, a farm, 'cabin, second home or vehicles go to the church upon your death.
- **CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST:** create a Charitable Remainder Trust where investment monies are designated to go to the church usually upon your death. This instrument can be very flexible for creating unique solutions depending on your financial means and it often entails significant tax benefits, but it does typically require significant planning involving estate planning attorneys and consultations with financial advisors.

You have seen that these instruments, some quite simple and others more complex and creative may have various tax implications so always consult your tax advisor or financial planner.

Giving to FCUCC, whether it's in your lifetime or afterwards furthers the mission and ministry of the church. I hope looking at this list will spark some ideas and that you will then consider putting FCUCC into your will or estate plan and thus join the August supporters who are already in the Seven Pillars Fellowship.

A Congregational Nurse!

by **Nancy Lippincott, RN BSN, FCN** - Congregational Nurse
nj.lppnctt@gmail.com



WHAT
CAN A
CONGREGATIONAL NURSE
BRING TO THE
CONGREGATION?

Your Congregational Nurse is a health resource for education, counseling, advocacy, referrals, and access to community resources, for ill or injured members, folks who are homebound and provides spiritual support to their families. I also have knowledge of first aid, CPR, and the use of an AED. All is provided with empathy and plenty of humor.

I know many health resources in the Colorado Springs community; I especially have knowledge of rehab centers, nursing homes, memory care communities, and where to buy medical supplies. Also, I am familiar with quite a few health

providers in varying businesses.

There are many services for seniors in our community, such as medical equipment and oxygen, helping with activities such as dressing, using a walker or cane, classes - such as balance, help with memory issues, living with a wheelchair, vision problems, hearing resources, and many more. The nurse can occasionally help with simple pet care, a trip to a pharmacy, or other quick errands.

All contacts are kept confidential.

How To Find Me:

On Sunday mornings in church, I am often in the Founders' Room; the Ushers or staff can track me down, or if it is urgent, please contact me by email (nj.lppnctt@gmail.com) or call me at home (719.332.5528). It is ok to call me at night, if it is very urgent. [In an emergency, please call 911.]

I hope to get to know those whom I haven't chatted with, to listen, offer solutions, and have fun just being friendly.



It has been one hundred and twelve years since First Congregational Church first held its Annual Christmas Mystery Pageant!

BUT... what is it?!

The Mystery is a musical drama complete with angels, shepherds, a seraph, three wise men, and of course, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

Based on biblical accounts, church legends, and cherished Christmas carols, *The Mystery* began in 1912 with a script by Helen Street Ranney, the wife of the Reverend William Watson Ranney - the fifth minister of First Congregational Church. It is performed each Advent, on the Sunday before Christmas. The Angel Choir is composed of our young people (high school through college) and the Seraph (lead angel) is sung by one of FCUCC's female vocalists. The Shepherds' roles are sung by members (high school and above), and the Wise Men solo parts are performed by baritone voices.

One of the greatest mysteries surrounding this tradition is the identity of those who portray Mary and Joseph! It is a closely guarded secret of the Mystery Team until the actual presentation, as a way of honoring two people for distinguished service to First Congregational Church in the previous year.

Cherub children (preschool through eight years old) of the congregation are invited up to the manger during the pageant to present a gift of song.

The ceramic figure of the "Bambino" (Christ Child) and the censer carried by one of the Wise Men were acquired in Italy by Dr. Alfred A. Blackman's family around 1900 and lent to FCUCC for use in *The Mystery*. In 2009, the Haney family gifted the family heirlooms to the church. The cruse for myrrh is like those from biblical times.

The entire event is mysterious! With candles, darkness, singing, and the close gathering of many people, it is a beautiful and timeless process of portraying what the 'mystery' of Christmas is all about. The Mystery Team, comprised of past years' Marys and Josephs, is devoted to maintaining



The Mystery runs like a thread through the very fabric of the congregation's history, uniting generations and kindling memories of peace, joy, family, and community.

112th ANNUAL

Christmas Mystery

**Sunday, December 17, 2023
4:00 p.m.**

Includes a short organ recital by David Acton, Director of Music Ministry

The entire event is mysterious! With candles, darkness, singing, it is a beautiful and timeless process of portraying what the 'mystery' of Christmas is all about.



Free, Event
for the whole family.

The Mystery just as it always has been. It's a wonderful family tradition, appropriate for all ages.

The Mystery will be held this year on Sunday, December 17, beginning at 4:00 p.m. with a short organ recital provided by Director of Music Ministry, **David Acton**. All are invited to bring home-baked (nut-free) cookies for the Cookie & Wassail Reception which will follow in the Founders' Room. All are welcome!

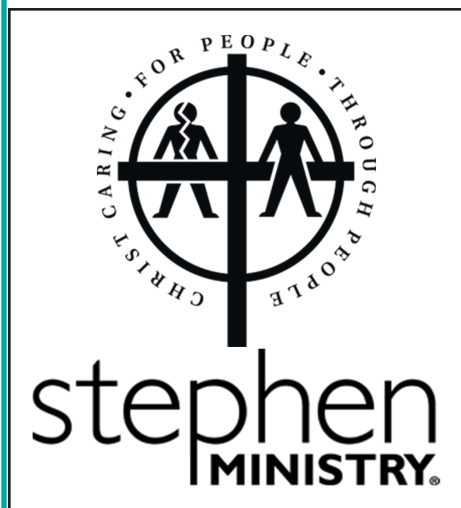
Stephen Ministry: Help Needed

by **Josh Rumble**, *Director of Youth and Pastoral Care*

josh@fcucc.org



Stephen Ministry is a caring ministry, in which high quality, one-on-one, and consistent meetings take place between a Stephen Minister and their care receiver. Stephen Ministers are trained members in the congregation who offer care to people who are hurting, one person at a time. Maybe someone is going



through a crisis or a prolonged life difficulty. We all know this happens, whether we want it to or not. Stephen Ministers step in to walk alongside that hurting person for as long as the need persists. This is a dedicated and continuous relationship built to care for hurting people in our congregation and the wider community.

Does this sound like something you may want to help with? We are looking for more Stephen Ministers to join the already thriving team.

Maybe you don't think you're the best fit or equipped for this. That could be true or not, but if something sparks within you as you read this, reach out to me. We can talk about what this may look like for you. I can assure you that you will be well trained to

care for hurting people before you ever start, and you will have continuing care and training after you start. You won't be alone in the process, which is really the message of the whole of Stephen Ministry. We were never meant to do life alone.

If you are interested in being a Stephen Minister, please contact me.

Becoming a Creation Justice Church

by **Jan Erikson**, *Chair of Creation Justice*

jan@janska.com



In May, our congregation enthusiastically supported the process of becoming a Creation Justice Church*. Since then we have been learning, sharing, and contemplating what it means to become a Creation Justice Church.

**"We take
care of
what we
love"**

Bob Jones

In the first six months we laid a foundation and offered multiple ways to engage. Many of us participated in an all-church reading of *Cathedral On Fire: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis*, dozens attended multiple home and garden tours, and at this writing we are in the midst of a fantastic **Potluck and Film Series**. We are gathering to watch documentaries, share nourishing food, and discuss films meant to awaken us, educate us and distill in us the awareness that we can be in the presence of some important truths about our planet without despairing or shrinking away. We

are also offering the **Earth Holders Meditation Series** where we are held in deep peace as we listen to wisdom teachings from several faith traditions. **WE RECOGNIZE AND REVERE ALL LIFE.** Practices include sitting meditation, labyrinth walking, and writing meditation. There is a recognition of the preciousness of all life and that right now, we are alive and we are here. Creation Justice is also integrated into Worship—in the sermons and into creative children's messages for all ages. Through

all of this, we are learning about each other, we are creating community and learning what creation justice and climate action looks like in our own community. This is priceless.

So, what's next? Our vision is to begin casting a wider net and engage with other local or Colorado faith communities. Finding the article linked below was so exciting—discovering **Together Colorado** and **Faith Table** and **Green Faith** and the team at **350Colorado Springs** (350colorado.org/colorado-springs/). It is inspiring to see that others have already begun to pave the way for focused and effective activism. We can tag along, learn, and add on. This article is from NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council**) and entitled, *Colorado's Religious Communities See Climate Action as a Moral Obligation* by Nicole Greenfield. She kicks off her article with "On the steps of City Hall in Colorado Springs..." She goes on to discuss the unique climate challenges in our state and demonstrates that there is power of faith-based alliances joining together.



Together Colorado leaders and staff at a rally in Denver for climate justice in August 2021. Credit: Together Colorado

Just in case you are feeling a little intimidated by the idea of making new alliances, remember the quote from Black Lives Matter co-founder **Alicia Garza**: "We can't be afraid to establish a base that is larger than the people we feel comfortable with."

So let's take a deep breath, open our hearts and smile at this possibility.

www.nrdc.org/stories/colorados-religious-communities-see-climate-action-moral-obligation

One more thing— VOTE! Get others to vote and learn about important pending legislation locally, statewide and national bills. Consider subscribing to the Colorado League of Women Voters to stay informed on important legislation. www.lwvcolorado.org/content.aspx

We would like to hear your feedback, questions, and suggestions. If you haven't signed up to be part of the **Green Team**, we hope you will join us. There are 130 of us who are receiving periodic emails about Creation Justice. Please visit our Creation Justice table in the Founders' Room before and after worship services on Sundays; introduce yourself, pick up some samples of various items, and sign up to join the Green Team if you haven't already and be part of this exciting ride.

Grateful to share this journey with each of you.

Creation Justice Leadership Team:

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



**This is similar to the process we went through to become an Open and Affirming Church and a Just Peace Church with steps laid out by the [UCC](#). We expect this process will take about a year.*

***NRDC: Natural Resources Defense Council is an international Environmental advocacy group dedicated to safeguarding the Earth: its people, its plants and the natural systems on which all life depends. They work to restore the integrity of the elements that sustain life—air—land—water and defend endangered natural places.*

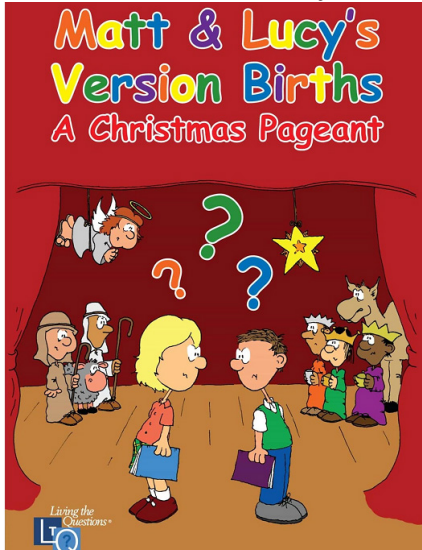
Exciting Updates!

by Sarah Lund, Director of Children's Family Ministry
sarah@fcucc.org



Dear Beloved FCUCC Community,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with anticipation as the season begins to change. As the holidays draw near, I have some exciting news to share with you regarding our upcoming Christmas Program. I also wish to express my deep gratitude to the dedicated Sunday School volunteers who make this year's Faith Formation classes possible.



The planning for the Children's Christmas Program is coming together, and we have a leadership team in place to help with planning and rehearsing. We are thrilled to announce that this year's program will be exciting and engaging for our young ones with speaking parts, singing, and costumes. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity for our children to come together, learn about the Christmas Story, and grow in their understanding of Jesus' birth as told in the gospel stories.

*Produced by special arrangement with livingthequestions.com, LLC.
 Written by Rev. Dot Saunders-Perez. Music & Lyrics by Janet Allyn.*

PROGRAM THEME: There are four "canonical" gospels in the Bible. While Matthew and Luke are the only gospels to tell the story of Jesus' birth, their stories are very different from one another. Our play opens as Matt & Lucy volunteer to help with this year's Christmas pageant. Little do they know that the Director will give them each a different script and

leave them to work out how to put on a play with conflicting story lines, characters, and settings. As the play ends, the Director explains how having two stories gives us an appreciation of the diversity of ways early Christians expressed their understanding of who Jesus was.

PROGRAM DATES: The Children's Program will take place on Sunday, December 24 during the Family-Friendly service at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendars, as we look forward to celebrating with you.

AGES: The program is open to children ages preschool to middle school. We will be rehearsing during Faith Formation Hour on Sunday mornings during November and December, with several add-on rehearsals for speaking roles.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: As always, we welcome parent and church volunteers to help make this program a success. If you'd like to volunteer your time or resources, please contact me!

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the incredible Faith Formation volunteers who devote their time, energy, and love each week to nurture the spiritual growth of our children. Thank you to **Mindy Lavender, Wendy Demandante, Rebecca Hibbard, and Charles Barber**. They work to create an environment where our children can explore their faith, ask questions, and develop a deeper spiritual life.

As we prepare for this year's Children's Program, I encourage you to get involved in any way you can. Whether you offer your time as a volunteer, donate resources, or simply attend the program on Christmas Eve, your participation will make a significant difference. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing more details about the program's schedule, registration process, and ways you can contribute. So, stay tuned and keep an eye on our church eblast and bulletins for updates.

The Children's Christmas Program is a wonderful opportunity for our church community to come together and celebrate Advent in a meaningful and faith-filled way. We are deeply thankful to our faith formation volunteers and look forward to an inspiring and joyous holiday season with your support.

May God's love and joy continue to shine upon our church community and all our children. Together, let us make this year's Christmas Program a memorable experience.

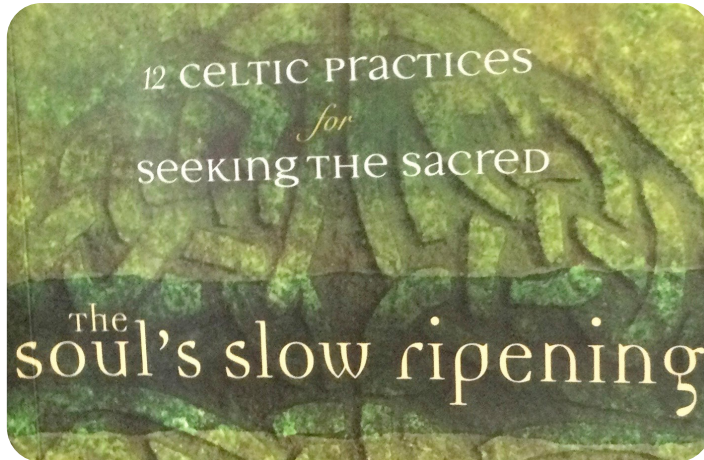
Blessings to you.



Reaching In, Reaching Out

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

"The soul ripens slowly, not on our own desired timetable. When we are waiting for a particular outcome, we are often filled with anxiety as we sit with the unknown. Patience calls us to remember that God's time (which is beyond our chronos—or clock time) is present to us in our waiting. We can experience the fullness of time in the midst of waiting for time to unfold." from *Soul's Slow Ripening*, by Christine Valters Paintner



Oh yes, just one of the many quotes we discussed over our *Reaching In, Reaching Out Women's Retreat*. Together we shared our thoughts and also our longings. Together, we walked meditatively, drummed, walked with each other or alone, prepared meals, laughed and cried. PERFECT! We reached in to our selves, and as is our custom,

we reached out into the community where we were, Beulah Community Cupboard.

Contemplation and **Action** is the underlaying theme of our retreats.

It was a joy-filled time of getting to know each other who often share our pew in church, but who often remain unknown to us until we retreat together.

Thank you.



The Beulah Community Cupboard was created in early 2018 to serve residents of the Beulah area. A collaborative effort, folks from the Methodist Church and community formed a brainstorming committee to see areas of need. Volunteers remodeled a classroom in the church and boxes of food have been generously donated from the community.



Who's Coming to The Forum?

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



The Forum

The Forum continues on into the months of November and December. 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 Demandante**. See you soon!

NOVEMBER 5: LISA NOVEMBER

A presentation on Thich Nhat Hanh and Plum Village:
An introduction to next week's worship with **Terry Cortes-Vega**!

NOVEMBER 12: NO FORUM

This Sunday, we will take a break from The Forum. Be sure to join us for worship though, when we welcome guest preacher, **Terry Cortes-Vega**, to the pulpit. Terry was ordained as a Dharmacharya in 2012. Terry has offered Dharma talks at meditation and mindfulness retreats and workshops. Terry is happily married to Gustavo Cortés-Vega and they live in the country with horses, chickens, too many cats, a fat polka-dot pig, two goats, a rabbit, two dogs, and various wild critters.

NOVEMBER 19: CHRIS CROCKETT

Chris Crockett joins us for The Forum. He is the Vice President for Strategic Planning at the Assistance League of Colorado Springs.



NOVEMBER 26: KATHY SPARNINS

This is your chance to see the award-winning film, *"Voices of Grief: Honoring the Sacred Journey."*



DECEMBER 3: DAN STUART

The AdAmAn: Its History, Legacy, and Future. Dan became a member of the AdAmAn in 2000, and commenced being the Club President in 2018.

DECEMBER 10: NINET SINAI

Epidemics/Outbreaks from a scientific perspective: History, What Happens During an Outbreak, the Roles of WHO and CDC/NIH, and Vaccines

DECEMBER 17: JEFF SCHOLES

Christmas/capitalism/consumerism and link it to culture wars, pagan roots of the winter solstice/celebration on Dec. 25th (Christian cultural accommodation), etc.





Peek in the Past: Church Foundations

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

First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs was the sixth Congregational Church established in Colorado Territory, after Central City (1863), Boulder (1864), Denver (1864), Greeley (1870), and Longmont (1871). Besides Broadmoor Community Church in 1959, FCC (1874) helped found several more churches. All those in its first thirty years.

FCC charter members **Edwin and Lucy Nettleton**, having moved to Pueblo in support of **General Palmer's** railway expansion, were among the founders of First Congregational Church of Pueblo (Colorado's seventh) in 1878. FCC's pastor **Roselle Cross** preached there in the early years.

The same year, First Congregational Church of Manitou Springs was established, with twelve of our very recent members transferring, apparently a planned "seeding." Pastor Cross guided its founding and preached there. With FCC's help the congregation built their sanctuary in 1880, making the still-standing church Colorado's longest-continuously occupied one.

There's no evidence of involvement of FCC with the founding of the next Congregational Churches: those of Buena Vista (1880) and Crested Butte (1880). Missionary **Rev. Joseph Pickett**, with Colorado Springs as base, visited the towns among others, but he died in an attempt to establish a Leadville church in an 1879 stage coach accident. Occasionally Rev. Cross took the treacherous horse ride to Buena Vista for a sermon. When Leadville's, now dissolved, First Congregational Church was founded in 1890, FCC members **Mary O'Hare** and the **Curtis** family lived there.

FCC had involvement with the rural farming community Eastonville north-east of town, where Rev. Cross preached. The now vanished congregation included the **Cone** and **Plumb** families, all formally members of FCC. **Ellen Plumb** was the sister of FCC's first Clerk, **Sanford C. Robinson**.



Pueblo's First Congregational Church, established 1878, built 1889.



First Congregational Church of Manitou Springs, established 1878, built 1880.



South Congregational Church at 407 S. Tejon with parsonage and Pastor Ormes on a commemorative ashtray.



Hillside New Resurrection Baptist Church at 601 S. Prospect

South (later Second) Congregational Church, advocated by FCC's "**Father**" **Bristol**, was established in 1889. Fifteen of our members, including founder **William Weed**, transferred there and FCC financially supported the church building. The congregation dissolved in 1948, but presently the in Spanish-style remodeled Guadalupe building, still stands.

In 1899 FCC built Hillside Church. Its Congregational community is long gone and the renovated building presently holds Hillside New Resurrection Baptist Church. Not much evidence exists of an FCC involvement with the 1901 establishment of (Old) Colorado City's FCC. Hillside's pastor, **Frank Hullinger**, did double duty there and at the 1904 cornerstone-laying, our **Rev. James B. Gregg** delivered the address. The building was sold in 1925 to the Evangelical Church, but to date Pikes Peak United Methodist Church occupies it.

Save the Date!

The Annual POPs Christmas Party
hosted by Eric and Jane Ridings at their home.
Saturday, December 9 - 6:00 p.m.



Details to arrive by Evite
in late November.
Please contact **Jane Ridings**
(janeridings@hotmail.com)
to be added to (or removed
from) the distribution list.



Finance and Technology

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

Correction

In the September/October issue of *The Communicator*, I included an article about the A/V project. I mistakenly attributed the funds for the project to **Kris Anderson's** bequest. A portion of her bequest was used last year, but it was to upgrade our Hook & Hastings Organ with an additional blower. The work on the organ was completed in early 2023.



Kris Anderson

The remaining balance of **Kris Anderson's** bequest was shared between our Seven Pillars Endowment held with Pikes Peak Community Foundation and our General Fund reserves. We used existing Capital Funds for the A/V project.



Wil Green

For the new A/V console - the long wooden desk at the back of the Sanctuary, we used funds given in memory of **Wil Green** and a plaque with his name is planned for this desk.

King Soopers Community Rewards Program

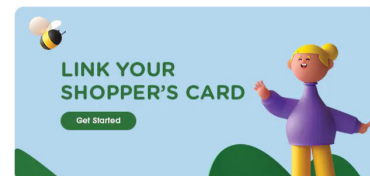
Thank you to all who've signed up for the Community Rewards Program at King Soopers! In 2023, King Soopers' contributions to FCUCC have increased nearly \$100 on a bi-monthly basis. Below is King Soopers' latest giving report to us.

If you haven't yet, please consider signing up! This is completely **FREE** to you. Just by linking your King Soopers loyalty card, and shopping normally, you can direct King Soopers to give back to a local community organization you care about, like our church.

All it takes is a one-time sign up. You can set it and forget it!

1. Visit the following link:
<https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>
2. Login (or sign up) to your King Soopers account
3. Connect your Loyalty Card to FCUCC with our organization number:
XN955

Here is what the sign up button looks like on their website:



01-Jul-2023 to 30-Sep-2023

19
Households

\$ 158.17
Total Donations



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

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Cynthia Riley

- Worship & Spiritual Life

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- 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 Buening**Tom Healy****Rebecca Hibbard****Bill Kemp****VOLUNTEER POSITIONS****Ceil Malek**

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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

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- Safety Team

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- Spiritual Life

Judy Kort

- Stephen Ministry

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Elizabeth Vincent, Marsha Garrett

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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 January / February, 2024.

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
(January/February issue) is December 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.