



# The Church Bell

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024

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NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 20, 2024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 14  
SUBMIT ARTICLES USING THE ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST  
FORM AT [FIRSTCONGGREELEY.COM/ANNOUNCEMENTS](http://FIRSTCONGGREELEY.COM/ANNOUNCEMENTS)

## Well This Looks Different!

You've likely noticed that this issue looks a bit different than what you're used to. We are experimenting with new formats for The Church Bell. This format will be used for the next few months as we finish designing a new template. For those who receive your Bell in the mail, you will begin receiving it in an envelope each month. For those reading online, this format should be a bit easier to read on your screen. Feedback can be shared with Laura Gurney in the Church office ([laura@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:laura@firstconggreeley.com)).

## Under Construction!

If you've been in the building recently, you've probably noticed that our interior renovation is under way! Seeing the beginning stages of this renovation may bring up a variety of emotions - excitement, uncertainty, and hope - just to name a few. Whatever it is you're feeling as we get started with this renewal of our upstairs spaces, we hope you will hang in there with us. With any construction project, things tend to look worse - or at least messier - before they look better. The Capital Campaign Construction Team remains in close contact with our general contractor, McCauley Constructors, as they begin making our vision for an even more beautiful and useable sacred space a reality.

## Thanks, Rev. Nate!

A special thanks to Rev. Nate Miller for preaching on June 16 in celebration of our 10th Anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming Congregation. Rev. Nate's message reminded us of our ongoing call to continue striving to be a place where all people feel welcomed, safe, and valued as part of our community and God's family. As Rev. Nate remarked, "We don't do this because it is easy or because it is hard, but because it is right." If you didn't have the chance to listen to Rev. Nate's sermon, it can be found by searching on our Youtube page for the June 16, 2024 worship service or by [following this link](#).

## Poudre River Trail

For more than 10 years, volunteers from our church have taken an active part in enhancing the Poudre Trail by picking up litter twice a month from April through October. At this time, the City of Greeley no longer needs volunteers for cleaning the trail, as the city has been able to staff more employees. Thank you to all who have volunteered for this project over the last decade. ~Karen & Gary Fentiman

## In Loving Memory

Please hold the families and loved ones of the following in your prayers:

### Bruce Broderius

December 8, 1935 - June 1, 2024  
Services were held Saturday, July 13th.

### Marge Curtiss

March 9, 1931 - July 11, 2024  
Service information is not yet available.

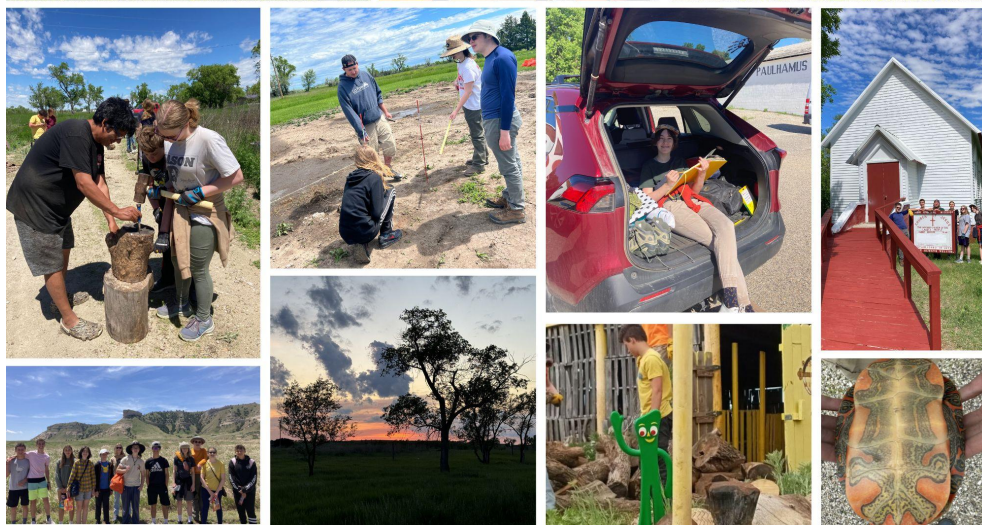
## Time on the Rosebud

In early June, nineteen folks from FCC and Plymouth UCC traveled to the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, where we continued deepening relationships with our friends and mission partners from the Rosebud Episcopal Mission. While there, we participated in a number of work projects which included sanding and painting an accessibility ramp and covering graffiti at Church of Jesus, Rosebud; cleanup and repair of Barbour Hall and Grace Chapel, Mission; clean up of the guild hall and drawing and staking the footprint of the new building at Holy Innocents, Parmelee (where we also visited the pews donated by FCC after their fire); turtle rescue in the middle of the highway; and cleaning up the wood barn and chopping firewood at the Bishop Hare Center, Mission. On each day of our trip, we had the opportunity to learn about Lakota history, heritage, and culture from the Lakota people. Highlights of our cultural experiences were learning Lakota hand games, making fry bread, and learning about sweat lodges. We also earned the first-ever SUPER Gumby Award, awarded for our ability to remain SUPER flexible!

We are so grateful for the ways in which our friends on the Rosebud continue to share their experiences and traditions with us in ways that shape how our youth walk in the world. We are also grateful for Mother Lauren Stanley, who took time away from her job as Canon to the Ordinary to accompany us. If you haven't already, we invite you to [watch the June 9th worship service](#) where we shared the ways in which our time on the Rosebud brought about personal transformation for all who attended.



**Top Row L to R:**  
Group photo when receiving our Gumby; hand games; a break with Sister Jean



**Center Row L to R:**  
Chopping wood; staking & measuring for new Holy Innocents Church; Lucy drawing Church of Jesus; the painting crew at Church of Jesus

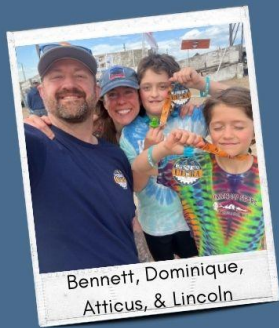
**Bottom Row L to R:**  
Group photo at Scottsbluff National Monument; sunset at our dorm; Gumby at the wood barn; the keya (turtle) we rescued

## Thank you for Supporting The Laramie Project!





Mike & Kim



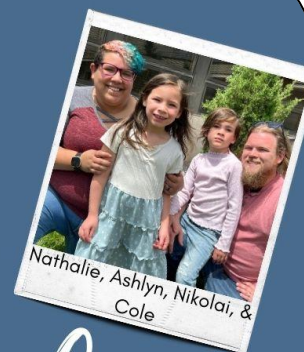
Bennett, Dominique,  
Atticus, & Lincoln



Hannah



Sue



Nathalie, Ashlyn, Nikolai, &  
Cole

# Meet Our Newest Members

## **Kim & Mike Rais**

Kim was raised in Greeley and attended college at UNC, while Mike was raised in Colorado Springs attended college at CSU. Kim and Mike met while working at a group home to serve individuals with disabilities. Kim now serves as the Executive Administrative Coordinator for KUNC and Colorado Sound and Mike is a Senior Corrections Case Manager for Larimer County. Mike and Kim moved back to Greeley seven years ago from Windsor. They have two sons, Connor and Evan, who live in Loveland. Mike and Kim love the music at FCC, appreciate how the sermons are applicable to their lives, and resonate with the values held by the church. Kim and Mike enjoy traveling, playing card games, and going to concerts.

## **Bennett, Dominique, Atticus & Lincoln Edgerly**

Bennett, Dominique, Atticus, and Lincoln Edgerly moved to Greeley in 2020. They are an active family who enjoys camping, taking walks, hiking, roller skating, basketball, and baseball. They also enjoy gardening and reading books. The Edgerly family takes road trips to national parks every year and love their dogs Ernie and Rooby.

## **Sue Zamora**

Sue was born in Greeley to John and Louise Williamson and grew up in California. After college, she moved to Mississippi to be part of a black-led interracial ministry, which led her to a lifelong passion to promote diversity in all settings. She is married to Eloy Zamora, Jr. and has two adult daughters.

## **Hannah Woerner**

Hannah grew up in the middle of Iowa and received her bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education from Central College in Pella, IA. She moved to Greeley in August 2022 to attend grad school at UNC, and loved it so much she stayed! Hannah graduated with her Master's in Educational Psychology in December and has worked for the Greeley Dream Team for two years. Hannah is in two choirs in the community: The Greeley Chorale and The Chancel Choir at FCC. She was also part of The Labyrinth Theatre's production of *The Laramie Project*.

Hannah appreciates how open and welcoming FCC is. Growing up in Central Iowa, she had only one idea of what church was, and did not feel she fit well into that structure. When Hannah attended FCC for the first time she was a little shocked - but in the best possible way! Hannah has found the community at FCC to be incredibly supportive and loves how you can see people from our church at every event in town. There is always someone who wants to say hello.

More new members on the next page!

Even more new members!

### **Cole, Nathalie, Nikolai, and Ashlyn Jensen**

The Jensen family jokingly describes themselves as similar to goulash - just a mixed pot of everything! They moved to Greeley to help family and find a better life for themselves. It has been a rough journey until they found FCC in November of 2023. They say, "We felt like things were not going to get any better for a few years. Our family is known for always being involved with the system. Could be helping out with children's camps, to foster care, respite care, adoption, and sadly even relinquishing. We have helped provide guidance and resources to families in need and have helped families with reunification as well. We are also advocates in bringing awareness to the world that children are capable of abusing their parents."

Both Cole and Nathalie love art via painting, crafts, and photography. Twins Nikoli and Ashlyn love dancing, just being kids, and exploring new things. Their family came to FCC after attending the Found Family Thanksgiving Dinner for LGBTQ+ folks while in the process of trying to find a new church after their identity-creative child had come out. After the dinner, he said "that's our church." Nathalie & Cole told him they would try a couple services and see how it went. They felt nothing but love and acceptance and all four are "just loving this church and community!"



### **A Note of Thanks from Rev. Ben**

I would like to express, once again, my deep appreciation to the church for the gift of a month of sabbatical time this summer. Caitlin, Emmett, and I had wonderful trips to both Wisconsin and New Orleans. The time away was both restful and rejuvenating. I return to my ministry at First Congregational Church with excitement and optimism for what lies ahead for us as a church family.

With Hope,  
Rev. Ben

### **NCCM Lease of North Lot Continues**

Early in the year we anticipated that NCCM would end their lease of our north parking lot in April. However, we are pleased to announce that they have extended their lease for three more years! This results in rental income of just over \$105,000 over the next three years, which is a significant part of our operating budget.

### **Giving Statements Are Coming**

Giving statements for gifts made January - June 2024 will be available July 21 and 28 after both worship services. Any statements remaining after July 28 will be mailed. If you have opted in to e-statement delivery, please watch for an email from [finance@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:finance@firstconggreeley.com).

### **Show Your Church Pride in the Community!**

Have you ever wanted show your church pride as you're out and about? Church member Heather Schulte has worked with local screen printer GOJOs to make a large number of FCC logo items available.

There are shirts, polos, pullovers, jackets, sweaters, hoodies, and more! [Check out all of the options and place your order here.](#) Once completed, items are delivered to the church and we will contact you to arrange pickup.

