



# THE TOWER

MAY ~ 2021

**First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

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## CROSS TALK

*The body of Christ, or the people that are the whole of humanity, are a team. The body is not supported by one person, but by all of us.*

*--1 Corinthians 12:14*

Through all that has happened over these past two years, the people in this church have worked together to make something good and lasting happen. You all have continued to attend church in the downstairs hall, wearing masks when others have stopped, because we could not socially distance. You have continued to support mission both in the community and in distant places. And, you have kept the faith during a huge renovation. This is our gift to those who will come after us.



To the left, we have everyone beginning to gather for Sunday service down in our fellowship hall, which is also used by the Lunch Together Soup Kitchen/AA/NA and other groups that meet regularly throughout the week. Some of you have brought snacks on Sunday to help cozy the environment, some have sanitized the space before and after our worship, and all have worked to keep our church and mission moving forward during Covid19 and the huge renovation work upstairs.

The plaster and painting are now complete. You will notice that the high beams have been returned to their original color, matching the rest of the woodwork. Now, the flooring and the pews can be installed. We renovated any original hardwood that was found, but sadly, there was no original hardwood in the sanctuary. There is good reason to think that the parlor may have original hardwood floors under the carpeting. We will take a closer look once all the pews are out of the parlor.



Our dream of an accessible bathroom on the sanctuary level has been completed. We must have one of the most beautiful bathroom art pieces with a stained-glass window. With thanks to you all for your trust in the Sacred Places Committee of Pat Luck, Barbara Fosmire, and Spencer Morris.

Always in Christ, Pastor Sheila

## May Birthdays

21 Jim Brennan

30 Meshelle Cooper

### OUR PRAYER LIST ~ “WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD”

Please lift up all families, friends and neighbors, all from the Church family who are not feeling well, healing, recovering, burdened, and grieving.

Please remember **all those**, along with their families, **dealing with challenges**: Fran Ford, Jim and Dorothy Brennan (recovering at home), Isaac and Maria Myers (recovering), Fred Newcomer (cancer), Thelma Peterson, Liz Gale, Alan Johnson (cancer), Jean Morgen (cancer), Bob Lance.

**Please remember our Active Military Personnel and their families**, including those we know – Brian Hier (USAF), Fred Luck (USAF), Gary Barker (USAF), Aaron Weisz (USN), Robert Fisher (USA), Kenny Barker (ASF-Med), Nathan Wolanin (USA), Ethan Sinnet (Marines), Chandra Olson (Air Force), those in the National Guard. Please remember **all who have served ~ our Veterans**

<b>2021-22 COUNCIL</b>	
MODERATOR	JULIE BAKER
VICE MODERATOR	ELIZABETH WIGREN
TREASURER	LINDA MORRIS
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	ELVA CARROLL
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FELLOWSHIP	BARBARA FOSEMIRE
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	ELIZABETH WIGREN
CHRISTIAN SERVICE	CHRISTINE JOHNSON
PASTOR	REV. SHEILA NAISMITH





Hello from the banks of (recently thawed) Clear Creek. As your newly elected Council Moderator, I am charged with sharing a message with you in this monthly newsletter, *The Tower*. You have entrusted me with leading Council through their monthly meetings and additional responsibilities as outlined in our newly revised Bylaws.

Though I have only been on First Congregational Church (FCC) Council for one year (as Vice-Moderator), I have had the pleasure of interacting with that body even before I became a member here. I was Chair of the Union Congregational (Buffalo) Search Committee when Rev. Dr. Naismith was recruited to come to Wyoming. When Pastor Sheila began serving only FCC/ UCC rather than both churches, I transferred my membership to FCC/UCC. It was enjoyable working with the FCC/ UCC Search Committee in a joint effort for more than 2 years. I believe we were highly successful in our selection of Pastor Sheila.

Then, in 2019, I was appointed to be on the committee to revise the FCC/UCC Bylaws. That entailed more

intensive interaction with the FCC/UCC Council. Spencer Morris has been a good role model and has become a good friend as well. Through the extensive efforts of calling a new minister, and of revising 24-year-old Bylaws (originally written in 1924), I have gained insight into the people, the culture, and the mechanics of FCC/UCC. I believe these experiences will help me to be an asset to the First Congregational Church congregation.

I am confident that the experienced sitting Council members and the newly elected members will continue to move FCC/UCC in an exciting direction of growth and renewed invigoration! I invite you to share your ideas, comments, and concerns with Council. Use the reference information in this newsletter to contact the appropriate person(s).

***TOPIC of the MONTH:***

Those lovely accessories: masks. The willingness of all members and attendees to wear masks at FCC/UCC worship and other functions for the past 15 months is commended and appreciated. The status is to continue to use masks while we are worshipping in the lower-level meeting room, due to the inability to socially distance (6'), the high level of use of that space by various entities, and the fact that we have worshippers who have not or cannot be vaccinated. Once the remodeling work has been completed in the sanctuary, and we resume worship there, our policy will likely change to voluntary mask wearing. Council will discuss and decide at their May meeting, so please share your thoughts with a Council member. Also, all meetings are open, so you are welcome to attend any Council meeting.

Will chat again next month, the good Lord willing, and even if the creek DOES rise.

*Julie Baker, FCC/UCC Council Moderator*

## 2021-2022 Annual Meeting

On April 18, we gathered for our annual meeting in the fellowship hall. It was well attended with 19 members and a few friends. We enjoyed chicken dinners prepared by Albertson's. It was a special time to celebrate the service of Moderator, Spencer Morris.. An engraved Bible Box was presented to Spencer for his many years of service. He, then, passed the gavel to Julie Baker and honored her with a necklace to be passed along. Jean presented a framed "Cowgirl" picture with scriptures to Julie for all of her hard work on the bylaws. Jean, Julie and Pastor Sheila spent many hours working on the bylaws. Thank you, Ladies.

We voted on the new proposed slate of leaders and boards, and revisions to our bylaws. We look forward to our next year together.



### *THIS AND THAT*

- Many thanks to Elizabeth Wigren for bringing potted plants for everyone to take home after church last Sunday.

- Church Council meeting Monday, May 17 at 6:30pm downstairs. Please email reports in advance if you have one.

- Thank you to everyone who continues to support our church's mission and ministry. Facebook giving over the last 30 days, \$379 from our online viewers.
- Sheridan Pride Parade will be Saturday, June 5 at 10am starting at the Wells Fargo Bank area and going down Main St. to Loucks St. Family Festival at Whitney Commons immediately following.
- "Strengthen the Church" is supported through our annual budgeting. Your gifts support national UCC new church starts, revitalization of churches across our nation, and national youth programs. Should you wish to give a special gift, make your check payable to First Congregational UCC and memo is for Strengthen the Church.



## Earth Day Clean-up

On April 24, twelve people got together and trimmed, raked, weeded, carried away, and hauled to the landfill. We were scheduled to work from 11 AM to 12, but a few stayed longer. Special thanks to Elizabeth for planning and helping. The crew was Elizabeth, Chris, Ruby, Shane, Tim, Elva, Linda, Jean, Helen, Larry, Martha and Debbie. It was great weather and we had a great time. Ruby even got to climb the tree. Now we can read the cornerstone! We will get together again soon to do some planting.

