One Great Hour of Sharing: May 5

As we see the flooding in the mid-west and the devastation of Cyclone Idai in Africa, you might have asked: What is the church doing to respond? The answer is One Great Hour of Sharing. The OGHS special offering taken each year responds to disasters like these as well as long-term disasters across the globe. We will be collecting this offering on Sunday, May 5. For stories of those who have been supported by this offering, go here.

Battery Recycling

If you are interested in recycling your used household batteries, we will be collecting them for the next two Sundays: May 5th and May 12th in a Call2Recycle box located in the Narthex at the Kirk. Single-use batteries contain many materials that are recyclable. We would like to focus on collecting single use batteries like AA, AAA, 9V or button batteries because there are limited ways to recycle these types of batteries. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at numerous community businesses and non-profit organizations. If you would like more information regarding this battery recycling opportunity, someone will be at the donation location after service to answer any questions.

Food Trucks: May 14, 5:30-8 p.m.

It is that time again! The Kirk will be hosting Food Trucks for our church and our neighborhood throughout the summer! We will be setting up a Community Table for people to sit at and get to know one another! If you are able to come early to set-up or take down the tables and chairs, please let Selena know. We hope all of the Kirk will join us as we build community with each other and our neighbors. (Didn’t Jesus say something about neighbors?!) Oh yes, lets love our neighbors together!
Dear Kirk,

In December of 2015 I shared with you that I heard God calling us to bring people together to simply and profoundly enter into dialogue across some of the many lines that divide us. Through continued prayers, listening, and the energy of our leadership on the Kirk Council, we begin this journey on May 11. From 10-12:30 Jorge Montiel from the Industrial Areas Foundation will lead us in a training, providing us tools for entering into one-on-one conversations to identify common ground and build relationships. For the IAF this is a means to engage beyond ourselves to serve and advocate in our community. For us, at least at this time, our goal is to begin conversations with each other and with those in our lives that we are struggling to talk to in our current social and political climate. For more information about the IAF and about relational meetings, please see page 6.

I hope MANY of you will register for this event here. Although this is our first training, it will not be our last. There is more to learn, different styles and models of bringing people together. If you would like to be on the team that is planning and leading this effort, please let me know. While this is a small dedicated team, our hope is that this ministry will impact each person in the Kirk. Our goal is for everyone who is an active member of the Kirk to participate in one in-house one-on-one conversation (with someone else from the Kirk) and one beyond the Kirk conversation (someone else: family member, friend, co-worker). Don’t be surprised if someone from the church asks you to have coffee sometime soon!

I have great hope that just sitting down and spending intentional time with each other, learning to share our perspectives, how to lead with curiosity instead of judgement and learning to listen, can transform our relationships, transform our church and just might transform our community.

If you have any questions about this training or this ministry initiative, please reach out! I am reading and thinking about it daily and would love to talk (AND LISTEN) as we begin this adventure together.

Blessings,

Selena
Worship at the Kirk in May

The season of Easter our theme is vision and visionaries. We will look at various visions recorded in scripture and also look to those people in history and those in our world right now who are crafting a collective vision through their work and lives in various ways.

**May 4:** The Vision of Aninias: Crossing Divides,
Acts 9:10-18

**May 12:** A Vision from Haiti; we will welcome Rev. Jamalyn Peigh Williamson, CEO of Zanmi Fondwa, the organization we have partnered with to provide trees, supplies, and resources in Haiti.

**May 19:** Vision of Beyond, Jacob’s Ladder,
Genesis 28:10-22

**May 26:** Vision of Reality,
Habakkuk 2: 1-5

DIG

Our Faith Formation Hour, where we DIG into the Bible, Theology and Relationship will break for summer beginning in May. The last Sunday of DIG will be May 12.

Grocery Cards: King Soopers Changes! Technical Support following Worship on May 5.

Thank you to everyone who faithfully purchases grocery cards to King Soopers and Safeway as another way to support the Kirk. As of April 1, the King Soopers program has changed. Now all you have to do is sign into your account [here](#), click My Account on the right side, then select Community Rewards on the Left side of the screen. Search Kirk of Bonnie Brae, once it comes up, click enroll. And then every time you use your King Soopers Card or give them your phone number a portion of your bill will come to the Kirk!

It is that easy to give to your church for years to come at no additional cost to you, just the 2 minutes to sign-up! If you would like computer assistance with this, we will help anyone who needs it enroll after worship on May 5! Bring your SooperCard!
**Book Group**

How can we live boldly when there is so much to fear? This is the question we are wrestling with as we read Rev. Emily Heath’s book, *Courageous Faith*. We will conclude our conversation on May 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

**Theology on Tap - NEW LOCATION**

This month Theology on Tap will be at a new location! We will gather at Brightmarten located at 730 South University on May 5 from 4-6 p.m. We will be diving deeper into our Easter theme of visions. Why are visions a part of the biblical narrative? Did they stop happening at some point? Or were they always a narrative tool? Who are the visionaries of today and how does their faith impact them? Join us for great conversation. Childcare is available at the Kirk on the lower level.

**Conversations With Scripture**

Join us on Tuesdays from 2-3 p.m. as we engage in conversation with the Bible through the UCC Still Speaking Bible Study. Throughout May we will be engaging with 2 Corinthians.

**Faithful Adulting**

Those folks in their 20-40 somethings will gather after worship on May 5 in recognition of Cinco De Mayo we will share a Mexican inspired meal and learn ways we can advocate for our immigrant neighbors. We will learn about their rights so we can serve as an ally. We will also learn about ways to volunteer together and on our own with Casa de Paz, a home near the Immigration Detention Center in Aurora that provides housing for family members visiting those in the detention center and also transitional housing for those recently released. We will gather from 11:30-12:30, with childcare provided.
From Our Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Dear Kirk family, Thank you for the gift of my sabbatical this spring. I will be gone May 16 to June 29. I have never had a sabbatical before and struggle with the need to do it "right". (Actually I am pretty sure there is no way to do that.) And I thank all of you who are willing to help with our kids on a Sunday so I can be away.

Part of my journey is sad. I am visiting the cemetery where my father was just buried this month and helping my Mom. But I will also have time to catch up on my reading. I have several wonderful books ready! I hope for some new stories from adventures in beaches, swamps and historical locations. I have taken up watercolor painting as a new spiritual discipline so there will be a set of paints packed in my suitcase! I am sure there will be many new stories to tell and new inspirations. See you June 30th!

Jackie

Interfaith Camp

Camp will be held at five different places of worship. Mornings will be spent with members from the host community, where the kids will learn about their traditions, rituals and beliefs in fun and interactive ways. You would be responsible to get your child to each location by 9am every morning, and picked up by 12pm. Once registration is closed, we will provide participating families with location details. We expect children to be at camp every day, as we believe that the community they build and experience is as important, if not more important, than the actual content of the camp. Campers should wear clothing that is comfortable and modest. We will also provide space and time for prayer. Snacks will be provided, with care taken to ensure that dietary needs are met. Register online here—then search “interfaith youth camp” to pull up registration.

Green Tip for May

The Kirk has access to Denver’s municipal composting program. At the church, we can place a greater variety of items in the compost bin than you can put in your backyard compost pile. This is because municipal compost facilities have a larger volume of material and use additives to promote decomposition. In the Kirk compost, you may put:

Food scraps; Napkins, tissues and paper towels; Paper plates and cups
Cardboard with stuck-on food or grease (e.g. a pizza box);
Compostable plastic ware (check the item to see if it’s labeled “compostable” or “PLA”)
Sacred Conversations/Relational Meetings Training: May 11, 10-12:30

Colorado IAF Lead Organizer, Jorge Montiel will train us on relational meetings as the first step in the Kirk participating with IAF and also as we begin our ministry of Sacred Conversations. For more on Sacred Conversations see Selena’s article on page 2.

What is a Relational Meeting?
Relational meetings lie at the heart of the Industrial Areas Foundation’s approach to community building. Face to face, one-to-one engagement is the most radical act IAF teaches, preaches and practices. This central focus has emerged from seven decades of organization building in the United States and abroad. It is both settled practice and the primary source of institutional renewal.

Why do I need to be training to have a conversation?
Relational meetings are best understood as a craft, sometimes rising to an art form, which requires conceptual clarity, mentoring, sustained practice and collective reflection.

What is the goal of a relational meeting?
The outcome of a good relational meeting is developmental not instrumental in nature. That is, rather than selling, using, fitting or manipulating, the one-to-one encounter aims to establish or advance a relationship grounded in mutual respect.

In our era, institutions of all kinds rarely if ever are places where relational skills are taught and learned. The absence of intentional formation in this regard has produced a skills deficit that regularly manifests in relational dysfunction in institutions of all kinds.

IAF organizer Ed Chambers, in Roots for Radicals, describes a relational meeting as “one organized spirit going after another person's spirit for connection, confrontation and exchange of talent and energy."

In March the Kirk Council voted to partner with Colorado Industrial Areas Foundation, a broad-based Organization in the Greater Denver Metro Area comprised of local institutions, including congregations, unions, educational institutions, non-profits, and neighborhood organizations who share a concern for families and a passion for democracy and are led by their convictions, values, and faith to act for the public good.

In addition to relational meeting training, come see what IAF is all about at a delegates assembly meeting on May 6 from 6:30-8 p.m. at B’nai Havurah, 6445 E Ohio Ave., Denver.
Kirk Camp 2019

The Kirk is going to Camp! August 2-4 we will sing, worship, play, discuss, explore, swim, hike, laugh and much more!

We have reserved a cabin and two yurts and there is an option for tent camping. Cost is dependent on which accommodation you choose. The cost is $60 per tent, $100 to share a yurt, $150 for a bed in a cabin. The church is hoping to subsidize all children 12 and under to make this affordable for our families. If you need scholarship assistance, please talk to Jackie or Selena.

UCC Church Camp at La Foret!

The Rocky Mountain Conference UCC offers many opportunities in Outdoor Ministry every summer for children through adults! Check out all that is happening this summer. And don’t let the prices scare you off – the Kirk will help with up to ½ of the fee per camp.

Grandparent and Me, June 28-30
Open to grandparents and grandchildren ages 5 to 11 years old.

Pioneer Camp, July 7-13
Entering grades 2-4

Explorer Camp, July 7-13
Entering grades 4-6

Voyager Camp, July 7-13
Entering grades 6-8

MADD (Music, Art, Dance and Drama) Camp, July 14-20
Entering grades 9-12

Adult Contemplative Camp (for adults), July 14-20

To register for one of these camps, click here.
THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who worked and volunteered to help us give our upstairs kitchen a lift! Thank you to Betsy Vaninetti for leading this project, for your tireless labor of painting, helping with floor installation and all the other big and little things you did to make this happen! Thank you to our own Ron Danley of Mayberry Handyman for all of your work and the discount you provided the church. Thank you to Nina Severns for helping paint. Thank you for those who donated extra funds and supplies to make this possible! Thank you to Donna Furman, Judy Hickman, Becky Tiffany, and Ann Karlberg for your work in cleaning and clearing and organizing items into and out of the kitchen. Thank you to Greg Sherry for your volunteer work, building doors, sanding doors and more! Thank you to those who helped on the work day and all others who contributed!

Moderator Report

As the Kirk Moderator I will provide a brief summary of council meetings each month in the newsletter. You are also always welcome to review the full minutes of each meeting. Just as ask me, Selena or any council member to forward you copy. Here are the highlights from April’s meeting:

- Jackie sabbatical will be starting soon. She will be gone from May 19 – June 23. She has a volunteer for each Sunday who has been trained on the curriculum but these folks could use helpers! Please ask Jackie how you can help. We wish her a wonderful time of rest and rejuvenation!
- The second boiler project will commence in early August.
- The City and County of Denver has changed zoning regulations which is making it difficult for us to get our temporary liquor license to sell beer and wine at Cory-Merrill neighborhood food truck nights. This is an important fund raiser for the Kirk – generating around $2,000 each summer. We are down but not out! Selena, Leslie and I are continuing to work with the zoning commission to get these licenses prior to the start of food trucks.
- The Kirk is growing! We have seen a 35% growth in attendance since 2017.

The council is reading John Dorhauer’s book Beyond Resistance. It has been an enlightening guide to the survival of the church in the Post-Modern era. We are currently discussing the ways that we live into the Kirk’s new mission statement and developing metrics to measure our performance. The key question we would like to answer is: what Kirk activity/activities (outside of worship) provide(s) you with depth in relationship with God, community and the earth? I would love to hear from you! Feel free to email me your thoughts: bsvaninetti@gmail.com.

In gratitude for this Kirk community,

Betsy Vaninetti
News from the Green Justice Team

As a Creation Justice Congregation, we are called by God to protect and restore the world in which we live. Our efforts are informed by recognizing that damage to the environment has a greater impact on poor and disenfranchised people; therefore, we are called upon to work in solidarity with communities most affected. Earth Day 2019 has been a time for our congregation to celebrate what we have accomplished as we have pursued our calling. Here are some of the highlights:

A Year of Trees
This year’s theme has resulted in 600 trees being planted by our congregation to restore forests, both here and abroad! Four hundred of those trees were donated to the Zanmi Fondwa Foundation in Haiti to reforest areas devastated by natural disasters. Trees in Fondwa provide shade, fruit, and fuel for families helped by the foundation, as well as prevent erosion.

The D.O.T. Challenge
Our challenge to the congregation to “do one (more) thing” to help the planet has prompted 46 pledges and counting! People have committed to an inspiring array of actions including planting flowers, refusing straws, completing remodeling projects by reusing as much building material as possible, donating used furniture to the International Refugee Committee, engaging in environmental activism on Earth Day, reducing food waste and much more.

Recycling/composting at the Kirk
The Green Justice Team supplied the church with 4 “Care for Creation” Stations in August 2018. Although there is a container labeled “landfill,” we have drastically reduced the contents of this container as we have been able to recycle and compost more! Further, we have learned more about both recycling and composting which has inspired us, as individuals, to live more sustainably at home.

World Climate Simulation
On Earth Day 2018, the Kirk hosted the World Climate Simulation, an event to educate participants in the realities of global climate negotiations. It was well attended and had a powerful influence on those who participated. Because of its impact, our Green Justice Team was asked to conduct the simulation at Congregations Alive in February. As a result, we inspired the planning team for the next Congregations Alive to focus the entire event on climate action. Our success has also prompted an invitation to conduct the simulation this coming October for 350.org, an organization of community activists focusing on issues impacting climate change.

Solar Panel Benefits
The Kirk installed solar panels in 2010, and over the 9 years since then, they have significantly reduced our carbon footprint. In fact, we have avoided putting more than 90 tons of CO2 into the atmosphere! Further, we have saved $11,110 over the life of the system. Now, that’s good stewardship!
COMMUNITY PRAYERS

With hope for healing and strength we pray for...

Our planet and those already impacted by climate change
All those impacted by gun violence
Those who are grieving
Agnes Gebel
Emily Hammond
Tammy Thorne
Family and friends of Jay Matthews
Holly Rowe
Dorothy Shaffer
Kevin Ware
Jeff Young
John
Kate
Greg
Corrine

*If you would like to add someone to our prayer list, please contact the office

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Birthdays of the Month

MAY

05/05 Katherine Bastien  
05/10 Emily Reuell  
05/15 Christine Dunning  
05/16 Spencer Bowles  
05/18 Maliyah Williams  
05/19 Shannon Hamilton  
05/28 Calvin Davidson
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United Church of Christ

The Kirk of Bonnie Brae is a progressive church rooted in Christianity and welcoming to spiritual seekers from all backgrounds who are pursuing depth in relationship with God, Earth, and a community through engaged faith and social justice.

More Information

For more information about our ministries, please visit our website: kirkofbonniebrae.org

We invite you to find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/kirkbonniebrae, follow us on Twitter @thekirkucc and Instagram @kirkucc

For more information about the United Church of Christ, please visit ucc.org

Kirk of Bonnie Brae, UCC

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