

New Shepherding Program

For many years the Elders have maintained "Shepherding Lists" in order to stay in close contact with the needs of the congregation. In recent years we have learned that maintaining consistency through this process has not been ideal, but we want to make sure that the Elders are still available and responding to congregational needs. Starting immediately, we will be eliminating the Shepherding "List" concept and instead be focusing on meeting the needs of the congregation as a whole, through a universal Shepherding Program.

At our monthly Elder meetings (and more immediately when necessary), we will be considering and responding to any needs of the congregation that we are made aware of (i.e. prayer chain, homebound members, special needs, etc). The Elders' response will be tailored to the nature of the need and we will actively reach out to each situation however most appropriate, and according to the wishes of congregation members. We will also communicate frequently with the congregation regarding celebrations, current events, and opportunities for more involvement. Please let us know your thoughts about this new program, and always feel free to reach out to any one of our Elders. We also request your grace and understanding as we work to make this new Shepherding Program a stronger connection with our congregation.

Your Current Elders: Jodi Hartmann, Colleen Heitman, Kris King, Becky Linenbroker, Doug McDowell, Tom Rainbolt, LaVonne Rogakis, and Bill Rusher



GAELIC CEILI BEILE Irish Soup Meal

Bring on the Shamrocks!
Join in the Shenanigans!
It's time to wear your GREEN.

Everyone is invited to join the fun:
Favors, games, limericks, blessings,
A 'Pot of Gold' Soup,
and GREEN GOOD TIMES!

Sunday, March 12th, 2023
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall
Irish Soup Meal

Enjoy Shamrock Verses,
Share friendly fellowship,
And maybe even a bit o' blarney!

Lent: Wednesday Nights Live

On each Wednesday during March, FCC presents a unique **Wednesday Night Live**, featuring a light dinner along with a special program: March 1, it is creating finger labyrinths; March 8, Thrive hosts "Mind, Body, Spirit;" March 15 is a pastor panel on "Reading the Bible," and on March 22, it's "Reading the Psalms." All evenings begin at 5:30 pm; free will offerings will be accepted for dinner.

On April 6, **Maundy Thursday**, FCC will again have a self-guided Presentation of the Stations of the Cross. Each station will be prepared by a different group or team, including the various churches who also work and worship in the FCC building. Watch for information and a sign-up sheet coming in early March.

First Christian Church Governance
Ministries Cabinet, 5:30 pm: March 14
CWF Board, 9:30 am: March 9
General Board, 5:30 pm: March 16



First Christian Church
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
2230 13th St, Greeley, CO 970-352-1292 fccgreeley.com

The Christian Caller Newsletter

2023 March

A Message from Judi

A couple of weeks ago, I preached a sermon on the "Beatitudes" (Matt. 5-20) from Jesus' sermon on the mount. I have known the Beatitudes for years but there really is nothing quite like preparing a sermon to really dig into a scripture. The Beatitudes are so much more than just a list of people who will be blessed. They show us how to live in the *Kindom* of Heaven. They show us that in the *Kindom* of Heaven, it is the lowly and the oppressed who live a blessed life rather than the wealthy, oppressive, abusers of power. In other words, the empires of this world will not comfort you, will not show mercy, will not bring peace, and will not fill you with the righteousness that a relationship with God can do.

Anytime we read a scripture, we must ask ourselves three questions. . . 1) What is God calling me to do and be? 2) How do I live this out in my current reality? And 3) What is the "good news" in this scripture? In the Beatitudes and, in fact, the entire sermon on the mount, Jesus calls us into the body of Christ. Into a life of blessing. We, however, must be willing to do the work of the Beatitudes. As we enter the Lenten season, a time of introspection and returning to God, let's dig a little deeper into the scriptures, our prayer practices, and our relationships. Let us all commit to "Living the Beatitudes."

--If you or anyone you know is interested in Baptism on Easter Sunday, please speak with Pastor Mark or Pastor Judi soon so we can begin to plan.

--If you happen to see new faces in our building, they are probably from one of the 6 organizations which now share our building: Living Rock Counseling (Dr. Sandra Varley), Iglesia Mission Evangelica (Evangelical Mission Church), Micronesian Christian Church, People First, Greeley Interfaith Association Board, and the Salt Church. Please welcome these members of the Body of Christ!

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

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Christian Women's Fellowship

Hope everyone is managing our winter weather. We can start looking forward to spring! Mark your calendar for our next big get-together: a Daughter's Tea, 10:00 am on Saturday, May 13. All church women and visitors are invited. Our next board meeting is March 9 at 9:30am and group meetings are March 23 at 9:30am, 1:30pm, and 6:30 pm. Please join us in the parlor on the fourth Thursday of each month!

LaVonne Rogakis and Sandy Beiser

Book Club

The FCC Book Club is currently reading Love, Anthony by Lisa Genova. They will meet Monday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor for discussion.

March 11 Clean-Up Day!

At 10:00 am, join Pastor Judi in assessing, sorting, and arranging items in the northernmost office and the sanctuary backstage, in order to make the spaces more useful in church life. Snacks provided!

March Birthdays

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

Early April Birthdays!

- 02 Sylvia Werbin
- 06 Taylor Rainbolt
- 11 Carl England

Elder's Message

-LaVonne Rogakis

"The memory of the righteous is a blessing" Proverbs 10:7
Among the gifts our creator has bestowed upon his children is the faculty of memory. The memories of past events assure us that God will take care of our needs in the future. God has proved trustworthy in the past, so we can be certain He will be with us tomorrow and the next day. God has not simply created us and let us go our own way to fend for ourselves. God created us and renews us daily, mindful of the covenant made in the past. The past assures us that the God of Abraham, Sarah, and Moses is the same God who calls and cares for us today in our own times of joy and pain.

Memories remind us of how God has worked in our lives, bringing good out of bad situations. It is in these memories, both great and small, where we catch a glimpse of the divine in our lives and so we cherish the memories, for God is our God, now and forever.

What a comfort to know we don't have to venture into our "Twilight Years" alone and afraid. As someone in their twilight years, memories are on my mind often and sometimes are what keep me forging ahead. The chorus of the hymn "Precious Memories" says it all for me: "Precious memories, how they linger, how they ever flood my soul, in the stillness of the midnight, precious sacred scenes unfold."

Remember, what you do today will be your memory tomorrow.

FCC Finances

As of January 31, 2023

Income YTD	\$37478.75
Expenses YTD	\$23891.92



60+ Ride Helps Seniors

Maintain Their Independence!

Need a ride to appointments or to run errands? 60+ Ride offers free transportation to anyone 60 and over. Call their office Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 970-352-9348 to confirm your eligibility and request to become registered. Once you have become a registered client, you may request a ride anytime by phone. Volunteers will also deliver essential items such as groceries and prescriptions. Call 970-702-6413 to arrange for a delivery. To volunteer to be a driver, go to <https://60plusride.org>.

Mission Matters

**"For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat."
Isaiah 25:4**

Cold Weather Shelter Volunteer Day – March 10

FCC will serve dinner at the Cold Weather Shelter on Friday, March 10, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you would like to help, contact Carla Ikenouye. (Note: 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.** Find out more at www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/2LEAP.
- **Get-Ahead Colorado**
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. Visit <https://www.getaheadcolorado.org/earned-income-tax-credit> to learn more.
- **MyFreeTaxes**
United Way provides MyFreeTaxes in partnership with the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to help filers prepare their tax returns on their own or have their return prepared for them. Filers who make under \$60,000 a year qualify to have their taxes prepared for free by a qualified, IRS-certified tax preparer. Find free tax help at MyFreeTaxes.com.

Refugees and Asylees Need Our Help

The Greeley Refugee and Asylee Program of Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains welcomes about 40 new arrivals to Northern Colorado every month. **They desperately need sofas, kitchen tables and chairs, dressers, and twin/full size bed sheets** to furnish apartments for these new arrivals. Your donations make a huge difference in the welcome they can offer to our new community members!

- Purchase items off their [Amazon Wishlist](#).
- Donate your used furniture. Check their [donation list](#) for items they accept.

If you would like to arrange for a donation drop off or pick up, email amanda.lopez@lfsrm.org or call 303-345-4567.

Special Offering

Right Here, Right Now Benevolence Fund – Feb. 5

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.



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