

Hello all youth!

It is time to get packing for Midwinter Retreat February 18-21. Our theme is "Re-Igniting the Flame." Remember to bring warm clothes and boots to stay warm at LaForet. ☺ 🍷

Coming up on February 13, our youth will host Souper Bowl Sunday for the Weld County Food Bank. Canned and monetary donations will help fight hunger in Greeley and Weld County.

The youth did such a great job preparing and delivering meals to our homebound church family members in December that we will continue with that on the 3rd Saturday each month, beginning on March 19.

Thank you to all who support our youth and youth mission work at our church and the community. ~Todd and Caitlin

FCC February Meetings



Ministries Cabinet— Tuesday, 2/08, 5:30pm

General Board—Wednesday, 2/09, 5:30pm

Elders— Strategic Planning, Sat., 2/26. 9:00 am– noon

CWF Board— Thursday, 2/10, 9:30 am

Thrive Ministry News

Your Thrive team is excited to offer mental wellbeing education and support to anyone who needs it. We have some great events coming in 2022.



Mark your calendars for a brown bag "Lunch & Learn" on **Wednesday February 23, 12:00-1:30**. A representative from the Community Grief Center will be there to discuss grief and loss, especially as we age. Also, you can look forward to Shelia Walsh's *It's OK to Not Be OK* book study in late April/early May. Watch for more details on these and other upcoming events!



"Don't compare yourself to others. There's no comparison between the sun and the moon. Each shines when it's their time."
~ ~Anonymous



A Message from Pastor Mark

Mixing and Matching

"Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." —Isaiah 43:19

One of the many things I love about this church is our capacity to hold on to the things that matter and let go of the things that no longer help us live out the call of the Gospel. Although our adaptive change is happening with each and every twist of Covid and culture, we have been able to sustain a stability in the this storm of challenges. This February we will have completed two years of this chapter in our history.

Three years ago we married Shrove Tuesday (the traditional pancake day) with Ash Wednesday. In seminary we call that "syncretism," combining that which was separate into something new. I love this "combo." We plan to have this combination again this year on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. This month, we are hopefully beginning our move to imagine church life beyond Covid. We will begin to shape what we do around our newly claimed "core values."

Love,

Mark

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First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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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.



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Christian Women's Fellowship

All women are invited to attend CWF on February 3rd, 1:30 p.m. in the chapel. Our program will be given by Phyllis Hansberry, and is entitled "God's Love." Refreshments follow in the Fellowship Hall. Let's celebrate Valentine's month together!

Reminder: Groups meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in the parlor, at 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. The CWF Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor.

Sandy 970 352-6902 LaVonne 970 506-0236



Book Clubs



The Evening Book Club is reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles and will meet Monday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor to discuss the novel. The Morning Book Club is reading *The New Girl* by Daniel Silva and will meet in the parlor on Friday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m. for discussion.

February Birthdays

- 4 Rich Davis
- 5 Tom Gray
- 5 Betty Lund
- 6 Bob Corliss
- 6 Kevin King
- 6 Lena Morris
- 6 Sharon Murphy
- 10 Judi Ring
- 11 Steve Hummel
- 11 Shirley Miller
- 12 Beverly Martin
- 13 Dora Beiser
- 15 Shannon King
- 21 Hazel Gibson
- 23 Helen Stolte
- 24 Hunter Evans



Elder's Message

—Ron Creighton

We have just finished the season of "Epiphany." What does that mean?

Epiphany, also called Theophany, is a celebration of God manifesting as the baby Jesus and revealing himself to the world. It also marks the Magi visiting the baby Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is also celebrated during this season.

This is the spiritual meaning of Epiphany. How would we look at this?

The Savior is born. He has come to not only save us, but to teach us to be closer to God. The value of that alone is priceless. We need to know that God is for us and not against us. As it states in Psalm 46:1, God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. God wants us to pray for ourselves and our neighbors. The more we help others, the more we will be closer to God.

For a lot of us, we have the faith it takes, we just need to trust. But if I say yes to God, where will that take me? Am I going to lose my identity? Will God lead me somewhere I don't want to go?

In these three questions is where our humanity, I feel, gets in the way. Instead, just open your heart to God and let go every once in a while. Let God reveal himself to you.

*Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper
March 2nd, 5:30 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall*

Enjoy a delicious supper of pancakes, eggs, sausage and fruit at 5:30 p.m. on March 2, followed immediately by our first worship service of the Lenten season. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact Marla Johnson. There will be a free-will offering.

Book Study with Pastor Mark

You Can't Ask That!: 50 Taboo Questions About the Bible, Jesus, and Christianity

Tuesdays in February, 10:00-11:30am in the church parlor. For more details, talk with Pastor Mark.



Mission Matters

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

National Random Acts of Kindness Week – Feb. 14-20

The goal of Random Acts of Kindness Week is to change our community through kindness. Showing kindness is good for your soul and good for your heart. So exercise this fifth fruit of the Spirit and embrace sharing the love of Jesus, not just one week of the year, but all year! Here are six suggestions for spreading the love:



- Make and deliver a meal or care package to someone who is staying at home right now
 - Give a genuine compliment to someone
 - Call someone to check in or just to say "Hi"
 - Send someone a card or a positive text message or funny video
 - Be kind to yourself by practicing self-care—take a break, go on a walk, or treat yourself to something special-
- Volunteer in the community (see below!)

Weld County Volunteer Connection

United Way of Weld County coordinates with organizations in our community to find needed volunteers. [Check out their page](#) to see if you would be a good fit for any of the volunteer needs the organizations have posted. You will find a wide variety of opportunities at agencies such as the SAVA Center, Life Stories, Area Agency on Agency, Soccer Without Borders, Greeley Active Adult Center (Bingo caller, anyone?), United Way, and many others. Postings are updated regularly.



Week of Compassion – Feb. 20 & 27

The needs that Week of Compassion is answering seem greater than ever. Our gifts to this relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) bring hope out of despair, find blessings amid devastation, and help transform loss into new life. Love is shelter. Love is a listening ear. Love is community. Love is a hopeful future. Love is a path forward. When all else seems lost, love remains. To contribute to their efforts, please write a check to FCC with "Week of Compassion" in the memo line. Together we can turn challenges into opportunities to love our neighbors and show compassion.



Weld Food Bank Volunteer Day – Mar. 11

FCC has a volunteer day scheduled at the Weld Food Bank Friday, March 11. Our shift will be from 1-3:00 p.m., and we will be packing food for food boxes. Please contact Carla Ikenouye at caikenouye@gmail.com to join the group, or see the sign-up board. Health safety precautions will be in place.



Special Offering

Right Here, Right Now Benevolence Fund – Feb. 7

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.

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