

## Internet Evangelism?

Do you have a Facebook or Instagram account? If so, have you “Liked” the FCC Greeley page? If not, go to the following links and “Like” or “Follow” the page to get ongoing updates on what is happening in our congregation and community. Next, to help spread the news from FCC Greeley to those you are “friends” with, like the posts, events and advertisements you see from FCC Greeley.... or better yet, forward them to your timeline (hit the arrow/share button, then click on “share to feed”) . There are many in our community who want to find a church but are overwhelmed with going to a place they don’t know. Letting your Facebook & Instagram friends know that you go to an active church may be just the low pressure invite that they are looking for.

<https://www.facebook.com/FCCGreeley>

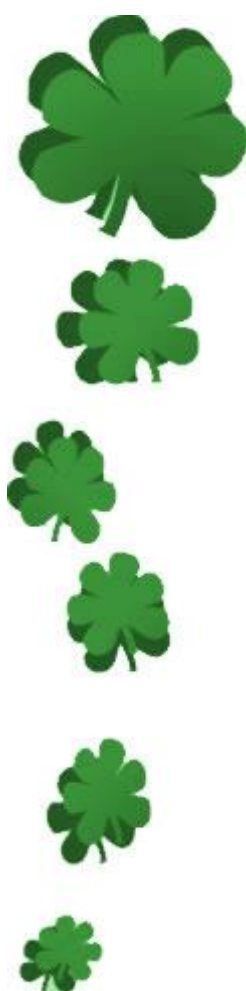
[https://www.instagram.com/fcc\\_greeley/](https://www.instagram.com/fcc_greeley/)

## HOMESCHOOL TEEN DAY!

On Thursday, March 21, homeschooled teens aged 14-18 are invited to join a licensed counselor for a psycho-educational discussion, pizza and salad, games, and hanging with other teens at First Christian Church. The day starts at 10 am; \$10 per participant. For more information, email [fccadmin@comcast.net](mailto:fccadmin@comcast.net)

## Mental Health First Aid Course for Faith Communities

Living Water Soul Care and North Range Behavioral Health have partnered to bring a free one-day Mental Health First Aid Course to Faith Communities, 9 am – 4:30 pm on Friday, March 22 at Caring Legacy Building, 2105 Clubhouse Drive in Greeley. This is crucial information for members and leaders of our church, as well as for all Greeley churches and faith communities. For information: [Shawna.Cranmer@FrontRange.org](mailto:Shawna.Cranmer@FrontRange.org)



## St. Patrick's Day Irish Feast

**Lads and Lassies,  
You are invited  
to an Irish Soup Lunch  
in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
11:00 a.m.  
Good Food & Good Cheer  
followed by  
Shamrocks of Fun,  
Music,  
& Shenanigans.  
featuring  
guest musical group,  
The Strumming Singers**

**First Christian Church Governance**  
CWF Board, 9:30 am: March 8  
General Board, 5:30 pm: March 21



**FirstChristianChurch**  
**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**

2230 13<sup>th</sup> St, Greeley, CO 970-352-1292 [fccgreeley.com](http://fccgreeley.com)

## The Christian Caller Newsletter

March 2024

### *Pastor Vince's Ash Wednesday Message*

Our service tonight is that much like a funeral. Because Ash Wednesday is an honoring, a remembrance, and even a celebration of death and suffering. We remember the time of suffering of Jesus in the desert before he started his ministry. We place ashes on our own foreheads as we hear the words, “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The ashes are placed in the shape of a cross – symbolizing the death of Christ. We even use ashes made from the burnt celebration branches used only a year before to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Our body that we have laid on the table, is the body of our celebration - of our lifted spirits.

Why a celebration for suffering and death? Christianity has a unique perspective of suffering and death. We even worship a God that suffers and a God that has experienced death. Early theologians, in trying to make sense of why Jesus had to suffer, realized that a God who did not experience suffering, pain, and loss was a God who did not understand the human condition. Our God chose to experience humanity in order to save humanity. The word Christ or Messiah in biblical history is the name for one who is anointed by God to liberate. It is interesting that, in order to liberate us from the sting of pain and death, our Messiah experienced those things. Because he knew that to be one with us, he needed to feel what we feel.

Lent is a time when Christians abstain from pleasure or take on things to purposely make themselves feel burdened. Sometimes it is as simple as abstaining from eating sweets, sometimes it is adding some sort of community service, sometimes it is just stepping out of our comfort zones to do something for others. Whether it be a big change in life, or a small change that might feel like a big change, it is not because we are masochists, or feel we somehow deserve pain, it is to, as Christ our master, relate to others. To feel the pain of all. To, even in some little way, identify with the one who has lost, who feels alone, who is in the dark. To identify with the poor, with the malnourished, with the hungry. With the abused.

Our service tonight is much like a funeral – it is a funeral for ourselves. To remember that death is the great equalizer. It comes to all. No person is above another, and no person out of its grasp. Even God has subjected God's self to death. And if you are looking for a message of comfort, there is one. In time, we will celebrate the resurrection, but that is later; that is not the comfort of lent. The comfort of lent is a comfort that we find in unity. A comfort found in solidarity with one another and with God: That our God created us to be one and is one with us.

Let us unite with each other and with God - “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

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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Website: [www.fccgreeley.com](http://www.fccgreeley.com)

### Christian Women’s Fellowship

Women of the church are meeting for study and fellowship on the fourth Thursday of each month at 9:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 6:30 pm. This month, the 6:30 pm group will meet on March 21 because of Maundy Thursday. The CWF Board meeting is March 14. Pick a time and come join us!  
Sandy Beiser and LaVonne Rogakis, Co-chairs,

### Easter Sunday Events! March 31

8:30 – Breakfast, sponsored by Fellowship Team  
9:30 - Children Easter Egg hunt  
(Parents, please hold children's candy until after Children's Church!)  
10:00 – Easter Worship Service. Sanctuary

### FREE!!!

Participate in our blood drive in March. Your caring and compassion does not cost you a cent! You can literally help save people’s lives! The week of March 18th, give blood at the UCHealth Garth England Blood Center, 6906 W 10th Str., in Greeley (just east of King Soopers). open Monday through Friday, 970 347 4259

**Say you are there for  
First Christian Church’s  
blood drive!**

### March Birthdays

- 09 Gerre Tjardes
- 10 Susan Luecht
- 11 Tom Smith
- 12 Janean Beaman
- 12 Vince Endris
- 13 Verna Recor
- 17 Carolyn England
- 17 Nairne Fanberg
- 17 Carol Reynolds
- 18 Alice Endris
- 18 Wilson Endris
- 26 Bill Sinnwell
- 31 Ken Thompson

### Elder’s Message

If everything we have in the history of God’s dealing with his creation had a connecting line to one image, ultimately that image would be the cross. From the fall on the Garden of Eden to the teachings of the early church and the prophecies of the Eternal Kingdom, the cross stands eternal.

There are many designs of crosses, but the most familiar to us is the “Roman Cross.” It is an upright stake with a vertical cross-piece below the top. This is the kind of cross Christ was crucified on, we believe, and it is the symbol of Christianity. This cross is visible everywhere, on roadside memorials and of course on churches; in fact, we have ten crosses on the outside of our church. The cross that appears on our chalice emblem is the “St. Andrew Cross.” It is there as a reminder of the ministry of each person and the importance of evangelism. It recalls the denomination’s Scottish Presbyterian ancestry.

There is a concept in the New Testament that the word “cross” is either symbolic of self-sacrifice or a thing of shame because crucifixion was considered a shameful death. However, in the gospels, before his crucifixion, Jesus spoke of the necessity of those who would follow him of taking up the cross. Luke 14:27 says, “whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.” In Paul’s writings, he uses the “Cross as the great instrument of reconciliation between God and man, between Gentile and Jew.”

You don’t have to look for your cross; life gives it to you. A real cross is one you don’t want because otherwise it is hardly a cross. We are invited by God, as Jesus was, to accept our crosses. Suffering is part of the human reality. Acceptance is what Jesus invites us to on the cross. Like Jesus, you can allow others to help you carry your cross, but it should never become someone else’s cross. In every cross there is an invitation to new life in some way. The cross is often where we meet God because our vulnerability can make us open to God’s grace.

The cross is God’s new rainbow shining brightly in a storm-tossed, fearful and turbulent world. As the rainbow is a symbol of God’s promise of safety from destruction by another flood, the cross is his promise of safety from the ferocious storms of life: a symbol of atonement, forgiveness, and love.

-LaVonne Rogakis

### Mission Matters

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction...”  
1 Corinthians 1:3-4

### Wrapped in Love Ministry Cutting Party March 9

Theresa Rusher and Diana Laws will be doing most of the sewing; though if you have a serger we’d love your help. With several hundred yards of fabric to cut, the help we can use is in a fabric cutting ‘party’. No special skill required, just patience. (The patience part doesn’t bode well with kids on this one!) Join us Saturday, March 9, 10:00 am-noon in the Fellowship Hall!



### Cold Weather Shelter Volunteer Day March 19

FCC will serve dinner at the Cold Weather Shelter on Friday, March 19, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you would like to help, contact Bill Rusher. (We will not be preparing dinner, only serving.)



### Households Can Save Money with These Tips from United Way

#### LEAP

Colorado’s Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) helps Colorado families, individuals, older adults, and those with a disability pay their winter home heating costs. **LEAP applications are accepted from November 1-April 30 only.**

#### Earned Income Tax Credit

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit gives money back to people who earn lower incomes. Even if you earn little to no income, be sure to file your taxes. You could be eligible to receive from \$560 to \$6,935 based on your income, filing status, and number of dependent children.

#### File Your Taxes for Free

File your taxes online or on your smartphone for free if your 2023 income was less than \$79,000. In addition, free in-person help is available for people who generally made \$64,000 or less, people with disabilities, and limited English-speaking taxpayers.

### FCC’s Food Pantry

Reminder the food pantry is available, behind the room divider next to the kitchen. If you’re struggling, it’s for you; or for church leaders to share with walk-in or known needs. We’ll monitor to keep items current, with extras going to the Weld Food Bank.



### Special Offerings

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

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).

- **Easter Offering – March 24 & 31**

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

### Upcoming Community Events/Needs

- **Northern Colorado Children’s Festival** needs volunteers to help with this fun educational event for children ages 0-8. **March 20** from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Island Grove Event Center. [Click](#) to learn more.
- **Greeley Refugee and Asylee Program** is asking for support in the following ways: [volunteer](#) your time, donate needed items from their [Amazon Wish List](#), make a monetary [donation](#), or become a [refugee employer](#). Call Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains at 970-682-2819 for more information.

### 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.

