



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LOVELAND UCC

THE HERALD

MAY 2023

## Minister's Musings

Dearly Beloved,

During our Lenten Season, our theme was "Seeking" and we engaged with numerous questions about God, about ourselves, and about our relationships with each other and the divine. We sought to find God through our searching, through our questioning, through the journey. And the good news is that God finds us! The good news is that love finds us. whoever we are and wherever we are on life's journey.

In this Easter season, we are "Celebrating" God's presence with us, among us and within us. As life springs forth around us, I invite you to reflect on how God is finding you, how love is finding you, how acceptance and belonging are finding you, how new life is finding you in unexpected places and ways. And then, I want you to celebrate that! Perhaps celebrating looks like writing a thank you letter to someone who's helping reveal God's presence to you or even writing a thank you letter to God. Perhaps celebrating looks like getting your hands dirty in the garden as you cultivate new growth or at Community Kitchen as you share the love you've received by serving someone else. Perhaps celebrating looks like sharing during joys and concerns, joining our congregation or making a special gift to the church honoring God's presence in your life. Perhaps celebrating looks like finding time to dance or sing, to play or deepen in relationship.

In our worship together, celebrating in April has looked like a couple of Sundays thinking about the Holy Spirit and baptism. In May, it will look like having our youth lead us in worship on Sunday, May 7th (Youth Sunday) and celebrating their gifts and their growth. On May 14th (Mother's Day), we will honor and celebrate the mothering figures in our lives – the people who have nurtured and tended us body, mind and spirit and who have modeled for us what it means to live with integrity, strength and compassion. May 21st we will hold our Congregational Meeting following worship and along with plenty of business, we will celebrate being church together. And on May 28th (Pentecost), we will celebrate the gifts and graces of our particular community.

God's presence is revealed in so many ways! In this spring season, let us celebrate the hope, peace, justice and love that pours forth from God's Spirit!

With love, joy and celebration,  
Thandiwe

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## Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 am

### In-Person Worship

Join us in the sanctuary! Masks are optional. The balcony and west section of the sanctuary are available for physically distanced seating, with masks required.

### 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>



## May Worship

- May 7 Youth Sunday & Communion, Celebrating our Youth
- May 14 Mother's Day & celebrating mothering figures
- May 21 Celebrating Transitions (graduations, moving to new schools, etc)  
Congregational Meeting following worship  
Update on congregational budget  
Vote whether or not to sell rental property (832 N Lincoln Ave)
- May 28 Pentecost, Celebrating the Church

## Worship Night - May 2, 7 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.

## Be A Blessing - Yard Sign \$20

Spring is here! Adorn your yard with a message of encouragement for your neighborhood! Purchase a "Be A Blessing" Yard sign for \$20 from the church. Supplies are limited. First come, first served.



## Thank You!

We collected 85 pounds of food and \$335 for our annual House of Neighborly Service food drive in February. Thanks for your generosity as we help feed our hungry neighbors!

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## Congregational Meeting - May 21

In addition to our regular May meeting agenda items (such as a budget report and worship plans for the summer), our Trustees will present a proposal for what they believe to be the best path forward with regards to our property on 832 N Lincoln Avenue. We will vote on their proposal.

To join via Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 966 390 616, Passcode: 773088

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## Rental Property Vote - May 21

Taking into account the conversations of March 26th and April 23rd, our Trustees will present a proposal for what they believe to be the best path forward with regards to our property on 832 N Lincoln Avenue. We will vote on their proposal. Please communicate with our Trustees in advance of this meeting if you have any questions.

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## Men's Coffee Group - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 10 am

The Men's Coffee Group meets in Fellowship Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at 10:00 am. Please contact Frank Kauffman with any questions.



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## Thriffs & Gifts

Opening Day is just around the corner for the new Thrifts and Gifts! Still wondering how you can help? Well, the store can still use the following items - men's clothes, youth's clothes, children's clothes, and any other treasures you might not be using but would love to donate. Donations can be dropped off at the church in the Fellowship Hall. Please place the items in the donation box with your name on them.

A signup sheet will be located on the trophy case for those who already stated they wanted to volunteer. Do not worry if you have not signed up yet, you still can! Please talk to Dawn or Eileen.

The GRAND OPENING will be Friday June 2 from 10:00am - 3:00pm. Please stop by for the grand opening festivities!

Thank you all who have made this possible!

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## Save the Date! Outdoor Worship & Picnic July 9

Mark your calendars! We will worship in the outdoors on Sunday, July 9, at 10:00 am at Namaqua Park (730 N Namaqua Ave) followed by a picnic!

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## RMC "Daring Greatly" Book Study with Rev. Dr. Weible

Tuesdays, May 2-23, 12-1pm

Join our conference's Bridge Minister to study Brené Brown's book "Daring Greatly." The book study will meet via [Zoom](#) every Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 12-1 pm. Feel free to bring your lunch with you and join us for a one-hour conversation. We will cover two chapters each week. There is no need to sign up ahead of time. If you would like to be part of this, get the book and start reading and we will see you on May 2!

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## Revolutionary Love with Valarie Kaur at La Foret

September 29 - October 1

"The future is dark. Is this the darkness of the tomb—or the darkness of the womb?" A global pioneer and visionary, Valarie Kaur reframes the present moment in history as one of transition and believes each of us has role in the labor of birthing a new future. Her message has inspired millions of people around the world and ignited a movement to reclaim love as a force for justice. In this special workshop, Valarie will draw forth our deepest wisdom to explore how Revolutionary Love can transform our lives — love for others, our opponents, and ourselves. Through her renowned storytelling, teaching, and embodied inquiry, she will show us how to build beloved community, from the inside out. "Anti-racism is the bridge; beloved community is the destination," she teaches. By the end, Valarie will place a powerful and lasting tool in our hands — the Revolutionary Love Compass — so that we return to our lives inspired, empowered, connected, and courageous.

When: Friday, September 29th at 6 pm to Sunday, October 1st at 11 am

Where: La Foret Conference & Retreat Center (6145 Shoup Rd. Colorado Springs, CO 80908)

Who: Anyone interested in being inspired and equipped to use Revolutionary Love to build the world of the future

More Information: <https://www.laforet.org/events>

Cost: Tiered pricing and scholarships are available. Do not let cost be the reason you do not attend! There is an option to pay a \$50 deposit and contact us if you need more assistance than what the tiered options allow. The "Subsidized Level" (\$257) is for those who regularly experience financial hardship. The "Sustainer Level" (\$332.25) reflects the true cost of hosting one person for this event at La Foret. The "Supporter Level" (\$408) is the value of the retreat and allows us to offer tiered pricing. Lodging is separate. If you stay offsite and commute, there is no additional fee. Staying in a yurt is \$78 for the weekend. A shared room onsite is \$136 and a private room is \$194.

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## Financial Notes

Budgeted Offerings through March: \$38,280.00

Offerings Received: \$44,266.65

Donation of Goods/Services in March: \$44.77





# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am New Members Class 11:30 am</p>	<p>1 <i>First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month</i> Deacons 7 pm</p>	<p>2 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Men's Coffee Group 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Worship Night 7 pm</p>	<p>3 Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am Safety Preparedness Meeting 6:30 pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i></p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am S3 Youth Group 11:15 am</p>	<p>8 Trustees 6 pm Church Board 7:30 pm</p>	<p>9 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Staff Meeting 10:15 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm</p>	<p>10 <i>Nikki's FCC Anniversary</i> Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am</p>	<p>11 <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 <i>Mother's Day</i> Choir Rehearsal 9 am Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Children's Worship 10:15 am</p>	<p>15 <i>Pastor Out of Office</i></p>	<p>16 <i>Pastor Out of Office</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Men's Coffee Group 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm</p>	<p>17 <i>Pastor Out of Office</i> Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am</p>	<p>18 <i>Pastor Out of Office</i></p>	<p>19 <i>Pastor Out of Office</i></p>	<p>20 <i>Pastor Out of Office</i></p>
<p>21 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Congregational Meeting 11 am S3 Youth Group 11:15 am</p>	<p>22 Budget &amp; Stewardship Committees 7:00 pm Virtual Faith Formation Board 7 pm</p>	<p>23 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Choir Party 6 pm</p>	<p>24 Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am Virtual Mission &amp; Outreach 3 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Children's Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 11 am</p>	<p>29 <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i></p>	<p>30 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Mah Jongg 1 pm</p>	<p>31 Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am</p>	<p>1 <i>First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month</i></p>	<p>2 Thrifs &amp; Gifts Grand Opening 10 am</p>	<p>3 Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>



# Serving in May

**GREETERS:**

5/7 Dana Stanke & Diane Biegert  
 5/14 Linda Carpenter  
 5/21 Lee Daniels  
 5/28 Ali Eleam

**ACOLYTES:**

5/7 Mya & Jeslyn Haux  
 5/14 Gavin & Grayson Snyder  
 5/21 Lucas Gardner & Colton Leibbrand  
 5/28 Josiah & Jehu Nalwood

**USHERS:**

5/7 Lucas Gardner, Colton Leibbrand, & Allen Lebsack  
 5/14 Bob & Mary Miller  
 5/21 Craig Bialy & Georgene Hill  
 5/28 John Schwartz & Troy Jackson

**LAY READERS:**

5/7 Heather Jackson  
 5/14 Rhonda Racicot  
 5/21 Craig Bialy  
 5/28 Heather Jackson

**AUDIO/VISUAL:**

5/7 Jon Haux & Craig Jump  
 5/14 Jon Haux & Craig Jump  
 5/21 Jon Haux & Craig Jump  
 5/28 Craig Jump & Jacob de Bes

**TRUSTEES:**

5/7 John Schwartz & Allen Lebsack  
 5/14 Alexandra Stanke & Bernie Depperschmidt  
 5/21 Brian Kukus & Greg Greaves  
 5/28 John McCoy & Mary Kauffman

**REFRESHMENTS:**

5/7 John & Sheryl McCoy  
 5/14 Mother's Day - no refreshments  
 5/21  
 5/28

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER:**

5/7 Dawn Briggs  
 5/14 Pat Kukus  
 5/21 Dawn Briggs  
 5/28 Eileen Walker

# May Celebrations

**Birthdays**

Noreen Flood  
 Eunice Baer  
 J.D. Frank  
 Karen Orth  
 John Schwartz  
 Jeff McWhorter  
 Kathy Miczulski  
 Colton Leibbrand  
 Rick Stroh  
 Carolyn Bernhardt  
 Troy Schuetz

**Anniversaries**

Mike & Judy Bernard  
 Craig & Kathy Bialy



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