

FELLOWSHIP NEWS!

Super Bowl Party Feb. 12

We're having a Super Bowl Party! We'll gather in Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 12, to watch the big game, which starts at 4:30. Bring a snack to share and wear gear for your favorite team (the team you cheered/jeered all season). There will be prizes for the winners of a fun Super Bowl predictions game. Feel free to bring a comfortable lawn or camp chair. Beverages will be provided.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper Feb. 22

Enjoy a delicious supper of pancakes, eggs, ham, sausage and fruit at 5:30 p.m. on February 22, 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.

Enjoy Fellowship Time? Help Us Host!

Please consider hosting our fellowship time, either as individuals or as a group. Sign up on the bulletin board just inside Fellowship Hall.

Music Happenings

Weekly choir rehearsal starts March 2nd and continues on Thursdays at 5:30 pm. If you'd like to join the choir, talk to Gerre T. or Mike M, or just show up on March 2nd!

During February, classical guitarist Ken Thompson will provide the prelude music for Sunday worship services, featuring Latin love songs to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Thrive Workshop: Calm in Every Storm

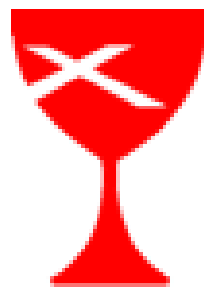
Saturday, February 11, is the first of several 2023 events in Thrive's Flourishing Discipleship Series. This series is intended to foster abundance in the faith life of our congregation and our neighbors in Northern Colorado. We do this through the integration of mind, body, and spirit, and through the support of one another in our ongoing walk of faith.

"Calm in Every Storm" is a 2-hour workshop (9:30 am-11:30am) on February 11, to help you gain strength and strategies for staying resilient through the storms of life. We'll be drawing forth reassurance, realistic optimism, meaning, and perspective as we are refreshed by connecting with others. Register by contacting the church office or at www.livingrockcounseling.com

Thrive also invites you to a weekly prayer circle with Dr. Sandy Varley and Pastor Judi Ring, Thursdays at 4:00 pm beginning February 16. These "Encountering Gods" sessions will focus on prayer, meditation, and mindfulness as ways to strengthen our connection to the divine. Everyone is welcome in the circle any time; no registration is required.

Pastor Mark Receives Alumni Honor

In January, Pastor Mark Pumphrey received the Frank H. Marshall Award for Ministerial Excellence, which recognizes graduates of Phillips Theological Seminary whose "service to God, the Church, and the human community has been faithful and exemplary." Pastor Mark and Mary Kay travelled to Tulsa, OK for the presentation of the award. Congratulations!



First Christian Church Governance

Ministries Cabinet, 5:30 pm: Feb 14

CWF Board, 9:30 am: Feb 2

General Board, 5:30 pm: Feb 16



The Christian Caller Newsletter

2023 February

A Message from Judi

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ[Ⓢ] have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:22-25

I often think that January and February can be quite boring in the life of the church. The thrill of Christmas is over, and yet it's not time to pull out the Easter decorations. Even though we are still in the season of Epiphany, we have definitely come down from the mountaintop, so to speak. We must remember that not all moments of living in Christ are *mountaintop* experiences. I think this is the perfect time to get busy *doing* the work of Christ; and as Paul tells the church of Galatia, we must "be guided by the Spirit."

As I shared in my January 22nd sermon, this is a great time to find new ways to connect with your church community. This is living in Christ. Join one of our ministry teams or, at least make yourself available to help with various events. Join a bible or book study. As I also said, Sandy Varley and I are planning a prayer circle starting in mid-February which will focus on finding joy through prayer, meditation, and mindfulness. As Paul also says, the fruits of the Spirit are "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—" all attributes that the *experts* of today say lead to joy. What is critical to remember is that the fruits are what grow in us when we cultivate and nurture our spiritual life. Part of that cultivation is joining with our community in Christ to develop relationships and do the work of Christ.

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.



Contact Us

Rev. Dr. Mark Pumphrey: 303.748.5385

Judi Ring, Spiritual/Pastoral Care: 719.740.3253

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Christian Women's Fellowship

Hope 2023 is going very well for everyone. CWF is starting February off with a General Meeting on February 2nd at 1:30 pm, hosted by the afternoon group. All women of the church are welcome. We will have our board meeting on February 9 at 9:30am and group meetings on February 23 at 9:30am, 1:30pm, and 6:30 pm. Please join us in the parlor on the fourth Thursday of each month!

LaVonne Rogakis and Sandy Beiser

Book Club

The FCC Book Club is currently reading *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. They will meet Monday, February 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor for discussion.

Bereavement

Jerre Vos passed away on December 23, 2022. Our love and prayers are with Jerre's entire family.

February Birthdays

- 04 Rich Davis
- 05 Tom Gray
- 05 Betty Lund
- 06 Kevin King
- 06 Sharon Murphy
- 10 Judi Ring
- 11 Steve Hummel
- 11 Shirley Miller
- 12 Bev Martin
- 13 Dora Beiser
- 15 Shannon King
- 21 Hazel Gibson
- 23 Helen Stolte
- 24 Hunter Evans

Elder's Message

-Doug McDowell

February.

The holidays are behind us; New Year's resolutions have already been made and postponed for later; the days are starting to get longer, and I for one, start thinking about Spring. I start thinking about how I'm going to organize my garden. It will be a new beginning and this time, it is going to be perfect!

That's not unlike what we are doing here at First Christian Church, thinking about how we are going to be organized and it will be a time of a new beginning. It's going to change and change is always a little scary. The goal is for our community to be perfect. Now we all know, perfection, while it is a worthy goal, will be very difficult if not impossible to achieve. We have a very capable team working on how it's going to look when done. They have solicited the congregation for ideas on what needs to be included. The search is on for one or two new pastors. We as a congregation must include those working on change in our prayers. Their task is very difficult and they need all our support. One thing to remember is that this endeavor will most likely never be done, but will, and should be, ongoing. It is through change that we move forward.

FCC Finances	
as of December 31, 2022	
Income year to date	\$263702.50
Expenses year to date	\$259678.57

Week of Compassion is Feb. 19 & 26

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.



Mission Matters

"For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Galatians 5:14

Change in Reloadable Grocery Cards

If you have a reloadable Safeway grocery card that you bought from the church, it is no longer reloadable because Safeway has changed their supplier. The funds on it are still usable, however. The church is in the process of buying new reloadable cards from the new supplier. Check back in a few weeks if you want to replace your old card. A percentage of the money you load onto your card comes back to the church.



If you have not yet linked your King Soopers account to our church, now is a good time to do it! Once you match your Shopper's Card to our church, all you have to do is shop at King Soopers and swipe your card, and the church receives a percentage of the sale. [Click here](#) for instructions. These are simple, no-cost ways to give to our church!

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 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. Both Banner Health and UCHealth are looking for volunteers. Other agencies needing help are Lutheran Family Services Refugee Programs, the SAVA Center, Area Agency on Agency, Soccer Without Borders, Greeley Active Adult Center, 60+ Ride, United Way, and many others. Postings are updated regularly.

Special Offering

Right Here, Right Now Benevolence Fund – Feb. 5

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.

Join the Mission Team!

If you have a heart for mission and would like to join the Mission Team in 2023, please talk to Board Chair Bill Rusher. The needs in our community are great, and the team would welcome your help and your passion.