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Minister's

Message

Meet Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern

Final candidate for Minister, Head of Programs

The Selection Team is overjoyed to name Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern as our final candidate to be called as our next Minister, Head of Programs. The congregational vote to call Rev. Tamara will take place on Sunday, October 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the church's west parking lot.



The Selection Team presents Rev. Tamara to the congregation with tremendous enthusiasm and the utmost confidence that God is calling her to First Congregational Church. Rev. Tamara is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York and has served churches in Connecticut and Maine. Rev. Tamara has experience and enthusiasm for leading worship, cultivating connections both within and outside the walls of the church, and developing spiritual formation opportunities for all ages.



Rev. Tamara has loved learning about First Congregational Church and the broader Greeley community. She is excited to join us in our mission of being Rooted in God's love; Nourished on our journey of faith; and Growing as an inclusive Christian presence in Northern Colorado. With great hope for what the future holds, we look forward to welcoming Rev. Tamara, her wife Piper, and their daughter Tovi to Greeley.

Upcoming Events brought to you by the Family Faith Formation Team



Join us on Sunday, October 25, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the west parking lot for this annual Halloween event! All candy/treats will be PROVIDED, and other COVID/safety steps will be in place. Wear your masks and costumes, decorate your vehicles, and join in the fun! *More details coming soon.*

Trunk-or-Treat

Drive-In Movie Night

All are invited to join us once again in the west parking lot on Sunday, November 1, at 6:00 p.m. for a viewing of the Rob Reiner film adaptation of the William Goldman classic: "The Princess Bride" (Rated PG). The movie will be shown on large screens on the west facade of the church, with audio provided via FM radio transmitter. Popcorn will also be provided. Hope to see you there!



## Chalk Art Show 2020






### 150th Anniversary Celebration Event

October 18, 2020

2:00-4:00 p.m.

St. Patrick Presbyterian Church  
803 10th Avenue, Greeley  
(formerly Park Church, one-time home  
of First Congregational Church)

*Tour. Memories. Reception.*

Help us present a COVID-safe experience.

Please RSVP by October 16 to

kimbarbour@comcast.net

or call 970-396-5036

Part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration  
of First Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
**In Greeley for Good**

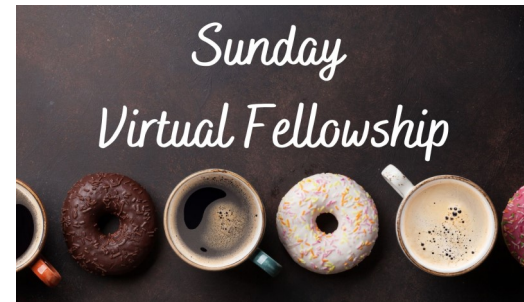


### Weld Food Bank Backpack Program

The Backpack Program provides food for children who are at risk for hunger over the weekend. The Food Bank works with school counselors and teachers to identify students who are in great need of food and provide

them with shelf-stable milk, juice, a high protein meal, and three or four snacks to take home on Fridays. A \$100 donation supports one student for the school year. Our goal is to support 101

students this year, and we are about three quarters of the way there. You may mail donations to the church office or give online using the smart phone app Givelify.



Join us each Sunday afternoon for a weekly ZOOM fellowship time from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is one more way for our church family to remain connected while we are unable to be together in person. The ZOOM link and password are included in the weekly email blast.

### Welcome Laura Gurney

Laura Gurney is thrilled to join the staff as our new Office Administrator! She has been a member of the church for 12 years and especially loves youth mission trips and Sunday School with preschoolers and kindergarteners. Outside of church, Laura enjoys baking bread and singing barbershop and a capella with Greeley Harmonix (a chorus of Sweet Adelines International). While her professional background is in the salon industry, she brings more than 10 years experience in administration and professional development.



### Fall Family Camping at La Foret

La Foret is offering independent family camping opportunities this fall. While the church is not organizing any of these events, you are invited to make your own arrangements for cabin or yurt rentals. More information is available at the website: <https://www.laforet.org/family-camping>



### October Outreach Opportunities

- Weld Food Bank is seeking volunteers. For more information visit: <https://weldfoodbank.org/volunteer/>.
- The Cold Weather Shelter is a program that feeds people who are homeless throughout the winter months. Our church provides meals every Friday during the season. We have five teams, and each team provides meals for as many as 80 people on one Friday a month. The meals are often crockpot meals, but each team decides what they want to serve. In the past, each team would also serve the meal they have prepared, but with COVID still a risk factor, we will only be dropping off food for the shelter this year. This program typically runs from November to April and is a monthly commitment. Some of our teams are looking for volunteers to join them. If you are interested, email Kate Norris at [knorris.mail@gmail.com](mailto:knorris.mail@gmail.com).
- Habitat for Humanity is doing a Faith Build. We are seeking volunteers for our team on October 24. Volunteers must be over the age of 16 and under the age of 60. Precautions such as limited team size, social distancing, and mask wearing are required. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Whitney Janzen-Pankratz at [whitney.janzenpankratz@gmail.com](mailto:whitney.janzenpankratz@gmail.com).
- The church provides weekly treats and snacks to the staff at Fairacres Manor. If you would like to assist in shopping for, baking, or delivering treats, please contact Rev. Ben for more information.
- We are collecting donations and gift cards for the purchase of coats for the Immigrant and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado and Lutheran Family Services. If you would like to participate, please send a check to the church, or for assistance giving online, please contact the office.

### Farewell and Thank-You, Carol Thompson

What a year of transitions it's been for us at First Congregational! This month we say good-bye to our beloved Carol Thompson, who has managed our office for 15 years. Through ups and downs, several ministers, dozens of staff transitions and seismic societal changes (e.g. a global pandemic), Carol brought organization, competency and a cheerful presence to our front office.

As her most recent (and last) supervisor, I cannot fully describe what a pleasure it has been to work with Carol. But here are a few items:

- She can spell—just about any word I could think of!
- She can type faster than anyone I know.
- She has prevented more errors of omission and commission than I can count—and some I doubt I even knew about.
- Carol listened when any staff member needed to vent or just talk to someone who cares.
- She guarded confidences with integrity.
- She interfaced with hundreds of volunteers, vendors, community leaders, visitors, service providers, inspectors and delivery people—always keeping her cool except for a very few occasions when keeping one's cool did not serve the higher purpose.
- She cannot leap over tall buildings with a single bound, but we never actually tested that.
- When something needed to be done, it was done—done well and done on time.
- Occasionally things got done that I didn't know needed doing!
- If she didn't know something, she found out or learned how.
- She was sometimes invisible. By that I mean, when the church is running smoothly, not many people notice. The bulletins are correct and placed where expected, the office is run with efficiency, publications are produced accurately and predictably, the rest of the staff has the support they need to do their jobs. Often behind the scenes, leading and supporting our well-functioning office, was Carol.

Given our distancing constraints, we are not encouraging people to drop by the office. But we wish her well and offer our deepest gratitude for her special ministry among us.