

### Bereavement

Garry Dobbins passed away on March 25 after a long illness.  
Thomas Valdez passed away on April 3, following a heart attack.  
We send prayers of comfort and love to their families.

### May is National Mental Health Month

*"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure."* -Psalm 40:2

National Mental Health Month raises awareness of the impact mental health issues can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities.

Depression alone affects 264 million people world-wide. In the U.S., suicide is the second leading cause of death in young people 15 to 29. Statistically, we know all someone dealing with mental health issues.

Throughout May, take a few moments to show care and say a prayer for those struggling in your family and community.

-THRIVE Ministries Team



### Youth NeWS

April was a great month for FCC's Youth!

We prepared and delivered meals to 14 member households, and enjoyed seeing and talking to people.

We collected candy and filled plaster eggs for this year's egg hunt. On Easter morning, we hid the eggs on the east lawn, and after 15 kids searched, we cleaned up the area and rescued a few eggs the kids had missed. Everyone had a good time. Many thanks to all the church members who donated the delicious candy!

Easter day was also the baptism of Rain Golightly. Congratulations to Rain and welcome to the Disciples of Christ family.

We have begun our new Youth Service, which takes place in the chapel during the latter part of the sanctuary service. (Meet Todd and Caitlin in the Narthex before the sanctuary service, then we move to the chapel) We already have a long list of ideas for projects, discussion topics, and outreach.

Please join us whenever you can for more fun, fellowship, and service in May.

-- Caitlin & Todd, Youth Directors



**First Christian Church**  
**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**

2230 13<sup>th</sup> St, Greeley, CO 970-352-1292 [fccgreeley.com](http://fccgreeley.com)

### The Christian Caller Newsletter

April 2022

#### Message from Judi

Beloved Congregation,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and affirmations throughout my seminary journey. I will be graduating virtually on May 21st with a Master of Arts in Ministry and Culture. I remember when I first publicized this journey, no one seemed too surprised by my decision. I, of course, was a bit terrified, but your love and support gave me just what I needed to push through my fears and go forward. That is what being the body of Christ is all about. Loving, supporting, and encouraging one another. As I have said before, my motto throughout the seminary has become the word "with." As a pastor, my privilege is to walk *with* you on your journey throughout this life. Last year, I gave a sermon in my preaching class on the baptism of Jesus. Afterward, my professor, Dr. Robin Meyers, was a little amazed at the "heretical" questions I had asked in the sermon. I shared with him that I was blessed with a pastor and congregation who were willing to let me explore the scriptures and ask those questions that Christians often fear are irreverent. Questions and doubts are a part of life in Christ, and I thank you all for allowing me to question the scriptures so that we may all find deeper understanding.

In God's Grace,

Judi

#### Message from Mark

Dear Friends,

This is graduation month for most of our country. On Memorial Day weekend May Kay and will be celebrating our grandson Mattias Piatt entry into the adult world. His journey through school has had its share of challenges from start to finish. But he is finishing very well and he is off to Tarelton State U. where he will be part of their outstanding music program.

Closer to home someone asked if we have any graduates this year—Only ONE!!! Our own Judi Ring who will graduate from Phillips Theological Seminary with her Masters in Ministry. I remind all of you she did this while working, being a mom and wife and a great partner with me. This is not just her accomplishment but also yours. June 5th we will be celebrating Judi's accomplishment both in worship and in a reception. It will be great to welcome you to this fun day. We have so much to celebrate at FCC.

Love,

Mark

First Christian Church Greeley (Disciples of Christ) holds Sunday worship services in the sanctuary at 10: 00 am.

Child care is provided during the service.

Find more information at [www.fccgreeley.com](http://www.fccgreeley.com).



#### Contact Us

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**Christian Women's Fellowship**

We are coming to the end of our CWF year. May 26<sup>th</sup> will be the last time to attend one of our group meetings at 9:30 am, 1:30 pm, or 6:30 pm. Each group prepares their own study and devotion.

Plans are being made for a joint dinner for all three groups on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. In September, we will begin a new season of Women's Fellowship, so stay tuned. If you would like more information, contact LaVonne Rogakis or Sandy Beiser.

**FCC Financial Update**

(as of 3/31/2022)

Income YTD

\$68706.87

Expenses YTD

\$62862.27

**Book Club**

In recognition of Holocaust Memorial Observances Week, the Evening Book Club is reading *Night* by Elie Wiesel. They will meet on Monday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor to discuss this autobiographical account of the author's survival in a Nazi death camp. The Morning Book Club continues on hiatus.

**May Birthdays**

- 2 Anthony White
- 5 Don Jacks
- 6 Kane Shirley
- 7 Gretchen Howland
- 8 Todd Loschen
- 8 Rob Ring
- 9 Jodi Hartmann
- 17 Cynthia May
- 22 Theresa Rusher
- 25 Doug McDowell
- 28 Ron Shetler
- 29 Amber Becker
- 29 Debbie Berg
- 29 Stephen May
- 29 Maximus Skow
- 31 Kathy Herman



**Elder's Message**

–Phyllis Hansbury

**Christ Has Risen, Alleluia!**

Easter is over; Christ has risen. Now the merry month of May is upon us. This is the month when we “oldsters” reminisce over May Day, May baskets, and going around the May pole. Of course, we remember Mother's Day with love and Memorial Day when we remember our loved ones, and the joy of young people when they graduate. As May begins, we think of the newness of life: when the baby chicks are born, the grass greens up, and the daffodils, then the other flowers of summer, appear.

Newness can come to us as we turn our eyes to Jesus and ask our God to strengthen and lead us. As we celebrate the living Christ, we remember when he told the disciples, “I will never leave you or forsake you” and he told them, “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you, in Christ Jesus.” May we each strengthen our faith as the newness of life appears all around us!

***Message from Bill Rusher, Board Chair***

It's been 3 years on the COVID roll-a-coaster and now hopefully we can return to “regular” operations. But Marc's surprise hospitalization with COVID when we nearly lost him last year was a wake-up call! Thankfully we had Judi preparing for and in position to step up and continue the ministry in his absence. Because of that near catastrophic loss, we decided it was time to start preparing for a transition instead of waiting for the inevitable to happen. These transitions are happening throughout our society as the Baby Boomers pass on all churches, schools, businesses and other organizations in our society are having to figure out a transition or succession plan. Though we may not know when, we do know change is inevitable and we have to identify who and how they are going to replace what we have now. So from various team leaders on the General Board, we've assembled a Leadership and Transition Team (LTT), to begin developing a succession plan for FCC of Greeley. Members are Bill Rusher, board chair; Debbie Berg, board vice chair; Mike McGuire, staff relations; Verna Recor, recorder; Carla Ikenouye, missions; Jodi Hartmann, elders; and Alicia Loschen, diaconate and youth. Staff attending as adjunct nonvoting members are Mark Pumphrey, Judi Ring, and Sue Tjardes. While the LTT is just now being organized, look for more information in the coming months as we develop a succession plan with input from you, the congregation, and by researching succession plans already being developed in our region. Please approach the LTT team members with your suggestions because it will take all of us for this process to work.

**Mission Matters**

**“Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”  
Romans 14:19**

**Teacher Appreciation Week – May 2-6**

Talk to Gerre Tjardes if you would like to help us show appreciation to the staff at our partner school, the Fred Tjardes School of Innovation, during this special week for teachers.

**Baby Bottle Campaign – May 8-June 19**

Baby bottles will be distributed on Mothers' Day, May 8. Our donations this year will go to Week of Compassion's International Emergency Response to help families affected by the war in Ukraine. Fill your bottle with your spare change and return it to church on Father's Day, June 19.



**2022 Habitat Interfaith Build for Unity – Coming soon!**

This year Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring an Interfaith Build for Unity. Plans are still being made, so look for the details to follow.



**American Cancer Society Relay for Life – June 4**

Marla Johnson will be leading the First Christian Church Relay for Life team again this year. The relay remembers loved ones lost, honors survivors of all cancers, and raises money to help the American Cancer Society support cancer patients and cancer research. The location at the University High School track (6525 W 18<sup>th</sup> St.) is the same as previous years, but the duration of the relay is much shorter. It will take place on Saturday, June 4, from 4:00 p.m. until midnight. Look for a sign-up sheet to walk with our team as the relay kicks off at 4:00. More details of scheduled events will be shared as they become available. If you wish to donate, make your check out to the “American Cancer Society” and give it to Marla Johnson. You can also purchase a \$10 luminaria in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of a lost loved one during Fellowship Time. Let's walk around the track together to help defeat cancer!



**Special Offerings**

- **Right Here, Right Now Benevolence Fund – May 1**  
All \$1 bills and checks written to FCC with “RH/RN” in the memo line go toward meeting immediate needs within our church family and community. Donations also go toward the new FCC Emergency Food Pantry.
- **Pentecost Offering – May 29 & June 5**  
This offering supports Disciples new church development both in our region and through the New Church Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your donation will help the new church movement continue to take root, bear fruit, and grow more Disciples every day!

