



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

August 1, 2014

Interim Senior Pastor:

Michael Stein (ext 30)

Office Manager:

Kirsten Bayne (ext 21)

Custodians:

Max & Marcia Peters

Music Ministers:

Troy Schuh, Pianist

Karen Lee, Organist

Gina Schuh-Turner,

Choir Director

Nursery Coordinator:

Tammy Swartz (ext 24)

Wedding Coordinator:

Kathy Vaughn

Minister to Emerging

Generations:

Rachel Nelson (ext 22)

Commissioned Ministers:

Pam Hilliard

Tracy Morgan

LifeCare Email:

fcclifecare@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Services:

9:00 Worship Service

10:10 Sunday School for all ages

If you have information for our

Link, please e-mail that

information to:

kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org

By the 15th of each month.

OWLS (older wiser livelier seniors)

The OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors) will meet at the church Friday August 8, 2014 at 10:00 am. We will enjoy a movie (title to be announced). Pizza lunch at the church will follow the movie. All are welcome to join us for food and fellowship. Please use the sign up sheet to let us know that you are coming. Please contact Ann M for questions or suggestions.

ALL-CONGREGATION RETREAT

Our annual all-congregation retreat and picnic will be August 17th on the church grounds. We'll begin with worship at 9:00am, followed by retreat sessions and a picnic lunch. Keep an eye on the bulletin for details!

CLOTHING GIVE AWAY

Mark your calendars for Sunday August 31st right after church we will begin emptying our storage shed to get ready for this year's clothing give away. Please bring your servants heart and attitude to do Gods work. If you have a 2-wheel dolly to help haul boxes please bring that too. Many hands make for light work. Monday-Thursday of that week we will be at the church from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. sorting, and placing clothing items on tables, and racks. If you have clothing you would like to donate please bring to the church during that week. Thank you to each and every one of you who makes this event possible. For more information please contact Tammy Swartz 970-962-9612

~1st Sunday Food for August is Mac N Cheese~

RECOVERY AND RESTORATION

NOTE: If you have not read the announcement of *TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY PROPOSED* in this newsletter, I advise you to do so before reading this message.



For some time now, I have been asked by many in our church family if I would consider staying on beyond my term as interim minister. My response has been to point out that we still have work to do and I did not want to detract from our efforts to heal this congregation of past hurts so that we could set a healthy course for the future.

This answer was not an attempt to skirt the question or avoid the conversation. The custom of disqualifying an interim minister from consideration for permanent call is intended to safeguard the effectiveness of the ministry and of the congregation.

Interim ministry requires significant examination and sometimes painful honesty. A person called to this position is much less effective if concerned about not stepping on toes or running afoul of power structures. Likewise, a congregation who believes all their problems will be solved if they just find the right minister will continue down the same path without change. It can be tempting for such a congregation to avoid the uncertainty of another search by calling the interim. “Better the Devil you know”, some might say; or in the words of a song from my era, “If you can’t be with the one you love, love the one you’re with”. Neither sentiment is a recipe for strong spiritual leadership.

But what if the Holy Spirit is truly calling both congregation and minister together? What if the spiritual gifts of both are well-matched and the path laid out for future ministry makes such a marriage ideal? Our Disciples tradition emerged from the desire to not place rules, regulations and creeds above the continuing work of the Living God and the Spirit through Christ’s Church.

This is the dilemma I have prayerfully considered and discussed with family and colleagues as I heard your requests to consider a permanent call. Would such a move be beneficial or detrimental to this body and the body of Christ? Would it be right for us and our family? Both are important questions.

On July 4th I celebrated 15 years of ordained ministry. When I was affirmed by the church, I publicly accepted the call of God and declared my intention to live and work within a prescribed code of ethics. I take this seriously and endeavor to have my work in ministry guided by this code and these principles.

When the elected leadership of this congregation approached me with the proposal, I had to be assured of their conviction that this was an overwhelming and well-considered desire of the membership. That conviction will be tested by your vote in the special congregation meeting during worship August 10th. If it is so affirmed, we will begin a period of transition together – with yet another opportunity later to make a final affirmation.

In a single phrase, the transition will be from healing the hurts of our past to meeting the challenges of our future. While we remember and honor the best of who we have been, nearly all of us now recognize and accept that the Church of Jesus Christ and this congregation cannot go back to that time and place. We must move forward and thrive in a different culture than before.

I welcome these challenges with the confidence and assurance that we face them together. I believe God has called and equipped us for ministry in this time and place, and walks with us in the journey.

I also welcome the opportunity to talk with those who may have questions or reservations. It would inappropriate and uncharacteristic of me to “campaign” on this important decision, but it is also essential that each person be informed and guided by the Spirit as their voice is heard. Please feel free to call and arrange a time we can meet or to raise questions.

Let our hearts and spirits be joined in prayer for God’s guidance into the future!

*Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael*

Annual All-Congregation Retreat & Picnic August 10th. Worship begins in the Sanctuary at 9:00am, followed by retreat sessions and potluck picnic lunch. Plan to be there!

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY PROPOSED

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING!

In their monthly meeting July 21st, your church board voted to accept the request and recommendation of the Pastoral Search and Call Committee to **modify the call of Interim Minister Michael Stein.**

With his agreement and consent, the board has called a **special congregation meeting for Sunday, August 10th** during the 9:00am worship service. Your participation is requested for this important step in the future of our church.

If approved by vote of the congregation, the call of Reverend Michael Stein as Interim Minister will be vacated. Following the recommendation of the committee, members will be afforded the opportunity to **vote on the call of Rev. Stein as Transitional Minister.**

What Does This Mean?

In November 2012, our congregation voted to call Rev. Stein as Interim Senior Minister for a period of no less than two years. Because of the unique nature of interim ministry, a person in this position traditionally agrees to leave after the interim period and to not accept a call to permanent ministry there. Our congregation, the Central Rocky Mountain Region, and Rev. Stein followed this tradition in that call.

Recently, both members of the search committee and of the church board have received persistent and insistent requests to consider exploring a way to set aside this tradition and call Rev. Stein as Senior Minister for the congregation. Responding to these requests, your elected leaders approached Regional Minister José Morales for assistance.

While visiting our church for the Regional Spring Feast, Pastor Morales was also approached by several congregation members with requests to consider the change in call. After weighing the progress our congregation has made during the interim and consulting with Rev. Stein, a process was devised wherein the change could be possible. It requires prayerful discernment and assurance on the part of both Rev. Stein and the congregation.

The Process and Timeline

August 10 – In a special called congregation meeting, members will be presented with the

opportunity to vote on a change of call for Michael Stein from Interim Senior Minister to Transitional Senior Minister.

IF APPROVED, both Rev. Stein and our congregation will enter into an intense period of discernment and intentional planning for transformation. We will set a course for our ministry and identity for the future of the church and commit to following that course together.

A Transition/Call Committee will be instituted. This committee will work with Rev. Stein and our church to assist AND assess this transition period.

On or before **April 5, 2015** – The Transition/Call Committee will make a report to the General Board concerning the progress of the transition period; and, a recommendation concerning a call of Rev. Stein as Senior Minister.

SECOND ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION

In addition to the change in call for Rev. Stein, the board also requests that the congregation vote for authorization to execute a trust agreement for the congregation property and assets with the Central Rocky Mountain Region (Disciples of Christ).

Explanation

Many Disciples and churches of other denominations have experienced a phenomenon called “steeplejacking”, wherein a group of persons not previously affiliated with the church come in with the intent of severing historic ties and taking over the property and assets.

In our own community, we have witnessed similar attempts as new church starts or factions of existing churches look for new meeting places. Rather than start from scratch, it can be much easier to take advantage of (or frequently instigate) division in an established congregation.

A proven way to discourage such moves is for the established church to enter into a trust agreement with the denominational body. When properly executed, the agreement states that if the congregation dissolves or leaves the denomination, the property and assets revert to the denomination.

It is important to understand that **the congregation still holds the property and assets** unless such attempts are made to take them.

Your leadership asks that you pray and converse with fellow members as we consider these important questions for the future of our church.

LOAN REPAYMENT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



Last year the congregation approved a project to replace failing heating, air conditioning and ventilation (HVAC) systems at a cost of \$140,000. Of this, \$110,000

was financed by borrowing from Trustee managed permanent funds.

The original loan calls for the congregation to repay these funds at 3% interest over 15 years (180 months). As of the end of June, **repayment is on schedule to be completed 17 months early at a savings of \$4,520** over the life of the loan!

How is this achievement possible? It helps that the \$760 monthly payment from the general fund (supported by your offering) includes a slight overpayment of principal which adds up over the course of the year.

Additionally, we received approximately \$2,000 in rebates from our natural gas supplier for installing a more energy efficient system, which was applied directly to reduce loan principal.

But the overwhelming majority of these savings were the result of designated gifts from congregation members, over and above their regular giving.

It should be noted that all the money repaid – principal and interest – stays within the congregation. We do not technically “lose” money by repaying on the original schedule. There are many disadvantages however, to reducing the time and money repaid:

- The permanent funds are restored earlier, and therefore available for the ministries and programs for which they are designated.
- Repaid funds are also reinvested in income-producing accounts, so there is less loss of interest income from the loan.
- Earlier repayment potentially enables the congregation of the future to take on similarly large projects without the burden of debt (even when we owe it to ourselves).

THANK YOU!

FINANCIAL REVIEW REVEALS HEALTH

During the month of June a review of the congregation’s treasury and financial practices was conducted under the leadership of Tom Boudreau.

In a report to the church board in their July 21st meeting, the security of general fund finances and practices was affirmed. Minor technical suggestions were offered for changes in procedure, but they do not affect the integrity of handling income and expenditures.

A financial review is less extensive than a formal audit, but also far less expensive. Audit by a certified public accountant can run into the tens of thousands of dollars. The review process affords a measure of financial security and is often recommended for small nonprofit organizations.

Following the review, your church treasurer, staff and other volunteers are working to revamp our database and accounting system. A software upgrade was purchased and is being implemented for greater efficiency in tracking and reporting financial transactions.

DIRECT DEPOSIT
Simple. Safe. Secure.

For many years now, most employee payroll and government payments have been made by direct deposit. Transfer of funds electronically has proven to be both safe and efficient.

Why not give your tithe or offering the same way? You can set it up for your bank to automatically make a payment each month on the day you choose, even when you’re away or not able to attend worship. The benefits are many:

- You can set a minimum automatically, and supplement with additional or special offerings when you attend worship. All will be credited to your giving statement.
- An “I gave electronically” giving card is provided in the pews, for inclusion in the offering plate.
- Direct deposit saves the trouble and expense of paper checks, or the hassle of finding your wallet during the worship service.

Call Kirsten in the church office (667-1318) for details.

Summer Camp

During the latter two weeks of June, beloved campground LaForet once again became home to campers from all over the region as they gathered for summer church camp. (It was good to be back at LaForet after the devastation of last summer's Black Forest wildfire, from which the community is still recovering but LaForet was mercifully spared.) The theme for camp this summer was Get Real: Finding Your True Self In Jesus, with daily themes centered around knowing Jesus more fully (as teacher, healer, friend, etc.) and growing our own identities in that knowledge. Campers were introduced to the daily themes through keynote addresses, small group discussions, creative activities, and nightly worship services, amongst abundant opportunities to make friends, play outside, explore nature, and experience God's presence. For some, it was a week of fun and exploration, and for others, a week of healing and growth.

FCC Loveland sent 9 campers to camp this summer, 3 of whom were first time campers. All benefitted from the support of the congregation, be it through prayers, funding, and/or encouraging letters and notes, and I thank you on behalf of these campers and their families for that support. These experiences of being immersed in Christian community with each day thoughtfully centered around God's love are paramount to the development of a young Christian's heart and walk of faith. The memories and friendships made here often last a lifetime. What a blessing it is for these young leaders to have these opportunities to know God – and themselves – more deeply.

With hope and gratitude,
Rachel



Loveland CYF campers Brooke and Kate

IMPORTANT INFO AND UPCOMING DATES

FOR YOUTH:
including grades 6 - 12

Youth Group

Regular youth group meetings have been paused for the summer, but we will still be getting together every so often to keep up connections in between adventures. If your family would like to host a summer gathering (pool party, BBQ, game night, etc.), please let Rachel know! New participants are always welcome.

Chi Rho Mission Trip

July 27-Aug.2

Please pray for our youth and adults as they serve in Alamosa, Colorado

Mission Trip Sharing

August or September TBD

Youth Group Kick Off Party

September 7

Find us on Facebook!

facebook.com/FCCLovelandYouth

FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

College Aged YA Gathering

Our leadership team is working on plans for a few college age young adult gatherings in the summer, so keep in touch if you'd like to join in! Email Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org for more information.

Birthdays

Anniversaries

GALUS, Bernie	08/02
MAGNUSON, Herman	08/02
JESSUP, Susan	08/03
KOSCHEL, Gilbert	08/03
DAYHUFF, Eric	08/04
GRIMES, Samantha	08/04
WEBB, Judy	08/05
BERGSTROM, Colleen	08/07
FUCHS, Linda	08/10
BAYNE, Kirsten	08/12
HORTON, Ethel	08/12
MAHONY, Tadan	08/13
DAYHUFF, Joan	08/14
DAYHUFF, Jamye	08/15
JESKULSKI, Todd	08/15
RUEGSEGGER, Dave	08/15
BUEHLER, Beverly	08/17
LAFFERTY, Sandy	08/17
OLSON, Esther	08/20
THOMPSON, Marsha	08/21
HAYDEN, Kevin	08/23
MCCAULEY, Juanita	08/23
HYATT, Carolyn	08/25
PICKERT, J.T.	08/25
RUEGSEGGER, Janean	08/25
WEBB, Bradley	08/27
DEPPERSCHMIDT, Rod	08/28
KEELER, Cherie	08/29

PICKERT, Scott & Linda	08/05
HANSEN, Tod & Karen	08/06
DYNOWSKI, Shannon & Boris	08/07
MAHONY, Michael & Nancy	08/07
SWARTZ, Dennis & Sharon	08/08
SWARTZ, Matthew & Tammy	08/10
BURCH, Terry & Sandra	08/14
BARNETT, Duane & Karen	08/16
HAYDEN, Dwight & Dixie	08/25
JESKULSKI, Todd & Samantha	08/26
HARRELL, John & Kathleen	08/28



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	2
3 9a Worship <i>First Sunday Food— Mac N Cheese</i>	4	5	6 9:30a Trustees	7	8 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	9
10 9a Worship/Meeting	11 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries	12	13	14	15 Link Deadline 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	16
17 9a Worship	18 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	19 7p Mary Circle	20	21	22 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	23
24 9a Worship	25 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	26 7p Elders Meeting	27	28	29 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	30
31 9a Worship 10a Clothing Give Away Sorting day						

First Christian Church
www.lovelanddisciples.org

2000 N. Lincoln Ave.
Loveland, CO 80538

Phone: 970-667-1318
Fax: 970-744-7047
Careline: 970-663-4436
E-mail: kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PERMIT NO. 22

U. S. POSTAGE PAID

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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