

## The Year of the Cross

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24*

I arrived in El Salvador nearly a year ago, not knowing what to expect. Just after I arrived, the Salvadoran Lutheran Church for whom I work chose their ministry theme for the coming year. They chose, "Take your cross and follow me!" (Matthew 16:24). I had come to El Salvador expecting to learn how God works in a new culture, but I learned about the cross and what it means in El Salvador.

Many recall the floods caused by Hurricane Ida last November, and how they caused so much destruction throughout the country. A rush of aid came right after news of the flooding broke, but as its memory faded, things slowed down. Meanwhile the subsequent long, dry summer left many Salvadorans searching for ways to sustain their families. The Salvadorans were carrying the "cross" of the floods and heat, which had ruined all the crops intended to feed families for the year. But ecumenical organizations took up the cross and supplied food to several communities, following up with each one. Givers to Week of Compassion and One Great Hour of Sharing took up the cross and helped greatly. But the struggle still continues. The long-awaited rains came this year not as a blessing, but as another round of floods.

The Lutheran Church took up the cross with many agricultural projects in El Salvador, which provided much-needed food. I realized they hadn't waited until the crisis occurred to start growing. They had already begun these projects long before the floods came. In this way I saw Christians in El Salvador take up their cross. I have seen a church that takes care of the whole person—sowing seeds of hope from tragedy.

Let us pray that we may all aspire to better the lives of those around us by taking up our cross and following Christ.

*Nicholas Green serves in El Salvador as a long-term volunteer with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of El Salvador. He supports the National Youth with the Family and Gender Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of El Salvador.*



## 2010 Thanksgiving Special Offering

The Thanksgiving Offering provides direct support to Disciples of Christ colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 14 colleges or universities, 3 seminaries and 4 seminary foundations/divinity houses. Gifts from the Disciples Mission Fund Thanksgiving Offering continue a Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the church. Your support makes a difference in the lives of more than 26,000 students who chose a Disciples education. A Thanksgiving Special Offering envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. The offering will be received Nov. 14 & 21.

# The Christian Caller

Monthly Publication of  
First Christian Church  
Greeley, Colorado

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

Rev. Tim Bobbitt, Senior Minister

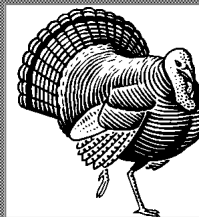
Rev. Linda Harding, Youth Director

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

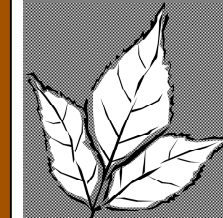
## November 2010

### Inside This Issue

- ◆ A Moment With Tim
- ◆ Monthly Calendar
- ◆ Servers for November
- ◆ November Birthdays
- ◆ Women's Retreat
- ◆ G.I.F.T. Group
- ◆ Global Ministries Letter
- ◆ Income/Expense Report
- ◆ L.A.F.F. Group
- ◆ CWF, CMF Schedules
- ◆ Elder's Message
- ◆ Youth News
- ◆ Room at the Inn
- ◆ Sabbatical Leave
- ◆ Bereavements & Memorials
- ◆ Notes and Invitations
- ◆ Trip to the IMAX Theater
- ◆ Tennyson Center Needs
- ◆ Advent Activities & Worship
- ◆ Special Offering Envelope



O give  
thanks  
to the  
LORD,  
for he is  
good;



for his  
steadfast  
love  
endures  
forever.  
+



## A MOMENT WITH TIM

**But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6: 33**

What is most important to you? Is it family, faith, health? During this year a group from our congregation has been looking at that question. The group is called the Transformers, and we have been revising our Spiritual, Strategic Journey.

During this process, a question surfaced. The question is: What are our core values as a congregation? What is most important in the life of our congregation? How would you answer the question? The Transformers group (composed of David Haining, Connie Harbert, Carla Ikenouye, Tessa Johnson, Gerre Tjardes, Lynne Waldo and me) came up with a list of four core values. Those core values are *Servanthood*, *Relationship*, *Spirituality*, and *Learning*. Everything we do should be related to these four core values.

*Servanthood* is both an attitude and action emanating from the life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we seek to follow in the ways of Jesus, we become a servant people. We serve God and we serve others. This attitude and this action is present in all we do as a congregation.

*Relationship* actually includes many relationships. It includes our relationship with God, our relationship with one another, and our relationship with others. All three are essential in the life of our community. Whether in worship, outreach, education, or fellowship, healthy relationships mark our interaction.

*Spirituality* is seeking to recognize God's presence in all aspects of life and growing in that presence. It might seem obvious that spirituality should be part of all we do as a church, but sometimes we fail to invite God into all aspects of our ministry. There is interrelation between these core values. Recognizing God's presence allows us to grow in relationship with God.

*Learning* is a longtime important aspect of Disciples of Christ tradition. Naming learning as a core value is a recognition that it is not defined by age. Learning is a continuing part of all of our lives at all stages. We especially want to encourage all ages to be involved in a class or study that emphasizes living our faith in all aspects of life.

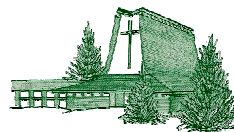
I look forward to sharing with you in a ministry defined by these core values.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Tim



Advent Is Coming



The Advent Season begins four weeks prior to the celebration of the birth of Christ. It is a time of preparation for the Christmas celebration. This year, as in years past, we will mark this time with the lighting of the Advent wreath during our worship. Our themes for each Sunday will be Hope, Way, Joy and Peace. Rather than having our traditional Hanging of the Greens service on the first day of Advent, we will talk about special symbols of the season throughout the four weeks of Advent. This year Advent begins on Sunday, November 28th. The Sunday before Advent, November 21st, we will have a decorating party with chili after our 10:30 worship service. Please plan to participate in this wondrous and special time of year.

## Thank You Notes

**I wish to take this opportunity** to thank the many members of my church family, and Reverends Bobbitt and Harding, who extended their get well wishes and prayers during my recent recovery from knee surgery.

I have been truly blessed!

**Bernie Holland**

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**I am so blessed** to have a great church family, and I thank you for helping me celebrate my birthday on 10-10-10. I appreciate all of your special greetings.

**Norma Basey**



## Under the Sea 3-D at the IMAX Theater!



There has been a slight change in plans for our trip to the newly upgraded IMAX Theater at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. We have decided to leave at noon so we can have lunch at the IMAX before the show. This all takes place on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> (don't worry, Bronco fans - it's a bye week!).

With the help of 3-D technology and narrator Jim Carrey, we'll visit exotic and isolated underwater locations such as southern Australia and New Guinea, and encounter some of the most mysterious and stunning creatures of the sea.

The cost for the show is \$9 for adults and only \$7 for children 3-18, all students with ID, and seniors (65+); you can purchase your lunch there or bring a sack lunch. We should return around 5:00. Look for a sign-up sheet on the easel outside Fellowship Hall. **Please make your payment to the church office or Carla Ikenouye by Wed., November 3.**



## ~Bereavement ~

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Eunice Fine. Eunice passed away on September 26, 2010—less than a month after her husband Don passed away.

## New Member

We welcome Kristin Rone, who joined First Christian Church of Greeley through baptism on October 10, 2010.

Kristin and her husband Corey have three children: Brianna, Ewan, and Bailey.

## Room at the Inn Is Coming


FCC will again be hosting Room at the Inn— from November 7<sup>th</sup>—14<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is posted for members to volunteer for various activities. There has been a great response when we have hosted in the past. If you are not sure what volunteering entails, feel free to call Jim Prichard at 339-9767. This is a wonderful opportunity for hands-on ministry. We are helping those get back on their feet who have fallen on difficult circumstances. Those unable to volunteer may support the ministry by making a donation to help with expenses. Simply indicate Room at the Inn on your donation. RATI needs you.



## Delilah Group Get-Together

The CWF Delilah Group will meet for an evening meal at the Eaton Country Club on Wednesday, December 1st, at 6:00 p.m. If you have questions, please call Charlotte Shetler at 352-3317.

## 50th Anniversary Celebration

The children of Steve and Elgetta Hummel invite friends to join them in helping their parents celebrate 50 years of marriage. The reception will take place on Saturday, November 6, from 1-5 p.m. at FCC. The couple requests no gift other than your presence. 



## Christian Women's Fellowship

CWF will meet on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, at noon for its general meeting. Lunch will be catered by the Platte Valley High School catering class and will cost \$4 per person. Please RSVP on the board by October 31st. Our speaker this month will be Richelle Mitchel-Miller of Right to Read. Devotions will be given by LaVonne Rogakis.

In November and early December we will be collecting money for the Colorado Christian Home "Dress a Child" program. If you wish to donate, you can turn your money in at your November group meeting or at the general meeting in November or December.

The CWF Board will meet at 9:30 a.m. on November 11<sup>th</sup> with LaVonne Rogakis giving the devotions. Joy Group will meet at 1:15 p.m. on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Kindness and Peace groups will meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively. Delilah Group will meet at the Eaton Country Club for an evening meal at 6:00 on Wednesday, December 1st.

## FCC Basketball Team

The church basketball team is looking to follow up last year's extraordinary season with a team this year. Please let Pastor Tim know if you would like to play.



## Christian Men's Fellowship

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will be meeting November 13 from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have breakfast, a program, and fellowship. The CMF group is a gathering of men of all ages who get together for fellowship, fun, and service. There is no membership required! Come and bring a friend! If you would be willing to serve breakfast or host this program, please contact David Haining at 353-7613 or Carl England at 356-4745.

## ~ Thank You ~

Thank you so much for allowing our church van to be used at the groundbreaking ceremony for Catholic Charities. With us not knowing how many people to expect, and such limited parking, it was a big help!

Thanks again!

In God's Love,  
Verna Recor, Volunteer Coordinator



## Church World Service Thank You

FCC received a thank-you letter from CWS for our \$553.00 contribution to the Blankets+ Program. Rev. John McCullough said, in part, "In a world wounded in so many ways, I remain hopeful because of ... caring people like you."

## Room at the Inn Needs Temporary Funds



The Outreach Ministry at FCC has decided to send Room at the Inn a \$500 check now. You too, can help by writing a check today earmarked for Room at the Inn. This program is suffering a shortfall as the end of the year draws nearer. \$5,000 is needed by mid-November in order to operate in December. In this hard economic crisis, one of their large funders could not re-fund this program. However, they will receive a grant that will begin to fund the agency at the end of December. We will still give our Christmas Eve Offering for the cause. Please pray for this most urgent need, or give what you can to help.

## G.I.F.T. Group Party

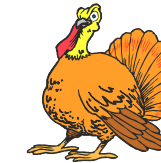


The G.I.F.T. (generally in-between fifty and twenty group invites you for a night out! Please join us for a fondue party on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Brems home. The address is 648 52nd Ave. Childcare will be provided at the church. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board with more information. We hope to see you there!

## FCC Youth News

"Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving."

Psalm 95:2



November is traditionally the time when we focus on giving thanks. It is a time to come together with family and friends to remember all that God has done in our lives and to give thanks for the many blessings we receive. Psalm 95 reminds us that praising God and giving thanks are things we should strive for each day. This psalm calls us to praise God, and reminds us why we are called to do so. God is a great God, and we discover this as we acknowledge that God formed the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains with his hands. God created the dry land and formed the seas. We also discover that God is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. The image of a shepherd reminds us that God is in relationship with us and with all people, and God cares for us and loves us deeply. May God bless your time with family and friends, and may you remember all that the Lord has done for you!

## Youth Schedule for November 2010

**November 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: CYF Fall Retreat.** Meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>. Bring a sack lunch for dinner. We will return to the church around 1:00 p.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Bring money for the ride home - we will probably stop for lunch!

**November 7<sup>th</sup>: Room at the Inn.** Youth, plan on setting up beds and rooms after church!

**November 7<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group,** 4:30-6:30 for Juniors and Chi Rho only! No youth group for CYF.

**November 14<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group,** 4:30-6:30 pm, feel free to bring your friends!

**November 21<sup>st</sup>: Youth Group,** 4:30-6:30 pm, feel free to bring your friends!

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Tuesday - Dinner for the Greeley Transitional House** at the church. Come after school to help set up and cook! The dinner is from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**November 28<sup>th</sup>: No Youth Group** - enjoy your time off with your family and friends! Don't forget PRAISE BAND Practice every week from 3:30 to 4:30 on Sundays. Please contact Cory Urban for more information regarding rehearsal dates and times.

Fudge



## Elder's Message

It is the time of year again that we should pause and reflect on all the things we are thankful for—unless of course you are a turkey. But we as Christians have much to be grateful for. November and the fall are our time of harvest as the farmers bring in their crops from the good earth God has blessed us with.

I am thankful that we have our outstanding pastors in Rev. Tim and Rev. Linda, and also our hardworking and diligent Susan Neeley, as well as all the other people who make up our church staff. I am also so thankful that we have such a beautiful church in which to worship our glorious and loving God and where we are able to have all of the other activities that make up First Christian Church.

This is an especially nice time as the holiday season is beginning with Thanksgiving Day—a time we look forward to being with family and enjoying great food and fellowship. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful, loving family, as well as my church family of friends—God bless you all.

We are especially blessed to have our Lord Jesus Christ who loved us enough to die a dreadful death on a cross, that we may be saved from our sins and have eternal life—what a gift to be thankful for!!

Thank you, dear God. Amen.

Carl England, Elder



## Youth Retreat

The Regional CYF Retreat is Nov. 5th–7th. Cost is \$22.50. We will leave the church Friday at 4:30 p.m. and return Sunday around 1:00 p.m. The theme this year is "Take Up Your Cross" —serving others with faith and love. This year retreat participants will be serving at the Door Mission in Denver.

## Praise Band

Praise Band rehearses every Sunday from 3:30 to 4:30! If you have a passion for music, we would love to have you join us! Please contact Cory Urban, Pastor Tim or Pastor Linda.



## One More WWW

Worship and Wisdom on Wednesdays will continue through the first week of November. Come and join us for an uplifting and fun experience. We begin at 5:30 with a hearty soup meal—we make the soup and you bring a salad or dessert (for 8-10). It's easy to make ahead of time or pick up at the deli.

We continue with a short worship from about 6:10 to 6:25, and then we break into our Wisdom groups (Bible Study, Prayer Gathering, and Sharing our Talents). On November 3rd Bob Gibson will help us "Remember Our Veterans" by sharing his collection of insignias, uniforms and shoulder patches.



## Save the Date

2011 General Assembly will take place in Nashville, Tenn., from July 9th-13th.

## Education Team Update

Children's Sunday School: The theme of our next rotation is "Follow the Star." Wise men from the East followed a star that led them to the promised king, Jesus, so they could worship him. We can follow signs that lead us to Jesus and worship him still today. If you have a passion for children and have gifts for cooking, drama, science, story, art or games, please contact Pastor Linda or Jodi Bobbitt to serve and work with our kids!

Adult Sunday School: Pastor Linda will begin a new Sunday School class on November 14th. The topic will be "Family in the Bible." What does the Bible say about family and how can we learn from the scriptures to make our families stronger? This will be a time to share our joys and struggles with our family dynamics!

## All-Church Family Affair!

On Friday, December 10th, the church will attend "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at the UCCC, as a group. This is a great opportunity to have fun with our church families. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. Please sign up on the list and give your check or money to Susan or Bev. Make checks out to FCC with the notation "UCCC Show." All reservations and payments must be turned in by Dec. 1st. Join the fun and celebrate Christmas with us!



## Thanksgiving Meal Volunteers Needed

Our church will be hosting the annual Thanksgiving Meal for clients of the Greeley Transitional House on Tuesday, November 23, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Youth Group will be helping to serve the meal, as will other community volunteers. A few volunteers are needed to help Jodi Hartmann prepare the meal during the day at the church. We also welcome pie donations. Please contact Jodi Hartmann or Hazel Gibson with the Outreach Ministry Team.

## Missing Historical Item

A large painting entitled "Jesus Knocking on the Door" was hanging in the second classroom west of the church library for a long time. It has recently been discovered to be missing. This painting has been church property for many decades, probably reaching back to the old building downtown. If you know where this painting is, please notify the church office or the church historian, George Hypes, so we can hang it again or put it in the archives.

## L.A.F.F. Group



The L.A.F.F. Group will meet on Friday, November 19th, at the Harberts' for their annual turkey dinner and Stocking Stuffer gift donations for Colorado Christian Home. Begin collecting those Stocking Stuffers! Keep an eye on the bulletin for more information and the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Also, we are tentatively planning a December Christmas Light Tour. Watch the bulletin for further details. The L.A.F.F. Group is a social group for those over 55 and under 155!



## ? How Does a Sabbatical Benefit the Congregation? ?

When a minister takes a Sabbatical/Renewal Leave, the congregation will benefit from the opportunity to reflect on its mission and ministry, experience different gifts of leadership, and perhaps members will discover their own unique areas of ministry.

### Once Upon A Time ...

... there was a minister who, in addition to her service with the congregation, was very involved in community outreach. She served on community service boards and participated in their outreach projects. As part of the planning for her Renewal Leave, several members of the congregation agreed to take the minister's place on the community service boards and outreach projects. The church members discovered that they not only had the skills for doing the work, but they enjoyed it. Then, as the time came for the minister to return, they wondered how they would tell her that they wanted to continue the community service.

Meanwhile, the minister was using her Renewal Leave to reflect on her ministry as well as her dreams and hopes for the congregation. She came to the conclusion that she needed and wanted to step back from so much community involvement. When she returned from her Renewal Leave, both she and the congregation were prepared and eager to make this change. The Renewal Leave allowed God space to work in both the congregation and minister. (A true story.)



# November Birthdays



1 Jim Prichard	5 Elgetta Hummel	10 Kayla Meisner	19 Corbett Brashear
1 Gregory Samuelson	6 Pyper Evans	11 Jack Taylor	23 Lisa Wolsey
2 Jack Ring	8 Darron Berg	13 Tim Bobbitt	24 Gary Ikenouye
2 Rylee Scheid	8 Beverly Gray	14 Caitlin Berg	24 Shari Wolfrum
3 Bob Gibson	8 Mark Weiler	15 Bonnie Eldred	26 Judy Samuelson
4 Bessie Bishop	9 Roger Harbert	18 Chuck Walker	26 Cindy Tjardes



## Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars for our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, following the 10:30 worship. This meeting will include the election of new leaders and voting on the Plan for Mission and Ministry for 2011.

## Church Financial Update

### Income 2010

Budgeted Year to Date \$222,681.06\*  
Actual as of 09/30/10 \$190,212.72\*\*

### Expenses 2010

Budgeted Year to Date \$222,681.06  
Actual as of 09/30/10 \$191,360.76

\*Includes Trustees as needed.

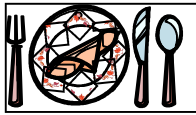
\*\*Includes \$8,000.00 from Trustees.

Church World Service Blanket Fund: \$553.00



## Tennyson Center Needs for November

- Batteries, all sizes
- Cotton Balls
- Hair Gel, Hair Spray
- Clorox Wipes
- Holiday Table Covers
- Glade Air Fresheners (spray)
- Holiday Dinner Napkins
- Holiday Paper Plates (dinner size)



## Weld Food Bank Donations



We support the Weld Food Bank not only with non-perishable food items, but with cash, too.

Canned food is always appreciated, but in these economic times, cash goes further, according to Scott Westfall, WFB food procurement specialist. For instance, a \$1 cash donation buys six pounds of food or \$10 of food (retail). Cash donations allow the food bank to have a bigger buying capacity and help pay for the gas and drivers who bring donated food to WFB from all over the country. Look for the table in the Narthex with envelopes for WFB donations. Cash or cans will be accepted.

## Vacation Bible School

Yes, it's true, we are already planning for VBS 2011. Save the dates of June 6-10, with a special worship on June 13<sup>th</sup>. We will again be visiting five different countries to discover God's Love Everywhere. This year we have added the extra excitement of superheroes showing us "The Way." Save your Halloween costumes—we may want to borrow them. We are hoping that by choosing the dates early, many of you will be able to arrange work and vacation schedules so that you can join us for this wonderful outreach opportunity.



## Servers for the Month of November

	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28
<b>8:15 Chapel Service</b>				
Elder	Carol Smith	Carol Smith	Carl England	Gerre Tjardes
Diaconate	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman
Worship Leader	Jim Richardson	Von Prichard	Deb Richardson	Gretchen Howland
Song Leader	Caren Renee Haining	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson
Pianist	Chris Coon	Gretchen Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Nita White
<b>10:30 Sanctuary Service</b>				
Elder: North	Carl England	Gary Ikenouye	Gerre Tjardes	Carol Smith
Elder: South	Gary Ikenouye	Gerre Tjardes	Gary Ikenouye	Carl England
Worship Leader	Bill Sinnwell	Caren Renee Haining	Bessie Bishop	Emilee Wolsey
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes
Sound Operator	Katelyn Waldo	Caren Renee Haining	Bruce Waldo	Gary Ikenouye
Van Driver	Jim Ploegstra	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes
Diaconate	Alicia Loschen ±	Alicia Loschen ■	Alicia Loschen ▸	Alicia Loschen ▲
	Carla Ikenouye ±	Carla Ikenouye ■	Carla Ikenouye ▸	Carla Ikenouye ▲
Please have	Lisa Wolsey ▲	Lisa Wolsey ±	Lisa Wolsey ■	Lisa Wolsey ▸
communion	Katelyn Waldo ▲	Katelyn Waldo ±	Katelyn Waldo ■	Katelyn Waldo ▸
ready by	Judi Ring ▸	Judi Ring ▲	Judi Ring ±	Judi Ring ■
10:00 a.m.	Von Prichard ▸	Von Prichard ▲	Von Prichard ±	Von Prichard ■
	Beth Warntz ■	Beth Warntz ▸	Beth Warntz ▲	Beth Warntz ±
	Paul Warntz ■	Paul Warntz ▸	Paul Warntz ▲	Paul Warntz ±
Greeters	Jim & Susan Luecht	Evelyn Kehl	Marilyn Lesser	Marilyn Lesser
	Ron & Charlotte Shletler	Helen Stolte	Norma Basey	Kathleen Davis
	Carl & Carolyn England	Darron & Debbie Berg	Marie Caster	Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour Host	Tjardes, Doyle	Rone Family	Heitmans	Englands
Acolytes	Baylee Brems	Andrew Bishop	Weston Boyce	Daniel Recor
	Emilee Ploegstra		Becky Boyce	Ian Ploegstra
Children's Moment	Erika Hartmann	Kris King	D. Haining	Linda Harding
Children's Church	Michelle G, Brady Harding	Lynne Waldo, Lauryn W	D. Haining, Daniel Recor	Jodi Bobbitt, Andrew B

**KEY:** Preparation=± Clean Up Sanctuary=▲ No Extra Duties=▸ 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.