



THE COMMUNICATOR

March | April 2023



Becoming 150!

by Rich Law, Moderator
lawrt55@gmail.com

One adage that has always served me well in my personal life is “Glance back at the past, but don’t stare.” But sometimes I love looking back. I can’t help it. I studied history and had the opportunity to teach it. It makes sense then that I love reading **Chris Steenbergen’s** First Congregational Church history articles! I’ve learned a lot from him. Thank you, Chris! Our church history is something to be proud of. Over the last 150 years, so many people have made First Congregational such a strong influence in Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region.

In the weeks and months to come, you’re going to be hearing a lot about our FCUCC history and community influence. In 2024 our church turns 150 years old! It will be a time for us all to look back, celebrate where we came from, and continue to build our future.

Connie Raub will be chairing our 150 Year Celebration Team. Thank you, Connie! As I am writing this, she is busy organizing a steering committee and generating a list of ideas of how we might celebrate. We all need to support Connie and this Team. 150 years is something to be proud of. We’ve come a long way, we’ve been through a lot, and we’ve been instrumental in shaping our community. I am sure that Connie, Chris, and others will have many stories to share with us between now and next year!

As we plan to celebrate our history, let’s not forget where we want to go in the future. In our 2021 September/October issue of *The Communicator*, we were asked “Who have we been?” and “Who do we wish to be going forward?” Most of you may recall that we had two facilitators join us in some meetings--**Elizabeth Resnick** and **Jack MacPhail**. They broke us up into small conversation groups and asked about our past and what we’re proud of. Then they asked us for our best ideas of where we’d like to be in five to ten years.

The summary meeting of those sessions, “The Dream Church,” is still available to view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GqGRSkHFiY> What I loved about that last session was the optimism and hope coming out of Covid and turmoil. There are a lot of good ideas and energy in that body of work that could guide us in the next few years. But, we need your help. We will need the talent of everyone at FCUCC to make that dream a reality.

Also in 2024, at the same time we will be celebrating our 150th Anniversary, our nation will be bracing for another election. In many ways, our nation seems more split than any time in recent memory. I believe that our community needs a strong First Congregational Church more than ever. We need to be strong, skilled, willing to engage, and continue to do our best to live up to our Just Peace, Micah 6, and Open & Affirming proclamations and intentions. The needs for care and peace-building are all around us as we move forward into the future.



If you have an interest in helping with the 150-year celebrations, please watch for the announcements and let Connie know of your interest (ceraub@gmail.com).

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On Pastoral Care

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




Stepping into the role of pastoral care within a local church is a daunting task. You have been well taken care of for many years, and it is my intention to make sure that you will continue to be well taken care of. I am honored, humbled, and excited to be working in this capacity for the church that I so deeply love and appreciate, while also continuing to work with the youth.

First Congregational Church is a beautiful place with such caring, lovely people that call it their home. All of you deserve to be loved, respected, and celebrated, in every moment of your life: in the joys, in the sorrows, and in the mundane. The local church exists for far more than a Sunday morning worship service. We are to be a community that loves each other as well on a Thursday morning on a couch as well as we do on a Sunday morning in a pew.

This is the role of pastoral care: to walk with you through the valleys, on the plains, and over the mountains, in every area of life. Wherever you are on life's journey, I want to walk alongside you, to offer you a hand when needed.

Please, do not hesitate to reach out if you are in need of care or perhaps you simply want to connect. Share with me your story, and I will share with you mine. Let us share in this life together, united in this church and united in love.





LENT AT FCC

FREEING JESUS

FEBRUARY 19 - APRIL 9, 2023

Ash Wednesday - February 22

- Walk the Labyrinth 2 PM - 7 PM
- Imposition of Ashes

Lenten Worship Services

- February 26 8:15 AM + 10 AM
- March 5, 12, 19, 26 8:15 AM + 10 AM
- Palm Sunday 8:15 AM + 10 AM
- EASTER SUNDAY 8 AM + 10 AM

Sunday Morning Book Study

Henri Matisse and the Colors of Lent 9 AM

- February 26
- March 5, 12, 19, 26
- April 2

Eco-Sangha: Earth Holders

A Meditation Practice Group

- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 5 PM
- April 5

JWW Brown Bag Book Discussion

A study of *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass

Wednesdays

- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 6 PM

Fridays

- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 9:30 AM

Lenten Friday Film Series

Potluck and Films 6:30 PM

- February 24
- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
- April 7



Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith SPOTLIGHT

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

This spring, we are offering two OWL classes for children during Faith Formation Hour. There will be a Kindergarten and First Grade class taught by **Polly Strovink** and **me**, as well as a Fifth / Sixth Grade class taught by **Rick Shick**, **Sara Groh**, and **Jean Hagerman**. In addition, the Fifth / Sixth Grade class will gather for a morning retreat on April 1 for team building activities and food at the church.

"Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith" is a comprehensive, faith-based, sexuality education curriculum which addresses the totality of human sexuality in an age-appropriate manner. It is committed to helping children grow up loving, responsible, and responsive in human relationships. The values underlying the curriculum are:

- All children should be loved and cared for, respected, and valued as unique individuals.
- Sexuality is a natural and healthy part of living. Children learn about sexuality beginning at birth and continue to learn throughout their lives.
- Children learn about sexuality from how people touch them, talk with them, and expect them to behave in response to our culture's gender norms. The messages that children receive affect their future attitudes, values, and behaviors.
- Information about sexuality, human development, and sexual health should be presented to children in positive, accurate, and developmentally appropriate ways.
- Parents are their children's most important sexuality educators. The larger community of educators, caregivers, and health professionals can also have a positive influence on children's sexuality.

We are eager to share the OWL materials, options, and workshop topics with parents and caregivers during the mandatory meetings on February 26 and March 5 in the Carey Chapel for Fifth/Sixth Grades, and Classroom East 2 for Kindergarten/First Grade. There is an additional meeting for the Kindergarten/First Grade parents and caregivers on March 12.

SPRING OWL CLASSES 2023

Time: 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Dates: March 5 (Orientations)
March 12, March 19,
April 1, April 16,
April 23, April 30,
May 7, May 14,
May 21

**April 1 - OWL Retreat for Fifth/Sixth Graders only at FCUCC (9 a.m. -12:00 p.m.)*

I am so glad for this opportunity to facilitate Our Whole Lives: Sexuality

and Our Faith classes at First Congregational Church. I hope everyone who wants to be a part of it is able to participate. Please email me if you have any questions, or if you would like to RSVP for the caregiver meetings.



FCUCC'S COOKING SCHOOL

by **Christine Hall**, Cooking School Coordinator
christine_c_hall@msn.com



A couple of weeks ago, I read this letter to "Heloise", an advice consultant, published in *The Gazette* newspaper:

"Dear Heloise:

My granddaughter tells me that the fine art of cooking is now gone! She swears that only "boomers" still cook, but that her generation looks down on cooking as a time-consuming and tedious chore.

Then I asked her what she eats, and she said that she and her husband often get take-out...

Has cooking really gone out of style?"

Elizabeth D., Newark, Delaware

Heloise's response was this:

"Elizabeth, no, cooking has not gone out of style. In fact, many of my recipe requests have been from newlyweds or people who say they are under 35 and never have learned to cook.

Home economics classes in high schools have become obsolete in many places. However, anyone can read a cookbook, and there are so many new, handy pieces of equipment for kitchens now (such as slow cookers, microwaves, and convection ovens) that anyone can learn to cook if they want to.

Many younger people have perhaps forgotten the joy of gathering around the dinner table to talk about their day."

The First Congregational "Cooking School" was born out of a growing awareness of a lot of confusion about healthy nutrition, cooking, and the value of sitting together around tables with family, friends, and neighbors to share dishes prepared in our own kitchens. The 2023 "Cooking School" calendar is now ready to go! Mark your calendars for the following Tuesdays featuring the following presenters and topics:

March 14 - ALYCE MORGAN:
ST. PADDY'S DAY SOUP AND SODA BREAD WITH KERRY APPLE CAKE.

Alyce Morgan will include a few recipes for other nourishing root



vegetable soups and breads. We like to start the Lenten Season with hearty, simple foods to remind us of the value of simplicity and economy. Alyce has published cookbooks, one focusing on meals based on magnificent soups, and what to serve with them from the wine to the dessert.

May 16 - JUDITH-RICE JONES: "CREATING PEACE ONE GARDEN AT A TIME"

Judith is a Master Gardener and will talk to us about planting our gardens this year so that we can enjoy a bountiful harvest in September...even at this altitude. She will introduce us to recipes using beans, lentils, chickpeas, and legumes as well as fancier foods/garden foods such as asparagus, broccoli, collards, carrots, corn, peppers, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, ... the possibilities are endless for an amazing Stir-Fry straight out of our gardens with a sauce made of of soy sauce, minced ginger, rice vinegar, spices and herbs. Judith has been involved in sustainability issues as an instructor at UCCS for a good long time.



June 27 - LISA MASON:
"AN INTRODUCTION TO BALTI-STYLE COOKING, A VERY POPULAR STYLE OF COOKING WHICH MAY WELL HAVE ORIGINATED IN KASHMIR, DEVELOPED IN REGIONS OF INDIA, AND ADAPTED FOR WESTERN TASTES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM"

In this style of cooking, everything is cooked and served in a single cast iron skillet and served



with Naan bread to complete the meal. These recipes are easy to cook even for the novice, subtly spiced, and work equally well with either poultry, fish, shellfish, or fresh vegetables as their base. The secret to these are, of course, in the spices, so prepare to use such things as curry, cumin, coriander (cilantro), root ginger, etc. You might want to make a trip to your favorite spice shop to get fresh containers of the spices that you may have had in your spice cabinet for years... or inherited from your mother... and are still using! Lisa is a highly-trained (retired) cardiac nurse and will be certain to point out the nutritional notes on these recipes.

August 22: SUSAN SCHENK: "COOKING FROM OUR GARDENS...AND SUPPLEMENTING FROM THE FARMER'S MARKET...AND WATCHING FOR THE PALISADE PEACHES TO COME TO TOWN!"

Susan Schenk is a professional caterer on loan to us through Temple Shalom. She has been a valued presenter for years with us. She defies the old adage that "You can never trust a skinny cook." It is something of a mystery to us, but Susan has about a 22" waistline AND is a fabulous cook. (Of course I happen to know she bicycles everywhere,

everyday.) I don't know specifically what she plans to present but she never disappoints. Stay tuned.

October 3: THE FALL FRENCH DINNER PARTY
Our own **Alyce Morgan** will be on stage again to present the menu

she had planned for us in October, 2022, before she and her husband **Dave** came down with Covid. She will demonstrate the art of the "Fall French Dinner Party." We will feast on Potage Crecy (a perfect carrot soup), Fricassee de Poulet (simmered chicken and vegetables in a rich sauce), and Chocolate Pots de Creme.

We do not meet during the holidays nor in the "bleak-mid-winter." Lent brings us to life again, with the promise of spring and Easter.

We meet in the Kitchen at First Congregational Church (11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - but we always run over, so be prepared.) We sample all the prepared food in small quantities, but just enough for you to get familiar with the tastes. There is no charge although we traditionally put a basket out so that you contribute a tip if you are so inclined.

In the meantime, stay warm and well.
Bon appetit!



Trail Trekkers!

The Trail Trekkers are still waiting for someone to take over the group's leadership! If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, please let us know by contacting the office (office@fcucc.org / 719.635.3549) or the current facilitators, **Bob and Karen Jones** (jonesschou@mac.com).

So far this year we have hiked Shooks Run, Prospect Lake, and Fountain Creek Nature Center. Hikes and walks are planned for the warmest days of the week through these winter days. Come join us for your health, great conversations, and even some amazing and unexpected sightings.



THE FORUM: MARCH/APRIL

by **Rob Lund**, The Forum Coordinator
rob.f.lund@gmail.com



As the seasons soon change from winter to spring, The Forum Team too is now revolving. **Ardith Hanson** has been slowly stepping down as Chair, while **Rob Lund** is stepping into her role. I'm honored to be entrusted with such a wonderful and hefty task. I'm joined by **Deb Buenting** as a new team member! We are excited to bring a great slate of speakers in the final few months of the spring semester!

- March 5** **Jim White, Dave Seyfert, David Weddle**
 "Christian Nationalism: Threat to Democracy," - second part
- March 12** **Tom Mauser**
 "The Red Flag Law: What It Is and How it Works" Colorado's ERPO (Extreme Risk Protection Order)
- March 19** **Beth Hall Roalstad**
 "Trauma Informed Care: An Integrated Approach by Homeward Pikes Peak"
- March 26** **Rob Rogers**
 "Seven Mountains Dominionism"
- April 16** **Maggie Gaddis PhD**
 "Why Natives? How to Transition to Native Plants"
- April 23** **Jim White**
 An Introduction to Diana Butler Bass
- April 30** **JWW Diana Butler Bass**
 JWW Lectureship Series:
Presenting Diana Butler Bass
- May 7** **JWW Team**
 JWW Post-Discussion
- May 14** **FCUCC Youth Group and Josh Rumple**
 "Confirmation, the spiritual journey"
- May 21** **Rick Cameron**
 "A happiness curriculum update"

We invite you to join us from around 11:10 a.m. - Noon on most Sundays in the Sanctuary.*

*Note that occasionally, the location is moved when required for visual presentations.

DIANA BUTLER BASS

First Congregational Church
 20 East Saint Vrain Street
 Colorado Springs

April 28-30, 2023

Tickets On Sale:
 Members: March 27-April 9
 General: April 10-April 26

JWW Lectureship Series 2023

Where Faith Intersects Contemporary Culture

<p>● Friday, April 28 7 PM - 8 PM</p> <p>LECTURE: <i>Where Faith Intersects Contemporary Culture</i> Followed by Q & A</p>	<p>● Saturday, April 29 10 AM - 11:30 AM</p> <p>LECTURE: <i>Going Deeper on Where Faith Intersects Contemporary Culture</i> Followed by Q & A</p>	<p>● Sunday, April 30 10 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE: Diana Butler Bass - Guest Speaker Followed by an Interview with Rev. Lee Ann Bryce</p>
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Childcare (Nursery, K-5th Grade) available on all three days
office@fcucc.org | www.fcucc.org | (719) 635.3549

Those "Church Office Ladies"

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



You've probably asked yourself at some point - do I contact Emily or Rachel? Who is the right person for this question? Who can help me with my specific need or request? We get it!

The pandemic, **Ruth Roland's** retirement, **Dr. Don Longbottom's** interim tenure, and the needs of the Congregation have put the office in a state of transition over the past few years. However, as the church settles into a state of "new normal," both Emily and I are settling into roles that feel more defined. My hope with this article is to communicate to you what our roles are so that you can confidently reach out to us with your needs!

EMILY BOND - DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS - emily@fcucc.org

Emily is our Communications extraordinaire! All the e-blasts, newsletters, posters, cards, bulletins, website, the church calendar... this is all Emily! She collects all the information that needs to be communicated (no small task!) and then designs, formats, and distributes it all back to the congregation in a meaningful way.

She also oversees the administrative aspects of church life. This is a wide title that encompasses many things, but here are the main highlights:

- coordinating much of the building work (i.e. maintenance contracts)
- supervising and scheduling the Sextons, Custodians, and Nursery Attendants
- coordinating church events and schedules, including everyday activities (i.e. making sure the Founders' Room is set up correctly for whatever activities are happening on a Sunday!)



You may need to contact Emily for anything related to:

- The physical church building
- Anything that needs communicated to the congregation in any format.
- Special church events

RACHEL RUMPLE - DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY - rachel@fcucc.org

The Church Council changed my title near the end of 2022 to more clearly communicate the work I actually do for the church.

On the finance side of things, I oversee the pledges and contributions that come into the church. I communicate regularly with the church's accountant to ensure invoices and check requests are submitted and paid. I also work with the Treasurer and assist with many financial tasks.

On the technology side, the Sunday live stream is the most visible and obvious aspect of my job. However, there are also a lot of "behind-the-scenes" aspects like making sure the phones, internet, and computers are working as expected. I also keep a lot of information organized and accessible to the Staff, Council, and the Congregation.

You may need to contact Rachel for anything related to:

- Giving history, pledges, contributions, reimbursements, payments, etc.
- Technology needs or supports
- Contact information for another member

Despite the differences, Emily and I are a Dynamic Duo! If you call the Church Office (719.635.3549), either one of us can get you the answer you need, or at least point you in the right direction. Though we do trade off working from home when possible, one or both of us is always in the office, Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Honored History, New Beginnings

by **Michael Royal**, Executive Director Emeritus, Family Promise
mail@networkforgood.com



Editorial Note:

*The following article was recently published in the Family Promise newsletter. First Congregational Church is one of the congregations which assists with housing families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We are so glad to announce that we will have families back in FCUCC this year. They will take up residence in the classrooms downstairs, a few times during this year. If you would like to volunteer with loading in / setting up / supporting / cooking / loading out / etc... we welcome you with open arms! Please contact FCUCC member, **Jerry White** (Family Promise Board Member) - gerald.white@mindspring.com.*

In our many transitions at Family Promise, we've reflected MUCH on past challenges and successes, all the while valuing and celebrating "Gratefulness, Grace, & Generosity" within the context of the faith community and wider partnering agencies serving children and their parents facing housing insecurity. It's important you know that even in these past three years of covid and financial challenges, **Family Promise** has achieved much:

- 1,391 persons served, including 812 children, 650 of those, 12 years and younger
- 382 families served, including many single parents, almost twice as many women as men
- 334 persons served had disabilities – chronic health conditions, mental, physical, developmental
- 905 moved into or retained permanent housing; another 41 moved into transitional housing
- \$552K in financial assistance distributed, vast majority of that in rental assistance



To accomplish all this, past staff and many of our donors and congregations gave generously and sacrificially in difficult times. We are so grateful! We do honor the fantastic achievements that **Kat, Crystal, Andrea** and so many others accomplished in an incredibly challenging time. The need has not waned; families continue to struggle.

Since January 16, as **Mike Slanco**, Director of Ops, and I joined **Cindy Weaver**, Volunteer Manager/ Office Administrator, and **Brandon Plunket**, Family Services Manager, we've energetically strategized present and future plans and actions toward an **Interfaith Hospitality Network relaunch**. Yes! IHN is returning by April's end as we together "mobilize the community by advocating for and empowering families with children to achieve housing stability." We're working wholeheartedly to have the staff and resources in place to support our IHN families and you in accomplishing this important mutually upbuilding work.

The IHN rotational hosting model has been affirmed by so many in our community as a very much needed niche in serving especially the "Situationally Homeless" – those families who've recently had a job loss, a family breakup, a medical crisis or some other situation undermining housing stability. **Please, would you stand with Family Promise again in standing up our hosting of displaced families within the facilities of faith communities?** We so need your partnership! Thanks for so much you've done already!
 In your service, Michael Royal



King Soopers Gives Back!



Did you know that you 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
- 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.

Book Discussion Group

The First Congregational Church Book Discussion Group will meet at 4:00 p.m. in the Gregg Library on the following Sundays:

MARCH 12: Discussion of *American Dirt*

This novel, by Jeanine Cummins, was published in 2020. It is about a Mexican bookseller and her child who flee their country as illegal immigrants to the United States, after her husband, a journalist, exposes a local drug kingpin.

MAY 7: Planning and Book Selection for the Year.

Please recommend book suggestions in advance to **Cynthia Franklin**

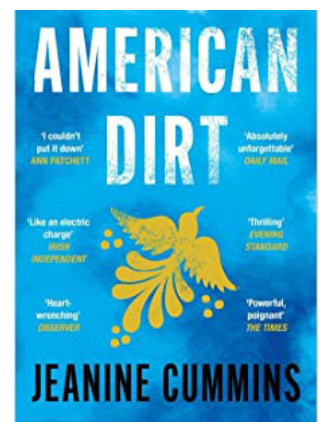
(cynthfran@comcast.net) in the following categories: fiction, nonfiction, biography. Submit names of books you have read and give a brief summary. During this meeting, we will be voting to select books.

JULY 30: A book discussion... yet to be determined!

OCTOBER 29: A book discussion... yet to be determined!

JANUARY 28, 2024: A book discussion... yet to be determined!

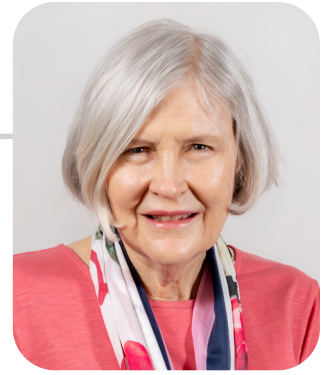
Everyone is welcome to join this group. Please contact **Cynthia Franklin** (cynthfran@comcast.net) if you would like to be placed on the Book Group email list.



ASC COS - What is it?

by **Connie Kreider**, ASC COS Liaison
edu_connie@yahoo.com

An update from ASC COS (**Accompaniment and Sanctuary Coalition Colorado Springs**) Do you know what it does and how FCUCC members support it?



**ACCOMPANIMENT AND
 SANCTUARY COALITION
 COLORADO SPRINGS**

WHAT IS ASC COS?

It is an alliance of churches and individuals who first came together in 2016 to form The Sanctuary Coalition. First Congregational Church was a founding member. For the next three years, three asylum seekers facing imminent deportation were safely housed in Sanctuary at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. FCUCC members supported these families with gifts of money, groceries, and shared meals. Awareness grew about unmet daily needs of immigrants, and the Accompaniment Program was initiated and continues.

WHAT DOES ASC COS DO?

Volunteers tutor, drive clients to and interpret for citizenship exams, help them obtain a driver's license, drive them to appointments, and provide translation of documents. In 2022 over two hundred immigrant households were supported; six clients became citizens, and three received their driver's license! Volunteers at Mobile Clothes (an organization started and housed at Beth-El Mennonite Church) sort, organize, and distribute donated clothing. In 2022, 535 individuals from eighteen countries were served. In December 2022, the Holiday Alegria toy drive helped eighty-seven children in thirty-two families enjoy the holidays with gifts they otherwise could not afford. These families were from Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Ecuador, China, and India! In 2022, rent, utilities, and food assistance provided \$24,622.53 through grant funds.

NEW: Donations of small furniture and basic household goods are now being collected and distributed to newly arrived immigrant families as needed.

HOW ARE FCUCC MEMBERS HELPING?

We serve as Accompaniment volunteers, donate gently-used clothing during FCUCC clothing drives, donate hygiene items for newly-arrived immigrant high school students, write holiday greetings to families and individuals in Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities to let them know they are not forgotten, write grants to FCUCC's Mission Giving & Outreach, participate in monthly coalition meetings, and FCUCC's Immigrant Advocacy Group organizes activities here. Church members are also supporting the People Helping People program in place here at FCUCC.

MANY, MANY THANK YOUS TO FCUCC FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

For information about becoming an Accompaniment volunteer or to assist at Mobile Clothes, please contact **Vicki**

(csaccompaniment@gmail.com) or to join FCUCC's group, contact **Connie Kreider** (edu_connie@yahoo.com) and place ASC COS in the subject line.



OMG! It's MG&O!

by **Virginia Carlson**, MG&O Committee Member
and **Pauli Hubbard**, MG&O Committee Chair
vcarlson.4@comcast.net
paulijhubbard49@gmail.com



What can YOU look forward to in 2023?
But first, a quick review of what you and your money did
in 2022 through Mission Giving and Outreach:

1. Take time to read over our eye-catching display of informational material from ALL the 2022 MG&O Grant recipients, readily available in the Founders' Room (next to the kitchen door and the water dispenser).
2. \$10,000 Congregational Challenge Matching Grant in Spring of 2022, based on seed money of \$1,500 from MG&O for Ukraine. Together, we did great things.
3. Fourteen local Grant Disbursements totaling \$46,000.
4. Other Periodic Disbursements to Family Promise and Westside Cares.
5. Seminary Scholarships.
6. Special Needs disbursement throughout the year.
7. Collections: Westside Cares (two: colored pencils for kid's backpacks, and food), Accompaniment & Sanctuary Coalition (clothing), and One Nation Walking Together (food).
8. Volunteer hours for many charitable non-profits in Colorado Springs and beyond.
9. Special Luncheon of the grantees' leaderships in September to meet **Rev. Lee Ann Bryce**, and also to provide an opportunity of support for each other.
10. *Reaching In, Reaching Out* Women's Retreat which helped benefit the Bloom House (part of Homeward Pikes Peak).
11. A Wonderful Mission Mixer in October!
12. Our Congregational Interest Survey: **Summary of results: Top 6:**

Homelessness	Mental Health
Hunger	Abuse and Neglect
Refugee Community	Human Rights



How will we distribute your monies in 2023?

The members of the MG&O Committee will be putting on their creativity prayer hats and working towards expanding our vital relationships in the community and in our congregation. Together we will continue to reach out, and in so doing, our hearts will expand to meet the challenges. More of our plans will be revealed in the next issue of *The Communicator*... stay tuned!

We thank you in advance for your interest and support!

MG&O Committee:

Virginia Carlson, Andrew Claxton, Joan Hershberger, Karen Muise, Sue Prendinger, Margaret Reiber, Teri Sheffield, Clay Taylor

Rev. Lee Ann Bryce (*Pastoral Oversight*), **John Felps** (*Council Representative*), **Pauli Hubbard** (*Chair*)

Peek in the Past: The Morning Star's Builder

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



Around 1853 the Hawaiian Missionary Society started work in Micronesia, but ran into difficulty supplying it through small local vessels. Therefore, they proposed to the ABCFM (American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, at the time only partially Congregationalist) to ask that American



1866, the second *Morning Star* leaves Boston (from Rev. Hiram Bingham Jr.'s pamphlet); Google (Gutenberg Project) books.

children take ten cent shares in a locally purchased more suitable vessel. The "children's ship," the *Morning Star*, served missionaries for about ten years, but by 1865 was worn out. Another stock issue was proposed and the children, now including many Hawaiians, came through again. A second *Morning Star*, a clipper built on the Curtis and Tilden ship yard in East Boston by renowned master shipbuilder Paul Curtis and his son John J., left Boston Harbor in late 1866 with a missionary group under captain Rev. Hiram Bingham Jr. She would serve only three years, because of a ship-wreck, but several more *Morning Stars* succeeded her.

A severe ship building slump after the Civil War caused the Curtis and Tilden wharf to fail. After his father died in early 1873, John J. Curtis had to look for other opportunities. At age 44, he took his family to Colorado Territory, settling in Colorado Springs. He and his ten-years-younger wife Isabella lived on North Weber Street and were among the Founders of First Congregational Church in 1874. The couple's five children were Paul, Everett, Edna, Luella, and Alice (born in 1874 in Colorado Springs). Over time all but Paul became FCC members.



Curtis Coal mine entrance; ColoradoSprings.gov.



Paul Curtis or "Grandfather's" House in Medford, Mass. featured in the poem "Over the River and through the Wood" by his granddaughter Lydia Maria Child; from Wikipedia.

For many years, John and Paul

were listed as miners in the Colorado Springs Directory, likely in one of the coal mines of Cragmor* or Papeton, 2½ miles north of where they lived. Several years before his death in 1890, John J. Curtis couldn't handle the heavy labor any more and became clerk and later carpenter in a business with Everett, living at the corner of High and Institute. The gold boom in Cripple Creek started around then and in the subsequent years Paul, Everett, and Luella

moved there. Isabella, Edna, and Alice transferred to Denver and Plymouth Congregational in 1899.

* One was the Curtis coal mine, owned by a C. H. Curtis. Three, not closely related, Curtis families lived here at the time.

Moving On at the Gregg

by Jeannie Tate, FCUCC Librarian

jeneanetate@yahoo.com



When you walk into the Gregg Library next fall, be prepared for change. There will be only one wall of books and it will be called the **Browsing Section** (on the south wall). The goal is that this selection, small though it may be, will reflect this congregation's favorites such as classics, favorite authors, titles by FCUCC members and James W. White lectureship speakers. Some reference materials such as UCC yearly almanacs will be included. Books can be checked out and returned using the honor system and paper and pencil - remember those days? There will be additional shelf space for groups in the church to store their materials. Our beautiful children's section will be moved downstairs giving those



Rev. James Gregg
1882-1909



classes much better access. In addition, the library counters and cupboards will be reduced leaving more room for small groups.

The reasons for these changes are the church's need for space and the lack of participation in the library program. It's not a new story - small

church libraries struggle. We're competing with the Internet, our excellent public libraries, and very inexpensive used books.

So, the time has come and here's a tentative plan. Over the next few months **Kathy Beck** and I will be marking books for new homes using yellow stickies. There will be ample opportunities for book giveaways in the Founders' Room. Remaining books will be donated.

It's good and it's sad. The people in this congregation will always be avid readers but times have changed, and honestly, it's for the better. The Gregg Library will still have a small, carefully selected collection and all you have to do is browse and choose. Kathy and I have thoroughly enjoyed these last fifteen years, but both feel it's time to turn in our date due stamps. You, the Gregg Library patrons, are the best!

First Congregational Church's

SPRING BOOK DRIVE 2023



Help us contribute to a used book fair for children and caregivers at Columbia Elementary! Children's books and adult books in good condition are needed.

**DONATE YOUR USED BOOKS
TO THE ATRIUM BIN
BY MARCH 12TH**

MOMENTS IN KC WORSHIP AND FAITH FORMATION!

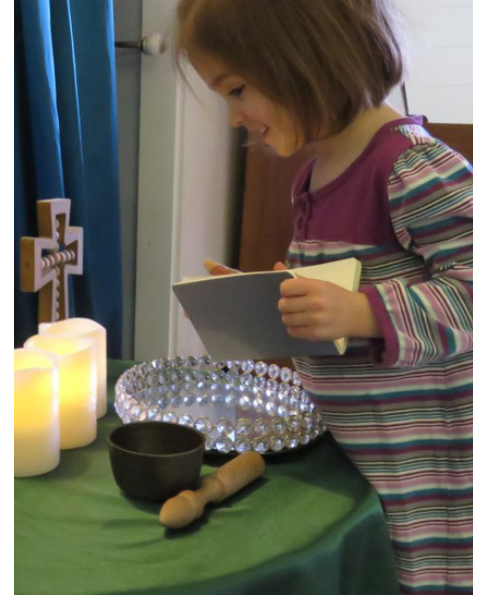
Fat Sunday Crafts - making crowns, wearing beads!



Engaging our senses with "Word stations" as we explore the Bible



"Fishing" for good things - including patience!



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

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Connie Raub, Ani Rose Whaleswan
- Memorial Services Coordinators
Amy Colwell
- Receptions Coordinator

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Ani Rose Whaleswan, Curt Daniel
- Sunday Sextons
Doris Fletcher, Robert Scheafer
- Custodians
Maren Felps, Doris Fletcher, Katelynn Hoyle, Lilly Hitipeuw, Sarah Sampson
- Nursery Attendants

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Rev. Dr. Jerry Jordan
(1973-1988)
Rev. Dr. James White
(1989-2005)

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Kisti Felps
- Chair
Debra Buenting
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, Dave Montgomery, Sue Prendinger, Phyllis White,
- Office Volunteers
Pete Hokanson
- *The Communicator* Proof-Reader
OPEN
- Flowers Coordinator

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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
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- Just Peace
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Gigi Holman
- Music & Arts Ministry
Nancy Forgy
- The Mystery
Jane Gazal
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
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- 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 May/June, 2023.

The Communicator includes information about the life of First Congregational Church and the people of the church. Instead, Primo Congo 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 (May/June 2023 issue) is Saturday, April 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.