



The Church Bell
 First Congregational Church, UCC
 2101 16th St. • Greeley, CO 80631
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**MINISTER'S
 Message**

Sharing Our Story

There is an African proverb that says, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." As we near our 150th Anniversary next year, there's no question that First Congregational Church has made it far. This is a remarkable moment for our church. As I heard someone recently say, "You don't turn 150 very often!"

An important part of this moment is looking back and celebrating those who have come before us—women and men who devoted their lives to following Jesus and making God's love known in Greeley. With trust in God's guidance, wisdom, and strength, generation after generation of our forebears lived faithfully in the present while planning for a vital and fruitful future for their church home. Because of this commitment shared by so many who came before us, we have the opportunity to celebrate a milestone that few faith communities ever reach. So it is important that we remember with gratitude those who, together, ensured First Congregational Church made it this far.

But this moment can be so much more than a finish line for us to cross. Following in the faithful example of our forebears, this is a season to prepare and dream for the next 150 years of vital and fruitful ministry by our church home. Though much has certainly changed over the years, our calling remains the same as the generations who came before us—to make God's love known in Greeley as we follow the way of Jesus.

Certainly the church's direction for the next 150 years could be determined by a small group of people. Such an approach may be faster, but it wouldn't get us very far. It is only by engaging the process of dreaming and preparing together, as a community, that we can move forward from this time of celebration with the wisdom, guidance, and strength for remaining faithful to God's call.

The first step that we will take together towards our vital and fruitful future is a church-wide initiative called **Sharing Our Story**. Church consultant John Laster will guide this initiative during two weekends in November. Gatherings for **Sharing**

(Continued on facing page)

(Minister's Message—Continued from cover page)

Our Story Part 1: Who Are We Really? will be held November 9, 10, and 11. There will be four identical gatherings offered during these dates. Church members and friends are asked to attend any one of these four gatherings. During this time John will facilitate discussion about our church's identity and core values. Dates and times are below

Gatherings for **Sharing Our Story Part 2: Our Vision for the Future** will be held November 23, 24, and 25. Once again, there will be four identical gatherings offered over these dates. Church members and friends are asked to attend any one of these four gatherings as well. During this time John will facilitate discussion about our hopes and dreams for our church's future.

At the conclusion of these two weekends, John and a team from the church will review the discussions that took place in these gatherings. After compiling key take-aways, they will create a report called *Our Shared Story* that will be presented to the church.

Our Shared Story will be instrumental for moving forward into the transitions that await us next year and for providing solid fiscal support for the next decade.

Your participation is essential for *Our Shared Story* to be successful in shaping our future together. We ask you to please find one **Part 1** gathering and one **Part 2** gathering in the schedule below to attend. Nursery care will be available during all the sessions.

Sharing our Story Part 1: Who Are We Really?
 (please attend one of these sessions)

Saturday, November 9	10:00 - noon
	2:00 - 4:00
Sunday, November 10	11:30 - 1:30
Monday, November 11	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sharing our Story Part 2: Our Vision for the Future
 (please attend one of these sessions)

Saturday, November 23	10:00 - noon
	2:00 - 4:00
Sunday, November 24	11:30 - 1:30
Monday, November 25	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Youth Group's Frozen T-Shirt Battle



"Count Me In!" Chili Lunch



Dinner @ 5:45 in Chadwick Hall
Programs @ 6:30

Here's the November schedule:

6:30 p.m.

For Kids:

- Rainbow & Jubilation choir rehearsal—lower level
- Middle School Youth Group—led by Robbie Carlson, Youth Room

For Adults:

- Praying the News—led by Rev. Nathan Miller, Slighter Hall
- The Praxis Project—led by Rev. Ben Konecny, Hope Room

7:30 p.m.

- High School Youth Group—led by Robbie Carlson, Youth Room

NOTE: There will be no Wednesday Night Live dinner or programs on November 27.

Taize Worship Service

November 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Farr Chapel



Join us for a time of contemplative singing and silence.

This will take the place of the usual adult programs during Wednesday Night Live.

Count Me In! Update

We had a wonderful chili lunch last month to kick off our "Count Me In!" 2020 Generosity program. So far we have received 140 pledges of financial support promised for next year. We hope to have 220 pledges on hand by the end of the year. If you have not made a pledge, please pick up a card in the narthex or in the church office.



Tuesday Advent Concert Schedule

December 3, 11:30 a.m.

UNC Men's Glee Club
Directed by Dr. Galen Darrough

December 10, 12:15 p.m.

John Mills, trumpet
Gary Dempsey, piano

December 17, 12:15 p.m.

Dick Jamieson Saxophone Ensemble



Family Outing

Saturday, November 23

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Adventure Gymnastics

5800 18th St., Greeley

\$5 per child

ages 5-12 welcome

You can sign up and pay on our website:

(www.firstconggreeley.com→Calendar→Events)

or meet at the gym at 1:00

that day and pay at the door.

Parents: Please remain with kids during the event.

Rainbow Storytime

We are excited to host Rainbow Storytime, put on by the High Plains Library. The focus of this storytime is to provide a welcoming and safe space to read stories and create community that supports and celebrates inclusivity and diversity.

Rainbow Storytime is geared for families with children kindergarten through 2nd grade. Our next storytime will be Saturday, November 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Place.

Habitat Guatemala Mission

Greetings to all who may be interested in joining our mission team to Guatemala July 11-19, 2020. We will hold our first orientation meeting in the Hope Room this Sunday, November 10, at 11:30 a.m.



Participants must be at least 16 years of age and in good health. All aspects of the mission will be discussed, and all are welcome!



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

Ten Thousand Villages Sale

Friday, November 22, 4:00-8:00

Saturday, November 23, 9:00-4:00

Sunday, November 24, 8:00-1:00

Start your holiday shopping at the Ten Thousand Villages sale hosted by our church. Ten Thousand Villages provides artisans from around the world a market to sell their beautiful work and receive a profit that supports themselves and their families. Wonderful gifts and supporting artisans around the globe—this is holiday shopping to feel great about!

Opportunities to Help with Ten Thousand Villages Sale

Baked goods needed for Ten Thousand Villages bake sale: Please drop off baked goods in the church office by Friday morning, November 22. Your contribution of cookies, brownies, or other tasty treats, INCLUDING GLUTEN-FREE ITEMS, is appreciated!

This year we are excited to team up with the DREAMer Engagement Program at UNC. The DREAMer Engagement Program supports UNC students who have DACA status or are undocumented. Proceeds for this year's bake sale will support scholarships for these UNC students to continue their education and pursue their dreams.

Volunteers are needed: Please let Rev. Ben know if you are able to help unload items on Sunday, November 17, at 1:00 p.m. or to help set up the sale on Friday, November 22, any time between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Greeley Habitat 3rd Annual Cookie Walk

Zoe's Café, 711 10th St., Greeley
Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m. - noon

A family holiday event supporting the 2020 Thrivent Faith Build

There will be a variety of homemade cookies for sale by the pound and Christmas entertainment by local community members.

Ways to get involved:
Bake - Volunteer - BUY cookies
For more information, call Karen Giebler (970-356-1930) or Carolyn Cooke (970-353-8303)

