



THE
link



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

August 1, 2012

Senior Pastor

Rev Rebecca Heller (ext 30)

Office Manager:

Kirsten Bayne (ext 21)

Christian Education Minister:

Tracy Morgan, Director (ext 24)

Custodians:

Max & Marcia Peters

Music Ministers:

Troy Schuh, Pianist

Nursery Coordinator:

Tammy Swartz (ext 24)

Wedding Coordinator:

Kathy Vaughn

Youth Minister:

Rachel Nelson (ext 22)

Licensed Ministers:

Pam Hilliard

Tracy Morgan

Dennis Miller

LifeCare Email:

fcclifecare@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Services:

8:30 Traditional Service

9:50 Sunday School for all ages

10:45 Contemporary Service

If you have information for our
Link, please e-mail that
information to:

kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org

By the 15th of each month.



Change from the Heart

My name is Linda Imel, and I would like everyone to help our church. This is what I would like us to do. We all have change around the house just getting dusty...so why don't we let it help our church. I will have jars at church for you to put your change in. When you get it full, just bring it to the church, and we will put it in a big water jug so we can watch the change grow for our church. I'm calling this program '*Change from the Heart.*'

Drive Our Fear and Doubt Away. . .

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.*

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
~Henry van Dyke

“But when you ask for something, you must have faith and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like an ocean wave tossed around in a storm.” James 1:6 (CEV)

The news is now out that I have resigned as Senior Minister of First Christian Church. In just a few weeks I will begin a new ministry as a Chaplain Resident at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora. God is calling me in a new direction, and it has been a very challenging choice to make to leave this congregation. It is with sadness that I leave, but also with excitement for my new focus in ministry.

With any change we are prone to fear, doubt, and anxiety. However, when we have doubts or when we become fixated on our fears that make us want to turn and run away, perhaps what we need is strong dose of a prescription called faith. We know that faith is a gift from God and God wants to grow the seeds of faith within each one of us. God will be your guide and guardian. God is not done with you yet—not by a long shot—but *as a whole congregation* you need to **choose life!**

There are some wonderful leaders in this church and I know that by coming together,

supporting one another, and working along with Rev. Jose Morales, Executive Regional Minister, and Rev. Marty Hermanstorfer, Associate Regional Minister for Search and Call, God will find a way and will keep on surprising you.

There is a poem I have always liked written by an anonymous author:

*God has not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through,
God has not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
God has not promised we shall not know
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe.
He has not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.
But God has promised strength for the day,
Rest for the laborer, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above
Unfailing, sympathy, undying love.*

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” is such a beautiful prayer—*Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away.* Fear and doubt so easily get hold of us and we can quickly begin to feel that we are in the midst of a chaotic storm with no way back to the safety of dry land. But God is our strength, our hope, and our joy! May God teach us all to embrace our challenges, and forgive us when we try to avoid the difficult decisions that are right in front of us. May we be brought closer and closer to God as we replace doubts that consume our hearts with faith and courage. God will find a way.

*Blessings,
Rev. Rebecca*

Rachel's Remarks

Summer Update

It has been a busy and wonderful summer so far in the lives of our youth. We had many youth and children attend summer camp. We had a handful of courageous youth who went on a mission trip to participate in a Group Workcamp on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana (and who will be sharing about that experience on August 5). We have had a few youth group meetings to play together in the park, and by the time you're reading this, we will have had a BBQ, run a youth-planned car wash to benefit the church's general fund, and helped with VBS. In fact, as this newsletter is coming out, a couple of us will be on another mission trip to serve LaPuente Home in Alamosa.

With all of the changes happening in the life of our congregation, you may find yourself wondering what that means for the youth program. The answer is simple: the church leadership is going through a visioning process that will help renew our church with fresh ideas and passion, and we as a youth group are doing the same! A few key members of our group have graduated and are moving on, but we have wonderful group members, both new and old, who I am sure are going to make this a great new year of youth ministry. We will be spending our first couple of weeks together in this new year naming the transforming identity of our group, and visioning and planning for our year together. We hope all youth in grades 6-12 will join us (and adults, if it has been on your mind or heart to begin volunteering with the youth, this is a great time to let me know! I have lots of ideas with widely varying levels of effort and commitment).

Finally, to those who are continuing to reload your King Soopers cards, we give you our sincere thanks! These funds are vital as we build up what we need for another year of meaningful youth ministry. (We recently learned that the cards expire if they are left empty for 30 days, so please make sure you keep a balance on your card.) To those whose cards have expired, please let me know and we can get you started again with a new one. To those who do not yet have a card, but shop at King Soopers, please consider getting a card (from Rachel). Simply by buying your groceries, fuel, etc. with these cards, you can be earning free money to support our youth participation in events and experiences that will change their life, and faith, forever.

With hope and gratitude,
Rachel

Weekly Youth Meetings

for youth in grades 6 – 12

Sundays: Rush Hour

Our Youth class is taking a break for the summer; we will start back up September 2 in the NW corner youth room

Wednesdays: Xone 77

Regular Xone meetings for grades 6-12 will begin August 29, 6-8pm at the church. Please be sure to pick up a summer youth schedule (there will always be an extra one posted outside Rachel's office) for our end of summer activities.

Upcoming Youth Events

Chi Rho Mission Trip July 29-August 4

Brooke and Rachel, with youth and adults from HRCC, are serving LaPuente Home, a homeless shelter in Alamosa, CO. Please pray for our mission group throughout this amazing, life changing experience!

CYF Mission Trip Presentation August 5, in 9am worship

Friends and family are invited and welcome to join our congregation for this special worship service in which our CYF mission trip group will be sharing about their mission experience!

Want more info?

Email Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org if you'd like to join the youth e-news list, and/or "like" us on Facebook! – just search for "Xone 77 Youth" to find our page.

FCC Youth Ministry Mission Statement

Our Youth Ministry exists to **EXPOSE** teenagers to God's love, to **CONNECT** them with other Christians and help them **GROW** in their faith, challenging them to **SEEK** God's presence and to **SERVE** others for Christ.

Tracy's TidBits

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without God's unfolding grace. 2 Corinthians 4:16, The Message

I just finished my Sudoku and I always feel such a sense of accomplishment upon finishing one of those each morning. I feel on the top of my game and in control. I control where the numbers go, but this was a hard one today and I realized that not even on my Sudoku am I really in charge. If I put a number in the wrong place then that affects everything else and it all goes wrong. The person who created the puzzle is the one who dictates my moves.



At the time I am writing this it's about a week before VBS starts and I'm a bit worried because I feel so ill prepared this year. I knew I had a full plate at the start of the summer with camp plans, Central Rocky Mountain Region board meetings, time with family and friends who drop by from out of town, a concert, a ball game, VBS, and the possibility of a vacation. What I didn't know was that I'd have several funerals to attend and one to help plan, that we'd be in an accident that would total our car, or that our senior minister was going to resign. Now I find myself in a constant internal whirlwind of cares and worries and wondering how it is all going to get done and how is it going to turn out. Tammy led vacation Bible school last year and so I feel like I'm forgetting things, leaving something important out... Am I really the one who is supposed to be doing this? The donations board is still half full of things that are needed that no one has donated yet. I feel as if I must have put a number in the wrong place and everything has gone wrong. I'd rather just work a puzzle or go back to bed than work on what needs to be done. Give me a hole to climb into to hide for a while.

With all that has been going on at the church I'm sure some of you are feeling the same way about things. We already had financial concerns that we've had to make some difficult choices about staffing and then the AC/ heater goes out in the sanctuary, and Reverend Rebecca announces that she will be following her call to chaplaincy and will be leaving FCC-Loveland. Where's the hole to climb into? Maybe you are considering just not showing up at the church at all and going to wait out the storm or retreat to a different church for a while. Hide from your cares and worries!

I personally would love to do that! But... I love God more and I feel him calling me beyond myself to Him and I feel God calling First Christian Church to go beyond what we believe is possible to the incredible opportunities that God has in store for us. When my family faces adversities we don't separate to our own separate holes to hide in we make a point to get out and to support each other so that none of us are left in a hole and that is how I see that we as a church must respond at this time. We must become closer and support our church family even more. We must not withdraw from each other but come closer together with each other and with God. When Brad, my husband, and I worked together on this morning's Sudoku it went easier than if we'd done it by ourselves, though it still wasn't easy.

It won't be easy to get through this time but it will go better if we do it together rather than if we scatter. God doesn't promise us easy but he does promise that what we go through is worth it! How do we get through? Get close to God through prayer and study and close to each other through fellowship. We will also need to expand our circles of influence by reaching out to others.



I subscribe to a journal called *Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life* and the theme for this latest issue is *Do Not Lose Heart* and this is a prayer by Rueben Job from that issue: "Creator God, Author and Maker of all that is, God of goodness, grace, and love. Like Your followers of old our outer nature is wasting away, we seem impotent in the face of hate, violence, and war. In our weakness and confusion we are often in retreat or in hiding even as we cry out to You for redemption and life. Today we once again hear Your call, "Follow Me," and with Your grace washing over us and Your Spirit guiding and strengthening us we claim our full inheritance as Your daughters and sons, offering all that we are and have to You. Because we are Yours alone we do not lose heart. We rise up and claim the strength that only You can give to begin living a new life of integrity and faithfulness in confidence and trust in Your sustaining grace. Amen.

Let this be our prayer. *Tracy Morgan, Christian Ed Minister*



Church in the World

Global Ministries has provided us with a year of missionaries that we can pray for each week. Each month I will give you the featured people that we can be praying for. Feel free to

visit the Global Ministries web page to find a Weekly Prayer. www.globalministries.org

August 5th John Campbell-Nelson, Indonesia
August 12th Gloria Vicente Kanu, Guatemala
August 19th Barbara and Zoltan Szucs, Hungary
August 26th Judy Chan, Hong Kong

First Sunday Food

First Sunday food collections are going great, thank you to all who are making this Ministry so valuable to our local community. You will find below what we as the Body of Christ have collected in July, along with what food items are for the rest of the year. Thank you for being the Hands and Feet of Christ! If you have any questions regarding this ministry please contact Tammy Swartz.



July: We collected 64 jars of peanut butter, 32 jars of jelly, 3 boxes of cereal, 1 box of pop tarts, 2-cans of dog food, 2 boxes of mac n cheese. With a weight of 177.5 lbs and a value of \$210.00.

August-Mac & Cheese

September-Canned Meat

October-Canned Vegetables

November-Dry Mixes (muffin mix, cake mix, stuffing, seasonings, flour, sugar)

December-Canned Meat

Join us in wishing Rev. Rebecca, Mike and Elena Farewell!

Please join us following the service on Aug 12th for a farewell brunch in honor of Rev. Rebecca. Immediately following the 9:00am combined service, The Congregational Life Team will serve brunch. Come and thank Rev Rebecca for her service and wish the Heller-Lekan family well in their new endeavors!

Annual End of Summer Picnic at Sylvan Dale Ranch

The annual End of Summer Picnic will once again be held at Sylvan Dale Ranch **on Aug 26th**. This year will be slightly different in that we will have ONE COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE beginning at 10:00am at the SYLVAN DALE GUEST RANCH. We will worship in the pavilion where we will eat lunch after the service. There will be NO WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH that Sunday. Let's all come together for a camp-style worship, great food and fellowship.

We will have games, singing and fellowship starting around 11:00am with lunch to be served at noon. Hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks will be provided by the Congregational Life Team. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share as well as your lawn chairs or blankets and bug spray.

We will gather at the church at 9:30am to carpool to the site and make sure that those with mobility challenges can be dropped off right at the pavilion. You may also drive yourself and get to Sylvan Dale by 10:00am. Rides will be arranged for those who need one. We want everyone to have an opportunity to join in. Look for sign-up slips in the Aug bulletins or contact the office at 667-1318.

Hope to see you all there!
Congregational Life Team

Habitat for Humanity "Build-a-thon"

The week of September 10 is the time for this project to begin building four houses on 27th Street, just west of Conrad Ball Middle School on Monroe. On Tuesday evening there will be a dedication of the lots. Construction will be on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Habitat is asking that we provide crews of 5 or 2 crews of 5 each to work on ONE of the three days. These will not be long days. They are also asking that we donate \$100 for each member of the crew to help with some of the expense of the project.

If this is a mission you would be willing to help, please let Harvey, Dennis Miller, or Lanny Helzer know of your willingness to be involved.

Harvey Ruegsegger

Neil & Tami Forsythe's new address:

EFFECTIVE JULY 24th

1234 Midland St
Waterloo, IA 50703

August Birthdays

MAGNUSON, Herman	2-Aug
JESSUP, Susan	3-Aug
KOSCHEL, Gilbert	3-Aug
DAYHUFF, Eric	4-Aug
GRIMES, Samantha	4-Aug
WEBB, Judy	5-Aug
BERGSTROM, Colleen	7-Aug
LEKAN, Elena	9-Aug
FUCHS, Linda	10-Aug
HORTON, Ethel	12-Aug
KNIGHT, Donald	13-Aug
MAHONY, Tadan	13-Aug
WILSON, Anna Marie	13-Aug
DAYHUFF, Joan	14-Aug
MULLINS, Marge	14-Aug
DAYHUFF, Jamye	15-Aug
JESKULSKI, Todd	15-Aug
RUEGSEGGER, Dave	15-Aug
BUEHLER, Beverly	17-Aug
LAFFERTY, Sandy	17-Aug
POOVEY, Diana	17-Aug
OLSON, Esther	20-Aug
PERSON, Sarah	21-Aug
THOMPSON, Marsha	21-Aug
GRANDIA, Mary Frances	23-Aug
HAYDEN, Kevin	23-Aug
MCCAULEY, Juanita	23-Aug
SPENCER, Julie	24-Aug
HYATT, Carolyn	25-Aug
PICKERT, J.T.	25-Aug
RUEGSEGGER, Janean	25-Aug
DEPPERSCHMIDT, Rod	28-Aug
KEELER, Cherie	29-Aug

August Anniversaries

PICKERT, Scott & Linda	5-Aug
HANSEN, Tod & Karen	6-Aug
DYNOWSKI, Boris & Shannon	7-Aug
MAHONY, Michael & Nancy	7-Aug
SWARTZ, Dennis & Sharon	8-Aug
SWARTZ, Matthew & Tammy	10-Aug
BURCH, Terry & Sandra	14-Aug
BARNETT, Duane & Karen	16-Aug
LAFFERTY, Bud & Sandy	24-Aug
JESKULSKI, Todd & Samantha	26-Aug
HARRELL, John & Kathleen	28-Aug



AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30a Trustees 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café @ Comfort Inn	2	3 7:15a Men's reunion group 6p Friday Night Worship	4
5 IHN Week 9a Worship 10a Classes <i>First Sunday Food—Mac N Cheese</i>	6 IHN Week 10:00a Staff Meeting 6p Women's reunion group	7 IHN Week	8 IHN Week 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café @ Comfort Inn	9 IHN Week	10 IHN Week 7:15a Men's reunion group 6p Friday Night Worship	11 IHN Week
12 9a Worship 10a Farewell brunch for Rev. Rebecca	13 9:30a Rachel Circle 10:00a Staff Meeting 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries Team	14	15 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café @ Comfort Inn	16	17 7:15a Men's reunion group 6p Friday Night Worship	18
19 9a Worship 10a Classes	20 10:00a Staff Meeting 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	21	22 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café @ Comfort Inn	23	24 7:15a Men's reunion group 6p Friday Night Worship	25
26 9a Worship 10a Classes	27 10:00a Staff Meeting 6p Women's reunion group	28 7p Elders Meeting	29 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café @ Comfort Inn	30	31 7:15a Men's reunion group 6p Friday Night Worship	

First Christian Church
www.lovelanddisciples.org

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Last But Not Least

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a growing, welcoming, diverse community of faith that worships, shares, and expresses through our service the love of God.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to know, grow,
and show the love of God.

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