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The Christian Caller Newsletter

June 2020

Dear Friends,

**“In the path of righteousness there is life,
in walking its path there is no death.”**

Proverbs 12: 28

We are going on this new path together. **We do not go alone.** Walking with us are the saints that went before us. The Sunday School teachers, Diaconate, youth workers, CWF friends, pastors, Elders, cooks and everyone else. **Walking with us are not just the people we have known, but all those who have gone before us.** The “righteous” are those who have given their lives to doing and living for love, truth, compassion, kindness, faithfulness, generosity, forgiveness and encouragement.

This past Thursday we had a new participant in our Psalms and Proverbs Zoom study. She was there because of Marion Leh, who has been gone almost a year. **The things we do today matter.** We cannot always see them or experience the results, but we just keep walking this path together.

Love,

Pastor Mark



In the next month, Pastor Mark and Pastor Judi will be calling every person connected with First Christian Church to ask you to respond to these four questions:

1. **What is working well for you** in the ways that we are “being church” during the pandemic?
2. What should be our **top priorities**?
3. **What do you miss** the most?
4. How can we use **music** to deepen and strengthen our connections?

Personal Reflection at the Labyrinth

Beginning May 31st we plan to offer communion and a space for prayer at FCC’s labyrinth between **8:00 and about 10:00 a.m.** each Sunday, weather permitting. Worship will continue online, but this time of prayer and reflection will be an additional opportunity for those who are interested.

- **Masks are MANDATORY.**
- If you can, bring your own **portable lawn chair.**
- We will ask that you always remain **6 feet apart.**
- **Bathrooms will be open** for one-at-a-time use—mandatory hand washing and hand sanitizer.
- **Children are welcome**—Pastor Mark and Pastor Judi will have story circles with the kids.

Decisions regarding cancellation due to weather will be communicated in advance whenever possible, through email or as a message on the church’s phone line.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2230 13th Street
Greeley, CO 80631

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Welcome to Our Church

On April 30, 2020, we welcomed Betti Seay to First Christian Church membership. Welcome, Betti!

Bereavements

We extend our deepest sympathies to Carol Williams and family in the passing of Jan Williams on April 14, 2020.

Our heartfelt condolences are with the family of Marilyn Lesser. Marilyn passed away on April 18, 2020.

Thank-You Notes

A huge thank you to everyone who sewed masks for local hospitals. Goals were met and the urgent need is over, but masks are still being accepted to be replacements as needed. Donations were tracked and First Christian Church is listed on the long list of donors who helped NCMC during this time. ~ Alicia Loschen

Thank you to the Teachers of First Christian Church! We appreciate teachers! Thank you to everyone who taught our youth and adults during the past "school year." The following people gave their time and talents: Alicia Loschen, Bryan Mascola, Todd Loschen, Caitlin Berg, Sue Evans, Hunter Evans, Carla Ikenouye, Sue Tjardes, and Mark Pumphrey.

Christian Women's Fellowship



It's been a while since we've been together. We hope everyone is doing well and finding new things to do at home that you never had time to do before.


We are hoping and praying that they will find a vaccine soon so we can get together in the fall. We have been coming up with different ideas as we may not be able to get together as we did before. If you have any suggestions, please notify us so we are all working together.

Please keep in touch with members of CWF so we can get through these tough times united.



Youth Sunday School & Youth Group Party

Announcing a combined Youth Sunday School & Youth Group Virtual (Zoom) Get-Together on **Sunday, June 7, at 4:00** for all kids. **Crazy hair/hats!** Contact Todd for more information.



Virtual Youth Campfire Gatherings

All Jr (3rd-5th), Chi Rho (6th-8th) and CYF (9th-12th) CRMR Youth are invited to participate. **Cost: Free**
When: Tuesdays, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm, June 2-July 7, 2020

For security, a link to the meetings will be sent only to those who sign up (so **please do not share or publicize the link**—we don't want Zoom-crashers).

Sign up by email: skgarrison50@gmail.com — you will be sent a reply with the link.



Message from the Board Chair

My previous message ended with "Ya'll are the Church. Thank God!" Today I open with, "Thank God you are the Church." As God's family of believers in Jesus Christ we have now dealt with State orders from on high for two months. Social distancing, masks, no gatherings of 8 or more, "stay together while being apart" are all orders or phrases that have become the new "normal." As fellow believers, I am asking each of you to dwell on some scripture. We have a biblical record of Jesus touching lepers. The leper was healed. Note that the touch did not occur by an elbow bump or foot tap.

How many times does the Bible refer to prophets or angels & Jesus showing up and saying, "Fear not," "Do not be afraid," "Be of good courage," "Fear not the face of men"? I urge all of you as the Church to dwell on these words rather than the media reports full of fear. Fear leads to isolation, loneliness, and desperation. We are used to thinking of masked people as bandits. Now we are asked to look at them as safe, conscientious people who speak in muffled tones to protect us. I don't know about you, but I try to avoid even eye contact by looking away so I don't breathe in their direction.

So again, I ask that you listen to God's words and fear not! Our Father's tent is huge and covers our safe homes, our comings & goings, our travel, our church, our very lives. Be of good courage as a Christian soldier. Please feel free to call me, text me, send pictures or e-mail, but please rest in God's care and covering.

Yours truly, Ray White, 970-302-4480

PS: If I don't answer, leave your name/number. I'll call you back.

FCC's Grads

Congratulations to Hunter Evans, David King, and Austin Loschen. Plans are in the works to honor them on a date in June. Stay tuned!



Help FCC Stay Connected

During this time of virtual services, help us stay connected by **sharing your pictures** of where FCC's ministries are at work: "new life," Wednesday Night Lights candles, and communion, along with stories of where you see God at work. Please share them by email to ministry@fccgreeley.com. If you have a **prayer request or know of a need** (for you or someone else), share it by email to prayerrquest@fccgreeley.com. The prayer requests will be sent to our ministerial staff.

FCC Book Clubs

In May, the **Evening Book Club** joined together in a Zoom conversation about *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie. They will have another Zoom meeting on Monday, June 1, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the novel *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. They will then begin their summer hiatus. The **Morning Book Club** began a summer hiatus early and have been tackling books on their personal reading lists. Both clubs will resume regular meetings in September.

"... Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence — and... love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." Luke 10:27, MSG

Mission Matters

"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
Hebrews 4:16

Baby Bottle Campaign – May 10-June 21

Our donations will go to the Diaper and Formula Delivery Program at United Way of Weld County. Since we're not distributing baby bottles this year, we ask that you **write a check to FCC with Baby Bottle in the memo line**. Many families are struggling financially during our current crisis and appreciate help with baby necessities.



Pentecost Special Offering – May 31 & June 7

In 2001 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embraced a bold vision: to start 1,000 new churches in 1,000 different ways by the year 2020. Today, we have welcomed **1,034+ new places of worship** into the Church! We, as Disciples, have committed to supporting them. Each year, half of our Pentecost Special Offering stays in our local region to **start and uphold new churches**. The other half is used across the United States and Canada by New Church Ministry to **support the recruiting, assessing, training, and coaching of new church leaders**. Please help us celebrate over 1000 new Disciples churches by supporting this special offering.



Weld Food Bank's COVID-19 Response

This is a critical time for us to support the Weld Food Bank as they respond to the COVID-19 crisis. A gift of \$25 can provide 100 meals, which for many families is the difference they need to get through this difficult time. **Checks may be written to FCC with Weld Food Bank in the memo line**, or you can donate online at <https://weldfoodbank.org/covid19donations/>. Food donations are also welcome, but to minimize handling of the food, they **request canned and packaged food in cases**, such as those sold at Sam's Club and Costco. **Our food barrel will be in the vestibule from noon to 1:00 pm on weekdays for your food donations**. With the increased need in the community, there is also an increased need for **volunteers**. The food bank has instituted strict safety measures to protect clients and volunteers. Online signup is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084ea5a729a0f94-weld1>.



Stay Informed!

The Weld County Health Department website has current data, the latest information, and many helpful resources related to the current COVID-19 health crisis: https://www.weldgov.com/departments/health_and_environment/2019_novel_coronavirus.



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

June: Sunday(s)	Monday(s)	Tuesday(s)	Wednesday(s)	Thursday(s)	Friday(s)	Saturday(s)
Each Week: 8:00a The Labyrinth 10:00a Worship— (go to fccgreeley.com) 7 RHRN, Pentecost Offering 4:00 Youth Zoom Party 14 21 Father's Day 28	1 6:00 Eve. Book Club (Zoom) 8 15 22 29	2 Each Week: 8:30a Men's Coffee (Zoom) 6:30 CRMR Youth (Zoom) 7:00p—Book of Mark Study (Zoom) 9 16 23 30	3 Each Week: 6:00p Wed. Night Lights- fccgreeley.com 10 17 24	4 Each Week: 1:00p Psalms & Proverbs Study (Zoom) 11 18 25	5 12 19 Juneteenth 26	6 13 20 27

Weekly Online Activities in June

In June, **Worship** (Sundays at 10 a.m.) and **Wednesday Night Lights** (at 6 p.m.) will continue to be accessible at fccgreeley.com—or you may view them at your convenience. For other online opportunities, please see the information below for help in accessing the regular, weekly online meetings that take place via Zoom.

Online Activities Via Zoom

Men's Coffee at 8:30 Tuesday Mornings

Meeting ID: 895 4746 5701

Password: 205833

Internet Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547465701?pwd=UndKZDK5ekZISEJWVFVEbW9KMxZNQT09>

One Tap Mobile:

+13462487799,,89547465701#,,1#,205833# US (Houston)

+16699009128,,89547465701#,,1#,205833# US (San Jose)

Cell Phone:

+1 346 248 7799

+1 312 626 6799

Gospel of Mark Bible Study at 7:00 Tuesday Evenings

Meeting ID: 818 6729 5745

Password: 800584

Internet Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81867295745?pwd=MOVXdW1BUjBnNEN1YzJHRjZMY3ZnZz09>

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+16699009128,,81867295745#,,1#,800584# US (San Jose)

Cell Phone:

+1 346 248 7799

+1 312 626 6799

Psalms and Proverbs Bible Study at 1:00 Thursday Afternoons

Meeting ID: 893 9122 3847

Password: 288119

Internet Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89391223847?pwd=cGN5cS9Lb2VLR0UrOEMyWDR0NTdNZz09>

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Cell Phone:

+1 346 248 7799 or +1 312 626 6799



Notes from Sandy



“Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

I wish I'd been the one who first said it, but it was actually a prominent German writer named Berthold Auerbach who wrote these words in 1864. It's true today as much as it ever has been, isn't it? I've been so happy to see music continue here at FCC during these last two difficult months.

Special thanks go out to all those who've shared music with us, from our lovely Mother's Day tributes, to our special Easter singers, to Ken sharing his own guitar arrangement of *Amazing Grace* on Wednesday night, to Gretchen playing the piano with the organ. As we move into summer, we will have even more and different ways to “get a dusting” from music. Please let me know if you want to play or sing or otherwise “make a joyful noise.” Don't let technology keep you away. If you tell us what you want to do, we'll deal with all the recording, posting, streaming, and everything else to make it happen. We'll also be having some limited music in the sanctuary in June, so be ready for that! In the meantime, in the bubbly words of Lawrence Welk, keep a song in your heart.

June Birthdays

- 1 Richard Stossel
- 6 Amy Haining
- 9 Carla Ikenouye
- 9 Marla Johnson
- 9 Karen Markus
- 9 Cindy McDowell
- 15 Stuart Murphy
- 17 Connie Davis
- 18 Vivian Nickle
- 23 Willa Beltz
- 30 Richard Recor

Have you shared your birthdate with FCC?

FCC Financial Update (as of 4/30/2020) Income Year to Date: \$84,765.21 Expenses YTD: \$79,871.57



Thank You to All Who Work on the Front Lines!

To those who serve others during this time, whether through working in medical, customer service, or maintenance professions—or at any job that puts you at an increased risk—we appreciate you! You are in our prayers.

Others Can Be Heroes, Too...

Thank you for wearing a mask when you visit FCC!



Elder's Message

—Bill Rusher

At this time I am very concerned, as I'm sure we all are, about the severe threat of a contagion that we can't see and that we didn't know even existed until a few short months ago. And this while our medical providers don't always have an effective medical treatment for it, nor a vaccine to build immunity and prevent transmission, and they don't know how long it will take to control it!

So we are forced for the safety of ourselves and others to quarantine and isolate ourselves as the only sure way to minimize the risk of contracting the illness. While that is the only prudent choice, it still deprives us of the physical contact and support that we so desperately need and that has always been the source of strength we get from our community. Because we're no longer in control, we can feel our lives are suddenly upside down! I miss singing in the choir and visiting with all of you, and even though virtual meetings through the ZOOM app help me to still feel connected, it's not the same.

I know that if I'm not careful, feelings of fear and depression can still creep up on me, so I find solace in the thought that throughout our history Christians have always been challenged by things in the “real” world that they fear and cannot control. And like those who came before us, we need to trust in our God, have comfort in our faith, and, in a safe way, care and help others in our community.

Two scriptures I found are: **Psalms 46**, verses **1, 2 & 10** and **Ephesians 6:23**. And I found this prayer:

Heavenly Father,
Heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful,
encourage the discouraged,
and give us strength.

