



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

The Epistle

May 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

"He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'

~Matthew 18:2-4

Change is something that most people do not like. Human beings avoid change at all costs. At the same time, change is happening to us all, all of the time. It is a conundrum of living. While we resist change, scientists tell us that our very bodies naturally change on a regular interval at the cellular level. It seems we are created to do something we don't want to do. Why is this? Why are we created in such a way that we do what we do not wish to do? It is worth pondering and I invite you to do just that with me for a moment.

Christianity is based on changing. Jesus calls each of us to follow him. At the beginning of his ministry Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist who called all people to "Repent!" Repent means to change. Our own baptism is a commitment to change and follow Jesus. The way of Jesus is not always compatible with the ways of society.

What is it we are to change? The spiritual journey Christ calls us to follow is one that maintains a commitment to God, even when that conflicts with the world. It is not always easy to put God first. Sometimes God's command to care for the poor, the sick, the orphaned, the immigrant, and the widowed call us to maintain social commitments that may be at odds with our own society. This is why Jesus encouraged us to become like children. We would have to trust so much in God that we would not fear not doing things God calls us to do. This means change. We may have to let go of the expectations the world has of us because our call as Christians is to live the way God and Christ call us to live. That takes trust, and we can depend on God to help us.

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**

May 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p align="center">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>						<p align="center">1 Pastor Kelli celebrates 15 yrs of Ordination</p>	<p align="center">2 OUTDOOR CLEAN UP 9:00 AM WORLD LABYRINTH DAY</p>
<p align="center">3 WORSHIP 10:30 AM GROWING FAITH NOISY CHANGE</p>	<p align="center">4 BIBLE STUDY 2PM BOOK STUDY @ HC 6PM</p>	<p align="center">5 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM</p>	<p align="center">6</p>	<p align="center">7 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 6:00 PM VETS. PARK</p>	<p align="center">8</p>	<p align="center">9 FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL 10-5:00</p>	
<p align="center">10 WORSHIP 10:30 AM DECONS 11:45 AM</p>	<p align="center">11 WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 12:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 2 PM BOOK STUDY @ HC 6PM</p>	<p align="center">12 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM</p>	<p align="center">13</p>	<p align="center">14 MEN'S FELLOWSHIP 6:30 PM</p>	<p align="center">15</p>	<p align="center">16 ALL CHURCH CLEAN 9 AM-2 PM</p>	
<p align="center">17 MISSIONS 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:30 AM GRADUATION CELEB, 11:30</p>	<p align="center">18 BIBLE STUDY 2 PM BOOK STUDY @ HC 6PM</p>	<p align="center">19 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM</p>	<p align="center">20</p>	<p align="center">21 TRUSTEES 6:30 pm</p>	<p align="center">22</p>	<p align="center">23</p>	
<p align="center">24 PENTECOST WORSHIP @ MOO 10:30 AM</p>	<p align="center">25 BIBLE STUDY 2 PM BOOK STUDY @ HC 6PM</p>	<p align="center">26 Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 PM</p>	<p align="center">27 COUNCIL 6:00 pm</p>	<p align="center">28 PUB THEOLOGY NELL'S CAFÉ 6PM</p>	<p align="center">29</p>	<p align="center">30</p>	
<p align="center">31 WORSHIP 10:30 AM</p>	<p align="center"><u>Save the dates:</u> June 3rd Churches Together meet at noon @FCC. July 13, 2026 Rock Springs Pride Saturday 11am-4 pm. July 11-13, 2026 Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Meeting in Provo</p>						

Representative for Annual Meeting

Would you like to represent our congregation at Annual Celebration of the Rocky Mountain Conference? We need one more lay representative. The Celebration will be in Provo July 11-13th. Please speak to Pastor Kelli if you would like to go. It is a great opportunity to meet other UCC folks!



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

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet
May 11th at 12:00 pm.
All our welcome!



WORSHIP SCRIPTURES FOR MAY

May 3, 2026

Acts 7:54-60

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

John 14:1-14

May 10, 2026

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-22, 24

May 17, 2026

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May 24, 2026

Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39

May 31, 2026

TBD

World Labyrinth Day May 2!

The first Saturday in May is World Labyrinth Day. On this day many people walk a labyrinth at 1pm, so that all people may be one.

For 2026 I offer the following prayer you may say as you walk the labyrinth:

Jesus prayed that those who believe in him
"may all be one" (John 17:21a).

God, you sent Jesus as the Prince of Peace into the world. May we learn to be one with all who follow you. We pray for an end to war. We pray for the safety of civilians and soldiers in war zones. Teach us a better way that we may become one. Amen.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

May 14, 2026

6:30 PM

All men welcome to join

Congratulations!

Celebrating our Graduates!

Kai Godfrey, William Maes, and Atticus Olson Graduate from Rock Springs High School on May 29th.

Join us as we celebrate this milestone in their lives and the lives of their families and church on Sunday May 17th.

Graduates are asked to remain in worship that Sunday. A special coffee hour will be held in their honor following the service.

Community Day of Prayer Thursday, May 7, 2026

In Rock Springs this will be celebrated as a Community Day of Prayer with leaders from various churches and the city joining together in prayer. The event will be held at Veteran's Park at 6pm on May 7th. Pastor Kelli and Troop 4 will be participating.



PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP MOW THE LAWN!



Book Study

At the end of our Lenten Study, there was a desire to read another book together.

We will be reading How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith by Mariann Edgar Budde on

Monday nights at 6pm starting May 4th.

The study will be held in the Parish Hall of Holy Communion Episcopal Church.

We will not have supper, but we will have snacks!



The Bible Study group is meeting on Mondays at 2pm.

We are reading Psalms. Please join us!

Food Pantry

Our pantry continues to be well stocked and serving the community.

This is thanks to your donations to the food pantry line item.

Thank You!



Reminder that we have a church book cart in the Pilgrim Room.

There is something for everyone to enjoy!

Prayer Shawl Group



Create with your hands. Share with your heart.

Join us every Tuesday at 1:30 PM

Shawls are lovingly made, blessed, and then delivered to the person or organization of your choice.

- All levels are welcome
- Knitters, crocheters, and weavers invited
- Materials optional—bring your own or just come learn
- Community, creativity, and compassion

First Congregational Church
1275 Adams Ave., Rock Springs, WY

Come for fellowship, stay for purpose.

Everyone is welcome
307-362-3530

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!

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.