



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

The Epistle

June 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

*Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Praise the Lord!~Psalm 104:35b*

The Book of Psalms is one of the most mysterious parts of the Bible. It was not written by one person. Some of the Psalms are very old. No one is really sure when the Book of Psalms came into being. We are not sure what the purpose of all the psalms were. What we do know is that the Book of Psalms existed a century, or two, before Jesus. It is said the Book of Psalms was one of two "best sellers" at the time of Jesus.

Jesus likely knew the Psalms. In three of our gospels, Jesus quotes a psalm at the time of his death. In the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Mark Jesus quotes Psalm 22. In the Gospel of Luke he quotes Psalm 31.

The Book of Psalms contains many types of psalms. Some of these psalms contain the deepest prayers and emotional longing for God that we can find recorded in scripture. It is a book of great variety. There are psalms that tell of creation, the history of God and God's people, and sing praises to God. But there are also psalms that record for us how ancient people worshiped, how individuals complained to God, how the people as a whole complained to God, and how they found wisdom. The collection of Psalms in the Bible is a valuable collection of ancient poetry.

Years ago I was given a CD of people singing some psalms. Listening to it has enriched my worship and spiritual life. This summer we will be hearing the psalms read in worship. We may try to sing a few as well. My hope is that by focusing on the psalms we will find new ways to pray and talk to God. At the very least we will learn more about parts of this ancient book of the Bible. Join us for worship in June when we hear more about the psalms. We will continue hearing psalms in worship through July as we think about how the Bible shows us how to pray.

Yours in Prayer

1275 Adams Ave
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-362-3530
Office Hours: Mon 3:30-4:30 Tues-Thurs 12:30-4:30

Church Email: churchfirstrock@gmail.com
www.firstrockucc.org
Twitter: [@ChurchFirstRock](https://twitter.com/ChurchFirstRock)
Worship: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

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

June 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: Mon-Fri 8 am-2 pm						1
2 WORSHIP 10:30 AM GROWING FAITH SUNDAY NOISY CHANGE	3 BIBLE STUDY 2 PM	4 JOIN PRIDE AT CITY HALL 7PM FOR PROCLAMA- TION!	5	6	7 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING	8 PRIDE @ BUNNING PARK 11-3
9 DEACONS 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM	10 BIBLE STUDY 2PM	11 ST CHRIS HYWY BOARD MEETING 7 PM @ HC	12	13 WIIG FELLOWSHIP HALL	14	15 GREEN RIVER PRIDE
16 MISSIONS 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM	17	18	19 TRUSTEE BUDGET MEETING 5PM	20 PUB THEOLOGY 6PM LOCATION TBD	21	22
23	24 BIBLE STUDY 2PM	25	26 COUNCIL 6 PM	27 Fellowship Dinner 6 PM @ Marty's	28	29
30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP 10:30 AM POTLUCK TO FOLLOW	Save the Dates International Days July 13th Red Canyon Worship Aug 4, 2024 InterMountain Association meeting in Green River August 9-10th Back to School Sunday August 11th					

PRIDE Proclamation!

On Tuesday June 4th, Rock Springs City Council will issue a proclamation declaring June Pride Month in Rock Springs. RS Pride is asking all allies to be present at City Council at 7pm June 4th, we would like to see a big turn out for something that has never been done in Rock Springs before!

VISIT US AT PRIDE!

This year our mission board is hosting a table at the Rock Springs PRIDE event. We will living out our commitment to being Open and Affirming (ONA) of the LGBTQIA community as we share information about our church with the community. The Mission Board will be selling Equal Exchange products. We will be working with the YWCA to do a hygiene and supply drive for local women's and teen's shelters as well as for our food pantry.

**PLEASE JOIN OUR
OPEN & AFFIRMING
OUTDOOR WORSHIP!
JUNE 30TH @ 10:30AM
CENTENNIAL PARK
POTLUCK TO FOLLOW**

**JUNE 8, 2024
11 AM TO 3 PM**

**BUNNING PARK
ROCK SPRINGS**

**Free Admission
Family Friendly**

- Live Music
- Food Trucks
- Family Zone
- Drag
- Pet Parade
- Rainbow Runway
- Vendors
- Supply Drive

RS Pride.com



Click for more details:



RS PRIDE
PRIDE FEST '24
presented by
UDA
United Drag Alliance
with support from
YWCA WYOMING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Matthew Shepard Foundation
The UPS Store
The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey
Bello Capelli Salon
City of Rock Springs
Drag for a Cause
Lovely & Amazing Cakes
Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County
The Pickin' Palace
State Farm - Amber Kramer
Sweetwater County Democratic Party
Western Wyoming Beverages
Western Wyoming Community College
Wyoming Mortgage
307 Real Estate/ Becky Costantino
7220 Counseling Coalition

We need your help! We need hands to help take a table and a few chairs, a box of church promotional materials, and a box of Equal Exchange items to Bunning park by 9:30-10 am and/or pick them up at 3pm and return them to the church on Saturday June 8th. We also need folks to sit at the table to greet people, help pack away hygiene supplies, and sell Equal Exchange items from 10-12, 12-2, and 2-4. If you can do this please let Penni H. know by contacting our office.

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



PRIDE FEST

SUPPLY DRIVE LIST:

- Queen/Twin Comforters
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Toiletries
- Cleaning Products
- Non-perishable food items
- Tampons/pads
- Boy/girl deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Hairbrushes
- Flip flops (shower shoes)
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Pull-Ups

The donations will go to help the following organizations in Sweetwater County as they work to meet the needs of our neighbors.

- Food Bank of Sweetwater County
- United Way Diaper Bank
- Rock Springs Youth Home
- YWCA Sweetwater County



Open and Affirming Worship Outdoors June 30th 10:30am

Each year we hold a worship service to celebrate our congregation's vote to be what the UCC calls "Open and Affirming" which means welcoming of LGBTQIA people! This year our celebration will be at Centennial Park with a potluck lunch to follow!



Summer Sunday School

In years past our Sunday school has only met during the school year.

Now we are doing something different. This summer, Growing Faith will have Sunday School classes on the last Sunday of the month. Our children and youth will continue to lead worship on the first Sunday of the month throughout the summer.

Rocky Mountain Annual Gathering

First Congregational Church is part of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ (RMC). The conference will hold its annual meeting at La Foret Conference Center in Colorado June 6-8. Please hold Pastor Kelli, Jan Z., Kathy G., and Jacean G. in prayer as they represent our congregation at this meeting. Please also pray for the RMC as we seek to decide what type of leadership we want for the future and how to balance the finances!

The Conference is providing worship materials and a sermon for congregations to use on June 9th since clergy will be at the RMC Annual Gathering that week. This year's theme is "Blessed Flexability". Join us in worship June 9th as we celebrate our connection to the wider church!

Food Pantry

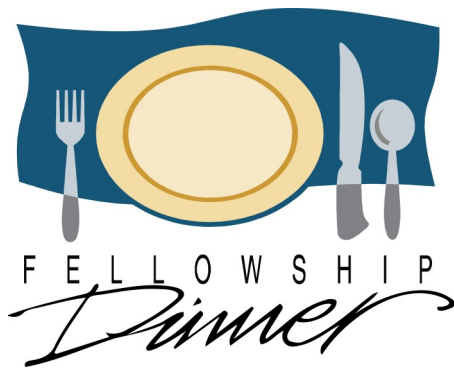
- Our food pantry continues to be fairly well stocked. Thank you to those who bring in food and those who donate money for the food pantry. While we don't have immediately needed food items, we do see an increase of people traveling through and living in their cars during the summer months, so easy to eat crackers, breakfast bars, granola bars, and single serve vegetables cups are items we will likely use up over the warm months. What we could use are plastic utensils to give folks so they have something to eat with!

Labyrinth!

As the days warm up, don't forget about the prayer labyrinth on our grounds. It is available for you to walk as you pray and calm your mind!

This month you may want to read a Psalm and contemplate it as you walk. Pastor Kelli suggests Psalm 46 or 91!





**THURSDAY
JUNE 27TH
@ 6:00 pm @ Marty's.**



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities**

**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.

Please drop tabs off at the church.



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!

COLLECTING CANS AND BOTTLES

We continue to collect cans and
bottles for recycling. 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.*



Did you Know?



Recycling one
aluminum can saves
enough energy to run
a TV for 3 hours

Or a 100 watt bulb for
almost an entire day



**Please
Recycle!**

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

Discretionary Fund

First Congregational Church is known for helping our neighbors who find themselves in emergency situations. We fill this fund by collecting noisy change the first Sunday of the month, recycling cans, Christmas Eve offering, the Superbowl Board, and usually another fundraiser each year. (In addition to a gift from Broadway Bargains each year.) The fund is low at this time but we have had reduced referrals and we have stopped doing emergency housing in hotels until the weather is cold. Local residents can access this fund once in a six month period, if it is an emergency and funds are available. We continue to appreciate donations to this fund.

Study Leave?

Did you know that clergy, like most other professionals, are required to do continuing education? In the Rocky Mountain Conference of the UCC, pastors are required to complete 15 hours of education each year. Pastor Kelli will be completing some of these hours during her study leave June 17-20. You will not find her in the church office on these days as she will be virtually attending a conference.



Pub Theology
JUNE 20TH
@ 6PM

Join us with our friends from Holy Communion. Location will be announced later.



50 years

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF

STEVE & DIANA W

THURSDAY | JUNE 13 | 5-7 PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1275 ADAMS AVE

ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901

No gifts. Please consider donating to a charity of your choice.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

PLEASE WATCH FOR
UPDATES ON
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
MEETING FOR JUNE!
ALL MEN ARE
WELCOME TO JOIN!

SCRIPTURES FOR JUNE

JUNE 3RD- PSALM 103
2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5
JUNE 10TH- ROCKY MOUNTAIN
CONFERENCE WORSHIP
JUNE 16TH- PSALM 50
EPHESIANS 1:15-23
JUNE 23RD- PSALM 74
ROMANS 16:17-20
JUNE 30TH- ONA SUNDAY
DEUTERONOMY 14: 3-8
ACTS 10:1-33, 44-48

Women's Fellowship

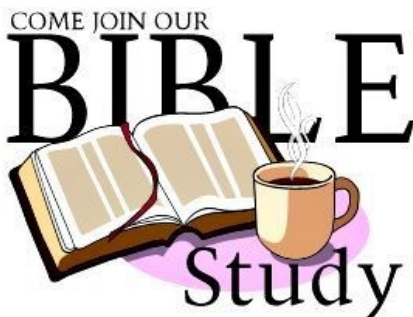


We will meet in June.
Place and time TBA.



It takes a congregation to run a church
Thank You's go to:

- ♦ Growing Faith, and Penni H, for being worship leaders!
- ♦ Jan Z., Willmetti family, Growing Faith, Godfrey and Legerski families for hosting fellowship!
- ♦ Mary P. for displaying her art!
- ♦ Cheryl W. for organizing our graduates and mothers celebration!
- ♦ Rob W. for changing the batteries on the security cameras!
- ♦ To all those who joined us for the All Church Clean, the day of, or who did a task another day!
- ♦ Linden O. and Paul L. for finishing our first raised garden bed!



COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
Study
We are reading
the Book of
Deuteronomy.
JOIN US MONDAYS
AT 2:00 PM!

NOISY CHANGE
SUNDAY IS NOW THE
1ST SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH!

