



THE KIRK of Bonnie Brae

September
2026

From Your Vice Moderator, Emily Snow

Dear Kirk,

When I signed up to write something for our September newsletter, I knew exactly what I would surely be able to write about: Everett's first steps! He would be (is) 16 months old, and it fits so perfectly with our summer theme.

With Hazel, there was a certain moment. We were watching and coaching her, the camera was out, and suddenly she took her first steps! I knew exactly when it happened. There was cheering and celebrating and a video to mark the occasion. So, as Everett got closer to walking this summer, I kept waiting for his big moment... and it never really came.

Instead, Everett started walking the way he seems to do most things: entirely on his own terms. First, he let go of the furniture for a second. A few days later, he (according to my dad) took a few independent steps toward his toy car. And then a few independent steps toward me. Sometimes he crawls again because it was faster. Sometimes he stands up, takes a few wobbly steps, looks around with the biggest smile, and claps for himself as if to say, "Did you see that?!" At some point, we realized: Oh, maybe he just walks now? There was no single triumphant moment to put in the baby book. Just dozens of tiny steps, taken over days and weeks, each one building on the one before it.

As we have spent this summer "Walking Toward Wisdom," I have wondered if our walks with God are often more like Everett's than Hazel's. I love the idea of a Road to Damascus moment, a flash of light in our path when everything becomes clear and we know that we have been changed. Sometimes faith does work that way. But I suspect much more often, we grow toward God almost without realizing it. A conversation changes the way we see someone. We choose compassion when judgment would have been easier. We ask a question we have been afraid to ask. We show up. We let go of something that felt safe and discover, for just a second, that we can stand without it. One "baby" step. Then another.

And maybe wisdom comes when we stop waiting for the dramatic moment and begin paying attention to those smaller ones. The moments when we wobble and keep going. The moments when someone reaches out a hand. The moments when we surprise ourselves. The moments when, like Everett, we look around with pure joy and realize we have gone farther than we thought we could.

As this season of Walking Toward Wisdom comes to a close, I hope we don't stop walking. Maybe we simply notice the steps differently. We may not always know the exact moment we have grown closer to God, closer to one another, or closer to the people God is calling us to become. Sometimes we just look up one day and realize: Oh. We're walking.

Emily

Worship in September

As Selena returns, she will lead us in concluding our theme of walking as we together reflect on the wisdom of the walk.

September 6: 2 Corinthians 7b, 16-20 "Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

September 13: Matthew 14:22-33 "Walking on Water"

September 20: Psalm 119:103-109 "A Lamp to My Feet"

So don't put your walking shoes away just yet, there is more journey to come!

September 27: Although we said goodbye in May, we are excited to welcome back Riss Kostelnick, MID, as our preacher on this Sunday! Riss will be back in town for some in-person classes at Iliff and is excited to be at the Kirk as we continue to partner with them in their journey toward Ordination in the UCC.



♥ Tentatively Scheduled Loving Servants

DATE	HOSTS For changes, contact Ellen Campos	COFFEE For changes, contact Erica Thompson	LAY READER For changes, contact the office
September 6	Bill & Eve Harrigan	Patty Hummert	Betsy Runke
September 13	Joe & Diane Berry	Gwen Wright	(available)
September 20	Lee Trujillo-Lopez & Ashley Lopez	Patty Hummert	Ben Feiten
September 27	Ann Karlberg & Robert Bowles	Beth Sherry	Beth Sherry



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!](#)

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.

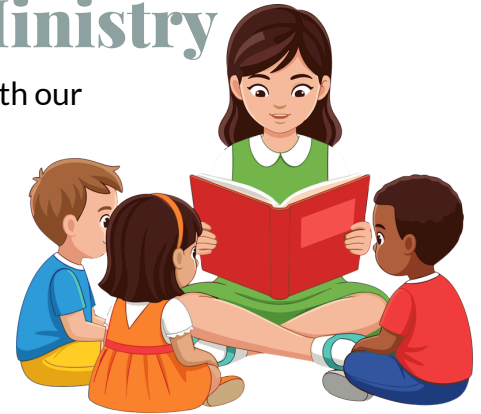


Supporting Our Children's Ministry

We are so grateful for the loving and wise volunteers who work with our children each week. We are returning to the StoryRoom model!

This month our Storytellers will be:

- **September 6:** Wyndol Furman, Creation Part 1
- **September 13:** Eva Gebel, Creation Part 2
- **September 20:** Eva Gebel, The Story of Joseph
- **September 27:** Laura Tobey-Davis, The Story of Moses



Are You a Storyteller? Volunteers Needed for the Children's StoryRoom!



Do you love to tell stories? Do you love questions? And children? Then we might have just the thing for you! Every Sunday during the second half of worship, volunteers go to the lower level with our children ages 3-10 to share the stories of our faith through ritual and wonder in our StoryRoom! The volunteers learn as they prepare to tell the story, and the featured scripture becomes more deeply rooted in their own faith, which only grows as they share that story with the children.

The schedule rotates so that each storyteller is with the children 3 weeks in a row, to deepen relationships and offer the children consistency for one 3-week round in the Fall and one in the Spring. If you are interested or curious about this ministry, we will have a training for Storytellers, new and old, after worship on Sunday, **September 13**. Please let Ellen Campos know if you are planning to attend.

Rev. Selena's Return: Sunday, September 6!

Mark your calendars for a celebration of renewal and return! Selena will be back in church, rested and refreshed, and we will celebrate her journey and our own over the past few months. Please plan to stay after worship for a lunch featuring hot dogs and hamburgers (vegetarian options will be available), along with other special festivities!



Would You Like to Be a Lay Reader?



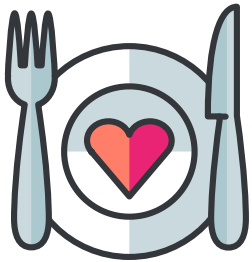
If you enjoy reading scripture, we invite you to become a Sunday Lay Reader. Don't let any fear of public speaking hold you back; the warm smiles from the congregation at the Kirk make it an incredibly rewarding experience! You will receive the scripture in advance, along with a guide to help you prepare 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.

Youth Group!

On Sunday, **September 13**, 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 6:00 p.m., check in with the group about their life, week, and faith at 6:30 p.m., and then 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 that group [HERE](#).



Youth Group Meals



The Kirk youth ministry is a thing to behold! It is fun, full of energy, trust and love. We want those across the church to experience this by volunteering to prepare a meal for our teens. In the past, primarily parents have signed up, but we would love to show these families how much our entire church cares about our youth! We usually feed 20 people and need an option for 3 vegetarians. 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 for a meal, please sign up [HERE](#).

RMC Fall Youth Retreat! Grades 6-12: October 16-18

The Fall Youth Retreat offers a unique opportunity for youth groups to begin the year focused on community, connection, and joy! Participants will unplug from their daily routines, engage in cabin life, explore the weekend's theme, and create lasting memories. This retreat gives them time to bond, deepen their faith, and be themselves, creating a space of love, acceptance, and renewal.

To register, click [HERE](#)!

Registration will close on October 6.



Hope & Home School Supply Drive



We can help deserving students succeed! Your generous donations will directly benefit local children in foster and kinship care. They are specifically requesting the following items: 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! Or you can place your donation in the receptacle in the Narthex. **This drive ends on Sunday, September 13.**



Story Circles

Beginning in September, we will be embarking on our final effort in our pilot project with the Austin Story Project by offering Story Circles (as we did in Lent), but this time we are gathering with Absolute Word Church! If you missed our first round, here is what this will look like:

Every Wednesday, we will gather in a small group, both Kirk and Absolute Word members, and we will be invited to share a story based on a particular prompt. After we all share our stories, we will hear a story about Jesus' life that responds to the same question. Then we take a few minutes to listen for themes and what we heard in our sharing. The group that participated last Spring felt more connected to each other and to the Jesus story.

Exact start dates and times will be in weekly emails as soon as Selena returns—but if you are interested, mark your calendar for Wednesday evenings, **September 9-October 14**, for these meaningful and community-building circles!

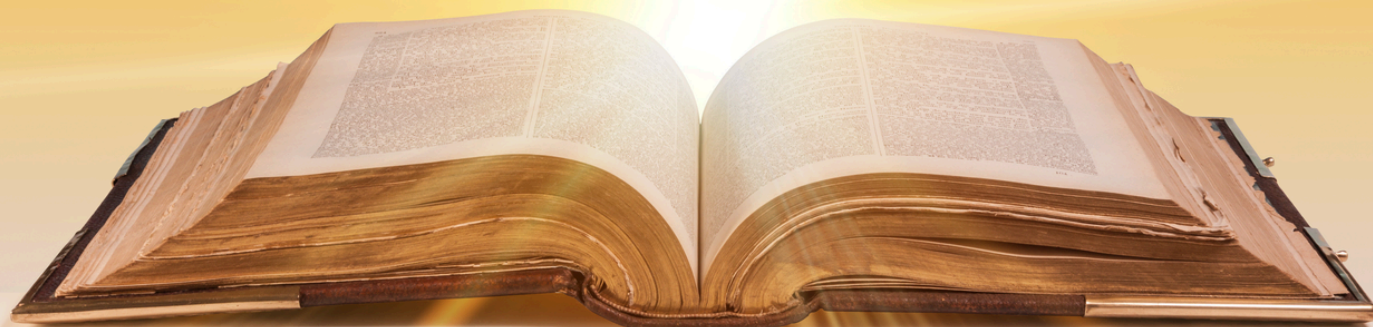
Animal Blessing & Outdoor Worship Saturday, September 19, 10:00 a.m.

We invite all two and four-legged creatures to join us on **Saturday, September 19**, 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. Like last year, this will be a very 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.



Conversations with Scripture Restarting Tuesday, September 15

We are excited to announce the start of our new season! Join us on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. for Bible study, which will take place in Kirk's office and on Zoom. If you have ever been curious about Bible study, we invite you to come. Our group is very welcoming and informal. We discuss what inspires us, what touches our hearts, and any questions we may have. If you prefer to listen, that's perfectly fine too. Everyone is welcome!



Moderator's Report, by Lisa Kipp

Oh, good and faithful Pilgrims of the Kirk of Bonnie Brae: Our sabbatical journey is coming to an end. We are all anxious to welcome Selena back with open arms and open hearts! We have had a couple of bumps in the road (those uphill climbs make us stronger!!), but I believe we have grown as we have traveled this road together.

We have accomplished much this summer. The property committee has been busy. Huge thanks to Donna Furman for searching out and setting up the new security items.

Everything is just about complete! Greg Sherry has been busy with inspections and quotes for the basement's asbestos abatement and new flooring. We hope to get this project started soon. Thanks, Greg!! Thank you to all who volunteered this summer to teach Sunday School, assist in worship, help with food trucks, and so much more. I can never thank Tim enough for holding so much together with such a joyful heart!

On Sunday, September 6th, we will celebrate Selena's homecoming! After church, we will join in an outdoor (pre-cooked) cookout. Vegetarian options will be available. As a way to share and treasure our journeys, we will travel our own mini Kirk Camino. We will provide memory passports along with stamps at various stations, or as they might say in Santiago, a "Credential de Sabbatical"! At last count, our congregational step count was approximately 7,750,000!! It's not too late to add yours.

Thank you all for sharing this journey!

Yours in Service,

Lisa Kipp



2026 Stewardship Campaign



At the Kirk, we are blessed to have such an active ministry and wonderful programs for mission, social justice, education, and worship. As the fall season approaches, we begin our annual process of budgeting and planning for the year ahead.

If you are a planner, you may love this process of dreaming and laying out goals and objectives, but for others, this can be an overwhelming activity—as finding a starting place can be daunting. Luckily, we are a community of faith that draws on the success and work of those who have gone before us, and lifts up leaders and members whose gifts fit the need.

This fall, our church's Stewardship Campaign will focus on Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." It comes from a passage in which Jesus instructs us on how to live out our faith: not with showy gestures, but with generosity of heart.

Our Stewardship Campaign will begin on Oct 11th and we hope to collect pledges on October 25. More information will be available soon, but if you have questions, please reach out to Rev. John Davidson.

Social Justice Coordinating Committee

The Kirk is looking for one or two people passionate about social justice to help turn our shared values into action. This coordinating team will guide and connect the church's social justice efforts, lift up the work already being done by Kirk members, and invite more people to participate in meaningful ways. The committee will meet quarterly, mostly on ZOOM. If you feel called to help lead this effort, please talk with Vicki Wright, Ann Karlberg, or Rev. Selena. Your ideas, energy, and commitment can help give this work greater focus and momentum. If you are considering whether to participate in the Kirk's Social Justice Coordinating Committee, here are some resources that may help you reflect on the kind of work this ministry can support: Click [HERE](#) and/or [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. To register click, [HERE](#)!

Capital Campaign Update

First, a HUGE thank you to everyone who has contributed (and continues to contribute) to the campaign. You're making an enormous difference in our building's functionality and the church's operations. If you're enjoying the air-conditioned sanctuary this summer, pat yourself on the back!

Other projects have taken a slight detour. One of our primary stewardship duties is to protect the safety and welfare of our people. So, because of the incident with our banner, and on the recommendation of the Denver Police Department, we installed CCTV on the outside of the building in mid-August, partially paid for by campaign funds. (If you'd like to know more about the cameras, please talk to Donna Furman.)

New downstairs flooring and asbestos abatement are coming soon—we promise! The delay is due to difficulty getting new bids from multiple contractors. Council has approved the revised bids, and we're now expecting abatement and installation to take place at the end of September. Greg Sherry is spearheading this project, so please direct any questions you have to him.



Celebrating Josh!

The Kirk is so lucky to have someone like Josh Pelé, who contributes so much to our choir and children's programs. We're not the only ones to notice, as Josh is now featured in a special Denver Public Schools spotlight. You can click [HERE](#) to read the whole article. Way to go Josh!



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!



Kirk Birthdays

13th James Snow
16th Phoenix Lopez
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.