



# THE COMMUNICATOR

## MAY | JUNE 2023

### Responsibilities

by Sid Shelton, Vice-Moderator  
sshel0684@aol.com



A major responsibility for the Vice Moderator is to ensure appropriate care for the overall church facility. This article is a review of overall maintenance and improvements over the last couple of years and how the efforts are funded. To accomplish the care of our Church we have several standing teams that report to the Church Council through the Vice Moderator:

- **Maintenance Team (MT):** Chair, Sid Shelton (needs a new Chair)
- **Audio/Visual Team (AV):** Chair, Carolyn Dickerson
- **Live Streaming Team (LS):** Chair, Rachel Rumble
- **Grounds Team (GT):** Chair, Steve Getty
- **Safety Team (ST):** Chair, Tom Healy
- **Covid Mitigation Team (CM):** Chair, Paul McNeill
- **Kitchen Witches Team (KW):** Chair, *to be determined*



The MT, AV, LS, GT & ST Teams have been busy. The CM has been able to relax recently, but were busy during the Covid pandemic and are continuing to monitor the situation. The KW hasn't been reestablished since our Covid shutdown.

#### OVERALL CAPITAL EXPENSES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Major maintenance expenses are normally capital investments in the church. FCUCC is blessed to have capital funds available from interest earned on investments (and from some designated direct bequests).

Routine maintenance items are funded from line items in our yearly budget and aren't covered in this article, but as you might expect there are several smaller maintenance issues that occur regularly in our old building. Should you notice a problem (leaky faucet, toilet, door hinge, etc.), please bring it to the attention of the staff or me.

Some of our infrastructure is showing signs of aging. Some technology needs updating and others need new infrastructure. I'll give specific examples.

**Heating System:** Most of our heat is provided by a gas furnace and boiler that is then transmitted throughout the church by a system of circulating hot water pipes for baseboard radiators in the office building, then by heat exchangers blowing heated air in the Founders' Room and parts of the basement, and by hot water pipes in the Sanctuary. The Atrium and Elevator Addition have hot air that comes from roof-mounted electrical units.

Most of this infrastructure is in good shape, but we have experienced several outages when the furnace has failed to ignite when the outside temperatures have been very cold. We have leaks in our hot water piping

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(in the boiler room and in the basement). Many of you have seen the buckets collecting water. We are investigating the best way to reduce the cold weather outages by more careful maintenance of the furnace or replacing it.

The leaks in the piping must be dealt with as soon as possible. The leaks are coming from copper pipe junctions that are connected by victrolc connectors (vics) that use rubber gaskets as seals within the vics. These are beginning to fail (the first failure was about four years ago, but we have had three additional failures in the last few months.) All such connections are about twenty-five years old. We have several other vics that will likely fail in the near future – repairs require that all the water be drained from the system during repair or replacement so we have been waiting until warmer weather. We have estimates for this work coming soon. The plan is to replace all the vics in the system to head off future failures.

### **A/V and Live Streaming Systems:**

The A/V electronics (including the projector and screen) are over fifteen years old. The live streaming system is newer, but was quickly put together during Covid and significant improvements in the cameras and overall controls are needed. A team has been preparing for an A/V and Streaming upgrade for several months, and we are already moving ahead (notice the television at the back of the Sanctuary under the projector). There is much more work to be done and while we once thought this could be done by the end of 2023, I expect it may extend into 2024.

### **Grounds:**

This team has been doing a lot of work over the past months to improve the overall outside look. Notice the new bicycle rack, reconditioned pillars, flowers, and other shrubs out front. We currently have a problem with a buried sprinkler pipe. It developed a significant leak (apparently last fall that went unnoticed for a time) that has ruined sections of grass on the St Vrain side of the Sanctuary. After sprinkler repairs, we expect to reseed or sod a portion of the grass sections.

### **Safety:**

The team has been working to re-establish the plans that had been put in place prior to the pandemic and that has been going well. The team is more sensitive than ever to safety concerns. We need to be able to lock the glass door entrance to the Atrium, allowing easy ingress and egress, while monitoring anyone approaching the Church. Estimates are coming in for a magnetic locking system with closed circuit television and intercom that is expected to solve these safety issues.

### **Covid:**

While the Covid crisis has mostly passed, we do have air purifiers throughout the facility. These purifiers were purchased to filter out tiny Covid virus particles. They are also effective in filtering out other airborne viruses. Should you be in a room where the filter is not turned on – please feel free to turn it on (if you want a demo, any of the staff will be happy to do so).



### **Kitchen Witches:**

We have a need to get this team going. The purpose of this team is to provide a functional and clean kitchen for functions at our facility. Right now, we are putting extra duties on the Sextons that should be handled by this team. If you have any interest in coming onboard or getting more information, please contact **Emily Bond** or myself.

This may seem to be a bit overwhelming. The congregation needs to know that we will continue to experience maintenance and upgrade needs for our old and beautiful building and facility.



# MG&O + PP Hospice

by Pauli Hubbard, Chair of the MG&O Committee  
[mgo@fcucc.org](mailto:mgo@fcucc.org)

Dear Congregants,  
 The Mission Giving & Outreach Committee is beginning to collect grant applications for our very important task of distributing your tithes into the community. This year we are giving an additional grant of \$10,000 with the blessing of our Church Council. This grant will be in the form of a match challenge to the qualifying non-profit. Our MG&O team is excited to read through all of the applications and hoping to award many. Please pray with us for wisdom!

Below is an article written by **Andy Petersen** of Pikes Peak Hospice. Did you know that they also help our homeless? Please take time to read the following letter.

Peace and love to all!



## PIKES PEAK HOSPICE

by Andy Petersen

Executive Director –  
 Pikes Peak Hospice Foundation

“Your mother should be on hospice.”

Those were the words my mother’s doctor told me in January 2012. You can imagine the gut-punch upon hearing this. Perhaps you felt the gut-punch yourself when you read those words. When people first hear of hospice, the mind travels to phrases like death sentence or the end is near.

Seeing the look on my face, the doctor walked those words back a bit and explained that she needed palliative care – providing comfort and symptom relief, along with treatment to cure serious illness. My mother started palliative care and began to thrive again. Though she was never completely cured, she began to live life to the fullest.

Hospice care, however, is for those given a diagnosis of six months or less. Treatment turns from curative to maximizing comfort by reducing pain and addressing physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs.

Eighteen months later, my mother transitioned to needing hospice care. I was grateful we did not need to change providers because the switch was seamless. My goal was to make sure she received the best care possible and that she need not worry. We spent two meaningful weeks together after shifting to hospice care. I wanted her to be proud of the life she lived and the family she raised. My mother knew where she was going and she was ready. This was all part of the care she – and I – received from hospice.

You see, hospice care is about living. It’s about living life as fully as possible. All the way to the end. This applies to the patient, yes, but also applies to the surviving family members.



**Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care (PPHPC)** is one of a dozen hospice organizations in our region – but we are the only non-profit hospice. The sole purpose of the Pikes Peak Hospice Foundation (PPHF) is to provide the funding for PPHPC to do this over-the-top work you won’t find from other hospices in our region. Our distinction is that we treat all patients and their families regardless of their ability to pay. We believe that comfort and dignity should be accessible to all.

For example, we see patients who may not have access to private insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid. PPHF will pay the bill to make sure that patient is cared for and relieve the family from needing to pay for it. We have even served patients who were living under a bridge. Similarly, our Patient Special Needs program assists families with emergent needs that cannot be met by any other resource. Perhaps they neglected to pay their rent and are in danger of losing their home. PPHF will pay that for them so they can focus on being the care-giver.

Through the support of our community, PPHPC is able to do more. I am more than blessed to share the many other ways PPHF and PPHPC serve patients and their families. Allow me to answer any questions you may have about PPHF, and how we serve our community through PPHPC, by calling me at 719.457.8103. I look forward to our conversation.

# Summer Service Trips 2023

by **Josh Rumble**, *Director of Youth Ministry & Pastoral Care*  
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The planning for the Summer Service Trips is well underway! There will be two youth trips coming up this summer, both of them in July. Our Middle School students will be going to La Puente (in Alamosa) again this summer, where we have been many times before. We are excited to see the work we have done previously and expand on it. Our High School students will be staying pretty close, going to Denver to work in a lot of areas centered around economic need.



We are all so excited for these trips: to learn, to grow, and to help where we can. You may have noticed that these are not called "missions" trips. There is a lot of historical baggage with that term that I want to avoid. I want to be very clear that we are avoiding the colonial mindset that has corrupted Christian missions for the past few hundred years. We are going

specifically to learn, serve, and partner with others.

These kinds of service and learning trips provide opportunities for any person, especially youth, to be exposed to different ways of living, to see how big, beautiful, and diverse this world is, and to see that we are just a small part of it. There are such rich moments that take place when we step outside of our own isolated bubbles, bursting them by seeing our neighbors. We are one single thread in the illustrious tapestry that is humanity and all of creation. Of course, we are going to work as well. By the strength of our minds and muscles, as well as the sweat of our brow, we will be striving to make a small part of the world a better place.



We move forward into the exciting future, knowing that it will take work, but if we work together, we can accomplish much. This is true for these trips, this church, and the wider world around us.



**Lisa November** visited KC Worship last month to introduce the group to the *zaftas* and *zebutons* that were recently donated by the Earth Holders Sangha group. Thank you for these lovely meditation cushions!



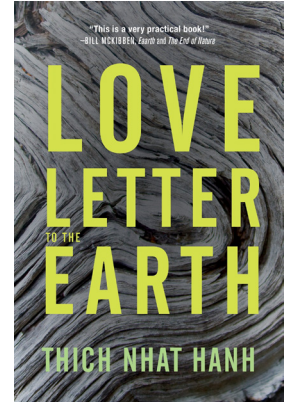
# Falling in Love with the Earth

by Lisa November, Sangha Leader  
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During the season of Lent, around twenty of us enjoyed the practices of falling in love with the earth. The practices ranged from a collective weekly basis to a daily individual basis. In Thich Nhat Hanh's *Love Letter to the Earth*, he writes, "The earth is you. You are the earth. When you realize there is no separation, you fall completely in love with this beautiful planet." He goes on to say that when we fall in love with the earth, we will feel compelled to take care of the earth, much as we would our own partner or our own child. We will look out for her and make sure that our actions nourish her, rather than deplete her.

There are many specific practices that can encourage our love for this precious planet. Here are some practices that allow you to fall deeply in love with the earth: **WALKING MEDITATION** - It is a joy to walk just for the sake of walking. With the practice of mindful walking, we become fully present with our steps and breath, our minds firmly established in the here and the now. Each step can generate the energy of peace, release tension in our bodies, and we can touch the earth deeply with every step. Many of us walk for the sole purpose of getting from one place to another.

Now suppose we are walking to a sacred place. We would walk quietly and take each gentle step with reverence. Can we walk this way every time we walk on the earth? Probably not! But we can walk quietly for a few minutes every day. The earth is sacred and we touch her with each step. If we walk like that, then every step will be grounding, every step will be nourishing. Maybe you want to say, "Yes" to Earth with one step and "Thank you" with the next step, in this way we are acknowledging and thanking Earth with every step.



"The earth  
 is you.  
 You are  
 the earth."

**BREATH OF FRESH AIR MEDITATION** - This is a good practice to start your day or to practice throughout the day if you are feeling tense or anxious. Find a source of fresh, outside air through a window or step outside. Stand or sit up tall with your shoulders relaxed and notice how you are breathing. You can shut your eyes or leave them open as you take in 3-5 deep belly breaths, filling your lungs to capacity and then exhaling all that fresh air for a beat longer than your inhalation. Do this breathing consciously and mindfully to fill the practice with the deep and sacred meaning.

**IN TOUCH WITH EARTH** - Find a reminder that brings you home to the earth. This could be a leaf, or a rock, or you may want to pick out your favorite herb. This week, carry a reminder of Earth with you in the form of this talisman. It might be a rock in your pocket that you touch throughout the day, or a small planter or vase with your favorite herb in it that you touch with your fingers and smell several times a day. Give it some thought and find the reminder that really suits you. When you stop and touch this talisman, get in touch with your breath and say to yourself, "I entrust myself to Earth; Earth entrusts herself to me."

**ONLINE MEDITATION** - Even being online can put you in touch with the earth and increase your awareness of our beautiful home. Listen to and watch *The Great Bell Chant* every morning for a week. Know that all around the world people are hearing this chant with you, both live at the monasteries around the world and online with a recording. Can you internalize the peace of this chant and send that peace out into the world? How does this affect the rest of your day?

<https://grateful.org/resource/great-bell-chant/>

These are just a few practices that can put you in touch with our precious planet and allow for you to care for Earth on a deeper level. I would be interested to know if you try any one of these practices or if you have your own practice that puts you in touch with the Earth. When we learn to care deeply about our beautiful home, we may be more likely to replenish our storehouse of energy to advocate for things like clean, pure water and air and to find new ways to care for the trees and animals, for the very rocks and minerals that make up our amazing blue planet.

# Thanks for the Mysteries: Nancy Forgy retires as The Mystery Team Chair

by Lee Lehmkuhl and Lori Goodwin, The Mystery Co-Chairs  
leel@mitre.org / lgoodwin99@yahoo.com



When The Mystery Team met in January to discuss this coming December's production, chair **Nancy Forgy** made an announcement. She was stepping down from the chair position she had held for over twenty years and retiring from leadership. So change comes, even to The Mystery.

Nancy was born into the Congregational Church in New York and moved west with her family. She recalls living in Oklahoma and being admonished for drinking from a water fountain designated for Black people. Her mother stepped in and said her family would drink from that fountain.

Her first year at First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs was 1957. She saw The Mystery that year and joined the following year, transferring from Plymouth Congregational in Denver. She married **Al Forgy** in 1978, **Rev. Jerry Jordan** presiding. Over the years, Nancy served on "every committee except Kitchen Witches." She was on a social justice committee that preceded MG&O and

taught Sixth Grade Sunday School with **Marge Murray** for three years. She enjoyed taking her young children to Women's Circle. The women, including **Marti Booth**, met and the kids ran around and got to know each other.

In 1966, Nancy was selected to be Mary in The Mystery, due to her work in Sunday School. The late **William Fischer** was Joseph. They showed up early for The Mystery as directed, not knowing what was happening, "standing there in our underwear." Nancy joined The Mystery Committee and was responsible for Mary and Joseph's costumes and makeup, a task now performed by **Chris Hall**. **Nance McCullough** became chair shortly thereafter, and when Nance retired, the committee selected Nancy as chair.

As a testimony to Nancy's leadership and hard work, The Mystery Team has selected co-chairs to take her place. She'll remain as Team Member Emeritus, advising us on past practices and potential improvements. It's hard to imagine Nancy not serving FCUCC in some fashion.

She expresses a deep love for the church:  
*"I feel a peace in the church. More even than at home. When I worked downtown, I would walk over and sit in the church to experience it."*  
Thanks for the Mysteries, Nancy!

The Christmas Mystery has been performed annually since 1912. Look for information coming soon on the new church website, and watch a recorded version from 2021 here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/B4caB0tSSSk?feature=share>.





# Peek in the Past: Abolitionist

by **Chris Steenbergen**, Church Historian  
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**Enoch Noyes Bartlett**, born in 1813 in Bath, New Hampshire, studied theology at the Oberlin Collegiate Institute, established in 1833 by the Oberlin Community, which wanted to provide “education in English and useful languages... and practical Theology.” Militantly abolitionist, Oberlin admitted women and, from 1835, African Americans equally. In 1841 Bartlett was ordained at Oberlin and a week later in nearby Lake, Ohio, he married **Emily Smith**, who hailed from Danville, Vermont whom he must have met at the Institute. In the following years he preached at Farmington and Garrettsville in Ohio.

Shortly after its establishment, Rev. Bartlett took on the presidency of “New Oberlin” in Michigan: the Olivet Institute, at the time a two year institution, because its proposed charter had been denied by the legislature. Enoch served the actively abolitionist coed Institute for students of all races and the supporting local Congregational Church for twelve years, while Emily ran Olivet's female department for some years. It was said that: *“During all this time he devoted himself with indefatigable zeal and persistent energy to promoting the interests of the colony and the school.”* The position paid very little though and in 1858 Rev. Bartlett resigned, leaving behind his “cabinet of minerals,” and took his family, now including three boys, to pastorates in Iowa and Illinois. In 1861 the Congregational Quarterly showed the couple for the prospective pastorate in the “New England Colony,” a veiled abolitionist enterprise, at Kidder in Northern Missouri. However, the Civil War intervened and, after a brief stint as acting principal in Oberlin's Prep. Department, Rev. Bartlett took on several more congregations as the couple, with their middle son J. Edgar and his wife Caroline, gradually moved west, landing in Olathe, Kansas in 1873.

After Caroline died in 1874, Enoch and Emily took their six year-old grandson Frederick with them to their next stop, Colorado Springs, seeking better financial opportunity for retirement. Here they were among the founders of First Congregational Church of which Enoch was briefly treasurer. At the same time, Rev. Bartlett participated in Colorado College's establishment. He temporarily assisted with Latin and Greek, but his main contribution was in soliciting money from “the East.” In 1876, Rev. F. B. Perkins, home missionary to Colorado, mentioned in his report meeting FCC's Revs. Bartlett and Bristol and their “earnest spirit” in the desire to develop the College. In that year Bartlett also was one of the church members, that helped in the pastorate after the departure of Rev. Dougherty. However, this all created little personal income, so Bartlett started a real estate business and participated in several prospecting and mining ventures of which he was secretary and treasurer. None of these appeared to have prospered, so in 1889 Enoch and Emily moved on to (San Buena-)Ventura, California. Emily couldn't be traced further, but Rev. Enoch N. Bartlett died there in 1897.



*Olivet Congregational Church; Olivet College website*

# Compassionate Response Team (CRT)

by **Judy Cunningham**, Head Usher / Member of CRT  
[chrisjudy@comcast.net](mailto:chrisjudy@comcast.net)



FCUCC's **Compassionate Response Team (CRT)** was born out of **Rev. Lee Ann's** vision of a fully unified congregational response to the presence of street guests in our midst. CRT's members include **Lee Ann Bryce, Josh Rumble, Emily Bond, Rich Law, Pauli Hubbard, and Judy Cunningham**. Their first meeting produced the guidelines featured below, and a revised list of community resources should anyone ask for help (the Sunday Atrium Greeter and Ushers have copies and one is posted at the Front Desk in the Church Office.)

We have found that all of our Sunday morning street guests react very favorably to a kind "Good Morning," a warm bench, a cup of coffee. Some stay for the worship service and love it! One even deposited two crumpled dollars in the offering plate! Do you hear Jesus whispering words of encouragement in our ears?

Please review these guidelines---then comments, questions, concerns are welcomed by CRT members. Also, our wonderful Sextons, **Curt Daniel** and **Ani Rose Whaleswan**, are a perfect resource for information. Staff, Compassionate Response Team members, Safety Team Members, Sextons, Ushers, are committed to compassion and safety for ALL of God's beloved people.

## CRT Guidelines - January 2023

**Question:** Who are we? What does that look like as the church supports and interacts with those experiencing homelessness or severe needs.

**Vision:** First Congregational sees ourselves as triage support. We seek to respond to immediate need, then connect people with community resources that are more sustainable.

### Guidelines:

#### I. Sunday mornings

- Refer individuals with needs to the Sextons. They have the freedom to use their judgment and give supplies, in addition to inviting folks in for coffee, company, warmth, bathrooms.
- If individual congregants are asked for money or help, they refer to the Sextons.
- We do not distribute money on Sunday mornings.
- The existing safety plan is enforced (Sanctuary doors locked a few minutes after worship begins, Atrium door remains open with the Atrium Greeter to monitor.)
- Congregational Nurse, **Nancy Lippincott** is a resource for anyone with non-emergency medical needs.

#### II. Ongoing

- The Atrium doors remain locked except when activities are planned. Discussions are ongoing on installing an intercom/camera.
- Folks who sleep on the Front Portico are

expected to remove belongings during the day. The church does not store belongings. Exceptions can be made if a particular situation warrants it.

- Requests for financial assistance or support are referred to **Josh Rumble**.
- The Compassion Response Team stays intact to address any situations that may come up and revise guidelines as we learn and grow.

### Resources:

Recognizing that our city's 911 system, fire department, and police force were overwhelmed responding to mental health calls, the City of Colorado Springs established a **Community Response Team** in December 2014 to address this need. Working under the umbrella of the Colorado Springs Fire Department, this team responds specifically to 911 calls involving suicide threats and mental health concerns that require specialized care.

### **Contact the Homeless Outreach Program**

If you are concerned for a homeless individual in the Downtown area who is exhibiting concerning behaviors that are not illegal, or who appears to be in mild medical distress, please call the HOP Team (719.368.0852).

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 8am -3 pm.

If the team is unable to answer your call immediately they will follow-up if you leave a message with contact information. If you feel that the concern is an emergency needing immediate response, please call 911.





# Active Hope

by Jan Erickson, Creation Justice

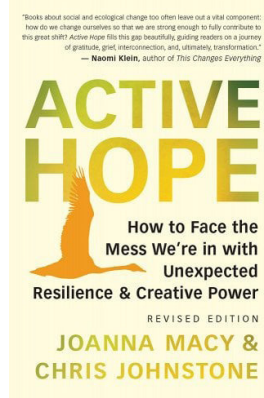
[jan@janska.com](mailto:jan@janska.com)

edited by Lisa November, [lisanov77@gmail.com](mailto:lisanov77@gmail.com)

Almost every day there is a news story about how climate change is impacting life on our planet. We all know these reports can be frightening, but we can be grateful for them. How could we possibly be grateful for news that our planet is reacting to climate change that we humans are responsible for starting? Because these stories are waking us up. These stories are inviting us into conversations and deeper relationships with each other and with Mother Earth. These stories are calling us into action to restore, regenerate, and rethink how we



can live in harmony with all of life. It is because of this emerging awareness that members of First Congregational Church have begun the process of becoming a UCC Creation Justice Church.



Perhaps you have wanted to do something to address climate change but didn't know where to begin, or maybe you have been an activist for decades but climate change seems overwhelming. Studies by **Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone** in their book *Active Hope* states that when people come together to work on an issue that feels overwhelming, a deeper sense of hope, compassion and energy arises. We invite everyone at FCUCC to participate in this journey and to join the 'green team' at First Congregational Church.

We will be emailing a short survey soon, inviting you to share your thoughts and what you are most concerned about when you think of the impacts of climate change and climate justice. There will also be weekly updates in the church bulletin and eblasts.

Let us all feel this call to active hope. As Joanna Macy writes:

*"Active Hope is not wishful thinking. Active Hope is not waiting to be rescued by some savior. Active Hope is waking up to the beauty of life on whose behalf we can act. We belong to this world. The web of life is calling us forth at this time."*

To learn more about what it means to become a UCC Creation Justice Church, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/4x99vy7a>

## UPCOMING DATES!

We are keeping things VERY simple!

### **Facility Summer Hours:**

**Memorial Day - Labor Day:**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)

### **Sunday Worship Service:**

10:00 a.m. (No Change!)

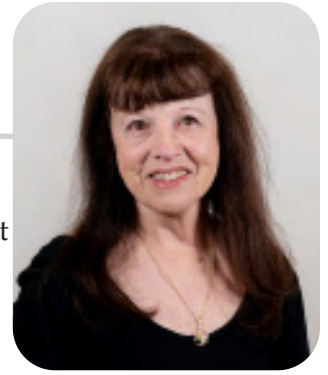
Youth Sunday	May 14
Music Presentation Sunday	May 21
Pride Sunday	June 11
New Members Joining	June 18
Folk Sunday	June 25
Vacation Bible School	June 12-16
Hosting of IHN Families	June 25-July 9
Jazz Sunday	July 16
Immigration Sunday	July 23
All Church CampOut!	August 11-13
Gathering of the Waters	September 3



# 150th FCUCC Celebrations

by **Connie Raub**, 150th Anniversary Chair  
[ceraub@gmail.com](mailto:ceraub@gmail.com)

Here we are in Eastertide. A beautiful time of renewal, new beginnings and hope. But how can we have RE-newal unless something has come before? I know 2024 is still eight months away, but we are looking at celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs! We are experiencing syzygy of looking back and looking forward at the same time! It's kind of a magical thing to do - part of "embracing the mystery of God," as written in our Mission Statement.



Therefore, our theme will be **Unity, Community, Continuity**. (See how it spells out UCC? Pretty clever, no?) Though we encourage different thoughts and lifestyles, we are **Unified** and "One in the Spirit." We believe it is necessary to join together in **Community** to worship God, be inspired and support each other in causes we feel passionate about. We are the oldest continuous congregation in Colorado Springs and we want to **Continue** to be a vital force in the world for at LEAST another 150 years.

**Unity**  
**Community**  
**Continuity**

So... planning and work have already begun. Our Church Historian, **Chris Steenbergen** and his team are hard at work writing up the history of our past twenty-five years, adding to the book published for the 100th anniversary and updated in 1999 for the 125th. A lot has happened from 1999 to the present! We plan to unveil the new version in early 2024! **Tiffany Schmid**, the designer of our colorful and thoughtful church logo, is working on a *special* anniversary logo!

There will be celebration events and reminders of our history throughout the entire year! Some ideas circulating are an old fashioned hymn sing, an ice cream social, an all church picnic with invitations for all the Colorado Springs area UCC churches to join us, musical performances featuring our choirs and celebrating our beloved Hook and

Hastings organ, among a few.

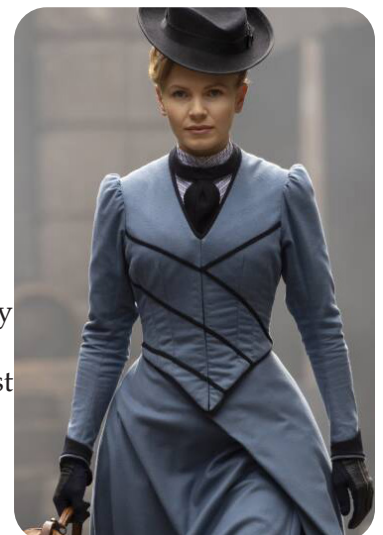
**Royce Field, Bob Jones, Paul Schwotzer, and Rachel Rumble** with the help of **Laura Pfender, Cynthia Franklin, and Joan Hershberger** are preparing to begin interviewing and recording many of our long time church members to capture the REAL stories of our church family! Of course, October 25, 1874 is the church's Birthday! Will there be cake? Come and see!

We are also hoping to get wider involvement and publicity from the City of Colorado Springs; Colorado College, Rocky Mountain Conference, the Pioneers' Museum, and others. Indeed, we are a BIG DEAL!

Yes, there will be plenty for EVERYONE, young, old, and in-between to get involved. If you are a member of a group, team or committee, please start thinking about how the 150th (sesquicentennial) might be highlighted in your 2024 year plan. Perhaps the Cooking School can feature some recipes from the FCUCC cookbooks? Maybe the Book Discussion Group will select a book or two focussing on the history of Colorado Springs or the 1870s? Perchance, the Trail Trekkers can plan a walk past places which our congregation met at prior to our historic building on St. Vrain Street? Can we sport new tee shirts with our 150th logo to wear in the Pride Parade? What might the Silver Threads Luncheon look like? Watch for FCUCC "factoids" in the weekly eblast. Naturally the Church Council will be involved: **Rev. Lee Ann** will be adding some historical bits to her sermons; **David Acton** may delve into music of the past; **Sarah Lund** and the children of FCUCC, and **Josh Rumble** with our youth, may dream up activities recollecting the young of the past and looking forward to our future!

I hope you can feel the excitement building! I can hardly wait to see you all dressed up in your 1870s outfits! Remember, **Bill Kemp** says "Anything is possible!"

If you have ideas and/or want to get involved let us know! You can contact the church office 719.635.3549 or contact me (719.685.3822/[ceraub@gmail.com](mailto:ceraub@gmail.com)).



Example of 1870s fashion - as seen in "Miss Scarlet & The Duke" - Masterpiece, PBS



*This year's Silver Threads Annual Luncheon for those 75 years and over, was held April 13 in the Founders' Room. It was a great success and all in attendance had a blast! The theme was "We're Back in the Saddle Again" and music was provided by the FCC Wranglers (Lee Lehmkuhl, Georg Gehring, Dave Seyfert, Luke Cammack, and Paul Schwotzer)!*



# King Soopers Gives Back!



We are so grateful to all who have enrolled in the **King Soopers Community Rewards program** and identifying FCUCC as the recipient! Did YOU know that you too can support First Congregational Church simply by grocery shopping?

The **King Soopers Community Rewards program** gives a portion of your grocery bill back to the church, at no additional cost to you! All you have to do is link your King Soopers card.

## DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Visit [www.kingsoopers.com](http://www.kingsoopers.com)
- 2) Sign into or create a digital King Soopers account
- 3) Navigate to "My Account"
- 4) Click on "Community Rewards"
- 5) Search for our organization's number: **XN955** (Or search for First Congregational United Church of Christ by name)
- 6) Click "Enroll"



That's it! You can set it and forget it. **King Soopers** will donate a portion of your grocery transactions to the church on a quarterly basis.

# A New Website for FCUCC!

by Rachel Rumble, Director of Finance & Technology  
[rachel@fcucc.org](mailto:rachel@fcucc.org)



We are so excited to announce - we have a new website! Emily and I are still diligently working on getting all the fine details in place, but it's functional and a lot more user-friendly than our previous website.

Of course with any changes, especially one as big as this, we expect hiccups and learning curves for everyone. So I want to start by saying - please call me if you ever need ANY help finding or doing anything on the website. My new title involves the word "Technology" for a reason and I am here to help you! There is a new "search" function on the website (highlighted yellow in the photos below) which can help you find things, too.

The main function most people will want to access right away is the **Online Church Directory!** To access this, visit [www.fcucc.org](http://www.fcucc.org) on a computer or mobile device.

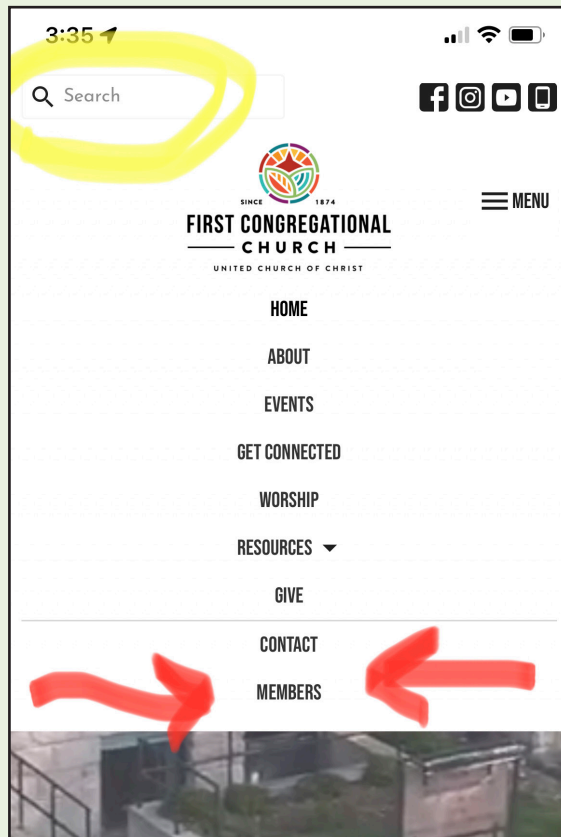
## ON A COMPUTER:

On a computer, locate "Members" in the top, right corner. (red arrow)



## ON A MOBILE:

On a mobile device, click on the Menu (3 lines) then click on "Members" (red arrows)



The password for the Members page is the same it's always been. Call the office if you need it!

In addition to the directory, you'll see the option to login to your Personalized Member Profile (kind of like the MyPrimoCongo days of a few years ago). With your unique login, you can access the Digital Member Directory (always the most up-to-date version), your personal giving history, and a few other features unique to you.

Remember, I am *more* than happy to help at any time. There is no need for anyone to sit frustrated on their digital device for even a moment when I'm a quick phone call away, Monday-Thursday, from 9-4 p.m.

Thanks for your patience with the changes. Hopefully you find the new website to be an improvement and Emily and I will continue our work to make it even better!

# Trail Trekkers Hikes

by **Bob and Karen Jones**,  
Trail Trekkers Coordinators  
[jonesschou@mac.com](mailto:jonesschou@mac.com)



## These are the Trail Trekker hikes through July:

May 5: Friday	Red Rocks Open Space
May 10: Wednesday	Fox Run
May 13: Saturday	<i>Pizza Party!</i>
May 16: Tuesday	Pineries Open Space
May 31: Wednesday	Bear Creek Nature Center
June 5: Monday	Cheyenne Mountain State Park
June 28: Wednesday	Spruce Mountain Open Space
July 4: Tuesday	<i>4th of July Brunch Potluck!</i>
July 7: Friday	Colorado Women's Forest Trail
July 12: Wednesday	Lovell Gulch Trail
July 19: Wednesday	Mule Creek Trail

Details will be sent out a couple of days before the hikes via email. Weather and hikes changes will be considered. All are welcome to attend these hikes - the more, the merrier!

If you would like to be added to the Trail Trekkers Mailing List, please contact **Bob and Karen Jones** ([jonesschou@mac.com](mailto:jonesschou@mac.com)).

# The Forum

by **Rob Lund**,  
*The Forum*  
Coordinator  
[rob.f.lund@gmail.com](mailto:rob.f.lund@gmail.com)



**Hello, Fellow Forum Friends!**

I so appreciate your warm reception to our Spring lineup of speakers. The input and recommendations I've gotten have all been wonderful. We have an exciting few remaining weeks, including JWW, so don't miss them. And as always, if you'd like to be included on our email list, or if you're looking for speaker supplementals, don't hesitate to reach out to me!



## May 7:

JWW Lectureship Series Team  
presents a  
*JWW Lectureship Series Post-Discussion*

## May 14:

Josh Ruple and the FCUCC Youth  
present  
*"Embark: Youth, Art, and Their Faith"*

## May 21:

Rick Cameron  
presents  
*"A Happiness Curriculum Update"*

## May 28:

Minette Church  
presents  
*"Native American Burials with Ambiguous Biological Sex and Gender Determination"*

# Save the Date!

## POPS (Parents Out Partying Somewhere) Summer Picnic

### Saturday, June 10, 6 pm



At the home of:

Jessica Babbs and Geoff Lewis

Hosted by:

Alysa Webb, Marilyn Fife, Jessica Babbs and Geoff Lewis

Sandwich makings, chips and beverages provided. Please bring a side dish to pass. Rain or shine!

Look for an evite with details in late May. Please contact **Jane Ridings** ([janeridings@hotmail.com](mailto:janeridings@hotmail.com)) if you want to be added to the distribution list. Although most in this group are more "seasoned" parents, anyone who identifies as a parent can join us, and newcomers are always welcome.

During this year's Lenten Season, worship services have been beautiful, meditative, contemplative, and moving - with a variety of scripture and music. We are grateful to all who make worship possible each week at FCUCC - Musicians, Chancel Arts, Liturgists, Staff and so many more.



**CHURCH PROGRAM & OFFICE STAFF**

**Rev. Lee Ann Bryce**  
- Lead Minister  
**David Acton**  
- Director of Music Ministry  
**Josh Rumble**  
- Director of Youth and Pastoral Care  
**Emily Bond**  
- Director of Administration & Communications  
**Rachel Rumble**  
- 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**

**OPEN**  
- 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, 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 Rumble**  
**AniRose Whaleswan**  
- Members in Discernment

**APPOINTED OFFICERS**

**Lois Benson**  
- Membership Clerk  
**Chris Steenbergen**  
- Historian

**VOLUNTEER CHAIRS**

**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 Stefonik**  
- JWW Lectureship Series  
**OPEN**  
- Kitchen Witches  
**Jill Cameron**  
- Sanctuary Arts Ministry  
**Sid Shelton**  
- Maintenance  
**Pauli Hubbard**  
- Mission Giving & Outreach  
**Gigi Holman**  
- Music & Arts Ministry  
**Nancy Forgy**  
- The Mystery  
**Jane Gazal**  
- Prayer Shawl Ministry  
**Paul McNeill**  
- Reopening Task Force  
**John Stefonik**  
- Risk Reduction & Response  
**Tom Healy**  
- Safety Team  
**Ceil Malek**  
- Spiritual Life  
**Judy Kort**  
- Stephen Ministry  
**Lisa Mason**  
- Stewardship  
**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 September/October, 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](http://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 (September/October 2023 issue) is Tuesday, August 15.**

Please send your materials to **Emily Bond** - [emily@fcucc.org](mailto: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.