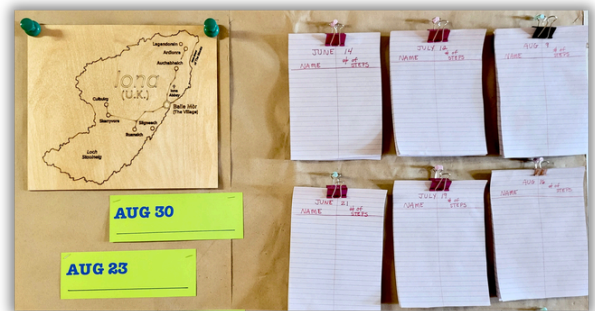




Sabbatical Reminders Walking Toward Wisdom

Celebrating Our Movement

As we continue in this sabbatical season, a reminder 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 newlllkip@gmail.com. We hope this will get all of us moving more in whatever way leads us to wisdom as we move through this Sabbatical Season. As of this writing, there have been 405,929 recorded steps!



Mid-Week Group Walks at Washington Park:

The Sabbatical Planning Team is hosting a monthly group walk at Washington Park. Each walk will have a word to guide the reflection and conversation. 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 Washington Park Recreation Center ([701 S Franklin St, Denver, 80209](https://www.denvergov.org/locations/washington-park-recreation-center)). This is a 2.2-mile walk that should take no more than an hour. Walks will be held on Wednesday, **July 22** at 9:00 a.m. and Friday, **August 28** at 7:00 p.m.



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

Everyone should have been contacted by their Care Team leader. This is the person you check in with if you have questions about church or need someone to talk to or pray with. If you are unsure who your care team leader is, contact Tim in the office; he can get you in touch.

As always, if you have any questions please reach out to any of us.

Sabbatical Planning Team:

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



Worship in July

If our summer theme is walking/moving toward wisdom, this month we get to explore the wisdom among us, as our preachers are all Kirk members!

Rev. Lee Zortman is a UCC-ordained minister who served 5 churches as a Settled Pastor, and 3 churches as an Interim Pastor, over his 41 years of active ministry. He has been happily retired for five years.



Donna Furman... Well, we all have our favorite stewardship moments, as Donna tells a story that invites us with hospitality and detail, then teaches a lesson we feel we have known all our lives. And if she can do all that in a stewardship moment, imagine the wisdom of a sermon!

Rev. David Zortman, also an Ordained UCC minister, serves as the Director of Spiritual Services at UC Health, Anschutz. In his role, he leads the staff of chaplains who offer spiritual care to patients, families, and staff, and works with student ministers as they learn the skills of pastoral care and chaplaincy.

- **July 5** - Rev. Lee Zortman: "True Freedom," Romans 7:15-25a, and a Blessing of the Campers going to La Foret.
- **July 12** - Donna Furman: "If I've Told You Once ..." Matthew 16:1-12.
- **July 19** - Rev. David Zortman: "Factoring Our Fears," Romans 8:12-17.
- **July 26** - Denver UCC Combined Worship: 10:00 a.m. at First Plymouth Church UCC, at [3501 S Colorado Blvd, Cherry Hills Village](#). See more details on page 3.

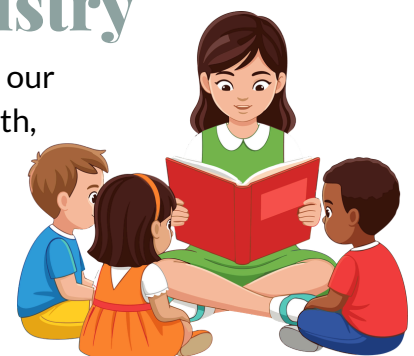
♥ Tentatively Scheduled Loving Servants

DATE	HOSTS <small>For changes, contact Ellen Campos</small>	COFFEE <small>For changes, contact Erica Thompson</small>	LAY READER <small>For changes, contact the office</small>
July 5	Bill & Eve Harrigan	Greg Sherry	Ellen Campos
July 12	Jeannie Mitchell & Sharon Snyder	Patty Hummert	Ann Karlberg
July 19	Ann Karlberg & Robert Bowles	Lisa Kipp	Lisa Kipp
July 26	Combined Worship at First Plymouth, No Worship Service at the Kirk		

Supporting our Children's Ministry

Please be in prayer for our volunteers and children as we continue with our volunteer model for the StoryRoom. Below is our schedule for this month, you can sign up [HERE](#) for other times. Thank you to our volunteers!

- **July 5:** (not offered due to the holiday)
- **July 12:** Laura Tobey-Davis
- **July 19:** Jan Sumner and Patty Hummert
- **July 26:** Combined Worship - no service at the Kirk



“Be the Kirk!” A Youth 2-Night Service Learning Experience!



This month, Corbin and Laura Tobey-Davis will lead a local youth service-learning experience in our own community! Youth who have completed grades 6-12 are invited to arrive at the Kirk at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 26, and stay in our space playing games, serving our community, sharing meals (and even sleeping!) until Tuesday, July 28 at 4 p.m. We will be partnering with The ROCK Center, learning about and serving in the East Colfax neighborhood. The cost is \$50, please register [HERE](#) no later than July 5.

Walk With the Adult DIG Class in July!

With the same spirit that is guiding Selena’s sabbatical, the Adult DIG class will be “Walking Toward Wisdom” each Sunday morning in July and 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 30–40-minute walk around the neighborhood. Each Sunday, we’ll explore a fresh way to gain wisdom from our journey.



- **July 5:** Guided by the meditations of Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, we’ll learn how to walk mindfully (based on his book, “[How to Walk](#)”).
- **July 12:** Walk with Jesus by visiting the Stations of the Cross at the St. John Paul II Center across the street from the Kirk.
- **July 19:** Guided by physical therapist Marty Levine, learn about the body mechanics of walking and the benefits it provides to overall vitality.
- **July 26:** *Combined Worship – no service at the Kirk*



UCC Combined Worship ~ July 26

As has been our tradition for many years, we will worship with our sister churches the last Sunday of July. On Sunday, July 26, the UCC churches of Metro Denver will gather at First Plymouth UCC ([3501 S Colorado Blvd](#)) at 10 a.m. for Worship! Our preacher will be Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Executive Conference Minister and President of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. Last year, 15 UCC churches gathered. This is an opportunity to connect with our siblings in the UCC and “be the church” together!

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](#).



Kirk Hosting Service-Learning Trips



The Kirk is partnering with First Plymouth UCC to host Be the Neighbor Service-Learning Trips focused on Eco-Justice. Last week, a group from a Kent UCC in Kent, OH, and this week a UCC church from the Congregational Church of Manhasset in Munsey Park, NY. The Kirk's Green Justice Team served the groups dinner on Monday nights and provided a Climate Simulation. The groups work with our Eco-Justice partners to help them engage in Eco-Justice with our community partners across the city, from Ekar Farms, to Bluff Lake, CSU Spur and more!

Church Camps at La Foret! How You Are (and Can) Support Them!

This month, our youth and children will be living our mission—pursuing depth in relationship with God, earth and community at our annual church camps at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center! The Kirk offers financial support through the Dena Cox and Elizabeth Root funds to help many of our campers attend these life-changing camps! Additionally, we ask that you please hold our young folks in prayer during their week and consider sending them a letter of encouragement as they make this time commitment to their faith!



You can send letters to:

Camper's Name

Name of Camp (see list)

*La Foret Conference &
Retreat Center*

6145 Shoup Rd.

Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Voyager Camp, Grades 6-8, July 12-18

Lyle Davidson, Katherine Salada, Tate Tobey-Davis, and Nathan Trudel-Brady

MADD (music/arts/dance/drama) Camp, Grades 9-12, July 12-18

Calvin Davidson, Samaj Ellis, Elena Salada, Ila Tobey-Davis, Eddie Trudel-Brady, and Gwen Wright

**Note - USPS can be slow, so consider mailing letters no later than Monday, July 13.*

Next Food Truck Night, July 21



This summer, we are again hosting Food Truck nights with the Cory Merrill Neighborhood. Plan to come out and meet our neighbors, enjoy music, and also the community! The Kirk will again be selling Beer and Wine as a fundraiser. This is a great time not only to enjoy the summer but also to get to know our neighbors and invite them to be part of the Kirk. This month's event is on Tuesday, July 21, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Kirk parking lot. The last Food Truck event will be on August 18, featuring live music from Pat Wright's band Ground Cover!

Walking to Connect, by Lisa Kipp



Walking to connect, don't we all need a little more of that? I have walked regularly with my friend, Julie, since our 33-year-old sons were in kindergarten. We have solved world problems, offered and received therapy, laughed and cried. Walking together, strangers become friends, whether just for an hour, for life, or for some time in between. This is just the experience we found on the Camino de Santiago. It is written into the "Spirit of the Camino":



Live in the moment
Welcome each day, its pleasures and its challenges
Make others feel welcome
Share
Feel the spirit of those who have gone before you
Imagine those who will follow you
Appreciate those who walk with you today.



My husband, Jeff, and I traveled the Portuguese route of the Camino in September of 2014. We started our first 2 days on bikes (with another couple). There were long stretches of smooth roads right along the lovely beach and cobblestone streets, a bit less comfortable (especially for Jeff with a broken bicycle seat!). Day 3 began our serious walking...we did around 16 miles that first day. Unfortunately, our friend got terrible blisters. She and her husband decided they could not continue walking and found their way (by bus, then by train) to Santiago. They spent much more time in Santiago than we did! Jeff and I were now on our own, except for the other fellow "Peregrinos" (pilgrims). We met students from Germany, with whom I attempted to communicate (ein bisschen). We walked with Jose, a 75-year-old Spaniard who spoke no English, but we still exchanged emails, and many of my photos came from him. We walked through many different terrains, including ancient Roman roads, on which you could still make out the chariot grooves. We walked city streets and by farms and hills. I discovered, during stretches with little conversation, a certain cadence that was often set to music in my head. The one that came most often was "Count Your Blessings." While I was counting my own blessings, I was also asking for prayers of comfort for a work colleague who was in her last days, succumbing to brain cancer. Remember to appreciate those who walk with you today.

continued next page

Walking to Connect *continued*

Walking into Santiago (I thought) was akin to Dorothy finally seeing the Emerald City. There it was off in the distance. It was raining, as we often heard it did. I do recall that coming into the city was the one time we got off track. We somehow lost the yellow arrows and/or scallop shells (the symbol of St. James) that direct pilgrims along the Camino. We made it to the cathedral in time to visit the Pilgrims' Office for our Certificate of Completion (Compostela) before the Mass began. My best memory from that day was walking behind the altar to the tomb of St. James (history tells us the remains of James, the apostle, were discovered in Santiago in the year 814). The crypt has handprints hundreds of years old from all over the world. As I placed my own hands there, I truly felt connected to those who had come before me and to those who would follow. Writing this, I went back to my Camino passport (Credencial del Peregrino) and found the Pilgrims' Prayer from the 12th Century:



God, You called your servant Abraham from Ur in Chaldea, watching over him in all his wanderings, and guided the Hebrew people as they crossed the desert. Guard these your children who, for the love of your Name, make a pilgrimage to Compostela. Be their companion on the way, their guide at the crossroads, their strength in weariness, their defense in dangers, their shelter on the path, their shade in the heat, their light in darkness, their comfort in discouragement, and the firmness of their intentions; that through your guidance, they may arrive safely at the end of their journey and, enriched with grace and virtue, may return to their homes filled with salutary and lasting joy."

As we continue our journey through the wilderness (hopefully, not too wild) of Selena's sabbatical, let us also feel the "Spirit of the Camino." Buen Camino (good path)!!

Moderator's Report, by Lisa Kipp

Greetings Kirk! Happy July!

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, I will be leaving the country. We are attending a wedding in Greece, so I will have tales of new walks when I return!

The council wrapped up June with our annual summer social meeting. Since our date lined up with the first Food Truck night, we decided to meet at the church. We had a nice turn out for Food Trucks. Thanks to Beth and Greg Sherry for selling beer and wine.

Our first group walk is (as I write this) coming up on Wednesday, June 24th. We plan to discuss searching for holy moments. We will meet for another Washington Park walk on July 22nd. Please, remember to keep counting your steps! We'll continue to update the bulletin board.

Yours in Service,
Lisa Kipp



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!



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.



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.

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](#).



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. Registration will open July 10. You can register [HERE](#).



Mile Long Table Summer Edition



On August 1, the non-profit Longer Tables is setting a table for 5,280 people from across our city. Folks are invited to come and share a meal with people they don't know as we build relationships and community. Here is how you can get involved!

Volunteer:

Over the past few years, Bill and Eve Harrigan, Ann Karlberg, Vicki Wright, and Elli Wright have all volunteered at tables. To sign up click [HERE](#).

Co-Host

You can be a co-host and invite 8-12 friends to join you at the table. Sign up to co-host [HERE](#) (the cost is \$75). Youth Co-Hosts are those under 18 and are invited to bring 8-12 friends (also under 18) for only \$25; sign up [HERE](#).

Attend

Simply come and meet your neighbors and enjoy a wonderful meal and community event by getting very low-cost tickets [HERE](#).

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!



Capital Campaign Update

Our Story

Happy summer—and happy air conditioning! We hope everyone is enjoying the coolness of our first summer with AC in the sanctuary. Council decided that we would proceed with the other projects only as funds were available. We now have enough to begin the downstairs re-flooring. Greg Sherry is gathering new bids for the asbestos abatement, and we hope to begin work soon. Thanks to everyone who has contributed. Your gifts are making a difference in the life of the church and the comfort and safety of our building!



Social Justice: How We Can Act Together as a Church Community



Many of us are troubled by the injustices affecting our neighbors and communities—and we are asking how our faith can move us from concern to action. The Kirk already responds in meaningful ways: supporting Metro Caring through food donations and bean-and-rice packaging, caring for creation through conservation and education, and standing with the LGBTQIA+ community through Pride and other activities. Still, the needs are many: criminal justice, immigration reform, racism, healthcare, housing, unhoused neighbors, and more.

With Selena's guidance, we are exploring the possibility of creating a new social justice coordinating committee. This team would help focus our congregation's energy, connect people with opportunities, and invite the wider community into action. We are looking for people who feel called to engage in specific areas of justice work to join this team.

If you are interested, please begin by learning more, reflecting on where your passion lies, and considering how you might take the next step. Reach out to Vicki Wright and Ann Karlberg for more information, or explore these resources online:

- **Together Colorado:** [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Revolutionary Love:** [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Interfaith Immigration Coalition:** [CLICK HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE

- **Backpack Blessing:** August 16 during Worship
- **Animal Blessing:** 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 19
- **Women's Retreat:** October 2-4, at La Foret

Kirk Birthdays

2026		JULY					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|----------------|
| 8th | Lyle Davidson | 18th | John Davidson |
| 9th | Elliana Wright | 19th | Paul Kriescher |
| 10th | Sheryl Mitchell | 20th | Emerson Ewell |
| 11th | Eli Johnson | 22nd | Rusty Campos |
| 14th | Rylin Sheehan | 26th | Frank Ross |
| 16th | Carmelo Alcantara | 31st | Elena Salada |
| 18th | Carrie Herring | | |

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