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The Christian Caller Newsletter

July 2020



First Christian Church of Greeley Statement of Pro-Reconciliation

As we follow Jesus, the First Christian Group of Greeley is part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We are a pro-reconciliation, anti-racist church.

We oppose racism in any form.

Unless we recognize the inherent dignity and humanity of people of color, we cannot say we follow Jesus. We stand in solidarity with all those speaking out peacefully against acts of racial violence.

We hear Jesus when he says,

“Love God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and your neighbor as yourself.”



Message from Mark



“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8: 38-39

Judi and I are preaching from the Paul’s letter to the Romans these next few weeks. Judi “drew” the Romans 8 section, which I semi-graciously surrendered to her. These final two sentences from what I consider to be the essence of The Magna Carta of Christian Liberty sum up the essence of my faith. I am not sure how Judi will speak about the larger section, but these words are my “go to” bottom line. I make sure that in every memorial service these words are lifted up.

Nothing... absolutely nothing, no Covid 19, no social unrest, no economic peril, no political antics, no social distancing, no masks—nothing, absolutely nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and... love your neighbor as well as you do yourself.”

Luke 10:27, The Message



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

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PRAYER
and
COMMUNION
by the
FOUNTAIN

Sundays 8:30 & 9:40
8:45 Children's Time
Sanctuary Music

Hunter's Graduation Party

Saturday, July 18 1:00-4:00 p.m.

2601 Port St., Evans (garage & back yard)

You are invited to help **Hunter Evans** celebrate!
Let Hunter know how proud you are of him by...
driving by with a wave... dropping off a card...
or come in person to celebrate this happy occasion!
Sanitizer will be available if wanted—smoked brats and cake
will be provided. *Hunter's graduation ceremony is tentatively scheduled for July 11 (format unknown at this time).*

Youth Campfire Gatherings

Tuesdays thru July 7th, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

All Jr (3rd-5th), Chi Rho (6th-8th) and CYF (9th-12th) CRMR Youth are invited to participate. **Cost: Free**

A link to the meetings will be sent only to those who sign up (**please do not share or publicize the link**—we don't want Zoom-crashers). Sign up by email: skgarrison50@gmail.com.

Elder's Message

~ Jodi Hartmann

Peace is possible...

It is not easy to find peace these days. There are troubling headlines no matter where we turn in the media. Angry drivers cut us off or speed around us as we drive. Masks cover our faces and we lose the joy of smiles, and kind words don't flow as easily. There seems to be so much uncertainty everywhere that it can be difficult to even know where to start to find peace, unless...

We remember that we are the children of the Prince of Peace. All we need is to turn to Jesus and remember that He said He was going to give us peace. Not world peace, but His peace inside us, "that passes all understanding." The true peace we are searching for in our lives and in this world does not come from man. We cannot pass another law, elect another politician, or post a message on social media that will result in lasting peace.

There has always been unrest throughout history. Jesus was born during a time of great unrest. There were wars, slavery, corrupt rulers, political infighting, and death and disease were rampant. People were looking for a mighty warrior and king to bring about peace and an end to all injustice. Instead, God sent Jesus, the Lamb of God, the humble servant leader.

—continued on inside page—

Sunday Children's Time

Children's activities are now part of our Sunday fountain time. All kids are invited to share in a story around the "campfire" and to create a craft project every week. Crafting items will be stored in individual baskets and sanitized. We'll meet in the shade near the fountain between 8:45 and 9:15. Sue Evans is leading children who are in third grade and younger. Todd and Alicia Loschen will lead the older youth.

Meetings at the Church!!

The church is now open for meetings in Fellowship Hall. Groups must be 10 or fewer and all meetings must be scheduled through Susan in advance. No food is permitted, but you are able to bring your own beverage. Please call Susan for more details at 970-352-1292.



Want to Update Your Church Directory Photo?

Email the church office a **single photo** that shows **everyone in your household**. Please **squeeze together** in the photo, leaving plenty of space around the edges. Printed photos will be square, but we can work with what you send us as long as you are **very close together** and leave **lots of space at the sides, top and bottom** of the photo. **Photos taken inside** or else **outside on a cloudy day** would work best. Email your photo to fccadmin@comcast.net. Thank you!

Mission Matters

"But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream ." Amos 5:24

Serve Day 2020 – July 11

On Saturday, July 11, thousands of Christians around the world will share God's love through serving others. This year will look different from previous years so that we can all stay safe from the coronavirus. Rather than participating in a large communal event, we encourage everyone to engage in micro serve events as individuals or with your family. Think of ways you can serve friends, family, neighbors or the wider community. Some ideas include weeding a neighbor's garden, sending a card or phoning someone you know who is feeling lonely, picking up litter on your street or at a local park, lending a book you've enjoyed to a friend, taking treats to healthcare workers or first responders, or donating to a good cause. Use your imagination, stay safe, wear your Serve Day shirt if you have one (talk to Carla Ikenouye if you need one), and take a photo with your phone, if possible. Then send your photo to David Haining at ministry@fccgreeley.com, so we can all enjoy a slideshow of our congregation serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. If you have a need you would like help with, contact Carla Ikenouye at caikenouye@gmail.com or 970-356-2121 and she will match you up with a willing servant!

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

Work should begin soon on the 2020 Faith Build. Look for an email in the near future with more information about our date to build.

Virtual Habitat for Humanity Hope Builders Breakfast—July 22

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the annual Habitat fundraising breakfast will be virtual this year. Our Habitat friends are producing an exciting video that will premiere on Wednesday, July 22, at 7:00 a.m. on their [Website](#), on [YouTube](#) and on [Facebook](#). Early risers can catch the premiere, or you can watch at your leisure anytime for the next week. Dick Monfort, CEO and owner of the Colorado Rockies and a longtime advocate for Habitat for Humanity, will once again be the keynote speaker. We'll also hear from Thomas Spratte, 2020 Faith Build homeowner, and Jaclyn Wildenberg, 2020 Women Build homeowner. Special guests will be Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, and Clive Rainey, the very first Habitat volunteer. Click to join Carla Ikenouye's [virtual table](#) to learn more about the great work of Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity and to donate toward their efforts.

Understanding the Black Lives Matter Movement

As members of a pro-reconciling, anti-racist church, we Disciples of Christ actively pursue social justice. Many resources are available to help us recognize systemic racism in our society and understand the Black Lives Matter movement so that we can be a bridge to a better future for all people in our community. These best selling and award-winning books provide needed context and hope for a better way forward: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson (also a movie starring Jamie Foxx), *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, and *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. A helpful resource for parents is *The ABCs of Diversity: Helping Kids (and Ourselves!)* *Embrace Our Differences* by Carolyn Helsel and Y. Joy Harris-Smith. Available on YouTube is this powerful song written and performed by Tom Prasada-Rao: [\\$20 Bill \(for George Floyd\)](#).

If you have a heart for mission and would like to join the Mission Team, please talk to Carla Ikenouye or Gerre Tjardes.

The Folded American Flag



Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times? You may have thought it was to symbolize the original 13



colonies, but. . .

The 1st fold of our flag is a symbol of life.



The 2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

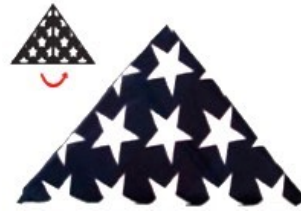


The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.



The 4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him

we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His diving guidance.



The 5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The 6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we pro-

The 8th fold of our flag is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty, and devotion that the characters of the men and women who have made this country great, have been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents and emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

The National Flag Foundation



Notes from Sandy



July will be a fun month for music here. As I've been thinking about our July 5th Sunday, I wondered how we might find a connection to faith in the midst of our country's uncertainty and unrest. Did you know that many presidents throughout our American history have been music lovers? Who can forget Bill Clinton and his sax? Maybe you wish you could! On Sunday, July 5th, **I'll be playing favorite hymns of some of these American presidents during our sanctuary reflection time.** I hope this time can remind us of the presence of God, no matter our circumstances, as we connect with God through music. May it remind us that, as John F. Kennedy said, **"After the dust of centuries has passed over cities, we will be remembered not for victory or defeat in battles or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit."**

Also in July, Gretchen and I will be playing piano/organ duets for our music and reflection time during one of our Sundays in the sanctuary. We'll also have these offerings online, so find us wherever works best for you.

FCC Financial Update (as of 5/31/2020) Income Year to Date: \$97,894.63 Expenses YTD: \$97869.88

Virtual Worship

For the foreseeable future, FCC will continue with online worship experiences that can be found on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fccgreeley) or our website (www.fccgreeley.com/sermons-events). We currently have Sunday Worship on Sundays at 10am. (Wed. Night Lights and both Bible studies are on hiatus for the summer.) All videos are available at any time later to watch. If you have pictures or stories of where you experience God, email them to ministry@fccgreeley.com.

Elder's Message, *continued*

Jesus taught peace, one act at a time. One kind word or loving gesture at a time. One-on-one, one person at a time. This was God's ultimate plan. An intimate and personal and lasting peace, healing the world one person and one act at a time.

So this is what we can do. We can spread God's peace which is in our hearts to our small circle of family and friends. To our neighbors and to those we encounter in the community. We can spread peace through a kind word or compliment. We can pull down our mask for a brief second and smile at others. We can stop being so busy and really listen to those around us. We can be courteous when we drive. We can consciously practice forgiveness and love for self and others.

One act at a time, we can choose to spread the peace of Christ.

July Birthdays

- 1 Keaton Hartmann
- 2 Mark Pumphrey
- 8 Diane Doyle
- 18 Taylor Gray
- 19 Tom Rainbolt
- 21 George Hypes
- 23 Roy Miller

Have you shared your birthdate with FCC?

Video Editing Skills?

Do you have gifts of editing video that you would be willing to share with FCC Greeley? We have a need for someone to join the technology team to assist on a volunteer basis as a backup for our online presence. If you have skills and interest, let's start a conversation with an email to fcctech@fccgreeley.com.

Youth Group News

Summer Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying their summer so far. We will be planning meetings on Zoom for right now. Watch your emails & texts for our next meeting. I wish we could meet in person, but we need to stay safe. I am looking at the possibility of a socially distanced hike in July. Adults, we may need a driver or two to transport kids. More details coming soon, including a date!



**GOD
Has
Blessed
America!**