

 A Message from Pastor Mark

Dear Friends,

It's going to be August. For this vegan, August in Colorado is as good as it gets. My young friend Dominic DiSainti, who is now helping to run the farming operations at DiSainti Farms in Pueblo, answered this question for me: "So Mr. #1 Ag student at CSU, what is the perfect day to come down here and get all of the great produce?" He thought for a while and said, "August 11th, it's all here." By *all*, let me give you my list: sweet corn, Rocky Ford cantaloupe, tomatoes, green chili, beets, Palisade peaches, cucumbers, green beans, squash of all sorts, onions, and last but not least, WATERMELON!!! I also love August because it's right before September, which means October is coming, which I believe is as close to heaven as we get this side of Glory. I would call October nature's version of "*Mr. Holland's Opus.*"

Now. . . I know I am now a part-time resident of Northern Colorado, and I am sure you folks could point us in the direction of great veggies—please do! I am getting very excited, not just about green chili, but also about what happens in church as we turn toward the fall. Circle this date on your calendar: **September 10th**—we are going to have our **Ministry Fair & Fall Kickoff** for the Chapel Service and Sunday School, and lay out what we are planning for Wednesday Night Live!!! (formerly know as Wednesday Night Fellowship). There are so many reasons to be excited about what is going on at FCC. In the meantime, I will be taking tomato donations in the Pastor's office. Love,

Mark



Contact Us

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Here is a list of our next four sermon scriptures and topics. We will be wrestling with God, getting sold into slavery, seeing how God uses all circumstances for good, and giving thanks for two women who changed history. -Mark



- Aug. 6-- Gen. 32:22-31 **"Better than the WWF"**
- August 13-- Gen. 37: 1-28 **"Now This Is Some Sibling Rivalry"**
- August 20-- Gen. 45:1-15 **"What You Meant for Evil—God Used for Good"**
- August 27-- Exodus 1:8-2:10 **"Women's Work!! Thanks Be to God"**

Elders' Message

~Verna Recor

Saturday, July 15th was Serve Day. Numerous local churches took part, and over 50 of our church members participated. Those participating were given numerous choices of volunteer work for that day.

I went to my chosen job, and happily worked, and then time was up, and I picked up and left.

As I was leaving, a thought came into my head – I really didn't do that much. Has this ever happened to you? I have had this happen before – participated, done what was expected, and then made myself feel smaller because I didn't do more.

I have contemplated on this a little. Why does that thought come into my head? I can think of some reasons—there are always more ways to help, I am able to do more, sometimes I am not using particularly challenging skills, etc. I recall being warned as a child about be careful not to be thinking too highly of myself—pride-goes-before-a-fall types of warnings. And they are true and real! But goodness, the need to take myself down a notch right after volunteering!!!

But, does God want us to feel bad about our efforts? Maybe yes!?! And maybe no!?! Perhaps it is God nudging me: the next time a chance to help comes around, take on a more challenging job, or a larger role, or devote more time and energy, or be more prayerful and focus more on God as I volunteer. The Wise One, knowing each of our abilities, wants us to use them in the context of furthering the Good News, and loving and serving others. But, overall, no, God does not want me to feel badly about my efforts.

I choose to believe God is offering enlightenment, encouragement, chiding, inspiration, and motivation, all weaving together to help me do better, to strive for my best. It is important, or that little jab would not have happened. Now, I need to pay attention, and dig deeper in prayer, in faith, and in service.

Is it only me?

Women's Fellowship

Remembrance Retreat

A group of women from our church caravanned to Laramie, Wyoming, on July 8th to attend the *Remembrance* regional retreat hosted by Disciples Women of the First Christian Church in Laramie. We joined over 50 other women for a day of worship, song, fellowship, food, and fun. Our hearts were opened by sharing memories, both painful and joyful; our spirits were renewed through prayer and meditation; and our bodies were rejuvenated with yoga and line dancing. (Yes, your church women line danced.) Thank you, CWF, for covering half the cost and arranging for us to participate in this inspirational and enjoyable day.

Invitation to Pray

Women are invited to the Prayer Breakfast at 9:30 on Saturday, August 5th. We meet in the church parlor and share a light breakfast, and inspirational lesson, prayer concerns, and a prayer time.

Board Meeting

The Christian Women's Fellowship Board Meeting will be at 9:45 on Thursday, August 10th, in the parlor. General CWF officers and group leaders make up the board.

Looking Ahead to September

Our first CWF luncheon this fall will start at noon on Thursday, Sept. 7th. Reservations are needed by Sunday, Sept. 3rd. Lunch is \$5.00. At 1:00 our program will be presented by Judith Hill of the District 6 Foundation. Diane Doyle will lead the devotion.

Upcoming Women's Retreats

Northern District

Douglas, Wyoming
Saturday, Sept. 23 (1pm) thru Sunday, Sept. 24 (11:30am) at the Sleep Inn "Sweet Life Cafe"—Facilitated by Sheridan Disciples Women \$45 + room

Western District

Murray, Utah
"Sea Side Escape" at the Crystal Inn Hotel
Fri, Sept. 22 (4pm) thru Sat., Sept. 23 (4pm)
\$50 includes room (of 4), 3 meals, and spiritual experience.

Fantasy Football

Do you enjoy football, fun and razzing your fellow church mates after the last pigskin game of the week finishes? If so, then you may be interested in joining a fantasy football league with fellow church members and friends. A league will be formed if there is adequate interest. Let David Haining know of your interest at 970-353-7613 or thehainings@comcast.net.



"Hands in Praise"

"Hands in Praise," an American Sign Language Christian Choir sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church of Windsor, Colorado, will perform during our worship service on Sunday, August 20th. Their selections will include "How Great Thou Art" by Alan Jackson, "Amazing Grace/Our Chains Are Gone" by Chris Tomlin, and "On Holy Ground" by John Starnes. You won't want to miss it!
~Worship Team

Labor Day Campout The camping group will be going to Jacks Gulch park over Labor Day weekend, September 1-4. **If anyone would like to join us, please do.** We have plenty of room for more campers, and there's something for everyone: camping, hiking, cookouts, fellowship, and lots of activities and games. Questions? Talk to Charlotte Shetler or Shari Lueking.

women of faith

Patsy Clairmont, Anita Renfro, and Jan Silvius will present *Sisters, Celebrating the Art of Friendship* at the Timberline Church in Ft. Collins on **Sunday, September 17th**.

Invite a friend and join your church sisters for an evening filled with laughter, storytelling, and wisdom. We'll learn creative tools for celebrating the art of friendship and nurturing lasting relationships.

The event starts at 7:00 pm. We have 10 tickets available at \$25 each; additional tickets can be purchased for \$30. See the sign-up sheet outside Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Marla Johnson or Charlotte Shetler.

August Birthdays

- 5 Rodney Herman
- 6 LaShonda Cordova
- 9 David Haining
- 10 Sandra Beiser
- 10 Isaiah Gray
- 13 Ronell Heitman
- 15 Caren R. Haining
- 19 Viola Corliss
- 27 Phyllis Hansberry
- 27 Marion Leh
- 31 Sam McMichael

FCC Financial Update

(as of 5/31/17)

Income Year to Date: \$100,610.38
Expenses Year to Date: \$101,212.02

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2017		1 8:30a Men's Coffee	2	3 9:00a P.E.P. Walkers	4	5 9:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast
6 9:30a Sanctuary Service Back-to-School Drive	7	8 8:30a Men's Coffee	9	10 9:00a P.E.P. Walkers 9:45a CWF Board	11	12 8:30 Men's Breakfast & Program
13 9:30a Sanctuary Service Back-to-School Drive	14 4:30 Worship Meeting	15 8:30a Men's Coffee Newsletter Deadline	16 9:00a Clothing Bank	17 9:00a P.E.P. Walkers	18	19
20 9:30a Sanctuary Service "Hands in Praise" 10:40a General Board 3:30p Guadalupe Meal	21	22 8:30a Men's Coffee	23	24 9:00a P.E.P. Walkers	25	26
27 9:30a Sanctuary Service	28	29 8:30a Men's Coffee	30	31 9:00a P.E.P. Walkers		

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases. Lam. 3:22



Directory Thank You

Thank you to all who have updated your information for the upcoming church directory and to those who have allowed Ray White to snap your picture. We appreciate you! This will assist attenders (new and not-so-new), as well as Pastor Mark, to match names with faces.

If you haven't yet checked your information, you may call the church office at (970) 352-1292. If you know of someone who has been attending FCC, but has not shared his or her contact information with us, please encourage them to do so. We would love to add them to our newsletter list.

Ray White has graciously offered to schedule times to meet those who haven't yet posed for a photo. Please call him at (970) 302-4480 as soon as possible.

Join the Prayer Chain

We invite all FCC folks to subscribe to the Prayer Chain. Just drop the church office an email at fccadmin@comcast.net if you would like us to add you to the Email Chain. Or if you would prefer to receive notifications by phone, please contact Phyllis Hansberry at (970) 353-9566.

Is It Time to Let Go?

Keys to First Christian Church are loaned out on a temporary basis, as needed. If you do not lead a group that routinely meets outside of regular office hours, please consider turning yours in. Thank you.



Thank You Notes

☆ Serve Day 2017



What an amazing day in our community! Hundreds of volunteers from 10 local churches united together to spread God's love throughout Greeley and the surrounding area. Over 50 of those volunteers were from our church, and others made donations to support the various projects. People say they saw red shirts all over town! Many thanks to everyone who participated in making HOPE Bags, sorting food and packing 235 emergency food boxes at the Weld Food Bank, putting up siding on a veteran's Habitat home in Hudson, singing at several senior living facilities, visiting some of our homebound, and helping at various locations at the Family Festival. Our youth had a popular tent at the festival handing out free popcorn. All of you helped put the "serve" in SERVE Day!

☆ Baby Bottle Campaign



Wow! Our congregation gave **\$1,044.62** to Zonta Club of Greeley to go toward the cost of HOPE Bags our police officers give to teen girls rescued from trafficking and to other children in crisis. Your generosity will make a positive difference in the lives of some of our most traumatized children.

Mission Matters

"Be doers of the word. . . not merely hearers who deceive themselves. Those who are not hearers who forget, but doers who act will be blessed in their doing." James 1:22, 25

Back-to-School Drive

Many students in District 6 lack the necessary supplies to get their new school year off to a great start. We can help! The Outreach Ministry Team will hold our annual Back-to-School Drive on **August 6th** and **13th**. We will collect school supplies for our partner school, Maplewood Elementary, and for the Welcome Center at School District 6. Maplewood has especially requested #2 pencils, wide-ruled spiral notebooks & pocket folders. Please place your items in the box near Fellowship Hall. You'll find a complete list of needed supplies on the side of the box. Thank you for your donations to our community!



Participants	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 24
9:30 Sanctuary				
Elder	Darron Berg	Tom Rainbolt	Verna Recor	Bob Corliss
Worship Leader	Taylor Gray	Nita White	Gerre Tjardes	Darron Berg
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Judi Ring	Connie Davis	Gary Dobbins
Children's Moment	Pastor Mark	Diane Doyle	Pastor Mark	Kris King
Slides	Kris King	Darron Berg	David Haining	Ken Thompson
Sound Operator	Ken Thompson	Nita White	Caren Renee Haining	Kris King
Diaconate	Carolyn England ± ▲	Bob Gibson ± ▲	Carolyn England ■	Bob Gibson ■
Please have communion ready by 9:00 am	Betty Lund ± ▲	Hazel Gibson ± ▲	Betty Lund ■	Hazel Gibson ■
	Garry Hadley ■	Ben Dixon ■	Garry Hadley ± ▲	Ben Dixon ± ▲
	Marla Johnson ■	Theresa Rusher ■	Marla Johnson ± ▲	Theresa Rusher ± ▲
Van Driver	Gary I./Ray W.	Gary Ikenouye/TBD	Gary Ikenouye/TBD	Gary I./Ray W.
Greeters	The Shetlers The Englands The Millers	Ray White The McMichaels Helen, Kathy Herman	Julie Hoskins TBD Carol Reynolds	Marla Johnson Diane Doyle Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour Host	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Worship Team	Need Volunteer
Acolytes	Taylor Gray Regan Ring	Kevin King Bradford Loschen	Jack Ring Isaiah Gray	Annabelle Loschen TBD

Preparation ± Clean Up Sanctuary ▲ Clean Up Communion ■ If unable, please find a substitute.



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