



First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Epistle

February 2026

"Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

(Paul's Epistle to the Philippians 1:2)

God is Still Speaking



Pondering Pastor

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ~Philippians 4:6

My Friends,

I would be neither an observant, pondering, nor thoughtful pastor if I did not start by saying that in the last month the world, or at least the world order, has started to change in ways I doubt any of us could have imagined. A national call has gone out to clergy to gather in Minneapolis to respond to the surge of federal ICE officers there. We don't yet know what will happen when clergy arrive there. As I have mentioned in the pulpit we see immigration enforcement happening here in Rock Springs as well. The main reason I have decided not to go to Minneapolis is that there is a need to address poverty and other social issues right here at home. The UCC will be well represented. And this does not even touch how the US military has been active in the last month.

There is a lot happening in the world. There is a lot to be anxious about. It is hard to hold the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. We are increasingly living in a time when we have these two texts open in different tabs on the same device, and of course inside our hearts and minds. We also carry concerns for those we care for in our hearts. The question for all of us is what do we do with all this information about the world in light of the call for compassion that our faith fills us with and that the Spirit may put in our hearts.

My mentor Rev. Jerry Lawritson gave me several books which he signed "Be of Good Courage." I think what he meant is we have to be aware of the world's reality, connected to God in prayer, and then act with courage whatever may come. This is what we are to do when the world seems to have so much happening at once. When things are happening in places we can't physically respond to, and when so much is happening it seems overwhelming, we must remember we are God's people. If we do our best to forgo anxiety about the world and we continue in conversation with God, the scriptures, and one another then all we are called to do in this time will make itself known to us.

Be of Good Courage,
Pastor Kelli



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Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-362-3530

Church Email: churchfirstrock@gmail.com
www.firstrockucc.org

Office Hours: Mon 3:30-4:30 Tues-Thurs 12:30-4:30

Worship: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY 3:30-4:30 PM, TUESDAY-THURSDAY 12:30-4:30 PM

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 WORSHIP 10:30 AM w/ Pastor Jenny GROWING FAITH NOISY CHANGE	2 BIBLE STUDY 2PM	3 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM	4	5	6	7
8 DECONS 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM SUPERBOWL FUNDDRAISER	9 WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 12:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 2PM	10 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM	11	12 MEN'S FELLOWSHIP 6:30 PM FH	13	14
15 MARDI GRAS WORSHIP 10:30 AM MISSIONS 11:45	16 BIBLE STUDY 2 PM	17 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM	18 POTLUCK 5:30 PM ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 7:00 PM	19 PUB THEOLOGY NELL'S CAFE TRUSTEES 6:00 pm	20	21
22 WORSHIP 10:30 AM	23	24 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM	25 COUNCIL 6:30 pm	26	27	28

WEEKLY CHURCH USE:
 LA HERMOSA- TH 7:00 PM ;
 SAT & SUN 3:00 PM
 BOY SCOUT TROOP 4- TUES 6:00 PM
 MIA'S LEARNING TREE: MON-FRI 8-2 P.M.

Save the Date
 March 13 Families Helping Families Fundraiser 5pm-9pm
 April 2nd- Maundy Thursday
 April 3rd -Good Friday
 April 5th- Easter

SUPERBOWL BOARD

Buy your Super Bowl squares before February 8th! Each square is \$20 and you could win up to \$500! All monies raised support our discretionary fund.



Please sign up to help us at church.

Each week we need help to lead worship, host fellowship, and shovel snow/ or mow the lawn depending on the season. Sign up lists are on the table in narthex each week. Please sign up if you can help!

There is also the opportunity to display your artwork each month, you will also find a sign up list for this. We also need "approved adults" to assist with Sunday School most weeks, if you would like to do this please speak with Pastor Kelli.

Volunteers NEEDED



We will worship with Holy Communion, and Mount of Olives for Ash Wednesday. All congregations are invited to gather at FCC for a potluck at 5:30 and we will worship at 7pm. Worship will include the imposition of ashes and communion.

WORSHIP & SCRIPTURES FOR FEBRUARY

February 1st

Matthew 5:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

February 8th

Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

February 15th

Matthew 17:1-13

2 Peter 1:16-21

February 22nd

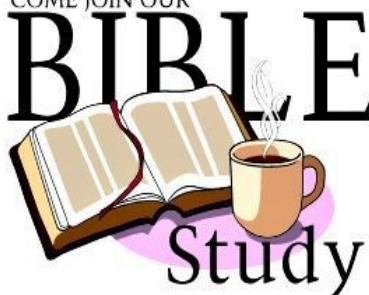
Matthew 4:1-11

Romans 5:12-19

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE TO THE WELCOME BABY JESUS DRIVE!

Last Fall when I spoke to our food bank they told me they hardly ever got baby food donations. During Advent we collected baby food, formula, wipes and cash for baby formula. After Advent the \$310 dollars that were donated were used to buy formula and taken to the Sweetwater County Food Bank. When asked how there current supply of these items were they told me the supply of these needed items were ok for now ~Pastor Kelli

COME JOIN OUR



The Bible Study group is meeting on Mondays at 2pm. We are reading Psalms. Please join us!

IT TAKES A WHOLE COMMUNITY TO RUN OUR CHURCH! MANY THANKS TO...

- ♦ Growing Faith, Mary Ruth P., Terry M., and Kathy G. for being worship leaders.
- ♦ Rie and Lyle H., Amy R., Sharon P., and Mary Ruth P. for hosting fellowship.
- ♦ Terry M for displaying John Bunning's art in January.
- ♦ All those who give to the food pantry.
- ♦ To all who gave to the Welcome Baby Jesus drive
- ♦ To all those who got annual reports in and those selling Super Bowl squares!

Thank
you



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

February 12th

6:30 PM

All men welcome to join

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet February 9, at 12:00 pm.

Our special guest will be Misty Shine who will be demonstrating chair yoga.

All our welcome!



LENTEN STUDY

We will gather with Holy Communion Episcopal Church, and Mt. of Olives Lutheran Church for a Lenten study. Monday nights, February 23rd-March 23 at Holy Communion's Parish Hall. We will be reading Meeting Jesus at the Table by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. We will meet for dinner at 6pm and start the book discussion at 6:30.

Food Pantry

The food pantry continues to be called upon by local residents. It is pretty well stocked at the moment. Spaghetti sauce and canned fruits would be helpful if you are looking to donate items. We are well stocked for items for those living in hotels and traveling. We are out of tampons, which is the most requested item, but we do have a supply of pads. No hygiene drive is planned at this time.



Please sign up to shovel snow, lead worship, host coffee hour, or share your art!



FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES FUNDRAISER

HELP NEEDED

We are working with other churches to raise money for Sweetwater Family Resource Center. We will need volunteers from our church to 1) put together baskets to be raffled, 2) to assist with the craft table we are leading at the event, and 3) we need everybody's help to promote the event!

Speak with Pastor Kelli, Penni H., or Kathy G. if you can help!

Families Helping Families Dinner & Crafts Fundraiser

SUPPORTING THE
SWEETWATER FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

March 13th 5-9 PM
624 Bridger Avenue
\$17/person or \$45/ Family



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND A FISH FRY OR MACARONI AND CHEESE DINNER & CRAFT NIGHT SPONSORED BY CHURCHES TOGETHER TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE SWEETWATER FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER. MEAL & 2 CRAFT ACTIVITIES ARE INCLUDED. SILENT AUCTION AND 50/50 RAFFLES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.



EQUAL EXCHANGE!

Equal Exchange provides basic food goods that most of us use on a regular basis. Equal Exchange items are different because they are grown and produced in ways that create good in the world, and good for those who create them. Equal

Exchange teaches farming communities ecologically sustainable ways of producing coffee, ways of producing teas that don't involve plantations using unfair labor, and supports local co-ops that teach gender equality! The FCC Mission Board buys Equal Exchange items in bulk for you to purchase, with a small amount going to fund our mission work through FCC.

If you are looking for something yummy, or a gift that can't be found at a local store, consider Equal Exchange items for yourself or a neighbor!

Equal Exchange coffee, tea (green, black, or herbal), chocolate, and olive oil from Palestine are available at the church. We make these available the first Sunday of each month and they are available through the office.

COLLECTING CANS AND BOTTLES

We continue to collect cans and bottles for recycling. Please bring in rinsed-out food cans--we actually get a higher price for these than the drink cans. The funds from this collection are add to our discretionary fund.

Remember to take your tabs off the cans and bring them to the office for the Ronald McDonald House.



988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

The Trevor Project has stepped up to provide a suicide prevention hotline tailored to the needs of the LGBTQIA2+ community. Trevor Project: text 'START' to 678-678 or phone 1-866-488-7386.

St. Christopher's Highway

PO Box 567 Rock Springs, WY 82902

307-922-2380

Travel Assistance
Rock Springs & Green River



Type of Assistance:
Lodging Food
Transportation Clothing

Volunteer on call
7:00am - 9:00pm

St. Christopher's Highway Needs Volunteers!
Please reach out to Pastor Kelli if you can volunteer to help this ministry!

Advertisement for Ronald McDonald House Charities featuring a border of pop tabs, a house icon, and text: 'Pick up the tab for the Ronald McDonald House Intermountain Area!', 'Your donation of pop tabs helps provide a home away from home for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment from local medical facilities.', and 'Please drop tabs off at the church.'