 First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

1275 Adams Avenue

Rock Springs, WY 82901

307-362-3530

We are looking for an enthusiastic, energetic person who is able to be flexible, has a sense of humor, and is willing to maintain partnerships and community involvement with our local churches, Boy Scouts of America, and first responders. We do not want to limit our search to one who has more or less experience, but seek one who is willing to embrace our congregation wholeheartedly and walk with us on our spiritual journey in faith.

**Compensation Package:**

Our current compensation package is $53,435 (this figure includes salary, pension, Life and Disability, Health and Dental, Professional Expenses, Mileage, FICA offset, and Utilities) with benefits negotiable. A parsonage is provided.

**Priorities for the Interim Pastor (not in order of importance):**

1. Promote and sustain our youth in growing faith,
2. Commit to building diversity
3. Promote our church in the community and maintain our involvement with other churches, Boy Scouts of America, local, national and international Mission projects, and Outreach.
4. Provide Worship Leadership

**First Congregational Church Family (members and friends);**

The First Congregational Church has been an integral part of Rock Springs since 1881. It was truly the first church in this coal mining community. The first house of worship was located on B Street, south of where the Church of the Holy Communion-Episcopal is presently located. For several months during 1895 the congregation worshipped in a vacant saloon on North Front Street. We moved to our present location in 1970*.*

The Annual Report for 2016 shows us with an average Sunday attendance of 58. We do not differentiate between active members and friends- all contribute to our worship and church family. Our youth group is involved in many aspects of church life; once a month they participate in the worship service, provide musical selections, both through choir and individual musical performances and promote Noisy Change Sunday (church family share their coins which are collected in coffee cans); the money is designated for various community and national projects.

An ongoing project is repaving our parking lot. Fundraising through “Saving for Paving” and prepared lunches have helped us reach 82% of our goal.

The thrift shop, Broadway Bargains, is staffed by volunteers and serves our local community with an abundance of clothing, household items, and a smile for all those who enter.

Women’s Fellowship group holds 2 fundraisers each year- one in the spring (Spring Fling) and the Fall Bazaar. They are assisted by the Men’s Fellowship in serving, clean-up and moral support.

The church is in a good, stable place. We have a core group of committed members who are the backbone of the congregation.

**Major strengths**

Members and friends hold a diversity of beliefs and opinions (in which we agree to disagree), but the fellowship and acceptance from this church family keep them coming back to worship with us. Our church houses a preschool 4 four days a week and the La Hermosa Guatemalan congregation for their Sunday and Thursday night worship services. We have sponsored a boy scout troop since the 1930s. We maintain strong partnerships with the Episcopal church, our sister church in Green River, and the Mount of Olives Lutheran church in Rock Springs. Our church runs a thrift shop (Broadway Bargains) which is well staffed and organized with the help of devoted volunteers. Our youth has a strong presence in our church and actively participate in church services through music and leadership in worship.

**Issues**

We were once told we were a well-kept secret; we are working to become more visible and vocal in our advocacy of church activities/positions on social issues. Attendance fluctuates, but is fairly consistent when viewed throughout the year. Our church is working to become more diversified such as reaching out to our LGBTQ community and others, but need resources and direction to become better advocates.

**Community Information**

Please use the following links to learn more about our community and our church.

First Congregational Church Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregational.UCC.RockSprings>

Rock Springs, WY Chamber of Commerce

<https://www.rockspringswyoming.net>

Sweetwater County Tourism

<https://www.tourwyoming.com>

Rock Springs, WY URA

[www.rswy.net](http://www.rswy.net)

Rock Springs, WY Downtown

<https://www.downtownrs.com/>

Western Wyoming Community College

<https://www.westernwyoming.edu/>

Submitted by Diana Wiig, Moderator

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