

THE KIRK of Bonnie Brae March 2026

From Your Pastor

Dear Kirk,

We have entered into our Lenten season focused on our theme, "Tell Me Something Good." If you missed the first Sunday of Lent, our message offered an introduction to this different way to engage in the 40 days of this spiritually intense season. You can watch that sermon [HERE](#).

Usually, in Lent we think about emptiness, all that Jesus had to go without in the wilderness, but this year it feels too familiar. I heard someone say, "It just doesn't seem that there's enough good for God to work with right now." But that is about what we are seeing, not about the state of the world, nor about God.

And so, in this season, we are going to ask, "Tell me something good," and respond with our good things. In just the first Sunday of a prayer station that will grow over the next 6 weeks, we began writing down our good news and the cross now holds our good news, both big and small.

A few already shared:

"My marriage is strong and full of love"

"The sun comes up every morning"

"REMISSION"

"My mother is starting a new job"

"I have the best friends ever"

"The Kirk is the best loving place"

"Full ride to my dream college"

"Grace is freely given and shared"



Reading these reminds me that this season is not about being empty but seeing the good around us, within us, beside us and beyond us. I hope you will engage this Lenten season fully as we name and hear and share a whole lot of "somethin's good!"

Blessings,

Selena



Beans & Lentils Service Project This Sunday, March 1

Join us this Sunday after worship as we lovingly scoop 1000 lbs. of lentils and beans into smaller bags for Metro Caring to help our food-insecure neighbors. If you would like to make a financial donation toward this, please send a check to the office (write "Beans" in the memo section) or pay online in the Donate section of our website [HERE](#). We ask everyone to plan to stay after worship, as there is a job for every ability, and many hands make light work!

Lent at the Kirk

March 1: The Good News is - Great Love for God and Neighbor, Luke 7:36-50

On this second Sunday of Lent, we continue our series "Tell Me Something Good" by hearing the story of love poured out by the woman with the Alabaster jar, and considering what it means for us to love God and neighbor with extravagance.

March 8: The Good News is - Together the Impossible is Possible, Mark 6:32-44

On this Sunday, we will hear the familiar story of the feeding of the 5000 and celebrate how networks of collective care guide us in responding to needs in our community. (*Also remember to spring forward an hour!*)

March 15: The Good News is - Protection and Care for the Vulnerable, Matthew 19:13-15; Deuteronomy 24:17-22

All of us have been vulnerable in our lives, needing the support of others and of our faith. How can we learn from our own experiences as we are called to extend good news in the world?

March 22: The Good News is - Rooted in Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness, John 8:2-11

Jesus wrestles with unjust laws and condemns no one, leading us to find our own grounding and accountability in mercy and faith.

March 29: The Good News is - Inspiring Us to Act

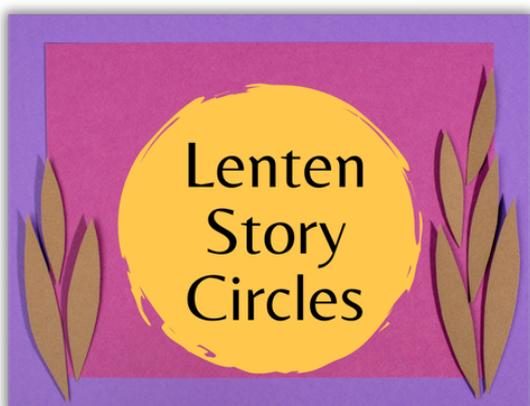
Through songs of faith and resistance, we will celebrate this Palm Sunday with music and stories of love, hope and resistance. Children Plan to arrive at 9:45 a.m. to prepare to participate in our Palm Sunday Parade!



April 2, Maundy Thursday Worship at Washington Park UCC at their new location!

[7150 Montview Blvd, Denver, CO 80220](#). Their sanctuary is located in the "Bookstore" of the Mosaic Community Campus in Park Hill. Free parking is available a block away at 17th & Quebec. They are having a casual time of snacks and community at 5:30 p.m., and then worship at 6:30 p.m.

April 5, Easter Sunday! 10:00 a.m. Celebratory Worship followed by Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck! Invite friends and family to join us in worship as we celebrate the promise that fear nor hate nor death will have the last word in God's world. Our Worship will include music and a message; we will cover the cross with flowers, and we will hear the good news of the resurrection. Following worship, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for our children and a Potluck lunch for everyone. Please bring a dish to share, with a note to go with it listing ingredients for those with dietary restrictions.



Wednesdays During Lent

We will meet in the Lower Level from 6:30-8p.m. on March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 to share stories and find connections with Jesus' life stories.

If you would like to participate but this time doesn't work for you, please let Selena know, as a second time might be scheduled.

♥ 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>
March 1	Ann Karlberg & Robert Bowles	Erica Thompson	Tim Ward
March 8	Greg & Beth Sherry	Elli Wright	Mikki Bowles
March 15	Joe & Diane Berry	Beth Sherry	Beth Sherry
March 22	Bill & Eve Harrigan	Patty Hummert	Erica Thompson
March 29	Jeannie Mitchell & Sharon Snyder	Erica Thompson	Riss Kostelnick



Coffee & Community

Thanks to a generous gift, we have a new, simple to use Coffee Maker! 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. We are looking for sign-ups for the spring! You can sign up [HERE](#).

Children's Ministry Update

We are 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:

- **March 1:** Laura Tobey-Davis, Jesus and the Children, #32
- **March 8:** Wyndol Furman, Jesus and Bartimaeus, #33
- **March 15:** Eva Gebel, Jesus and Zacchaeus #34
- **March 22:** Eva Gebel, Jesus the King #35
- **March 29:** Eva Gebel, Jesus' Last Passover #36



Faith Formation Team - We Need You!



On **Sunday, March 29**, our Faith Formation Team will meet after worship. This team is growing in responsibility as we guide the Kirk's children's ministry. We will be looking back over our year of Volunteers leading the StoryRoom and looking toward the year ahead. If you are interested in helping the Kirk support our ministry to children and youth, please plan to come!

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](#).



Youth Ministry Happenings



Confirmation

We have seven youth currently on the journey of confirmation: Lyle, Nathan, Emerson, Ila, Tate, Elena, and Jojo. Our Confirmands will meet:

- **March 1**, 6-7:30 p.m. The Issue of Power
- **March 22**, 6-7:30 p.m. Confirmation – Heretics and Faith Ancestors
- **April 3**, 6-8:30 p.m. Good Friday and Sacraments – with Mentors (dinner served)

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](#).



- **March 1**: Dinner, check-in and focus on Issues of Power
- **March 8**: Kirk's Got Talent – Youth need to arrive at 3:15 p.m.
- **March 15**: *No Youth Group – RMC Spring Retreat*
- **March 22**: Dinner, Check-In and focus on Faith and Food
- **March 29**: Dinner, check-in and focus on Holy Week

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 is open; you can click [HERE](#). The Kirk covers \$100 for each participant. Reach out to Selena to request payment to La Foret. Registration closes March 2.

Summer Church Camps at La Foret

Church Camp is a life-changing experience of nature and beloved community. The Kirk is committed to contributing \$325 per child/youth to help with the camp fees from our Kirk's Got Talent fundraiser, as well as from the generous donations of those who have gone before us. If you need additional financial assistance, contact Selena. We are committed to ensure every child who wants to attend, is able. Registration is open, please click [HERE](#).



- **Explorer Camp** is July 5-11 for those entering grades 3-6
- **Voyager Faith and Science Camp** is July 12-18 for those entering grades 6-8
- **MADD (Music Arts Dance Drama) Camp** is July 12-18 for those entering grades 9-12

Youth Mission Trip to El Salvador Update

After a lot of thoughtful discernment and conversation, we want to share an update about our youth mission trip to El Salvador. We have decided to **postpone the trip for one year**.

This was not an easy decision. As we worked through schedules and availability, it became clear that—despite strong interest—**we simply didn't have enough youth able to commit to the trip this year due to scheduling conflicts**.

Rather than push forward without the group size and preparation we believe this experience deserves, we felt the wisest path was to pause, regroup, and plan well.

The good news is that we are **still moving forward with this trip**. Our current plan is to head to El Salvador in **2027**, and we're also excited to share that we intend to **expand the opportunity beyond Kirk youth**—inviting youth from across the **Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ** to participate. We believe this will strengthen the experience, broaden the community of learning and service, and help ensure a solid group is ready to go.

We also want to say, very clearly: **THANK YOU!** We are deeply grateful for every donation, every fundraising effort, and every person who has supported this trip so far. **All funds that were raised will remain in place and be applied to the 2027 trip.**

And we want to clarify one additional point: **fundraising through the Green Justice and Mission Teams during the holidays will still support the house project in El Salvador**—the work our trip will help with when we travel there.

Finally, in lieu of this year's international trip, we're excited to share that **we will be hosting a three-day, hyper-local mission immersion opportunity for the youth of Kirk this summer**. More details will be coming soon, and we hope this will be a meaningful way for our youth to serve, learn, and build community close to home.

Thank you for your continued encouragement, generosity, and prayers as we continue to build this partnership and prepare for the meaningful opportunities ahead. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out—we'd love to share more.

With gratitude,
Corbin and Laura Tobey-Davis, Trip Leaders
Selena Wright

Youth Group Meals



We are looking for volunteers to provide dinner for our weekly youth group! We usually feed 22 people and need an option for 4 vegetarians. (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!](#)

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



One thing we know to be true about the people of the Kirk is that we are talented and we like to have fun together! It is time for our 6th Annual Kirk's Got Talent show! 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 world-wide Ken Ken champion, and tasted the baking delights of others, 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 proceeds will support our youth and children attending church camp!

Pizza & Game Night!

Kirk's JBT group will have a Pizza & Game Night on Saturday, **March 14th**, at 5:30 p.m. in the church's Lower Level, hosted by Linda and Barclay Davis. Attendees are asked to contribute \$5 per person toward the cost of pizza (vegan options will be available) and to bring their own beverages and favorite board games, while Linda and Barclay will provide salad and brownies. Guests are asked to RSVP to Linda's cell (303-589-8971) or email lindagdavis@juno.com to help us determine the amount of pizza needed. We hope you will join us!

JUST BEING TOGETHER!
J.B.T. (SENIORS' GROUP)

One Great Hour of Sharing, March 15



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. Your donations help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities. During our offering on March 15, you can drop a check in the basket, and please write OGHS in the memo. Or you can donate on our website [HERE](#).

A YEAR OF RESILIENCE: Lunch, Film Screening & Conversation

The Green Justice Team invites the Kirk to gather downstairs **after worship on March 15** to enjoy lunch and watch the film called "Inhabitants: Indigenous Perspectives on Restoring Our World." We have much to learn from our indigenous neighbors about stewardship, sustainability, adaptation and resilience, especially in the face of climate change. This documentary will broaden our perspectives and inspire hope. Watch the trailer [HERE](#). The Green Justice Team will provide a delicious lunch of rice and bean dishes with a Native American flair. Come and enjoy free food, delightful company and a thoughtful conversation. (A second screening of this film will be hosted on March 21 by Selena for the Faithful Adulting group.)



Easter Flowers or 'Flour'

The Kirk offers a tradition of purchasing Easter Flowers (lilies) that will decorate our sanctuary on Easter morning, or buying 'Flour' to feed food-insecure neighbors through Metro Caring. All orders can be placed in memory or in honor of a loved one. If you would like to place an order, please use [THIS FORM](#) by March 29. Orders are \$15 each, and you can pay in the form or leave a check in the church office. Let's all make a bouquet of love!



The Easter Bunny Needs Your Help!



Every year, the Kirk family generously provides an abundant egg hunt for our kiddos! Please bring your donations of individually wrapped candy no later than Sunday, March 29. You can also bring pencils, bookmarks, seeds, small toys and books. Feel free to get creative!

Sabbatical Team Update

In Rev. Selena's contract, she is given a 12-week sabbatical every 5 years. This summer, she will be taking her second sabbatical as our pastor. She will be away from her ministry obligations at the Kirk from June 8 to August 31. During this time, she will rest, spend time with her family, explore her theme of "Walking toward Wisdom" in a variety of ways, spend a week in the Iona Abbey in Scotland, and visit several other "Kirks" (what they call churches in Scotland).



At the Kirk, we will be engaging in the same theme as we walk together, lead each other, pray for and with one another.

Our summer preachers include the four ordained clergy at the Kirk: Rev. Corbin Tobey-Davis, Rev. Lee Zortman, Rev. John Davidson and Rev. David Zortman. We'll also have a few guest preachers, including our own Donna Furman, Rev. Chris Gilmore and Rev. Scott Hardin-Neiri (who works in faith-based Climate response and with Selena in Bethany Fellows).

We are currently recruiting Care-Team Leads to keep folks connected to the church and to offer support and prayer as needed during this time.

Finally, we are organizing walks that will take place throughout the summer. We will walk as Selena does and, together, listen to God and each other's wisdom as we move.

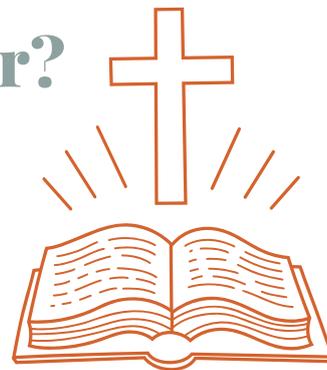
If you have questions, ideas, would like to volunteer to lead a Care-Team, write a reflection on walking for the newsletter over the summer, lead our PRIDE engagement or support in other ways, please reach out to us.

The Sabbatical Planning Team

Donna Furman, Lisa Kipp, Cam Short-Camilli, Emily Snow, Sharon Snyder, Rev. Selena Wright

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.



DIG Deeper

Faith Formation Hour



Each Sunday at 9:00 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 his 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:

- **March 1:** Chapter 5, Foot Washing, John 12 & 13
- **March 8:** Chapter 6, Mary Magdalene and Doubting Thomas, John 20
- **March 15:** Epilogue, Breakfast with Jesus
- **March 22:** Part 1 Discussion of [NYTimes Article Reclaim Christianity for the Left](#)
- **March 29:** Part 2 Discussion of [NYTimes Article Reclaim Christianity for the Left](#)

Children ages 6-17 are invited to dig into the Bible with Rev. Davidson on Sunday, March 1 and 22, 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!



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 Denver7 News ([CLICK HERE](#)), 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! A link to register your items will be included in April's newsletter.



Sign Up for Action Alerts



As 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 to advance Social Justice. These notifications will be forwarded from our Justice Partners: Together Colorado, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado and Colorado Faith Communities Against Gun Violence. Please see the sign-up sheet when you enter the church, or notify the office if you would like to be added to these lists. Actions range from sending emails to legislators to invitations to testify at rallies or participate in other events.

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 all 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](#).

Moderator's Report, by Lisa Kipp

On Tuesday, February 17, we kicked off our new 2026 Council session! We met in person to enjoy a delicious dinner and get to know each other a little better. Thank you to Emily for the great questions for our Kirk Council Speed Dating session!! We shared an orientation on what Council does, and how it all works. Hopefully, this was helpful for all!

We were having fun, but also got right to work. As we strive, as a Council to be both effective and transparent, this report will serve as an announcement to the congregation of a change to the 2026 accepted budget:



Council was notified after the annual meeting of a clerical error in the budget that did not show the full amount of pay raises for our Office Manager and our Custodian. The congregation approved of these increases, just not the full amount. The difference is a total of \$1,178 added to the 2026 budget. Council discussed whether this was a change that required a full congregational vote or could be decided by Council. John Davidson checked the bylaws and advised that Council (and Selena) have the authority to approve limited budget changes. In addition, the full amount of the pay increases had been approved by Council at our January meeting.

Therefore, Council moved to amend the 2026 budget to reflect the correct pay increases and unanimously approved the amendment. A second motion (unanimously approved) was that this report would act as official notification of the budget change to the congregation. If anyone requests a link to the updated budget, please contact Selena or our Treasurer, Cindy Tormohlen.

In closing, a great, big thank you to Robert and Mikki Bowles for a generous gift of a new coffee maker!! I assume it's bright and shiny; it was still in a big box when I saw it. Riss was anxious to see how it works. Sounds like a great opportunity for new coffee volunteers!!

Yours in Service,

Lisa Kipp

KIRK of
BONNIE BRAE

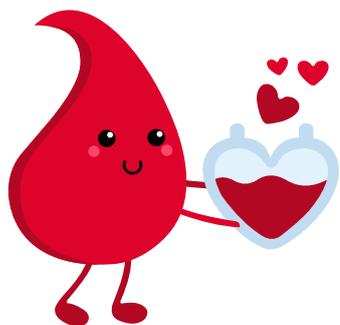
Connect Online



- 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!





Vitalant Blood Drive

We are hosting our next Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 25, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Narthex. To schedule an appointment, call 303.363.2300. Or you can click [HERE](#) to go straight to the schedule!

Hope & Home Teddy Bear Clinic, April 11

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.



- Youth Sunday, May 17
- Confirmation Sunday, May 31
- Pride Sunday: June 28
- All UCC Combined Worship: July 26
- Animal Blessing: 10 a.m. Saturday, September 19
- Women's Retreat: October 2-4, at La Foret

Kirk Birthdays

4th Peggy Strick
 7th Gerald Mahan
 8th Sharon Snyder
 11th Robert Bowles
 16th Tim Ward
 19th Chris Smith
 19th Nathan Trudel-Brady

23rd Evelyn McClearn
 26th Erika Wild
 26th Irene Herring
 28th Ada Lekan
 29th Bret Plue
 29th Michael Brindle



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