



Wherever you are coming from, and wherever you are going, **you belong.**  
Whatever your background, your race, or your ethnicity, **you belong.**  
Whomever you love, whatever your sexual orientation, **you belong.**  
Whatever your gender expression, **you belong.**  
Whatever your nationality or legal status, **you belong.**  
Whatever your abilities, **you belong.**  
Whatever generation you come from, **you belong.**  
Wherever you lay your head at night, **you belong.**  
Whether you are a long-time Christian, spiritual seeker or a doubter, **you belong.**  
If you're here this morning, **you belong.**

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1710 South Foothill Drive • Salt Lake City, Utah  
801-487-1357 • [www.firstcongregationalslc.org](http://www.firstcongregationalslc.org)  
[firstcongregationalslc@gmail.com](mailto:firstcongregationalslc@gmail.com)

Find us on:   

**April 12, 2026**  
**Holy Hilarity Sunday**

# Worship Celebration

April 12, 2026

10:30AM

 Opening Ceremonies – Prelude

Alan Chavez, Pianist

 Introduction of Our Broadcast Booth

 Passing of the Torch Relay

 Lighting the Olympic Flame

\*Opening Anthem

“Lift High the Cross”

#287

**Declaring the Opening of the Olympic Games** Ken Rockwell

One: We gather as one team, united in spirit and purpose.

**Many: We come ready to run the race set before us with faith.**

One: The flame of God’s love burns within us, lighting our way.

**Many: We carry the light together, sharing it with the world.**

One: Team of faith, are you ready?

**Many: We are ready! Let us worship God!**

## Athletes’ Prayers

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever. Amen”

 **First Event**

Finding Our Groupies

**Presentation of Medals**

**Olympic Choir**

Devon Bettolo, Director

 **Second Event**  
**Presentation of Medals**

Summer Curling

**Getting Ready to Compete**  
**Inspirational Scriptures**

Philippians 3:12–14  
Matthew 20:1–16

 **Getting Revved**                      **“Faith Olympics”**                      **Coach Gray**

**\*Music from Our Motivation Mix**                      **“You Are Holy”**                      **Insert**

**Voices from the Crowd**

 **Time Out (for Prayer)**  
**Praying People**

**Prayer Response**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And all that is within me,  
Bless God’s holy name. Amen

 **Third Event – Giving Pentathlon**  
**Presentation of Medals**

**\*Doxology – Rededication to Compete for God**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

 **Final Event – Go Forth and Shine**

**\*Victory Lap****Presentation of Medals**

Let us go now. As we go, let us remember: We haven't just been to church...we ARE the church. And when we are truly the church, then we are the Presence of Christ to each other and to the world. So let us go into the world and be the Church, through the transforming love and power of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**\*Closing Ceremony Song**

“God Be with You”

#716

*God be with you till we meet again,  
By his counsels guide uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.*

**\*Postlude**

\*Congregation, please stand if able

---

**Churches Resurrect an Old Easter Custom** ~ Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity — “Holy Humor Sunday” celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine and others) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. “Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it “Holy Humor Sunday,” with the theme: “Jesus is the LIFE of the party.” Many churches from different traditions responded enthusiastically. Holy Humor Sunday services are bringing back large crowds to churches on a Sunday when church attendance typically drops dramatically.

**Coffee Hour** – We would like to thank Liv McIntire for set up and clean up. We would like to thank Scott Hansen and Glenda LeHoux. If you would like to sign up to be a host or assist, a sign-up sheet is in the back on serving table.

---

We're glad you're here. We hope you feel the same community and grace that brings us back each week. If you feel moved to give, you are welcome to use the QR Codes

First Congregational  
Church  
@FirstCongregational-Church-1



## **Announcements**

### **Bible Study Lunch Bunch – Bible Study Lunch Bunch is back up and running!**

Fridays at Noon via Zoom. You can find the Zoom link in our weekly email, if you are interested in joining the conversation. No homework necessary! See you there.

---

### **Sandwich Making – April 19 following worship (upstairs)**

Join FCC and All Saints Episcopal Church for this monthly act of service (3rd Sunday). All are welcome—just bring willing hands!

---

### **Adult Formation – Sundays at 9:15am**

Join us in the classroom across from the office for conversation and learning with Rev. Doug Gray and Father Trace Browning. We are in our Lenten study, *Braving Change* by Andi Andrew. Next week we will study chapter 8.

---

### **Weekly Calendar**

April 13–16 – Rev. Doug attending Minister's Convocation

April 14 – Outreach Meeting@10am

April 14 – Bell Choir Rehearsal

April 16 – Choir Rehearsal@7pm

April 17 – Bible Study@Noon

April 19 – Adult Formation@9:15am

April 19 – Choir Rehearsal@9:30am

April 19 – Worship Service@10:30am

April 19 – Sandwich Making following worship

April 19 – Taizé Service@7pm

**Photography and Video Notice** – Photos and videos from today may be used on social media, our website and YouTube. If you prefer your image not to be included, please inform Kristi or Doug.

---

### **April Outreach**

Remember gathering snack items for hungry students in the Granite School District? We put together tons of small bags for teachers and social workers to share with kids who needed a little extra support. Well... we're doing it again!

In April, we'll be collecting both donations and snack items. Then in May, we'll fill in any gaps, gather together, and assemble the bags. Sound like fun? It really is—and it makes a meaningful difference.

These snack kits provide quick, easy nourishment for students who may not have enough during the school day. A small bag can go a long way in helping a child feel cared for, focused, and ready to learn.

So donate money or granola bars, juice boxes and small fruit snacks. Think about treats that are high in protein such as trail mix, almonds or jerky). These kits are greatly appreciated by students and teachers.

#### **Items Needed:**

- Granola bars
- Juice boxes
- Small fruit snacks
- Trail mix
- Almonds or other nuts (individual packs)
- Jerky (individual packs)
- Other individually wrapped, high-protein snacks

Monetary donations are also welcome and will help us purchase any remaining items in May. Thank you for being part of something simple, joyful, and truly impactful 🧡

**Special Congregational Meeting – April 26 following Worship**  
**Crossroads Urban Center Building Project**

You are invited to attend a Special Congregational Meeting to consider and vote on financially supporting an important community initiative—the Crossroads Urban Center Building Project. (\*Informational packets available in St. John Hall)

This proposed project represents a meaningful opportunity for our church to support and strengthen the vital work of Crossroads Urban Center, an organization that provides food assistance, advocacy, and essential services to individuals and families in need throughout our community.

At this meeting, members will receive an overview of the project, presented by our Outreach Board, including its purpose, scope, and potential impact. There will also be time for questions, discussion, and thoughtful consideration before the official vote is taken.

As a church committed to outreach and compassion, this decision reflects our shared values and dedication to serving others. Your voice and participation are important as we discern this next step together.

We encourage all members to attend, stay informed, and take part in this important moment in the life of our church.

---

**Notes:**

## The Olympic Anthem

Created by Greek composer Spýros Samáaras to words written by his fellow countryman, poet Kostís Palamás, the Olympic Anthem is in fact the oldest property of the modern Games. The renowned composer was given the task of composing it to give a musical identity to the start of the 1896 Games in Athens, the first modern Games, held two years after Pierre de Coubertin had created the IOC. Samaras personally conducted a total of nine philharmonic orchestras and 250 singers to achieve the task. The Olympic anthem lyrics (below) penned by Palamas to accompany the music by Samaras create a bridge between the ancient and modern Games:

“O Ancient immortal Spirit, pure father  
Of beauty, of greatness and of truth,  
Descend, reveal yourself and flash like lightning here,  
within the glory of your own earth and sky.  
At running and at wrestling and at throwing,  
Shine in the momentum of noble contests,  
And crown with the unfading branch  
And make the body worthy and ironlike.  
Plains, mountains and seas glow with you  
Like a white-and-purple great temple,  
And hurries at the temple here, your pilgrim,  
O Ancient immortal Spirit, every nation.”

