



Responding to God's love, we are First Congregational United Church of Christ, an inclusive, ecumenical, and spiritual people, who through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach seek to embrace the mystery of God.

LECTURE

"How the Internet is Changing American Religion and Politics"
7:30 p.m. Friday, April 29
Cornerstone Arts Center
Colorado College.

WORKSHOPS

9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 30,
"National Security: New Directions in Peace and Conflict Reduction"
First Congregational Church

1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 30
"Public Theology: How Religious Progressives Can Influence the Public Square."

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Dr. Thistlethwaite will preach "Other Peoples' Gods: The Promise and Peril of Interfaith Work Today" at both services.

***Dreaming of Eden* is available for purchase Sundays during the Fellowship Hour in the Founders' Room.**

James W. White Lectureship: Politics and Religion in the Internet Age

By Lois Matthews, JWW Lectureship Committee Member

Who knows what events will be highlighted in print, on TV and in the social media when the Rev. Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite arrives in town at the end of the month? One thing's for sure, Thistlethwaite, this year's James W. White Lecturer, will discuss unfolding events as they relate to religion, politics and the Internet.

In fact, she says the Internet is increasingly important in the public square. And it behooves progressive Christians and others to learn to communicate their values effectively in this new digital environment.

Her most recent book is *Dreaming of Eden: American Religion and Politics in a Wired World*. She will draw from this book in both her lecture at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 29, in the Cornerstone Arts Center, Cascade and Cache la Poudre, at Colorado College, and her workshops Saturday, April 30, at the church.

During the recent revolution in Egypt, when access to the Internet was temporarily cut off, Thistlethwaite wrote: *Internet access is a new human rights issue and a new, dynamic Christian ethical issue because these overlap in the affirmation*

of humanity and the universal human quest for dignity and freedom.



In that column, published in "On Faith," an online section of the Washington Post, she added: *What makes us not only people, but human beings with dignity and transcendent worth, is our capacity to work creatively in this world. When a society exploits our contribution to the whole, and refuses to recognize that we have a moral obligation to one another to insure decent working conditions, living wages, and the means to support our families, it violates our human dignity.*

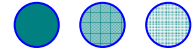
After Mubarak was overthrown, in part because of the successful use of the Internet in organizing the protest, she wrote: *These social media revolutions are demonstrating that there is a new way for the*

human spirit, what a Christian like me calls the image of God in humanity, to reach out for genuine freedom, freedom of economic opportunity and self-expression. There is spiritual power in this new way and it is the harbinger of more change to come. That much is certain.

As one of the country's foremost public theologians, Thistlethwaite is a United Church of Christ minister, a Professor of Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary and was its President from 1998 to 2008. She's also a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and a regular columnist for the "On Faith" section of the Post. She has a Ph.D. from Duke University, a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School and a B.A. from Smith College.

More of Thistlethwaite's thoughts on current issues, including the current Congressional hearing on Muslim radicalization in the US, can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.americanprogress.org/experts/thistlethwaitesusan.html> and at the Washington Post's online "On Faith" section at <http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/>.

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Prayer Shawl Ministry

Jerusha Goebel

Risk Reduction & Response

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Taizé Planning

Karin Henriksen



POPS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
All Pooped-Out Parents are invited to share a meal and fellowship on Saturday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. Thanks to Jill and Drew Robinson for hosting us (719-634-8703). We'll celebrate spring's beginning at this POPS event. Jill and Drew will host an indoor picnic (or outdoor on the deck if the weather's nice...). Think fried chicken, ham sandwiches, deviled eggs, watermelon and tasty springtime beverages! Please look for more information by email 2-3 weeks before the event.

To be added to (or removed from) the distribution list, please contact janeridings@hotmail.com.

Newcomers are always welcome.

SABBATH SHAWLS FOR LENT

Sabbath Shawls will be available for checkout during Lent. They will be on a table during the Fellowship Hour on Sundays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. They are made by members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for you in order to enhance the quiet time spent during Lenten devotions.

Donna Schaper, in her book *Sabbath Keeping*, which is included with each shawl, writes:

Sabbath is a way of living, not a thing to have or a list to complete. By observing it we become people who both work and rest, and who know why, when, and how we do either. We also recognize the occasions on which we do both at the same time. We know how to pray, how to be still, how to do nothing. Sabbath people know that "our" time is really God's time, and we are invited to live in it.

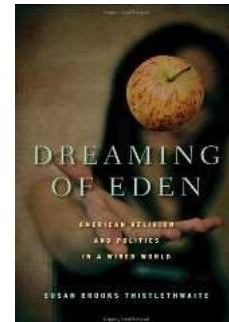
Sabbath is about separation. Sabbath separates our time off and our time on and likes to do so slowly. The separations are fun. Now I am here. Now I am leaving here. Then I will be there. Then I will leave there. God is with me in my going outs and my comings ins, from this day forward, even forevermore.

By Jerusha Goebel, Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator

APRIL FORUM SCHEDULE

Meetings are held in the Chapel on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. There is time allotted for discussion and questions at the end of the meeting.

April 3 and April 10: Joe Pickle reviews JWW Lecturer Susan Thistlethwaite's book, *Dreaming of Eden*



+++ TAIZÉ PRAYER +++



Be strengthened on your journey through the season of Lent by joining others in Taizé worship using prayer, special music, chants, and stillness.

Come, listen to God's voice, and be transformed and reassured that God is with us.

7 p.m. Thursdays April 7th & 14th

Maundy Thursday Tennebrae Service at 7 p.m. on April 21st Church Sanctuary

Gathering chants begin ten minutes prior to each service

Childcare is available

COMMUNICATOR OPT-OUT



Email Richard Grebenstein at richardg@fcucc.org if you'd like to opt out of the printed monthly newsletter. Print only what you need; go green!

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISCUSSION OFFERED

Wondering what to think about the governance of Memorial Hospital? Two doctors who practice at Memorial and are affiliated with our church, Jane Ridings and Dax Kurbegov, will discuss the issues and share their views with interested members and friends of the Congregation on Sunday, April 3, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Church Library. This presentation is supported by the Justice and Peace Ministry of FCC. For more information, contact Jane Ridings at janeridings@hotmail.com.

PLYMOUTH CIRCLE

Plymouth Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 6th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Founders' Room.

Hostesses will be Frances Tippy and Karen Miskel. Devotions will be given by Marilyn Johnson.

The program, arranged by Janice Simonton, will be presented by Pearl "Spot" Holmes and is titled "History of the Grace Episcopal Church."

Guests are welcome.



Youth Fellowship

By Jane Ridings, for the Faith Formation Committee & Youth Ministry Team

- *What connects youth to the church?*
- *What keeps them involved?*
- *What will be remembered into adulthood?*

At FCC, we have endeavored to create a comprehensive youth ministry program, which includes OWL (Our Whole Lives -- Our Sexuality and Our Faith), Confirmation, Youth Choir, and Rocky Mountain Conference UCC camps and retreats, *in addition* to what we would consider traditional youth group activities. We have fun. We educate. We serve. We foster faith development and spirituality. And we hope, most of all, to create a haven of safety, a sense of belonging, a church home. During what for many are challenging teenage years, especially at school, where teens face self-doubt, fickle friendships, false facades, and peer pressure, church can be a place of comfort and escape, where the masks are taken off and the teenager finds acceptance. By creating fellowship opportunities, youth can bond and develop that protective community which allows for individuality

without rejection or ridicule.

While just the gathering of two or more creates the opportunity for fellowship, the Youth Ministry Team at FCC actively plans monthly youth fellowship events, outside of normal Sunday morning programming. In the last year, we have had a pool party, a trip to Waterworld, bowling, a theater outing to watch one of our own perform in a local musical, movie nights, a photo scavenger hunt, a backwards retrogressive dinner, and game nights. Twelve youth just returned from our annual ski trip to Arapaho Basin.

A fellowship highlight for many of our youth, whether or not they are regularly involved in the youth group program, is attendance at Rocky Mountain Conference-UCC retreats twice each school year. At these events, as with the summer camp program, youth from the Conference's four-state region gather at La Foret for

structured and unstructured fun. Additional retreats are planned for Confirmation and OWL participants. Youth are also enthusiastically encouraged to attend, participate in, and help lead FCC's annual All-Church CampOut!

My current commitment to youth ministry has grown out of my own wonderful youth group experiences. As my own children enter and pass through their teenage years, I see that much has changed. However, the need to belong and feel safe has not. The FCC Youth Ministry Team will continue to provide inclusive fellowship opportunities for our youth, and we ask all parents to encourage their youth to attend. The more, the merrier! Suggestions, chaperones, and organizers are always welcome. For more information, please contact Marta Fioriti at marta@fccucc.org.

Nursery Notes

By Elise Rayner, Nursery Staff



Spencer Kellogg
and Sophia Broadbent Bell

The FCUCC Nursery staff is excited to be able to bring you monthly updates in the Communicator about the latest happenings in our little corner of the world. Each Sunday we welcome children from age birth to three years into our fun and sacred space. Not only do we enjoy playing together, singing, creating art, and sharing snacks, but our intention each week is to do so under the same principles that guide the church as a whole.

Get to know your Nursery Attendants!

- Spencer Kellogg is working towards a degree in Early Childhood Education and also works in the nursery at Grace Episcopal Church

- Linda Margrave continues to build upon her vision of turning her home into a sacred space for others to share.

- Kiara Nath recently graduated with an engineering degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and spends time during the week babysitting while also pursuing an engineering career in the Springs.

- Elise Rayner stays busy during the week chasing after her two sons, both adopted from South Korea, and volunteers with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

- Kayla Schroeder is in nursing school, just passed her C.N.A. Exam, and also works during the week at Pleasant Valley Baptist Preschool.

Get to know your Nursery Attendants!



Kiara Nath and Sophia Thrash

Please feel free to stop by anytime and see what we're up to!



Congregational Life

By Rev. Jacque Franklin, Associate Pastor

Just in time for Lent... we re-enter our worship space. It smells of wood polish and paint. The golden glow of daylight shines through. The brass light fixtures gleam and the wood supports shine cleanly from the ceiling. The subtle shift of warm colored wall paint accentuates the height of the domed ceiling. The burgundy and gold stripe from the organ pipe façade now marches around the room and over the arched windows. It is glorious to be home again.

Thank you...

We express our gratitude to **Linda Madden, Bruce Coriell, and Kate Holbrook** for their generosity in hosting us for six Sundays at Shove Chapel. We also thank **Frank Shelton**, our organist and Shove's organist, for helping to arrange our home-away-from-home.

Over the past four Sundays we celebrated non-violence, worship artists, Transfiguration, and the first Sunday in Lent. On Non-Violence Sunday we learned about the third way of Jesus between passivity and violence. Hundreds of musicians made Worship Artists Appreciation Sunday a grand event. We thanked **Chancel Choir, Joyful Noise Children's Choir, Nighttime Bells of St. Vrain, Flute Choir, Taizé Worship instrumentalists, Folk Sunday artists, Jazz Sunday artists, Gospel Choir, Guitar Group, Colorado Quartet, WoodDove Recorder Consort, Out Loud: Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, vocalists and instrumentalists, liturgical dancers, media, Sanctuary Arts, Music and Arts Committee, and Prayer Shawl Ministry.** Shove Chapel showcased the glorious sound of music from our groups. On Transfiguration Sunday we celebrated communion and anticipated our return to 20 E. St. Vrain.

Thom Andreas and the **Sanctuary Arts** team creatively decorated the chancel every Sunday while

Peggy Weissman and her **Communion Committee** provided communion every Sunday in the side chapel and on the first Sunday of the month. We couldn't do without our sextant, **Teri McCabe**, who locked and unlocked the building for faith formation hour. **Lisa Cook, Blake Olesen-Phelps,** ushers and many others helped to transport worship items to and from our church. **Logan Bennett, Todd Beltracchi, and Kate Holbrook** were our liturgists. **Sylvia Strubel, Sara Doud, and Wilma Steenbergen,** helped with children's activity packets for worship.

We are thankful to receive the church's picture directory, the result of much hard work, organizing, and planning from an ad hoc group headed up by **Larry Patzer. Ann Howard, John Shada, and Margery Layton** supported the office. **Jenny Chapman, Jeannine Bramwell, Jerusha Goebel, Ann Skinner, Ann Howard, Patty Lee, and Sharon Wolf** represented FCC at UCCS for a Taizé presentation. **Rhonda Cordonnier, Janet & Paul Carpenter, Francis & Bob Tippy, Dolly Eager, June Hallenbeck, and Janice Simonton** served 179 dinners at Acacia House. Our leadership retreat for committee chairs and volunteer coordinators was facilitated by **Nancy Henjum and Jenny Finn.**

Congratulations...

Chloe Kiskiras acted in *Annie* at Air Academy HS. **Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA)** was recognized by CO Gospel Music Academy Hall of Fame as 2010 Choir of the Year.

Our church restoration was given an award 2010 Partnership for Community Design in the Green Category. Thanks to **Judy Pickle** and **Janet Carpenter** who wrote the application.

Prayers...

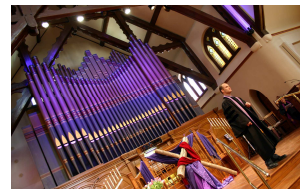
Kiara Nath had shoulder surgery. **Chris Pickett** asks for prayers for her friend, **Jack Smith**, who is in ICU in Oregon. **Burl Kreps** had gallbladder surgery while on his vacation. **Sharon Stine** requests prayers for her daughter, **Julie Langness. Kristen Downs** was in an auto accident and fortunately was not hurt and was not carrying passengers and is slowly on the mend. **Casey Tencick's** son **Phillip** had brain surgery on March 9 for a congenital problem. He came through wonderfully and is recovering in time to get married! **Casey Welch** had knee surgery. **Sandy King** asked for prayers as she continues physical rehabilitation. **Becky Parrinella** was diagnosed with breast cancer. **Jean Manthei** had surgery and requests prayers for her recovery. **Angel Kennedy** requests prayer for pain. **Donna Drake** recovering from surgery.

Condolences...

Glenn Schultz lost his wife, **Stephani Schultz. Rev. Lyn Boudreau** officiated at Stephani Schultz's memorial on March 7. **Chris Reimer** lost his mother, **Ethel Reimer**, age 89, on March 2. She was a member of Holy Rosary Chapel. Services were held on March 24. **Ruth Koenigsamen** lost her father, **Vernon Zimmerman**, age 93, on March 2 in Columbus, NE. **John and Roma Durham** were members of FCC until they moved to Pennsylvania. **John** died on February 16 and his wife **Roma** died on December 18. Services for both of them were held at First Christian Church on Monday, March 14, 10:00 a.m., officiated by **Rev. Jacque Franklin** and **Rev. John Snyder.**

It's Good to be back home

Photos by Mike Matthews



Members and guests gathered in the Founders' Room and applauded as the partition separated to reveal the newly renovated sanctuary. It featured a new sound system and new lighting, which included LED lights on columns, the reconstituted organ and the dome – all shining in purple to reflect the Lenten season. A new floor and newly refinished woodwork helped to complete the picture.



Help With Depression & Anxiety

By Nancy Lippincott, Health Ministry Chair

In January, 2010, when the Health Ministry Committee asked the congregation to do its first survey, about 90 participants indicated that they were depressed or anxious or both. So, our team decided to ask David Petersen, MSW, MHA, and a licensed clinical social worker, who is a member of St. Mary's Cathedral parish, and a friend and frequent visitor to FCC, to present a two-part series on these topics. Included in part of the second session will be a psychiatrist, who will discuss medications and answer questions. The sessions will be held on Monday, April 18 and Monday, April 25, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Library. Light snacks will be provided.

Recognizing and understanding depression and anxiety disorders and how they can be treated is the goal of this series, as both are quite prevalent in teens and adults and often rather easily treated. It used to be that these disorders were perceived as shameful, when in fact now we understand that there are physical, emotional, hormonal, dietary, medication interactions, and medical conditions that can cause them. We need better knowledge and understanding so that we can reach out to our family members, friends, co-workers, and seniors with compassion and a desire to reach out and help relieve their stress. Below we start with a small section on each area.

DEPRESSION:

Most people feel sad or depressed at times. This is a normal reaction to the struggles of daily life, loss, and diminished self-esteem.

These feelings last upwards of one to four days, then disappear. But when people are feeling hopeless, worthless, emotionally exhausted, and helpless, and these feelings last for more than two weeks, the depression becomes a treatable medical condition. Sometimes depression can occur when there is an underlying physical condition. Added symptoms also can include impaired concentration, difficulty making decisions, apathy or few feelings of pleasure in any activity, a feeling of being restless or the opposite feelings of no energy, weight loss or weight gain, even suicidal thinking or a suicidal attempt. We know that women are more prone to depression and that it is more concealed in men. Depression late in life is common and often overlooked in seniors, but it is not a normal part of aging. Depression of this nature often requires medication and talk therapy and the help of home remedies. It can be a one-time situational problem or a recurrent one.

ANXIETY:

All of us have times when we worry about things, are on edge, feeling restless, are more easily annoyed or irritable, or feeling that nothing is going our way. But when these symptoms are much worse than what our friends and family experience and they include not being able to relax, persistent muscle tension, gastrointestinal symptoms, abnormal fatigue, headaches, and recognizable impairment in work, school, or social relationships, then it too is a treatable medical condition which requires a physical exam, testing, medication and talk therapy.

Both depression and anxiety can occur at different stages of life, can be treated and disappear, or a person may require regular medication and talk therapy when the symptoms become persistent.

The point of this discussion is that just like medical conditions, treatment is available and encouraged as much as that for routine medical conditions.

We encourage you to sign up for either one of these sessions or both of them. You will find Dave Petersen easy to learn from and approachable. He is very experienced in his field and enjoys questions and answers as part of his teaching.

Cooking School

By Christine Hall, Health Ministry Committee

The second year of "Cooking School" kicked off on Friday afternoon, March 18th with a discussion of the New York Times Bestseller, *In Defense of Food*, by Michael Pollen. It was led by Chris Hall and Peggy Weissman.

In a nutshell, the book says:

- We should eat whole, fresh food that we can best find at the Farmer's Markets or at the periphery of the supermarket, or better yet, in our own gardens.
- He recommends that we stay away from the multitudes of processed foods or food-like substances that have been popping up on the grocery shelves and marketed to us by the \$34 billion dollar food industry during the last 30 years or so.
- He emphasizes that we should be mindful of portion size so we do not develop the habit of overeating, and that we should eat mostly plants.

- Although meat is a nutritious food, he says we should cut back on meat and consider it more of a side-dish or an occasional dish for nutritional as well as environmental reasons

- Pollen encourages us to slow down, eat at the table together with friends and family, spend a little more time preparing fresh food, enjoy a glass of wine with dinner, and go back to a time and place where the preparing and enjoying of food were closer to the center of a well-lived life.

Our next presentation is on Friday, April 1st at 11:30 in the kitchen of the church, and is entitled "Our Daily Bread." It will feature Jerry Jordan, former pastor of our church, who will demonstrate the art and science of baking bread.

In May, a panel will present a session on "Backyard Vegetable Gardening in Colorado Springs." Watch for date and time.

In June, July, and August we will feature "Summer Suppers" with Thom Andreas, who will provide us with some new ideas and recipes for summertime living.

In September and October we will have a couple of sessions on "Holiday Dishes" in preparation for the upcoming holiday season.

Please join us. We will help minimize the confusion surrounding healthy food choices and enhance the pleasure of cooking and eating. For further information, contact Chris Hall at christine_c_hall@msn.com or at 599-8457.



Celebrating Who We Are - Discovering Our Future Impact

By Nancy Henium, Church Moderator

I sit down to write this article and reflect upon the incredible energy and commitment I experienced at our church's 2011 Staff/Leadership Retreat on Saturday, February twelfth. That event was followed on Saturday, February twenty-sixth by a gathering of Council members and other Lay leaders who wanted to continue the conversation started at the Leadership Retreat just two weeks prior. At both of these events, in powerful and meaningful conversations, we reflected upon and answered these questions:

- Why am I a leader in this church?
- How does our organizational structure promote partnership?
- What are the challenges with our structure?
- What do I brag about to other people when I talk about my church?
- What if FCC... (fill in the blank)...?
- What might I do more of, less of, or differently as a leader, to help us move forward into new possibilities?

The process of engaging in the questions and sharing our responses with one another yielded power, truth, beauty, love, hope, and more great questions.

Our passionate community is preparing to embark on a two million dollar Capital Campaign to pay for deferred maintenance to our historic sanctuary and to finally make our church truly accessible to all. The Capital Campaign will be running parallel with our annual Stewardship Campaign that funds our church's Local Ministry and Mission Giving & Outreach. What an incredible opportunity and what a great time to explore how we will

We know we are a people grounded in a deep, clear, and meaningful history. We know ourselves to value diversity, to seek justice and peace, and to love the great questions of life and faith. And right now the big question that is pregnant and ripe for exploration is: "What future impact are we called to create in our own church body, in the wider Pikes Peak community, and in the world?"

Your Church Council, a group of highly committed, smart, and engaged members are excited about and ready to shepherd a Visioning and Strategic Planning Process that will:

- Invite all members and friends of the church to have a voice in shaping the future direction of FCC.
- Generate ideas, enthusiasm and engagement.
- Create an exciting and compelling vision that reflects who we are and the impact we are called to have in the world.
- Determine specific goals, priorities and action steps informing and guiding the Church Council, the budget, the Staff Team and all committees and programs of the church.
- Affirm our purpose and strengthen alignment regarding the utilization of our precious resources in service of the vision and mission of FCC.

As this is written, a Steering Committee is being formed to launch this Visioning and Strategic Planning effort. Be on the lookout for opportunities to share your passion and conviction about the future impact of First Congregational UCC of Colorado Springs. Oh, the places we will go!

Footnotes from the Gregg Library

By Jeanie Tate, Library Committee Chair

The James W. White Lectureship is one of First Congregational Church's remarkable treasures. Beginning in 2007 our first JWW Endowed Lecturer was Bishop James Shelby Spong. Following him were Drs. Walter Brueggemann, Amy Jill Levine, Bernard McGinn, and Robin Meyers. All are leading theologians, scholars, and published authors (over 75 titles among them). They all have been controversial, challenging voices.

Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, our 2011 spring lecturer on April 29 to May 1, certainly fits the mold. She talks about justice and peace, but in a new way: how the media, in particular the Internet, can sabotage or advance opportunities for peace, justice, and human rights. The Gregg Library has two of her books: *A Just Peace Church*, 1986; and *Dreaming of Eden: American Religion and Politics in a Wired World*, 2010. Please note that for her lectureship, Dr. Thistlethwaite changes the word "wired" to "weird."

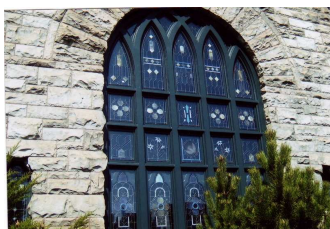
The idea for *A Just Peace Church* began 30 years ago when a youth delegate from the American Midwest presented a resolution to UCC's Thirteenth General Synod asking the church to define itself as a peace-making church. A twelve-member team spent three years writing a document framing what that meant for UCC's programs, politics, and theology.

A Just Peace Church is the result, edited by Dr. Thistlethwaite. A six session study guide is included.

Dreaming of Eden describes how the Internet can shape our politics and culture by using our most treasured stories, our "elemental religious narratives about human nature and lost innocence." The author cites Steve Job's choice of an apple with a bite out of it for his Apple, Inc.'s logo. Dr. Thistlethwaite reasons that as much as we may want to return to Eden's innocence, we cannot. The world is far too dangerous to ignore the wired world's destructiveness or its opportunities. Once again our symposium should be a feast of ideas.

To reserve these books click on library@fcucc.org and leave a request. We are asking for a one-week limit on checkout time.

For that matter – the Gregg has at least 30 titles by all our other symposium lecturers. Most recent additions are Walter Brueggemann's *Prayers for a Privileged People*, *An Introduction to The Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*, and *Journey to the Common Good*. Go to Gregg Library Catalog at www.fcucc.org, our church's website, for details.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offered by Rev. Benjamin Broadbent in the Founders' Room on Sunday, March 13, 2011, as the congregation prepared to enter the newly rehabilitated sanctuary singing "They Did Not Build in Vain."

**Gracious God,
In the church, this
sanctuary, this sacred
place...**



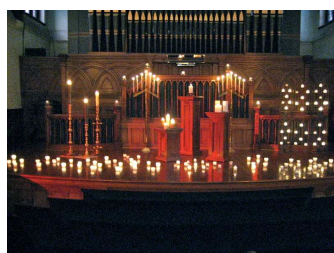
There is a font – a font that baptizes our lives, our gifts, and offers blessing to our life a congregation.

There is a cross – a cross that teaches us that God meets us in our struggle and sorrow – as well as in our joy and happiness.



There is a table, a table that offers a feast around the world, a table that sustains and nourishes our bodies and our spirits.

There is a cup – a cup that is lifted in love by one who embodied God's presence in the world and invited us to do the same.



There is a pulpit – a pulpit where words of God's love, purpose, and challenge are brought to God's people.

There are candles, candles that burn with the light of Jesus' spirit, undimmed by conflict, sadness, and fear.

There are pews – pews that long to be filled with faithful followers who are inspired by God's grace and love.

There are people – people of all ages who are seeking, with lives that ebb and flow with joy and sorrow, tears and smiles, fear and courage, hope and despair.

There are prayers – prayers that we clasp tightly in our hands and let go to the listening Spirit of God – prayers for healing, peace, compassion, and justice.

There is music – music that soars to the highest point of this vaulted ceiling and to the depths of our souls, bringing beauty and inspiration to our lives.

There is forgiveness – forgiveness that flows from the heart of God freely to the center of our selves and through us to others.

There is friendship – friendship that encircles us when we are in need, friendship that comes as pure joy, and friendship that calls forth the best of all of us.

There is love – love that binds all together and makes all the difference in the world.

O God, thank you for all we find here, in this space, for all we give here, together as your people. In the name of Christ, whose body we have become. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Cynthia Cearley in Reinventing Worship, Brad Berglund, Editor.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Note: Online registration available at www.fcucc.org

Pre-registration \$30.00

Postmark deadline: April 25, 2011

A limited number of scholarships are available. Pre-registration required.

Contact jwwlectureship@fcucc.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

(Continued from Page One)

Childcare (birth - age 11) available for pre-registered participants only.

Will you require childcare? Y N

Children's ages _____

Make checks payable to FCUCC

(Write **JWWL Workshop** on memo line.)

Mail check and pre-registration form to:

FCUCC

20 E. Saint Vrain Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

719-635-3549

Same-day registration on a space-available basis only.

Registration at the door \$40.00

Additional forms and event parking

Information available at

www.fcucc.org

**APRIL WORSHIP**
Sunday Services
at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

LENT – A 40-day season of fasting and contemplation that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunrise on Easter morning. This year, over the 6 weeks of Lent, we will be following the "Rediscovering Values" resource from Sojourners (www.sojo.net).

NOTE – There will be only two regular services on Easter Sunday – 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

April 3 – 4th Sunday in Lent: "Work & Vocation"

Today we celebrate Holy Communion in both services, the Joyful Noise Children's Choir sings at the 9:00 a.m. and the Chancel Choir at the 11:00 a.m. Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon on Ephesians 5:8-14 exploring "Work and Vocation."

April 7 – Weekly Lenten Service of Taizé Prayer – 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
April 10 – 5th Sunday in Lent: "Lament & Compassion"

Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon on John 11:1-45 considering "Lament and Compassion."

April 14 – Weekly Lenten Service of Taizé Prayer – 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
April 17 – 6th Sunday in Lent – Palm/Passion Sunday: "Humility & Authority"

Children gather 15 minutes before each service to lead the procession of the Palms singing "Hosanna!" Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon on Philippians 2:9-11 contemplating "Humility and Authority." At the close of the service, dancers drape the sanctuary in black as a quartet sings "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

April 21 – Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service (with Holy Communion & Washing of Feet) – 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

April 22 – Colorado Springs Ecumenical Community Good Friday Service at First Presbyterian Church (corner of N. Nevada and Bijou). Rev. Broadbent preaches on the 2nd Word 12:35-1:00 p.m.

April 24 – Easter Sunday – Feast of the Resurrection: "Hope & Courage"

6:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service with Paschal fire outside on the church portico. At the close of the service, the "Alleluia" banner is unearthed and hung in the sanctuary. Stay for breakfast in the Founders' Room. 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. – A trumpet calls the people to worship with loud shouts of "Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed!" Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon on John 20:1-18 celebrating "Hope and Courage."

BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Emerson Hauber
 4/1 Steve Jones
 4/1 Christine Simmons
 4/2 Evan Latimer
 4/3 Teri McCabe
 4/3 Robert Murray
 4/4 Vicky Clamp
 4/4 Eileah Morris
 4/5 Abigail Bean
 4/5 Susan Grant
 4/6 Harriet Raymond
 4/6 Maylea Williams
 4/7 Theresa Estebo
 4/7 Janeal Jordan
 4/8 Louis Hoffman
 4/8 Derek Krehbiel
 4/8 Joe Pickle
 4/8 Jonathan Thompson
 4/9 Lydia Downs
 4/9 Nicholas Fioriti Butts
 4/9 Diane Robinson
 4/11 Lisa Bailey
 4/11 Karl Mason
 4/11 Judith Rice-Jones
 4/12 Sharon Beltracchi
 4/12 Lois Benson
 4/12 Colin Clark
 4/12 Natalie Morris
 4/12 Dalila Walker
 4/13 Todd Beltracchi
 4/13 Colin Downs
 4/13 Ellie Hoffman
 4/13 Anita Mills
 4/14 Joshua Bridgmon
 4/15 Doris Schwandt
 4/16 Emily Elkins
 4/16 Kara Flores
 4/17 Eydie Elkins
 4/17 Wilber Fulker
 4/18 Karol Finch
 4/18 Amanda Johnson
 4/18 Barry Olesen-Phelps
 4/19 Laurel Ashburn
 4/19 Eleanor Bowman
 4/19 Bruce Sage
 4/19 Katie Tougas
 4/20 Joseph Geier
 4/20 Beth Reasoner
 4/21 B.J. Clark
 4/21 Joan Hance
 4/21 Timothy Tougas
 4/23 Michael Haven
 4/24 Don Allred
 4/24 David Nath
 4/24 AJ Olesen-Phelps
 4/24 Gordon Riegel
 4/25 Bill Mendell
 4/26 Ralph Everett
 4/26 K E Peace
 4/26 Easton Stitchka
 4/27 Claire Flint-Anderson
 4/27 Marianna Fox
 4/27 Ryan Shannon

BIRTHDAYS (CONTINUED)

4/28 Julie Andrews
 4/28 Judy Pickle
 4/28 Don Wick
 4/29 Brooke Bell
 4/29 Julian Ciampa
 4/29 Amelia Kemp
 4/29 Marty Wolf
 4/30 Kevin Broughton
 4/30 Kennan Cole
 4/30 Betsy Zub

ANNIVERSARIES

4/2 Rosemary & Richard DeBacker
 4/2 Cindy & Jack Donovan
 4/2 Kathy & Burl Kreps
 4/3 Jeannine & Jim Bramwell
 4/4 Lois & Mike Matthews
 4/9 Cyndy & Jeff Kulp
 4/10 Marni & Scott Huger
 4/11 Barbara & Robert Carlton
 4/13 Nancy & Tomas Dawson
 4/13 Lynn Liggett & Karl Mason
 4/14 Patsy & Ken Smith
 4/15 Heatherlyn & Louis Hoffman
 4/18 Theresa Estebo & Allen Burns
 4/21 Pam & Lee Lehmkuhl
 4/22 Blake & Rick Purinton



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IN THIS ISSUE...

JWW Lectureship Susan Thistlethwaite;
Taizé Lenten Prayer Services;
Memorial Hospital Governance;
Sabbath Shawls for Lent;
Youth Fellowship;
Nursery Notes;
Congregational Life;
Health Ministry on Depression & Anxiety;
JWW Lecture Registration;
Celebrating Who We Are –
Discovering Our Future Impact;
Gregg Library Footnotes;
April Worship
April Birthdays & Anniversaries
And more!...

COMING NEXT MONTH...

Guest Preacher Rev. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite (2011 James W. White Lecturer), Faith Formation Sunday, Choir Presentation of Libby Larsen's *Missa Gaia*, Confirmation Sunday

*FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UCC IS AN "OPEN AND
AFFIRMING"
CONGREGATION. WE INVITE
PEOPLE OF EVERY AGE,
RACE, MARITAL STATUS,
SEXUAL ORIENTATION,
GENDER EXPRESSION,
MEANS, ABILITY, AND
SPIRITUAL TRADITION TO
JOIN US IN THE LOVE OF
GOD AND NEIGHBOR
THROUGH CHRISTIAN
WORSHIP, DEDICATION TO
EDUCATION, AND
COMMITMENT TO SERVICE.*

INFORM & INSPIRE

The Communicator invites articles, notices, and letters relevant to the life of our congregation. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and correctness. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect official FCC policy. For the next installment, please make submissions no later than **Friday, April 15th, 2011.**

Article submissions should be 500 words or less. Please use Times New Roman 12-point font and left-justify your submission. Suggest a title for your article and include the author's information (name, church role, and additional contact information). If at all possible, please include your article already typed up as a Word attachment in your e-mail message to janedwarren@gmail.com.