



Worship



Throughout 2021, we repeatedly adapted to ensure everyone near and far had a way to worship with Foothills Unitarian. We relaunched in-person services while continuing our online offerings. Our worship team innovated a new intergenerational service format outdoors at a park to welcome children safely back on Sundays. We redesigned our Podcast - The Foothills Deeper Pod - to create another way for folks to receive a cohesive experience of Sunday's message. We relaunched choir rehearsals, experimenting with ways to stay safe and sing together.



1,041

confirmed unique Sunday Service attendances.



51

participants in Deeper, a January - May weeknight gathering to explore worship themes.



246

attendees at our first in-person Water Communion since 2019.



271 | 38,000

videos created | YouTube views



\$77,230

offered through Share the Plate, which is split evenly each Sunday between Foothills and a community partner.



102

people partnered in making worship happen by leading Zoom breakout rooms, joining the hospitality team, offering a chalice lighting, and more.



2,000 | 14

podcast downloads in the first 90 days after revamping and relaunching | countries where people listened



132

Sunday services offered.



8

memorial services - four in-person, two virtual, and two hybrid



297

newcomers welcomed

Ongoing Innovation

In 2021, we not only adapted worship services to meet the moment; we innovated programs outside of Sundays, too! We provided spiritual practices over text and email. We offered Zoom yoga and hybrid T'ai Chi Chih, meditation, and mindfulness classes. We even had a church-wide playfulness competition - The Foothills Ultimate Fun Face-Off - that had challenges that could be done together, alone, in person, or online, so everyone could join the fun!

➔ 33

graduates of the brand new online version of BaseCamp created by Rev. Sean to make the newcomer program more accessible.

➔ 28

participants in Party of One, which offered support to those who have felt isolated during the long-haul of the pandemic.

➔ 356

small group participants in 2021. We offered small groups in three different formats - online, in-person and hybrid - to ensure everyone could be included.

➔ 167

competitors in FUFF (The Ultimate Foothills Fun-Face Off) in which two teams "battled" in fun activities as part of our The Play Button Series.

➔ 75 | 92

participants in Beloved Conversations | participants in Journey Groups

➔ 183

folks joined at least one of our three spiritual practices offered over text and email - a new offering in 2021 to make spiritual grounding and exploration more accessible and digestible.



↑
➔
FUFF Team Captains



Family Ministry

Family Ministry found new and creative ways to serve families throughout the pandemic and offered rapid responses to family needs, including parent support groups, the **Family Room text subscription**, and **Gratefulness Camp** during the unexpected Poudre School District break leading up to Thanksgiving. We created a **new 10 am intergenerational service** to bring families back to church with time for all ages to worship together and in-person groups for children and middle schoolers. We also **partnered with La Familia for the 8th year in a row, providing 120 local kids with Christmas gifts!**

267 children and youth participated in our programs in 2021!



120 kids attended at least one of our **THREE** in-person, outdoor Kids Camps - many attended multiple! 25 church youth served as counselors!



69 students, educators, and school staff attended Blessing of the Backpacks.



Kids brought their pets and stuffies to our Blessing of the Animals.



15 Middle Schoolers attended our Coming of Age Intensive.



We offered a beautiful online Blessing of the Babies for 5 families.



YUuth GrUUp is booming with 15 high schoolers participating regularly in weekly activities and service to the Food Bank and Foothills garden.

Caring Ministry



We saw an unprecedented and ongoing increase in caring needs in 2021. The rhythms of 2021 have looked different than in previous years. We even brought in six ministers from across the country for our annual Q&A service to help us grapple with the most pressing questions of this challenging time.

We provided over 600 acts of care in 2021.

We filled 14 meal trains.

We have 13 active Caring Listeners.

We added a memorial support team.

50 people participated in Tangled Blessings (a small group for grief) and the Kitchen Table (drop-in caring time with Rev. Elaine).

We delivered 61 caring kits.

Racial Justice

In May 2021, our congregation voted decisively to adopt the 8th Principle of UU values and guidance that was initially proposed by our fellow UUs of color, who are urging individual congregations and our larger faith movement to renew our commitment to creating an anti-racist, anti-oppression, multicultural beloved community in our congregations, our communities, our country, and the world. With this adoption of an 8th principle, we pledge to hold ourselves accountable to this commitment and fulfill the potential of our first seven principles for all people.

Our new 8th Principle states: *We covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.*

Passing the 8th Principle was only one of many steps taken in 2021 towards being an explicitly anti-racist church.

➔ 198

people involved with racial justice through a training, social change team, or book discussion group.

➔ \$7,234

raised through the Auction Special Appeal to provide critical mental health support for BIPOC community members in Fort Collins.

➔ 107

people participated in Common Conversation, a community-wide exploration of the ideas in *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson.

➔ 85

people attended a workshop on the 8th Principle and building Beloved Community with Paula Cole Jones.

➔ 25

participants in our anti-racism Wellspring intensive small group with a focus on *My Grandmother's Hands* by Resmaa Menakem and somatic abolitionism, leading the way for other UU congregations to offer this format of Wellspring with an anti-racism focus.

➔ 16

members of Intersections - a group of social change leaders working to more explicitly address social change and social justice at the intersections, share knowledge/lessons learned, provide support to each other, and improve communication/cross-pollination.

Additionally, we strengthened our partnership with BIPOC Alliance, continuing as their fiscal sponsor, providing office and event space, and working to deepen our understanding of and response to the needs of BIPOC community members. **BIPOC Alliance is the runner-up for the 2021 Organizational Human Relations Award for the city of Fort Collins.** The winner of the 2021 award is ISAAC, which we were instrumental in seeding. We acted as the fiscal sponsor of ISAAC's Emergency Immigration Fund from its creation in 2017 until earlier this year when they achieved the capacity to be fiscally independent.



2021 saw great growth in Climate Justice engagement and creative activities. Foothills Climate Justice Ministry (CJM) hosts **monthly climate cafes led by a trained facilitator where all are welcome to share and process climate grief and fear**. CJM offered virtual **sustainable suppers** with vegetarian recipes, hosted **movie nights**, co-hosted the **tree-themed Earth Day** worship service and surrounding activities, and started a **new Facebook Group** to keep more folks up-to-date on climate calls to action.

CJM responded to the disappointment, frustration, and anger many climate activists felt following COP26 by building awareness around how a culture of consumerism damages the environment through a **Black Friday Boycott**. CJM has also been committed to an **intersectional approach**, reaching out in **collaboration with our racial justice** and other justice ministries and cultivating an **emerging relationship with the Hughes Land Back**.

52 people participated in Climate Justice in 2021.



hosted a harvest festival with food grown in the Foothills Garden.



started a tree equity project, planting two fruit trees at La Familia.



restarted the Foothills garden (which provided pumpkins for carving at Halloween Church!)

Some of our beloved trees will be affected by the building expansion. (Thankfully, the Oak Tree on the patio will be staying!) We hope that for each tree we lose during the expansion, a Foothills community member will sponsor planting a tree elsewhere (even their own yard!). Look out for more details on sponsoring a tree coming in 2022!



hosted a small ceremony with a sustainable decorating ritual to honor and say thank you to the trees we will lose during the expansion.

Serving Teams

Faith Family Hospitality

Foothills Unitarian was honored as **Family Housing Network of Fort Collins' 2021 Partner Organization of the Year**. As a founding congregation of Faith Family Hospitality (a project of the Family Housing Network), this was our 9th year providing temporary housing in our church building to families experiencing homelessness. We also work with FFH's social worker to help families connect with appropriate supports, and we are proud to support FFH with our financial resources. We were hosting families full-time from early in the pandemic through May 2021. In June 2021, the families went back to rotating between churches.

➔ 38

people hosted in our building - 8 families with 11 adults and 27 kids.

➔ 82

volunteers helped host, including preparing meals & staying overnight.

Thank you Marla Nelsen for your leadership in coordinating Faith Family Hospitality!

Mobile Food Pantry

In partnership with the Food Bank of Larimer County, we continued to offer a mobile food pantry twice a month in the church parking lot throughout 2021. January through September, we provided a drive-through pantry. In October, we switched to a market-style pantry. We are proud to have been part of the massive Larimer Country Food Bank effort that served 37,500 individuals in 2021.

➔ 22

mobile food pantries in 2021.

➔ 195

Foothills folks on our Food Bank Team.

The Foothills High School YUUth GrUUp serves at the Food Pantry.



Thank you Courtney Butnor for your leadership in coordinating the mobile food pantry!

Community Resourcing

We shared \$65,000 with our community partners doing important work, including support for LGBT+ youth, suicide prevention, voting rights, disaster relief, and more.

Seeding Change in Northern Colorado

We are a church that meets the challenges of now by planting seeds for the future. In 2017, the Foothills Community responded to the unprecedented election of Donald Trump by giving over \$200,000 more than previous years. At the time, we knew we were responding to the likely impacts of the new administration on immigrants, people of color, women, climate justice, and personal wellbeing. Yet, we didn't fully realize just how much that giving in 2017 would prepare us to meet the crises of 2020-2021.

With initial fundraising from the Foothills and community and an agreement for Foothills to be the fiscal sponsor, the Emergency Immigration Fund (EIF) - a fund that now exists under the umbrella of ISAAC - launched in August 2017. **We helped EIF grow into the primary crisis support for immigrants in Northern Colorado during the pandemic, with over \$800,000 given out in 2020-2021.** All of this was possible because in responding to an overwhelmingly dire present moment, we looked out toward the arc of what our community is about. We raised supports and funds for a vision in 2017 that enabled a more impactful future. **In 2021, EIF has achieved growth and stability that allowed the fund to transition to fiscal independence. EIF is now led by members of the immigrant and Latinx communities.** As we learned in 2017, where we invest now - where we seed and nurture change - directly impacts our ability to rapidly respond to needs when they arise and to realize our bold vision.

This is one reason **we are so glad to partner with The BIPOC Alliance as their fiscal sponsor and to share the resource of our building to provide the organization with office and event space.** Just as we saw with ISAAC and the EIF, nurturing organizations that respond to the needs of the present - and are led by those who are part of the communities they serve - prepares us to react rapidly when needs arise and to sow sustainable change in our beloved community.

Sanctuary Everywhere

In 2021, we restarted the part of Foothills' Justice work, Sanctuary Everywhere, that accompanies asylum seekers as they begin their lives here in Fort Collins. **We are now supporting a family of more than 15 from Nicaragua. We also continue to support a family we first met in 2019.** Sanctuary Everywhere villages support our families in everything from securing release from detention to obtaining work permits, from housing to food, from clothes to obtaining driver's licenses and transportation. In turn, our villagers and lead team are supported through a supervisory reflective practice from a clinician at La Cocina, focused on better understanding and responding to the effects of trauma.

12 Foothills members serve across three Sanctuary Everywhere teams - Core, Village & Legal.

Sanctuary Everywhere partners with 7 community organizations.

Thank you Ticie Rhodes, Sarah Parrish, Anne Fisher, Ingrid Justin, Susan Moore, and Paige Noon for your leadership with Sanctuary Everywhere!

Vaccine Equity Work

In early 2021 as vaccines began to be available, we saw in our church community how hard it was to access vaccines and how confusing it was to sign up for appointments. We imagined that this would be even more true in communities with less access to health care, for those who were not retired, for those who are undocumented or have other reasons to fear our formal systems, and for those whose first language was something other than English.

We reached out to our partners – The BIPOC Alliance, ISAAC, Fuerza Latina, La Cocina, and The Family Center – and worked with them to establish a new alliance - The Vaccine Equity Coalition - with their leadership and expertise at the center. We secured initial funding for their work and raised the profile of their role as leaders in public health. We hope that this alliance and its work in vaccine equity will have lasting effects on public health long past the pandemic.

 **2,700**
people registered for vaccines through the Spanish-language call line.

 **1,411**
vaccine doses given at 5 community clinics hosted by BIPOC Alliance, La Cocina, Fuerza Latina, and ISAAC.

 **5,000+**
Latinx households contacted through text and social media about upcoming vaccine clinics being offered through Larimer County, Salud Health Clinic, and The Vaccine Equity Coalition.

 **\$5,000**
contributed directly from Foothills Unitarian to jump-start the Vaccine Equity Coalition and improve access to the COVID-19 vaccine in BIPOC and Latinx community.

 **344**
first doses of the vaccine given at 3 mobile home park clinics hosted and staffed by Fuerza Latina.

 **3**
Promotoras (health educators) trained and deployed by La Cocina. La Cocina also trained and deployed a new community organizer.

And these numbers don't capture the enormous effort involved in organizing outreach, translating county documents and other health notices into Spanish, addressing vaccine hesitancy, second dose reminders, community updates on new variants, and more.

Our work helping form and support the Vaccine Equity Coalition led to us being honored with BizWest's COVID 19 Health Care Heroes Ally Award.

Thank you to all our Foothills healthcare workers! A special thank Courtney Butnor, Leah Schulz, and Doug Whitman, who were critical in launching this vaccine equity partnership.