



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

The Epistle

April 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: What is Easter All About?

When I was in college a dorm mate and I were talking one day and I asked her to go to church with me for Easter. She had not grown up Christian and she asked me what Easter was all about. It was actually harder to explain than I thought it should be. I mean celebrating Jesus rising from the grave seems a simple enough explanation!

Twenty-five years later I realize there is a better way to explain Easter. It is not simple though. I mean we are talking about a celebration of Jesus rising from the dead! For those who are unfamiliar with the celebrations of the church, it does sound a bit like a celebration of zombies. Easter is not about zombies, candy, or even eggs.

Easter is about the power of life! As Christians we see the Triune God (God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit) as the source of all life. Jesus is part of the Godhead that created all things. Jesus also lived a human life on earth.

As a human being Jesus experienced how humans value life and use power in the world. Jesus experienced life in a nation that was occupied by the world's superpower at the time (Rome). It was a time when the majority of people simply tried to survive each day. Political power, which always involves using power over other people, was held by a very few wealthy people who did what they could to make Rome happy, so that they would continue to have the power they had—which was limited—but they were not hungry as the majority of people were. Along comes Jesus and Jesus teaches that people, even poor people, could help one another. They could feed each other and share what they had. There are many gospel passages about Jesus feeding thousands of people. Stopping hunger was powerful in a world where most people were hungry. And then Jesus healed people, and taught people to love and care for others. As the followers of Jesus grew, people began to debate what real power really was. When the people with power found that their power was being challenged by poor people who said God was power they sought to stop this idea from spreading.

Jesus was brutally crucified, killed, and buried in a tomb. On the third morning Jesus rose from the tomb. God as a human being survived being put to death by the human powers of the world that sought to maintain power for themselves with brutal force. Easter celebrates that the power of God—the power of love—is greater than human brutality. And that is what Easter is all about.

Be of Good Courage, Pastor Kelli

1275 Adams Ave
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

April 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>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.</p>		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>EASTER BREAKFAST 9:30 AM EASTER WORSHIP 10:30 AM GROWING FAITH NOISY CHANGE EGG HUNT</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY 2PM</p>	<p>Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM</p>		<p>MEN'S FELLOWSHIP 6:30 PM FH</p>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>WORSHIP 10:30 AM DECONS 11:45 AM</p>	<p>WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 12:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 2 PM</p>	<p>Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM</p>		<p>TRUSTEES 6:30 pm</p>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>WORSHIP 10:30 AM MISSIONS 11:45 AM</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY 2 PM</p>	<p>Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM</p>	<p>COUNCIL 6:00 pm</p>	<p>PUB THEOLOGY NELL'S CAFE 6PM</p>		
26	27	28	29	30		
<p>WORSHIP AT GR UCC 10:30 AM No worship @ FCC P. Jenny BBQ 12:30 PM</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY 2 PM</p>	<p>Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM</p>				



Holy Week Calendar

Maundy Thursday April 2nd

Worship in Fellowship Hall at 6pm
includes Soup Supper

Good Friday April 3

Worship at 7pm
Holy Communion (255 2nd St.)

Easter Sunday, April 5th

Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Easter Egg hunt to follow worship.

Save the dates:

April 26, 2026

Pastor Jenny's last Sunday at Union
Congregational Church, Green River

May 17, 2026

Graduation Sunday

May 24, 2026

Pentecost Joint worship

July 13, 2026

Rock Springs Pride Saturday 11am-4 pm.

July 11-13, 2026

Rocky Mountain Conference Annual
Meeting in Provo

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



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet
April 13th at 12:00 pm.
All our welcome!



WORSHIP SCRIPTURES

FOR APRIL

April 2, 2026

Exodus 12:1-14
John 13:1-17, 31-35

April 3, 2026

Isa 52:13-53:12

April 5, 2026

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Matthew 28:1-10

John 20: 1-29

April 12, 2026

John 21:1-19
1 Peter 1:3-9

April 19, 2026

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 1:17-23

April 25

No worship at FCC

Farewell Rev. Jenny!

Whenever a pastor departs from a congregation it is a tender time of farewells. Our sister church, Union Congregational Church in Green River will say goodbye to Pastor Jenny on April 26, 2026. We will worship with them in Green River at 10:30 AM on April 26th. You are invited to carpool to Green River.

Union Congregational Church will host a BBQ in Honor of Jenny on April 26th 12:30-3:30. If you wish to attend you **MUST RSVP** by April 10th to RayChelle at 307-875-3323.

If you do not wish to go to Green River, you may choose to worship with one of our partner churches on April 26th. Mount of Olives Lutheran Church worships at 9:00 am (2916 Foothill) or Holy Communion Episcopal Church at 10:30 am (255 2nd St.). There will be no worship at FCC.



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

To Growing Faith, Jan Z., Mary Ruth P, and Kathy G. for being worship leaders.

To Michele and Linden O., the Legerski Family, Sharon and Amy for hosting Fellowship Hour.

To Paul L. for shoveling snow.

To Penni H., Kathy G. and Pastor Kelli for helping plan Families Helping Families.

To RayChelle, Kathy G., Mary Ruth P., and Pastor Kelli for preparing the Families Helping Families Event.

To Carol L., Julie G. , Ed L., Pastor Kelli and Kathy G. for working the Families Helping Families event.

To all who brought in candy for the Easter Eggs.

To all who donate to the food pantry.

To those who work at Broadway Bargains: Lynne F., Liz S., Julie G., Kai G., John R. Jauntia S., Helen K., Mary Ruth P., Amy R., Michele O., Jana E., Cheri H., Carolyn H. Robin R., Shano U., Linda R., Judy and Lee H., Darlene M., Robin R., Paul L. and Linden O.

To Broadway Bargains for your financial gifts to the church and community!



Food Pantry

Did you know that so far in 2026 we have had an average of 20 requests for food each month? On average, those requests result in supplying food for 60 people each month.

Local residents may call the church to request food each week. We put together the bags of food for each family. Each bag includes: Cereal, powdered milk, and canned food/shelf stable for four meals. We also have food that can be prepared without a stove for those living in hotels and cars. We have limited hygiene supplies people can pick up as well.

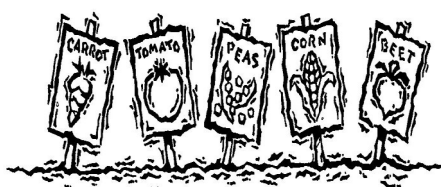
The case sale is coming any time now and we could use more of the following items: spaghetti sauce, canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned chicken, canned beans, and canned soup.



Garden Update

Our Garden Committee has received a \$1000.00 grant from the Wyoming Hunger Initiative! **Thank You Wyoming Hunger Initiative!** (Thank you Kathy G. for writing the grant!) They will be working with Boy Scout Troop 4 to build another garden this season! The new grant asks us to weigh all the produce that we harvest, so we will be working to set up a harvest schedule that will include weighing and track how much we grow.

A new garden will also call for us to extend the irrigation system. Broadway Bargains has granted \$750.00 for this purpose. **Thank you Broadway Bargains!** You are likely to see people out working in the garden area very soon.



If you would like more information on plans for the garden speak with a member of the committee. Garden Committee for 2026 includes: Kathy G., Paul L., Michele and Linden O., Amy R. John R., and Penni H.

Families Helping Families / Churches Together Update

Churches Together held the Families Helping Families event in March to raise money for the Sweetwater Family Resource Center (SWFRC). The Knights of Columbus cooked fish and chips. Congregations hosted four crafts for people to do. A 50/50 raffle and a silent auction were held, and the EIO Band played. It was a fun family night for a good cause! A total of \$3664.00 was raised for the SWFRC to use for client needs. The SWFRC assists local residents with emergency housing needs, utility assistance, deposit and first month's rent, rent for those facing eviction, medication expenses, and a safe space for family visitation. Thank you to all who attended and/or donated to the event!

Churches Together is a group of Rock Springs churches who seek to serve the community and be in fellowship together. The congregations involved in this event included Holy Spirit Catholic Community, First Congregational Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, First Baptist Church, Holy Communion Episcopal Church, Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, Restoration Ministries, Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Ordinary Faith.

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.



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!

