



Connecting  
Us with God and  
one another

December 1, 2013

**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

Dennis Miller

**LifeCare Email:**

[fcclifecare@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org)

By the 15th of each month.

**OCTOBER BY THE NUMBERS**

**Average Worship Attendance: 133**

**YTD Income: \$212,575** (1,700 more than anticipated)

**YTD Expenses: \$211,124** (16,000 more than anticipated)

[Expense overage includes HVAC Project Contribution]

**Red Envelopes YTD as of Oct. 31: \$4,871.76**

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

**DEC 1: HOPE** Candle Lighting, Dedication of Advent Wreath

**DEC 8: PEACE** Candle Lighting, Christmas Cantata (9:00am)

**DEC 15: JOY** Candle Lighting

**DEC 22: LOVE** Candle Lighting

**DEC 24: 7:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**MAKE YOUR OFFERING MORE CONVENIENT**

Our congregation offers the convenience of **direct deposit** for your tithes and offerings. Choose the date and the amount, and your bank will transfer your offering electronically!

Personal **offering envelopes** are also available for those prefer to use them. Please contact the office by email at [kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org](mailto:kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org) or call 667-1318 ext.21 to take advantage of either of these options.

**HELP US STAY CONNECTED!**

In the next few months we will be upgrading our church database system and also publishing an updated directory. If you have not been receiving THE LINK monthly newsletter or have changed information in the past year, please let us know. We'd especially like to have information for:

**Name (all household members)**

**Mailing Address**

**Phone Numbers (home and cell if you wish)**

**Email address if you have one**

Please send information updates to [kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org](mailto:kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org) or call 667-1318 ext.21.

## **WORSHIPFUL WORK A SUCCESS!**

On the final Sunday in November (and also the final Sunday in the season of Pentecost), our



congregation conducted the required annual meeting within the service of worship. Dubbed “worshipful work”, the service was moved for the day to 10:00am and was followed by fellowship in a Thanksgiving brunch.

Two business items marked the agenda – election of leadership and approval of the 2014 budget for ministries. In both cases, Congregation President Matt Swartz called the body to order and invited discussion or questions regarding the motions forwarded by the board. Each passed unanimously, without dissension or question.

In the president and vice-president positions, John Zakavec and Cheryl McAnally prayerfully agreed to provide lay leadership in the next couple of years. John is a Greeley Police Officer and investigator, while Cheryl is a sales manager for Safelite Auto Glass. Both have served previously as Elders, and bring valuable gifts to their new positions.

Nancy Depperschmidt continues as Secretary, and Don Stoppel as Treasurer. Don’s presentation of the budget was hailed by many for the clarity and concise manner that helped us understand the numbers.

Briefly, the budget for 2014 remains roughly even with 2013 at just over \$250K. In committing to support this level of ministry, the congregation was presented with several factors including:

- Ending the decades-long partnership with *Stepping Stones* Adult Day Care, as they move on to a larger facility.
- A 3% pay increase for church staff, the first in several years.
- Beginning repayment of the loan for HVAC renovation, at \$760 per month.

While these present some challenges, Don pointed out that we are aided in our commitment by some factors as well:

- An anticipated \$18K carryover from 2013.
- Substantial savings in energy costs resulting from the HVAC renovation.

With the new year, we also undertake a commitment to improved awareness of our individual and collective stewardship, including:

- Encouraging electronic giving through regularly scheduled bank drafts.
- Inviting ministry teams to share their successes through the *Moment for Mission* during worship and on displays in the gallery.
- Renewing focus on giving as an act of gratitude, and encouraging everyone to give as a percentage of income.
- More efforts by the Trustees to encourage legacy giving through memorials and estates.

Following the worshipful work, the Congregational Life Team hosted a Thanksgiving Brunch – again departing successfully from past practice. Additional tables and chairs had to be moved into the gallery and fellowship hall as participation was much greater than in the past few years.

At the end of the service I asked that those who stayed for the brunch would choose to sit and share fellowship with someone they did not know (or know well). It seemed to me that many complied with the request and took advantage of the opportunity to become better acquainted.

As I begin my second year of ministry with you, I see events such as these as signs that we are healing and growing together. Much remains to be done, but we enter into the Season of Advent with a renewed spirit and confidence that brighter days are ahead. In the words of the song SPIRIT we have sung frequently through the Season of Pentecost:

*Our women see visions  
Our men clear their eyes  
With bold new decisions  
Your people arise*

Carla and I wish everyone a blessed thanksgiving and look forward to sharing anticipation of Christ’s birth in the weeks to come.

*Love, Grace and Peace,  
Michael*

## From Stranger to Neighbor...

The weekend of November 1-3, about 34 high school youth and a dozen adult sponsors came from churches all around the Central Rocky Mountain Region to Denver for the annual CYF Fall Retreat, myself and Brooke S. amongst them. We had plenty of time during the weekend for games, small group discussion and processing, devotionals and worship. The main focus of the weekend was service, and more specifically, opening our eyes and hearts to the people around us rather than focusing, as we so often do, primarily on our own needs.

This took the shape of three experiences of service to others, all breaking past barriers of "stranger" to be "neighborly" to all people we encountered.

Experience 1: Saturday morning, we collectively made and bagged over 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and labeled over 880 bottles of water. Saturday afternoon, we ventured into the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Mall area and passed out the sandwiches and bottles of water to anyone and everyone who accepted our offer of food or drink, feeding (and quenching the thirst of) people of different race, religion, background, age, profession, possession, etc. We served homeless and wealthy alike, children and adults, businessmen and street performers.

Experience 2: Saturday afternoon, while in downtown Denver, while not passing out sandwiches and water, we were people watching and praying. For up to an hour at a time, we sat in silent solitary observance of the people who passed us, noticing the speed at which they were walking, the expressions on their face, whether they were alone or with others, whether they smiled upon eye contact or looked away... and not ever speaking a word to them, we prayed for them, for their health, their happiness, their peace, their family, their shelter.

Experience 3: Finally, Sunday morning we all went to the Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home, which as you likely know, provides all kinds of care for children and teens who have been victims of abuse and neglect and/or otherwise have important emotional and behavioral needs. After an introduction from Tennyson Center's Chaplain, we spent an hour engaging in gratitude themed activities with their current residents. What a great time we had together, and a powerful experience for our youth to connect with their peers being served by the Tennyson Center.

Overall, it was a refreshing, uplifting, and meaningful weekend for youth and adults alike. Thank you, FCC, for supporting our youth's engagement in wonderful opportunities like these. Together, we are changing lives!

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! **There will be NO youth group meeting on Dec. 8 due to CCWW lock-in, nor Dec. 29 due to Christmas vacation.**

### **Clothing the Cold, Warming the World (CCWW lock-in)**

Dec. 7-8

This event, hosted by Plymouth UCC in Fort Collins, includes a community vigil for homelessness and poverty simulation for teens, followed by sleeping outside in cardboard boxes to promote awareness of homelessness in our area. Please contact Rachel for more information or to make a donation to the Homelessness Prevention Initiative

**Hands 2 Heaven** rehearsals for Christmas Eve service are happening weekly; please contact Rachel for more information.

### **Find us on Facebook!**

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! **Dec. 7 gathering will be at Rev. Linda Harding's home; Dec. 21 gathering will be a potluck Christmas party at FCCL.**



## OWLS Outing (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)

The OWLS outing Friday, December 13, 2013 starts at 4:30 pm, we will have an evening meal at a local dining place, to be determined by the group. Once we have nourished our bodies, we will feed our spirits by enjoying some of the local Christmas lighting displays. Please meet on the south side of the church. PLEASE NOTE: We will provide transportation to the church if you prefer not to drive after dark. All are welcome. Sign up sheet is by the kitchen. Questions see Ann M.

## 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](http://www.globalministries.org)



December 1<sup>st</sup> Loren McGrail- Israel/Palestine  
 December 8<sup>th</sup> Xuyen Dangers-Laos  
 December 15<sup>th</sup> Diane and Tim Fonderlin-Haiti  
 December 22<sup>nd</sup> Susan Valiquette and Scott Couper-South Africa  
 December 29<sup>th</sup> Elena Huegel-Chile

## "FLY" Faith Living Youth

The grade school youth group has a new name "FLY" Faith Living Youth is for youth who are in 1st -5th grade. "FLY" meets on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the back classroom. Do you know of a youth who would like to deepen their relationship with God along with having a great time with their fellow peers? Invite them to come and check us out. For more information contact Tammy Swartz, 970-962-9612.

## Potluck & Bunco Night

What: Potluck and games  
 When: Fri. Dec. 20  
 Where: Minnerly Hall  
 What time: 6:00pm



## First Sunday Food

First Food had another great month of donations. We as the Body of Christ collected 195.7

lbs of dry goods, canned goods, plus a bag of home made scarves. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this month and in the months past.

First Sunday Food has been a great success in 2013. FCC as a Body of Christ will continue our efforts to support The House of Neighborly Service of Loveland in 2014. By doing this small act of kindness we are showing God's Love to our community along with being Church in the World. You will find a list of this year food items, that we will be collecting, the list will also be posted by the Outreach board in the Fellowship Hall. What if you forget your food item on this given Sunday? If you have any questions please contact Tammy Swartz at 970-962-9612

**January-** Peanut Butter & Jelly

**February-** Soups-Canned-Dry

**March-** Mac & Cheese, Ramen

**April-** Canned Fruit

**May-** Pasta & Sauce

**June-** Dry Cereal

## Christmas Caroling & Supper

Next Saturday, December 7th from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., we'll be caroling at the homes of FCC's shut-in members and delivering Christmas "goodies" bags from the women's groups (circles).

This is about making a joyful noise to the Lord and bringing Christmas cheer to those who don't get out much...you're welcome to join us even if you aren't the best singer! There are currently 18 homes to be visited and we'll be dividing into four "choirs" before leaving the church and traveling to our members' homes.

We'll meet back at the church Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. to enjoy a chili supper and fellowship. If you would like to sign up for this fun event, you can do it three ways: 1) call 667-7330, 2) e-mail [dmill5050@comcast.net](mailto:dmill5050@comcast.net), or drop a note in the offering and Kirsten will pass on the info to me.

I hope we have a large group of singers; it is really appreciated! Merry Christmas!

Dennis Miller,  
 Program Ministry Chair

# Books of the New Testament

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

ACTS COLOSSIANS CORINTHIANS EPHESIANS  
GALATIANS HEBREWS JAMES JOHN JUDE LUKE  
MARK MATTHEW PETER PHILEMON PHILIPPIANS  
REVELATION ROMANS TIMOTHY TITUS

## December Birthdays

BREINER, Dick	1-Dec
HAUGHEY, Kay	2-Dec
MENZE, Helen	4-Dec
GROFF, Phyllis	5-Dec
DUNLAP, Gerry	7-Dec
SCHOTT, Luella	7-Dec
KOSCHEL, Doris	8-Dec
OLDSEN, Christi	8-Dec
SWARTZ, Tammy	11-Dec
SPARKS, Lee	12-Dec
WALSTON, Elmer	13-Dec
PICKERT, Scott	16-Dec
STEIN, Carla	16-Dec
DOESCHER, Jean	19-Dec
RUEGSEGGER, Dan	19-Dec
MOORE, Peggy	24-Dec
WINEGARDNER, Karl	24-Dec
SWARTZ, Miranda	28-Dec
DYNOWSKI, Mazzy	29-Dec
PETERS, Max	29-Dec
WOHLMAN, Jeremy	30-Dec
BUROW, Don	31-Dec

## December Anniversaries

WEBB, Gene & Judy	18-Dec
THOMPSON, Ed & Marsha	22-Dec
CHENEVERT, Richard & Sharon	23-Dec
HYATT, Charles & Carolyn	25-Dec
WALKER, Ron & Joyce	27-Dec

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Faith Living Youth Group (FLY) & Xone77 <b>First Sunday Food—            Canned Meat</b>	<b>2</b> 6p Women's reunion group	<b>3</b> 6:30p Grief Share	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>7</b> 2:30p Cantata rehearsal 3:00p Christmas Caroling & Chili Dinner
<b>8</b> 9a Christmas Cantata 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Faith Living Youth Group (FLY)	<b>9</b> 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30a Trustees 12p Life Tree Café 7p Life Tree Café	<b>12</b> 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Link Deadline</b> 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Faith Living Youth Group (FLY) & Xone77	<b>16</b> 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	<b>17</b> 6:30p Grief Share 7p Mary's Circle @ Merlyn Jenkins	<b>18</b> 12p Life Tree Café 6:30p Personnel Meeting 7p Life Tree Café	<b>19</b> 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group 6p Family Game night	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Faith Living Youth Group (FLY) & Xone77	<b>23</b> 6p Women's reunion group	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>  <b>7pm Worship</b>	<b>25 Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Faith Living Youth Group (FLY)	<b>30</b> 6p Women's reunion group	<b>31 New Years Eve</b>				



**First Christian Church**  
**www.lovelanddisciples.org**

2000 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Loveland, CO 80538

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Fax: 970-744-7047  
Careline: 970-663-4436  
E-mail: [kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org](mailto:kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PERMIT NO. 22

U. S. POSTAGE PAID

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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.

STATEMENT  
**Our Mission**  
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STATEMENT

