



THE COMMUNICATOR

MARCH | APRIL 2025



Lent in the "Wilderness"

by Rev. Lee Ann Bryce, Lead Minister

leeann@fcucc.org

A sacred journey of Reflection and Renewal

The sacred season of Lent invites us into a time of reflection, contemplation, and preparation, mirroring Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. It is a season to slow down, draw closer to God, and embrace sacrifice or a meaningful spiritual practice.

This year, our Lenten theme is "**Wilderness**," inspired by Cole Arthur Riley's *Black Liturgies*. We have created several opportunities to deepen your Lenten journey.

MARCH 5: ASH WEDNESDAY, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Come and go at your own pace, walk the Labyrinth in the Founders' Room, receive the Imposition of the Ashes by Rev. Lee Ann or Rev. Josh Rumble, spend time in silence and contemplation

MARCH 9 - APRIL 6:

SUNDAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

You might recall our Advent series based on "Black Liturgy" themes.

Riley also offers Lenten themes of **hunger, truth-telling, mortality, grief, and solidarity**.

FAITH FORMATION HOUR FOR ALL AGES, 11:15-12:15 p.m.

ADULTS: The Forum, Be-Coming, Lenten Bible Study (see pages 2-3)

YOUTH: led by Rev. Josh Rumble

CHILDREN: led by Sarah Lund and Volunteers

MARCH 7 - APRIL 18:

LENTEN POTLUCK & FILM SERIES, Fridays, 6:00 p.m. (*films TBA*)

APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY

ALL CHURCH EVENT, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

No Faith Formation Hour

APRIL 17 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Tenebrae Service led by Rev. Lee Ann, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Nursery Care available

APRIL 18 - GOOD FRIDAY

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE led by Rev. Josh Rumble, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Nursery Care available

APRIL 19 - HOLY SATURDAY

Meditation with Rev. Lee Ann via Zoom, 9:00-9:30 a.m.

APRIL 20 - EASTER SUNDAY

SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE, 6:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE, 9:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE, 11:00 a.m.

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The Season of Lent: Adult Faith Formation Hour

During the season of Lent, Sundays will be busy around First Congregational Church! Faith Formation Hour for Adults will feature different offerings, all beginning at 11:15 a.m.

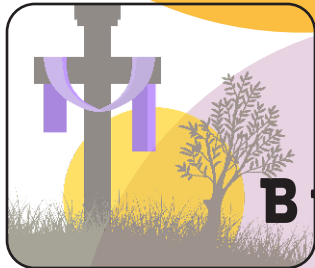
BE-Coming



Sundays, 11:15 a.m.
Gregg Library,
beginning March 9

"Together in the Wilderness"

is the theme for the Be-Coming Lenten journey. A chance to reflect, share and support each other in our own wilderness journeys raising our gaze to the power of hope, faith and love. You will be invited to contribute to a community art project.
All Are Welcome!



Lenten Bible Study

Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

March 16 - April 6

Classroom E2 (opposite the Music Room)

A Journey Through The Themes of Lent

The season of Lent presents us with many different ideas, themes, and thoughtful challenges for examining our lives. Join us for study of Scripture and some of the themes presented during this time of reflection and repentance.

Facilitator: Steve Fehl



The Forum

Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

Carey Chapel (occasionally Sanctuary)

March 2: No presentation
(Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser)

March 9: Rabbi Brian Zachary Mayer

March 23: Safety Team Panel

March 30: Nicole Segura

April 6: Students from the UCCS Center
for Religious Diversity &
Public Life

April 13: No presentation (Palm Sunday)

April 20: No presentation
(Easter Sunday)

April 27: JWW Lectureship Series
presents Chris Hedges -
interview with
Rev. Lee Ann Bryce

ALL-CHURCH EVENT - PALM SUNDAY!

April 13 (9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.)

Everyone in the Congregation is invited to attend an interactive, multi-sensory activity for families with children and youth that will be outside the church and around the city block. Youth, children, and adults will re-enact important events from Jesus' life, concluding with a joyful Palm Procession into the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. at the start of worship.

ESTD  2007**JAMES W.
WHITE****LECTURESHIP****2025 JWW
Lecture Series**

by JWW Lecture Series Team

**In partnership with UCCS Center for
Religious Diversity and Public Life**

We invite you to come prepared to be challenged! **Chris Hedges**, our 2025 JWW Speaker, often takes a strong and sometimes provocative stand on issues, but the thoughtful listener will always find value in considering what he has to say. His perspective is movingly-seasoned by his years of reportage covering war-torn regions and by having experienced the human tragedies encountered in conflict and warfare. His theology is visceral, unvarnished, and conceived through real life hardships observed from a close vantage point.

CHRIS HEDGES is a journalist, author of at least sixteen books, a commentator, and a minister. He has worked as a freelance war correspondent and a reporter, receiving a Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting.



The JWW Lecture Series Team, in selecting **Chris Hedges** as the 2025 JWW lecturer, recognized that some would find his message challenging, even discomforting at times. However, theology can seem relatively effortless to ponder from the comfort of our own privileged existence, yet it can become much more vivid when applied to adverse and dehumanizing circumstances. Perhaps it is in those contexts that our greatest spiritual growth, understanding, and compassion are ignited. Using the experiences in his background, Chris Hedges speaks of spirituality and his inner calling for social justice and resistance to systems of oppression.



The Center for
Religious Diversity
and Public Life

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO SPRINGS

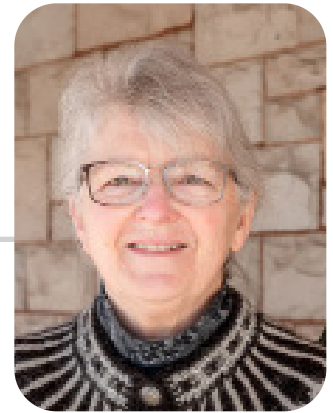
**The JWW Lecture Series Team
and the
UCCS Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life
are honored to host Chris Hedges
April 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,
at the Shockley-Zalabak Theater in the ENT Center**

There will also be a presentation and Q&A on Saturday morning, April 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., at First Congregational Church. On Sunday, April 27, Chris Hedges will deliver the sermon during our worship service at 10:00 a.m. and participate in an interview with Rev. Lee Ann Bryce during The Forum at 11:15 a.m.

So come prepared at times to agree, at times to disagree – even vehemently, but come prepared to apply your best critical thinking and remain open to new or different ways of understanding!

Preparation & Processing for JWW Lectureship

by **Ardith Hanson**, *JWW Lectureship Series Team Member*
ardithmarie@gmail.com



As usual, the JWW Lectureship Series Team is partnering with The Forum



Jeff Scholes

Team to help us prepare for, and then process, the content of the JWW Lectureship weekend and what we think about it all. This year, we have the pleasure of having **Prof. Jeff Scholes** and several students **LEAD** both sessions. As mentioned on page 3, the UCCS Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life has agreed to be a co-sponsor this year. **Chris Hedges** will, no doubt, be a controversial and challenging JWW speaker and we encourage you to attend these sessions.

APRIL 6 - PREPARATION FOR JWW WEEKEND:

Pre-study is encouraged but NOT required. UCCS students will start off by introducing the central ideas from Hedges' many books. Come and learn, ask questions, and discuss.

MAY 4 - POST-PROCESSING OF JWW WEEKEND - "May the 4th Be With Us" as The Forum will again welcome the students from UCCS to help us digest what we saw and learned over the previous weekend. And help us articulate our own opinions.

Please join us! They will be held at the usual time (11:15 a.m.), in the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please contact **Ardith Hanson** or **Rob Lund** (rob.f.lund@gmail.com).



The Forum So Far

by **Rob Lund**, *The Forum Team Chair*
robflund@gmail.com



As many of us have felt, 2025 has been a year of unsettling change. And yet I'm buoyed by the many wonderful speakers that have brought themselves and their talents to The Forum.

Eli Hauber kicked off the year with his impassioned service trip tour.

That was followed by **Yana Malyk**, the Ukrainian emigrant and founder of an international aid non-profit organization.

Then we had **Emily Bond** and **Kayla Bond-Tetzlaff** recount their service trip to Guatemala, followed by **Dylan Harris** and his soulful, palliative approach to unavoidable climate change.

In short, it's been a very emotional year already in The Forum, which is not all that surprising given current events. This is a season of leaning into each other and our community. I'm thankful to you all for participating, and I look forward to the rest of the year. Please take a look at page 2 for the list of upcoming presenters during March and April.

If you would like to join our mailing list, please email **Emily Bond** (emily@fcucc.org) to join up!





ROOT for Justice: A New Grove

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

Root for Justice is a “branch” of FCUCC’s Creation Justice ministry whose primary mission is to plant trees in low-canopy areas of our city. Since its founding in October 2024, we have received profoundly generous donations from these sources:

- \$3,500 — FCC members
- \$5,000 — The Caruthers Philanthropy
- \$10,000 — The Santa Fe Community Foundation
- \$12,000 — The Colorado Tree Coalition’s Community Forest Grant

April is a big planting month for our church!

Named in honor of our formative members, **Marge and Bob Murray**, **THE MURRAY GROVE** of six deciduous trees will be planted on the 1300 block of Wood Avenue. Garrett Tree Service has volunteered to auger the holes, then stake and mulch the new trees. We’ll celebrate with hot coffee and buttery cardamon bread on a date to be announced, and we welcome everyone from the church and the neighborhood to watch a historic median transformed by thousands of fresh leaves!

Our first FCUCC forest for a low-canopy area will be at **HUNT FAMILY HOUSING** at the former Helen Hunt Elementary School. This multi-family retrofit project is owned by Catholic Charities, and will be used to house and support women and children as they transition out of homelessness. (<https://www.ccharitiescc.org/hunt-family-housing-capital-campaign/>) The twenty-four apartments are each designed to be trauma-sensitive and ADA compliant. Occupancy will begin in July.



Marge and Bob Murray

Our church is gifting the 2.8 acre property, which surrounds the building, with twenty-five trees and the planting will be overseen by teams of arborists from both the Colorado Tree Coalition and



Helen Jackson Hunt

Colorado Springs City Forestry who will collaborate on soil analysis, species selection, and irrigation. We want our forest to thrive and serve this community for a century. When we have the planting date, you’ll all be invited to celebrate.

HERE’S THE KICKER:

Helen Hunt was orphaned as a teenager, lost her young husband and sons in quick succession, and wrote angrily and effectively about crimes against indigenous people. She understood dispossession. And now the school named for her will become, for the dispossessed, a home. She would have loved this.



The success of our project is not based on the number of trees planted. Rather, the survival rate of those trees is of primary importance, so adequate irrigation, soil health, and maintenance are key considerations for site selection. We want FCUCC’s groves to serve and thrive!

Peek in the Past: The Builders

by **Chris Steenberg**, Church Historian

chris.steenbergen@yahoo.com



Naulakha, Vermont

The artisans that built our sanctuary between 1887 and 1888 had very different backgrounds and skills.

The architect, **Henry Rutgers Marshall** born in 1853, came from New York and had stumbled upon FCC's request for proposals, because he was trying to get his wife **Julia**, who had tuberculosis, settled in Colorado Springs. FCC accepted his submission in the ebullient Richardsonian Romanesque style over one from local architect **Louis A. Pease**, who would become supervising architect after, when Julia died,

Marshall withdrew to New York. There Henry touted the project and parlayed it into a profitable architect business, designing another church, a school, a library, and Rudyard Kipling's house Naulakha in Vermont. He lectured at Columbia, Harvard, and Yale on Aesthetics and turned to Psychology. He died in 1927.

The contractor **Joseph Dozier** had been a carpenter in **William Stratton's** contracting business, which he took over around 1877, when Stratton started prospecting. Dozier, born from French ancestors in North Carolina in 1842, came to Colorado Springs in 1873 via Baltimore and Missouri. He had built Cutler Hall at Colorado College, among others and went way over budget building our church. Joseph would continue to work on projects like the Burgess House, Nicola Tesla's laboratory, and many more. His grandson **Frank Waters** tells in the novel "*Pikes Peak*," how he later built his own large family dwelling near Shooks Run and got obsessed with gold mining until his death at 83.



Cutler Hall, Colorado College

Master stonemason **Francis "Frank" Finnigan** (also Finegan), born in Ireland in 1835, had fought in the Civil War with the Pennsylvania Volunteers. In 1879 he donated land at 924 W. Pikes Peak for the Washington Catholic Cemetery, which was relocated to Evergreen after 1886. He worked the church's Rhyolite stone exterior, quarried near Castle Rock. Frank, later also a city Alderman, died in 1914.



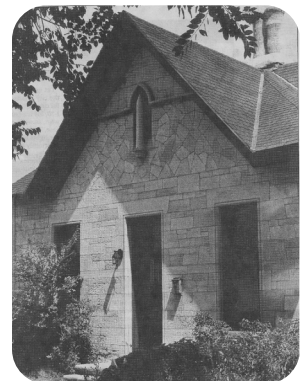
Above the rotunda at the Colorado State Capitol

Hugh Black Copeland

designed and installed the church's stained glass windows. Born in Scotland in 1862,

he moved to Denver sometime after 1881. Copeland later conceived and put in the sixteen windows above the rotunda of Denver's State Capitol. Copeland & Walker was a successful stained glass business in

Denver for many years. Copeland died in 1920.



*Frank Finnigan's house;
225 North Cascade Ave*



Are We Safe in Church?

by **Tom Healy**, Safety Team Chair
thealy719@gmail.com



Recent events that have targeted First Congregational Church as well as incidents that we frequently hear about in the nation and world may cause some to wonder how safe we are in church. The FCUCC Safety

Team addresses the constant tension between keeping our congregation safe from the potential danger that lurks outside our doors and offering an extravagant welcome to all who enter and assuring that people can feel renewed and uplifted.

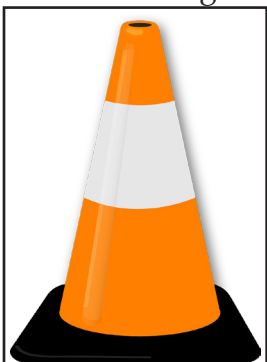
We recognize that safety is never guaranteed anywhere and there is always a potential for some catastrophic event. But we accept the charge from our Lead Minister and our Church Council that we don't wish to live in fear, but rather we feel called to live in courage.

The Safety Team meets twice monthly to evaluate safety risks, determine best practice responses, and then recommend to the Council proposed actions to mitigate those risks.



Here are a few of the key efforts that have been implemented:

- Most are probably aware that all of the exterior doors of the church are locked shortly after the start of the worship service on Sundays. This directs any late arriving traffic to a single, locked point of entry via the glass Atrium doors. An "Atrium Greeter" is stationed there to observe those who approach the glass doors and can unlock the doors to allow entry.
- This same system keeps the doors locked during the week but also gives the office staff the ability to see and talk to anyone who seeks to enter. This is a vast improvement in safety for our staff and our facilities over the past when the glass doors were unlocked during the day allowing unfettered access to the building.
- Most Sunday mornings, as well as during some other events, an additional highly visible outside greeter is on the sidewalk in front of the church. This position provides another set of eyes and another layer of security on the outside of the church to observe anything out of the ordinary.
- The Safety Team has developed and periodically revised a comprehensive risk assessment for FCUCC using a template designed specifically for houses of worship. This risk



assessment is a tool to assess and prioritize the risks we face and to guide the recommendations we make to the Church Council regarding means to mitigate those risks.

On March 23, the Safety Team will be the presenters at The Forum after worship. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the efforts described above as well as the steps that may be taken in the future to increase our security during worship services and other events.

On behalf of the entire Safety Team, I encourage you to put March 23 on your calendar and plan to attend The Forum presentation at 11:15 a.m.

Stephen Ministers at FCUCC

by **Lynne Stefoni**k, Stephen Ministry Co-Chair

stefolc@comcast.net



First Congregational Church has a strong, cohesive Stephen Ministry that is trained and dedicated to the call of offering spiritual support to congregants during life changes and transitions. In a 2014 issue of *The Communicator*, a Stephen Minister noted, *"The very heart of the Stephen Ministry program at First Congregational Church is to provide a listening presence to someone who is going through a crisis or tough time, such as an illness, divorce, loss of job, or a death in the family."*

It was also noted that this presence is called soulful listening and that a Stephen Minister listens "from the depths of (their) soul" so that the essence of the conversation, including feelings, intentions, values and the history behind words can be expressed. In their fifty hours of training, Stephen Ministers have learned how to listen.

Another touchstone of the Stephen Ministry program at First Congregational Church is confidentiality. Names of care receivers are not revealed in any way, even during monthly supervision sessions, when Stephen Ministers discuss their relationships with their Care Receiver. Supervision is designed to get feedback, support and encouragement from other Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders, all who have been through the same training.



FCUCC Stephen Ministers
(from left to right):
back row:
Jon Vigne
Rick Cameron
Jack Beal
Lisa November
Cynthia Franklin
Joan Hershberger
Charles Kiskiras

front row:
Marilyn Feaster
Margaret Reiber
Judy Kort
Diana DiMara
Sibley Savoy
Steve Fehl

missing from photo:
Lynne Stefoni
Danna Lee Oden

When FCUCC launched the Stephen Ministry program in 2007, it became one of approximately 13,000 congregations in 170 denominations throughout fifty states, ten Canadian provinces, and thirty additional countries, to have a Stephen Ministry. At this time, FCUCC has five Stephen Leaders and ten Stephen Ministers. Three FCUCC members are in Stephen Ministry Training and will be commissioned in May, 2025.

If you would like a Stephen Minister or know someone who would, please contact **Rev. Josh Rumble** (josh@fcucc.org) or an FCUCC Stephen Minister. You can also request a Stephen Minister by filling out a card in the pew pocket or speaking with the Stephen Minister who is available at the end of the Sunday worship service.



Education for all at FCUCC

by **Alysa Webb**, Council Member for Education

opuswebb@gmail.com

"Bend the branch while it is still young." Author, Unknown

FCUCC has started 2025 with some exciting news- we are able to extend education opportunities/programming. The biggest way that we have been able to do this, as announced during the Annual Meeting on January 26, and recently from **Rev. Lee Ann** in her weekly eblast, is by extending **Sarah Lund's** hours to thirty per month and offering her the title of **Director of Education**.

Thanks to a healthy budget, this increase in paid hours will cover her for work she has already been doing, such as coordinating nursery care. She will now also be the staff person to oversee all Children's, Family, and Adult Education. Sarah's openness and heart for all the educational offerings on Sunday mornings is building a strong, comprehensive education program. Thank you, Sarah, for the dedication you pour into FCUCC.

It is very exciting to extend Sunday mornings with a full OWL class for 30-55 year olds (**Our Whole Lives**)! We do plan to keep it in the OWL rotation of classes. We have two newly-trained OWL facilitators; congratulations to **Jenny Cavin** and **Dennis Husk** for completing the OWL facilitator training last fall. I would like to extend a BIG thank you to all of our teachers, especially the most recently-trained or first time OWL facilitators, including **Ellen Miller** and **Rachel Rumble**.

"True faith is the bridge on which we can cross all the waters of tomorrow." Author, Unknown

This Lent, we will be offering a **Lenten Bible Study**, facilitated by **Steve Fehl** (see page 2). This brings our adult opportunities on Sunday to three (The Forum, BE-Coming, and Bible Study), with the addition of OWL when it is in session. Steve brings tons of experience, knowledge, and full heart to our community. Thank you, Steve, for sharing your gifts with us and helping us extend our Sunday adult education offerings.



One last group to highlight: **Mini POPs** has been gathering for about a year, and this group continues to grow. If you are a *pooped-out-parent* (POP) of a toddler, check out the Mini POPs group for rest and refreshments! Contact **Sarah Lund** if you are interested in learning more (sarah@fcucc.org).

By the end of 2025 we hope to bring back the **Godly Play** program for Preschool-Kindergarten aged children,

another exciting offering in FCUCC education programming to look forward to. If you are interested in supporting this program, please contact **Sarah Lund** at the church.

Thank you to **ALL** the volunteer teachers, facilitators, assistants, and **Sarah Lund** for a strong education program at FCUCC.

"I am only one, but still I am one. I can not do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do something I can do."
Author, Helen Keller



Your Gifts in Action

by **Susan Ashley**, Mission Giving & Outreach Member
susanashley46@yahoo.com

One of the non-profits which received an MG&O grant in 2024 was **We Fortify**. It is a non-profit land development and human services organization dedicated to building villages of tiny homes that provide affordable housing and support services to help young adults (ages 18-25) escape homelessness and break the cycle of poverty.



Their 2024 Colorado Springs project, **Working Fusion at Mill Street**, consists of eighteen tiny homes and offers counseling, education, and workforce support for its residents. Many of the young

adults are still in high school completing GEDs or taking college courses. Two residents have already graduated from the program, going on to college or securing jobs and becoming financially independent. Two more will graduate this year with Associate's Degrees.

Your generous gifts to FCUCC help support We Fortify's efforts, making a tangible difference in the lives of young people facing very difficult circumstances in our community. To learn more about We Fortify and the Working Fusion at Mill Street project, visit workingfusion.com.

Discussion Groups - Join us!

by **Charles Coon**, Discussion Groups Facilitator
charlesrcoon@gmail.com / 719.510.6015

Here are three discussion groups which may be of interest to members of First Congregational Church. **Charlie Coon** is the facilitator.



Lucy Bell

"FRIENDS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU" meets at 4:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the Gregg Library. This group was initiated by FCC member **Lucy Bell** many years ago (originally "Friends of Emerson").

The group is currently reading and discussing one of Thoreau's essays ("Autumnal Tints"). No special knowledge of Thoreau's writings is necessary, and may be an advantage!



The second group, the **"GROUP FOR UNDERSTANDING,"** meets in the Carey Chapel once a month on the third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. This group began over twenty years ago in Colorado Springs with the purpose of interfaith dialogue. The purpose has expanded to include many aspects of religion and spirituality and their relationships to living in the world. Charlie often contributes insights of "non-duality," an experiential outlook which is gaining interest in the world today.

The third group, **TUESDAY CAFE**, meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Carey Chapel. This group began as a Philosophical Cafe, sponsored by the local Pillar organization. A wide variety of general topics are considered, with members suggesting topics, and rotating as facilitators. Participate as you wish!

For further information, please contact Charlie directly.

ACTIVITY FOR ALL AT FCUCC!

We are pleased to announce a new feature of ***The Communicator***! The FCUCC Activities! Please enjoy!

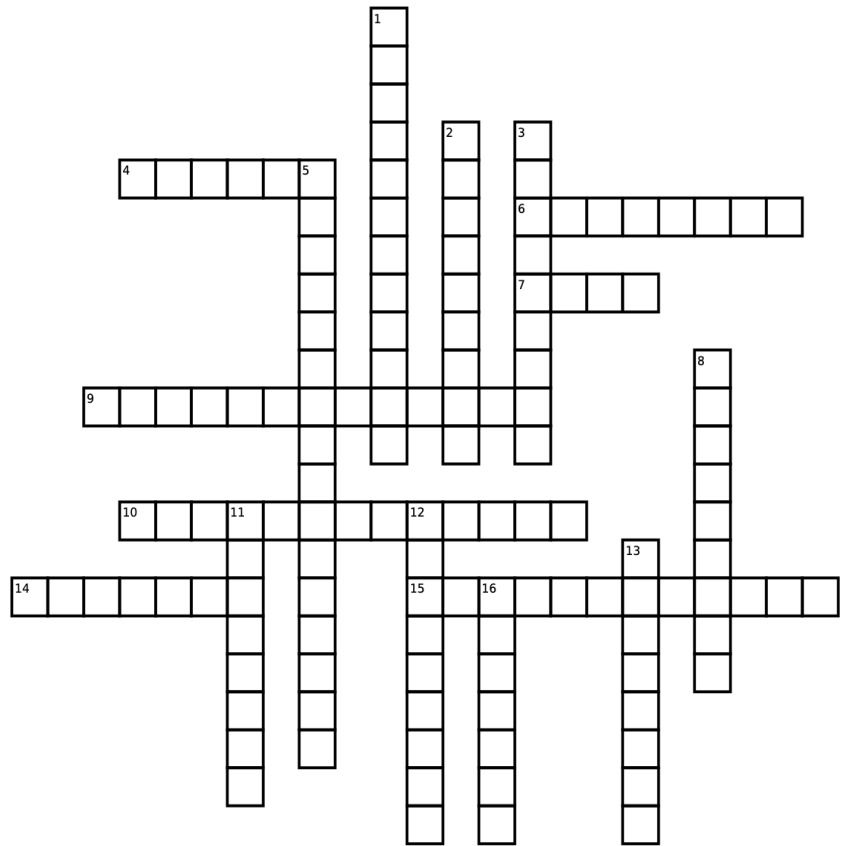
CROSSWORD #1: MISSION GIVING & OUTREACH

Down:

1. Time, Talent, or Financial Support
2. Organizations that request grants from FCUCC
3. Freely offering to do something
5. A request for financial funding
8. Local land-development organization
11. Serving homeless youth
12. Those around us, who we serve
13. Having no accommodation or shelter
16. The action of helping someone

Across:

4. The act of providing something
6. Based in Alamosa
7. Essential for human survival and well-being
9. Providing safe and temporary shelter for children and families
10. A local MG&O grant recipient
14. The treatment of being fair and impartial
15. Annual event at FCUCC



Answers on Page 18

WORDSCRAMBLE #1: WORSHIP

LIBBE	_____	IOCMTUMNY	_____
UFRMO	_____	LBIULTEN	_____
SNRMEO	_____	RAEPYR	_____
FRIEFNGO	_____	OBMGECNI	_____
MNHY	_____	CUSARYANT	_____

Answers on Page 18

WORD SEARCH #1: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BEAN BAG
BIBLE WORKSHOP
BROWN BAG
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
CLASSROOM
CRAFT
CREATIVE
FAITH FORMATION
FRIEND
JOY
KIDS COMMUNITY
KINDERGARTEN
MULTI FAITH
NURSERY
OUR WHOLE LIVES
PAGEANT
SARAH
SING
SINGING BOWL
UBUNTU

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

Answers on Page 18



Kids in worship!





2025 Cooking School Announced!

by **Christine Hall**, Cooking School Facilitator

rebasing@icloud.com

The 2025 "Cooking School" calendar is ready and starting in March! We meet five times between the beginning of Lent and Harvest Season, always on Tuesdays, always in the Kitchen or Founders' Room at First Congregational Church, depending on the preference of the presenter. We start at 11:00 a.m. and conclude around 1:00 p.m., give or take a little.

Our presenters come from within our congregation this year with one guest chef from the community. We encourage our presenters to tell us their stories as they share recipes and ideas from their mothers and grandmothers with the hope this will encourage us to return to our own kitchens and try some of these recipes for our own families and friends. The presenters will demonstrate the recipes they are featuring, provide us with tastes of each recipe, and take plenty of time for questions and audience interaction. There is no charge for "Cooking School" although we put a basket out for those who would like to contribute a tip to the presenter before leaving.

MARCH 18: JOAN ERICSON - "A TOUCH OF TRADITIONAL JAPANESE FARE"

Joan Ericson was raised in Japan as part of a missionary family. She speaks and reads Japanese fluently, and has just retired from Colorado College where she taught the Japanese language and culture for many years. She and her husband **Jim Matson** (who was raised in India) raised their two daughters speaking Japanese as their first language, English as their second. She has continued to prepare meals from scratch using basic wholesome (not processed) ingredients and will help us adapt these recipes to ingredients available in our markets.

APRIL 29: ALYCE MORGAN - "COOKING FOR TWO, the Art of Cutting Back Quantities in Recipes."

Since our recipes tend to be written for six-eight people, many of us whose families have grown and gone tend to have too many left-overs in our refrigerators...which tend to gravitate to the back of the shelves until we find them in the corner overrun with hairy mold. **Alyce Morgan** has had a long-term interest in, among other things, cooking and entertaining, and will help us address that issue and others. Alyce has written and published a cookbook which is available on Amazon featuring fabulous soup and salad recipes with wine pairings and suggestions for desserts: www.amazon.com/Soups-Sides-Every-Season-Morgan/dp/0615673066

JUNE 3: MARCELO BACA - "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 1ST: CHARLES KISKIRAS - "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. Delicious 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.

SEPTEMBER 16: ANGIE ADAMS, LEASA & HENRY SEGURA - NEW MEXICO

Angie Adams, born and raised in Albuquerque, and **Leasa and Henry Segura** will share the stage and focus on New Mexican cuisine, demonstrating how to make tamales in our own kitchens. Angie has been a presenter in our "Cooking School" many times in the past, and we now welcome the Seguras and look forward to learning more about the distinctive tastes and traditions of New Mexican cuisine.

LENTEN FILM SERIES BEGINS!

by **Jerry White**, *Lenten Film Series Coordinator*
gerald.white@mindspring.com | 719.337.7475

This year's Lenten Film Series will run every Friday evening during the Season of Lent, at First Congregational Church (March 7 - April, 18, 2025). This year's theme is **Wilderness**. All films are free, and begin with a Potluck in the Founders' Room at 6:15 p.m. Films begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and are followed with discussion. Please call Jerry if you have an interest in child care or transportation. Here is the line-up for our first two weeks:

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

WILDERNESS

"Godland" - The struggle between the strictures of religion and humankind's brute animal nature plays out amid the beautiful forbidding landscapes of remote Iceland in this stunning psychological epic from director Hlynur Pálmason. In the late 19th century, Danish priest Lucas makes the perilous trek to Iceland's southeastern coast with the intention of establishing a church. There, the arrogant man of God finds his resolve tested as he confronts the harsh terrain, temptations of the flesh, and the reality of being an intruder in an unforgiving land. What unfolds is a transfixing journey into the heart of colonial darkness – one that's attuned to both the majesty and the terrifying power of the natural world. [Janus Films]

(Directed by Hlynur Pálmason, 2022, 143 min, Icelandic and Danish with English subtitles)

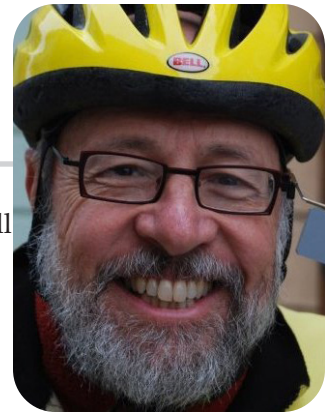
FRIDAY MARCH 14, 2025

TRUTH-TELLING

"Perfect Days" - "Day after day, Hirayama (Koj Yakusho) spends his time cleaning the varied, architecturally distinct toilets of Tokyo. He doesn't talk much, but he's a hard worker – polite, patient and present. During his breaks, he enjoys the sunlight on his face and the leaves on the trees. In the evenings, he eats, reads and dreams. Over the years, Wim Wenders has made many movies about characters who want to flee the world; with *Perfect Days*, he reminds us that fleeing the world and wanting to embrace it are two sides of the same coin. He follows Hirayama with loving intimacy." [Telluride Film Festival]

"There's a word in Japanese that transliterates to 'komorebi' and refers to a phenomenon for which there is no single word in English: the quality of light as it filters through foliage. Hirayama's life and mind are full of shadows, despite the sunlight he keeps reaching for. The light of komorebi is not full brightness — it is glistening, ever-changing, full of variation. Hirayama loves this, and he photographs it because the constant capture of what other people miss — the subtle shifts in the canopy every single day — are for him another indication of the trees' vitality." [Alissa Wilkinson, NYT]

(Directed by Wim Wenders, 2023, 123 min, Japanese with English subtitles)



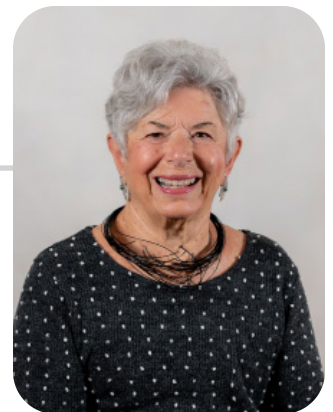
Hats and Scarves

by **Angie Adams**, *Hats and Scarves Co-Chairs*
amadams4216@gmail.com

In 2024, we created and distributed so many hats, scarves, neck gators, baby accessories, and other wonderful items. A wonderful gift is that the yarn that our various knitters and crocheters use, is all DONATED. Thank you!

The items so generously created were all distributed before Thanksgiving 2024, and were so greatly appreciated. These items always make the men, women, youth, children and the organizations who receive and distribute them absolutely thrilled. This year, we also distributed to organizations working with immigrants and homeless youth.

Each fall, we include the many creations in worship, where they are blessed during a Sunday Service before being distributed to those who need them. This entire project is completely based on the faith that the yarn will appear, and then the hats and scarves will also miraculously be made by creative individuals, both friends and members of First Congregational Church. To all those who contribute... you are a treasured gift in this fun and terrific project. Thank you! If **YOU** would like to get involved, please contact me!




All Church Event
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER
11:15 AM **2 MARCH**

Founders' Room - 11:15 AM
DELICIOUS FELLOWSHIP!
 Supporting FCUCC Youth Group Summer Service Trips

CREATION JUSTICE CREATIVITY FAIR
A FAIR FOR ALL AGES
 to celebrate our love of creation!
FRIDAY, MARCH 14 **SATURDAY, MARCH 15**
4:30pm **1pm - 5pm**
ATRIUM ART OPENING **COOKING DEMO:**
(4:30pm onwards) **"THE ART OF CHARCUTERIE"**
 Includes refreshments, (1pm)
 crafts for kids, and more! with Alyce Morgan & Patti White
LENTEN FILM SERIES **TIME WITH THE ARTISTS**
 Potluck: 6pm (2pm)
 7pm* Screening: 7pm
 (film tbd)
VARIETY SHOW!
 Nursery Care available
 (3pm)
2D/3D ARTS & CRAFTS - on display / for sale all weekend**
 **A portion of sales benefit The Murray Grove Project
Create Your Own Art! **Stone Soup**
 Materials provided Bring a contribution!
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF COLORADO SPRINGS
 20 E. SAINT VRAIN STREET | WWW.FCUCC.ORG | 719.635.3549

Trial and Error
 Screenplay written by Sara Bernstein & Gregory Bernstein
 Directed by Judge Richard V. Hall
 Performed by the Hall Players
 Presented by
 The Ben S. Wendelken
 Inn of Court

Wednesday, March 12, 2025
 Free Performance: 6:00 p.m.
 Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
 First Congregational Church
 20 East Saint Vrain Street
 There's a lot of 'error' in this 'trial'...

JWW LECTURESHIP SERIES
FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025
7:00 P.M.
 Shockley-Zalabak Theater
 ENT Center, UCCS
CHRIS HEDGES
 Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist,
 War Correspondent, Author,
 Presbyterian Minister

**AMERICA:
The Farewell Tour?**
"In America: The Farewell Tour, Chris Hedges depicts the horrifying truths on the ground from which resistance rises to jolt us into an active, realizable culture of reconstruction." - Ralph Nader
FREE & OPEN to the public
 Registration required:
tickets.entcenterforthearts.org/5337


JWW LECTURESHIP SERIES WEEKEND CONTINUES:
SATURDAY, APRIL 26 - 10:00 A.M.
 Discussion / Q+A with Chris Hedges
 First Congregational Church
SUNDAY, APRIL 27 - 10:00 A.M.
 Sermon / Interview
 with Chris Hedges
 First Congregational Church
 20 East Saint Vrain Street | COS
fcucc.org | office@fcucc.org



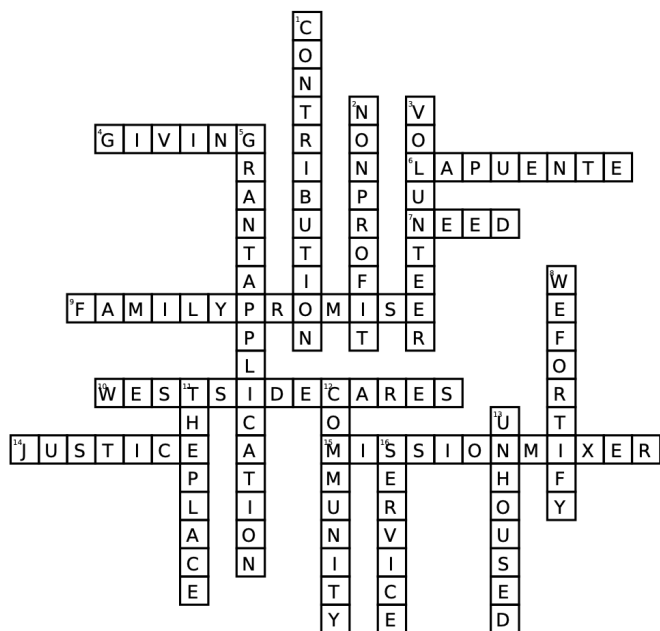
Creative Kids on Sunday mornings with Guest Artist facilitators, Amy Colwell and Becky Weiss.

Be sure to check out their artwork during the Creativity Fair, March 14-15.



FCUCC ACTIVITES ANSWERS

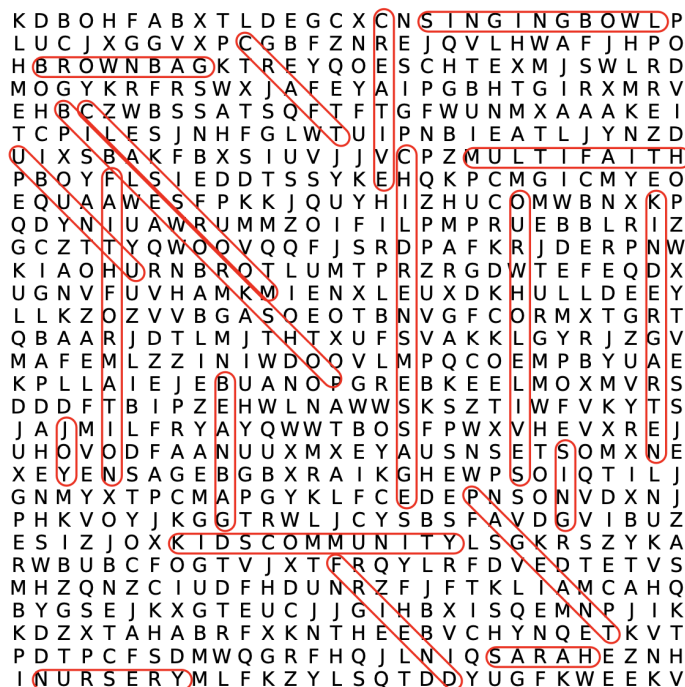
Crossword, pg 11



Word Scramble, pg 11

Bible	Community
Forum	Bulletin
Sermon	Prayer
Offering	Sanctuary
Hymn	Becoming

Word Search, pg 12



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

Jean Hagerman

- Secretary

Cathy White

- Care & Fellowship

Jill Robinson

- Outreach

Minette Church

- Worship & Spiritual Life

Alysa Webb

- Education

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- Wedding Coordinator

Ani Rose Whaleswan, Sarah Groh

- Memorial Services Coordinators

Patti White, Ani Rose Whaleswan

- Receptions Coordinators

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- 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**

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Nancy Lippincott

- Congregational Nurse

Marsha Garrett

- Liturgist Coordinator

Tom Healy, Judy Cunningham

- Head Ushers

Phyllis White

- Flute Choir Director

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- Office Volunteers

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

- Flowers Coordinator

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- 4-Way Covenant

Liz Brahler**Samantha Garrett****Ani Rose Whaleswan**

- Members in Discernment

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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

- Kitchen Witches

Sid Shelton

- Maintenance

Andrew Claxton

- Mission Giving & Outreach

Kathy Lindeman

- Music & Arts Ministry

Lori Goodwin, Lee Lehmkuhl

- The Mystery

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- Sanctuary Arts Ministry

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- 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.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

THE COMMUNICATOR is published bi-monthly.
The next issue will be May / June, 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
(May / June issue) is 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.