

The Kirk of Bonnie Brae

MARCH 2024



From Your Pastor

Dear Kirk...

As a part of my prayer offered on February 25 I prayed:

For those of every age who are lonely, embolden them to seek out community.

As I wrote and prayed those words, I realized how loneliness and isolation are impacting every generation right now. And while I often think of the church as the antidote to loneliness, I also know there are many in our church who are feeling this isolation as well.

I was talking with one individual a few weeks ago about this, and we wondered together about stepping in more fully to the opportunities at hand - and realized how many chances the Kirk offers to connect. From Game Nights to Kirk's Got Talent, Bible Studies, Theology on Tap, Maundy Thursday services to Easter Morning and a Potluck - there is a lot happening here. If you are feeling like you want to be more connected to people - as you read this newsletter, I encourage you to look at it all with a question mark (as is our Lenten series). What if you went to everything offered this month? What would it change? Who would you get to know better? How might your relationship with God grow? Or what if you tried one new thing? Or what if you reached out to someone you have been wanting to?

Too much of our world feels like a never-ending Lent of wandering in the wilderness alone; maybe this year, Lent can be a time of connecting, communing, and stepping out into what is new together. May we step out and welcome in - as we seek to be the beloved community for one another.

Selena



Connect Online

- For the Sunday Worship livestream click [HERE](#).
- Or you can click the button on the front page of our [WEBSITE](#).
- For DIG, Conversations with Scripture, or other Kirk Zoom meetings, click [HERE](#).

Worship in March

This month as we continue in the season of Lent, we remain in our series: **Question Mark? Asking Jesus' Questions.**

March 3: Mark 8:27-30, "Who do you say that I am?"
A question Jesus is still asking each of us and all of us.

March 10: Mark 8:31-38, "For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?" Navigating between the world's success and God's call on our lives.

March 17: Mark 10:35-45, "What do you want?"

March 24: Palm Sunday! Mark:10:17-22, "Why do you call me good?"

March 31: Easter Sunday! John 20:1-18, "For whom are you looking?"



♥ Tentatively Scheduled Loving Servants

DATE	HOSTS <i>For changes, contact Ellen Campos</i>	COFFEE <i>For changes, contact Lisa Kipp</i>	LAY READER <i>For changes, contact the office</i>
March 3	Bill Harrigan Eve Harrigan	Nina Severns, set up Nina Severns, clean up	Tate Tobey-Davis
March 10	Joe Berry Diane Berry	Lisa Kipp, set up Lisa Kipp, clean up	Beth Sherry
March 17	Greg Sherry Beth Sherry	Beth Sherry, set up Beth Sherry, clean up	Lisa Kipp
March 24	Lee Trujillo-Lopez Ashley Lopez	Elliana Wright, set up Elliana Wright, clean up	Erika Wild
March 31	Ann Karlberg Robert Bowles	Lisa Kipp, set up Lisa Kipp, clean up	Donna Furman

Youth Group in February

Our Youth, grades 6-12, meets Sunday from 6-7:30 p.m. for a meal, check-in, and a time to learn, play and build community! If you would like more details, reach out to Nina Severns for access to the GroupMe app.



March 3: 6-7:30 p.m. Stewarding Our Talents.

March 10: 4 p.m. Kirk's Got Talent – EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

March 17: 6-7:30 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Party – What is a saint?

March 24: 6:00-7:30 p.m. Holy Week.

March 31: Easter – No Youth Group.

We ask that youth bring \$3 for the meal, or they can bring \$20 to last for multiple months of meals so those who prepare the meals can be reimbursed.

Lent & Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Worship at the Kirk, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.

The Kirk will host our sister churches for a Maundy Thursday service to remember when Jesus gathered with his community to break bread during Holy Week. Our choir will sing and we will share communion together. For those worshipping remotely, please have bread, a cup, and a journal with you for this service.

Palm Sunday, March 24

Easter is March 31!

Plan to be with us, bring friends and welcome all who join us on this wonderful day of Celebration! After worship, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for the children, followed by a potluck brunch on the lower level.



Easter Sunday!

As you prepare for Easter, here are some things to remember:

1. Invite friends! Easter is an excellent opportunity to welcome friends and family to church with you! Invite them for the Easter Egg Hunt if they have children, and make plans to stay for the brunch afterward.
2. Please arrive early and be prepared to welcome our guests!
3. Bring a nut-free food item to share. We will have a potluck after church and want to have enough to feed all visitors as well!
4. If you are able, park on the street to allow space for visitors to park in the parking lot.
5. Prepare your spirit for the Joy of Easter by attending the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 p.m. at the Kirk.

All Church Game Night & Baked Potato Bar March 2, 5-7 p.m.

Come join your church family in a fun night of food and games. We will have a baked potato bar and our own version of everybody's favorite game, Jeopardy!

The goal is simply to have fun! See you on the Lower Level on Saturday, March 2 at 5 p.m. Game On!



Beans & Rice Service Project

On Sunday, April 28, as we welcome our sister churches into worship, so too we are welcoming them into service. Immediately following worship, we will jump into dividing up beans and rice into family-sized servings to be distributed by Metro Caring. Please bring in your bulk donations now through April 28 and plan to stay for this intergenerational and inter-church service project.



Supporting Our Children's Ministry: Summer Volunteers Needed



We are seeking volunteers to lead our Children's Church during worship (beginning after the children's moment until the end of the service) while Jackie is away. The curriculum will be provided to you well in advance for your day. Please sign up [HERE](#).

Coffee & Community

Each Sunday, a volunteer arrives early, makes coffee (following set instructions posted in the basement kitchen), 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! We are looking for volunteers for the Spring. You can sign-up for both roles (set-up and/or clean-up) [HERE](#).



One Great Hour of Sharing



**OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 10, 2024**

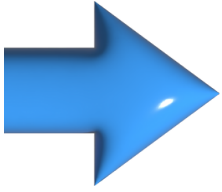
This United Church of Christ Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within Wider Church Ministries carrying God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. Holistic security for entire communities is one way your giving hands will never come back empty. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share!

"So let us not grow weary of doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all." - Galatians 6:9-10.

You can give on March 10 during our offering, or on our website in the [DONATE](#) section.

Do You Love Children?



Please consider attending the workshop on March 3 after worship. Ann Karlberg and Cam Short-Camilli are both social workers who will be sharing some of their knowledge about identifying concerns for a child. ALL grandparents, uncles, aunts, neighbors of children, volunteers with children or just involved citizens should have this knowledge. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone!

The Easter Bunny needs your help!

Every year, the Kirk family generously provides an abundant egg hunt for our kids! Please bring your donations of individually wrapped, NON-NUT candy no later than March 24. You can also bring pencils, bookmarks, seeds, small toys and books. Get creative!



Let's dance!

Jackie and Larry Augustyn are taking a group to the Mercury Café on March 17 from 6:30-8 p.m. for swing dance lessons! The cost is \$18 for the lesson and social dance afterward. Call if you are interested in coming along! Or meet us there!

Palm Sunday, March 24, Children's procession

All kids are invited and encouraged to gather in the entryway at 9:50 a.m. so they can participate in the Palm procession.



Help needed on March 24!

Please come to the lower level after worship on March 24 and help us stuff the eggs for the kids! We need lots of hands!

Easter and Egg Hunt, March 31!

Youth are needed to hide eggs at 9 a.m. and we would also deeply appreciate youth help during the egg hunt after worship! All children should bring their Easter baskets for the egg hunt after worship. Parents, please keep your children at the door until everyone is ready to start.



2nd-5th Grade Kids: Party at Jackie's House!

On Sunday, March 24, from 6-7:30 p.m. we will provide supper and a fun time to connect! Bring your favorite game to play! If the weather permits we can play outside. We are meeting during youth group time at the church so parents can drop off at the same time if they have youth too. Please RSVP by March 17 so we can buy food. We live a few minutes from the church building at **2670 S. Jersey Street, Denver, CO 80222**.

Feel free to call Jackie with any questions: 720-235-2209

Kirk's Got Talent! March 10 at 4 p.m.

Four years ago, we looked around and realized how many talented people we have at the Kirk. Children, youth and adults alike! Over these years, we Kirk folks have told jokes, danced, sang, shared science projects, taught how to take a great photo, witnessed the gifts of a worldwide Ken Ken champion, and tasted delights from our bakers, to name only a few. This year will not disappoint!

Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to share your gifts and also get your tickets. 100% of the proceeds will support our youth and children attending church camp and our service-learning trip on Eco-Justice this summer. Tickets are on sale now before and after church.



Tithe Your TABOR!

After we file our Colorado income tax returns this year, we will each receive an \$800 TABOR refund (\$1600 per couple). If we each donate 10% of our refund, we can erase most of this year's one-time budget deficit! This can be donated by clicking [HERE](#) or by a paper check. Thank you for considering this!

Email Action Alerts

As a part of our commitment to Social Justice, we offer Action Alerts to notify you when you can act on Colorado legislation or other events that need the community's support. These notifications will be forwarded from our Justice Partners: Together Colorado, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado and Colorado Faith Communities Against Gun Violence.

Sign-up for Action Alerts on Green Justice, Racial Justice or All Justice alerts. Please use the sign-up sheet as you enter the church or notify the office if you would like to be added to these lists.



Feeding our Neighbors

On the third Sunday of every month, the Kirk Mission Team will put out grocery bags with a list of what Metro Caring needs. We ask that you return these bags the last week of the month when people especially need food. We are going to try to make this a monthly thing - so look for the bags, grab one, fill it up and bring it back! One more way to love our neighbors!



Sunday, March 17, at 4 pm

Engaging God happens in worship and also over a meal or drink. Each month, we meet with members of Sixth Avenue UCC for a casual conversation about theology. We will gather on St. Patrick's Day at the Table Public House located at **2190 S Platte River Dr.** All are welcome!

DIG Deeper into Faith Faith Formation Sundays at 9 a.m.

Each Sunday at 9 a.m. we have an opportunity to dig deeper into our faith, our understanding of scripture and our relationship with one another.

In the lower level, children ages 3-17 are invited to dig into issues of Jesus and justice and how they relate to their faith with two classes, divided by age.

Adults will begin to read "**Tell Her Story: How Women Led, Taught and Ministered in the Early Church**" by Nijay Gupta. Adults meet in the Welcome Center and on **Zoom**. All are welcome to DIG in with us! Adult Discussions will focus on:

- **March 3:** Introduction: Hidden Figures
- **March 10:** Deborah: Prophet, Judge, Mother over Israel
- **March 17:** Going Back to the Beginning: Genesis 1-3
- **March 24:** Women in the New Testament World
- **March 31:** *Easter Sunday, No DIG*



Conversations with Scripture

Each Tuesday, a small group gathers in the Kirk office and online at 1 p.m. to engage with each other and scripture. We are currently studying THE beginning, the book of Genesis.

All are welcome! Connect on Zoom [HERE](#).



- **March 5:** Lesson 3 - Adam & Eve, Genesis 3:1-24
- **March 12:** Lesson 4 - Cain & Abel, Genesis 4:1-15
- **March 19:** Lesson 5 - Noah, Genesis 6:5-22; 9:8-17
- **March 26:** Lesson 6 - The Tower (and Town) of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9

Teddy Bear Clinic

Hope & Home's Teddy Bear Clinic is designed to help foster children create positive associations with doctors, nurses and medical professionals. Each child is invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal to Hope & Home for their "annual checkup." Real doctors and nurses from the community volunteer their time to perform various procedures including eye exams, listening for a heartbeat, x-rays, stitches, surgery, and more. By the time kids leave the Teddy Bear Clinic, they have a cute bandage on their friend, a positive experience with doctors and, sometimes, a desire to become a medical professional themselves one day. This year, the Teddy Bear Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Kirk. If anyone is interested, please contact Taylor at THeinke@hopeandhome.org or (303)-565-8655.



Meet our Mission Partners from El Salvador!



On April 28, we will welcome Guillermo and Alvaro, our Salvadoran mission partners, to the Kirk! They will be in Colorado to share news of our friends in Las Trincheras and to tell us of plans for the next service-learning trip to the village this summer. They are eager to meet the Kirk community! After worship on the 28th (and our Beans & Rice service project) we invite everyone to stay for a Salvadoran pupusa lunch and to hear a brief presentation from our guests. If you are considering participating in the trip this summer, this will be an excellent opportunity to talk to our partners and learn more! All are welcome!

Summer Church Camp

Registration is open for UCC Church Camps this summer, July 7-13 for those entering grades 2-6, and July 14-20 for those entering grades 6-12. We are committed to ensuring every child who wants to go, can. This year, kids interested in camp will participate in Kirk's Got Talent as a camp fundraiser on March 10! Registration is now open, you can click [HERE](#).



Moderator's Report: A New Kirk Year, A New Kirk Council. By Donna Furman

This is an unusual year for the Kirk Council in that we have five new members: Dave Howard, Erica Thompson, Jennifer Smith, Sharon Snyder, and Diane Berry (Clerk). Returning members are Bill Harrigan and Heather Goetsch (members at large), Ellen Campos (Treasurer), Selena Wright, Cam Short-Camilli (Vice Moderator) and Donna Furman (Moderator).



A shout-out and HUGE thank you to retiring Council members Mark Dutell, Robert Bowles, Joe Berry and Leigh Plue. We know you must be glad to have your third Tuesday nights back, but we're grateful for your service and all you contributed. We miss you.

We held our first meeting of the year in person at the Kirk on Tuesday, February 20. It was primarily an orientation session. It's not strictly official Kirk business, but it's worth noting that Pastor Selena made a delicious casserole for the group – so even though she says she can't cook, yes, she can! Thanks, too, to Cam for the salad.

In administrative business, we acted on a request from the Green Justice Committee.

Green Justice Committee's Solar Grant

The Green Justice Committee is submitting a grant proposal requesting funding to allow us to purchase the solar panels we currently lease and install new ones. This would enable the Kirk to generate 100% of our electricity usage. The granting agency requests that groups seeking money for solar demonstrate their commitment by pledging a significant amount of their own money. The Committee requested \$10,000. Council recognizes that increasing our use of solar power is consistent with our mission and the right thing to do. We also, though, have a commitment to sound financial stewardship and maintaining our capital reserves.

The request was approved with two stipulations: (1) that the grant be fully funded (if it's funded at a lower rate, Council will revisit the expenditure), and (2) that the money be withdrawn from the Abernathy Fund as a loan to ourselves which will be paid back from the savings that we realize. We anticipate a payback period of about 3 years to replenish the fund. We also want to point out that we won't spend the money if we don't get the grant.

In the recognition portion of the meeting, Cam thanked Sharon Snyder for the superb job she's done organizing the blood drives. They continue to be successful. Not only do they save lives, but they also give both Kirk members and our community a way to serve. She also recognized our new Council members for making the commitment of their time and resources.

Other Business

In case you haven't heard, Greg Sherry has stepped in as the new Chair of the Property Committee. If you have concerns or questions about the building or see something that needs fixing, please let Greg know.

We're going to start a new marketing initiative very soon. If you'd like to be a part of it – or you have ideas on how we can reach more people – talk to Donna or Selena.

Yours in Service,

Donna Furman / Council Moderator

KIRK of
BONNIE BRAE

Free Ways 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](#).



It takes a village to clean a village; time for our all-church Spring clean!

Please join us on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In case of inclement weather, we will move this event to the following Saturday.



- April 28: Joint Worship @ Kirk, and Beans & Rice
- June 16-21 Service-Learning Trip
- June 23 Pride Sunday
- August 4 Joint UCC Worship with UCC General Minister and President at First Plymouth UCC
- October 4-6 Women's Retreat at La Foret

Kirk March Birthdays

4th Peggy Strick	19th Nathan Trudel-Brady
7th Gerald Mahan	23rd Evelyn McClearn
8th Sharon Snyder	26th Irene Herring
11th Charley Flyr	28th Ada Lekan
11th Robert Bowles	29th Bret Plue
16th Tim Ward	29th Michael Brindle
19th Chris Smith	



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