

Squabbit Chatter (Children's Sunday School)

from Alicia

Some people think February is the month of love, since Valentine's Day falls in February. So what is love?

(from DTKL's Growing Together)

"The Bible tells us that love is from God and that God is love. He loves us even when we're not loveable and when we're grumpy or doing bad things. He loves all of us no matter what.

The tricky part is loving others like God loves us. There is a special kind of love we can have for others, it's called *agape* love. This doesn't have to be mushy love, just see people as God would see them. Pretend for a day that you have special glasses on and that everyone you see you love just because God loves them, like the way you love a mom or dad, brother or sister.

What are some ways that we can love God? It's not as hard as you think. How do you show others you love them? We talk to them, try to get to know them better, listen to them, and sometimes we do things for them. We can do all these things for God.

We are also supposed to love ourselves. We get this from a Bible verse that says do for others as you would want them to do for you. This means we should take

care of ourselves. Things like looking before we cross the street, eating our vegetables, and getting a good sleep at night are ways we can do that. Remember that the Spirit of God lives inside us and he wants us to treat ourselves with respect.

Loving our friends should be easy because we pick the people we want to be friends with. The thing is, sometimes when we disagree with our friends we think we don't have to be their friend anymore, but God's love would ask us to forgive them and try to work things out.

I hope you don't have any enemies, but there will always be someone that you don't get along with or believes the opposite of what you believe. By asking for God's help we will be able to love our enemies easier when we just can't do it on our own.

Learning to love like God takes a long time and takes God's help. It's easier to love than to hate, so have lots of fun learning to love God and everyone around you!"

dltk-kids.com/bible/vbs/what_is_love-treasure.html

The FCC Staff want to thank you for your gifts of support & appreciation this holiday season. David Haining speaks for all of us: "It is a privilege to be part of the team that is enabling our church to continue to be church in a virtual world!" *Thank you!*



The Christian Caller Newsletter

February 2021

Message from Mark

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?"

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give by firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:6-8

Four years ago in February, I got a call from a 970 prefix. When I saw the number come up, I thought, "maybe it is Greeley." A couple of weeks before, the Regional Minister had asked me if I would be open to helping FCC Greeley transition from a recent Interim to a "settled pastor." I had just finished driving for Lyft, giving over 5,000 Lyft rides, when the call came.

In what I have come to know as his kind and thoughtful manner, Tom Rainbolt asked if I might be interested in helping. I said, "Sure, I am open to helping." Little did we all know that God had a more long-range view. I am now beginning my fifth year at FCC Greeley.

The scripture I have shared above was my Ordination scripture. That was 44 years ago. Occasionally, I like to check in with it and ask if I have let it guide me in any way. All I can say is I try. Justice is not an idea; it is an action. I only recognize kindness when I am the recipient of such. FCC is a kind community and I try to do my part. Walking humbly with God means letting God lead, carry, and sometimes exhort. Humility is knowing your place—being a worker among workers. FCC Greeley is a gift I never saw coming. Thank God!!

Love, *Pastor Mark*

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

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

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February Scriptures & Sermons

2/07—Isaiah 40:21-31
"What, No One Told You?"

2/14—Mark 9:2-9
"Wow, What a View!"

2/21—Mark 1:9-15
"Life in the Desert"

2/28—Romans 4:13-25
"Hoping Against Hope"

Look for worship services each Sunday on
www.fccgreeley.com

Friendly Conversation Every Week!

On February 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm, we will begin a weekly social hour via Zoom called "Table Talk." Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. You should think of this as coffee hour from your home! There is no need to sign up and if you cannot make it one week, no problem! We will send a Zoom link each week to everyone on our email list, so if we do not have your email address, but you would like to join, let the church office know. If you do not know how to use Zoom, **PLEASE** let us know and we will guide you— Don't let that keep you from joining!

Table Talk will be a time for us to connect with one another each week while maintaining our health and safety. Our time together will be somewhat structured with some questions designed to get people talking, but we also want to find out how everyone is doing in this time of distance. I will not beg you to join but I do hope to see you one of these Monday nights! Judi

For more information about Table Talk, call or email the church office.

Book Club



The Book Club is reading *The Light in Paris* by Eleanor Brown. The club will meet via Zoom on Monday, February 1, at 6:00 p.m. .

Elder's Message

~ Nita White

Fear and Death. Over the last year a lot of what we have heard in the news and around us, is talk about fear and death. As I think about writing this letter to you, I ask myself what do I really want to say? More importantly, what does God want me to say to you? In March, our lives were put on hold. For me, I do not believe that is what God intended when he made us. If you look back in Genesis, God saw that man was lonely and created woman. Two people to interact with each other. God did know what the future would bring. I believe that he still wants us to interact with each other and not just over the internet. There is a place for the use of technology, but that is not the end all. Are we still to be careful? Yes. Are we to live trusting in God and not live in fear? Yes. We hear over and over the science says this, the science says that What does our Creator say? He tells us many times in the Bible. Do not be afraid. For me, I will not live in fear. I will trust my God. I will be careful and respectful.

Death: What is death? Did Jesus not die on the cross to give us eternal life? We may say yes – but do we really believe it? Why are we so afraid of Death? I know it hurts us who are left behind and we miss the one that has died terribly. But I know that I will see my loved ones again. Why – because they believed that Jesus died for them and I know that He died for me! Do we believe what the world tells us or do we believe what God tells us?

As we go forward in this country, I will say I have a fear. That my grand children will not be free – they will be suppressed in their thinking, their belief in God. I have to remind myself: God sees all and He is in control. God does not promise me an easy time. God does promise to take care of me, to walk beside me. He reminds me that I must pray for the leaders of the country, and I must pray for my enemies as well as those I love. We are to be the light in the darkness. In all that we do, we must remember to love our neighbor. That does not mean we are to say what they are doing is OK – it means we must speak the truth in love. Jesus showed us how that is to look: the prostitute, the women at the well. We may think the Bible is an "old" book, but it is a living book that does not change with the times as we think we evolve – it is our guide right now in these times for us to live by. That is where our truth comes from. We are to live in the world – but we are not to conform to the world.

I know that I choose God! I will allow God to use me, to refine me to be what He needs. I ask for guidance, strength, discernment – so that I will be used to Glorify Him. I give Him my fear. He gives me peace and joy. From Ephesians 5: 21 We are to be thankful for everything.

FCC Financial Update (as of 12/31/2020)

Income Year to Date:
\$237,201.61

Expenses Year to Date:
\$235,726.77

Breathe!

Free Zoom Workshop
to Relieve Stress

Feeling stressed out? As part of our outreach to the Greeley community, Sandy is offering a free two-hour Zoom workshop to calm stress and bring peace. Everyone is welcome. The workshop will be offered on Saturday, Feb, 6, from 10 am to noon online. We'll learn how stress happens in the mind, then we'll learn strategies for restoring tranquility within. Go to www.livingrockcounseling.com or contact Sandy at svarley@comcast.net or 970-352-6830 to register today!

February Birthdays

- 4 Rich Davis
- 5 Thomas Gray
- 5 Betty Lund
- 6 Bob Corliss
- 6 Kevin King
- 6 Lena Morris
- 6 Sharon Murphy
- 10 Judi Ring
- 11 Steve Hummel
- 11 Shirley Miller
- 12 Beverly Martin
- 13 Dora Beiser
- 15 Shannon King
- 21 Hazel Gibson
- 23 Helen Stolte
- 24 Hunter Evans

Mission Matters

**"Finally, all of you,
be like-minded, be sympathetic,
love one another,
be compassionate and humble.
1 Peter 3:8**

Valentine Diaper Drive – Feb.14 ❤️

Be a *sweetheart* and support the Weld County Department of Human Services as they help people in our community find the essentials they need to survive and thrive. During the pandemic, the Community Outreach staff at Human Services has received as many as 100 calls a day requesting assistance. We can help by providing one of the items families need most—diapers! Share the *love* by writing a check to FCC with "Diapers" in the memo line. Your Mission Team will purchase diapers with the donations and deliver them to the good folks at Weld County Community Outreach to help them *cover their bottom* line.

National Random Acts of Kindness Week – Feb. 14-20

The goal of Random Acts of Kindness Week is to change our community through kindness. Showing kindness is good for your soul and good for your heart. So exercise this fifth fruit of the Spirit and embrace sharing the love of Jesus, not just one week of the year, but all year!

Week of Compassion – Feb. 21 & 28

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to transform suffering into hope throughout the world. Our donations helped Week of Compassion provide tremendous relief and support to communities all over the world in 2020. Their response to the needs of a global pandemic, historic natural disasters, and ongoing development projects resulted in nearly \$3 million in urgent relief support. To contribute to their efforts, please write a check to FCC with "Week of Compassion" in the memo line. Together we can turn challenges into opportunities to love our neighbors and show compassion.

Join the Mission Team!

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