



The Church Bell

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 2024

VOLUME 79, ISSUE 9

NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 15, 2024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 10
SUBMIT ARTICLES USING THE ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST
FORM AT FIRSTCONGGREELEY.COM/ANNOUCEMENTS

Blessing of the Animals

Following in the footsteps of St. Francis, on **September 29**, we will celebrate a Blessing of the Animals. We will have an "Altar for the Animals" at both services where you can bring pictures or objects that remind you of an animal companion who is or has been a blessing to your life. In addition, at 10am, you are welcome to bring your pets or animal companions for an outdoor service which will include blessing the swimmers, squawkers, crawlers and waggers who join us for worship. **The 8am service will take place in the Sanctuary and be streamed. 10am will take place outdoors, weather permitting.**

Feast with the Ancestors

Join us on **Wednesday, November 6 from 5:30-7pm** for an all-ages All Saints Celebration. We will gather at table to feast on foods that connect us with our mentors, guides, ancestors and loved-ones who have crossed-over. A feast for the senses, we will also share in savoring story and song. Please bring a photo, story and/or memento of remembrance and potluck item to share.

Hymns & Hops

Join us **Sunday, October 6 from 6-8pm** for a night dedicated to thankful celebration featuring a hymn-sing and creative toasts. Singer-songwriter Tim Coons will lead a tavern-like, all-ages crowd and a folk band (bring an instrument and join in!). BYO favorite harvest beverage and autumnal appetizer to share!



Spiritual Leadership for a Climate-Changed World

Rev. Tamara Joins BTS Eco-Preacher Cohort

Rev. Tamara has been accepted into a year-long "EcoPreacher Cohort" starting this September. "As our climate-changed and changing world continues to demand courage, imagination, and resourcefulness, congregations and their leaders have a unique opportunity to offer prophetic voices of possibility. With the desire to support, educate, and engage preachers in the integration of climate consciousness into their preaching, The BTS Center has partnered with Creation Justice Ministries and Lexington Theological Seminary to offer this year-long cohort of learning, companionship, and exploration." Learn more about the program [here](#).

Dollars & Bring Your Own Donut!

Judy Kron, Chair of the Trustees, and I had envisioned a summer or fall Dollars and Donuts presentation to share the year end financials and discuss the upcoming stewardship campaign. This written review will substitute for being in live space. I must begin with gratitude. Your commitment and generosity have made it possible to exceed expectations for our six-month transition budget from January 1-June 30, 2024. While we did end the period with a deficit, the deficit amount was less than predicted and we are grateful. Thank you. We are encouraged to pursue the goal of adopting a balanced budget.

Total income for the period of January 1-June 30 was \$381,023, 5% over budget. A portion of this revenue came from special funds which were used to support the programs for which they were designated by the donors. Expenses were \$406,309, 4% over budget.

Family Faith Formation exceeded its budget by less than 10% while meeting education needs of adults and youth. Outreach Ministry exceeded budget by about \$1,000 or 20% while meeting needs for food and other community services. The operations budget supported a major repair bill on the church van as well as increased cost for technology. The Building and Grounds category supported increased insurance costs as well as sewer repair.

The end result was that the year-end deficit was \$25,286 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$28,288.

Looking Ahead

Six, twelve and eighteen

Numbers in transition

What, exactly, do they mean?

Six months was the length of the budget period to get the church moved to July 1 from January 1 as the beginning of the fiscal year. That period ended on June 30, 2024 and was supported by the first half of 2024 pledges.

Twelve months is the length of the current budget beginning July 1, 2024 and extending through June 30, 2025. The first half of this budget is supported by the second half of 2024 pledges.

Eighteen months is the length of the pledge period proposed by the Trustees, effective January 1, 2025-June 30, 2026. The first six months of this period will support the current budget and the remaining 12 months will support the budget to be adopted in May or June of 2025.

If there are questions, and there must be questions, contact a member of the Board of Trustees or the Treasurer to clarify the math.

Let me end with gratitude. We are grateful for those members who preceded us in building and supporting this church through the years. They have left a strong foundation on which to build a promising future. ~Lola Fehr, Treasurer

Welcome Lunch for Those New to FCC

If you have recently started attending FCC we would love to have you join us for the upcoming Welcome Lunch on **Sunday, October 20 at 11:30am**. Welcome Lunches are a chance to meet others who are newer to the community as well as learn more about FCC from Rev. Tamara and Rev. Ben. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Rev. Ben - revben@firstconggreeley.com.

Weld Food Bank Backpack Program

We are collecting donations **through the month of September** for the Weld Food Bank Backpack Program. This program provides food over the weekend throughout the year to students in District 6 who are at risk of hunger. Donations can be made in an offering envelope marked "Backpacks" or [online](#) by selecting backpacks in the dropdown menu. Our goal this year is 55 backpacks.

EVENTS FOR ALL AGES AT

La Foret

BLACK FOREST, CO



Fall Youth Retreat

All middle & high school youth are invited to join us for Fall Youth Retreat at La Foret **October 18-20!** For more information, please reach out to Youth Leader Mike McBride (mike@firstconggreeley.com) or visit laforet.org/refuge.

FCC Women's Retreat

Women of First Congregational church ages 16-200+ are invited to join us for our first Women's Retreat in years! All who identify as women are welcome; mark your calendars for **November 1 - 3** at La Foret. This year's theme is "Rest, Reflect, and Relax: A Women's Retreat in the Wild." [Register here.](#)

Growing With our Grief: An All-Ages Somatic Grief Retreat

La Foret is offering a new event **November 8-10** for people of all ages experiencing grief. "Growing With Our Grief" offers a holistic approach to understanding and integrating grief, emphasizing the connection between body and mind. Co-led by LIGHT Movement and The Refuge at La Foret, this retreat will feature a series of workshops and activities led by experienced facilitators from a diverse range of nonprofits and grief support organizations. Each session is designed to help participants process their emotions, connect with their bodies, and discover new ways to navigate their grief journey. For more information or to register, visit laforet.org/events.

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

Paul Roquet

December 25, 1960 - August 28, 2024

Services were held Saturday, September 14. A recording is available [here](#).

Nancy Jacobson

December 22, 1944 - August 5, 2024

Services will be held Saturday, October 12 at 11am in the sanctuary.

Wally Aas

July 22, 1930 - September 7, 2024

Services will be held Sunday, October 27 at 2pm in the sanctuary.

Bob Ruyle

April 17, 1935 - July 27, 2024

Services will be held Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 1pm in the sanctuary.



Neighbors in Need

On October 6 we will collect the Neighbors in Need offering, which is one of the five annual offerings of the United Church of Christ. Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. This year, the theme is “Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right” and supports mental health efforts by churches across the UCC. You may donate in the envelopes provided in the Oct. 6 bulletin or via the online giving page by selecting “Neighbors in Need” in the dropdown.

MENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE FOR ALL

Mental health is a
Universal human Right



Connect With Us Online

Did you know there are three ways to connect with First Congregational Church on social media? You can like and follow our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages for information on church-wide events, photos of church life, and more. Additionally, our [FCC Community Facebook Group](#) provides a more private place in which you may share your celebrations, prayers, and needs with our community. Be sure to answer the membership questions when you join the group to help us ensure that the information shared here remains internal to the FCC community. Please reach out to Heather Schulte or Kate Norris for help accessing the group.

Fellowship of the Grape

Our next Fellowship of the Grape (FOG) events will be:

- **Saturday, September 21 from 5 - 7 pm** at Jenny Sterba's home (1621 22nd Ave, Greeley)
- **Saturday, September 28 from 5 - 7 pm** at the Schulte's home (1205 102nd Ave, Greeley)

FOG events are open to all and are an opportunity to gather and enjoy community with others from FCC. You're invited to bring a beverage and appetizer of your choice to share. Come when you can and leave when you must; no RSVP needed. We hope you can join us!

Support Refugee Families

The Outreach Ministry Group (OMG) is sponsoring a collection to benefit refugee and asylee families through Lutheran Family Services. When a refugee family arrives, LFS secures an apartment and furnishes it with all of the basic necessities. They are in need of many items, but OMG has chosen to collect only three classes of items for this drive. We are asking for new or gently used can openers and bed sheets (twin or full), as well as laundry detergent. If you have any of these items you would like to donate, there will be a collection box in the Narthex **throughout the month of October.**

Costumes & Community

Our Costumes and Community event returns! On **Sunday, October 27 after the 10am service**, we will come together in Chadwick for kids of all ages to gather candy from adults in an intergenerational game and other fall activities. If you're interested in being an adult handing out candy OR helping provide candy, please let Tammi know. We'll let you know what candy is allergy-friendly and let you in on the candy game.

Capital Campaign Update

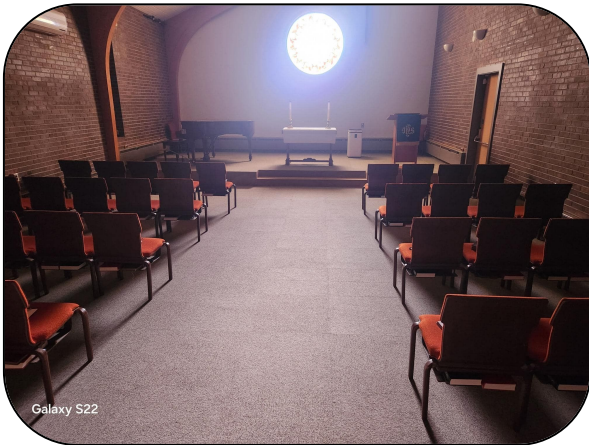
Change is upon us as the interior renovations for the capital campaign really begin to take shape! While the first few months of construction felt like it moved very slowly, we've finally reached the point where progress is visible nearly daily. We are on schedule to have construction complete by mid-October. Hooray!



New paint & carpet in columbarium, as well as new 3D printed vases, thanks to the UNC Arts Department.



Steeple and soffit painting - a very tall job!



New carpet in the Chapel.



The west entryway looks and feels very different these days!



Our children's wing lost a wall and has been reconfigured a bit.



New permanent serving counters in Chadwick Hall.

This Month in Church Life - Fall Picnic, Youth Trip to Elitches, Children's Programming and more!

