

Steeple Minute

First Congregational Church of Littleton
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September 1, 2023

Issue 8

Report from the Church Council

Dear church members and friends,

This month we celebrate Pastor Peter's first year with us as interim minister and begin this next season of his designated term ministry with us. We are grateful for his leadership in worship and with the various committees and task groups we have created to address issues that have arisen. However, there is more to do. When we first called Peter, we asked him to help us discover how we can become the people that God wants us to be in this ever-changing world with all its challenges. In our current culture, coming to church on Sunday morning, participating in the business and the missions of the church, and supporting the church financially is no longer a priority, especially for young people. How do we share the Good News of Jesus Christ in a way that is relevant and understandable to the people of this community? How do we serve the people of this community with the resources that we have? How do we nurture our faith so that we can be God's hands and feet?

During this past year through a series of retreats, the church council has been working on how to answer these questions by stepping back and examining:

1. Who are we?
2. Who is our neighbor?
3. Who is God calling us to be?

These are broad and difficult questions, but it is hard to imagine moving forward without understanding the answers. We have reported our discoveries to you in previous Steeple Minutes and will continue to seek your input. As a result of this process, there were three things that came through as needing to be addressed over the next year. Therefore, the council has recently come up with the following goals and objectives to move us forward:

- 1) Empower, Equip and Support Lay Ministry Leadership.
 - a. Skill Building at Church Council monthly meetings and quarterly retreats.
 - b. Lay worship leadership training and practice to expand our pool of worship leaders. Working with partners to collaborate in this on-going learning and practice.
- 2) Define and Develop Goals: Scope and Plan for a Community Outreach Assessment.
 - a. To define the role of leadership and a consultant.
 - b. To develop and implement outreach opportunities to engage/experience and learn about community strengths, needs and opportunities for partnership.
 - c. We do not see this work as solely an intellectual exercise but an investigation in which we will learn through relationship building and active engagement with others.
- 3) Expand Communication and Connection with the wider community.
 - a. Assess and implement digital ministry. Set goals for evaluation.
 - b. Start one experimental community building/worship service for 12 months. (For example, an outdoor worship service or a dinner table gathering/worship service.)

This is where you come in. Only with everyone working together can we achieve these things. Some things we will try, and they will not necessarily be successful, but even there, we will have learned something. Where do you see yourself in this picture? Is the Holy Spirit nudging you? Is there one thing you can do? The church council will be having another retreat on October 14th where we will see how we can start implementing some of these objectives. Soon we will be asking the congregation to join in the discussions and projects as we work together in Jesus' name. As we move forward, we ask for your prayers for this church that we can truly become light and salt in our community.

Alice Muh, Dan Kiefer, Phil Krill, Joyce Krill, Rachel Clark, Kim Smith, Linda Warden, Mary Menzies, Tina Peabody, Laurie Boswell

First Congregational Church

September 2023



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | KEY: FH - Fellowship Hall LP - Ladies Parlor CR - Classroom | | | | 1 Happy Anniversary! Pam & Jeff Nute | 2 7:00 PM-AA-FH |
| 3 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i> | 4 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM – AA - FH | 5 Happy Birthday! Bob Warden Pam Vacation | 6 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH | 7 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH | 8 Pastor's Sabbath | 9 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM- Eastern Star - FH 7:00 PM-AA-FH |
| 10 9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Prophet Joel 10:00 AM- Worship Service <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i> | 11 5:30 PM – SLLC Board via Zoom Opening Date for Shining Lights 7:00 PM – AA - FH | 12 Happy Birthday! Laurie Boswell 6:00PM – Eastern Star – FH | 13 Pastor Away 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH | 14 Pastor Away 11:30 AM – Property – CR 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH | 15 11:00 AM – Ladies Brunch- Topic of the Town | 16 7:00 PM-AA-FH |
| 17 9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Prophet Joel 10:00 AM-Worship Service - Joining Sunday <i>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</i> | 18 7:00 PM – AA - FH | 19 5:00 PM – Dinner Bell Host All Saints' Church | 20 Happy Birthday! Joan Buffington 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM-AA-FH | 21 Happy Anniversary! Elaine & Emil Pollak 9:30 AM – Council – CR 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH | 22 Pastor's Sabbath | 23 7:00 PM-AA-FH |
| 24 9:00 AM – Adult Bible Class – Prophet Joel 10:00 AM-Worship Service <i>Lars Nielson</i> | 25 Pastor Away 7:00 PM – AA - FH | 26 Pam Out | 27 6:00 PM – Choir rehearsal- LP 7:00 PM – AA – FH | 28 Pastor Away 6:00 PM-AIAnon-LP 7 :00 PM-AA-FH | 29 Pastor Away Happy Birthday! Barbara Holland Tim Gould | 30 |

Visitors and Potential New Members: Getting to Know Each Other: On Sunday, Deacons Mary Menzies and Lars Nielson hosted a wonderful conversation with folks new to the church and potential new members to share our faith journeys. We'll meet again on **Sunday, September 10** and we'll talk about the history and practices of the United Church of Christ (covenantal community, priesthood of all believers, shared ministry, congregational governance and leadership), and ask how the church can be there for you and the gifts you'd like to share with the church. We'll also talk about church membership and joining the church for those who are interested. **Sunday, September 17 will be our joining Sunday.** It's not too late to join the group and reach out to Mary, Lars or Peter if you are interested!

Financial Report

| July 31, 2023 | YTD |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Member support: | \$81,172 |
| Scheduled w/d from trust funds | \$ 14,000 |
| Other Income: | \$ 12,611 |
| Total Income: | \$107,783 |
| Total Expenses: | \$121,251 |
| Net: | \$-13,468 |



Calling all Singers!

Choir rehearsals start on Wed, September 6th at 6pm

If you have any questions regarding joining the choir, please contact Dottie Morton, Music Director 802-684-1174 momssuzuki@gmail.com

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study resumes on Sundays starting September 10th at 9am in the classroom. They will be studying the prophet Joel.

If you would like to join or have any questions, please contact:

Linda Warden
603-444-2337

ldwarden@roadrunner.com

New Dinner Bell Season Approaching!

September 19th

November 21st – *Thanksgiving meal all churches and organizations participate*

2024: January 2nd and May 7th

This year, Dinner Bell will resume sit down meals at the All Saints' Church! Take-out meals will also be available for those who request it. We will be planning on serving 80-100 people. Help is needed on the above dates for the cleanup which includes loading the dishwasher and stacking chairs and general cleanup.

Drop off of food is 4pm. Dinner Bell starts at 5pm.

Help will be gladly appreciated from anyone who is interested in cooking, serving or cleaning up for any of the meals!

If you have any questions or want to know more about the program, please call **Cynthia Nielson at 603-616-6705**. There will also be a sign-up sheet.

Thank you to Judy Oleary for her many years heading up Dinner Bell and everyone who contributes and a big thank you to Cynthia for taking over for Judy!

October 1st

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2023
ucc.org/nin



Behold!

*"God saw everything God made
and behold, it was very good."*

Genesis 1:31

Artist: Alexis
Age: 15
Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO

**With your generous support, The United Church of Christ,
through the **Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering**,
helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.**

Please donate today!

**For more resources and to share and learn best practices for
environmental justice, visit**

ucc.org/nin

Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming
and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

www.ucc.org/nin. Thank You!



Church Life!



This group of tour guides in training from Trip School happened to be outside talking about the church one day this summer when Peter came by. They were thrilled to see the sanctuary and windows!

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189 Main Street
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Return Service Requested

STEEPLE MINUTE

SEPTEMBER 2023



Steeple Minute

A brief newsletter of the
First Congregational Church
of Littleton

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www.1stconglittleton.org

Church Staff

Rev. Peter Igenfritz, Pastor
Office Manager: Pam Nute
Organist & Choir Director: Dottie Morton
Sexton: Reg LaFlam

Officers

Moderator: Alice Muh
Vice Moderator: Dan Kiefer
Treasurer: Joyce Krill
Assistant Treasurer: Rachel Clark

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Kim Smith
Deacons: Mary Menzies
Finance: Phil Krill
Mission: Linda Warden
Music: Tina Peabody
Personnel Relations: Tina Peabody
Property Management: Laurie Boswell

Shining Lights Learning Center

Board Chair: Suzanne Schott
Director: Melissa Kam

