



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH LOVELAND UCC

THE HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2023

Minister's Musings

A Season of Song

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the lands. Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come into God's presence with singing!*
Psalm 100:1

Did you know that the Bible references music over 11,000 times?!? There's an entire song book in the Bible -- the book of Psalms! Scripture even describes praise as the song of all creation: even the mountains and hills break forth into singing and the trees of the field clap their hands. (Recognize those words from Isaiah 55:12 and one of our favorite songs?) Songs of praise and lament, love and joy, longing and hope are central to our connection and communication with the divine. Truly, "where words fail, music speaks" (Hans Christian Anderson).

Music in general is able to convey emotions in a way that nothing else truly can. Listening to and/or making music increases blood flow in your body "activating" the brain's limbic system, which is where we process emotions (it is also associated with memory, among other functions).

German author and poet, Berthold Auerbach, puts it perfectly: "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." In many ways, **music is the language of the soul**. Most of us have had the experience of feeling God's presence through music, reminding us of something true, helping us discern, comforting us, giving us courage, or offering our lives new meaning. Music is a connecting experience -- connecting us both to the divine and to one another.

This autumn season, we invite you to explore and celebrate music. Yes -- we'll have lots of music in worship. Each service will also highlight a specific song that will ground our time with the young and young at heart, connect with that day's scripture, and inspire Thandiwe's sermon reflections. We have selected a variety of songs that includes hymns, choir anthems, special music, and possibly even a Youtube video (or two!).

As we worship together through music, we invite you to reflect on both the subjective and communal impacts. The way a song affects each of us uniquely while also creating a shared experience. The very act of *your* singing may powerfully affect the person sitting in front of you regardless of how you feel about your voice. Song has the power to touch us -- whether we are hearing it for the first time or the hundredth!

We excitedly anticipate the return of choir this fall and the opportunity for a couple of hymn sings during the season (one of them will be a surprise!). We hope and pray that this Season of Song will help you will discover (or discover anew) the song in your heart!

With love,
Nikki & 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>

Fall Season Worship: A Season of Song

The fall worship season will begin on September 10 with our annual Living Water Worship (please bring water from your home or holidays to bless and share!). Each worship service this season will center around a particular song and its message and/or the story behind the song.



Autumn Season Sundays

September 10 - Kick-off Sunday, Living Water Worship, Children's Worship & Youth Group

September 17 -

September 23 - Hayride (weather permitting)

September 24 - Children's Worship & Youth Group
New Members Class

October 1 - World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need Offering

October 8 - Disabilities Awareness Sunday, Children's Worship & Youth Group
New Members Class

October 15 -

October 22 - Mental Health Sunday, Children's Worship & Youth Group

October 28 - Trunk or Treat

October 29 - All Saints Celebration
5th Sunday Worship with First Christian Church (location TBD)

November 5 - Communion Sunday, Daylight Savings Time ends

November 12 - Commitment Sunday (Welcoming New Members and Receiving Pledges)

November 19 - Thanksgiving Sunday, Last Sunday of Autumn Season
Transgender Day of Remembrance Service at Namaqua UU Church, 7:00 pm

Choir Season



It's hard to think about the fall season when it's still in the triple digits and in everyone is still traveling, but choir will start very soon! We expanded our chancel 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.

We will also be having a "kick-off" choir party August 29, 6:00 pm, at Diane Biegert's before the season starts - please talk to Nikki to get on the email list to be included in hanging out with us!

Top Ten Countdown: Reasons to Join the Church Choir

10. You want to improve your health. Singing in the Choir is not only heart healthy, but soul healthy. There are no monthly memberships fees, you can wear whatever shoes you want to rehearsal, and it's a lot easier on the knees than jogging.

9. If you want to sing an "unplanned" solo so you can sing alone for all to hear, you are welcome to! Or you can practice your lip-syncing skills and see if anyone ever notices you aren't even singing at all.

8. Because you may wear a choir robe, you are liberated from a task many find quite challenging: finding clothes that match properly.

7. You'll be able to see the clock in the back of the sanctuary without having to turn around.

6. No matter how crowded it is for Christmas Eve and Easter, you're guaranteed a great seat.

5. It's just like singing in the shower, except you are dressed and people are actually listening to you.

4. You'll have an excuse to get out of doing the dishes and child bedtime duties Tuesday night.

3. From where you're sitting, you can nod off during the sermon without the pastor catching you.

2. The choir chairs are the most comfortable in the sanctuary, and they even have little storage pockets to keep your most prized possessions [like a water bottle and cough drops of course].

1. From your special vantage point every Sunday, in which you look out at the entire congregation from the choir seats, you will develop interesting new hobbies. Among these is a little guessing game called "Who's Praying, Who's Sleeping?"



Children's Worship

Elementary age children are invited to Children's Worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. They will begin worship in the sanctuary with their parents, then move to their classroom following Children's Time.

Would YOU like to work once in a blue moon during Children's Worship? Kim Liebbrand and Dana Stanke are in need of a list of folks whom we can call to fill in if one of us is absent. (In the two years we've been doing this, I think it's happened three times!) If you would be willing to co-teach (no planning) with one of us, please email me or call me (Dana Stanke, 970-682-9585, stanke.dana@gmail.com). Our children are fantastic, by the way!

Church Directory Photos

Thank you to Duane Shable for all of his time, energy, and expertise in taking photos of our church family! If you'd like a copy of the photos you had taken, simply make a donation to the church with "photos" in the subject.

Fall Hayride & Trunk or Treat - Volunteers Needed

Last year, we had two amazing community events -- the Hay Ride out at the Croissant farm AND Trunk or Treat (remember roasting s'mores and disco dancing in the parking lot?). We would love to offer these events again, and **we need some additional volunteers to work with Faith Formation Board to plan, organize, set-up and clean-up these events**. Please speak with Pastor Thandiwe or Linda Greaves if you can help. Thank you!

New Members Class - September 24 & October 8

Are you interested in learning more about our congregation or becoming a member? Come to our New Members class after worship on September 24 and October 8! This is a chance to learn more about the United Church of Christ and our congregation more specifically, to ask questions and to better understand what it means to be a member. All are welcome! Please let Pastor Thandiwe know if you're interested in participating with this.

Get Involved with Worship!

Would you like to help plan any of the following services?

- Disabilities Awareness Sunday (October 8)
- Mental Health Sunday (October 24)
- Transgender Day of Remembrance Service (November 19, 7:00 pm)

Pastor Thandiwe would love to work with a team to help plan and lead these special services.

We are also looking for people to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas (this will involve preparing the sanctuary for our Hanging of the Greens Worship on November 26). Thanks!

From the Missions & Outreach Ministry

We as a congregation have so much to be thankful for, especially in the last couple of months. First, the \$2,000 challenge grant to support homeless youth has been met and surpassed. Your gifts, as of 8/20 total \$2,464. With the grant, this will give us at least \$4,464 toward that work. Thanks to your generosity, the Missions and Outreach Ministry has already authorized allocating \$500 for the purchase of Walmart gift cards for these youth.

We also celebrate the efforts of those involved in our Thrifts and Gifts enterprise. Thank you to all who have donated items, washed clothes, hauled boxes, sorted and/or priced items, staffed the shop, or contributed in any other way. While one of our goals is to add a bit to the church treasury, we have been able to minister to others in many ways. With our being near the bus stop, people drop in for a few minutes, some just to chat a bit. One man stopped by stating that he had no clothes and bought a couple of items. We wonder -- was he forced out of a previous living environment. A young mother came in saying she had just moved here, bringing her young son and four suitcases from Las Vegas. Among other items, she found a chair for her child. We wonder – did she hurriedly escape an abusive situation? Then there's a lady who lives in a local motel and comes in to buy books. One lady brought in her deceased brother's shirt to have a memory bear made, then ordered a second one for her mother. And there's the man who bought hats for his fishing buddies to keep them safe from the sun. All have found a friendly face or two to listen to their stories. We have also found new friends among those who donate, some because they have lost a spouse and need to part with their loved one's possessions or those who are downsizing because they need to go into assisted living. New bonds are being formed with them.

Thanks again! Due to your generosity, we have received more donations that we can possibly put out for sale. Some of these items are finding their way beyond our church building. Several boxes were forwarded to Trinity UMC for their rummage sale. Others have gone directly to the homeless or to the House of Neighborly Service to be distributed to those in need.

Lastly, our unaccompanied youth will be needing coats and jackets, either new or gently used. By the way, if you'd like to find a nice one, gently used, you might drop by Thrifts and Gifts and find one very reasonably priced.

Community Kitchen Volunteers Needed - September 9

Saturday, September 9, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Help us serve an afternoon meal on the 2nd Saturday of each month! We currently need volunteers for September 9. Please sign up at the trophy case. Have questions? Contact Noreen Flood at 970-690-4333 or wypokesfan@hotmail.com.

Gun Safety Events

TRANSFORMING GUNS INTO GARDEN TOOLS

Friday Evening, September 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 W Prospect Rd, Fort Collins, CO 80526

In partnership with Plymouth Congregational Church, Fort Collins Moms will participate in a Community Informational Evening by [RAWtools](#) of Colorado Springs.

The public is invited to attend this family-friendly event, so spread the word, post the link, and invite your friends to come with you! More info [here!](#)

- 7:00 – 7:30 pm - Presentations by Mike Martin of [RAWtools](#) and others involved in Gun Violence Prevention (Moms & Be SMART will have information tables.)
- 7:30 – 8:00 pm – Blacksmithing demonstration of turning gun parts into garden tools
- All are invited to walk a labyrinth to honor victims and survivors during the event
- 8:00 – 8:30 pm – Engage and celebrate with ice cream sundaes

SAFE SURRENDER EVENT

Saturday Morning, September 9, 10:00 am-noon

Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 W Prospect Rd, Fort Collins, CO 80526

Citizens are invited to bring guns for safe surrender **Many adult volunteers are needed: Take a look [HERE](#) for job descriptions and to sign up.** Volunteers will receive specific details and training before the event on Saturday, with a lunch provided for them from 12:30-2. Only volunteers and donors may be on the premises for this event.

*****Being involved in one or both of these events is a powerful experience.**

Whether you participate, volunteer, or simply attend, you'll leave feeling connected and inspired to a movement that brings hope for a more peaceful and safe community.

We hope to see you there!***

Financial Notes

Budgeted Offerings through July: \$108,356.65

Offerings Received through July: \$89,320.00

Donation of Goods/Services in July: \$7.92

Thrifts & Gifts July Income: \$1258.08

Thrifts & Gifts July Unhoused Youth Fund Donations: \$62.00



Teddy's Hike for the Community Kitchen

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch

Sunday, September 10, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Tickets \$25-\$100

For tickets and more information click [HERE](#).

We are inviting you, your family, and friends to participate in our celebration of community. This family-friendly hike begins at 11:30 AM at beautiful Sylvan Dale Ranch. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the hike by a local restaurant. Tickets can be purchased on [Eventbrite](#).

"I dreamed this hike for the Community Kitchen because they gave me back my dreams." - Teddy

Teddy's Hike was created by a former guest of the Community Kitchen to help raise funds and awareness for the organization. Teddy, who was homeless for two and a half years, would often go to the Community Kitchen not just for food, but also to connect with others. Teddy obtained housing in December of 2017, and the first Teddy's Hike took place the following year. The hike is a physical representation of how people walked alongside him on his journey. Teddy's story of connection, belonging, and support is just one of the many stories of the people the Community Kitchen serves.

2023 is the 6th year for Teddy's Hike, which will be held at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch.

We are inviting you, your family, and friends to participate in our celebration of community. This family-friendly hike begins at 11:30 AM. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the hike by Taste Local.

We understand not everyone can join us in person, but would love to have you join in a virtual hike wherever you live and share it with us to show your support. If you're not able to join us in person or virtually, but you would like to hike with us 'in spirit' we welcome that as well! Please choose the option that works best for you and get outside to show your support! If you need assistance, please contact the Community Kitchen at 970-278-1726.

Funds raised from this event go directly towards purchasing food for the Community Kitchen. Since the pandemic, the need has increased by 60%.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please email events@lovelandcommunitykitchen.org.

The Community Kitchen serves meals 7 days a week to anyone who is in need. There is no qualifying for their services. www.lovelandcommunitykitchen.org.



Seeing No Stranger 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.

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>

Attendance Cost:

We are a non-profit driven by a desire to enrich lives. Don't let cost be a barrier! We have tiered pricing and additional need-based scholarships. Prices include all programming and 6 meals in the dining hall.

Supporter Level - \$408

Sustainer Level - \$332

Subsidized Level - \$257

Lodging Cost:

La Foret has comfortable yet rustic cabins with 3 to 6 bedrooms and 2 shared bathrooms. Bedrooms have 2 to 4 beds each. Yurts have 6 bunk beds and a detached bathhouse. There are also a variety of hotels within a 10 to 15 minute drive. Prices include both nights. You may choose your own roommate if attending with someone you know.

Private room in cabin - \$194

Shared room in cabin - \$136

Yurt with up to 5 others - \$78

Offsite/Commuter - No cost

Namaqua Center Thank You

From Karen, the outgoing Namaqua Center Giving Tree contact :

Linda, I want to thank you for your years-long partnership in support of our community's children, families and grandfamilies. The contributions from First Congregational Church have had a far-reaching impact and are truly appreciated by both our staff and clients.

From Linda Arndt, FCC Giving Tree coordinator:

This should be a thank you to everyone. I think I started working with Karen around 2010. Prior to that Donna Amonds helped us out. Even in the most difficult of years we never had a name left on the tree. Once, a name somehow got under it. I even had people call me and send an extra gift. We have such a generous congregation that my participation has been easy. Thanks to all of you for your years of contributions. Linda Arndt

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Children's Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 11 am	28 Virtual Faith Formation Board 7 pm	29 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Choir Welcome Party 6 pm	30 Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am	31	1 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am	2 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am
3 Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am	4 <i>Labor Day, Office Closed</i> Deacons 7 pm	5 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Men's Coffee Group 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	6 Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am	7	8 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am	9 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am Serving at Community Kitchen 2 pm
10 <i>Kick Off Sunday</i> Choir Rehearsal 9 am Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Children's Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 11 am S3 Youth Group 11:15 am	11 Trustees 6:30 pm Church Baard 7:30 pm	12 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Staff Meeting 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	13 Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am	14	15 <i>First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month</i> Thrifs & Gifts 10 am	16 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am
17 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Fellowship 11 am	18 <i>Office Closed</i>	19 <i>Office Closed</i> Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Men's Coffee Group 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	20 <i>Office Closed</i> Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am	21	22 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am	23 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am Hayride TBD
24 Choir Rehearsal 9 am Worship with Nursery Care 10 am Children's Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 11 am S3 Youth Group 11:15 am New Members Class 11:30 am	25 Virtual Faith Formation Board 7 pm	26 Virtual Lectio Divina 8 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	27 Thrift Store Sorting & Prep 9 am Virtual Mission & Outreach 3 pm	28	29 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am	30 Thrifs & Gifts 10 am

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

Nikki Glantz, Music Minister, nikki@lovelanducc.org

Staci Hennings, Office Administrator, office@lovelanducc.org

Serving in September

GREETERS:

9/3 Dana Stanke & Kim Leibbrand
 9/10 Lee Daniels
 9/17 Elizabeth Endicott
 9/24 Kathy Bialy

USHERS:

9/3 Bob & Mary Miller
 9/10 Craig Bialy & Georgene Hill
 9/17 Allen Lebsack & Troy Jackson
 9/24 John Schwartz & Craig Bialy

AUDIO/VISUAL:

9/3 Jon Haux & Craig Jump
 9/10 Craig Jump & Jacob de Bes
 9/17 Jacob de Bes & Jon Haux
 9/24 Jon Haux & Craig Jump

REFRESHMENTS:

9/3 Ali Eleam
 9/10 Linda Greaves
 9/17
 9/24 Noreen Flood

ACOLYTES:

9/3 Mya & Jeslyn Haux
 9/10 Gavin & Grayson Snyder
 9/17 Lucas Gardner & Colton Leibbrand
 9/24 Josiah & Jehu Nalwood

LAY READERS:

9/3 Bev Laing
 9/10 Karen Jazowski
 9/17 Kathy Bialy
 9/24 Heather Jackson

TRUSTEES:

9/3 Greg Greaves & Brian Kukus
 9/10 Alexandra Stanke & Mary Kauffman
 9/17 Bernie Depperschmidt & Allen Lebsack
 9/24 John McCoy & John Schwartz

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER:

9/3 Dawn Briggs
 9/10 Eileen Walker
 9/17 Pat Kukus
 9/24 Dawn Briggs

September Celebrations

Birthdays

Alec Britt
 Maria Greaves
 Ted Swanson
 Mary Miller
 Sara Gardner
 Ann Baker
 Duane Shable
 Robert Peters
 Matt Bialy
 Bill Shanahan
 Allie Mason
 Bekka Ricard

Anniversaries

Bill & Karen Shanahan
 Lee & Linda Daniels
 John & Ann Baker
 Elvin & Connie Spreng
 Ken & Karin Schwols
 Jay & Tena Britt
 Ted & DeLoris Swanson
 Karl & Ashley Vetter



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