



The Church Bell

First Congregational Church, UCC
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Meet Our New Organist, Dr. Keenan Boswell



I am pleased to announce the hire of Dr. Keenan Boswell as First Congregational Church's Organist upon Kim Pace's retirement. You can learn more about Dr. Boswell by reading his bio below. Dr. Boswell's first Sunday with us will be August 1st. -Rev. Ben

Dr. Boswell received a Bachelors in Organ Performance from The Juilliard School, a Masters in Organ Performance from Westminster Choir College and a Doctorate in Opera Coaching from The University of Texas in Austin.

As a keyboardist for the Carmel Bach Festival between 2014 and 2018, Dr. Boswell served as chorale accompanist, orchestral keyboardist and collaborative pianist for the festival's main stage solo vocal concerts.

Selections from his voice-piano song cycle *Trinity* were premiered to much acclaim during one of the featured main stage concerts during the 2018 festival. As a composer, Dr. Boswell's works have been and continue to be performed across the United States in schools, churches and concert halls.

Dr. Keenan Boswell is also a highly regarded professional coach who teaches self healing practices through music and metaphysics as the means through which one can access and actualize their most authentic expression of self.

In 2017, Dr. Boswell launched Return to Self Healing, commencing his work as a personal coach. Using metaphysical studies + astrological archetypes as the basis of his coaching, he works with individuals one-on-one and in group settings to help them consciously see and accept all aspects of self as well as see any and all ways in which they avoid aspects of self. Most recently, Dr. Boswell has merged music and metaphysics together by offering coaching sessions in which he composes music that reflects one's authentic energetic expression and self healing journey.

Above all, Dr. Boswell seeks to explore and express the connection in all things through all that he does and loves sharing the journey of self healing with others.

Meet Our Capital Campaign Consultant, John Laster



I have appreciated the opportunity to begin to get to know First Congregational Church over the past almost two years that we have been collaborating together. The spirit and heart—the soul—of the congregation is so refreshing to experience! God is still speaking and engaging the community of Greeley and beyond in and through your faith community. It has been, and will be, exciting to see you continue your journey into your next 150+ years of ministry!

My religious pedigree is eclectic; growing up in the Presbyterian Church in Michigan, becoming a religious sceptic in my late teens, then running into a non-denominational group of passionate Jesus followers in Texas. It was in this community that I felt the calling toward vocational ministry.

I served 18 years on the pastoral teams in four non-denominational congregations in Texas, Alabama, and Oklahoma, ranging from 500 to 1500 in weekend attendance, focusing my ministry on spiritual formation/discipleship, infrastructure development, and small groups (engagement/deployment).

I joined the Horizons Stewardship team in the summer of 2003. Horizons has been helping congregations and faith-based non-profit groups grow disciples and fund ministry cross denominationally since 1992. Our team has assisted thousands of churches in raising over 7 billion dollars in capital funding and uncountable amounts of annual and planned giving.

So far in my time with Horizons I have worked with over 180 churches and other faith-based groups. The majority of my time is spent in the traditional mainline denominations; United Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Lutheran congregations. These groups have ranged in size from 40 to 2000 persons. Regardless of the setting, I relish seeing God show up in surprising and wonderful ways as we journey together.

My wife Lisa and I live on a farm in Michigan and enjoy a large boisterous family spread out across the country (9 kids ranging from 17 to 37, plus spouses, significant others, and 10 Grands, so far).

I am encouraged by the early campaign conversations we have been having since last fall; it is obvious that people deeply love and appreciate the faith community and ministry of First Congregational Church. You are a healthy congregation that is in the very early stage of a wonderful new chapter in the congregation's life; your future is filled with possibility and opportunity as you launch your next 150 years of difference-making ministry in Greeley. I am honored to walk alongside you, your pastors, and leadership teams as you navigate forward.



Meet Our Design Consultant, Betony Coons

Betony Coons is a highly regarded local artist and design consultant. She spins her magic surrounded by three spunky girls and a surprise boy from their home in Greeley. Betony's goal for her art is to begin writing a better story for our lives and to share that story with others. Betony will help us envision how we can refresh and reimagine our upstairs interior space in ways that honor our past and prepare us for the future.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 8 at 6:30pm for a congregational meeting. We'll share updates and ask for feedback and project priorities regarding our upcoming capital campaign. The ideas and projects will be presented at this meeting. Please plan to join us!

Capital Campaign Timeline

