

## Out-to-Lunch Bunch Goes to Court

Jan. 17!

Now that we have your attention, our own Julie Hoskins, Chief Judge, 19th Judicial District, will lead us on a tour of the Weld County Courthouse Wednesday, January 17, at 10:00 a.m. This tour of our beautiful and historic courthouse, built in 1917, will last approximately an hour. We'll meet at the courthouse, located at the corner of 9th St. and 9th Ave. After the tour, we'll walk a block to Doug's Diner for lunch at 11:30. Can't attend both? Not a problem. Feel free to sign up to attend one or both events. See the sign-up bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall or call the church office to let us know you're planning to be there.



### Prison Ministries

As part of FCC's efforts to be a Matthew 25 congregation, First Christian Church supports two prison ministries. We provide large print and Spanish Bibles to the Weld County Jail and Upper Room subscriptions to the Upper Room Chaplain's Ministry. The Chaplain's Ministry supports military chaplains, VA hospital chaplains, and prison chaplains. **Our donation to the Upper Room was made in honor of all the veterans in our congregation. Thank you for your service!**

**First Christian Church Governance**  
CWF Board, 9:30 am: Jan 11  
General Board, 5:30 pm: Jan 18

## Calling all Youth!

Attention all youth! Midwinter Retreat forms are due January 21<sup>st</sup> along with half of the total registration fee.

We are also looking for a volunteer to drive to LaForet and pick up some of our youth for Midwinter. Please let me know if you can help out.

We will be sending out information to have the older youth to help with 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade youth on a Saturday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. There will be games and food will be served. More information to come!

I'm also inviting a youth volunteer to help cook and serve at the Guadalupe Shelter on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Talk to me about signing up for a Sunday!

Hope to see you soon!

*Todd*

### Thank You for Helping the "Least of These"!

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful congregation for your tremendous support of the mission work of our church throughout 2023. We have seen the hand of God at work through your amazing generosity of time, talents, and treasure. Your support, kindness, and love have helped countless people in need in our community and beyond. Together, we are making a difference as we serve and honor Jesus through our [Matthew 25](#) Ministry. Watch for the 2023 Mission/Outreach giving summary for more detail about the many organizations we supported this past year. These organizations are extremely grateful for the support our church so generously provides as we partner to bring God's love and caring to people in need.



The Christian Caller Newsletter

2024 January

*A Message from Vince*

Even though it is not a religious holiday, in many ways I have always thought of New Year's as the most Christian of all holidays. No offence to Christmas or Easter, but the idea of starting over, of putting away your past, of being redeemed, is, in my book, at the root of Christianity. It is significant to me that we celebrate the new year at the beginning of Winter. September 22 each year marks the beginning of fall - a time when the Northern hemisphere of earth begins to be tilted away from the Sun. Fall is marked by leaves beginning to fall from trees, vegetation starting to die, the days getting shorter. Winter begins when these processes are complete. At the start of winter, the Northern hemisphere is tilted to its furthest point away from the sun: leaves have disappeared from trees, all vegetation is dead, and the days are the shortest they will be all year. In a way, fall marks the point when death and darkness begin, and Winter marks the point of their totality. And it is ironically at this point that we celebrate newness and redemption. One might think redemption is best celebrated in the spring when everything starts to spring back to life. But Christians are acutely aware—maybe more than any other group—that for there to be new life, there must first be death.

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul says, "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (6:4). To Paul, just as Jesus could not be raised if he had not first died, we must experience death to our old selves in order to experience new life. Notice that Paul is not here talking about dying to our earthly bodies and rising again in heaven. Instead, he is speaking directly to church members, reminding them of their new life in Christ. While it is nice to think that we all have taken on new life and now live the lives Christ wants us to live, if we are honest with ourselves, we constantly fall short of this. We constantly need to seek redemption. This is the beauty of New Year - It comes every year. It reminds us that just as death and new life are a cycle on earth, sin, death, redemption and resurrection are also a cycle in the Christian life. May you take this time of New Year's celebration to remember your death in Christ and your rebirth into a new life of peace, forgiveness, and love.

First Christian Church Greeley (Disciples of Christ) holds Sunday worship services in the sanctuary at 10:00 am.

Childcare is provided during the service.

Find more information at [www.fccgreeley.com](http://www.fccgreeley.com)



### Contact Us

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## Christian Women's Fellowship

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas season and are ready for our coming events!

The next CWF Board meeting will be January 11, 2024, at 9:30 am at the church.

The morning (9:30 a.m.), afternoon (1:30 p.m.), and evening (6:00 p.m.) groups will resume their meetings starting Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m., the afternoon group will be in charge of our General Meeting. The program and refreshments will be held in the Fellowship Hall and, as usual, all women are invited.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Sandy Beiser and LaVonne Rogakis, Co-chairs, CWF

### Blanket Sunday



January 21<sup>st</sup>!

*\$10 helps  
Church World  
Service give  
warmth to the  
world!*

### FCC Finances

For more information about the 2023 Financial year's statement or the 2024 FCC Budget, contact the church office at (970) 352-1292 or [fccadmin@comcast.net](mailto:fccadmin@comcast.net)

### January Birthdays

01 John Hartmann  
04 Geneva Clark  
12 Mary Kay Pumphrey  
15 Colleen Heitman  
15 Copie Summerson  
19 Bayne Berg  
23 Michael Beiser  
28 Sue Campbell

## First Christian Church-Greeley 2024 Board, Trustee, and Committee Members

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, First Christian Church-Greeley (DOC) held its annual Congregational Meeting to vote on the 2024 budget and on nominations for leadership on the board and committees.

We would like to take this opportunity thank all the outgoing and continuing board and committee members for their time, resources, and energy as we welcome the new members to their 2024 positions.

### 2024 General Board:

Debbie Berg, Chair; Verna Recor, Secretary and Church Clerk; Gretchen Howland, Financial Secretary; Rich Recor, Financial Overseer.

Congregational Representatives to the Board:  
Janean Beaman, Carl England, Cindy McDowell, Mick Nichols, Gerre Tjardes.

### 2024 Trustees:

Tom Miller, Chair; Colleen Heitman, Marla Johnson, Becky Linenbroker, Tom Rainbolt.

### 2024 Elders:

Colleen Heitman, Chair; Harold Carlson, Connie Davis, Becky Linenbroker, Doug McDowell, Tom Rainbolt, LaVonne Rogakis, Bill Rusher.

### 2024 Diaconate & Greeters:

Alicia Loschen, Chair; Rose Aasland, Carl England, Carolyn England, Jo Fowler, Elgetta Hummel, Steve Hummel, Shawn Loschen, Gerre Tjardes.

**Property:** Pastor/Admin

**Staff Relations Chair:** Mike McGuire

**Stewardship Chair:** Carolyn Rainbolt

Thank you for all volunteers, past and current!

## Mission Matters

**“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”**

### Cold Weather Shelter Meal – January 12

FCC will be serving a meal at the Housing Navigation Center's cold weather shelter on Friday, January 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you would like to help, look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

### King Soopers Community Rewards Sign-up – January 21 & 28

If you shop at King Soopers and have not linked your Shopper's Card to First Christian Church, let us help you set up the link! Once linked, every time you shop at King Soopers and swipe your card or enter your alternate ID, a percentage of the sale will go to our church's Right Here, Right Now Fund. Members of the Mission Team will be available during Fellowship Time on January 14 to help you sign up. This is a simple, no-cost way to give to our church!



### Blanket Sunday – January 21

When disasters strike, when temperatures drop, when sidewalks become home, Church World Service wants to be there with a blanket to provide warmth. We will be collecting an offering for Blanket Sunday on January 21. Your donation of \$10 will warm the heart and hands of someone in need near and far.

### Blanket Sunday



### Food Pantry at FCC

Reminder: We maintain a small food pantry at our church in the white cabinet behind the north partition by the kitchen. Though we don't have the resources to actively promote it to the public, it is definitely there to help within our church family. You will find small packaged items along with a few staples. Pastor Vince or Sue can help with access. Please give Diana Laws (970-518-0297) suggestions as to items to include or the need to restock. We all hit rough patches; consider this no different than asking for a hug – a small way to support each other!



### Special Offerings

**-Right Here, Right Now Benevolence Fund – Jan 7, Feb 4, March 3**

**RHRN**

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. (Donations to RHRN are also accepted throughout the month).

### Join the Mission Ministry Team!!

*If you have a heart for mission and would like to join the Mission Ministry Team, please talk to Diana Laws or Bill Rusher.*