



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LOVELAND UCC

THE HERALD

AUGUST 2023

## Minister's Musings

Dearly Beloved,

As the end of summer approaches, I am reflecting on transitions and changes. This probably won't surprise you as Cora begins kindergarten on August 14th. It feels right that she will start school: we've been playing on the Garfield Elementary school playground for a long time. We've toured the school, seen the kindergarten classrooms and even met one of the teachers. When we walk by the south end of the building we point to "Cora's Door" (the door that the kindergartners will use). It's exciting! And she is so ready in so many ways.

And it will be a big shift. For all of us. Darryl and I will need to adjust schedules to walk her to school and pick her up each day. She and Ezra will no longer be at the same school. Cora's world will expand, and she will meet new people and learn lots of new things! And...however ready I am for this, there are also parts of me that grieve that my little girl really isn't so little anymore. Time moves quickly, and relationships shift and change. Every transition brings opportunities for tremendous growth -- as we learn, adjust and explore new ways of being.

This summer our theme has been Growing in God's Love. I've had a number of conversations recently with people whose lives are being transformed as they grow in God's love. One has discerned a call to shift vocation. One is discerning an invitation to explore new ways of being in the world -- a new mantra or narrative to hold onto in relationship to others. One shared about what it meant to hear a pastor some years ago preach the words: "You are enough." For another, the liberating message has been: "You are a beloved child of God."

Our faith is transformative. God's love is transformative. And as I listen to other people's stories of transformation, I recognize that God's love, my faith, and this community are transforming my life. I am learning to trust more deeply and to find belonging within myself: in the in-dwelling of Spirit within me. My home is right here, in that place where I am my truest self and I am held in God's love. I am slowly but surely learning to let go of shame around making mistakes and to trust that I am God's beloved child. That is my birthright. And it is your birthright -- that belovedness. That belonging.

How have you been growing in God's love? How is that changing you? Your relationships? Your life? What things are you finding you need to let go of and maybe grieve? What parts of yourself need care? And what growth is there to celebrate? I could not walk this journey of faith alone, and so I am deeply grateful to and for each of you.

With love, Thandiwe

P.s. I'll find out in August about the sabbatical grant and I'll let you know right away!

## 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

### 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 Show - August 6, 11:15 am

Join us after worship for our Summer Season art show! See how our congregation captured God's love growing in and around us.

## Summer Season Movie Screenings - August 10

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

August 10, 7:00 pm - My Octopus Teacher

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## Community Kitchen Volunteers Needed - August 12

**Saturday, August 12, 2:00 - 5:00 pm**

Help us serve an afternoon meal on the 2nd Saturday of each month! We currently need volunteers for August 12. Please sign up at the trophy case. Have questions? Contact Noreen Flood at 970-690-4333 or [wypokesfan@hotmail.com](mailto:wypokesfan@hotmail.com).

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## Blessing of the Backpacks - August 13, 10 am

Join us during worship for our annual sendoff to our students, teachers, educators and school staff. Please bring backpacks, book bags and briefcases for a special time of blessing! Why not invite your grandkids or a school friend to join us?



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## End of Summer Fellowship & Pool Party - August 13

Sunday, August 13, 11:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Tulip Creek Clubhouse (604 Triton, Loveland)

Please come for a day of fun in the sun! All are welcome! We will be grilling hotdogs and hamburgers. Please bring a dish to pass. We will have lawn games for folks that do not want to swim. **Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet on the trophy case.** If you have any questions, please contact Karen



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## Photo Directory Photo Shoots - August 19 & 20

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 August 19/20. The sign-up sheet is on the trophy case.** Digital copies of photos will be available with a special donation to the congregation.

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## Mission & Outreach \$2000 Challenge - Ends Sept 1

We have received \$1884 towards our \$2000 Challenge to be matched by an anonymous donor! 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. Only \$116 more to go! 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 our goal. \$20 each from 6 people will easily make it happen!

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## Refreshment Volunteers Needed

Refreshment volunteers are needed after worship to prepare juice and coffee (instructions near the coffee machine) and provide a light snack such as cookies, carrots, or crackers. Please sign up for your preferred date on the trophy case. Please contact Dawn Briggs (720-219-5872) with any questions.

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## Thrifs & Gifts

Thrifs & Gifts is up and running! We are open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm. Stop by and take a peek! Remember we are a great place to stop in for your new school clothes!

We would love your slightly used clothing and items. Please make sure they are clean and place them in Fellowship Hall in the box marked 'donations'.

If you want to join the fun of community and volunteering, please contact Dawn Briggs (720-219-5879), Eileen Walker ([ewalkermanning@gmail.com](mailto:ewalkermanning@gmail.com) or 720-774-1683) or Linda Carpenter ([lin\\_carpenter@yahoo.com](mailto:lin_carpenter@yahoo.com) or 850-866-3705).

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## Financial Notes

Budgeted Offerings through June: \$76,560.00

Offerings Received through June: \$91,942.51

Donation of Goods/Services in June: \$338.65

Thrifs & Gifts June Income: \$1,679.21

Thrifs & Gifts June Unhoused Youth Fund Donations: \$78.00



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## Choir Season

It's hard to think about the fall season when it's still in the triple digits and in everyone is traveling for the summer, but it'll be here before we know it! We expanded the choir by over 60% last season, in our first real "normal" season since before the pandemic. The congregation and choir members all seemed to really enjoy a year with a full Easter Cantata, various genres of music/instrumentation, and contemplative and energetic music to enhance the worship services. We are also our own little family, and the fellowship and camaraderie means just as much as the music.

The choir season starts September 5 and runs through May 19. We meet most Tuesday evenings for *optional* rehearsal and then at 9am Sunday mornings to learn and run through the music for that service. If you are interested in joining us, there is no commitment, but please talk to Nikki to make sure there will be enough copies of music ordered and on hand. If you have any questions, we encourage you to speak with any of the choir members - they'll be sure to share their honest thoughts about the experience.





# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 <i>Music Minister Out of Office</i></p> <p>Worship with Nursery Care 10 am</p> <p>Fellowship 11 am</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am</p> <p>Men's Coffee Group 10 am</p> <p>Staff Meeting 10 am</p> <p>Mah Jongg 1 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am</p> <p>Virtual Book Study 7 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Book Study 1:30 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>
<p>6 <i>Music Minister Out of Office</i></p> <p>Worship with Nursery Care 10 am</p> <p>Fellowship 11 am</p> <p>Art Show 11:15 am</p>	<p>7 <i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>Deacons 7 pm</p>	<p>8 <i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am</p> <p>Mah Jongg 1 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am</p> <p>Virtual Book Study 7 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Book Study 1:30 pm</p> <p>Movie Night 7 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p> <p>Serving at Community Kitchen 2 pm</p>
<p>13 <i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i></p> <p>Worship with Nursery Care 10 am</p> <p>Children's Worship 10:15 am</p> <p>Art Show 11:15 am</p> <p>Back to School Pool Party 11:30 am</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Trustees 6:30 pm</p> <p>Church Baard 7:30 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am</p> <p>Men's Coffee Group 10 am</p> <p>Mah Jongg 1 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am</p> <p>Virtual Book Study 7 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Book Study 1:30 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Photo Session 9 am</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Photo Session 9 am &amp; 11:20 am</p> <p>Worship with Nursery Care 10 am</p> <p>Fellowship 11 am</p> <p>Art Show 11:15 am</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Budget &amp; Stewardship 7 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am</p> <p>Mah Jongg 1 pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am</p> <p>Virtual Mission &amp; Outreach 3 pm</p> <p>Virtual Book Study 7 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Book Study 1:30 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Worship with Nursery Care 10 am</p> <p>Children's Worship 10:15 am</p> <p>Fellowship 11 am</p> <p>Art Show 11:15 am</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Virtual Faith Formation Board 7 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am</p> <p>Mah Jongg 1 pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Thrift Store Sorting &amp; Prep 9 am</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Thrifs &amp; Gifts 10 am</p>



## Serving in August

### **GREETERS:**

8/6 Dana Stanke & Kathy Bialy  
 8/13 Eunice Baer  
 8/20 Diane Biegert  
 8/27 Linda Carpenter

### **USHERS:**

8/6 Lucas Gardner, Colton Leibbrand  
 & Allen Lebsack  
 8/13 Bob & Mary Miller  
 8/20 Craig Bialy & Troy Jackson  
 8/27 Diane Levy & Georgene Hill

### **AUDIO/VISUAL:**

8/6 Jacob de Bes & Jon Haux  
 8/13 Jon Haux & Craig Jump  
 8/20 Craig Jump & Jacob de Bes  
 8/27 Jacob de Bes & Jon Haux

### **REFRESHMENTS:**

8/6 Diane Biegert  
 8/13 Pool/Fellowship at Dawn & Karen's  
 8/20 Craig & Kathy Bialy  
 8/27

### **ACOLYTES:**

8/6 Mya & Jeslyn Haux  
 8/13 Gavin & Grayson Snyder  
 8/20 Lucas Gardner & Colton Leibbrand  
 8/27 Josiah & Jehu Nalwood

### **LAY READERS:**

8/6 Mya Haux  
 8/13 Alycia Pisano  
 8/20 Diane Biegert  
 8/27 Diane Levy

### **TRUSTEES:**

8/6 Allen Lebsack & John McCoy  
 8/13 Brian Kukus & Mary Kauffman  
 8/20 Greg Greaves & Alexandra Stanke  
 8/27 Bernie Depperschmidt & John Schwartz

### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER:**

8/6 Pat Kukus  
 8/13 Dawn Briggs  
 8/20 Eileen Walker  
 8/27 Pat Kukus

## August Celebrations

### **Birthdays**

Karen Shanahan	Fred Koch
Mike Bernard	Nora Smith
Ollie Eastman	Tammy Sharmer
Nikki Glantz	Amber Kukus
Dave Levy	Chad Johns
Kalyn Bonn	Valeria Brehm
Gavin Snyder	Brooklyn Votaw
Karen Jazowski	Emma Jackson
Craig Bialy	Robert Molzahn
Gerald Sundberg	John Drage
Diane Levy	Janet Molzahn
Alaina Jackson	Natasha Eastman
Jack Baker	Avery Vetter
Linda Carpenter	

### **Anniversaries**

8/3 Brian & Pat Kukus  
 8/10 Troy & Heather Jackson  
 John & Sheryl McCoy  
 8/13 Troy & Sherri Schuetz  
 8/16 Robert Cantrell & Natasha Eastman



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