

Connecting
Us with God and
one another

March 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
10:50 Interactive Worship

If you have information for our
Link, please e-mail that
information to:
kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org
By the 15th of each month.



March 5:
Ash Wednesday Worship
Imposition of Ashes &
Communion
7:00pm

April 13: Palm Sunday

April 17: Maundy Thursday Worship
7:00pm

April 18: Joint Good Friday Worship
7:00pm at First Presbyterian Church
With Trinity United Methodist Church

April 20: Easter Sunday
Easter Cantata presented during
morning worship service!

By the Numbers...

From Don Stoppel, Treasurer

January Income: \$20,400

January Expenses: \$19,300

(approximately \$500 below anticipated)

Average Worship Attendance: 122

A SEASON OF DISCIPLINE

One of the interesting trends for the church in the past several decades has been a recovery of ancient



traditions and practices. In the same way, some of our traditions we believe to be very old (like Christmas) are relatively recent.

I mention this in anticipation of the fast-approaching season of Lent. Like many in our congregation, I grew up in a time and place where observance of Lent was largely thought to be a “Catholic thing”. If someone appeared on a Wednesday with a black cross on their foreheads or spoke of giving up something for Lent, they were pretty much assumed to be Roman Catholic.

Following the so-called “Protestant Reformation”, many Christian traditions sought to distinguish themselves from the doctrine and rituals of the Roman Church. Observance of the Christian calendar, feast days, and seasons of Advent and Lent were widely abandoned – along with anything else that might seem “too Catholic”.

My upbringing in a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation was probably typical; I have no memory of following the three year cycle of scriptures known as the Lectionary. We observed Maundy Thursday but not Good Friday. Christmas came without the season of preparation known as Advent. I was 30 years old before I ever participated in an Ash Wednesday service.

The recovery of ancient rites and practices has been a healthy step for the church. It has been noted in many articles and studies that younger Christians today often seek and appreciate the sense of mystery so long set aside in many of our churches.

What is left to recover for many is the heart of what it means to be Christian – a follower of Christ. For reasons too extensive to elaborate here, the word “believer” has been embraced as a popular name for Christians. People proudly remember when they “became a believer”, ask strangers “are you a believer?”, and readily (and judgmentally) between those who “believe” and those who do not.

When this jargon gets too thick, I’m reminded of the 1960’s song, “I’m a Believer” written by Neil Diamond and recorded by the band *The Monkees*. The song speaks in the voice of one who once doubted that romantic love would come, but now has come to “believe” because he’s fallen in love. It was

repeated in 2001 for touching end to the movie, *Shrek*.

For many Christians, the situation is similar; being in love with God/Jesus is like being in love with a human and moving to the ecstatic stage of “I’m a Believer!” is wonderful and palpable.

The problem is that Jesus doesn’t just ask for believers, he asks for disciples. In the Gospels and in subsequent scriptures, we’re told that we are to follow Jesus example and reflect our love of God in the way we show love for our neighbors.

What is the difference between a believer and a disciple? One who claims status as a believer often presents as someone who has been introduced to and fully embraced a truth, so much so they feel confident in proclaiming it to others. In fact, the proclamation itself is the major point of practice.

The word *disciple* comes from a Latin word that means a pupil or follower. By definition, one who is a true disciple spends more time learning than proclaiming. The disciple, in humility, accepts that there is always more to learn and follows a *discipline* in becoming a better *disciple*.

Those words – *discipline* and *humility* – are at the heart of our observance in the season of Lent. We *humble* ourselves physically (with the imposition of ashes) and spiritually by our admission that we have fallen short of God’s desire for us. We undertake a *discipline* during the 40 days of Lent with the intention of bringing ourselves closer to God.

Traditionally, the discipline was fasting – foregoing food during certain times or at least changing our dietary patterns so that we might focus on God instead of our own desires. Some still do so today, while others fast more symbolically. They refrain from other things than food for instance. Other Christians will take on something extra rather than giving up; they might commit to more volunteer service or some kind of service to others. Still others will undertake of a discipline of uncluttering their lives physically, spiritually, and emotionally. I’ve also known persons during Lent who would intentionally seek to make amends for past wrongs.

As we remember the 40 days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, the 40 days we spend laying aside our own temptations also bring us closer to God.

Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael

How Sweet It Is...

On February 9 after worship, the Diaconate hosted a brunch and dessert auction called Sweets for the Sweet. The homemade food was delicious, the pink and red decorations plentiful, and the company delightful. We all know Disciples like to gather together around a meal, and this meal didn't disappoint! After eating, the youth auctioned a gorgeous variety of homemade cookies, pies, cakes, jams, and other sweet treats that had been donated by quite a few generous and talented bakers in our congregation. Just look at this assortment!



The auction was a blast, and we all had fun bidding against each other, cheering, and bantering, all in good spirits while raising money for this summer's youth mission trips. All together, between the brunch and auction, we raised an outstanding **\$1630** dollars! (That's \$300 more than last year!) And so I must emphasize, how very SWEET it is to be loved and supported by you, our church family! On behalf of Brooke, Tyner, Tadan, Abbie, Jayla, Andrea, their parents, Ben, myself, and any other youth who are considering participation in our 2014 mission trips, as well as the people we will serve, we express our most sincere and humbled

“Thank You!”

to Linda Imel for organizing the event, promoting, and tirelessly preparing for the event, to the Diaconate for their support and assistance cooking and cleaning, to the anonymous bakers who generously gave of their talents in the provision of those sweet treats, to Ben for being our auctioneer, and last but not least, to the many of you, our church family, for your financial gifts and participation. Because of your generosity, lives are changing!

With hope and gratitude,
Rachel

IMPORTANT INFO **AND UPCOMING** **DATES**

FOR YOUTH:

including grades 6 - 12

Youth Group

Join us on Sundays from 4:30-6:30. Our youth group is a welcoming group of youth who love to spend time together sharing their lives, talking about God, worshipping God, serving others, and of course having fun!

Youth Group Lock-In!

Mar 7-8

We will be having a lock-in Friday evening through Saturday morning to spend time in fellowship and worship. RSVP by March 3, please, so we can plan meals.

Combined Youth Group

Mar 30

Our third and final (for this school year) combined youth group meeting with HRCC and FCC Greeley will be in Greeley this time. This is a great opportunity to see our camp and mission trip friends!

Find us on Facebook!

[facebook.com/FCCLovelandYouth](https://www.facebook.com/FCCLovelandYouth)

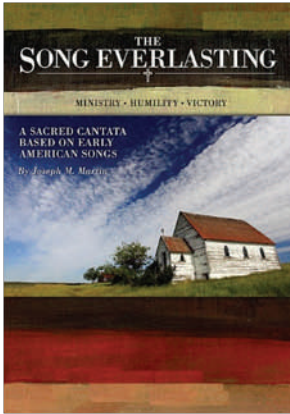
FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

College Aged YA Gathering

First and third Saturday each month, 5:30 pm

Our young adults aged 18-23(ish) from Loveland, Fort Collins, and Greeley will be meeting for fellowship, study, and service. All adults in that age range are welcome regardless of student status!

VOICES WELCOME FOR EASTER CANTATA!



This year's Easter Cantata will be presented during Easter Sunday worship service on April 20th. The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choirs welcome new or returning voices to share this important message. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings, with handbells at 6:00pm and choir at

7:00pm. Contact director Gina Schuh-Turner with questions.

CROP AND CRAFT AT FCC March 28th-29th

Friday 5pm-Saturday 7pm: spend the night OR sleep at home!

Cost: \$25 total: \$20 donation to the House of Neighborly Service (food pantry, housing assistance, etc for the needy in Larimer County) and \$5 for cropping tools to use for the retreat.

*Sleeping arrangements at the church or go home for the night (whichever you prefer), BYO food/potluck.

RSVP to Julie Estrada (970) 396-4695 by March 17th by phone and with payment.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD

April-Canned Fruit

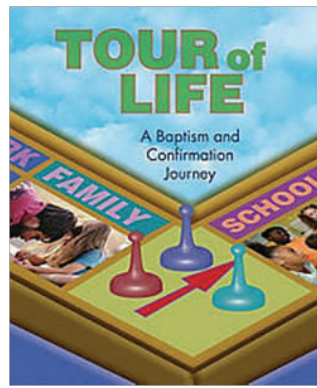
May-Pasta & Sauce

June-Dry Cereal

GAITHER HOMECOMING CONCERT

Coming to the Budweiser Event Center in Loveland on Thursday April 10th at 7:00pm. A full evening of entertainment and meaningful music is a rare treat anytime, but when the occasion includes the best-loved voices in gospel music... it's a must-see celebration! If you attend just one musical event this year, an evening hosted by Bill Gaither and featuring these artists is one you can't miss. It will leave you encouraged, grateful and most certainly smiling! Contact the Budweiser Event Center for tickets at 1-877-544-8499

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



March 7 & 8th our congregation will join with Heart of the Rockies Christian Church for the beginning of an exciting adventure toward baptism. Young people are invited to participate in the "tour" along with an adult mentor from our congregation. Young

people (traditionally around 11-12 years and older) who are considering baptism and their parents may speak with Rachel Nelson, *Minister to Emerging Generations* or with Pastor Michael for questions. Participating in the class does not obligate anyone to being baptized.

SPRING FEAST IS HERE! (Literally)

Our congregation has faithfully answered the call of our regional church to join with Heart of the Rockies Christian Church in hosting the 2014 *Spring Feast* (formerly regional assembly) **April 25-26th**. Registration details, schedules, and opportunities to volunteer are posted in the church gallery. Help us welcome



our fellow Disciples from across Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho.

CHURCH WORK DAY



The property committee is planning an all church work day for **March 29th**. Please mark your calendars and plan to help clean up, paint, and "spruce up" our building and grounds in preparation to host the Spring Feast. Early in March, the committee will be working to remove the stage from Minnerly Hall to better accommodate large groups and other events. If you'd like to volunteer help with this project, please call the church office or contact Dennis Swartz.

March Birthdays

JESKULSKI, Bella	03/06
SPIREK, Gloria	03/06
HANSEN, Jordan	03/09
PERRY, Toni	03/10
STENCEL, Judy	03/13
BUROW, Gwen	03/14
MASTERSON, Martha	03/14
JESKULSKI, Dash	03/16
WRAY, Hugh	03/18
BROWNRIGG, Mary Jane (Joy)	03/19
MAHONY, Michael	03/19
JENKINS, Merlyn	03/20
VAUGHN, John	03/20
HINKLE, Lou	03/23
KLASSEN, Daryle	03/23
BLOCKER, Connie	03/24
REISDORFF, Debbie	03/25
PETERS, Marcia	03/26
RUEGSEGGER, Harvey	03/26
MORGAN, Andrew	03/28

March Anniversaries

WOHLMAN, Jerry & Alice Jo	03/01
COOPER, John & Loraine	03/04
BOUDREAU, Tom & Pam	03/19
PERSON, Bobbie & Craig	03/21
SCHLINGMAN, William & Corwin	03/29
HAUGHEY, Dave & Kay	03/31

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5p Young Adults Group
2 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 4:30p Xone77 & FLY <i>First Sunday Food— Mac n Cheese</i>	3 6p Women's reunion group	4 6:30p Griefshare	5 Ash Wednesday 7p Ash Wednesday Worship	6 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	7 7:15a Men's reunion group Baptism Class	8 Baptism Class
9 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 4:30p Xone77	10 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries	11 6:30p Griefshare	12 9:30a Trustees	13 10:30a OWLS movie with Pastor Michael 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	14 7:15a Men's reunion group	15 Link Deadline 2p Edna Walter's 100th Birthday Party 5p Young Adults Group
16 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 4:30p Xone77	17 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	18 6:30p Griefshare 7p Mary Circle	19 6:30p Personnel Meeting	20 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	21 7:15a Men's reunion group	22
23 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 4:30p Xone77	24 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	25 6:30p Griefshare 7p Elders Meeting	26	27 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	28 7:15a Men's reunion group 4p Crop & Craft	29 Crop & Craft FCC Work Day
30 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 4:30p Xone77	31 6p Women's reunion group					

Bible Summary Terms

N X J E S U S X V P S J
U O E E H Y E V Y E T U
D G I V C C L T Q N E D
Y E R T R M I G X T H G
K V S O A V X J Y E P E
I X S E I E E L F C O S
N S K T R C R A V O R V
G G P U T T L C E S P U
S A T R A L N A M T W E
C L Z V P F R E E D O M
T Q A D I S C I P L E S
T N A N E V O C D W K O

CAPTIVITY COVENANT CREATION CROSS DESERT
DISCIPLES EXILE FALL FREEDOM JESUS JUDGES
KINGS MAN PATRIARCHS PENTECOST PROPHETS

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.

STATEMENT
Our Mission
STATEMENT
STATEMENT
STATEMENT

