

🎵 Notes from Sandy 🎵

I remember a special moment during the memorial service held in our church for Glen Tegtman. One of Glen's care-takers came forward to say she was concerned that there would be very few people present to celebrate Glen's life. She tearfully shared how moved she felt by us "being church" for Glen. We came, we honored, and we said goodbye to Glen. This worker, and perhaps Glen himself, didn't realize the impact he had on our congregation.

His initial gift of our former sanctuary piano helped us to create decades of wonderful music, shared singing, choir programs, and so much more. Now his incredibly generous posthumous gift has provided us with a concert-level, beautiful, brand new grand piano. This marvelous instrument will enable us to make even more high-quality, inspiring music for years to come. So many times we may feel like we aren't really doing much to leave our mark on the world. In fact, our gifts may be the beginning of a long-term, important outcome. God is at work always, even if we can't see or feel it. Thank you, Glen, for your gift. Thank you, God, for all your gifts, even the unknown or surprising ones.

An Unexpected Camping Trip

When the annual FCC Campout at Jack's Gulch was cancelled, another camping group graciously offered to include FCC folks in their camping trip. Members of the Rolling Renegades group had attended FCC's campout last summer and extended the invitation to join them at Parrish Ranch in the foothills outside of Longmont on September 18-20. Reservations were due by August 21. Thank you to Ron and Charlotte Shetler for their help in planning the trip. We pray that everyone will have a great time, and we look forward to photos!



The Christian Caller Newsletter

September 2020

Message from Mark

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

Dear Friends,

We are through a half of a year in this "global pandemic" reality. This huge change in all of our lives is a marathon, not a sprint. In 1978 I ran the Dallas Whiterock Marathon. I finished in 1,556th place out of 3,000+ runners. My goal was to finish. This I know about running marathons: Training is everything, and no matter how hard you have trained, there is a point where each step is a painful decision. At Mile 18 I hit "the wall." This the point where your body says "enough is enough." The next 8.2 miles were very, very hard. At Mile 20 my dear friend Pat Novak, who had been waiting, joined me to run the last 6 miles with me. He was a great cheerleader and companion.

As we move into the fall, uncertainty is everywhere. This I know—we have been a church for over a century, and we will continue. Just like my friend Pat joined me during the hardest part of the run, we have a companion who joins us in the journey. Because Jesus encourages us at every step, we will keep worshiping, praying, giving, serving, growing and reaping the harvest.

Love, Mark

Bible & Book Study Opportunities

The "Disciple" Bible Study led by Judi Ring will begin Wednesday, September 2nd, at 6:30 p.m. in **Fellowship Hall**. Masks are required. If you have any questions, please talk with Judi.

Online Book Study—Pastor Mark is offering a book study on *Call It Grace* by **Serene Jones**. Mark and Mary Kay read this book and found it to be a very courageous, honest, transparent journey into deep questions of brokenness and God's redeeming grace. Pastor Mark knew Serene as a high school student whose father, Joe Jones, preached Mark's ordination service in 1977. Serene currently serves as president of Union Theological Seminary in New York City. **If you are interested in being part of this Zoom book study, let Susan in the church office know, and we will set a time.**

Online Bible Study: Letters of Paul—If you are interested in this study at 7:00 on Tuesday evenings, let the office know.

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He who gives the seed to the sower
and turns that seed into bread
to eat, **will give you** the seed
of generosity to sow, and,
for harvest, the satisfying bread
of **good deeds well done.**
2 Corinthians 9:10 J.B Phillips



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Bereavement

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Bonnie Eldred. Bonnie passed away on August 16, 2020. A memorial service and reception will be at Adamson's on Friday, October 2, at 10:00 a.m.



September Scriptures

- 9/06 — Romans 13:8-14, Judi Ring
- 9/13 — Romans 14:1-12, Mark Pumphrey
- 9/20 — Matthew 20:1-16, Mark and Judi
- 9/27 — Matthew 21:23-32, Mark and Judi



Sunday Activities thru Sept. 13

Beginning at 9:00 a.m., there is music in the sanctuary until 9:40. Also at 9:00, the children meet with Sue Evans outside.

At 9:40, Prayer and Communion take place at the fountain.

Place of Worship protocols are observed. Masks and 6-ft distancing are mandatory, as well as hand-washing/sanitizing, and we will observe a limit of 40 people in the sanctuary at a time. See fccgreeley.com or Facebook for our online Worship videos this Sunday, or whenever it is convenient for you.

Sanctuary Worship Sept. 20

Starting Sept. 20, two morning worship services will take place in the sanctuary with live sermons and special music. Mandatory reservations for limited seating may be made through the church office. More details will be coming soon.

Pastor Mark is at FCC on Sundays & Tuesdays

Christian Women's Fellowship

We had promised to restart our CWF groups and general meetings when the regular church services begin. However, after polling a great majority of our ladies, it was felt that it was "too soon" for us.

We are looking forward to the time things return to "somewhat" normal again, but want all to feel comfortable and safe. We hold all of you in our thoughts and prayers.

Sandy Beiser, LaVonne Rogakis, Co-Chairs

Blood Drive



Please consider donating blood with UHealth Garth Englund Blood Center at FCC Greeley on Sunday, September 27th, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. See the Mission Matters page for details.

Elder's Message

~ Kris King

Letting Go . . . and Letting God!

Scripture: Proverbs 22:6 – "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

This past week has been a challenging one for this Elder! As many of you know, our oldest son, David, graduated from high school this spring, thus crossing that threshold into adulthood. This past month we've been helping David to prepare for his transition into being a college student at Otero Junior College. On Friday, August 14th, we drove to La Junta and moved him into his new home. I've heard from so many parents over the years that this is a hard step – and they were right!

As his parents, Shannon and I have loved, guided, consoled, encouraged and yes, disciplined, David for over 18 years. We taught him to have faith in God and that Jesus was always with him, no matter where he is or what he is doing. I think we have tried to provide training for David "in the way he should go" like the scripture says; however, we didn't tell him where to go or what to do. David figured that part out on his own. We are hoping that the training we provided will always keep him close to God with a strong faith and will help him to treat the many people he will meet, just as Jesus would, as a dear friend where the color of their skin makes no difference. We pray that as David continues to grow older, he doesn't turn away from it, but instead continues to embrace it (Proverbs 22:6). I pray this for all of us.

With the new school year about to start here in Colorado and around the U.S., there is much uncertainty regarding having the kids return to school for face to face learning, stay at home for on-line learning, or do some kind of a hybrid. I don't really know if there is just one answer – because all choices have some type of risk attached. It is a scary and uncertain time for sure; however, we are not helpless in all of this. One thing that we can all do is to continue to pray. Pray for the kids, teachers, aides and administrators and staff. Pray that they are safe and can continue to learn and be trained in the way he/she should go. The power of prayer is an amazing thing – and it helps us to LET GO and LET GOD! May the Peace of Christ be with you All.

FCC Financial Update (as of 7/31/2020)
Income Year to Date: \$134,511.60
Expenses YTD: \$136,235.07

Reminder

To save stamps, writing checks, etc., you can arrange with your financial institution to have your donation sent to First Christian Church automatically. If you have questions, please contact Gary Ikenouye, LaVonne, or Gretchen.



Book Club



The **Evening Book Club** will be reconvening via Zoom after their summer hiatus. Now is a great time to join! The women normally meet the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m., but their fall kick-off will be Tuesday, **Sept. 8**, due to Labor Day. They'll discuss what they read over the summer & select their next book. Talk with Carla Ikenouye if you would like to share in the literary fun!

The **Morning Book Club** has suspended meetings at this time, but looks forward to resuming in-person meetings in the future.

September Birthdays

- 3 Austin Loschen
- 4 Kathy Stossel
- 5 Michelle Gray
- 6 Bradford Loschen
- 6 Regan Ring
- 7 Tom Teixeira
- 12 Eric Beiser
- 17 Evelyn Fletcher
- 19 Freya McClune
- 19 Brittani McClune
- 21 Charlotte Shetler
- 22 Susan Evans

Have you shared your birthdate with FCC?

Mission Matters

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." 2 Cor. 13:11

Inaugural Tennyson Giving Day – September 7

Inspired by September 7, 1996, the day that their current building was dedicated, the Tennyson Center for Children has created their first Giving Day. They have set a goal of raising \$19,960. Leading up to September 7, you can find stories and donate [here](#). The needs are especially great during this pandemic.



International Day of Peace – September 21

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21. The UN General Assembly has declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. To commemorate this special day, individuals, organizations, communities and nations are invited to participate in a Minute of Silence at noon in each time zone to create a "Peace Wave" around the world. You are invited to join in observing this minute for peace.



Blood Drive – September 27

FCC will host another UHealth blood drive on Sunday, Sept. 27, from 11:00a to 3:00p in our east parking lot. You can sign up online [here](#) and visit the [UHealth website](#) for more information. There's also a Blood Donor Health Form you can download and fill out ahead of your appointment.



Reconciliation Special Offering – September 27 & October 4

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been on a pro-reconciling and anti-racist journey for over 20 years. The Christian Church recognizes that racism is a "spiritual and theological dilemma as well as a social evil" and that "love is an action word." The Reconciliation Special Offering supports the ministry of reconciliation. It will be received Sept. 27 and Oct. 4.



Conversation about Race – September 30

As part of Reconciliation Week, we are privileged to host an "Honest Conversation About Race" with Darryl Searuggs on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 6:30 -8:00p via Zoom. Darryl is a member of Lakewood Christian Church and the chair of CRMR Reconciliation Ministry. Registration is required, so contact Carla Ikenouye if you would like to join the conversation.

Thank You, Supporters!

Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity has now surpassed their \$200,000 goal set for their virtual Hope Builders Breakfast. The FCC table contributed \$1,508.54 toward that goal. The American Cancer Society Relay for Life has raised over \$94,000, so far, including \$200 from our FCC team.

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