

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
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Rev. Tim Bobbitt, Senior Minister

Rev. Linda Harding, Associate Minister

First Christian Church—Called by
Christ's transforming grace and love
to share hope and life in community.

November 2011

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

Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. James 1: 22

A small cart pulled by a cow left Nagpur in 1868 and travelled for five days carrying Rev. Oscar Lohr to Bishrampur, India. He was the first missionary in the region from the United States representing the United Church of Christ. In 1885 another cart left Jabalpur and travelled for three days through the tiger infested forests of what we call Kahna National Park to Bilsapur. In this were Miss Anna Boyd, Miss Kingsley and Mrs. Adams, representing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S.

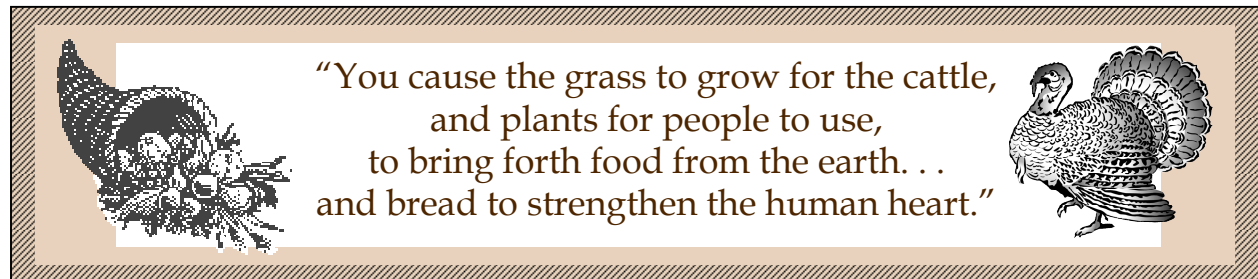
Missionary Anil Henry writes: I am in India today on behalf of the many missionaries who followed, and the congregations of these two mainline churches of America that were two of the six churches that joined in the unification of the Church of North India. I am filled with thanksgiving every day for their vision and hope. It is not only my seven years of service with the Church of North India on behalf of Global Ministries in Mungeli, but a second generation of mission work that continues after the legacy of my parents; my mother, Mrs. Nancy Henry, was sent out by the United Church of Christ 50 years ago as a young missionary nurse and later married my father, Dr. VK Henry.

In the small area of Mungeli we try to show God's love through the running of a hospital (120 beds) and school (500 children). We ask for strength as we move toward the construction of a new school building and a cancer centre, starting nursing education and working with the community to help them better understand that our faith has very little value if we do not have action along with it.

We pray with the Henrys, asking God to transform our lives with courage and cleanse us so that we may be better vessels of God's work.

Anil and Teresa Henry serve the Synodical Board of Health Services of the Church of North India. Both work as medical doctors and Anil as director of the Christian Hospital in Mungeli.

Action That Transforms



A Moment With Tim

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

As I have returned to the church community over the past couple of months, I have been greatly encouraged by the conversations we are having about being a fruitful, thriving congregation. It has been encouraging to read many of the cards about what this community loves about the church, who has inspired our walk of faith, and hopes and visions for the church.

I have also heard some comments and read some words which were neither loving, encouraging, nor Christ-like. In our Fellowship Hall affixed to the sound booth we have a Relationship Covenant, which many of us have signed. The covenant includes the following phrases. "I will seek to remember that as the church family we are one in Christ Jesus. I will seek to communicate in clear and loving ways; emphasizing listening. I will seek to treat others as I would like to be treated. I will seek to act in grace, forgiveness and love." In some ways we are failing to live up to this covenant.

None of us is perfect. We all make mistakes. We all act in non-loving ways at times. We all rely on the grace of Jesus Christ. But we also all need to be open to Christ's transforming love in our life. Our daily challenge is to seek to live in Christ in all that we do and all that we say. We need to speak and act in love, grace, truth, and hope.

So let us encourage each other with love and hope, not with suspicion and distrust. Every single volunteer of our church from Board Members, to Elders, to choir members, to Sunday School teachers does what they do to serve. Please treat them as you would like to be treated. I give thanks for so many faithful people. Every single member of our staff works more hours than they are paid for because each one understands that we are serving God.

We are all in this together. Sometimes we need to make corrections. Sometimes we need to encourage one another to act in different ways. But in all that we do, let us act in love, in faith, and in hope.

Now and always our goal as a church is to seek God's vision and live it out. Every single member of this faith community has a right and an obligation to prayerfully seek God's vision for us and share that in community. Please find loving ways to do that. And remember, we are all called to be servants of Jesus Christ.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Tim



Extravagant Generosity ~ As I read through the "Heart Cards" that have been turned in as part of our focus on Extravagant Generosity, it is clear that our church is doing some powerful things in people's lives. Many people expressed the love they have for the mission and ministry of our congregation as well as the welcoming spirit they receive. Many people have been blessed by people both inside our congregation and outside to help them along their faith journey. And many people expressed the dreams they have for the congregation...to continue to grow both spiritually and numerically. Your generosity makes a lasting difference, impacting eternity. Your generosity helps further the work of God – helping to reach out to new believers and to strengthen those who believe. Together, we can make a difference.

We are preparing to finalize our ministry plans for next year as our *Extravagant Generosity* focus comes to an end. One of the main factors that will determine our ministry plans will be the Estimate of Giving Cards that you hopefully have received. We would ask that you prayerfully consider filling out a card and returning it to the church at your earliest convenience so that your contribution can be counted.

May God continue to be honored by our church's efforts to proclaim Christ and minister in his name.
David Haining, Stewardship Chair

~ Bereavement ~

Our deepest sympathies are with Evelyn Simon and her sons' families in the passing of her husband Richard (Dick) on October 2, 2011. Dick served as choir director at FCC from 1962 through 1978, and Evelyn was our organist for many years.



Thank You



Thank you to Nita White, who has been coordinating our Wednesday Night Fellowship meals. They have been wonderful!



All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner



Calling all turkey gobblers! You are invited to join us for a Thanksgiving dinner immediately following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, November 13. Meat and mashed potatoes will be provided. Sign up on the sheet in the south hall to indicate whether you will provide a salad, dessert, or hot dish.

Plan to join us—once you catch a whiff of this meal, you'll be glad you did. Questions? Talk to Ron Shetler at 352-3317.

Transitional House Thanksgiving Dinner

This year we will continue our tradition of hosting the Greeley Transitional House Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday evening, November 22. If you would like to help prepare or serve, please speak with Pastor Linda Harding.



Chancel Choir

We are looking for people to join the choir for the holiday season. Rehearsals are each Thursday at 7 p.m., and we sing each Sunday at the 10:30 service. We will perform our Christmas program on December 11th for both services. You don't need to read music to join. If you are interested, speak with Gretchen or Judi, or just join us on Thursday night at 7 p.m.



What's Cookin'?



Join the Giggles & Grins Group (formerly known as G.I.F.T.) for November's offering, which is sure to be a treat to the taste buds. We're having a "Chili Cook-Off" at the Haining Home on Saturday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m. It will be a competition to see who has the best tasting blend of spice and sass to be this year's winner. Prizes will be awarded. If you don't want to bring chili, alternative side dishes are needed as well. See the sign-up sheet in the south hall to see where you would best fit in. Childcare will take place at the church.

Giggles & Grins is a made up of folks who like a good time with fun people. If you qualify, please join us on the 19th! If you have any questions or concerns, contact David & Caren Haining at 353-7613. Their address is 436 N. Wyndham Avenue in Greeley.

Tennyson Center

STOCKING STUFFER PROJECT



The November activity for the Life After Fifty-Five (LAFF) Group is to participate in the All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner planned for November 13th following the 10:30 worship service. We will be bringing our usual Stocking Stuffers for the Tennyson Center to the dinner.

We invite all church members who would like to participate in this project to join in. There will be a box in Fellowship Hall for your donations. There will also be a list posted on the bulletin board for suggestions.

December LAFF Activity



The LAFF (Life After Fifty-Five) Group will be attending *HARVEY*, a great classic play, at UNC's Langworthy Theatre, on Sunday, December 4th, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each and **must be purchased by Nov. 20**. See the sign-up sheet in the South Hall. Come along and join us for a very fun afternoon. See Connie Harbert for additional information.



Pastor Linda's Ponderings

Our youth are studying a book by Francis Chan titled *Crazy Love*. Through our study we discover that God is crazy in love with each one of us! We began the study by looking at who God is and how we can know God. One way is through creation—did you know that an elm tree has approximately six million leaves? What about laughter—why did God create so many different sounds of your friends' laughter?: wheezes, snorts, silent, loud, obnoxious? Francis shares with us that God's art and creativity speaks of himself, reflecting who God is and what God is like. I think it is very important for us to realize just how much God loves us. God has this amazing love, and nothing can separate us from the love of God. I think it is just as important to know that God has this crazy and amazing love for the other six billion people on this planet! God loves everyone else just as much as God loves me!

This is revealed to us through Jesus. Jesus is another way we can experience who God is and what God is like. Jesus' words and actions reveal to us this amazing love of God for me as an individual and for all people. Jesus constantly reached out to others and invited them in—he offered them a different way to live in this world. Jesus shows us how we should interact with God and with one another. Jesus shows us how to respect and to speak and to act as we live out our lives. Through Jesus we learn how to move past our own self-absorption and to move to a place where we truly love God and love others as much as we love ourselves.

As we think about how crazy in love God is with us, may we also think about how crazy in love God is with everyone else, and may we hold that close in our hearts and minds. May we follow the actions of Jesus—praying, sharing and loving all people and all things that God has created!



Nominating Committee

Thank you to our wonderful leaders for the 2011 year. You are doing a great job. Our congregational meeting is just around the corner, so that means our nominating committee is hard at work. Please prayerfully consider being part of our leadership team for 2012. Speak with Verna Recor if you would like to be considered for an elected or nominated position.

Guadalupe Center Meals

The youth could use your help! They will purchase, prepare, cook and serve a meal for the guests at the Guadalupe Center on the third Sunday of each month. A list of needed menu items is taped on a container in Fellowship Hall. To contribute items or money or to know more, please see Pastor Linda.

Church Financial Update

Budgeted Income Year to Date	\$201,577.46
Actual Income as of 9/30/11	\$186,119.77
Budgeted Expense Year to Date	\$201,577.46
Actual Expense as of 9/30/11	\$188,502.66
Blanket Offering	\$855.00
Reconciliation Special Offering	\$296.00

Tennyson Center Needs for November

Hair Gel
 Hair Spray
 Night Lights
 Clorox Wipes
 Body Wash (Kids')
 Shampoo/Conditioner
 Glade Air Fresheners (Spray)
 Batteries (A, AA, AAA, C & D)



~ Youth News ~



"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

Let us take some time this month to give thanks to God. As we have been discussing in our youth group, God is an amazing God who has this incredible love for us all. Not only that, but God desires to be in relationship with us and for us to be in relationship with him and with one another. I am thankful for our youth; for the ways that you share your gifts and life with others. For your sense of humor and love! I am thankful for your parents who raise you up to be the person God created you to be and for the ways that your parents encourage and support our youth group. I am thankful for our adult leaders who give so much of their time and talents to teach our youth and show by example how to love God and how to love others. I am thankful for a congregation who supports our youth by providing funds for them to attend camps and retreats and for their prayers. I am thankful to God who allows us to be together as one community, as one family, and continues to love us, providing grace and mercy!

November 2011 Events

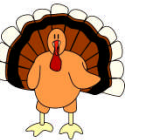
6th 4:30-6:30 pm - Crazy Love series, plus fellowship, fun and food!

11th - 13th Regional Fall Retreat - CYF only and must sign up through the church—be watching for more info!



13th 4:30- 6:30 pm. No CYF youth group. Juniors and Chi Rho service project at Greeley Transitional House.

20th 4:30-6:30 pm -Juniors and Chi Rho meet at regular time. CYF will meet at 3:30 to serve dinner at the Guadalupe Center.



Tuesday 22nd - 5:30- 7:30 pm Greeley Transitional House Thanksgiving Dinner—help serve dinner at FCC.

27th 4:30-6:30 pm - Crazy Love series, plus fellowship, fun and food!



Linda

Camp Information for Summer 2012

Camp	Dates	Cost
Discovery Camp (1st, 2nd & 3rd grade)	June 21-23	\$135.00
Junior Camp (3rd, 4th & 5th grade)	June 10-16	\$350.00
Chi Rho Camp (Middle School)	June 17-23	\$385.00
CYF (High School)	June 10-16	\$390.00

Camp forms including physicals and money are due to Pastor Linda by April 1st—no exceptions. The Region will not accept late forms or process forms that are incomplete. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Linda.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Continues Through November 9th

You are welcome to join us for WNF for two more weeks. Dinner is from 6:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. We are sharing in a traditional potluck on Nov. 2nd; on Nov. 9th we are asking everyone to bring a pizza—singles are welcome to team up with a partner if you like.

From 6:30-7:30 we will provide five small group options:

Pastor Linda is leading a small group for those who would like to discuss the book Following the Movements of the Spirit—Spiritual Formation by Henri Nouwen. This is an inter-generational group for those 5th grade and up. This group meets in the Prayer Chapel (across from the Chapel).

Caren Renee Haining is leading **Courtesy Card Crafting**. Different themes are featured each week. This is an inter-generational group for those 4th grade and up and will meet in the Art Room.

George Hypes has gathered some of the **Talents & Gifts** of our congregation. The topics still ahead include “Searching the Internet” and “Remembering our Veterans—Part 2”. This group meets in the parlor. All ages are invited.

Pastor Tim is leading a **Disciple New Testament Bible Study**. Sixth grade and up could benefit from this study. This group will meet in the library.

Puppetry is available to children 5th grade and up, and is led by Lynn Teixeira and Janean Beaman. Children and youth (five and up) will gather together as Lisa Wolsey leads the kids in various fun activities. And we will have **Child Care** in the nursery for those four and under.

Check out the WNF bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall and the Sign-Up Board in the south hall. You won't want to miss this time of learning, fellowship, and good food.

Bring Cans If You Can



During the month of November, FCC members will be asked to bring canned goods for the Weld Food Bank. Sunday School classes will be competing for a treat. Adults and children are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items. Here's our chance to practice extravagant generosity.

Book Club to Meet Nov. 7th

The FCC Book Club is currently reading *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. This is an expanded version of the lecture that Mr. Pausch, a young computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University, gave after he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. We will meet on Monday, November 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor to discuss the book.



Congregational Meeting

Please plan to join us for our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 4, following the 10:30 service. The Plan for Mission and Ministry and the Ballot of Nominations for 2012 will be the major conversation items. The congregational meeting is the major decision-making process in the life of our church. We will plan to have an informative meeting where the Plan for Mission and Ministry and the Ballot of Nominations is shared following the 8:15 service on December 4, but voting will not take place.



FCC Men's Group

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship is a group of guys associated with the church who get together to share in fellowship and ministry together and to give support to one another. We have an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us—we encourage all ages to participate. We will meet from 8-9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall on November 12 for breakfast and a short meeting. Invite a friend, neighbor, or other church members to join you and come enjoy.



Elder's Message

Well, I guess it's my time in the barrel this month. Just kidding—I have so many things to be thankful for at all times, not just around Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season. Things such as my wife and family, all my friends here at FCC, and the love and grace that God through Jesus the Christ shows us and gives us. We don't even have to ask for most of the things or gifts we receive through the Holy Spirit. Thank you, Lord, for Pastor Tim, Pastor Linda, and our great hardworking staff. Our church is alive and doing fine. It has been my privilege and honor to serve with a great group of Christians—the Elders here at FCC. God bless and keep us all.

~Carl England, Elder

Advent Devotional Booklet

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about Advent Devotionals. Over the past couple of years, the congregation has come together to produce wonderful devotionals. This year we will need 29 writers. See the sign-up list and instructions for writers on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. You will be given guidelines to follow and a choice of scriptures. The deadline for submissions is November 4th.



This year, in addition to a hard copy, we would like to send the booklet's daily devotions out by e-mail to anyone who would appreciate getting them that way. A sign-up sheet will be posted so you can let us know if you would like to receive devotions each weekday in Advent by e-mail. If you aren't sure whether the church has your e-mail address, please call the church office at 352-1292.

Youth Program

The Youth Advent/Christmas Program will take place on December 4th during the 10:30 service. We have already begun practicing and will continue to practice at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. If your child has a special talent that he/she would like to share, please speak with Judi Ring ASAP. Youth of all ages are invited to participate.



Christian Women's Fellowship

There will be no General Meeting (Luncheon/Program) in November.

The CWF Board will meet November 10. Group meetings will be held in November with Peace and Kindness groups meeting one week earlier than usual (on the 17th) because of Thanksgiving.

Please continue to bring items in November for the Guadalupe Community Center. A list of needed items has been posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

At the November group meetings, contributions will be accepted for the Dress-a-Child program at the Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home. Contributions will also be accepted at the CWF Luncheon meeting on December 1st. CWF has pledged \$170 for one child. Any additional contribution will be used for additional children. This is the service project for CWF for December.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Baby Shower

All FCC folks are invited to a Baby Shower for Porschia Gray on Saturday afternoon, November 5, from 3-5:00. RSVP's would be appreciated. Please call Michelle at 576-6827.

FCC Crafting Crowd

Watch the bulletin board for upcoming crafting opportunities! FCC Crafting Crowd plans are still in the works, but will include a variety of Christmas Gift "Make & Takes."



Thanksgiving Special Offering

The special offering will be received on Nov. 13th and 20th. See the newsletter insert.

November Birthdays

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

A Word (or two) From Our Regional Pastor [Excerpted]

I'm a pastor's kid—a PK!—and a missionary's kid. As such, our family was the first one in church and the last one to leave. We turned on the heating system and lights on our way in; and then turned them off on our way out.

My father, José Sr., was an ordained minister; mother, Carmen Lydia, a licensed minister—her exact title was *misionera de la iglesia*. I was surrounded by the church, tied to it by heritage and heredity. I remember the calls from emergency rooms at 3 o'clock in the morning. I remember the battered woman seeking refuge in my mother's arms. I remember the youth group gathering at the Morales home after church for hours on end, to eat and laugh and cry. I remember my dad at the dining room table putting sermons together on legal pads while drinking tea with lemon and honey. The multiple, circular, coffee mug stains gave a Picasso-like feel to his preaching notes.

What I remember most is that every day, he would kneel to pray, either by his bed, with the door open, or by the sofa. . . he was a good father, who dared to be as daring as Paul, who said, "*Brothers and sisters, become imitators of me and watch those who live this way—you can use us as models.*" (Philippians 3:17) Or Paul's even more gutsy claim, "*Follow my example, just like I follow Christ's.*" (1 Corinthians 11:1) My dad refused to keep from us his commitment to prayer.

Throughout the Christian world in the United States, this month is being observed as Minister Appreciation Month. And in this Region, we have great Disciples ministers and chaplains, caregivers and preachers, who live lives "*worthy of God's call*" (see 2 Thessalonians 1:11). We have pastors who stand with the sick and dying; chaplains that console families gripped by fear of the unknown; pastors who are transforming congregations; chaplains who seek the face of Christ in prisons and homeless shelters; and ministers who preach compelling sermons that inspire deeper faith in us all.

In this Region, we have a chaplain who trains others chaplains, thus expanding the caring arm of the Church. We have a pastor who is known throughout the entire neighborhood by his first name. We have a pastor guiding a congregation beyond "survival mode" and toward thriving in faith. We have a pastor who literally beats the ambulance to crash sites to be with the injured.

In short, we have [leaders] of whom we can say, "Follow their example, just like they follow Christ's."

Dear Region, remember to appreciate your pastors and chaplains during this Month of Minister Appreciation. Pray for them. And follow their example of love.

With a grateful heart,

José F. Morales Jr., Transitional Regional Minister



Servers for the Month of November

	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
8:15 Chapel Service				
Elder	Bob Corliss	Bob Corliss	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes
Diaconate	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman
Worship Leader	Ray White	Phyllis Hansberry	Lisa Wolsey	Mark Weiler
Song Leader	Caren Renee Haining	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson
Pianist	Jodi Hartmann	Gretchen Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Nita White
9:30 Sanctuary Service				
Elder: North	Carl England	Diane Doyle	Gerre Tjardes	Bob Corliss
Elder: South	Diane Doyle	Gerre Tjardes	Diane Doyle	Carl England
Worship Leader	Kris King	Jim Prichard	Lena Morris	Sam McMichael
Song Leader	Praise Band	Judi Ring	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes
Sound Operator	Bruce Waldo	Bruce Waldo	Caren Renee Haining	Gary Ikenouye
Van Driver	Jim Ploegstra	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes
Diaconate	Alicia Loschen ± Andrew Bishop ± Emilee Wolsey ▲ Judi Ring ▲ Paul Warntz ~ Beth Warntz ~ Tom Teixeira ■ Lynn Teixeira ■	Alicia Loschen ■ Andrew Bishop ■ Emilee Wolsey ± Judi Ring ± Paul Warntz ▲ Beth Warntz ▲ Tom Teixeira ~ Lynn Teixeira ~	Alicia Loschen ~ Andrew Bishop ~ Emilee Wolsey ■ Judi Ring ■ Paul Warntz ± Beth Warntz ± Tom Teixeira ▲ Lynn Teixeira ▲	Alicia Loschen ▲ Andrew Bishop ▲ Emilee Wolsey ~ Judi Ring ~ Paul Warntz ■ Beth Warntz ■ Jim Luecht ± Susan Luecht ±
Greeters	Jim, Susan Luecht Ron, Charlotte Shetler Carl, Carolyn England	The Heatherlys White Family Darron, Debbie Berg	Julie Hoskins Norma Basey Marie Caster	Marilyn Lesser Kathleen Davis Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour Host	Recor, Hoskins	Hartmann, Leh	Heitman Family	Waldo Family
Acolytes	Baylee Brems Emilee Ploegstra Erika Hartmann	Nathan Bobbitt David King Kris King	Weston Boyce Becky Boyce Cambrie Bishop	Austin Loschen Hunter Evans Rev. Linda Harding
Children's Moment	Michelle Gray	Pachi Stanley	Pachi Stanley	Jodi Bobbitt
Children's Church	Ashley Wickman	Daniel R., Andrew B.	Josh B., Ashley W.	Daniel Recor

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.