



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

The Epistle

August 2024

"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

"For my house will be called a house of prayer for all people" Isaiah 56:7c

I was watching *Fiddler on the Roof* the other day when it occurred to me that the main character Tevye is a wonderful example of a praying person. Throughout the musical he is talking to God about all his troubles, at one point stopping to ask God "Who do you tell your troubles to?"

Prayer is one of the most fundamental spiritual practices available to us. It may be so essential to the Christian life that we don't often talk about what prayer is. A few years ago, when C. Parsons died, his daughter-in-law asked if I might like some of his books. Little did I know he had what I venture to say was the best theological library in Sweetwater County! I am still exploring what I found there. One of the treasures was a book called Prayer and the Common Life by Georgia Harkness. It is a small volume that points out the need for prayer in modern life. Harkness starts the first chapter by saying "[u]nless prayer is grounded upon a sound structure of belief, it becomes magic, or wishful thinking, or at best a form of therapeutic meditation" (25). It is as hard to define what prayer is but it is based on our personal relationship with God. Prayer is not worship or wishing. Prayer is seeking to align ourselves to God's will as we live in the world. Prayer is simply talking to God about everything! The rest of Harkness' book speaks to ways to pray, types of prayer, and even how prayer is helpful to our psychological lives. The book has got me thinking about how little we think and talk about prayer, something many of us do multiple times a day.

During this summer we spent time in worship singing, praying, and thinking about the psalms. The psalms have given us some ideas about how to pray and hopefully have broadened our ideas of how and what we can pray about. I thought one way to follow up the psalms would be to spend some time talking about how and why we pray. So look for this theme coming to worship in August!

Don't forget to enjoy our prayer labyrinth! It's a great place to ponder and talk to God!

Pastor Kelli

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY 2:45-4:30 PM, TUESDAY-THURSDAY 12:30-4:30 PM

August 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

WEEKLY CHURCH USE:

LA HERMOSA- TH 7:00 PM, SAT & SUN 3:00 PM

BOYSCOUTS- TUES 6:00 PM

MIA's LEARNING TREE: ON SUMMER VACATION IN AUGUST

PUB THEOLOGY & FELLOWSHIP DINNER ON SUMMER VACATION

1

2

3

4

WORSHIP
AT RED
CANYON
LODGE 11 AM
POTLUCK TO
FOLLOW

5

BIBLE STUDY
2 PM

6

CHURCHES
TOGETHER
MEETING
6:30 PM

7

8

Men's
Fellowship
6:30 pm

9

IMA @ GREEN RIVER

10

11

DEACONS
9:15 AM

WORSHIP
10:30 AM
GROWING FAITH
SUNDAY
NOISY CHANGE

12

BIBLE STUDY
2PM

WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP
6:30 @ JOYS

13

14

15

16

17

18

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

MISSIONS
11:15 AM

19

BIBLE STUDY
2 PM

20

ELECTION
DAY
POLLING IN
FH
ST. CHRIS
HWY MTG
@HC 7PM

21

TRUSTEE
MEETING 5PM

COUNCIL
6PM

22

23

24

25

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

26

BIBLE STUDY
2PM

27

28

29

30

31



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, August 8
6:30 PM

Thank you!

Paul and Denise G. would like to thank the unknown giver who left them towels as a housewarming gift.

Thank You!

Women's Fellowship



AUGUST 12 at 6:30 PM

Joy will be hosting this month.
Please contact Joy or the office for the address if you wish to attend.
All women welcome!

It takes a congregation to run a church Thank Yous go to:

To Terry for filling in when Pastor Kelli had to be away
To Growing Faith, Mary Ruth, Penni, and Terry for being worship leaders
To Rie, The Olsons, and Mary Ruth for hosting fellowship.
To Men and Women's Fellowship for hosting the cook out.
To John for displaying his art work.
To Paul L. and Linden for working on the sprinklers and mowing.



We are reading
the Book of
Deuteronomy.
**JOIN US MONDAYS
AT 2:00 PM!**

**NOISY CHANGE
SUNDAY WILL BE
AUGUST 11TH THIS
MONTH!**



Worship and Scriptures for August

In August our worship theme will be prayer.

August 4th—Will be our annual outdoor worship at Red Canyon with Kingsbury UCC, Vernal and Union Congregational, Green River. A potluck follows worship. (If the roads are closed or air quality is bad we will meet at FCC, watch your emails.) *Scripture will be John 21:1-14 and we will have communion.*

August 11th—Will be our Back To School Worship led by Growing Faith! **This will be noisy change week!** An Ice Cream Social by the Growing Faith and Mission Boards will follow. The Mission Board will be selling fair trade coffee and chocolate during fellowship! *Scriptures will be 2 Kings 6: 8-23 and Ephesians 6:10-20 as we think about praying for peace.*

August 18th—Will be our Mental Health Sunday. *Scriptures will be Psalm 6 Matt 26: 36-43 as we think about praying for ourselves and others.*

August 25th—Will be Christmas in the Summer! *Scriptures will be Luke 1:46-55 and Luke 2: 1-20. Come sing carols with us!*

**It's that time of year again!
Please sign up to Mow the Lawn!**



In order for our Sunday worship to run smoothly we need your help! Please sign up to be a worship leader, coffee hour host, or show us your beautiful art work.



You can find the sign-up sheets in the lobby or call the church office.

Thank you to all of our volunteers. You are greatly appreciated!

Please Pay Per Capita Dues!

FCC pays \$15 per member per year to the Rocky Mountain Conference. We also pay \$2 per member per year to the Intermountain Association. These are our dues to the wider church and one of the ways we live our covenant. We ask all members of the church to pay \$17 in per capita per year so we don't have to pull the funds out of our budget.

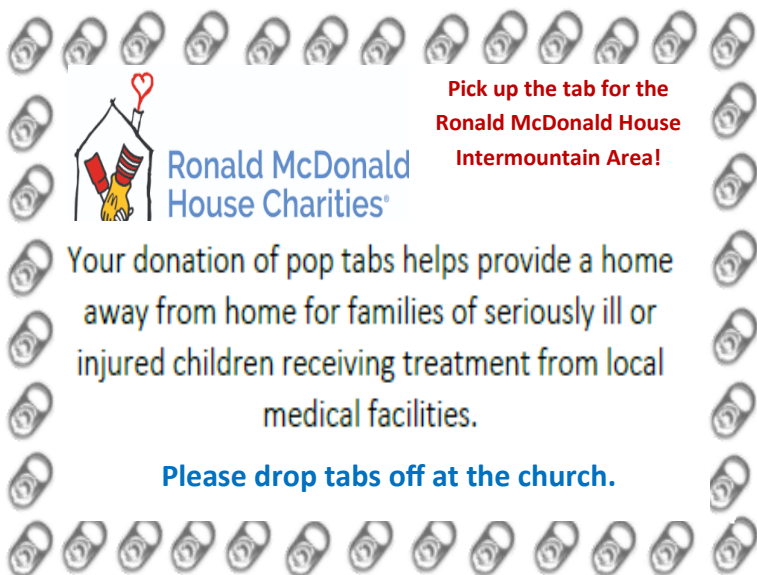


**Churches Together,
a group of Rock Springs
Churches is planning a
potluck at Veterans Park
at noon Saturday,
Sept 21st.**

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.



Plastic

Did you know?...



•Did you know that plastic makes up 11% of household waste?

Did you know that plastic things, which are thrown away and dumped in landfill sites, will never rot away?

Did you know that it is more difficult to recycle plastics than other materials? This is because there are different types of Plastic. Each type needs to be recycled separately.



Flaming Gorge Bus Tour

If you would like to take a tour of Flaming Gorge, Women's Fellowship is trying to get a group rate for a tour on Sept 14th. Several stops, lunch, and snacks would be included in the cost. We have an interest list going to see if we can get 20 people to do a group rate, so price TBD. Please contact Diana or call the office if you would like to join us. You do not need to be a member of the church or Women's Fellowship to join us.

Intermountain Association Gathering

The Intermountain Association (IMA) will be meeting at Union Congregational Church in Green River Church August 9-10. This is the Association of UCC congregations that FCC is in covenant and fellowship with. The Association is a way for local congregations to network and fellowship.

During this IMA Summer Workshop we will be talking with other churches about the many challenges facing congregations at this time. It will be a time to share ideas and gather with new and old friends. We will gather Friday at 3pm for a panel discussion and dinner (pay your own way). Saturday we will gather at 8:30 am for worship and small group discussions. Usually FCC is represented at Association gatherings by Pastor Kelli, Jan Z., and Penni H.

Because this meeting is so close we encourage all interested FCC members to attend. Please let Pastor Kelli know if you plan to attend.

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!

FCC has partnered with our friends at Holy Communion Episcopal Church, Mount of Olives Lutheran Church and (now!) First Baptist Church to run St. Christopher's Highway. St. Christopher is a traveler's assistance program funded by the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming.

We are now in critical need of volunteers! Volunteers take the St. Christopher phone for a week at a time and provide travelers with gas cards, bus tickets, hotel rooms, or food according to need and volunteer discernment. Training is provided.

At this time we are discussing running this program only during the cold months due to a lack of volunteers. Please reach out to Pastor Kelli if you can volunteer to help this ministry!