

# THE KIRK of Bonnie Brae

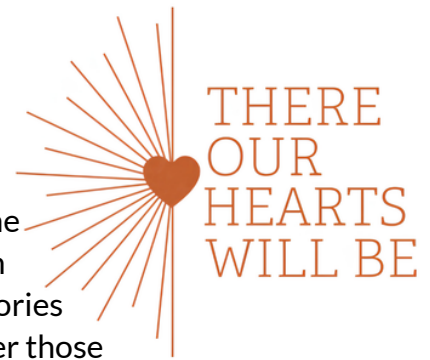
October 2026



## From Your Pastor

Dear Kirk,

This is my first newsletter article since returning from Sabbatical this summer. First of all, I want to say THANK YOU! Thank you for giving me this time to deepen my relationships with my family, with God and with creation! My time was a gift to me as it was for you. I have heard the stories and watched the sermons. The ministry that was shared at the Kirk over those 12 weeks was thoughtful, faithful, bold and loving. Thank you to Lisa and Emily and all of Council, thank you to Greg and Donna and all the Property Team, thank you to my Sabbatical Team, thank you to our Care Team leads, and thank you to our wonderful and wise in-house preachers: Donna, Corbin, David, Lee, Riss and John! So many people enacted our call to “be the church!”



So, it feels appropriate that the theme for our 2027 Stewardship Campaign is “There Our Hearts Will Be,” quoting Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” This is not just a time to raise funds for our ministry next year; it is also a time to affirm that our mission and ministry matter to us and our community. This is an opportunity to intentionally align actions and intentions, faith and practice.

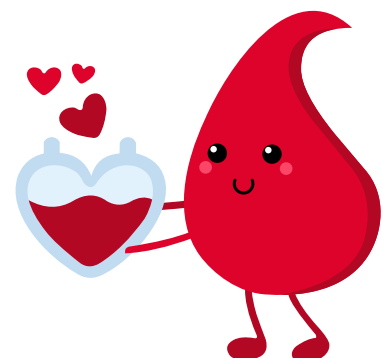
As part of our celebration when we make our pledges on October 25, we will also bless a new banner to replace our current banner that was attacked this summer. (Also recognizing the Kirk’s 12<sup>th</sup> Open and Affirming Anniversary!) The Kirk knows our heart is faithful, bold in love and unrelenting in seeking a just world for all – and we will continue to proclaim the good news of God’s love, no matter how many banners are destroyed. God’s love will always have the last word.

With Gratitude, Joy and Love,

*Selena*

## Vitalant Blood Drive

We are hosting our next Blood Drive on Wednesday, **October 7**, 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!



# Worship in October

## October 4: World Communion Sunday, Isaiah 25:6-9

Some years we focus on the communion aspect of this day, this year we will focus on the world. What does it mean to be at the table with the world, to recognize our connectedness and to love our neighbors whom we may never meet?

## October 11: There Your Hearts May Be Also, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

As we begin our Stewardship focus for 2027, we will step into this text asking what Jesus means by treasure and what he means by heart, and how the two relate to who we are and how we exist in the world.

## October 18: With All Your Heart, Proverbs 3:1-12

Too often, living a good life focuses on accumulating wealth and goods. Proverbs (and Jesus) teach that a good life is much more than collecting money and things. A good life is lived in a trusting and faithful relationship with God, who blesses us with meaning, purpose and authentic and deep relationships. We will explore the choices we make and what we mean when we seek this good life that God has for us.

## October 25: You Know the Way, John 14:1-14 – Celebration Sunday!

We will celebrate the way of God and our community as we make our pledges together for 2027, and celebrate our 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an Open and Affirming Congregation by blessing a new banner to be hung outside! See page 5 for more details about the day.

## November 1: All Saints Sunday, I John 3:1-3

This text reminds us we are all children of God. As we hold grief and memory and hope together, we ask: What comfort is offered in our connection to God in and beyond this life?



## Tentatively Scheduled Loving Servants

| DATE       | HOSTS<br><small>For changes, contact Ellen Campos</small> | COFFEE<br><small>For changes, contact Erica Thompson</small> | LAY READER<br><small>For changes, contact the office</small> |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 4  | Greg Sherry & Robert Bowles                               | (available)                                                  | Julia Tobey-Davis                                            |
| October 11 | Bill & Eve Harrigan                                       | Beth Sherry                                                  | Rev. John Davidson                                           |
| October 18 | Don Zimmerman & Patty Hummert                             | (available)                                                  | Erica Thompson                                               |
| October 25 | Jeannie Mitchell & Sharon Snyder                          | Patty Hummert                                                | Emily Snow                                                   |

## Connect Online



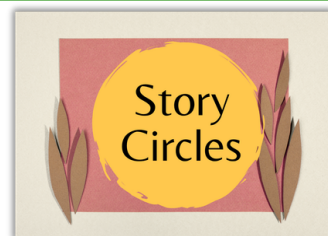
- Click [HERE](#) for Worship livestreams.
- Click [HERE](#) for DIG / Story Circles, Conversations with Scripture and other ZOOM meetings.

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!



## Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.

In 2025, the Kirk was invited to participate in the Austin Story Project, a pilot program merging storytelling, contemplative practices and stories of Jesus. We are currently running our third circle, and all are welcome to participate! Each week we will be given a question, something like “Tell a story about a meal that felt sacred or important to you.” Each person will share their story, and then we will hear Jesus’ story alongside it. It has been a beautiful way to fulfill our mission of pursuing depth with God and community!



**October 4:** *No Gathering due to Women's Retreat*

**October 11:** Theme of Wilderness

**October 18:** Theme of Compassion

**October 25:** Theme of Resistance

## Kirk Children's Ministry



Every Sunday, when our children ages 3-10 leave after the children's moment, they are accompanied down into the Children's Area for a time of worship, story and wonder. We have a group of trained, faithful and loving adults who rotate in leading the StoryRoom. We are so grateful for our volunteers and the offerings they share with our children!

**October 4:** Laura Tobey-Davis, Story #10, Exodus

**October 11:** Laura Tobey-Davis, Story #11, The Ten Best Ways to Live

**October 18:** Heather Goetsch, Story of Jacob

**October 25:** Heather Goetsch, Story of Ruth

## Youth Group!

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

**October 4:** What is your calling?

**October 11:** Enacting Leadership, youth-led discussion.

**October 16-18:** RMC Fall Retreat, no Sunday night gathering.

**October 25:** Lakewood UCC youth will be coming to the Kirk for games and community!



## Youth Group Meals



This year we are looking for volunteers to provide dinner for our weekly youth group! We usually feed 15 people and need an option for 2 who don't eat red meat. (Not all meals 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 youth can engage in their meeting. We eat promptly at 6:00 p.m., and cleanup is at 6:30 p.m. To volunteer for a meal, please sign up [HERE](#).

# Register Now for the Fall Youth Retreat!



The weekend of October 16-18, middle and high school students are invited to a retreat at La Foret. Camps and retreats are an important opportunity for students to experience worship, belonging, and meaning-making in a radically different community setting with youth & leaders from across the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Our theme for this retreat is "Rooted." Inspired by [Ephesians 3:17](#), youth will be invited to reflect on the places, practices, and memories that help them to feel rooted and grounded in love. **Registration will close in just a few days on October 5, click [HERE](#)!** The Kirk can pay

\$100 of the registration fee for active Kirk youth. Please reach out to Rev. Selena for more information.

## UCC Special Offering

**Walk in love, as Christ loved us, Ephesians 5:2  
Advocating for Change**



**Neighbors  
in Need**

In 1999, General Synod affirmed four Special Mission Offerings for the United Church of Christ. Out of the four, the Neighbors in Need offering was highlighted as the offering for justice and compassion. The offering was tasked with helping the church "advocate for a society where all people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives." Today, this legacy continues as we follow the offering's mandate to create justice not only through direct aid, but also by advocating for change. These advocacy efforts take place in partnership with the Washington, D.C. Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, the Education for Faithful Action Team, and recipients of the Neighbors in Need grants. Together, folks across the UCC work together to affect policy change guided by our faith.

When you give to Neighbors in Need, you help ensure the United Church of Christ continues to lead in justice. Two-thirds of the offering supports justice projects across the church, and one-third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries. Thank you for your gifts!

We are collecting the Neighbors In Need offering on **Sunday, October 4**, during worship. You can also make a gift on our website [HERE](#).



## Kirk Bell Choir

Our Kirk Bell Choir is regathering as we prepare for the holidays, and all are welcome regardless of experience! We will practice after worship on the following Sundays:  
**October 18**  
**November 8, 15, and 29**  
**December 6**

## Coffee Volunteers Needed

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 could really use some more volunteers, don't be shy, you can sign up [HERE](#)!



# Invitation to Join Our Team!



We want to include everyone interested in joining the newly formed Kirk Social Justice Committee! Most meetings will be on Zoom, but our first meeting will be in person so we can introduce ourselves, share our passions, and discuss how we can organize and lead the church's social justice efforts. We've scheduled this after-church meeting on **October 11** with a little lunch, a sitter for the kids, and a promise not to run too long.

Several Kirk members already connect with organizations like Together Colorado and Interfaith Immigration Network on issues such as healthcare, immigration, housing, and more. While we already participate in events like the Pride march, Green Justice, and food security efforts, many of us aren't sure how to make our advocacy more impactful.

Suggestions include making signs for the No-Kings March on October 17, writing thank-you notes to justice advocates, participating in demonstrations against ICE policies, or watching films about crossing community divides. We would welcome your ideas and inspirations to enrich our team!

## Social Justice Event: Sign Making

Bring a poster, an appetizer to share and a spirit of hope for a better world as we gather at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, **October 16**, to make signs for the No Kings protest the next morning. All are welcome, this is a great time to invite friends as well!



## Open and Affirming Celebration Lunch



**October 19** will be the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kirk's unanimous vote to become an Open and Affirming (OnA) Congregation and to adopt our OnA Statement. To recognize this occasion and to be playful, our own Greg Cooke dreamed up a plan that we share in an LGBT (better known as a BLT with Guac) sandwich party! We will bless our new banner in worship, then share a fun, celebratory meal together. If you would like to help with the lunch, please contact Rev. John Davidson.

## Trans Support Event

[Highlands Church](#) invites the Denver community to "Do the Next Loving Thing," a series centered on listening to stories with compassion and care. On Friday, **October 16**, Chicago-based trans elder and artist Allie n Steve Mullen will present a free narrative concert! Join us beforehand for drinks and light appetizers, followed by a short Q&A. Also, on Sunday, **October 18** at 12:00 pm, gather for a free catered lunch featuring short Mullen snippets, guided reflection, and conversation. Both events welcome Denver-area neighbors and offer space to listen, deepen empathy, and celebrate the uniqueness trans people bring to our community. RSVP and learn more by clicking [HERE](#)! To download a shareable flyer, click [HERE](#).



## Free Local Repair Cafe: October 10

Four churches in the Metro Denver area are again collaborating to host the Helping Hands Repair Café, a free “fix it-don’t throw it” event on Saturday, October 10, from 12:00-3:30 p.m. at First Plymouth Congregational Church, [3501 S. Colorado Blvd.](#) Community members are encouraged to bring their broken or damaged household items and work alongside one of our volunteer Repair Coaches to see if we can give them a second life. These are some of the items we can repair: Small appliances • Lamps • Bikes • Clothing & textiles • Wooden Furniture • Knives & tools • Toys • And more! The repairs are FREE! We ask that people register their items ahead of time and tell us a little about what needs fixing [HERE](#). This helps our Repair Coaches prepare and decide whether they need any special tools, replacement parts, or materials. Many volunteers are needed to make this big event successful, from greeters to equipment caddies to refreshment table hosts. We also need snack food donations. If you would like to be involved in any of these supportive roles, sign up on the HHRC website [HERE](#)!



## Electronics Recycling Event: October 17



First Plymouth’s Creation Justice Ministry will be holding a community-wide electronic waste collection event on Saturday, October 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the west parking lot of their church at [3501 Colorado Blvd, Cherry Hills Village](#). They are partnering with METech Recycling, a designated e-Steward known for its commitment to safe electronic waste disposal. Some fees apply to offset the cost of dismantling and responsibly recycling components, including shredding hard drives to keep your data secure. For more information or to volunteer, please call First Plymouth’s Church Office at 303-762-0616. For a flyer of the event to share, click [HERE](#)!

## More Than Taking a Sack, and Bringing It Back

You can help stock Metro Caring’s shelves for the season ahead! Across our community, rising food prices continue to force families to make impossible choices between rent, utilities, prescriptions, and groceries. With children back in school and household budgets stretched even further, the need for healthy food remains urgent. At Metro Caring, we believe no one should have to make those choices alone. Through our Fresh Foods Market, neighbors can access fresh produce, proteins, dairy, and pantry staples in a welcoming space rooted in dignity, choice, and care. Last year, more than 15,000 individuals and families relied on Metro Caring’s Fresh Foods Market—and today, demand continues to grow. You can give directly to Metro Caring [HERE](#), or pick up a paper bag on the third Sunday of the month, **October 18**, fill it with items from the provided grocery list, and return it to the front of the sanctuary on Sunday, October 25. Your gift helps provide more than food. It helps nourish stability, health, dignity, community, and hope!



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# Moderator's Report, by Lisa Kipp

Dear Kirk Family,

I'm sitting outside (in long pants) enjoying the cooler weather as I write this—it's hard to believe fall is here and the year is wrapping up!

I want to, once again, thank everyone who "stepped" in to make our summer so successful. As we move into fall, we enter our season of stewardship, new learning experiences, planning for 2027 and, hopefully, new flooring in the basement!



At council this month, we discussed our identity and really leaned into our Mission Statement:

*"The Kirk is a progressive church rooted in Christianity and welcoming to spiritual seekers from all backgrounds who are pursuing depth in relationship with God, Earth, and a community through engaged faith and social justice."*

How do we measure all that we do in terms of our mission? As we continue to pursue depth in our relationships, I encourage anyone who has considered getting more involved to think about serving on Council. We will be filling a couple of new spots for next year, including a new Treasurer. I am always available to answer any questions... If I can do it, you can!!

Yours in Service,

Lisa Kipp

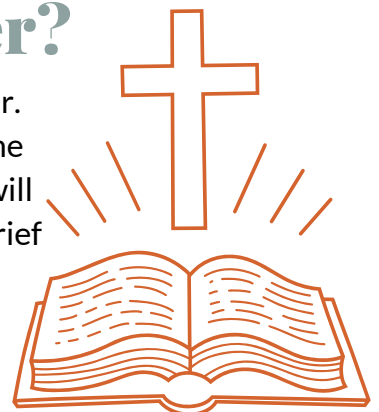


## Construction Update

As you have noticed, renovations in our building have begun! As part of our Capital Campaign initiatives, we are replacing the flooring in the lower-level restrooms and kitchen, and in the main-floor men's restroom. Asbestos abatement is the first phase and is on schedule! Access to these facilities will be limited until mid to late October. If you have questions or need to use the lower level, please contact the office. Thank you for your patience and flexibility!

## Would You Like to Be a Lay Reader?

If you enjoy reading 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 to help you prepare a brief Stewardship Moment. To sign up, please add your name to the sheet in the Narthex or contact the office to reserve your spot.



# 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!



## All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, **November 1**, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday as we light a candle and read the names of those within our community whom we have lost in the past year. There will also be a time for the congregation to light candles in remembrance of the saints of their lives lost not only this year but at any time in the past.



## It's a Baby... Shower!

We are so excited to shower Heather Goetsch and Alessandro Peri with our love as they prepare to welcome a new little one into the world! We will gather after worship on Sunday, **November 1**, for some snacks and games, and to offer this family our love and blessings as they welcome this new life. You can find their registry [HERE](#) or they welcome children's books to begin their library! All are welcome!

## CPR / First Aid Training

Hope & Home is holding a CPR and First Aid training class on Saturday, **November 7**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in our lower level. Kirk folks are welcome to attend! The cost is \$60 per attendee. You can build practical skills, increase your confidence, and learn how to respond in an emergency. Reserve your spot and be prepared to make a difference when it matters most! The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.



# Kirk Birthdays

| 2026 |     | OCTOBER |     |     |     |     |  |
|------|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 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  |  |

1st Dave Howard

4th Suzanne Hefty

5th Rachel Kriescher

7th Cam Short-Camilli

7th Johnny Brindle

12th Linda Davis

13th Janette Marlene-Breaux

18th Kevin Jenkyns

22nd Claire Ulrickson

29th Bonnie Carmean

31st Amanda Trudel

If we have missed your birthday, please let us know by emailing [kobb@kirkofbonniebrae.org](mailto:kobb@kirkofbonniebrae.org).

