

First Congregational

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

THE HERALD

FEBRUARY 2022

Minister's Musings

Dearly Beloved,

An early Valentine's blessing to each of you. As we approach Valentine's Day and our sweetheart city gets decked out, I invite you to think about how you can spread love in your daily life and beyond. Is there a practice you can add to your daily life to show yourself love or a message you want to make sure to offer yourself each day? Perhaps there are people you don't usually have time to reach out to that you want to make a special effort to call, email, text or send a card.

As a congregation, our Mission & Outreach Team is helping us spread love in ways that are systemic and lasting. On Sunday, February 6, they will lead our worship and help us learn about some of the needs in our community and ways that we (individually and as a congregation) can get involved in making a difference, especially in the lives of unaccompanied youth (youth who are homeless and/or may not be under the care of an adult). Many of these youth have been kicked out of their homes or have fled unsafe home situations. Some of them couch surf while trying to stay in school, but many more simply drop off the radar. With no home to speak of and no one looking out for them, they become increasingly vulnerable to abuse, addiction, and even human trafficking. What an opportunity for us to be able to work with other churches and organizations in our community to make a lasting difference in these youths' lives. The big dream is to move our city to build and staff a shelter where these young people can have a safe place to sleep at night and a trusted adult to confide in. Shorter term, we will have opportunities to volunteer, donate items and money, and raise awareness about this need.

We also get to spread the love through our February food drive for HNS. Please bring non-perishable food items to church for our neighbors in need this season.

We have a few other things in the works this February. Our youth ministers will be participating in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) training after which they will be certified to facilitate OWL for youth in grades 7-12. OWL is a curriculum that "helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, health and behavior in the context of their faith."

Additionally, we've had staff and volunteers working behind the scenes to create a logo for our congregation, an updated website and new letter-head and business cards. Be on the lookout! Thanks to everyone who has spent time and energy on these projects.

I hope your life is filled with love this February!

Gratefully,
Thandiwe

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 am

In-Person Worship

Join us in the sanctuary! **Masks required and N95 masks recommended.** We continue to **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** that only vaccinated people attend in-person worship at this time. The church balcony is available for those who wish or need to continue maintaining physical distance and not singing.



Zoom Call-In

Dial: 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 966 390 616#

Zoom Meeting By Computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/966390616?pwd=eXBIRC9Kc0V6S3BxM3NBQzIDaHRTdz09>

Meeting ID: 966 390 616; Password: 773088

Sunday Worship on Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/LovelandUCC>

Tuesday Worship Nights - 7:00 pm

Join us for an uninterrupted time of praise through scripture and music. Whether you come to sing along or just to listen and reflect, we hope to see you there. Masks are required and social distancing recommended.

Serving in February

GREETERS:

2/6 Dana Stanke & Linda Carpenter
 2/13 Eunice Baer & Lee Daniels
 2/20 Ali Eleam & Eunice Baer
 2/27 Lee Daniels & Jen Ogle

TRUSTEES:

2/6 Bernie Depperschmidt and Mary Kauffman
 2/13 Brian Kukus and John Schwartz
 2/20 Alexandra Stanke and Allen Lebsack
 2/27 Greg Greaves and Jerry Sundberg

ACOLYTES:

2/6 Mya & Jeslyn Haux
 2/13 Josiah and Jehu Nalwood
 2/20 Lucas Gardner & Colton Leibbrand
 2/27 Josiah and Jehu Nalwood

LAY READERS:

2/6 Paul Heintzleman
 2/13 Craig Bialy
 2/20 Rhonda Racicot
 2/27 Alycia Pisano

USHERS:

2/6 Colton Leibbrand and Lucas Gardner
 2/13 Georgene Hill and Troy Jackson
 2/20 Ray and Joni Turner
 2/27 Georgene Hill and Allen Lebsack

Close to Home: Foundations for a Healthy Congregation

Epiphany Season Worship January 9 - February 20

What makes for a healthy congregation? How do we grow as a community that is at home with God, ourselves, each other and those who may have yet to join us for worship or community?

Seven qualities characterize healthy and thriving congregations:

1. Individuals follow an inner compass;
2. The community responds to anxiety directly;
3. Individuals are challenged and encouraged to grow;
4. Individuals take responsibility for themselves;
5. The community focuses on mission;
6. Individuals & the community culture respect boundaries;
7. Participants stay connected and in contact.

What do each of these mean for us? In which areas are we already thriving and where might we grow? How can we support one another as individuals and also as a community to grow together?

Our worship over the 7 weeks between January 9 and February 13 will follow these themes and questions.

Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott, Guest Preacher, February 20

Reverend Dr. Anthony L. D. Scott serves as Associate Conference Minister in the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ. A passionate preacher, leader, and activist, Anthony gives his whole self to the work of ministry. Following years of active ministry, Anthony earned the DMin from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio (2020). His research focus was congregations serving as mediators for a wholistic vision of salvation. Committed to excellence in church, pastoral ministry, and interpersonal communication, Anthony earned four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE); two at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and two at University of Colorado Hospital.

Anthony is a native of St. Louis, MO. First ordained in the Baptist tradition (NBC), Anthony served churches and hospitals in Missouri, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Colorado. Following the death of Michael Brown, Anthony followed God's call to the streets of Ferguson, MO. In conjunction with lifting hands, feet, and heart in protest, Anthony facilitated Sacred Conversations on Race (+ Action) with congregations of various faith traditions in the St. Louis area. Anthony counts it as a privilege to give leadership to the Eden Black Alumni Association, as its President. His ministry ethos is grounded firmly in the example of Jesus Christ, ministering to the needs of the hurting, and broken in a wholistic manner – mind, body, and spirit. Dr. Scott counts it as privilege and pleasure to journey through life with his partner in life and in ministry, his wife—Marquisha Lawrence Scott, PhD. They are proud parents of one daughter, Sadie. Above all else, Dr. Scott strives to be a vessel in the service of Jesus Christ and a conduit for God's blessing.

House of Neighborly Service Food Drive

House of Neighborly Service assists and advocates for people challenged by the effects of poverty or situational crisis in the city of Loveland. It is our privilege at the Loveland UCC to sponsor a food drive for HNS every February. This year, you may choose to drop off non-perishable food items to the church, as per previous years, OR make a monetary donation. If you choose to make a monetary donation, please specify "HNS" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity to this worthy organization.

Music Opportunities this Season

We are excited to announce that **choir** will be starting again! If you have ever wanted to sing with the choir, you are encouraged to try it this season! We will be rehearsing on select Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am. The song we sing during service will be practiced during that time, and we will be singing fun, easy-to-learn music. Please let Nikki know if you would like to participate, and she will get the detailed schedule to you, as well as make sure you have the supplies and music you need. (we will start by singing twice a month through April.)



***Masks are required**, and we highly recommend higher quality than cloth. Please see the email/info from the reentry team for more details.

Bell choir will also be resuming. We will be playing during the service on Sunday, February 20 and Sunday, April 17 (Easter Sunday.) Practices are 9-9:45 the mornings we play, as well as the Sunday before that, from 11:15-12. Please sign up or talk to Nikki By February 1 for the February 13/20 set, and by March 30 for the April 10/17 one. You do not need to be able to read music. Social distancing and masks will be used throughout rehearsals and the performance.

Birthday Sock Success

We collected 1086 pairs of socks in December! **Thank you for all your donations!**

Register for Camp

[Spring Retreat](#) (6th-12th Grade), March 18-20, 2022

An exciting weekend for Middle and High School youth to explore their beliefs and strengthen friendships within their church and the Rocky Mountain Conference (UCC) community! This experience normally includes games, outdoor exploration, music, art, a dance, and all kinds of fun that relate back to a faith theme for the weekend. All middle and high schoolers are welcome! Register [HERE](#) (laforet.org/ucc-camps).

GrandCamp, July 1-3, For Children & Grandparents

Pioneer Camp, July 10-16, (Campers entering grades 2-4)

Explorer Camp, July 10-16 (Campers entering grades 4-6)

Voyager Camp, July 10-16 (campers entering grades 6-8)

MADD Camp, July 17-23 (campers entering grades 9-12)

Scholarships are available through our church and you can register and learn more [HERE](#).

Would You Like to Read for Worship Night?

We are in need of leaders for Tuesday night worship services. There is minimal, if any, prep for this! Please sign up on the trophy case.

If you are a reader, I will get you the leader's packet with the scripture/readings when you arrive on Tuesday evening (by 6:55), and you don't have to lead prayer unless you want to!

If you would like to lead music, you are welcome to choose songs you would like, or we can pick them. You also can choose how many/which songs of the set you would like to lead.

Talk to Nikki if you have any questions.

Spread the Love - Volunteer!

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities? Ways to stay busy and connected to our wider Loveland community? Well, JustServe is the website for you -- it lists all sorts of volunteer opportunities all over Loveland. Just go to <https://www.justserve.org/projects> and scroll through. There is no greater gift than our time and presence. Let's spread love this Valentine's Month and year!



One of the opportunities is to assemble beds for children who lost their homes in the Marshall Fire with Sleep In Heavenly Peace (SHP) on March 12th. Please speak with Brian Kukus if you'd like to build beds.

Another opportunity is to work with Salvation Army to interview people currently experiencing homelessness. If you'd like more information or are interested in assisting, please contact Olga Duvall (970-699-8380).

Racial Justice Opportunities

On Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00pm, The Rev. Erin Gilmore and The Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott invite you into a conversation about the role of white comfort in movements for racial justice.

The link for the Zoom meeting "**White Comfort and Racism**"

is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvfucRqj4vEtFzZITZmnl-0vuUBcUH1QY0>

Starting on Thursday, February 17 at 7pm, the Antiracism Ministry will begin a conference wide book study using the book "**The Conversation: How Seeking and Speaking the Truth about Racism Can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations**" by Robert Livingston. All are welcome to join in. Order your copy today.

Dates for Book Study:

- 2/17 - Chapters 1-4
- 2/24 - Chapters 5-7 & Forum 1
- 3/3 - Chapters 8-10 & Forum 2
- 3/10 - Chapters 11-12 & Forum 3

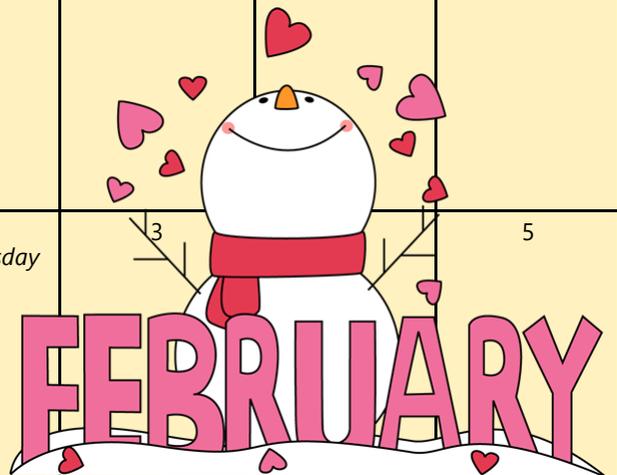
The link for the Zoom meeting

is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEscuGqrDorGNMHZAk9eleJ2tCxS1eTq0zV>



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <i>Installation of Officers</i> Virtual & In Person Worship 10 am Confirmation Introduction 11:30 am	31	1 <i>First Day of Black History Month</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Worship Night 7 pm	2 Office closes at 11:15 am	3	4	5
6 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Virtual & In Person Worship 10 am <i>Mission & Outreach Sunday</i> S3 Youth Group 11 am	7 Deacons 7 pm	8 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Staff Meeting 10 am Worship Night 7 pm	9	10	11	12
13 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Virtual, In Person, & Children's Worship 10 am Bell Choir Rehearsal 11:15 am	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Mission & Outreach 3:30 pm	15 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Worship Night 7 pm	16 <i>Pastor Retreat</i>	17 <i>Pastor Retreat</i>	18	19
20 Bell Choir Rehearsal 9 am Virtual & In Person Worship 10 am <i>Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott, guest preacher</i> S3 Youth Group 11 am	21 <i>President's Day - Office closed</i> Virtual Trustees 6:30 pm Church Board 7:30 pm	22 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Faith Formation Board 9:30 am Pastoral Relations Committee 7 pm Worship Night 7 pm	23	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25	26
27 Virtual, In Person, & Children's Worship 10 am	28	1 <i>First Day of Women's History Month</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Worship Night 7 pm	2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	3	4	5



In Need of Financial Assistance?

Our congregation has set aside funds to assist those in need with money for groceries, rent, mortgage payments and medical bills. **Please reach out to Pastor Thandiwe or one of our deacons.**

Online & Text Giving is Now Available!

ONLINE GIVING: First Congregational Church is now ready to accept online donations! Please go to: <https://FCCUCC.breezechms.com/give/online>

TEXT TO GIVE: Simply text the amount that you'd like to give (e.g. 10) to 720-674-7372. You will be directed to a secure link to give to the church!



Financial Notes

Budgeted Offerings through December: \$183,586.00

Offerings Received: \$215,920.44 (this includes an estate gift of \$42,267)

Donation of Goods/Services in December: \$0

February Celebrations

Birthdays

Myer Haux

Anthony Stelwagon

Brian Schuetz

Jenny Richardson

Darryl Dale-Ferguson

Frank Kauffman

Helen Koch

Steven Depperschmidt

Shirley Sterkel

Jeremy Jackson

Fern Whitson

Troy Jackson

Darrell Depperschmidt

Donna Yelek

Laura Jackson



If your birthday or anniversary is NOT listed, please let the office know.

Be A Blessing - Yard Sign \$20

Why not share a blessing with your neighborhood with this encouraging sign.

Purchase a "Be A Blessing" Yard sign for \$20 from the church. Supplies are limited. First come, first served.





Hello Neighbor,

We have exciting news!

Years in the making, we are ready to begin our much-anticipated residential rehabilitation project. This intensively planned and anxiously awaited investment *ensures 112 of our aging residential units remain viable for local families needing affordable housing.*

Built between 1965-1980, many of our units need significant rehab to prolong their useful life for at least another 20-30 years. Completion of these projects will not only preserve critical affordable housing in our community but will help N2N residents overall by addressing safety and accessibility, reducing ongoing needs for repair and maintenance, and improving code requirements.

Here's Where We Need Your Help....

To minimize the construction burden on our residents, we are creating 10 hospitality suites to rotate families through while their units are being rehabilitated. **We desperately need the following household items so that we can get to work.** Please consider checking your home (and your neighbors' and friends' homes) for items on our list and bring them to our upcoming **Donation Drive Day on February 12th!** We have the greatest need for the **bolded** items.

BEDROOMS	KITCHENS
Queen Beds & Bedding	Kitchen Table & Chairs (seat 2-4)
Twin Beds & Bedding	Dishes & Cutlery
Cribs & Bedding	Cups & Mugs
Dressers (21" D or less)	Pots, Pans & Baking Sheets
Nightstands	Mixing Bowls & Cooking Utensils
Hangers	Cutting Boards
	Toasters & Coffee Pots
LIVING ROOMS	HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS
Sofas (7' or less)	Cleaning Supplies*
Living Room Chairs	Brooms, Dust Pans, Buckets*
End Tables & Table Lamps	Kitchen & Bath Trash Cans*
Bookshelves (3-4 shelf)	Wall Clocks
TVs (40" or smaller)	Storage Containers
	Garbage Bags

*We can only accept these as new items.

We are unable to accept King beds or clothing.

Donation Drop Off Day Details:

Location: 3908 Crescent Dr, Fort Collins, CO 80526

Date & Time: 02/12/22 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Volunteers will unload your donations. If you cannot transport, please email scampbell@n2n.org. We will try to accommodate if possible!

We are also accepting monetary donations to purchase those items we need unused or are unable to collect. **Thank you for your support!**