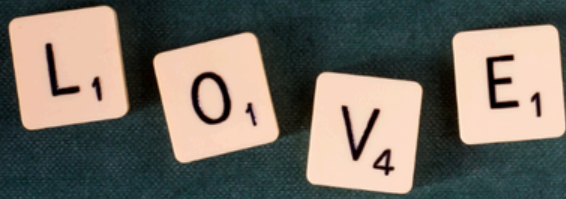


THE KIRK of Bonnie Brae



February
2026

From Your Pastor

Dear Kirk,

If you saw me running out of church on January 18, that was because I was rushing to the airport. The Kirk was selected to be a part of the Austin Story Project: a grant-funded engagement through Austin Theological Seminary that gathered leaders, connectors and storytellers from across the country to wonder together what might change in our lives and in our communities if we made space to tell our stories and listen to the stories of others. And then one step deeper, to allow our stories to encounter Jesus' stories. Rev. Corbin Tobey-Davis and I went to represent the Kirk, and we have now been charged with bringing this storytelling experience to the Kirk to engage and experiment, to see what can be learned when people commit to telling and hearing stories as a way to deepen relationships with God and each other.

It is truly the Spirit's work, as our theme for Lent is "Tell Me Something Good!" So what will we do during Lent? We will tell our stories, hear the stories of each other, and hear the stories of Jesus!

On Wednesday nights during Lent, all are welcome to gather in the lower level, where we will be assigned to small groups. Each person will be invited to share a simple story from their life in response to the prompts, "Can you tell us a story of a time you experienced compassion?" "Can you tell us a story about a time you were surprised?" Each person will have up to 5 minutes to share their story, and then the next person will share. Instead of having a conversation, we will let each story stand without comment. After we have heard one another, we will reflect on common themes between our stories and the story of Jesus. There is no prep work to be done. The hope is that those who participate will do their best to attend all 6 weeks so we can provide thorough feedback on this experience to the Austin Story Project. We hope to have at least 6 participants, but we can facilitate as many as are interested. If you are still unsure, come on the first night, February 25 and see how it feels. After our first meeting, you can decide whether to continue. Also, if this is of interest to you but Wednesday evenings do not work, please reach out to me; we might be able to offer an alternative time.

These groups are called Story Circles, and although it is a project from somewhere else, it is helping us deepen our connections with each other and with Jesus, who in every situation we face, is seeking to "Tell Us Something Good!"

If you have questions about the Story Circles, please don't hesitate to reach out to Corbin or me. This is one more opportunity for the Kirk's vitality to serve a larger purpose, and we benefit from it as well. I hope you will join in the Story Circles, for we all have stories to share!

Blessings,

Worship in February

- **February 1:** A Call to Compassion, Matthew 5:1-12
- **February 8:** Be Salty, Matthew 5:13-20
- **February 15:** Transfiguration Sunday, Matthew 17:1-9
- **February 18:** Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.
- **February 22:** Tell Me Something Good: So Good It Surprises Us, Matthew 13:31-32



♥ Tentatively Scheduled Loving Servants

DATE	HOSTS <small>For changes, contact Ellen Campos</small>	COFFEE <small>For changes, contact Lisa Kipp</small>	LAY READER <small>For changes, contact the office</small>
February 1	Joe & Diane Berry	Beth Sherry	Beth Sherry
February 8	Bill & Eve Harrigan	Eve Harrigan	Ellen Campos
February 15	Jeannie Mitchell & Sharon Snyder	Lisa Kipp	Lisa Kipp
February 22	Lee Trujillo-Lopez & Ashley Lopez	Erica Thompson	Betsy Runke

Children's Ministry Update

This fall, we were so blessed by the time and attention our StoryRoom Volunteers gave. Please be in prayer for our volunteers and children as we continue to step into our new Volunteer Model for the StoryRoom. Here is our Volunteer Schedule this month:



February 1: Wyndol Furman, #13 The Promised Land

February 8: Jackie Augustyn

February 15: Laura Tobey-Davis, #14 The Temple, A House for God

February 22: Laura Tobey-Davis, #24 Jesus in the Wilderness

Faith Formation Team

Our Faith Formation Team will meet after worship on **Sunday, March 29**. We will look back on our year of Volunteers leading the Story Room and look toward the year ahead. If you are interested in helping the Kirk convey our ministry to children and youth, you are welcome to attend!



Supporting our Children's Ministry – Summer Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to lead our Children's Church during worship (starting after the children's moment through the end of worship) during the summer months. Curriculum will be provided to you for your day well in advance. You can sign up [HERE](#).



Valentines for Children's Hospital



Would you like to make someone's Valentine's Day a little brighter? We are collecting Valentine's Day cards for the kids at Children's Hospital. You can make your own cards, or use cards you get from the store. Please give your cards to Elliana Wright by **Sunday, February 8**, and we'll make sure they reach someone who will really appreciate them.

Our Faithful Adulting Group will host our annual Soup Cook-off after worship on **Super Bowl Sunday, February 8!** They will bring soups, and the congregation will vote on the best one using dollar bills or cans of soup, with all proceeds donated to Metro Caring. Plan to stay after church to enjoy this fun and important event together (even if the Broncos didn't quite make the Super Bowl this year).



Pro Tip: Please bring a muffin tin for the easiest way to sample all the soups!

Lent at the Kirk



Sometimes it is hard to remember that the story that we are both grounded in and called to grow toward is Good News! Gospel means good news, and when we say that, we are not just speaking of four books in the New Testament, but of the life and teachings of Jesus. This season of Lent, we will listen to Jesus' life as it tells us something good about love and possibility, community and justice.

Special Services for Lent & Easter:

February 18, Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30 p.m.

We will begin the season of Lent with this service at the Kirk. As is our practice, this will be in partnership with our siblings of faith from Sixth Avenue UCC, Washington Park UCC, Park Hill UCC, Parkview UCC and others. Please plan to arrive early to welcome everyone into our space as we prepare our bodies and spirits for Lent.

March 29, Palm Sunday Worship

Children plan to arrive at 9:45 a.m. to prepare to participate in our Palm Sunday Parade!

April 2, Maundy Thursday Worship at Washington Park UCC at their new location! [7150 Montview Blvd, Denver, CO 80220](#). They are providing a casual time of snacks and community at 5:30 p.m. and then worship will be at 6:30 p.m.

April 5, Easter Sunday! 10:00 a.m. Celebratory worship followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck!

Lenten Story Circles

(Please see Selena's article on page 1 for more information.)

This is a 6-week commitment on the Wednesdays of Lent: February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Kirk. If you would like to participate but this time doesn't work for you, please let Selena know, as an alternative time might be scheduled.



DIG Deeper

Faith Formation Hour



Each Sunday at 9 a.m., we have an opportunity to dig deeper into our understanding of scripture and our relationships with one another. We are studying the Gospel of John, by reading scripture alongside the book "[The Gospel of John: A Beginner's Guide to the Way, the Truth, and the Life](#)" by Amy-Jill Levine. We will meet in the Lower Level and on [ZOOM](#). All are welcome to DIG in with us! Here is the schedule:

- **February 1:** (No gathering)
- **February 8:** Chapter 2, Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman, John 3 & 4
- **February 15:** Chapter 3, The Healing of the Man at the Pool, John 5
- **February 22:** Chapter 4, The Man Born Blind, John 9

Children ages 6-17 are invited to DIG into the Bible with Rev. Davidson on Sunday, February 8 and 15 at 9:00 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY EVERY TUESDAY @ 1.00 PM

IN THE KIRK'S OFFICE & ON ZOOM

Conversations with Scripture

- Casual atmosphere
- Join in or just listen
- Share insights and questions!





Confirmation

We have seven youth currently on the journey of confirmation. Our Confirmands will meet:

February 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. to learn about our denomination, the UCC.

February 18 at 6:30 p.m. We ask Confirmands to attend the Ash Wednesday Service.

February 22 from 11:30-1 p.m. with Mentors in the Lower Level.

Youth Group!

All teenagers (and friends) in grades 6-12 are invited to join us on Sunday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. We share a meal together, play games, check in about our weeks and engage in discussion on issues of life and faith! We use the GroupMe app to communicate. You can join that group [HERE](#).

February 1: Lakewood UCC will join us in making Valentine's Day cards for Children's Hospital

February 8: (No Youth Group – Super Bowl Sunday)

February 15: What's Love Got To Do About it?

February 22: Lent: Not Just for Bellybuttons!



Youth Group Meals



We are looking for volunteers to provide dinner for our weekly youth group! We usually feed 20 people and need an option for three vegetarians, two who don't eat red meat, and one who is dairy-free. (All meals don't need to meet these dietary requirements; we just need an option for these.) The kids so appreciate the food, and it will give you a chance to get to know our youth and see what happens on Sunday nights. We ask those providing the meal to stay, eat with us, and after the kids bus

their own tables, to help clean up so the kids can engage in their meeting. We eat promptly at 6:00 p.m. and cleanup is at 6:30 p.m. To volunteer, please sign up [HERE](#)!

La Foret Spring Youth Retreat, March 13-15

All youth, 6th grade through 12th grade, are invited to the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC annual Spring Retreat at La Foret. Come enjoy nature in the beauty of our beloved La Foret with friends both new and old...all while having plenty of fun! Registration opens soon; you can click [HERE](#). The Kirk covers \$100 for each participant. Reach out to Selena to request payment to La Foret.



SUMMER CHURCH CAMPS AT LA FORET

It is colder outside, but it is time to mark your calendars for UCC Church Camps this summer for children entering grades 3-12. This year, kids interested in attending camp will participate in Kirk's Got Talent as a camp fundraiser on March 8! The Kirk is committed to contributing \$325 per child/youth to help with the camp fees from this fundraiser, as well as from the generous donations of those who have gone before us. If you need additional financial assistance, please contact Selena. We are committed to ensuring that every child who wants to attend is able to. Registration will open soon [HERE](#)!

EXPLORER CAMP, July 5-11, for those entering grades 3-6:

This camp provides an incredible community experience for this age group! (This is the first year that Explorer has included 3rd grade, as previously, 2nd and 3rd graders could only attend the now-discontinued Pioneer Camp.) Supported by trained counselors and staff, campers will engage with nature, form friendships, and explore their personal beliefs, all with an emphasis on fun! The week will include activities like campfires, swimming, arts and crafts, outdoor games, free time, a ropes course, and worship.



VOYAGER FAITH & SCIENCE CAMP, July 12-18, for those entering grades 6-8:



Spirituality and science have, for too long, been seen as opposite ends of a spectrum, when, in reality, they are more like two lenses through which we can view the mystery and majesty of the universe. Albert Einstein said that the more he studied the universe, the more he believed in a higher power. When you really get into the coolest and most cutting-edge science, you can't help but stand back in awe of God and the magic of it all! But don't worry, all the fun and exploration built through generations of camp will still be there! Trained counselors and staff will set the stage and hold space for a memorable week filled with laughter, music, reflection, self-exploration, and don't forget the ropes course! Youth will form memories and friendships they'll hold dear for the rest of their lives.

MADD (MUSIC ARTS DANCE DRAMA) CAMP, July 12-18, for those entering grades 9-12:

This Camp is an amazing week of intentional community and creativity. We believe that the arts and creative expression are incredible tools for experiencing and growing in our spirituality. ALL artistic skill levels (really!) are present and welcome at MADD Camp. Along with engaging youth in intellectual faith conversations, we attempt to get youth "out of their heads" and into experiencing God through creativity, nature, friendships, self-discovery, games, activities, and LOTS of fun. We find these moments to be the most powerful in helping young people develop a lifelong faith. Like all of our youth camps and retreats, MADD is an inclusive, open environment. Trained staff help guide youth in engaging with their spirituality on their terms. The Refuge camps and retreats create a safe, brave space where youth can ask questions, explore their faith, and connect more deeply to themselves, each other, the earth, and the Holy - whatever that means to them.



The House the Kirk Will Build!

Thanks to generous holiday givers, the Kirk raised \$2,880 during our Alternative Giving campaign! Donations received will be used to purchase building materials for the house that will be built by the youth and adults participating in the El Salvador service-learning trip this summer. An amount of \$45 remains in escrow from last year's alternative giving project and will be added to this year's collections, bringing the total to \$2,925. These funds will be used to purchase lumber, nails and screws, bags of cement, and sheets of metal siding. Thanks to generous hearts and hard-working hands, a family in El Salvador will be blessed with the sturdy and secure home they have long dreamed of!



Beans and Rice Service Project, March 1



One of the ways we support Metro Caring's work each year is by bagging beans and rice for distribution to food-insecure families. A group of Kirk members volunteered at Metro Caring's food bank last November and noticed that bags like those we pack went quickly as families shopped for needed groceries. On Sunday, March 1, after worship we hope to bag 1000 pounds of beans and rice. We purchase them at cost from Metro Caring's supplier in large bags, then donate our time to divide them into 4-cup bags for

distribution. If you would like to make a financial donation toward this, please send a check or pay via the "Special Purpose" block on our Donate page and note Beans & Rice in the memo line. We ask everyone to plan to stay after worship on March 1, as there is a job for every ability, and many hands make light work!

Kirk's Got Talent, March 8 at 4 p.m.

Five years ago, we looked around and realized how many talented people we had at the Kirk. Children, youth and adults alike! Over these years, Kirk folks have told jokes, danced, sang, shared science projects, taught us how to take a great photo, witnessed the gifts of a worldwide Ken Ken champion, and tasted the baking delights of others, to name only a few. This year will not disappoint! Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to share your gifts and also get your tickets. 100% of proceeds will support our youth and children attending church camp and our service-learning trip to El Salvador. Tickets will go on sale February 8 before and after church.



Green Justice Movie Screening

Since Earth Day 2025, the Kirk Green Justice Team has focused on A Year of Resilience. As a part of this, we are hosting a screening of the documentary, "Inhabitants: Indigenous Perspectives On Restoring Our World." You can watch the trailer [HERE](#). We will screen the movie **after worship on Sunday, March 15**, for anyone interested, and snacks will be provided. There will be an additional screening for our Faithful Adulting Group on Saturday, March 21, at the Wrights' home along with a potluck meal.



Sign Up for Action Alerts



Through our partnerships with justice organizations such as Together Colorado, Interfaith Alliance and Colorado Faith Communities United Against Gun Violence, we have many opportunities to engage in the legislative process to advocate for a just world for all. During the legislative session, the Kirk emails Action Alerts from our Justice Partners—inviting you to send an email, make a phone call or testify on various bills. Those who signed up in previous years remain on the list, unless you ask to make a change. To sign up for these lists, please use the sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office.

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 Metro Caring needs. We ask that you bring these back the last week of the month, when people especially need food. We can help out the Kirk way—together!



An Easy Free Way to Give



Remember for every King Soopers reward purchase you make, if you have selected the Kirk as your option, a portion comes to the church. Setting this up is easy!

Step 1 Log in to your online King Soopers account

Step 2 Search "Community Rewards"

Step 3 If you are not currently enrolled, search for Kirk of Bonnie Brae, and when you see it click enroll. Then log in to your account as much as you want to see how much of your grocery bill is coming to the Kirk. For more detailed King Soopers instructions, click [HERE](#).

Hope & Home Teddy Bear Clinic, April 18

It is time for Hope & Home to begin preparations for their beloved annual Teddy Bear Clinic!

This is a special event where children in foster care bring their teddy bears to be checked in at the doctor's office, see a doctor or a dentist, and maybe even go into "surgery" to have any little repairs done. This event helps these children become more comfortable with medical personnel and practices. If you would like to help set up, take down, or volunteer at the event, please contact Taylor at THeinke@hopeandhome.org.



April 25th!

Do you have a flickering lamp, a favorite necklace you can't wear, a chair with a broken rung, or a favorite garment with a hole? The Helping Hands Repair Cafe (HHRC) is back again! This will be our third Repair Cafe at First Plymouth Church. Each time we host these cafes, they seem to grow in size and in popularity. Recently, the HHRC has been featured on the UCC website, been featured on Channel 9 News, and has been asked to join a database of repair cafes. Our next event will be held on April 25th from 12:00 to 3:00 PM at [First Plymouth Church, 3501 S. Colorado Blvd., Cherry Hills Village](#). It is always so wonderful to watch the community come together and learn the value of stewarding our beloved objects and each other!



Coffee & Community

Each Sunday, a volunteer arrives early, makes coffee (following instructions in the basement kitchen), brings a treat for after church, and then cleans up. Thank you to everyone who volunteers to create this space for us to visit and build community! We are looking for sign-ups for the spring! You can sign up [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 welcoming smiles from the congregation at the Kirk make it an incredibly rewarding experience! You will receive the scripture in advance and 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.



Moderator's Report, by Lisa Kipp

The first Council meeting of 2026 concentrated on all the good news and hard work of 2025! Ellen Campos, working hard right up to the end of her incredible 20-plus years as Treasurer, presented the proposed 2026 budget. We discussed our facility rental agreements. Ellen explained that while our rentals are so important to our budget, our rates are at the low end of Denver's commercial average. We strive to keep our great tenants happy! Council unanimously approved the proposed 2026 budget. And we continued the discussion of Selena's sabbatical and how best to support the Sabbatical committee.



The rest of our meeting was a heartfelt celebration of our outgoing Council members! There may have been some Zoom tears as we heaped praise upon Diane Berry, Dave Howard, and Jennifer Smith. Of course, we could have gone on all night with thanks and adoration for both Ellen Campos and Donna Furman. How can we ever thank them enough?!? Simple answer: we cannot.

Yours In Service,

Lisa Kipp

KIRK of
BONNIE BRAE



- Pride Sunday: **June 28**
- All UCC Combined Worship: **July 26**
- Intergenerational Service-Learning Trip to El Salvador:
July 22nd through August 1st
- Animal Blessing: 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, **September 19**
- Women's Retreat: **October 2nd through the 4th** at La Foret

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!



Kirk Birthdays

3rd Ellen Campos
7th Evie Pottenger
8th Justin Snyder
11th Hazel Snow
22nd Harrison Hamilton
23rd Nolan Herring
27th Emerson Sheehan



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

