



The Church Bell

First Congregational Church, UCC
2101 16th Street - Greeley, CO 80631
970-353-0828
www.firstconggreeley.com

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Capital Campaign Update

We are in the process of preparation for our Capital Campaign, “In Greeley for Good!” An important part of this effort will be several home gatherings taking place in a few weeks. The purpose of these gatherings is to build confidence and momentum through the sharing of project information, testimonials and early ‘pacesetter’ commitments to the campaign. If you are interested in attending one of these home gatherings and making an early commitment, please contact the church office as soon as possible. We will make sure that you receive an invitation.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming Capital Campaign dates:

- Sunday, October 17, 10am - Capital Campaign Kickoff and mac & cheese fest after worship
- Sunday, October 24, 11:30am - Capital Campaign information session
- Sunday, October 31, 11:30 am - Capital Campaign information session
- Sunday, November 7, 11:15am - Commitment Sunday and annual chili dinner

Wednesday Night Live Schedule

Wednesday Night Live is back in full swing beginning Wednesday, September 15! We’ll have a food truck each week (watch our website and Facebook page for the schedule) from 5:00 - 6:30 in the west parking lot. Please bring your chairs or picnic blanket and join us on the lawn for a meal together (no tables will be set up). Programming begins at 6:30. (Kids’ Choir for kids 4 years - 5th grade, Praxis Project for adults, middle school youth 6:30-7:30 and high school youth 7:30-8:30.)

Staff Contact Information

We recently upgraded to a new phone system that allows you to call many of the staff members directly, without having to first pass through the office. It has also gives you the opportunity for you to text us! You’ll find the staff’s contact information below. Please know that we return calls and voicemails during normal business hours (with exception made for urgent pastoral care requests).

Rev. Ben Konecny (he/him)

Minister, Head of Staff

(RevBen@firstconggreeley.com or
970-616-5353)

Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern (she/her)

Minister, Head of Programs

(RevTamara@firstconggreeley.com or
970-616-5354)

Dr. Derek Chester (he/him)

Minister of Music

(Derek@firstconggreeley.com or 970-616-5358)

Dr. Keenan Boswell (he/him)

Organist

(Keenan@firstconggreeley.com)

Laura Gurney (she/her)

Church Administrator

(Laura@firstconggreeley.com or 970-616-5351)

Tammi Van Drunen (she/her)

Children’s Minister

(Tammi@firstconggreeley.com or
970-616-5357)

Brady Ross, (he/him)

Youth Minister

(Brady@firstconggreeley.com or 970-616-5361)

Alex Rodriguez (she/her)

Communications Specialist

(Alex@firstconggreeley.com or 970-616-5356)

Jackie Russo (she/her)

Financial Secretary

(Jackie@firstconggreeley.com or 970-616-5355)

Tyler Rossman (he/him)

Facility Manager

(Tyler@firstconggreeley.com)

Thank You from Kim Pace

I am filled with gratitude for the beautiful retirement send-off last month. Thank you to the staff, the choir, PAKT House, and the entire congregation for the uplifting music and tribute. I am humbled by your gifts, cards, support, and love. Blessings to each of you as your songs continue to echo the past, speak to the present, and point to the future.

Soccer Without Borders

We are so excited to now have Soccer Without Borders’ Greeley office located in the lower level of our church. Soccer Without Borders is an international organization that has had a location in Greeley for over ten years. SWB provides opportunities to play organized soccer and receive assistance with school work to middle and high school youth who come to our community as refugees and immigrants.

St. Francis Day Humane Society Adoption Event

We will be celebrating St. Francis Day this year by hosting an adoption event for The Weld County Humane Society on October 3 from 11:30-1:30 in our west parking lot. Humane Society staff will be leading programming during our faith formation time (10:15-11:15) that day for our kids!

Fellowship of the Grape

We hope you can join us on October 3 from 4-6 for a Fellowship of the Grape gathering hosted by Bob & Barb Lowenbach (2559 55th Ave). Bring an appetizer or drink to share if you are able. All are welcome to this time for us to connect as a church community.

Wednesday Night Live - Praxis

Discover the Enneagram with us! We'll spend Wednesday Night Live from September 15 - October 20 exploring the Enneagram. We'll have a food truck each Wednesday from 5-6:30pm. Programming begins at 6:30.

The Enneagram has roots in several wisdom traditions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. But it was not until the late 1960s that Oscar Ichazo began teaching the Enneagram in its current form. Today this system is widely taught as a way of understanding personality, addiction, relationships, and vocation.

The Enneagram combines traditional wisdom with modern psychology to help us better understand ourselves and the people in our lives. The nine archetypal types ALL live within us, but by discovering our dominant type we can gain insights that allow us to more accurately see ourselves. This powerful tool can be used to increase personal and professional effectiveness, improve self awareness and emotional intelligence, understand patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving, build more successful relationships at home and at work, support one's strengths, identify blind spots and manage personal reactivity, and develop one's inner life.

Join Rev. Tamara and fellow Praxis classmates as we delve into this fascinating tool for self awareness and spiritual development.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Sunday morning fellowship time will resume on Sunday, September 19 after 8:00 and 10:00 worship on the flagstone patio by staff parking. Please bring your coffee or water cup!

Pastoral Care

As we settle into our new roles, both Rev. Tamara and I will be making regular pastoral care visits to members of our church who are home-centered. We are also available to schedule pastoral care sessions on an as-needed basis. If you, or someone you know from the congregation, is in need of a pastoral care visit, please let Rev. Tamara or me know.

Also, if you are interested in being part of our lay pastoral care team, please let me know!

Rev. Ben

Save the Date: Women's Retreat

In a world that constantly demands our time and resources, carving out time for rest can be difficult. When we do finally take a break, it can be hard to let go of the guilt of all the things we aren't getting done. So save the date and join us April 1-3 at La Foret. We'll lean into the theme of the weekend, which is The Rhythm of Ritual: Letting Go of Busy and Embracing Rest. More details will follow, but please reach out to Laura Gurney in the office (laura@firstconggreeley.com or call or text 970-616-5352) if you are interested in receiving all updates.

Thanks, Volunteers!

Thank you to all who participated in United Way's Day of Caring and helped prepare Soccer Without Borders new space in our lower level.



Greeley Immigrant Fund

The FCC Board of Trustees have given a conditional green-light for the church to act as a fiscal sponsor for the nascent *Greeley Immigrant Fund*. In partnership with local non-profits, schools, universities, and churches, this fund would seek to raise and distribute money to help keep immigrant students from the greater Greeley community in school. The board hopes to meet for the first time later this month. If you would like more information, please reach out to Rev. Tamara.

10th Anniversary Organ Concert

We hope you can join us Sunday, September 19 for a concert offered by Dr. Keenan Boswell in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the installation of our Quimby Organ. Music will include classical repertoire along with original compositions by Dr. Boswell. Vocals for original compositions will be sung by Dr. Derek Chester. The concert begins at 4:30 with light refreshments to follow outside. This concert will be live-streamed and will be available to watch afterwards on YouTube.

Revs. Ben & Tamara's Installation



A Note from Tammi

I've had a wonderful summer getting to know many of you! On Sunday, September 5th, I fully stepped into my Children's Minister role. I'm eager to journey with the FCC kids as we enter into God's good love together. I'm still looking to fill simple, no-prep roles for greeters and faith companions for kids on Sunday mornings. Please contact me if you're interested!

A Note from Brady

Thank you for all the welcoming and fun we have had in my first week here in Greeley. From welcome gifts to our first gathering on Monday night, I am filled with love from this congregation! As I finally settle in and we begin programming for youth, I want to say how excited I am to meet more of you and build relationships and community. I look forward to seeing you in the church!



Middle & High School Fall Retreat

La Foret's fall retreat for middle & high school students will be October 29-31, 2021. Go to laforet.org/ucc-camps for more information and registration. Camp scholarships are available. Please reach out to our youth minister, Brady Ross, for scholarship information.