

Thriving Together in 2022!

I have a therapist friend who says "Make it a good day!" when most of us would say, "Have a good day," Truthfully, I sometimes find her unrelenting positivity a bit forced. At the same time, I also know that what she is saying contains real wisdom. We actually make our own joy. We don't just "have" good days. Rather, it is what we choose to turn *toward* that gives joy. 2022 is here without world peace. Rather, COVID rages on, fires break out, and tornadoes destroy entire towns. It seems not much has improved "out there." The love of God that is right here with us, right now, is our source. If we turn toward that source, we find peace. If we turn toward the world, we find the unrest the world brings.

Our Thrive team is excited to continue to help us reconnect to our Deepest Source and make our days full in 2022. Last Fall, several people expressed that they wanted to explore more of *It's OK To Not Be OK* by Sheila Walsh, so look for a book study. Thrive will also be bringing programming focused on making "Golden Years" truly golden. Stay tuned for details! In the meantime, make 2022 your year to really live in the joy of God!

Sandy & Thrive

Sunday School & Youth Group News

Happy 2022 from FCC Youth! We had a busy holiday season. Along with the Youth Group Christmas Party, we collected food and gifts to donate to a local family. We also met to prepare and deliver holiday meals to 14 households in the church and community. Now we are looking forward to the Mid-Winter Retreat on February 18-21. Remember to let Todd know if you have a project we can help with!

FCC January Meetings

General Board—Wednesday, 1/19, 5:30 pm

Ministries Cabinet— Tuesday, 1/11, 5:30 pm

PMV—Thursday, 1/20, 6:00 pm

Elders— Sunday, 1/16, 8:30 am



The Christian Caller Newsletter

January 2022

A Message from Bill Rusher, Board Chair

On November 28, I announced that we were postponing the annual congregational meeting to January 30 because we were running about a month behind in our usual organizational operations, and we don't want to rush through a meeting just to have a meeting; it's too important that we get the business of the church right. On December 5, I announced that when I looked at why we were running behind, I found that under the present model, we've always struggled to find enough people willing to serve in the various offices. With COVID it's now even worse. For example, in this last year as Vice Chair, I've also inherited the Staff Relations, Stewardship, and Nominating Committee chairs by default; this is an ineffective dysfunction that prevents us from being the kind of church we should be. No one is to blame for this dynamic; it's happening in our schools, businesses, churches, and all of our society, due to the generational transition between "Baby boomers" and "Generation Xers", and it's only exacerbated by COVID. I believe our challenge is to find a model that is a more efficient use of church resources in people's time and talents to better serve our community as the hands and feet of Christ.

As a first step, I've asked Mark and Judy, as our co-pastors, to develop a proposal that will help us shape and streamline our organizational model to help us be that more efficient and effective church and better serve our mission. But for us to initiate any effective change, each member of the First Christian Church of Greeley must be involved in the process and do their part to provide the critical input needed for a collaborative effort.

The process timeline will be January 9 for the initial proposal, January 16 to seek your responses to the proposal and any input you might have, and January 19 for General Board approval. At our congregational meeting on January 30, you will vote to approve the budget and the nominations of new officers for 2022. We know that this initial proposal we're considering in January will not be the final product; it is only the first step in an evolving process. It is important that we all choose to be actively involved in the process and willing to make a commitment to each other, the church, and this collaborative effort, no matter how long it might take to successfully complete this journey we're on.

TIME VALUED MAIL

Non Profit
Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Greeley, CO 80631
Permit No. 20

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

First Christian Church Greeley (Disciples of Christ) holds Sunday worship services in the sanctuary at 10:00 am. Child care is provided during the service. Find more information at www.fccgreeley.com.



Contact Us

2230 13th Street, Greeley, Colorado 80631
Phone: 970.352.1292, Website: www.fccgreeley.com
Rev. Dr. Mark Pumphrey: 303.748.5385
Judi Ring, Co-Pastor: 719.740.3253
Todd Loschen, Youth: 970.397.9258, fcctodd@comcast.net
Dr. Sandra Varley, Piano/Organ: svarley@comcast.net
David Haining, Technology: fcctech@fccgreeley.com
Gary Ikenouye, Bookkeeper: fccbookkeeper@comcast.net
Administrative Office: fccadmin@comcast.net

Christian Women’s Fellowship

CWF groups now return to their regular meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month. The morning group meets at 10:00am; the afternoon group meets at 1:30pm, and the evening group meets at 6:30pm. All groups meet in the parlor. Come join us for fellowship and worship!

Our board meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday in the parlor. For more information, contact Sandy Beiser or LaVonne Rogakis.



Book Clubs



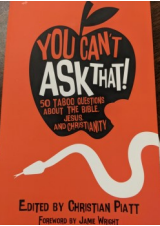
The Evening Book Club read *Twelve Days of Christmas* by Debbie Macomber in December and are now reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. They will meet Monday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor to discuss the novel. The Morning Book Club read *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson in December. They will select a new book for January and will meet in the parlor on Friday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you so much to our entire church family for all your love and support during Todd’s Covid illness. We received financial assistance, meals, and prayers, each so appreciated. It has been a long year, but he is finally starting to improve and we are looking forward to a healthier 2022
With love
Alicia, Todd and kids

January Birthdays

- 1 John Hartmann
- 4 Geneva Clark
- 12 Mary Kay Pumphrey
- 15 Colleen Heitman
- 15 Copie Summerson
- 23 Michael Beiser
- 28 Sue Campbell

Book Study in February



On February 1, Pastor Mark begins a study of *You Can’t Ask That!: 50 Taboo Questions About the Bible, Jesus, and Christianity*, edited by Granbury, Texas pastor and author Christian Piatt. This collection of diverse responses from pastors, professors and other faith leaders assures you that “questioning religion is not taboo, but rather the foundation of a strong and growing faith.” The study takes place Tuesdays in February, 10:00-11:30am in the church parlor. For more details, talk with Pastor Mark.

2021 FCC MISSION/OUTREACH MONETARY GIVING*

BUDGETED DONATIONS (10% OF BUDGETED INCOME)	
Disciples Mission Fund (5%)	\$ 7,480
DMF Global Ministries (1%)	1,870
Tennyson Center for Children (1%)	1,558
Greeley Family House	600
Weld Food Bank	600
Weld’s Way Home	600
A Woman’s Place	600
Guadalupe Community Center	600
MeadowView Ministry	100
American Cancer Society Relay for Life	130
Envision	100
Hope4_2Morrow	100
Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy	100
Tennyson Center for Children (special gift)	500
The Salvation Army (refrigerator/freezer)	250
United Way of Weld County (4 tables)	400
SUBTOTAL BUDGETED DONATIONS	\$ 15,588
PERMANENT FUND INCOME	
Upper Room Chaplain’s Ministry (25 subscriptions)	\$ 105
SUBTOTAL PERMANENT FUND INCOME	\$ 105
DISCIPLES MISSION FUND SPECIAL OFFERINGS	
Week of Compassion	\$ 2,505
Easter	405
Pentecost	125
Reconciliation	185
Thanksgiving	100
Christmas	200
SUBTOTAL DISCIPLES MISSION FUND SPECIAL OFFERINGS	\$ 3,520
OTHER NONBUDGETED CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS	
American Cancer Society Relay for Life	\$ 1,488
Christmas Eve Offering (Guadalupe Shelter)	272
Church World Service (Blanket Sunday)	750
Fred Tjardes School of Innovation	100
Greeley Family House (10 gas cards)	150
Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity	500
Right Here, Right Now Gifts (\$6,918 income)	4,581
Tennyson Center for Children	300
Weld County Dept. of Human Services (Diaper Drive and 2 car seats)	470
Weld County Jail (25 Bibles)	103
Weld Food Bank (Food Drive and other donations)	605
Weld Food Bank (Pot o’ Soup)	1,395
Weld Food Bank Backpack Program	1,100
WOC Guatemala Food Security (Baby Bottle Campaign)	1,035
SUBTOTAL OTHER NONBUDGETED CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS	\$ 12,849
TOTAL MISSION/OUTREACH MONETARY GIVING FOR 2021	\$32,062

* Does not include items donated, such as meals, clothing, school supplies, food, socks, gloves, books, etc., or the countless hours of volunteer service within our community.

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.”
Matthew 25:40

Week of Compassion Offering

We are continuing to collect Week of Compassion donations to help the victims of the devastating fire in Boulder County. If you would like to contribute, write a check to First Christian Church with “Marshall Fire” in the memo line, and your donation will go where it can do the most good.



Blanket Sunday – January 23

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 23. Your donation of \$10 will warm the heart and hands of someone in need.



Cold Weather Shelter Meals – through March

Volunteers are needed to prepare and/or serve meals at the Cold Weather Shelter through March. You can [sign yourself up](#) or talk to Carla Ikenouye about putting together a team.



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 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!**



You Are a Blessing to Many! (See opposite page for details.)

Thank you to our wonderful congregation for the overwhelming generosity you have shown throughout the year. In addition to your time, talents, and treasure, you’ve donated diapers, school supplies, food, undies, socks, gloves, hats, books, and even your blood to support our local nonprofits as they help the neediest in our community. When your Mission Team has presented an opportunity to help, you have opened your hearts and answered the call. Some of the organizations FCC supported in 2021 are Tennyson Center, Weld Food Bank, Guadalupe Shelter, Greeley Family House, A Woman’s Place, United Way’s Weld’s Way Home, Weld County Community Outreach, Fred Tjardes School of Innovation, Northern Colorado Immigration and Refugee Center, District 6 Family Center, Hope4_2Morrow, American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity, Jobs of Hope, The Salvation Army, Life Stories, Marine Toys for Tots, and Envision. These organizations are extremely appreciative of the support our church so generously provides as we partner to bring God’s love and caring to people in need.



Join the Mission Team!

If you have a heart for mission and would like to join the Mission Team in 2022, please talk to Carla Ikenouye or Gerre Tjardes.