

THE KIRK of Bonnie Brae

September
2025



From Your Pastor

Dear Kirk,

I am so excited to welcome our very own Riss Kostelnick to a new role among us! They will be serving and learning with the Kirk as a Pastoral Intern from September to May through their coursework at Iliff School of Theology. Riss has already been so involved in the life of the Kirk as a member: serving on the Green Justice Team, volunteering with our Youth Group, serving on the Capital Campaign Team, singing in the Choir and offering a few sermons along the way. This new role will be focused on Riss's learning goals as they work toward their Master of Divinity degree and their Ordination in the UCC. During this year, you will see Riss:

- Learning and engaging in Worship Planning
- Preaching 3-4 times throughout the year
- Supporting the Kirk's social media presence
- Church Administration and communication
- Organizing the Kirk presence at Pride for 2026
- Engaging in Pastoral Care, including hospital visits



Riss has already shown us their many gifts for ministry, and I am so excited to accompany them in this new role. Please welcome Riss to this new role! What a gift to us they will be, and we will be to them, as we grow in ministry together!

Blessings,

Selena



Worship in September

As we continue our Sermon Series, we will look at important lessons we teach our children about life and faith, reminding ourselves of these values, and what they mean at every phase of our lives.

September 7: “No use crying over spilled milk” -

Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 4:4-9. Emotions are tricky things, no matter how old we are. Each generation has a different way of approaching the emotions of children, and while emotions are deeply personal, still there is ancient biblical wisdom as well as communal wisdom that we offer to help children navigate the rollercoaster of emotions. As adults, how do we measure what is and what isn’t worth crying or stressing or rejoicing over?

September 14: “Ask for Help” – Matthew 7:7-11. There is a beautiful independence to children of a certain age when they love to say, “I’ll do it myself!” But they often need to be reminded that it is okay to ask for help, if they are trying to reach something too high or a ball goes into the street. We want them to be independent, but it is also a part of maturing to know when you need help and to be strong enough to ask for it. While this is always true, when is the last time you felt strong asking for help?

September 21: “Go Play!” - Isaiah 55:8-12. Parents often send their kids out to play. Sure, it might be so the parents can have some time to themselves, but mostly it is because children need to play, to delight, to wonder and wander in order to discover who they are and the world around them.

September 28: “Practice Makes Progress” - I Timothy 4:11-16. On this Sunday, our Iliff Intern, Riss Kostelnick, will be bringing us our message!



♥ 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>
September 7	Jeannie Mitchell & Sharon Snyder	(Available)	Riss Kostelnick
September 14	Don Zimmerman	Elli Wright	Tate Toby-Davis
September 21	Ann Karlberg & Robert Bowles	Beth Sherry	Eva Gebel
September 28	Joe Berry & Diane Berry	Erica Thompson	Donna Furman

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!





On Sunday, September 7, from 6-7:30 p.m., we are kicking off a new year of Youth Group! All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to share a meal (at 6 p.m.). Then check in with the group about their life, week, and faith at 6:30 p.m. Finally, we will engage in games, community building, and discussion as we grow in our relationships with God and one another! We use the GroupMe app to communicate. You can join the group [HERE](#).

September 7: What is Youth Group?!

September 14: What Inspires You (bring a song/poem/quote)

September 21: Amplify Your Voice Event (see below). We will gather at the Kirk at 1:30 p.m. and carpool over, and return to the Kirk by 5:20 p.m. *No evening Youth Group.*

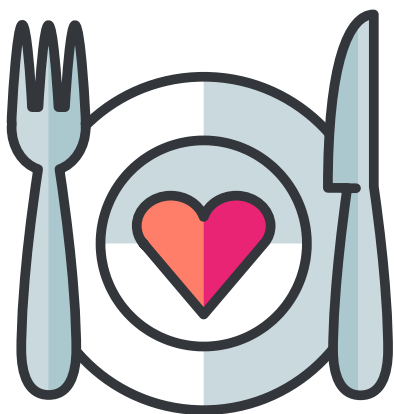
September 28: Ekar Farms Service Day for All Ages – Immediately after worship, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. *No Evening Youth Group*

Amplify Your Voice: Youth Leadership!

This gathering will be held on September 21, 2025, from 2-5 p.m. at Applewood Valley United Methodist Church (**2035 Ellis St., Golden, CO 80401**). At this gathering, youth will hear from local elected officials, community organizers and leaders, clergy and lay folks about the ways students can amplify their voices, get involved with their communities, and make their portions of the world a better place for all people. Plan to bring your youth for an afternoon of learning, fellowship, and empowerment!



Youth Group Meals



This year, 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 plates, 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 for a meal, please sign up [HERE](#).

Children's Ministry Update

First, we invite all of the Kirk to be in prayer for our volunteers and children as we step into our new Volunteer Model this month for the StoryRoom.

In the Spring, we formed a Faith Formation Team made up of those who will lead, those who will support in the StoryRoom during Worship, as well as others who want to support this ministry. We are continuing the model of Godly Play, using the boxes made by the Gebel family, and allowing our children during the second half of worship to hear a story, ask "I Wonder" questions, and then engage with the story on their own terms through play, art, and imagination. As has been our practice, children ages 3-10 will be escorted downstairs after the children's moment and will remain there until parents come to pick them up immediately after worship. Our volunteers will rotate on a 3-week schedule as much as possible so the children will have consistency week to week. We are so grateful for our volunteers: Ellen Campos, Wyndol Furman, Eva Gebel, Patty Hummert, Jan Sumner, Lisa Kipp, James Snow, Laura Tobey-Davis! **September Leaders: Laura Tobey-Davis (September 7, 14, 21) and Eva Gebel (September 28).**



Confirmation

Calling all those 11 to 18 years old who are ready to think through their faith and make it their own! Corbin and Selena will be leading a Confirmation time beginning this month, running through the school year. We will learn, wonder and question what we know about God, Jesus, the Bible, the Church, Spirituality, and so much more.

We are working on dates to ensure that everyone who is interested can participate. If you or your young person is interested, please let Selena know ASAP of interest and availability for regular meetings.



Confirmation Mentors

It has become our practice at the Kirk that as our young people engage in the journey of confirmation, lay members of our church accompany them. We are looking for adults to walk alongside our youth on this journey. If you feel called to serve as a Mentor, please reach out to Selena by September 15.

Kirk's Chancel Choir

Choir rehearsals at the Kirk have begun! Our Music Minister, Greg Cooke, is once again leading the rehearsals which are held weekly on Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. All ages and abilities are welcome! We understand life balance, so if you can't make it every week, that's okay too! If you are choir-curious or have any questions, you can talk with Greg or email Greg@gregorycooke.com.



Animal Blessing & Outdoor Worship

Saturday, September 20, 10 a.m.

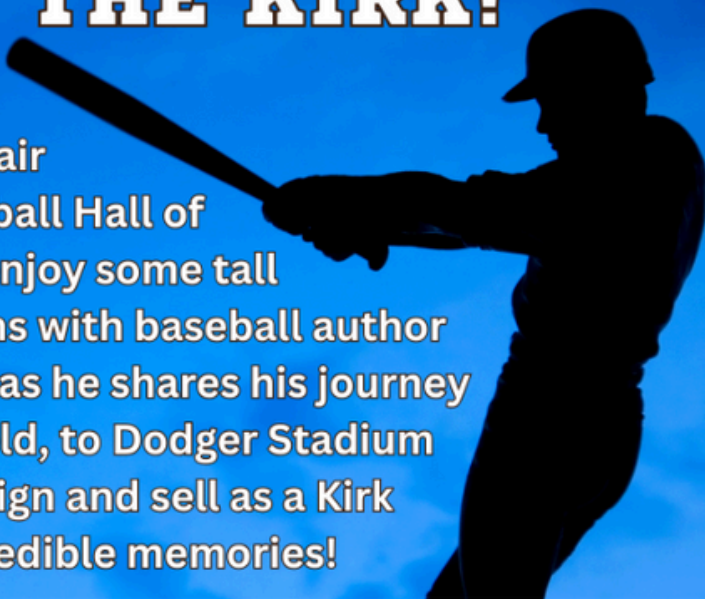


We invite all two and four-legged creatures to join us on Saturday, September 20, for a Blessing of the Animals! All dogs, cats, birds, fish, hamsters, and any other animal that is safe around other animals and a group of people are welcome. Unlike recent years, this will be a simple service of song and prayer. If you have friends who are animal lovers, this is a great opportunity to invite them (and their pets) to the Kirk! There will also be a table of remembrance if you would like to bring a picture of a pet that you have lost. We will speak their names, offer gratitude for their lives, and ask for comfort in our grief.

BASEBALL AT THE KIRK!

September 14, After Worship

From the playground at Montclair Elementary School to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown... Come enjoy some tall tales and more than a few laughs with baseball author and the Kirk's own Jan Sumner as he shares his journey from Coors Field, to Wrigley Field, to Dodger Stadium and more. He'll have books to sign and sell as a Kirk fundraiser and share some incredible memories!



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. Will you help us keep up the good work and donate 100 pounds of food per month? We can do it the Kirk way—together!



Theology On Tap

After taking the summer off, we are returning to a Kirk gathering of Theology on Tap on September 14! We will meet at the Kirk at 4 p.m. Theology on Tap has always been a place to discuss theology, the ways we come to know and understand God. Usually, our topics have been based on Theology that expands our understanding of who and how God is, but this month we are going to look at a dangerous theology that limits our understanding of God and love for neighbor. This month, we will look at the vision of God that is espoused in Christian Nationalism; for the better we understand it, the better prepared we are to dismantle it. Those who gather are welcome to bring a snack to share.



DIG Deeper

Faith Formation Hour



Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 9:40 a.m., adults will gather in the Lower Level and on Zoom to DIG deeper into a book, faith and relationship with each other. All are welcome! Please watch the weekly emails for information on our next book beginning September 14. Beginning September 14 we will be reading **The Return of the Prodigal Son** by Henri Nouwen.

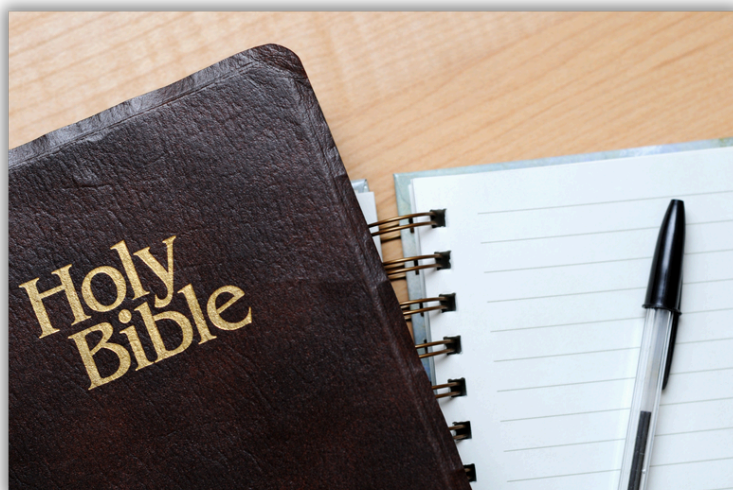
September 7: Christ and Culture: Chapter 7 Conclusion

September 14: The Return of the Prodigal Son, Prologue pgs. 3-18

September 21: Introduction & Chapter 1

September 28: Chapters 2 & 3

Conversations with Scripture Resuming!



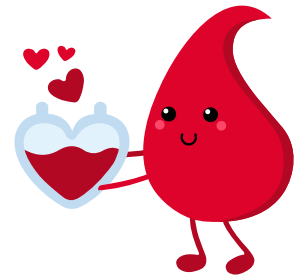
We are coming off of our summer break, and will return on September 16 to our weekly gatherings at 1:00 p.m. in the Kirk's office and on Zoom.

If you love scripture, or have been curious about what a Bible study is like, we invite you to join us!

All are welcome!

Our Next Vitalant Blood Drive

We are hosting our next Blood Drive on Wednesday, **October 1**, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Narthex. To sign up, you can visit donors.vitalant.org and use the Blood Drive Code B110.



Neighbors in Need Offering

This annual offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025, the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. We will have this offering on **October 5th**, which is World Communion Sunday. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Women's Retreat: October 3 - 5, at La Foret: Upcoming Deadlines

It is time to register for the 2025 Women's Retreat! This year we chose a "star word" for the Kirk as a whole, which was "Known" and so that is our theme for the retreat - we are focusing on being known to ourselves, being known to each other and being known to God! Instead of using Jan Richardson's poetry and paintings, we will be asking everyone to bring a poem, a quote, a song, a story, a painting that will help us know you a little more - for as we know one another, so too we know something more of God and ourselves!



We will gather on Friday, October 3, anytime after 4 p.m. and stay until Sunday morning at 11 a.m. You can register [HERE](#)!

The cost of \$180 is higher than previously advertised, because we will be sharing meals at La Foret, so no cooking or dishes! We have Scholarships for those who need them. If you would like to request financial assistance, reach out to Selena by **September 10**.

Due to planning with La Foret, we will need final numbers by **September 15**, and we will not be able to give refunds after that, as La Foret will still charge us for lodging and food. So the hope is you register early and you are able to be with us in the beautiful black forest!

La Foret Fall Youth Retreat

All youth from grades 6 through 12 are invited to the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC annual Fall Retreat at La Foret. This retreat will explore the theme: **(I'm)permanence**, acknowledging the ways our world and future seem impermanent while acknowledging our power to cultivate spiritually grounded practices and leave a lasting mark on the

world. We will also have time to relax and enjoy nature in the beauty of our beloved La Foret with friends both new and old...all while having plenty of fun! Our Saturday night dance will be a Halloween dress rehearsal, so bring your costume! Registration closes on Monday, October 6, you can register [HERE](#).



La Foret News – New Executive Director!



Please join us in welcoming Rev. Olivia See, as La Foret's new Executive Director! Olivia's work and ministry has included serving as Executive Director at the Disciples Center "Tawakoni" in Augusta, KS. Olivia brings with her a depth of experiences in the Camping and Church world.

** We are especially excited as Olivia is one of the Bethany Fellows Selena has worked with over these last few years!*

Would You Like to be a Lay Reader?

If you enjoy scripture and storytelling, 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 (as well as 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.



Coffee and Community

Each Sunday, a volunteer comes early and makes coffee (following a set of instructions found in the basement kitchen) and 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 Donations Change Lives in El Salvador!

by Ann Karlberg

During our trip to El Salvador this year, Beth Sherry and I were able to be the ambassadors of the Kirk's love and compassion. You sent us to the small village of El Bebedero with a generous emergency fund of \$1,250 to be spent on urgent community needs. Intense poverty is a daily reality for people of this village, and your donations were "heaven sent."

While we were there, the emergency fund addressed medical needs and food insecurity. Aida has a liver disease and needed funds to attend medical appointments and buy medication. Juan had untreated diabetes and required emergency eye surgery. Upon his return home, he was provided with a food basket. In addition, 7 other individuals or families received food baskets, each containing rice, eggs, soup, pasta, sauce, coffee, sugar and toilet paper. Further, community leaders decided to spend about \$40 of the fund to have insecticide sprayed throughout the village to prevent mosquito-borne Dengue fever. When we left El Bebedero to return home, the emergency fund still had a balance of about \$550. Our ESNA partners and guides, Alvaro and Guillermo, will continue to disburse funds for future requests and keep us updated.



Beth and I also served as ambassadors of your love through our work to build two houses, one for Marlena and her children and another to shelter Juan and Nuria and their children. The sun was hot on our backs, and the cement was heavy on our shovels, but we persevered and ended the two weeks with housewarming ceremonies for both families. Together, we celebrated with laughter and tears of joy! A picture is worth a thousand words, so click [HERE](#) to see some photos of all the good that was done with our hands and our hearts, and your donations and your prayers!

Free Ways to Give Here In Denver!



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 Donna Furman

In August, it seems that all of us, regardless of how many years we may have been removed from school, get into that back-to-school mode. This month's Council meeting was no exception. Selena updated us on the work of the Faith Formation Team and our Children's Ministry volunteers. Good work is being done – and though it will be different, we're looking forward to seeing how our new programs develop. Many, many thanks to all who are participating!



We're also looking forward to welcoming Riss Kostelnick as an intern in early September. They will be hands-on in a number of church programs, including occasional Sunday morning preaching. Riss, we're honored that you have chosen to partner with the Kirk as you journey towards ordination.

Although our capital campaign was wonderfully successful, we don't have the cash on hand to completely pay for the sanctuary air conditioning. Council approved making a loan to ourselves of approximately \$15,000 from the Abernethy bequest to cover the shortfall, with a pledge to pay it back as money comes in – a reminder to all of us to arrange for our pledges to be paid as scheduled.

Blessings on everyone and happy fall!

Yours In Service,

Donna Furman

KIRK of
BONNIE BRAE

Kirk Birthdays

13th James Snow

19th Emily Snow

19th Shannon Marlene-Breaux

21st Marley Brindle

21st Kristin Aikin Salada

23rd Ila Tobey-Davis

24th Cheri Lipps-Brindle

29th Betsy Runke



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