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Minister's Message

When I was a child, my family often watched the Ed Sullivan Show. It was a variety show with wide appeal (it featured the first televised appearance of the *Beatles* in America!). There was one recurring act that always made me nervous. I have no idea who the performer was, but he would spin plates on long, skinny poles. Just when you were sure he was about to lose one as it slowed down, just in time he would start it spinning again and move to another.

As we move into this season of transition and new opportunities at church, I suppose it can feel a bit like keeping multiple plates spinning in the air. At our Annual Meeting last month we decided to use the titles: *Head of Staff* and *Head of Programs* for our clergy staff. We also approved a process to discern whether Rev. Ben Konecny may move into the Head of Staff position when I retire at the end of this year. We will begin work on the first part of our pastoral search this month, naming a team to write our church's Profile. And we recently finished another round of conversations with John Laster of Horizons Stewardship, assessing our readiness to embark on a Capital Campaign. His feasibility study will be delivered later this month. Then the congregation will have an opportunity to decide if we wish to move forward. Meanwhile we enter the season of Lent later this month and continue to engage in dozens of avenues for ministry at church and in our wider community.

It may feel like spinning multiple plates, but there is a key difference: our "busy-ness" is anchored in our church's call to ministry—to become the Body of Christ in the world. We are world shapers. We are those who speak of God (*theologians*) and bear witness to God at work in our world. It may feel like busy work, but it is holy work.

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(Minister's Message—Continued from cover page)

During our last round of gatherings with John Laster, it has become clear that we are blessed with a deep bench of capable, faithful leaders and we are a healthy church by any measure. We can approach this busy season, not with fear or anxiety but with the confidence of a deep sense of holy purpose.

And, if a plate happens to fall and break (I'm pretty sure it happened a few times on the Ed Sullivan show), we will also rely on God's mercy!

With Great Hope,
 Rev. Nate Miller





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

February 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: On Wednesday, February 12, at 6:30, Please join us in the Chapel for Taize worship, a time of contemplative singing and silence.

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



Children & Youth Variety Show

Sunday, February 23, 4:00 p.m.

Youth and children (age 18 and under) of all abilities are welcome to participate. Sing, play an instrument, tell a joke, juggle, dance, do

magic, have fun!

We're looking for

silly and serious

talent. Please

limit your

appearance to no

more than two

acts. Piano students: one selection per act,

please. To sign up, go to <https://forms.gle/f861fbie1UmPV4Y57>.

Last day to sign up is

Friday, February 21. Join us for a pancake

supper in Chadwick Hall immediately following

the show. There is no cost; a free will offering

will be received.



**The Genesis &
Jubilation choirs
will travel to Denver
to participate in the
Choristers Guild
Festival on Saturday,
February 22.**



What's Next for our Capital Campaign?

At the end of January we had six gatherings with our coach, John Laster, to conclude our discovery process and assess whether we are ready to move forward with a Capital

Campaign. Your input is

still important. Whether

you attended a meeting or

not, you are invited to fill

out the survey online at: [https://](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/greeleyfirstimpressions)

www.surveymonkey.com/r/greeleyfirstimpressions.

You can also read compilations of our group discussions on our church website; however, you **MUST** sign up for the member forum before gaining access to this information. To sign up as a member, go to www.firstconggreeley.com and click the "Members" tab at the top and "Forum" underneath. You may request an account by signing up with Facebook, Google, or a different email address. Then you must wait for approval by the web administrator (usually the same day) before being granted access. Don't wait—there's lots of great information available in the Member Forum!



Rescheduled for Saturday, February 15

Join us in the Gathering Place on Saturday, February 15, from 5:00 to 7:30, for Pizza and a Movie at church. We will watch Toy Story 4 and eat pizza as a church family. All are welcome to attend!



The Love and Logic Institute is dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding instead of stressful and chaotic. We provide practical tools and techniques that help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children and help them prepare their kids for the real world. Dave Seitenbach is a facilitator for Love and Logic and will offer sessions February 11 & 25, March 3, 10, 24 & 31 at 6:30 p.m. in Hope. Please call Dave to sign up, 303-947-8953.



Show love to our neighbors who are immigrants. An event called "To: Immigrants with Love" will be held this Saturday, February 8, from 5:00 to 7:00 at

Atlas Theater (709 16th St.). We will hear stories from families affected by the current immigrant detention practice as well as make Valentine's Day cards for individuals held in immigrant detention centers in our area.



**STEM Activity
during children's worship time**

Welcome Dr. Chester

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Derek Chester as our interim Director of Adult Choirs (Chancel Choir, Chapel Singers and Hand Bell Choir). Derek is Associate Professor of Voice and Director of the Ursa Consort at the University of Northern Colorado. He is a featured soloist at the Staunton Music Festival and the Colorado Bach Festival. Though his career is concentrated primarily in concert work, Dr. Chester is also passionate about opera and opera history. Before receiving his DMA in Voice Performance and Opera Studies at the University of North Texas, he studied at the University of Georgia and the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music.