

Squabbit Chatter (Kids Sunday School)

Happy December! I hope you all are doing well. I know there have been a lot of school changes and some of us handle change better than others. Hang in there. You will succeed!

In the November newsletter, I wrote about being thankful and grateful. I suggested being grateful every day. Did you practice this over the past month? I did. My fitbit even tells me I experienced heart rate improvements on days I wrote down what I was grateful for.

Let's continue gratefulness through December. After all, we have received the greatest gift of all. Think hard about Jesus. He was God's gift to us. "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son...He sent his Son to save the world through Him." *John 3:16, 3:18*

Let's say a prayer of thanksgiving on Christmas!

Need Financial Help Due to COVID-19?

If you have been impacted financially by COVID-19, Cares Act Funding is available for assistance with rent/mortgage and other basic living expenses.

Contact Weld County Human Services at 970-400-6600 or HS-Outreach@weldgov.com.

Worship with us Online!

Until we can be together again

Sunday Messages, Scriptures, & Special Music

plus

Wednesday Night Lights each week of Advent

www.fccgreeley.com

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The Christian Caller Newsletter

December 2020

Message from Mark

"The Light Shines in the Darkness, and the Darkness did not overcome it" -*John 1:5*

This is John's Christmas story. No angels, mangers, wisemen, or bucolic scenes. Just this profound statement that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. In this Advent season a lot will be stripped away from what we are used to. I have a friend who spent Christmas in 1974 in a prison in Czechoslovakia. He could never quite say why he ended up there, but Time Magazine implied he worked for the CIA. He shared a story with us about befriending a prison guard who brought him Double Mint gum. He kept the foil wrappers and fashioned a complete Nativity set in tiny sizes.

He was released and headed to seminary at Phillips. In my imagination, I constructed what his miniature nativity looked like. Here is the best part. There was a hole in his ceiling from which a beam of light shown in the corner each night. Guess where the "baby Jesus in a manger" was??? Keep the faith: That light still shines.

Love, Pastor Mark



Notes from Sandy



Holy Nights

Do you have a favorite Christmas carol? I'll bet you do. Mine is *O Holy Night*. I love the beauty of the melody and the drama of the final high-note ending. This year, I particularly cling to the words of the second verse: "Led by the light of faith serenely beaming; with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand". In this current dark night of COVID isolation and limitations, I hope to hold fast to this faith-light that Christ is in the world. I want to be led by the shining presence of God as it is always right here with us in our earthly life. Such good news! No matter how dark or alone our life might get, God's love, hope and light are always present to lead and enliven us.

If you do have a favorite Christmas song, here's a way to stay connected during Advent as we move to our online format. Email me at svarley@comcast.net or text or call me at 970-405-4486, and let me know what that favorite song is and why. We'll make sure your song gets played or sung during our Advent season, and we'll share your reasons for loving it. In the meantime, share your light through your well-loved song!

In Christ, Sandy

For the health & safety of our congregation, families, and community, First Christian Church Greeley will **not** hold worship services in the sanctuary until further notice. Pastor Mark and staff will maintain office hours. Call or email us with questions or any needs. Find more information and worship videos at

www.fccgreeley.com

Contact Us

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December Scriptures & Sermons

- 12/06**— Isaiah 40:1-11
“A Giant Hug”
- 12/13** — Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
“Choose Joy”
- 12/20** — Luke 1:26-38
“Whoopee!”
- Look for worship services each Sunday on
www.fccgreeley.com**

Christian Women’s Fellowship

It seems that Covid-is going to keep us from having CWF for the rest of the year. However, we want to keep our commitment to the Tennyson Center’s “Christmas Dress a Child” program, so our \$170 designated funds will be sent to them. The children should not lose out because of this epidemic. If you would like to add to this fund personally, send your check to the church by Dec. 5, made out to Christian Women’s Fellowship with “Dress a Child” in the memo.

We have also continued to donate to FCC’s Memorial Fund to honor each CWF member who has passed away this year.

We are looking forward to being able to join together again eventually, until then, we hold on to “this too shall pass.” Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

Sandy Beiser and LaVonne Rogakis, co-chairs

Grab a camera & be part of online Advent services!

Each week, we will celebrate a theme: hope, peace, joy, & love. Share your celebration by submitting pictures to be included in our Sunday video service. Here’s what to snap for each week:

11/ 29 Hope: a lit candle on its own or with loved ones

12/6 Peace: a word, phrase or image that means ‘peace’ to you

12/13 Joy: a silly hat or funny sweater of the season

12/20 Love: a photo “Christmas card to the church” from your family

**Send your pictures to fcctech@fccgreeley.com
by 4 p.m. on Thursday
to be included in the Sunday online collage!**

Elder’s Message

~ Carol Reynolds

“The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. Full of grace and truth.”-*John 1:14*

Often we hear someone say or maybe think ourselves, “you can’t understand what I feel” or “what I’m going through.” If we find it difficult to believe that other people can understand our feelings, how then can we believe that the creator of the universe can understand our feelings? It is comforting to know that Almighty God chose to send us His son, born of a human mother, to live on this earth. He lived among us in human flesh. Although he was fully Divine, he was also completely fully human. He grew up knowing the love of parents. He laughed, played and cried. He was taught to read and write. He worked as a carpenter and became a teacher. He knew what it was like to feel cold and hot, to be tired and lonely, to be hungry and thirsty; to enjoy a meal with friends, and to grieve the loss of a loved one! And he chose to endure humiliation, torture, and an excruciating painful death as a sacrifice for all mankind. What greater love! As he lived on this earth, he helped us to understand the very nature of God and how He wants us to live out our lives.

So let us celebrate His birth by glorifying His name, providing a helping hand to a neighbor, smiling at a stranger (even behind a mask), and finding ways to honor Him every day of Advent and throughout the coming year.

Wishing all of you a Very Blessed Christmas, even though being experienced much different than previous years..



FCC Financial Update

(as of 10/31/2020)
Income Year to Date:
\$196,363.68
Expenses YTD:
\$197,659.11



Book Club

The **Evening Book Club** is currently reading *Every Breath* by Nicholas Sparks. They will meet via Zoom on Monday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the novel.

The **Morning Book Club** continues on hiatus.

December Birthdays

- 1 Annabelle Loschen
- 1 Nita White
- 2 Sarah Beiser
- 3 Marshall Gray
- 4 Myrna Armes
- 8 Jim Thomas
- 10 Alicia Loschen
- 10 Bill Rusher
- 11 Carolyn Rainbolt
- 13 Helen Herman
- 15 Carol Hypes
- 21 Ray White
- 25 Lynn Teixeira

Mission Matters

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Cor 9:15)

Virtual Missionary Visit Follow-up

We were blessed to have Andrew Larsen join us on Zoom from the Philippines on Nov. 12. We plan to reconnect with Andrew in 2021 to learn more about his experience as a missionary. Our church supports the work of Andrew and other missionaries through our giving to Global Ministries.

Marine Toys for Tots – Nov. 29–Dec. 13

We will once again be partnering with the Marine Toys for Tots Program to bring Christmas cheer to families throughout Weld County. Toys for Tots is requesting donations to purchase books for children in our community. Please write checks to First Christian Church with “Toys for Tots” in the memo line.

Bundle Up Tree – All December

This year our Bundle Up Tree will be virtual! In lieu of purchasing items, please write a check to First Christian Church with “Bundle Up” in the memo line. The School District 6 Family Center will use the funds collected to give the gift of warmth to students by providing them with gloves, hats, scarves, and socks.

Colorado Gives Day – Dec. 8

This special day of online giving to local nonprofits is sponsored by Community First Foundation and FirstBank and features a \$1 million Incentive Fund. Every nonprofit receiving a donation on Colorado Gives Day receives a portion of the fund, increasing the impact and value of every dollar donated. Info at www.coloradogives.org

Habitat for Humanity Virtual Art Auction – Dec. 11–18

The Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity will not be hosting a Cookie Walk this year due to COVID-19. Instead, the community is invited to a Virtual 2021 Faith Build Art Auction to be held December 11–18. Info at www.greeleyhabitat.org/artauction

Christmas Special Offering – Dec. 13 & 20

Our annual Christmas Special Offering will be collected Dec. 13 and 20. Donations support the **Central Rocky Mountain Region** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please write checks to First Christian Church with “Christmas Offering” in the memo line.

Christmas Eve Offering – Dec. 24

Our Christmas Eve offering will benefit the **Cold Weather Shelter**. Please write checks to First Christian Church with “Christmas Eve” in the memo line.

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