

First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

THE HERALD

MARCH 2022

Minister's Musings

Dearly Beloved,

The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, our Lenten theme, *Full to the Brim, is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.*

The scriptures for this Lenten season (in the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C) are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise—these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over.

Full to the Brim reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

We have a number of opportunities to connect and go deeper this Lent:

- Tuesday morning **Lenten study** with Revs. Ana & Tod Gobledale and their congregation in England, 7:00 am on Zoom
- Tuesday morning **Poetry Prayer** (using practice of Lectio Divina) with Pastor Thandiwe, 8:00 am on Zoom
- Wednesday evening **Lenten Devotional Group**, 7:00 pm (in-person or on Zoom TBD)

Sign up sheets are available for the Lenten Devotional Group. You are also welcome to use some of these materials on your own. Daily Devotional Cards and the weekly Lenten Devotional are available as a PDF, or printed in B/W or color. Please sign up if you would like any of these materials.

I hope and pray that this Lenten season will be one in which you experience more fully God's presence, love and dreams for you.

With love and peace,
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. There will be no Worship Nights on March 15, April 12, or April 19.

Poetry Prayer

Tuesdays on Zoom, March 1-April 6 8:00-9:15 am

Join us for a time of reflection and learning as we use the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina* (divine reading) to hear how God is speaking to us through poetry. We will be using Lenten poems that fit our theme of "Full to the Brim." All are welcome! No previous experience necessary.

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.



Special Worship During Lent

- March 9 Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 pm
First Congregational Church
- March 20 Guest Minister, Rev. Dr. Ana K. Gobledale
Dedication of Ezra Dale-Ferguson
- April 14 Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Worship, 7:00 pm
First United Presbyterian Church, 400 E 4th St, Loveland
- April 15 Ecumenical Good Friday Worship, 7:00 pm
First Christian Church, 2000 N Lincoln Ave, Loveland
- April 17 Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am
Kauffmans' Home (502 S CR 9E, Loveland)
- Easter Worship, 10:00 am
First Congregational Church
- April 24 Resurrection Sunday, 10:00 am
First Congregational Church



Lenten Adult Education Opportunity

Take Time Together

Tuesdays on Zoom 7:00-8:00 am, March 1-April 5

Join Salisbury URC on a six-week Lenten journey. We'll be using 'Take time' meditations to lead us in time and thought through the events of Holy Week leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion. Come as you are! No faith background or knowledge is needed to attend, enjoy and benefit from this TakeTime Lenten journey.

The six weekly themes are based on the passages below:

1. Luke 4:1-14 Tested in the wilderness
2. Luke 13:31-35 Jerusalem
3. Luke 13: 1-9 The Judgment of God
4. Luke 15: 11-32 Love for the Lost Son
5. John 12:1-8 Anointed by Mary
6. Luke 19:28-34 Into Jerusalem

All are welcomed to enjoy these meditations, which are intentionally inclusive, non-directive and experiential. For the Zoom link and more information please contact Ana & Tod Gobledale at salis-buryurc@gmail.com

Lent Devotionals Available

Printed card and booklet devotionals are available. Please sign up in the narthex or contact Staci in the office (office@lovelanducc.org).

Medicare Made Simple Seminar - March 1

Tuesday, March 1, 6:00 pm

Medicare is complicated! An educational Medicare seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 1 at 6 PM. Rebecca Skouson, a licensed Medicare advisor, from the Medicare advisory firm, Chapter, will share an overview of what to know about Medicare, as well as how and when to sign up. In addition, she will review the common mistakes people make, like the myth that there is only one time per year to sign up for Medicare coverage. This interactive one-hour seminar (time for questions is included) will be helpful to navigate the challenges and options of Medicare.

Who should attend? People approaching enrollment eligibility in Medicare (64 years and older) or people who are already on Medicare but may want to get a better understanding of their plans or improve their current coverage. In addition, adult children of those who are eligible may be interested as well. The purpose of this session is to educate people on the key components of Medicare.

To register for the free seminar click on the [link here](#).

Revolutionary Joy: Poetry & Embodiment Retreat

March 11-13 at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center, the Black Forest, Colorado Springs

Now, more than ever, it is necessary to befriend our bodies and experience our souls as a source of healing, strength, and resilience.

Are you feeling drained, disconnected, or tired on a level that extra sleep won't fix? The ongoing personal and collective experience is one of great stress and anxiety which is verging on impossible to cope with. Choosing our bodies, prioritizing our rest, and tending our joy is an act of defiance to a system hell-bent on crushing exploitation. Experienced artists and space-holders Ashley Cornelius and Mallory Everhart invite you to a weekend of rest, embodiment, and community, offering practices and resources to connect with your own inner well-spring of fierce, revolutionary joy.

Register: <https://laforet.jumbula.com/Spring2022/RevolutionaryJoyPoetryEmbodiment>

Daylight Savings Begins March 14

Sunday, March 14, 2 am - Remember to change your clocks and spring forward!



La Foret 2022 Program Update Newsletter

La Foret has released it's 2022 program update newsletter. They would like to share it with you as these are RMC events that will interest you. To view the newsletter click on the [link here](#).

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering - March 27

One Great Hour of Sharing, part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

To donate, please indicate "OGHS" in your check memo line or use the special offering envelope in your March 27 bulletin.

Easter Flower Orders - Due March 30

Kalanchoe plants are available to order for the church altar space. They will be on display for the Easter service on April 17. Please sign up at the trophy case if you would like to order a plant, and note if they are in honor of or in memory of someone. Please contact Dana Stanke if you have any questions.

The deadline for orders is March 30. Kalanchoe plants are \$15. Please make your check to FCC and write "Easter flowers" in the memo.

Instructions to Give Through Your Bank's Online Bill Pay

- Log in to your online banking (if you don't have this yet, you can go to your bank's website and create an account).
- Find the Online Banking menu and click on Bill Pay.
- Click on 'Add Company or Person'
- Enter the Church's name: First Congregational Church UCC Loveland
- Enter the Church's account number: 085-618
- Enter Church's address: 800 N. Lincoln Ave, Loveland, CO 80537
- Enter Church's phone number: 970-667-4884
- Save information
- Enter the amount that you would like to give.
- Select the date you would like to give.
- If you would like to give automatically every month, select AutoPay.
- Select Send Money.

The church's information will automatically be saved for future donations. If you select AutoPay and would like to change the frequency or amount, go back to Bill Pay and change the necessary information.

Birthday Sock Distribution - 1086 Pairs! Salvation Army and House of Neighborly Service



Save the Date and Save Your Stuff! July 9

Spring cleaning is around the corner! Please save your gently used items for our Parking Lot Sale scheduled for July 9th. Item drop off times will be scheduled in July. Please watch for more information in upcoming announcements.

Please also save your plastic bags to use at the sale. Any questions? Please see Mary Kauffman or Dawn Briggs.



Spring Platte Valley Association Meeting - May 7

While Governance in The Rocky Mountain Conference shifts to a more centralized body, those in PVA leadership have decided to hold a spring meeting on May 7th. The primary purpose will be to further discern the future of the PVA. All are welcome to participate on Zoom.

Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Celebration 2022

June 9 - June 11 on Zoom

The office of the RMC and the BOD have begun planning the 2022 Annual Celebration and Business Meeting, which will be held June 9th through the 11th on Zoom. The agenda and other information will be shared in the next few weeks.

Serving in March

GREETERS:

3/2 Ali Eleam, Eunice Baer & Lee Daniels
 3/6
 3/13
 3/20
 3/27

ACOLYTES:

3/6 May & Jeslyn Haux
 3/13 Parker & Jeremy Jackson
 3/20 Lucas Gardner & Colton Leibbrand
 3/27 Josiah & Jehu Nalwood

TRUSTEES:

3/6 Alexandra Stanke & John Schwartz
 3/13 Greg Greaves & Brian Kukus
 3/20 Bernie Depperschmidt & Jerry Sundberg
 3/27 Allen Lebsack & Mary Kauffman



USHERS:

3/2 Allen Lebsack & Craig Bialy
 3/6 John Schwartz & Judy Bernard
 3/13 Craig Bialy & Troy Jackson
 3/20 Ray & Joni Turner
 3/27 Allen Lebsack & Troy Jackson

LAY READERS:

3/2 Heather Jackson
 3/6 Allison Goerke
 3/13 Kathy Bialy
 3/20 Diane Levy
 3/27 Karen Jazowski



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------|--|----------|
| 27 Virtual, In Person, & Children's Worship 10 am Snyder Baby Shower, 11:15 am Confirmation Class @ Community Kitchen 2 pm | 28 Mission & Outreach 3:30 pm Faith Formation Board 7 pm | 1 <i>First Day of Women's History Month</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Worship Night 7 pm | 2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm  | 3 | 4 <i>American Family Insurance Blood Drive</i> | 5 |
| 6 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Virtual & In Person Worship 10 am S3 Youth Group 11 am Youth Bell Rehearsal 11 am Financial Giving Instructions 11:15 am | 7 Deacons 7 pm | 8 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Staff Meeting 10 am Worship Night 7 pm | 9 Lenten Devotional Group 7 pm | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> Choir Rehearsal 9 am Virtual, In Person & Children's Worship 10 am | 14 Mission & Outreach 3:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Church Board 7:30 pm | 15 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am | 16 Lenten Devotional Group 7 pm | 17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Virtual & In Person Worship 10 am S3 Youth Group 11 am | 21 | 22 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Worship Night 7 pm | 23 Lenten Devotional Group 7 pm | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Virtual, In Person & Children's Worship 10 am Confirmation Class 11:30 am | 28 Faith Formation Board 7 pm | 29 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Worship Night 7 pm | 30 Lenten Devotional Group 7 pm | 31 | 1  | 2 |

First Congregational Church ● 800 N Lincoln Avenue, Loveland CO 80537 ● Phone: (970) 667-4884

Email: Office@LovelandUCC.org ● Website: LovelandUCC.org ● Facebook: Loveland UCC

Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, Pastor, thandiwe@lovelanducc.org

Nikki Glantz, Music Director & Accompanist, nikki@lovelanducc.org

Staci Hennings, Administrative Assistant, office@lovelanducc.org

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 January: \$14,167

Offerings Received: \$12,280

Donation of Goods/Services in January: \$144


March Celebrations

Birthdays

3/4 Nancy Graham
3/9 Kyla Schuetz
3/12 Chloe Ogle
Emma Ogle
David Ziegler
3/13 Robert Mugno
3/14 Natalie Stelwagon
3/18 Ezra Dale-Ferguson
3/19 Kody Klassen
3/20 Judy Brunmeier
3/23 Karlene Snyder
3/24 Charlotte Parkes
3/26 Elvin Spreng
3/28 Cheryl Schwartz
3/29 Kathy Bialy



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



COME ONE! COME ALL!

Talent Extravaganza 2022

April 8 | 7:00 PM

First Congregational Church

Hosted By S3 and Friends

Talent Show and Silent Auction

All Proceeds to S3 Mission Trips and Camps