



THE COMMUNICATOR

MAY | JUNE 2025



Tell of Where We've Been

by **David Acton**, Director of Music Ministry

david@fcucc.org

Join us June 1, 2025

Philosopher, poet, and novelist **George Santayana** is perhaps best known for his haunting caution that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" (*The Life of Reason*, 1905). The sentiment in recent months is one of unsteadiness and division. It seems more important than ever to be aware of our collective human story – to be critical and reflective, calling out the

troublesome stories of our history in an effort to avoid repeating our mistakes. By understanding our past, we can begin to speak out against ignorance and chart a more informed, compassionate, and inclusive course forward.

As the Music Ministry of First Congregational Church wraps up our program year, we are reminded of just how powerful a tool music can be. Through music you can find peace, hope, and light. In music you can find joy, sorrow, and longing. And with music you can find refuge, community, and courage. Our year-end "Music Celebration Sunday" is inspired by music's unique ability to inform, inspire, and encourage. This special Sunday is set for June 1, and as a centerpiece for that morning, we are excited to announce the world premiere of *Tell of Where We've Been*... a piece written especially for our choir by **Philip Crumpton**. Philip is a member of FCUCC and sings in the bass section of the Chancel Choir. Like Santayana, Philip's work encourages us to wrestle with our challenging human history so that we might come away as advocates to resist repeating it. I'd like to give Philip the floor to talk more about this special composition:

Tell of Where We've Been was written specifically for the FCUCC Chancel Choir, organist **David Acton**, and pianist **Sandi Shroads**. Its central message is simple and impactful, sung by the choir throughout the piece: 'Let us tell of where we've been so we won't go there again.'

The work features the poetry of **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper** (1825-1911), a Black American woman, poet, author, lecturer, and civil rights activist. Her poetry speaks of longing for freedom, the tragedies of slavery and racism, and also hope for a better future when we unite together. The poems will be read verbatim on top of a musical backdrop by the FCUCC musicians, who then offer a musical response that reflects and amplifies the emotions and message of each poem.

The three featured poems are "Bury Me in a Free Land," "The Slave Mother," and "The Burdens of All." "Bury Me in a Free Land" speaks of the yearning to see freedom before the poet's death and to 'bury me not in a land of slaves.' "The Slave Mother" describes a painful scene of a child being forcibly taken

continued on page 2.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TELL OF WHERE WE'VE BEEN	1-2
STAND! SPEAK! ACT!	2
CALENDAR DATES	3
CREATION JUSTICE - YEAR ONE!	4
ROOT FOR JUSTICE: THE MISSION	5
THE FORUM CLOSING IN MAY	5
TOGETHER IN THE WILDERNESS	6
A GREAT SUCCESS!	7
2026 LECTURESHIP SERIES	7
MOBILE CLOTHING PROGRAM	8
COPING STRATEGIES	9
ALL-CHURCH PICNIC	9
TRAIL TREKKERS IN THE SUMMER	10
PEEK IN THE PAST: HOSPICE	11
THE NEXT ISSUE	11
CC SUMMER CONCERT	12
FCUCC ACTIVITIES PAGE	12-13
PALM SUNDAY PARADE	13
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	14
COOKING IN THE SUMMER	14
FCUCC ACTIVITIES ANSWERS	15
STAFF AND LEADERS	16
SUBMIT AN ARTICLE	17

from his slave mother and her heart 'breaking in despair.' The final poem, "The Burdens of All" encourages us with the possibility of all races uniting, clasping hands together, and sharing one another's burdens.

It is my hope that this work will educate and inspire the listeners. Take a moment and let yourself be transported to our very real history, understanding that not long ago the words of these poems were pinned as a harsh and present reality. Let us be emboldened to keep pressing forward, standing and fighting for freedom and equality, and let us tell of where we've been so we won't go there again." - Philip Crumpton

In addition to the exciting premiere of Philip's piece, the Chancel Choir and Bells of St. Vrain will offer music from this past program year; favorite pieces that encourage us to rise up in solidarity, listen with love and acceptance, and stand strong in the face of injustice. I hope you will join us in worship on June 1 to celebrate music at First Congregational Church. In a time when the world around us feels fractured and the future feels unsure, we can turn to music as a refuge. Music shines light into the darkness and reminds us that, even in the most uncertain moments, there is still unity, healing, and hope. We look forward to entering a space together that revitalizes the spirit and emboldens courage.

Stand! Speak! Act! With Compassion

by Sarah Lund, Director of Education
sarah@fcucc.org

June 9-13 - registration open NOW!

We invite children from our congregation and from the greater community to a unique and inspiring multi-faith camp designed to nurture courage, compassion, and community.

Through fun, age-appropriate activities, storytelling, creative arts, and



meaningful group

activities, campers will explore what it means to stand up for what they believe in, speak up for what is right, and act with kindness in everyday life.

Together, we'll learn from the wisdom of diverse spiritual traditions—including Judaism, Islam, Mennonite teachings, mindfulness Buddhism, and progressive Christianity—discovering the common values that unite us while celebrating the beautiful differences that make each tradition unique.

It's a week of learning, laughter, and growing together—a perfect space for kids to explore big ideas, make new friends, and be empowered to make a difference in their world. This camp is for children who are currently in Kindergarten through 5th Grade this school year, with positions available for teens who have completed 9th-12th Grades. **Please register by May 26 to reserve your child's spot!**

INVITING ALL LEADERS FOR OUR FUTURE!

**STAND!
SPEAK! ACT!**
with Kindness

JUNE 9-13, 2025
 9 AM - 12 PM DAILY
 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**K-5th Grade
Multi-Faith Camp**

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
 \$45 per child before May 1*
 Need-based scholarships available;
 contact sarah@fcucc.org for details.
 *\$50 after May 1

Volunteer Assistants Needed!
 Adult / High School students - scan to register!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

**Take note of upcoming
events scheduled at First
Congregational Church during
this summer. Please join us!**

May 9-10

Out Loud Men's Chorus Concerts

May 17

Mini POPS

May 18

FINAL PROGRAM SUNDAY

Stephen Ministry Sunday

New Members Joining

May 25

ALL-CHURCH Picnic (11:15 a.m.)
at McAllister House gardens

May 27

Summer Office Hours
(Mon-Thur, 9-12 p.m.)

June 1

MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY

June 2

ALL-CHURCH Book Read:
Discussion #1 (*The Serviceberry*)

June 8

Ford Studio Horn Recital

June 9-12

Middle School Service Trip
to La Puente, Alamosa

June 9-13

Multi-Faith Camp for Kids

June 14

POPS (*Parents Out Partying Somewhere*)

June 15

PRIDE SUNDAY

Pride Parade (11:00 a.m.)

June 16

ALL-CHURCH Book Read:
Discussion #2 (*The Serviceberry*)

June 20

CC Summer Music Festival presents:
Faculty/Fellow Concert (Free)

June 22-27

High School Youth Trip to Texas

June 29

Joint worship service with
Beth-El Mennonite Church

July 19

Mini Pops

July 20

JAZZ SUNDAY

July 27

FLUTE CHOIR SUNDAY

July 26

"The British are Coming!"
Concert of Gilbert & Sullivan,
Flanders & Swann, and more...

July 27

Organ Recital with
British organist Derek Carden

August 3

FOLK SUNDAY

August 9

POPS (*Parents Out Partying Somewhere*)

August 10

New Members Joining

August 15-17

ALL-CHURCH CampOut!
at La Foret

August 24

Opportunity Fair

August 31

Gathering of the Waters

Celebrating One Year of Creation Justice

by the **Creation Justice Ministry Team**



Faith Rooted in Creation Care

Sunday, May 4 marked the one-year anniversary of our congregation's bold and hopeful decision to become a **Creation Justice Church** within the United Church of Christ. Over the past twelve months, we've lived ever more deeply into that commitment—integrating care for creation into our worship, our learning, and our life together as a faith community.

One of the most joyful moments of the year was our **Creation Justice Creativity Weekend** in March, where art and activism came together in powerful ways. Our building was alive with color and energy—from the Atrium Art Display to kids' crafts to 3D art installations and sales, to a variety of performance that highlighted the many creative gifts of our members and friends. It was a weekend full of joy, imagination, and connection. Thank you to **Ani Rose Whaleswan** and **Becky Weiss** for their leadership and organization.



Throughout the year, our **Creation Justice Earth Holders** group has gathered every other Tuesday for meditation, creative writing, discussion, and reflection. Rooted in spiritual practice and grounded in Earth-centered wisdom, this group has nurtured both our souls and our shared commitment to climate justice. We've also started a new vegetarian **9-To-Dine** group and hosted meaningful book studies and film screenings that helped us learn, question, and grow.



*Marge and
Bob Murray*

We'll soon be able to see the first project in our "*Root for Justice*" program. Trees are now planted in the Murray Grove, in honor of beloved former members, **Marge and Bob Murray**. It was a joyful occasion and many church members came to help and celebrate.

In addition to spiritual and educational efforts, we've taken tangible steps to reduce our environmental footprint. We installed energy-efficient LED lighting throughout our church facilities, a small but significant move toward greater sustainability. And we're just getting started.

As we reflect on this first year, we are grateful for how far we've come—and how energized we are for all that lies ahead. We are committed to continuing this journey by further shrinking our carbon footprint, expanding our educational offerings, and deepening our partnerships in the wider community.

Join us here at FCUCC... come be inspired, give thanks, and help shape the next chapter of our journey as a Creation Justice Church.

NEXT UP: An All-Church Book Read of *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, facilitated by **Lisa November** and **Dave Seyfert**. Books are available for \$20 or pick up a book to read and return the following Sunday. A series of two discussion groups follows on Monday, June 2 and Monday, June 16 at 9 a.m. in the Founders' Room. The first will focus on the book. During the second, we will brainstorm how to nurture a gift economy at our church and in our community. We are also offering an online gathering for those unable to make it in person. These Zoom gatherings will be 6-7:30 p.m. (<https://tinyurl.com/yfj42rks>): **Zoom Meeting ID: 851 5823 3765 | Passcode: 436598**. Just choose from In-Person (9-10:30 a.m.) or Online (6-7:30 p.m.).



ROOT for Justice: The Mission

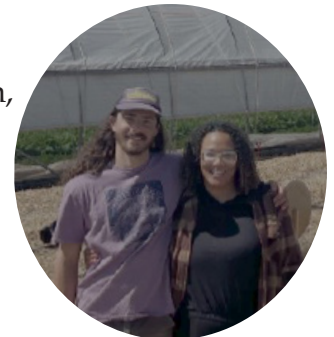
by **Siri Everett**, Creation Justice Team Member
sirieverett@gmail.com

The mission of Root for Justice, a “branch” of FCC’s Creation Justice Ministry, is to plant trees in low-canopy neighborhoods of our city. The munificent donations we’ve received since our founding in October, 2024 enable us to plant trees this May in two areas identified as needing canopy the most.

• **HUNT FAMILY HOUSING** is a project in the historically Black Hillside neighborhood, and it’s spear-headed by Catholic Charities, which describes the renovation of the former 1901 brick schoolhouse into twenty-four apartments to “*serve families on the verge of homelessness, couch-surfing, living in their cars, in a shelter, or on the street.*” Our church is gifting the Hunt Family Housing project with twenty-four trees—serviceberry, apricot, redbud, apple, among other species—to fully plant the 2.8 acre property. The thousands of leaves, blossoms, and fruits will give the nourishment of food and beauty to the whole neighborhood.

• **FOOD TO POWER** is also located in the Hillside neighborhood, a few blocks south of Hunt Family Housing. Its mission is “*To cultivate a healthy, equitable food system in the greater Colorado Springs community.*” They’ve launched “The Hub” on the tippy-top of the hill as a 3.5 acre “space for urban farming, compost production, micro-enterprise development, educational workshops, and fresh grocery distribution.”

This May, our church is gifting Food to Power a hedgerow—a short, dense canopy of trees and shrubs—which protect their gardens from the wind, offer pest-control, and provide habitat for burrowing, winged, and footed creatures. When the dates are set, we invite everyone to come celebrate!



Shane Nelson, Farm Manager
 Patience Kabwasa, Executive Director



The Forum Closes in May

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

As we wind down our spring semester of *The Forum*, I’ve been leaning on the wise words of our amazing speakers. Folks like **Dr. Jeff Scholes** and his colleagues at UCCS who so graciously stepped into a cancellation and made for a wonderful group discussion; **Mindy Lavender** who spoke about our Children’s Ministry Team and the upcoming annual Multi-Faith Camp; the playfully profound **Rabbi Brian** who spoke much truth to power to an overflowing chapel; **Richard Skorman** who helped us workshop local challenges in a growing city; our amazing dedicated Safety Team that educated us on all things church preparedness; and the impressive UCCS students discussing the works of the 2025 JWW Lectureship Series lecturer, **Christopher Hedges**.

You won’t want to miss the rest of our calendar. This May, we have the UCCS student panel back for the post discussion of the Lectureship. Then it’s new member **Dominic Wilkins** for his talk, “Religions, Environments, and Justice” on May 11, and finally a reprisal of **Rob Rogers** on May 18 following up on his previous talk about the Seven Mountains movement. Please contact me if you’d like to join our mailing list or have a recommendation.



Together in the Wilderness

by **Del Hokanson**, *BE-Coming Series Leader*
peteanddel@gmail.com



In an effort to provide a safe place to process feelings in the complexity of our times and with support from **Rev. Lee Ann** who suggested we “not shy away from feelings,” a team of BE-Coming enthusiasts met to create a plan for Lent. Led by **Del Hokanson**, **Julie Garbus**, **Madeline Stanger**, **Lisa November**, and **Henrika Layton**, a vision evolved acknowledging it is so helpful to **BE TOGETHER** as we walk through our surrounding and internal wilderness experiences. Segments of inspiration were threaded



into our conversations, from **Bishop Mariann Budde’s** sermon of truth to power at the President’s inauguration service and a 2023 interview on State of the Nation with Bishop Budde and **Cardinal Gregory**. The Be-Coming team shared the five weeks of leadership with the following sessions:

1. From Ashes We Rise
2. God’s Beloveds
3. Politics and Faith
4. Walking the Talk
5. Micah 6 – and Faith that life is real and can be trusted

After welcomes, viewings, meditations, and conversations, attendees were invited each week to add their personal response to that week’s question, by adding a “rock” to the wall mural. If you have visited the Gregg Library, you may have witnessed the group art project that represented an evolution of hope and faith through the wilderness. Starting at the base was a representation of solid **ROCK** as Bishop Budde referred to building national unity on rock and not on sand. On top of that base we had our first layer of difficult things that we were carrying (*cynicism; what would our children’s world look and feel like; bigotry; indifference; fear of others*). Then the layers lightened as we worked our way upwards each week (*help the Afghan community; hopefulness; keep trusting; curiosity; ask questions and listen*) to things we could **DO** to alleviate the darkness (golf,



knitting, **SING**, pick up trash, be friendly to all, share peace, send and make cards, **BE**). At the start of Lent, the mural itself started with a single voice of Bishop Budde’s sermon, like Jesus confronting the empire. I could not help but feel the hope and faith of our process as we noted the multiple voices across the nation that rallied in protest against the “empire” the Saturday before our final Be-Coming Lenten session.

Using the words of Cardinal Gregory, we selected one of the “rocks” from the base of the mural for our final meditation, imagining we too were walking towards the tomb with the women – “what are the stones in our own lives that cover up the tomb? How can we remove them and be resurrected with the Lord.”

BE-Coming returns in May for three more sessions:

May 4: A poem to change your life – led by **Victoria Hansen**

May 11: An intergenerational conversation with **Rev. Josh** and the **FCUCC Youth**

May 18: Closing rituals, celebration and community potluck before summer break.

Please contact **Del Hokanson** (peteanddel@gmail.com) if you would like to get engaged with the BE-Coming Planning Team for next year or have ideas/themes you would like to share. We are a connecting, friendly and relationship building opportunity. Come **JOIN US** !



A Great Success!

by **Lynne Stefonik**, Chair of the JWW Lectureship Series

cmstefonik@pm.me



The following Team Members are recognized and receive a huge “THANK YOU!” for their work on The 2025 JWW Lectureship with our guest lecturer, **Chris Hedges**: **Ardith Hanson, Dave Seyfert, Jerry White, James White, Marilyn Feaster, Dr. T, Anne Powell, Alys Webb, Laura Pfender, Jeff Scholes, Steve Fehl, and Lynne Stefonik.** Also, this program could not have been presented without the support of our **Church Council, Staff, Patti White, Tom Healy, Siri Everett, Jan Erickson, the staff at the Ent Center, Betony Coons, Kathryn Eastburn, Sid Shelton, John Stefonik, Charles Kiskiras, Rob Lund, and Paul Schwotzer.** **UCCS Students, Abby Corner, Lex Griffin, Elias Allen, Geoff Rael, and Shayla Lewis-McGuire** created and presented excellent programs on **Chris Hedges’** work during The Forum on April 6 and May 4. The JWW Lectureship Team and the UCCS Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life would now like to announce our speaker for 2026!



Announcing the 2026 JWW Lectureship Series

DRUM ROLL PLEASE!

Rev. Dr. Serene Jones,
President of the Union Theological Seminary in New York City

Rev. Dr. Serene Jones spent seventeen years as a professor at Yale University, also chairing the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies program in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She is an ordained minister in both the Christian Church and the United Church of Christ. Her leadership emphasizes the integration of faith with social justice, public policy, and global engagement.

Rev. Dr. Jones' writings explore themes such as feminist theology, trauma, grace, and the role of religion in public life.

Her books include: *Calvin and the Rhetoric of Piety* (1995), *Feminist Theory and Christian Theology: Cartographies of Grace* (2000), *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World* (2009), and *Call it Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World* (2019).



Rev. Dr. Serene Jones

**Save
the Dates!**

**2026
Lectureship Series
April 24-26, 2026**

Mobile Clothing Program

by **Lynn Barber**, Immigrant Advocacy Team Member
lynnbarber302@msn.com



"Do you need help?" asked the Bangladesh woman, who had just received clothes from the Mobile Clothing project that provides and delivers gently-used clothing to immigrants. This recipient, now a volunteer, regularly helps sort clothing and packages that the program receives to fill orders received from other immigrants at the Mobile Clothing Center, located in Beth-El Mennonite Church of Colorado Springs. Around fifty volunteers, including members of the Immigrant Advocacy Team of FCUCC, work with **Vicki Witte**, the organization's leader, to sort, fill orders for clothing, and deliver it to applicants who are a part of the immigrant community.

Since its beginning in 2021, the program has helped people in need of clothing. In 2024, the program provided clothing to 888 clients from 197 households. During the first three months of 2025, 294 orders were filled for households representing twelve countries. The program has clients from thirty-two different countries; from North, Central, and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. To participate in the program, clients fill out an application form available in six languages from the Mobile Clothes website (mobileclothes.org).



The program, founded by the Beth-El Mennonite Church, helps families who are in need of help as they settle into life in a new country. Children develop self-esteem, a sense of belonging, and an opportunity to participate in school activities. Adults gain appropriate clothing for work and safety in jobs. Because of the clothing, they can free up money for food and rent. The church/program does not proselytize. In addition, there are benefits to volunteers such as purpose in life, knowledge about people different from them, and living the "*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*"

The clothing drive at FCUCC will run from May 18 through June 16. Gently-used summer clothing is needed, along with men's jeans, sizes 30-30, 32-30, 34-30 (waist and length), casual T-shirts, sizes small and medium, men's sneakers, sizes 8 and 9. ALL gently-used clothing donations are welcome and needed! However, underwear and socks must be new. The clothing may be dropped off in the Anderson Atrium.

Anyone who is interested in participating in the Mobile Clothes program or FCUCC's Immigrant Advocacy Team, may contact the team leader, **Connie Kreider** (edu_connie@yahoo.com).

**FCUCC
Clothing
Drive:
May 18
-
June 16**



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Coping Strategies

by Marilyn Feaster, Stephen Minister

marilynfeaster10018@gmail.com



RSVP for Stephen Ministry June "Compassion Connections"

A significant loss, a serious medical diagnosis, depression, dementia, and other serious events may affect us, or a loved one at some point in our lives. Stephen Ministers provide a supportive, caring presence to members experiencing a difficult time in their lives.

In JUNE, Stephen Ministers will be offering four *Compassion Connection* one-hour small group discussions so that we can talk together about strategies, as we face many of life's challenges.

These discussions will be held in the Anderson Atrium after Sunday services, on the following dates:

Sunday, June 1

Sunday, June 8

Sunday, June 22

Sunday, June 29

Coffee and coffee cake will be available. E-Blasts will announce the topics.

To RSVP for these Compassion Connections, kindly email Marilyn Feaster (mpfeaster67@gmail.com).



ALL-CHURCH PICNIC



SUNDAY, MAY 25

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

MCALLISTER HOUSE GARDENS

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES!

BRING A DISH

BRING A CAMP CHAIR OR BLANKET

Picnic Dishes:

Last Name (A-G): Breakfast Fingerfood

Last Name (H-P): Lunch Fingerfood

Last Name (Q-Z): Dessert Nibbles

FCUCC Trail Trekkers

UPCOMING HIKE!

**Trail Trekkers report
for
January 2024 -
March 2025**

**39 Hikes with
15 New Hikes**

**64 Participants;
40 were FCUCC members**

12 Hike Leaders

**14 Hikes with
10 or more participants**

**17 hikers did
8 or more hikes**

**May and June Hike Schedule,
with detailed hike
announcements to follow**

Week of May 12 - DTBD*

Starsmore Hike

leaders: Marian and Linda

Thursday, May 22,

Garden of the Gods

leaders: John and Jack

Friday, May 30,

Seven Bridges Hike

leader: Christine

Friday, June 6,

Mule Creek

leaders Bob and Karen

Week of June 9 - DTBD,

Manitou Lake

Marian and Linda

Wednesday, June 25,

Fountain Creek Regional Trail

leaders: Jack and John

**DTBD=Date to be decided*

The Trail Trekkers is for everyone! If you are interested in participating or getting onto the mailing list, please email Karen and Bob Jones (jonesschou@mac.com) or if you have not hiked with the Trekkers before, please include your phone number.





Peek in the Past: Hospice

by **Chris Steenbergen**, Church Historian

chris.steenbergen@yahoo.com

Flora Jean White was born in 1919 in Chicago, Illinois, but grew up in nearby Winnetka. The upscale community's elementary schools featured the Washburne progressive education, developing "the whole child." After obtaining her Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin, she went to teach Physical Education at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, where she met and in 1941 married **James Vernon Carris**. The couple had two children, **Craig** and **Lynne**, and in 1949 the family moved to Colorado Springs, where James started a medical practice. They joined First Congregational Church that same year.

Once the children were grown, Flo Carris looked for a non-professional career, which she found as volunteer in the medical field. She served among others on the boards of Penrose Hospital and the El Paso County Health Department and in those functions came across the need for dedicated end-of-life care. With her good friend **Susan Langstaff** she launched **Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care**, a non-profit, in 1980. The first of its kind in El Paso County, it meant to ensure a compassionate, comfortable, and dignified life closure for terminally ill people and their loved ones.



Flora Jean ("Flo") White Carris;
1998 directory



James Vernon Carris, MD;
1990 directory

The first facility was a residence in Holland Park in 1987, unique in the state, followed by "Residence on the Mount" (at Mount St. Francis) in 1990. They were replaced by the Central Residence at St. Francis Health Center on East Pikes Peak in 1995. First Congregational members **Christine Hall**, **Wilma Steenbergen**, and **Ruth Koenigsamen** were among the staff at these facilities. PPHPC would grow not just in facility size, later including the Unit at Penrose Hospital, but also in home services and services at local licensed nursing homes were offered. For years, FCUCC Associate Minister, **Rev. Dr. Jacques Franklin** served as its chaplain.

Flo's other major effort was the 1990 start, with **Sister Myra James Bradley**, chief executive of the Penrose-St. Francis Healthcare System, of the (recently closed) Namaste Center for patients with Alzheimer's disease. She was Volunteer of the Year for El Paso County in 1981 and received the Sword of Hope Award from the Penrose Cancer Program and the Distinguished Service Award by the University of Colorado Board of Regents.

After James died in 1992, Flo kept the large house at Culebra Avenue for some time, but as the children had long moved away in 2000 she decided to retire to a home in Boothbay Harbor, Maine near her daughter. She died at the Gosnell Hospice in Scarborough, Maine in 2010.

Please note, *The Communicator* will take a break this summer. The next issue will be the September/October issue; the deadline to send in articles is Friday, August 15.

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 FCUCC policy.



THE FCUCC ACTIVITIES!

Games for all ages! Please enjoy!

CROSSWORD #2: MUSIC MINISTRY

Use the clues to fill in the words.

Words can go across or down.

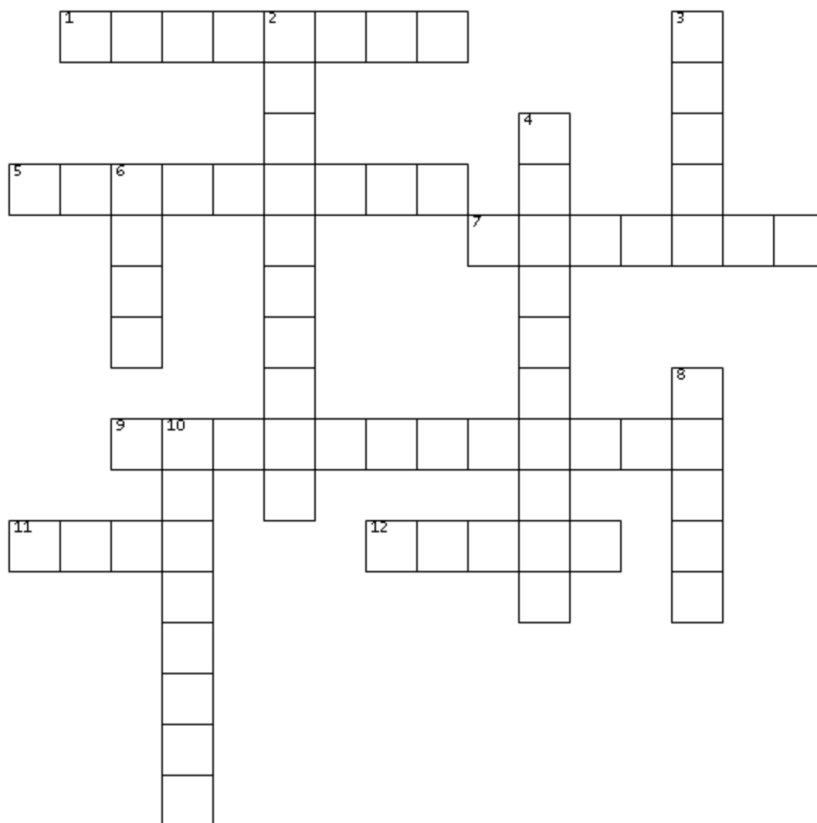
Letters are shared when the words intersect.

ACROSS:

1. Made up with several individuals
6. Our congregation has many of these
7. Rehearses and Performs at FCUCC
9. Performs in worship most Sundays
11. We sing two or three a week
12. We have great appreciation for this at FCUCC

DOWN:

2. Every musician needs one
3. We have a grand one and four in addition
4. Performs in worship once a quarter
6. We do it very well as a congregation
8. Our magnificent and historic instrument
10. Ring in worship once a month



Answers on Page 15




FACULTY/FELLOW CONCERT
AT 1ST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Friday, June 20
7 pm • 20 E. St Vrain St.

Free performance!
No tickets required.

CRYPTOGRAM #1: FCUCC PHRASE

Decode the message.

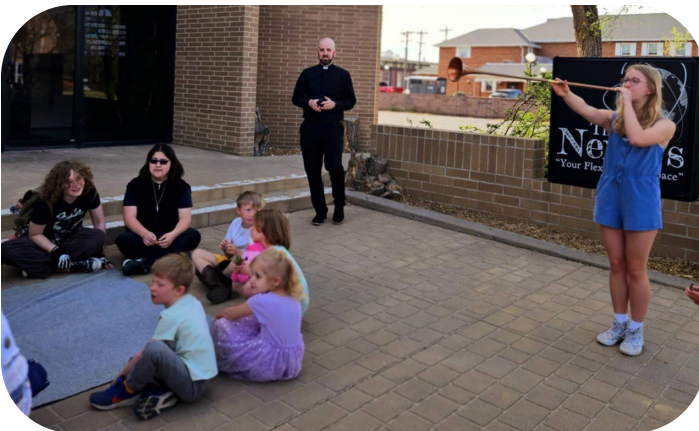
Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number.

Try to decode the message.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		18			10			3						2					22			26			

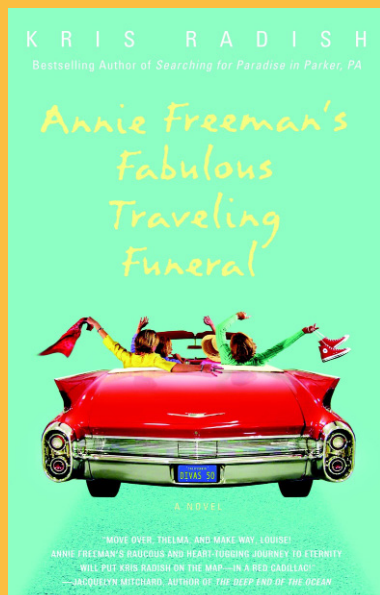
T I C O F O
 C O I T I O I I
 T F O O W T O
 I O T I O F O T
 W O T O W T C O O
 O O

Answers on Page 15



Memorable moments
 from our
 Palm Sunday
 All-Church Parade!
 We were thrilled to
 have, not just one,
 but *two* donkeys
 join us for the parade
 around our block,
 as we retraced the
 steps of Jesus!

FCUCC Book Discussion Group



A fellowship group, open to all! Join us! We get together about once every quarter, and discuss a book that we have chosen together! It is fun! It is enlightening!

The book we are currently reading, and getting ready to discuss is *Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral* by Kris Radish.

We will gather at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 22 in the Gregg Library at First Congregational.

This discussion facilitator is Diana DiMara.

So, pick up a copy, get reading, and join us for a chat!

Cooking School in the Summer

We have two Cooking Schools during the summer!

Be sure to join us at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3 and Tuesday, July 1.

JUNE 3: Marcelo Baca presents "*Italian Cuisine*"

Marcelo Baca is the executive chef at The Cliff House in Manitou Springs. He grew up in the jungles of Ecuador, earned his professional chef degrees/certifications from the Culinary Institute of the Americas, studied at the Alain Ducasse School in France, and worked in Spain with some distinguished international chefs. Because he has specialized culinary equipment, he is able to offer his presentation from the Founders' Room where we can accommodate more guests and enjoy the extra leg room ourselves. He will focus on his favorite Italian recipes that we can reproduce in our own home kitchens. He is young and vibrant and his enthusiasm for creating exceptional menus and delicious dishes is delightful and contagious.



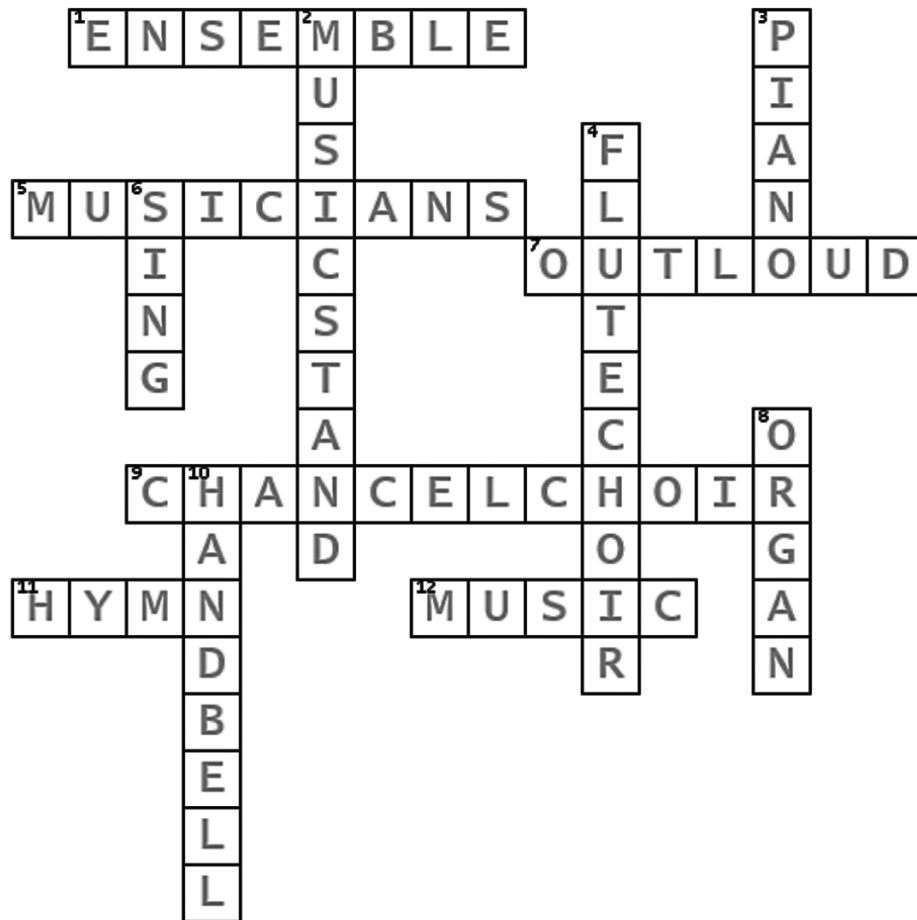
JULY 1: Charles Kiskiras presents "*At Home in Greece*"

In addition to measuring and balancing numbers as Treasurer of First Congregational Church for the last few years, **Charles Kiskiras** has a knack for measuring and balancing ingredients to create special Greek dishes such as *Spanakopita*, with its layers of buttered phyllo dough topped with spinach and cheese. He will share with us his Greek background and traditions while making *Baklava* for our enjoyment. He may have one or both of his lovely daughters to serve as his sous chefs and helpers.



FCUCC ACTIVITES ANSWERS ANSWERS

Crossword, pg 12



Cryptogram, pg 13

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
7	8	18	13	17	10	20	1	3	12	9	19	15	4	2	6	16	11	23	22	25	14	26	5	24	21

T H E R I C H N E S S O F O U R
 C O M M U N I T Y - I N - G O D I N S P I R E S ,
 T R A N S F O R M S , A N D E M P O W E R S U S T O
 I M P R O V E T H E L I V E S O F O T H E R S
 A N D W O R K T O W A R D T H E C O M M O N
 G O O D

CHURCH PROGRAM & OFFICE STAFF

Rev. Lee Ann Bryce
- Lead Minister
Rev. Josh Rumble
- Associate Minister
David Acton
- Director of Music Ministry
Emily Bond
- Director of Administration & Communications
Rachel Rumble
- Director of Finance & Technology
Sarah Lund
- Director of Education

CHURCH COUNCIL

Rich Law
- Moderator
Dave Morgan
- Vice Moderator
Eric Ridings
- Treasurer
Chris Carlson
- Secretary
Cathy White
- Care & Fellowship
Jill Robinson
- Outreach
Minette Church
- Worship & Spiritual Life
Alysa Webb
- Education

AD HOC STAFF

Sarah Groh
- Wedding Coordinator
Ani Rose Whaleswan, Sarah Groh
- Memorial Services Coordinators
Patti White, Ani Rose Whaleswan
- Receptions Coordinators

CHURCH STAFF

Ani Rose Whaleswan, Curt Daniel
- Sunday Sextons
Doris Fletcher, Robert Scheafer
- Custodians
Kayla Bond-Tetzlaff, Lucy Cavin, Doris Fletcher, Katelynn Hoyle, Iris Lund, Sarah Sampson
- Nursery Attendants

PASTORS EMERITI

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

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Lois Benson
- Membership Clerk
Chris Steenbergen
- Historian

LEADERSHIP CULTIVATION COMMITTEE

Tom Healy, Pauli Hubbard
- Co-Chairs
Teresa Latimer
Laura Pfender
Sara Qualls
Nicole Segura

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

OPEN
- Communion Coordinator
Nancy Lippincott
- Congregational Nurse
Marsha Garrett
- Liturgist Coordinator
Tom Healy, Judy Cunningham
- Head Ushers
Phyllis White
- Flute Choir Director
Chris Cunningham, Judy Cunningham, Curt Daniel, Agnes Kehoe, David Montgomery, Chris Newman, 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 Brahler
Samantha Garrett
Ani Rose Whaleswan
- Members in Discernment

**VOLUNTEER CHAIRS**

Lynne Stefoniak
- Advancement Team
Carolyn Dickerson
- Audio/Visual
Cynthia Franklin
- Book Discussion Group
Mindy Lavender
- Children's and Family Ministry
Jane Gazal
- Clergy Congregation Relations
Jan Erickson
- Creation Justice
Sid Shelton
- Facility Improvement
Charles Kiskiras
- Financial Advisory
Jeanie Tate
- Gregg Library
Steve Getty
- Grounds
Karol Finch
- Historical
OPEN
- Human Resources
Connie Kreider
- Immigrant Advocacy
Agnes Kehoe
- Intercessory Prayer Network
OPEN
- Just Peace
Lynne Stefoniak
- JWW Lectureship Series
Patti White
- Galley Gleaners
(formerly Kitchen Witches)
Sid Shelton
- Maintenance
Andrew Claxton
- Mission Giving & Outreach
Kathy Lindeman
- Music & Arts Ministry
Lori Goodwin, Lee Lehmkuhl
- The Mystery
David Montgomery
- Playground Duty
Carol Ives
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
OPEN
- Risk Reduction & Response
Tom Healy
- Safety Team
Jill Cameron
- Sanctuary Arts Ministry
Marilyn Feaster, Steve Fehl
- Stephen Ministry
Rob Lund
- The Forum
OPEN
- 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 published bi-monthly. However, we will not have a summer issue this year. Therefore, the next issue will be September / October, 2025.

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 is August 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.