



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LOVELAND UCC

THE HERALD

JULY 2023

Minister's Musings

Dearly Beloved,

At the annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ in mid-June, we talked about the work of untangling and mending. You may know that things are a bit of a mess at the Conference level. In addition to having a brand new Interim Conference Minister (the Rev. Doug Wooten), and an almost entirely new Board of Directors, there is still much grief, confusion and anger about the November firing of Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott and the February resignation of long-time Senior Conference Minister Rev. Sue Artt. Emotions ran high at our gathering. Many of us believed we knew what was right and wanted others to agree with us. The fabric that weaves us together has been rent, torn, tangled, and frayed. Hurt, disappointment, distrust, tension and anger were palpable.

And into that space the Rev. Laura Everett of [Mending Church](#) invited us to see the work of untangling and mending as an act of devotion: of sacred work and love. When she had us tangle a skein of embroidery floss, I was reminded that trying to forcibly pull threads apart actually creates terrible knots. The more I pulled, the tighter and more tangled the thread became. I was reminded of the many times that my attempts at de-tangling are forced, rough, quick and lacking all gentleness or care. Though what I am trying to do is untangle, my attempts in fact make matters much much worse.

After creating this tangled mess, Rev. Everett instructed us to pass our embroidery floss to the person on our left. After all, we are often given the task of untangling knots that we ourselves did not make. This is the work of parenting. It is the work of living in community, of being humans together -- taking what we are handed and not simply cutting the thread into useless little snippets but gently, tenderly holding it. Finding an end and working that end back and through, back and through. Taking our time. Sometimes stopping to rest, to come back with a new sense of vision, with our fingers uncramped to work some more. Sometimes we do the best we can to untangle and then need to pass the knot on to someone with more experience or nimbler fingers or just a little more patience.

What in your life is tangled or torn?

What in our collective life? As a congregation? A community? A nation?

What is worthy of untangling? What is worthy of repair?

I am grateful to share space with you, to untangle, tend, repair and mend together. To be reminded that I am worthy of healing, wholeness and health. As are you, our neighbors, our church, our Conference and our world.

With love and hope, Thandiwe

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>



Summer Season Worship

July 2 Communion Sunday

Micah 4:1-4 & Isaiah 2:1-5 "Swords into Plowshares"

July 9 Outdoor Worship and All-Church Potluck Picnic, Namaqua Park

Matthew 6:25-34 "Grass in its Glory"

July 19 – Screening of "Moana"

July 16 Guest Preacher, Rev. Angie Combs (they/them)

Matthew 9:35-38, 10:5-14 "The Harvest is Great"

July 23 Hymn Sing

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 "The Time of Singing has Come"

July 30 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 "Seeds and Soil: A Parable"

Aug 6 Communion Sunday

Matthew 13:24-32 "The Smallest Seed"

August 9 – Screening of "My Octopus Teacher"

Aug 13 Blessing of the Backpacks

Amos 5:7, 21-24 & 9:11-15 "Make Gardens"

Back-to-School Pool Party hosted by Dawn Briggs and Karen Jazowski

Aug 20 Matthew 14:13-21 & 15:32-38 "Enough for Everyone!"

Aug 27 John 15:1-8 "Being Branches"

Sept 3 Communion Sunday, Last Sunday of the Summer Season

Matthew 7:15-20 & Galatians 5:16-25 "Fruiting"

Summer Season Art Opportunity

During our summer season, engage your creative side and take photographs or create artwork (drawings, paintings, sculpture, pottery, sand castles, etc) that captures how you see God's love growing in and around you. We hope to gather these pieces of artwork into an art show at the end of the summer and potentially create a calendar and/or offer some of these original art pieces for sale.

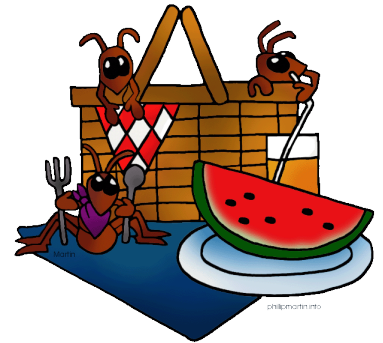
Please submit images and/or artwork to Pastor Thandiwe in-person or via email (thandiwe@lovelanducc.org). Want to help with an art show or auction? Talk to Pastor Thandiwe! We will have an Art Opening on Sunday, August 6 and the artwork will be displayed through September 3.

Outdoor Worship & Picnic with First Christian Church

Sunday, July 9, 10:00 am

Namaqua Park Shelter - 730 N Namaqua Ave, Loveland

Please join us for outdoor worship followed by a potluck picnic at Namaqua Park on Sunday, July 9, with First Christian Church. Please note there will be **no worship on Zoom**. Please bring your own seating and a dish to share. Bring your hula hoops for a demonstration and mini-lesson from Heather Tribett. If you have a pop-up, please bring that as well!



Mission & Outreach \$2000 Challenge - June 1-Sept 1

Our Mission and Outreach Ministry has received an offer of a matching grant from an anonymous donor, to be used specifically for our mission work. Any monetary gifts above and beyond those already pledged will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total of \$2,000.00. Working cooperatively with the Thompson School District, meeting this challenge would give us \$4,000.00 extra toward our efforts to assist unaccompanied youth in the Loveland community by providing gift cards for gasoline and the Goodwill store along with telephones.

We deeply appreciate all that you have already pledged and are giving to our church, and pray that a few extra dollars specially marked "\$2,000 challenge grant" will help us meet this goal. \$20 each from 100 people will easily make it happen!

Pastor Thandiwe Away

Pastor Thandiwe will be out of the office July 10 through July 23. In case of a pastoral emergency or need, please contact the chair of our Deacons, Dana Stanke, at stanke.dana@gmail.com or (970) 682-9585.

Stellar Vacation Bible School - Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light

July 31 - August 4, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Trinity United Methodist Church (801 N. Cleveland Ave, Loveland)

Launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun. This VBS is provided free of charge to children and youth!

Visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/tumc2023> for more information and for volunteer and participant registration.



Summer Season Movie Screenings - July 20

Join us in the sanctuary for a family friendly movie! Snacks will be served in Fellowship Hall at intermission.

July 20, 7:00 pm - Moana

August 10, 7:00 pm - My Octopus Teacher

Photo Directory Photo Shoots

We are putting together a photo directory of our congregation! Duane Shable, a new-member and long-time friend of the congregation, has decades of experience as a photographer and has volunteered his time, skill and equipment to take photographs. Each individual/family is invited to sign up for a 10-minute slot on July 15/16. The sign-up sheet is on the trophy case. Not available that weekend? Don't worry, there will also be a Saturday/Sunday in August for photos. Digital copies of photos will be available with a special donation to the congregation.

Financial Notes

Budgeted Offerings through May: \$63,800


Offerings Received through May: \$79,894

Donation of Goods/Services in May: \$915

Thriffs & Gifts May Income: \$





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 <i>Music Minister Out of Office</i> Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am Nalaxone Use Training 11:15 am	26 Virtual Faith Formation Board 7 pm	27 <i>Middle School Mission Trip, Pastor Thandiwe Away</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	28 <i>Middle School Mission Trip, Pastor Thandiwe Away</i> Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am Virtual Mission & Outreach 3 pm Virtual Book Study 7 pm	29 <i>Middle School Mission Trip, Pastor Thandiwe Away</i> Book Study 1:30 pm	30 <i>Middle School Mission Trip, Pastor Thandiwe Away</i> Thrifts & Gifts 10 am	1 Thrifts & Gifts 10 am
2 Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am	3 Deacons 7 pm	 4 <i>Independence Day, Office Closed</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	5 Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am Virtual Book Study 7 pm	6 Book Study 1:30 pm	7 Thrifts & Gifts 10 am	8 Thrifts & Gifts 10 am
9 <i>Music Minister Out of Office</i> Outdoor Worship & Potluck Picnic 10 am	10 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i>	11 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	12 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am Virtual Book Study 7 pm	13 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Book Study 1:30 pm	14 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Thrifts & Gifts 10 am	15 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Photo Session 9 am Thrifts & Gifts 10 am Photo Session 12:30 pm
16 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Photo Session 9 am Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am Photo Session 11:20 am	17 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i>	18 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Men's Coffee Group 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	19 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am Virtual Book Study 7 pm	20 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Book Study 1:30 pm Movie Night 7 pm	21 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Thrifts & Gifts 10 am	22 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Thrifts & Gifts 10 am
23 <i>Pastor Thandiwe Out of Office</i> Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am	24 Virtual Faith Formation Board 7 pm	25 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	26 Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am Virtual Mission & Outreach 3 pm Virtual Book Study 7 pm	27 Book Study 1:30 pm	28 Thrifts & Gifts 10 am	29 Thrifts & Gifts 10 am
30 Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am	31	1 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Men's Coffee Group 10 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	2 Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am Virtual Book Study 7 pm	3 Book Study 1:30 pm	4 Thrifts & Gifts 10 am	5 Thrifts & Gifts 10 am

Thriffs & Gifts

Thriffs & Gifts is officially up and running. We are open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm. Stop by and take a peek!

We do not need donated items at this time. We will keep you updated! If you are still wanting to join the fun of community and volunteering, please use this link to sign up:

<https://volunteersignup.org/YFF8D>

If you have any questions about helping or supporting the shop, please contact Dawn Briggs (720-219-5879), Eileen Walker (ewalkermanning@gmail.com or 720-774-1683) or Linda Carpenter (lin_carpenter@yahoo.com or 850-866-3705).



Serving in July

GREETERS:

7/2 Lee Daniels & Ali Eleam
 7/9 Diane Biegert
 7/16 Linda Carpenter
 7/23 Elizabeth Endicott
 7/30 Kim Leibbrand

USHERS:

7/2 Allen Lebsack & Diane Levy
 7/9 Bob & Mary Miller
 7/16 John Schwartz & Craig Bialy
 7/23 Tory Jackson & Allen Lebsack
 7/30 Diane Levy & Craig Bialy

AUDIO/VISUAL:

7/2 Jon Haux & Craig Jump
 7/9 Criag Jump & Jacob de Bes
 7/16 Jacob de Bes & Jon Haux
 7/23 Jon Haux & Craig Jump
 7/30 Craig Jump & Jacob de Bes

REFRESHMENTS:

7/2
 7/9 Outdoor Worship & Picnic
 7/16 Jen Ogle
 7/23 Troy & Heather Jackson
 7/30 Diane Levy

ACOLYTES:

7/2 Mya & Jeslyn Haux
 7/9 Gavin & Grayson Snyder
 7/16 Lucas Gardner & Colton Leibbrand
 7/23 Josiah & Jehu Nalwood
 7/30 Mya & Jeslyn Haux

LAY READERS:

7/2 Karen Jazowski & Heather Jackson
 7/9 Kathy Bialy
 7/16 Heather Jackson
 7/23 Rhonda Racicot
 7/30 Craig Bialy

TRUSTEES:

7/2 Allen Lebsack & John Schwartz
 7/9 Bernie Depperschmidt & John McCoy
 7/16 Mary Kauffman & Greg Greaves
 7/23 Brian Kukus & Bernie Depperschmidt
 7/30 Alexandra Stanke & Brian Kukus

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER:

7/2 Pat Kukus
 7/9 Eileen Walker
 7/16 Pat Kukus
 7/23 Dawn Briggs
 7/30 Eileen Walker

July Celebrations

Birthdays

Bev Laing
 Margaret Vetter
 Kelsi Schuetz
 Linda Arndt
 Jon Orth
 Larry Schuetz
 Cooper Frank
 Addy Ziegler
 Charlie Shettle
 Allen Lebsack
 Henry Ziegler
 Terri Lebsack
 John Racicot
 Ilene Caster
 Berniece Peters

Anniversaries

Larry & Kathy Schuetz
 Evan & Karlene Snyder
 Paul Heintzleman & Carrie Johansing
 Pat Shettle & Alexandra Stanke
 Dave & Diane Levy
 Robert & Janet Molzahn
 JD & Tiffany Frank
 Bob & Mary Miller



**If your birthday
 or anniversary
 is NOT listed,
 please let the of-
 fice know.**