

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2230 13th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631



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# The Christian Caller

Monthly Publication of  
First Christian Church  
Greeley, Colorado

970/352-1292

[www.fccgreeley.com](http://www.fccgreeley.com)

Rev. Tim Bobbitt, Senior Minister

Rev. C. fester Coffee-Prose, Associate Minister

Our Vision: First Christian Church - called  
by Christ's transforming grace and love to  
share hope and life in community.

## May 2009

### Inside This Issue

- ◆ A Moment With Tim
- ◆ Monthly Calendar
- ◆ Servers for May
- ◆ May Birthdays
- ◆ Calling All Graduates
- ◆ Daughters' Dessert
- ◆ Global Ministries
- ◆ Income/Expense Report
- ◆ Youth Activities
- ◆ General Minister Appointment
- ◆ CWF & CMF Schedules
- ◆ Elder's Message
- ◆ Tennyson Center Needs
- ◆ Preschool News
- ◆ May Events & Activities
- ◆ Letters and Notes
- ◆ Pentecost Special Offering
- ◆ L.A.F.F. Activities
- ◆ Layette Time
- ◆ Upcoming Special Events

**Global Ministries** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ

#### **“Five Hammers and a Handful of Nails”**

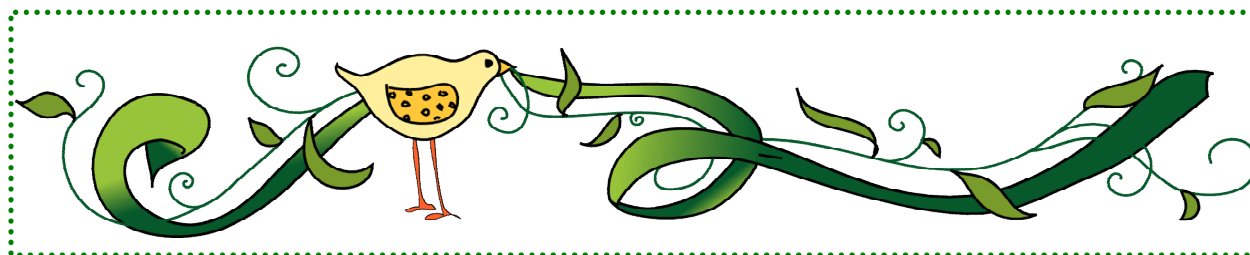
*Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses, entrust to the faithful who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:1-2*

The fourth and fifth grade boys of Donkoi Primary School in Laos were excited. They were at Mr. Khamvanh's house in the village, using one big hammer and some long nails to repair the school's tables and benches. How wonderful this farmer-carpenter villager is! He took the initiative for this project without anyone asking him. I thought, wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a carpenters' group in the school? The children were asked, "Would you like more hammers?" They all said "Yes", so that was it! The Young Carpenters' Club was born.

Mr. Khamvanh was asked if he would bring some older youths to help him finish repairing the tables and benches while the younger boys played with the hammers, nails, and wood. Mr. Khamvanh bought a 'tuktuk' full of scrap wood (a tuktuk is a small vehicle that carries passengers short distances) and that summer the children of Donkoi Primary School had a wonderful time creating anything they wanted. No more repairs to tables and benches were needed.

That was how Donkoi School's After-School Program began: with five little hammers, lots of nails, and a skilled carpenter with a very good heart.

*Xuyen Dangers is a social worker in Laos/Vietnam serving as a Social Work supervisor of Donkoi Child Center and five other centers; and as social work advisor on the faculty of Social Sciences, the National University of Laos; and with Church World Service and Witness (NCCC).*



## A MOMENT WITH TIM

**Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." Matthew 28:10**

For the staff of the church, the combination of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter present an extra busy time of year. There are extra services to plan, extra music, extra meetings, extra studies to prepare, extra bulletins, and extra invitations. I give thanks for the long hours of the staff during that time. I also give thanks for all the extra work of the members of First Christian. This list is not exhaustive, but I want to give thanks for a few who helped to make this time extra special: worship ministry, membership ministry, Christian education ministry, church growth ministry, property ministry and church cleaners, choir, bell choir, musicians, Elders, and others who led Wednesday Night Fellowship and participated in worship. I have heard many positive comments about Wednesday Night Fellowship and Holy Week.

There is a tendency to want to take a bit of a breather after such a time, and I encourage you to do so. As we move through the Easter Season, Pentecost, and into summer, the rhythm changes a little, but that doesn't mean that there aren't many events to look forward to in May and beyond. It certainly doesn't mean that we put our relationship with God on hold.

This month's newsletter includes activities such as Daughter's Dessert, Habitat building, Youth Sunday, a Missionary visit, and Pentecost. We also have a brand new event beginning Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00 p.m. We will hold our first Wednesday Evening Prayer Gathering. Our Lenten Wednesday Night Fellowship emphasized a growing openness to God's spirit and Christ's transforming grace and love, and many who participated want to continue that process. Those who gather on May 6<sup>th</sup> will discern the structure of the gatherings. It will begin as a 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month event.

Easter Sunday is over, but we are still in the midst of the Easter Season. My prayer is that we will continue to be open to seeing the presence of Christ in our midst, that we will find ways to grow in Christ's spirit, and that we will find ways to share it.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

*Jim*



### **Missionary Visit**

On Sunday, May 24, we are hosting Global Ministries missionary Bruce Van Voorhis. Bruce works with the Asian Human Rights Commission. He will preach at both our 8:15 and 10:30 services, teach a combined Sunday School class in Fellowship Hall at 9:30, and speak at a luncheon following the 10:30 service. We are inviting First Congregational and St. John's to the luncheon. Both First Congregational and St. John's are part of the United Church of Christ, which partners with us in Global Ministries.

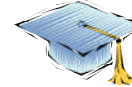
### **Wednesday Evening Prayer Gathering**

We will explore different prayer practices, pray with one another, and seek deeper spirituality. On Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, you are welcome to gather to discern the structure of the gatherings and pray together. The gatherings will continue on the first and third Wednesdays as long as there is interest.

Dear Friends,

On May 27th, 2009, I will be graduating from Wasson High School in Colorado Springs. I would like to thank you all for your support, your thoughts, your prayers, and also for your love. With love to all,

Kayla Highley



## *Thank You*

How blessed I am to have such wonderful friends. Thanks for birthday cards, calls, and get well cards. Love and best wishes to you all. Hope to be seeing you soon.

Leona Stevens

### **Thank You from the Girl Scouts**

Girl Scout Troop 854 wishes to thank FCC for the use of the church's garage on cookie delivery days. It was much appreciated!

Caren Renee Haining & Chrissy Menard, co-leaders

### **Thank You from Disciples Mission Fund**

Dear Rev. Bobbitt,

Thank you for your generous and faithful support of Disciples Mission Fund. In 2008 your congregation was one of our Top 250 supporters! On behalf of the seventy-plus ministry partners receiving support from your congregation through Disciples Mission Fund, I want to say thank you.

I want to celebrate with you the faithfulness of your giving and the generosity that you are modeling for the rest of the church. [This] expresses the depth of your faith in God.

Arlene Pimentel, Director of Disciples Mission Fund  
(For the complete letter and details on how your 2008 gifts were used, see the main bulletin board.)



### **Double the Fun!**



FCC Administrative Assistant Susan Neeley welcomed two new grandbabies into the family during Holy Week. Annika Spring Neeley was born in Westminster on April 9, and Breckan Keaton Hunter was born April 10 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Annika and Breckan are Susan and Clifton's fourth and fifth grandchildren.

## **Bereavement**

*Our sympathy is with Marilyn Lesser and her family. Harold Lesser passed away at North Colorado Medical Center on March 27, 2009.*

### **Dear FCC Family,**

My deepest gratitude to my church family for all your love and support during Harold's illness and after he passed on. It was so comforting to know that all of you cared and were there for me during this sad time.

What a wonderful church family I have!

God bless all of you.

In Christ's love,  
Marilyn Lesser



### **Dear Church Family,**

We don't realize how important our "church family" is to us until something major happens in our life. You are the best!! I can never thank all of you for the meals, calls, cards, contributions in Dwaine's memory and so much caring. I have truly felt wrapped in love. Thank you so much. I love you all.

With love,  
Nancy Kurtz



*Due to an oversight in the April newsletter, we are running Nancy's note this month.*

### **Blessings, Baptisms & Reaffirmations**

On Palm Sunday, April 5, Isaiah Vinson Gray, Taylor Nicole Gray, Marshall Wesley Merritt, Michelle Sarahi Ramirez and Allyson Marie Turner took part in a Children's Blessing.

On Easter Sunday, April 12, Dalia Ramirez and Theodore Tafoya participated in Reaffirmations of Baptism. Also on April 12, Josh Bobbitt, Alex Brems, Joleen Veik, Josh Veik, and Emilee Wolsey declared their faith in the Lord through Baptism.

## Neighborhood Block Party

We are beginning to plan for a Block Party during our fall activities kick-off celebration. Let our organizing group (Patty Endres, David Haining, Kris King, and Hazel Gibson) know if you have ideas or if you would like to volunteer. We will need lots of participants to make this a great event.

## Summer Worship Schedule

From Sunday, May 31, through Sunday, Sept. 6th, we will have one Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m.

## Pentecost Special Offering "Expanding the Table"

As Disciples, we welcome all to our expanding table—open to everyone who wants to experience the gospel and love of Jesus Christ. Through the Pentecost Offering, we support the New Church Ministry of the Disciples of Christ, which helps recruit and train church planters. We offer an expanding table that reaches beyond socio-economic boundaries and welcomes individuals to come to Christ just as they are.

**Offering envelopes are enclosed in this newsletter.**

## Stewardship Corner: "IT'S MINE"



It is not unusual for people of all ages from young to old to declare "it's mine" of whatever. We have all kinds of stuff—from bank accounts to investments to houses to vehicles to you name it and claim it as mine. However, as Christians we should understand that everything we have is by the grace of God. God has designated us as stewards of the stuff we claim as ours.

Rev. Jeff Gill, a member of Central Christian Church in Newark, Ohio, makes an excellent point regarding stewardship in the current issue of *Disciple World*. His article is entitled "It isn't really mine." Following is a quote from that article\*:

"My wife and I have had a practice since the beginning of our marriage. We have a budget based on projected income. That budget starts with giving 10 percent, saving 10 percent, and then we look at what's left.

What's left is shaped by the fact that almost 30 percent of our "gross income" goes to taxes, the good and worthwhile work of larger institutions, and a bit of waste here and there.

Since most years we actually put more than 10 percent in savings, that means we live on less than half of what we earn. My point is not that we're dreadfully frugal, but that the order you figure this out matters; the last thing you consider is how much you can spend on ...whatever.

The budget, with that 48 or 49 percent we're looking at in the final stages, has to list house payment and utilities and groceries and some clothes and such, the Little Guy's amusements, and there's usually some amusements left for us, mainly aimed at a vacation or two.

If you start with that and work backwards to how much you can 'afford' to give, I can pretty much guarantee you the number will be 1 or 2 percent, tops. Given that our national savings rate has been effectively in negative numbers the last few years (the hidden engine of our current economic mess), unless you give to your church on your credit card, it won't be there.

So starting with what you give isn't about how much more your church needs the money than you do. It's about looking at income more as gift and opportunity and responsibility than as, 'This is what I earned.'

A gift you can give yourself is to stop seeing it as 'my income,' and start seeing yourself as a steward of what comes into and through your household at any given time."

Tithing begins with giving out of the first of our income as Rev. Gill and his wife do, not out of what is left over. Instead of having an "it's mine" mentality, may we think in terms of being good stewards of what God has entrusted to our care. It begins with tithing.

Jim Prichard

\*Used with permission



Greetings,

I cannot believe that it is already May. It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating the start of the school year, and now here we are about to finish the school year. Overall, I would say that this year has been a great success. We have done many things, including service projects, retreats, fellowship activities, camps, mission trip, and of course, we have eaten more food that I can even remember.

The sponsors and I will be making some summer plans, and while I cannot make any promises, I can say that we will see each other often throughout the summer, in addition to Sunday mornings.

Here is what is going on during the month of May:

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

All groups meet to do final planning for youth Sunday.

Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

No youth group due to Mother's Day.

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

10:00-12:00 All youth meet for final youth Sunday rehearsal.

Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>- Youth Sunday

8:00a All youth to lead early service for Youth Sunday.

9:30a Breakfast.

10:30a All youth to lead second service for youth Sunday.

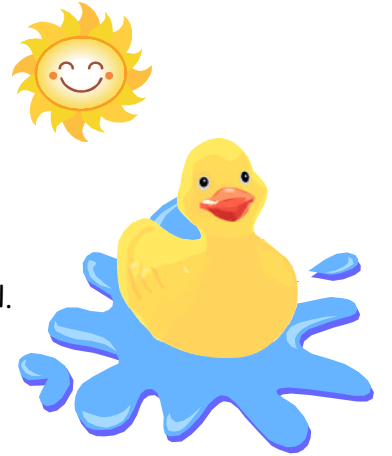
4:30p All youth meet for End of Year Water Party. We'll gather for water games, snacks, and an all-out water war. All youth need to come in their bathing suits and bring a favorite snack food to share, water guns & water balloons.

On the last two Sundays in May, we will be on the Summer Schedule, so there will be no regular Sunday Youth Group after April 17th. Let's end the year with a little water fun.

See you all soon

fester

**Camp Dates:** Discovery: June 5-7; Juniors/CYF: June 7-13; Chi-Rho June 14-20



## Calling All Graduates

May 17 is not only Youth Sunday, it is also Graduation Recognition Sunday. During worship we will recognize all of our graduates from high school, college and beyond. We will have a gift for our high school graduates, and we invite the families of our high school grads to decorate a table in Fellowship Hall with pictures and achievements from their time in school. To make this event a great success, we need some information from all of our graduates, including your name, school, degree (if graduating from college, grad school, etc.), and future plans. If you know of a graduate connected to our congregation, please help us out by getting us this information by May 10<sup>th</sup>.



## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF will meet on Thursday, May 7, at noon for a catered luncheon and election and installation of officers for the 2009-2011 term. The hostess group is Joy, and Norma Hammons will install new officers.

Please bring Blessing Box offerings to this general meeting, or they can be turned in at May group meetings.

Sign up for the "Daughters' Dessert." A sign-up sheet is in the south hallway. The event is Tuesday, May 5th, at 7:00 p.m.

Our service project is Layettes for NCMC. Please bring new or gently worn items and place in the box in Fellowship Hall, and Norma Hammons will deliver them at the end of May.

### May Meetings:

Women's Prayer Breakfast—May 2, 9:30 a.m.

CWF Board—May 14, 9:30 a.m.

Joy Group—May 12, 1:15 p.m.

Kindness Group—May 28, 9:30 a.m.

Peace Group—May 28, 1:30 p.m.

Delilah Group—May 27, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are at the church.

### Baby Shower for Lynde Reed

When: May 2nd, 2009, 3:00p

Where: First Christian Church  
2230 13th Street, Greeley, CO 80631

Hosted by: Debbie & Caitlin Berg  
970-352-3091



### How are We Doing?

#### Income 2009

Planned Year to Date  
\$74,127.00

Actual as of 3/31/09  
\$71,778.00

#### Expenses 2009

Planned Year to Date  
\$74,127.00

Actual as of 3/31/09  
\$74,896.00

### Tennyson Center Needs for May

Sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher)  
Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste  
Shampoo

Plastic Shoe Boxes  
Slim Fit Tampons  
Thin and Ultra Thin  
Maxi Pads

Hair Accessories  
2"x2" Gauze Pads



### Daughters' Dessert



The ever-popular Daughters' Dessert will be held on Tuesday, May 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be outstanding desserts and table favors, as well as entertainment presented by the Meeker Elementary School Percussion Band, under the direction of Darlene James.



### Layette Time

It's always fun to look at and buy clothes for babies. The box for the layettes is in the "Mission Corner" in Fellowship Hall. We will collect these through May, and then they will be delivered to NCMC. There are lists in a packet on the side of the box. Let's fill the box.

Norma Hammons



### Shiprock Golf Fundraiser

Mark August 15th on your calendar for the Shiprock Golf Tournament in Loveland at Cattail Creek. It is a fundraiser for the annual mission trip to the Navajo reservation in New Mexico. A sign-up sheet will be posted July 1st. Questions? See Roger Harbert.



### Christian Men's Fellowship

Men of all ages, shapes, and sizes are invited to the FCC Christian Men's Fellowship meeting on May 9th from 7:30-8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy breakfast & fellowship and a then work at a Habitat House...so bring your gloves and tools and let's help put a roof over someone's head!

### Habitat Building

On May 9<sup>th</sup> the Men's Group is planning to work on a Habitat for Humanity building project. We would like to invite any interested volunteers (16 and older) to join us.

### ELDER'S MESSAGE

Psalm 139: 1-6 O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

I lost a friend to cancer in March, and Lent seemed a little more real to me this time. She was an incredibly kind person with a faith that was strong and devout. I watched her husband dedicate her last four months to being by her side even when she slept for 20 or so hours a day. He taught a class, and during that time their friends came in and sat with her. He made sure his dogs were fed and taken care of and went to an occasional basketball game—but for the majority of those last four months, he was with his wife and family. Their friends spent their time at the care center watching, caring and sharing this part of their lives with them. Then it was over—peacefully, quietly—finished.

This event has caused me to experience prayer and a prayer life differently. It has caused me to evaluate my actions in hopes that my faith may encourage another. It has opened up a small window so that I could view a love between two people that is truly stronger than what I could imagine. I have felt helplessness, courage and a sense of peace and joy, all within the protective arms of my Creator.

I looked forward to Easter and the newness of the following time like never before. I know that the peace my friend had when diagnosed with cancer came from God, and now she is with him. Easter brought the whole experience full circle, and now the signs of new life that are evident in May seem to soften the loss of a friend. I will sing praises to my Lord in a new voice.

Psalm 138: 23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Tessa Johnson, FCC Elder

### L.A.F.F. Group

#### Schedule through December



The Life After Fifty-Five Group has planned monthly activities through the end of the year. Here's a heads-up:

**May 18** Loveland Sculpture Gardens Lunch at Cracker Barrel in Loveland. Travel by bus. Contact person: Von.

**June 30** 6:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social at Houston Gardens. Contact: Nancy.

**July** No activity



**August 13** Greeley Police Station Tour, 2:00 p.m., followed by dessert at Village Inn. Travel by bus. Contact: Von.

**September 8** Harberts' mountain cabin followed by elk viewing in Estes Park. Harberts will provide hamburgers & drinks. LAFF will bring side dishes and desserts for lunch. Travel by bus. Contact: Von.

**October 16** Lee Maxwell Washing Machine Museum, 35901 WCR Eaton. Time and eating place will be announced later. Travel by bus. Contact: Nancy.

**November 15** Union Colony Dinner Theater Sunday Matinee. Dinner at 12:15 p.m. Show around 2:30. Reservations required. Contact: Von.

**December 11** Turkey dinner at church followed by Crazy Cards—6:00p. Bring side dishes & desserts. Contact: Veronica & Von

### Save the Date!

Please note these up-coming events.

**July 29-August 2** General Assembly

**August 15** Shiprock Golf Tournament

**September 11-13** Women's Retreat

**September 18-20** Men's Retreat

**September 23-27** Shiprock New Mexico Mission Trip

**October 12-20** Venezeula Medical Mission Trip



# May Birthdays



1 Mitchell Moore	13 Raleigh Newby	28 Andrew Bishop
6 Kane Shirley	14 Betty Jensen	28 Ron Shetler
7 Gretchen Howland	20 Michael Recor	29 Debbie Berg
8 Todd Loschen	22 Katelyn Waldo	29 Eleen Nauman
8 Hilde Naftz	24 Dean Turner	29 Maximus Skow
9 Jodi Hartmann	24 Lauryn Waldo	29 David Waldeck
12 Jayne Hays	25 Lynn Boyce	



## My Holy Week Experience

Holy Week at First Christian Church was inspiring, emotional and peaceful. The services took me to a place in my heart, mind and soul that helped me identify more deeply with the suffering and sacrifice Jesus went through for all of us, as well as allowed me to share in the happiness His resurrection brings to us all.

Good Friday was intense and wonderful—so much that it brought me and my daughter to tears after the Christ candle was extinguished. After seeing The Passion of the Christ and then attending the Holy Week services, I can honestly say I was amazed and feel fortunate to have shared in this whole experience, along with an Easter baptism for my child. As a new member of First Christian, my faith and hope have grown immensely, and along with the prayers of others and the wonderful services I have attended, I am proud to say that I have gained a more intimate relationship with God. I look forward to many more services and experiences at First Christian Church and with our community.

Praise God! He is Amazing!  
Lisa Wolsey



## General Minister and President Named to Presidential Advisory Council

General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins has been named to President Barack Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Watkins, who is among 25 faith and community leaders appointed to the Council, was in Washington, D.C., earlier this week to attend the group's first meeting.

"I am glad to be part of such a diverse group that is seeking common ground where we can make a real difference in the lives of people," said Watkins. "It's good to see the government connecting with faith-based and community organizations to help meet people's needs."



## FCC Preschool News

It's hard to believe there are only a few weeks of school left—this past year has flown by! There are still Subway coupon cards available, with proceeds going to the preschool. Cards can be purchased after church on Sunday or by stopping by the preschool office. Thanks to those of you who have already purchased a card. The staff and children at FCC preschool appreciate your support!

## Servers for the Month of May

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
<b>8:15 Chapel Service</b>					
Elder	Carol Smith	Carol Smith	Carl England	Carol Smith	
Deacon	Colleen Heitman	Diane Doyle	Colleen Heitman	Diane Doyle	Back to
Worship Leader	Hazel Gibson	Diane Doyle	Colleen Heitman	Bob Gibson	one service
Song Leader	C. R. Haining	Tessa Johnson	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	for the
Pianist	Chris Coon	Nancy Kurtz	Gretchen Howland	Nita White	summer.
<b>10:30 Sanctuary Service</b>					
Elder: North	Carl England	Gary Ikenouye	Jodi Hartmann	Jodi Hartmann	Gary Ikenouye
Elder: South	Gary Ikenouye	Jodi Hartmann	Gary Ikenouye	Carl England	Jodi Hartmann
Deacons	Kathleen Davis Alicia Loschen Charlotte Shetler▲ Ron Shetler▲ Gerre Tjardes☼ Bruce Waldo■ Katelyn Waldo■ Lynne Waldo☼	Shirley Miller☼ Miguel Ramirez▲ George Hypes▲ Carla Ikenouye■ Nancy Kurtz Lisa Wolsey Judi Ring■ Todd Loschen☼	Kathleen Davis☼ Alicia Loschen☼ Charlotte Shetler Ron Shetler Gerre Tjardes■ Bruce Waldo▲ Katelyn Waldo▲ Lynne Waldo■	Shirley Miller■ Miguel Ramirez George Hypes Carla Ikenouye☼ Nancy Kurtz▲ Lisa Wolsey▲ Judi Ring☼ Todd Loschen■	Kathleen Davis▲ Alicia Loschen▲ Charlotte Shetler Ron Shetler Gerre Tjardes■ Bruce Waldo☼ Katelyn Waldo☼ Lynne Waldo■
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes	TBA
Sound Operator	Caitlin Berg	Janice Billings	C.R. Haining	Gary Ikenouye	Jim Prichard
Van Driver	Miguel Ramirez	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes	Miguel Ramirez
Greeters	J./S. Luecht R./C. Shetler C./C. England	Evelyn Kehl Helen Stolte D.&. D. Berg	R./J. Billings Norma Basey Marie Caster	Marilyn Lesser Kathleen Davis Betty Jensen	M. & P. Ramirez L. Rogakis TBA
Coffee Hour	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir	Need Volunteer
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop Kane Shirley	Josh Bobbitt Emilee Wolsey	Scott Haining Daniel Recor	Cambrie Bishop Lauryn Waldo	Josh Bobbitt Kelli Hays
Children's Moment	fester C.-Prose	Kris King	David Haining	Erika Hartmann	E. Hartmann
Children's Church	Michelle Gray Lauryn Waldo	Jodi Bobbitt Daniel Recor	David Haining Andrew Bishop	Lynne Waldo Emilee Wolsey	Lynne Waldo Katelyn Waldo

**KEY:** PREPARATION=☼ CLEAN UP SANCTUARY=▲ CLEAN UP COMMUNION=■

*If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please make arrangements for a replacement. Please notify your team leader and the church of any changes.*