



From Your Moderator, Lisa Kipp

To Our Loving Servants, the Kirk:

I will not say the July Council meeting focused on the recent vandalism of the banner hanging outside our building. Rather, I will happily say the meeting focused on our resiliency and continued compassion. We, obviously, discussed the next necessary actions: security concerns for the congregation, the building, and the larger community. (Thank you to Nolan and Kevin for your questions, research, and knowledge of wiring and communication, and for your willingness to help.) But our discussions went deeper: What do we do next?

While it might be tempting to say the "solution" is a new security system and declare the issue closed, is that really who we want to be? We recognize that the banner does not do our work for us, it is not a band-aid. I recently found an article on being an ally, and one passage really struck me:

"The thing about oppression is that it is constant. Those who are oppressed and marginalized in our society do not get to take breaks and respites. Thus, if you truly want to act in solidarity, you cannot simply retreat into your privilege when you just don't want to engage. This is one of the hardest things."

Now that is some tough love!!

The Council believes that the Kirk has a story to tell, that we stand for our message of welcome and love even when it is literally held to the fire. Yes, we would like more guidance from Rev. Selena upon her return, but there are things we can do right now. Betsy (in her beautiful Betsy way) reminded us that the UCC Conference is there to support us. As you read this, I am reaching out to them and also to our church neighbors.

Our mission is not ours alone. Even in this season of sabbatical, *especially* in this season of sabbatical: we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand!

We closed our Council meeting with a prayer led by Emily Snow. It was one of the most heartfelt and beautiful pleas that I have ever heard. We have put her prayer on the last page of this newsletter.

If anyone would like support, or has any questions, please reach out to:
Rev. John Davidson, Rev. Corbin Tobey-Davis, or myself.

Yours in Service,

Lisa Kipp



Worship in August

During this last month of the Sabbatical season, we will have amazing preachers who will share wisdom, faith and challenge with us!

August 2

Rev. Chris Gilmore served as the Interim Pastor of the Kirk from 2012-2014 (his last Sunday with us was Selena's first – 12 years ago this week!) and we have had the privilege of continuing in relationship with Chris throughout his Pastorate at Sixth Avenue UCC. Chris asked to lead us in worship over sabbatical during his time of transition before he begins his new ministry at Plymouth UCC in Fort Collins on August 16. Chris will lead us in reflecting on Matthew 14:13-21, "Loaves, Fishes, and Leftovers."



August 9

Rev. John Davidson will lead us in worship when we reflect on Romans 10:5-15. As we continue our summer theme of "Walking and Moving Toward Wisdom," we will celebrate and reflect on this text: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

August 16

Rev. David Zortman will offer our message reflecting on Jeremiah 18:1-6. We will explore the image of God as the potter and humans as the clay. The imagery may not be as simple or as clear as it might seem. We will also have our Backpack Blessing, so all students, teachers, and school staff bring your backpacks as we bless you into a new school year!

August 23

Rev. Corbin Tobey-Davis will lead on Matthew 16:13–20, when Jesus asks his disciples a deeply personal question: "Who do you say that I am?" Together, we will explore the images and understandings of Jesus that shape our faith—and consider how the way we talk about Jesus influences how we live, love, and serve.

August 30

Rev. Corbin will lead us this week as well! In Exodus 3:1–15, Moses encounters God in the wilderness through a burning bush—an ordinary place transformed into holy ground. Together, we will explore the mystery of encountering God beyond the familiar and consider how the wilderness can become a place of revelation, calling, and transformation.



Tentatively Scheduled Loving Servants

DATE	HOSTS For changes, contact Ellen Campos	COFFEE For changes, contact Erica Thompson	LAY READER For changes, contact the office
August 2	Greg & Beth Sherry	Beth Sherry	Eva Gebel
August 9	Lisa Kipp & Ellen Campos	Patty Hummert	Beth Sherry
August 16	Lee Trujillo-Lopez & Ashley Lopez	(available)	(available)
August 23	Don Zimmerman & Patty Hummert	Beth Sherry	Ellen Campos
August 30	Jeannie Mitchell & Ellen Campos	Patty Hummert	Tate Tobey-Davis

Supporting Our Children's Ministry

We are so grateful for the volunteers leading our children's ministry this summer! Contact Lisa Kipp or Laura Tobey-Davis with questions. Thank you again to our summer volunteers!

- **August 2:** Ellen Campos
- **August 9:** Lisa Kipp
- **August 16:** Ellen Campos
- **August 23:** Laura Tobey-Davis
- **August 30:** Lisa Kipp

We will return to the StoryRoom beginning September 7!



Are You a Storyteller? Volunteers Needed for the Children's StoryRoom!



Do you love to tell stories? Do you love questions? And children? Then we might have just the thing for you! Every Sunday during the second half of worship, volunteers go to the lower level with our children ages 3-10 to share the stories of our faith through ritual and wonder in our StoryRoom! The volunteers learn as they prepare to tell the story, and the featured scripture becomes more deeply rooted in their own faith, which only grows as they share that story with the children.

The schedule rotates so that each storyteller is with the children 3 weeks in a row, to deepen relationships and offer the children consistency for one 3-week round in the Fall and one in the Spring. If you are interested or curious about this ministry, we will have a training for Storytellers, new and old, after worship on Sunday, **September 13**. Please let Ellen Campos know if you are planning to attend.

Backpack Blessing

As our youth and children, teachers, counselors and paras return to the classroom, we will gather in worship and bless each one; bless their minds and their hearts, bless their curiosity and their classes. On Sunday, **August 16**, during worship we will bless each one and their backpacks. Please be sure to bring your backpack to worship that day!



Hope & Home School Supply Drive

We can help some deserving students succeed! Your generous donations will directly benefit local children in foster and kinship care. Here are some specific items they are requesting: backpacks, crayons, pencils, notebooks, folders, binders, pencil cases, pens, highlighters, Post-it Notes, colored pencils, erasers, calculators, rulers, lunch boxes, and water bottles. To make it super easy, click [HERE](#) for their Amazon wish list! Or you can place your donation in the receptacle in the Narthex.

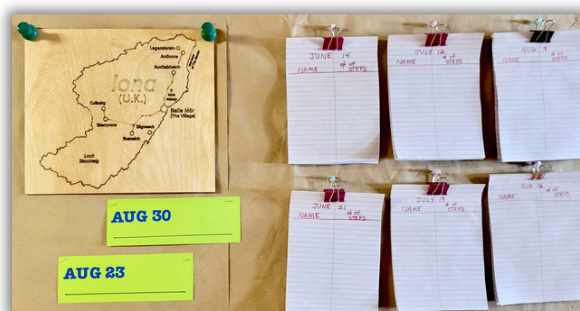


Sabbatical Reminders

Walking Toward Wisdom

Celebrating Our Movement

As we continue in this sabbatical season, remember that we are celebrating all of our steps each week! Please record them on the bulletin board near Hope & Home each Sunday, or if you forget, please send your steps to Lisa Kipp at newlilkipp@gmail.com. The steps recorded so far are an incredible 2,051,506!



Final Group Walk at Washington Park:

The Sabbatical Planning Team is hosting our final group walk at Washington Park, this one in the evening on Friday, **August 28**, at 7:00 p.m. The hope is to help Kirk folks get to know one another and nature a bit more as we journey together. We will meet in front of the [Rec. Center](#). This is a 2.2-mile walk that should take no more than an hour, but all are welcome to start with us and end whenever it feels best for you. Please contact Emily Snow with questions.



Invitations to Walk/Move

If you would like to host a walk, book study or documentary viewing as a way to get Kirk folks moving toward wisdom, there are sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary for you to create an event and invite people to sign up.

Care Teams

Hopefully, everyone has been in contact with their care team leader throughout the sabbatical. Remember, this is a person to connect with questions, or if you find yourself in need of prayer for struggles as well as celebrations, please reach out!

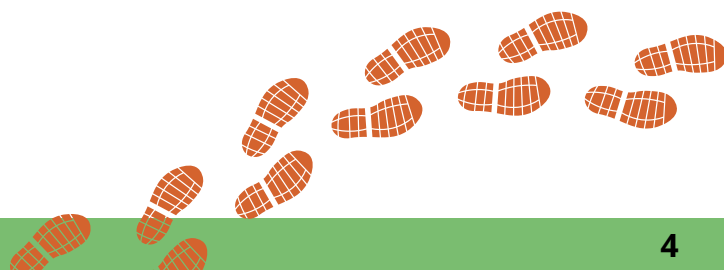
The Kirk Sabbatical Planning Team:

Lisa Kipp, Donna Furman, Emily Snow, Sharon Snyder, and Cam Short-Camilli

Walk With the DIG Class!

With the same spirit that is guiding Selena's sabbatical, the Adult DIG class will be "Walking Toward Wisdom" each Sunday morning in August. We'll meet at **9:00 a.m. at the front door** of the church. After a brief greeting and opening reflection, we'll head out on a 30 to 40-minute walk around the neighborhood before worship.

- **8/2:** Mindful Walking led by Erika Wild
- **8/9:** Neighborhood Birding led by Vicki Wright
- **8/16:** Allie Runne from The Park People
- **8/23:** The Stations of the Cross
- **8/30:** Bonnie Brae Alley Art



Last Food Truck Night!

This summer, we have been hosting Food Truck nights with the Cory Merrill Neighborhood. Plan to come out and meet our neighbors, enjoy music and community! The Kirk will be selling beer and wine as a Kirk fundraiser. Come enjoy the final food truck night of the year, featuring the band Ground Cover on **August 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** in the Kirk parking lot.



JBT: Let's Go Bowling! Sunday, August 30



The Kirk's social group for seniors, Just Being Together (JBT), cordially invites you to join us for an afternoon of bowling. We'll gather from **Noon to 2:30 p.m.** at Lucky Strike Cherry Creek Lanes (**6767 Leetsdale Drive**). Why? To foster fellowship and community enjoyment! The cost is \$20 per person, which includes two hours of bowling and shoe rental. Participants may contribute additional funds for shared refreshments! Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to either:

Ann Karlberg, 303-906-0630, akarlberg0630@outlook.com

Mikki Bowles, 303-258-6849, mkbwanderer@gmail.com

Rev. Selena's Return: Sunday, September 6th!

Mark your calendars for a celebration of renewal and return! Selena will be back in church, rested and refreshed, and we will celebrate her journey as well as our own over the past few months. Please plan to stay after worship for some special festivities!



Beginning in September, we will be wrapping up our pilot project with the Austin Story Project by offering Story Circles (as we did during Lent), but this time we are gathering with Absolute Word Church! If you missed our first round, here is what this will look like:

Every Wednesday, we will gather in a small group, both Kirk and Absolute Word members, and we will be invited to share a story based on a particular prompt. After we all share our stories, we will hear a story about Jesus' life that responds to the same question. Then we take a few minutes to listen for themes and what we heard in our sharing. The group that participated last Spring felt more connected to each other and to the Jesus story.

Exact start dates and times will be in weekly emails as soon as Selena returns—but if you are interested, mark your calendar for Wednesday evenings, **September 9-October 14**, for these meaningful and community-building circles!

Animal Blessing & Outdoor Worship

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 a.m.

We invite all two and four-legged creatures to join us on **Saturday, September 19**, for a Blessing of the Animals! All dogs, cats, birds, fish, hamsters, and any other animal that is safe around other animals and a group of people are welcome. Like last year, this will be a very simple service of song and prayer. If you have friends who are animal lovers, this is a great opportunity to invite them (and their pets) to the Kirk! There will also be a table of remembrance if you would like to bring a picture of a pet that you have lost. We will speak their names, offer gratitude for their lives, and ask for comfort in our grief.



Take a Sack, Bring it Back!

On the **third Sunday of every month**, the Kirk Mission Team puts out grocery bags with a list of what Metro Caring needs. We ask that you live the rhyme, “take a sack (on the 3rd Sunday) and bring it back” (full of groceries on the 4th Sunday) each month. This is one of the ways our church builds it into our individual and communal practices to care for our neighbors who are food insecure.

Coffee & Community

Each Sunday, a volunteer comes early to make coffee (following a set of instructions in the lower-level kitchen) and also brings a treat for after church, and then cleans up. Thank you SO much to all who volunteer to create this space for us to visit and build community. You can sign up [HERE](#).



Connect Online



- Click [HERE](#) for Worship livestreams.
- Click [HERE](#) for DIG, Conversations with Scripture and other ZOOM meetings.

Did you know you can connect to the Kirk anytime through our social media presence? Follow the Kirk on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube and share what inspires you with your friends and followers!





Women's Retreat 2026! Friday, October 2 to Sunday, October 4

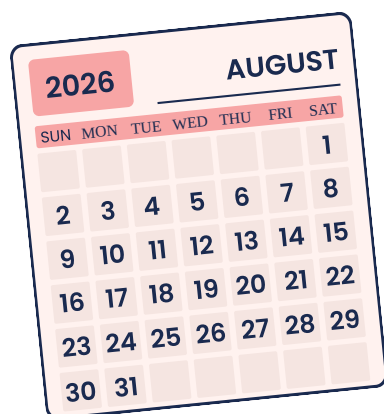
All who identify as women are invited to our Annual Women's Retreat at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center. The cost is \$165 per person for lodging and meals catered by La Foret. To register click, [HERE!](#)

Would You Like to Be a Lay Reader?



If you enjoy scripture, we invite you to become a Sunday Lay Reader. Don't let any fear of public speaking hold you back; the warm smiles from the congregation at the Kirk make it an incredibly rewarding experience! You will receive the scripture in advance, along with a guide for preparing a brief Stewardship Moment. To sign up, please add your name to the sheet in the Narthex or contact the office to secure your spot.

Kirk Birthdays



1st Ashley Lopez-Trujillo	13th Sal Smith
3rd Susan Howard	17th Emma Feiten
4th Vicki Wright	18th Laura Tobey-Davis
9th Donna Luther-Adrian	18th Vaun Thompson
10th Judy Hickman	22nd Lee Ana Trujillo-Lopez
12th Erica Thompson	27th Donna Furman

If we have missed your birthday, please let us know by emailing kobb@kirkofbonniebrae.org.



A Prayer by Emily Snow



Gracious and loving God,

We place before you the fear, anger, grief, and uncertainty
we carry after this act of violence against our church
and its witness of welcome.

Give us wisdom for the decisions ahead: courage without
recklessness, compassion without complacency, and unity
without silence. Help us protect our congregation and
neighbors while remaining faithful to the love
you have called us to proclaim.

Strengthen our commitment to be an open and affirming
community. Remind every person who has ever wondered
whether they belong that hatred will not have the final
word, and that they are beloved, worthy, and welcome here.

Keep us from becoming what we oppose.

May our response be grounded in truth,
shaped by justice, and sustained by grace.

Make us brave in love, steady in hope,
and faithful in all we do.

Amen.

