

Leadership Transition Team Update

Aside from the Congregational meeting on Feb 5, there has not an update from the Leadership Transition Team (LTT) in quite a while. The LTT completed our church profile and narrative and submitted them to the Regional Office on February 28. They were posted on the National Search and Call bulletin board on March 8. LTT is working with the office of regional minister Joan Bell-Haynes to schedule a Search and Call Orientation training so the LTT can start the Search and Call process for our church.

Remember, the LTT formed a year ago to start the process of CAREFULLY and METHODICALLY searching for the kind of Pastor/Pastors model we as a congregation wanted. We wanted to start the process before we actually had a vacancy so that we wouldn't be scrambling and rushing to find the right pastor. We felt that we were more likely to succeed by being proactive instead of reactive.

Most of you will remember our that last summer we as a congregation decided to search for a Lead Pastor. Our profile and narrative have both reflected that as our first choice.

From the beginning, we deliberately relegated Mark and Judy into advisory roles and excluded them from the decision-making process to ensure that our decisions were from and for the congregation. They have both been very supportive of the process and are willing to help us make a successful transition. They have each met with me and want to reassure the congregation that either both or one of them will still be here to help lead us through this process until we reach a successful conclusion: a Lead Pastor on the first day of the first month that the new pastor can report to FCC of Greeley and either Mark or Judy, or maybe both or them, can participate with them in a ceremonial passing of the mantle.

After completing the Regional Office Search and Call Orientation, the LTT will serve as the Search and Call Committee. If anyone would like to help with this process, please see a member of the LTT: Bill Rusher, Debbie Berg, Jodi Hartmann, Alicia Loschen, Mike McGuire, Carla Ikenouye, Taylor Rainbolt, and Verna Recor.

Easter Breakfast April 9!

Join us Easter morning for a delicious breakfast of breakfast casseroles, hash browns, assorted baked goods and fruit. We will begin serving at 8:45 a.m. If you would like to help prepare and/or serve the breakfast, please contact Marla Johnson. We encourage you to invite friends and family to enjoy food and fellowship as we begin our celebration of this holy day. There will be a free-will offering.

Holy Week Events

The 10:00 am worship service on **Palm Sunday**, April 2, will feature a procession and special music by the choir.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 6, from 6- 8 pm, FCC will again have a self-guided presentation of the Stations of the Cross. Each station will be prepared by a different individual or group.

On **Good Friday**, April 7, the church will be open from 10 am to 4 pm so that everyone has a chance to see the stations of the cross.

On **Easter Sunday** April 9 at 8:15 am, there will an early service on the fountain patio (weather permitting). At 8:45 am, the Fellowship team will offer breakfast (see more details in the article above). At 9:30 am, kids can hunt Easter eggs on the northeast lawn. Then at 10:00 am, we will worship together in the sanctuary, celebrating Christ's love, sacrifice, and resurrection. Hope to see you there!



First Christian Church Governance

Ministries Cabinet, 5:30 pm: April 11

CWF Board, 9:30 am: April 6

General Board, 5:30 pm: April 20



The Christian Caller Newsletter

2023 April



“He is not here but has risen.”

Luke 24:5

“And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.”

I Cor. 6:14

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

A Message from Mark

“For Everything there is a Season.”

It should be no surprise to you that I find Ecclesiastes 3 a powerfully honest look at how reality is. It deals with beginnings and endings, taking hold and letting go. I am now soon to be at my time of letting go with this beloved congregation. It is time. Time for new pastoral leadership, time for new energy and time for Mark to major in “grandpa.”

I am very confident in these things: 1) This is a strong and well led congregation 2) There is a pastor whose gifts and passions will be well suited for FCC 3) I am ready to “let go and let God”.

Judi and I are of “one mind” in this process. We both are here to walk through this with until we celebrate a blessed transition.

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.



Contact Us

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Christian Women's Fellowship

We are starting into the warmer weather of spring. CWF is going to have one more general meeting. It is the "Glad Hatter's Tea Party," a mother/daughter's tea party, 10:30 am, Saturday, May 13, in the Fellowship Hall. We are asking everyone who comes to wear a hat. If you don't have a hat, you can make one out of a paper plate and ribbon. Our next board meeting is 9:30am, April 13, and group meetings are April 27 at 9:30am, 1:30pm, and 6:30 pm. All women are welcome!

LaVonne Rogakis and Sandy Beiser

Book Club

The FCC Book Club is now reading *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff. The group will meet on Monday, April 3, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor for discussion.

FCC Finances

As of February 28, 2023

Income YTD	\$57008.09
Expenses YTD	\$46296.33

April Birthdays

- 02 Sylvia Werbin
- 06 Taylor Rainbolt
- 11 Carl England
- 13 Sue Sinnwell
- 22 Tessa Rainbolt
- 27 Jim Richardson
- 27 Erika Hartmann

Early May Birthdays!

- 06 Kane Shirley
- 07 Gretchen Howland
- 08 Todd Loschen
- 08 Rob Ring
- 09 Jodi Hartmann

Elder's Message

The Ultimate Expression of Love Brings Hope

-Colleen Heitman

Easter is the great gift of hope, and the promise of rebirth and new life for all who walk with Jesus the Lord. Jesus did not come to make God's love possible, but to make God's love visible.

As we come to the end of Lent, and celebrate Easter, we know God loves us. This story of hope reveals the ultimate expression of love:

"He felt the sand of a dusty road, the growl of a hungry stomach, and the soft fibers of a warm blanket. He heard the phrase, 'I love you son,' as his mom embraced his shoulders. He tasted the soft bread as he conversed with good friends. Tears wet his cheeks when his friends lost their brother. And he felt the sting of rejection from people who hated him.

Jesus. Fully human. All the feelings, all the emotions – Jesus experienced them.

This is the part of the Christian story that is mind-boggling. God could have just told us His message but instead he showed us. God sent his son to walk in our world with us. Jesus showed us how to love big, live fully, find real joy and commune intimately with God. Jesus offers us an incredible exchange in our lives. He exchanged His sinlessness for our sinfulness, He exchanged His righteousness for our unrighteousness. He exchanged His death for our life. When we receive Christ, we are free forever."

-*Extravagant Hope* Donely, Anderson, Skarp

Celebrate the Resurrection this Easter and remember that it is His ultimate love that brings hope.

[1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given]



Wrapped in Love Ministry!

Diana Laws is spearheading a new ministry to sew wraps for babies in the NCMC Neonatal ICU who need physical therapy. She has received a grant from the Greeley Interfaith Association to purchase fabric for 100 wraps, but needs people who can help her sew the wraps. The pattern is easy, but a serger is best for this type of material. Contact Diana if you would like to help wrap these precious babies in love!

Mission Matters

"We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem."

Acts 10:39

Weld Food Bank Volunteer Day –April 14

FCC has a volunteer day scheduled at the Weld Food Bank on Friday, April 14. Our shift will be from 1:00-3:00 p.m., and we will be packing food for food boxes. Please [register online](#) for our group or talk to Carla Ikenouye. Closed-toe shoes are required for all volunteers.



Layette Drive – April 16-May 13

CWF is sponsoring a church-wide Layette Drive to collect items for newborns at NCMC and for the Layette Program through the GIA Clothing Bank. The NCMC nursery especially needs preemie sleeper gowns and knitted or crocheted hats. The GIA Layette Program would appreciate typical layette items, with a special request for receiving blankets, bibs, bottles, and diapers in sizes 1 and 2. There is a bassinette in the narthex for your donations. The items will be blessed at the Daughters' Tea on May 13 and delivered to NCMC and GIA the week of Mothers' Day.



Holocaust Memorial Observances of Greeley & No. Colo. – April 23-30

Voices from the Holocaust, an annual week-long commemoration, will be held in-person from April 23-30. The observances will begin with a moving Interfaith Memorial Service on Sunday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. at Beth Israel Congregation (625 Reservoir Road, Greeley). Other planned events include film screenings, presentations, a book discussion, and a concert. Of particular note, Holocaust survivor Fred Heyman will share his story on Wednesday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the Aims Welcome Center. Visit their [Schedule](#) page for more information.

Did You Know?

Weld County Community Resources sheets are pinned to the Mission Matters bulletin board in the main hallway for anyone to take. Information about where to go for many essential needs is listed. Please share with anyone you know who is looking for resources in our community. You can also visit [this link](#) to see the same list of resources on the Greeley Interfaith Association website.

Bins for ARC and Clothing Bank donations are now located inside the TV cabinet in Fellowship Hall. Donated clothing must be laundered and in good repair.

Special Offerings

Right Here, Right Now Benevolence Fund – April 2

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.



Easter Offering – April 2 & 9

This special offering supports the Disciples of Christ General Ministries. Checks may be written to FCC with "Easter Offering" in the memo line.