



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

January 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

Dennis Miller

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.

NOVEMBER BY THE NUMBERS

Average Worship Attendance: 133

YTD Income: \$232,363 (865 more than anticipated)

YTD Expenses: \$239,500 (7,431 more than anticipated)

[Expense overage includes HVAC Project]

Red Envelopes YTD as of Nov. 31: \$5,196.76

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 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 or call 667-1318 ext.21.

RECOVERY AND RESTORATION

It was joyful and surprising news a couple of weeks ago when highway 34 opened through the canyon between Loveland and Estes Park. The determination of work crews and the blessing of a mild fall combined to provide opportunity for construction on the flood-ravaged roadway.



Not long after the opening, I traveled the road to meet with the volunteer coordination committees of the Larimer County and Estes Valley Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRG) in Estes Park. Since I was riding with another committee member, I could look out the passenger window and snap a few pictures of the river along the way.



In the several meetings I've attended in the months since the flood, we have received statistics and reports about progress on the response; even so, seeing the flooded canyon firsthand was an eye opener. It confirmed what we have been told continually – that the recovery in Northern Colorado will be a process of between two and five years.

The meeting in Estes focused on directing and equipping volunteers to work on the recovery, an effort more complicated than many realize. Who keeps track of work that is needed, and the stages of completion? How are the volunteers equipped with tools and training? How do we keep them safe in their work? Where does debris go after removal, and how does it get there? Where do volunteers sleep and eat when not on site?

These are just a handful of the logistical difficulties we face as we dig in for the long haul. For our congregation, the last is of particular

importance as we and our partners explore the possibility of a hosting volunteers in the coming years.

Our involvement was highlighted the day after my Estes visit, when we hosted one of the three training sessions for LTRGs held in Northern Colorado. In the picture below, you can read the five faith-based organizations presenting the event, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross.



because the Christian is one of the partner World Service, who

organized the training.

On your behalf I give special thanks to your church staff and

who helped to set up more than 60 people from our community who attended. I received many compliments about our facility and quality of our hospitality.

In January we will be evaluating the available space in our building and working with our partners to begin setting up for hospitality mission. Work is underway now to establish a steering committee of members from our congregation, Fort Collins Heart of the Rockies, and Greeley First Christian Church – as well as others who may want to join in this project. The consensus from the beginning has been that we do not want this to be just an FCC Loveland ministry.

If you feel the call of the Spirit to help organize and lead in this mission, please give me a call or email and discuss how you can take part. Together we can carry out Christ's work in our community, rebuilding bridges and restoring lives.

*Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael*

New Year Opportunities...

Happy new year! It's the time of year when many are making wish lists for their next year of life, resolving to make a change in their habits, situation, looks, health, relationships, attitude, you name it! Whether you're a fan of resolutions or think they're an unrealistic waste of time (I personally tend to fall somewhere in between), the new year brings opportunities to get freshly involved in something that will enhance your year of life, whether it's to renew your commitment to a personal goal, or to explore a new possibility.

Here are some opportunities for youth and young adults to explore your faith and be in community with others who share the journey:

Our **youth group** for those in grades 6-12 will be resuming after a brief Christmas break on January 5. We will be focusing the next few weeks on strengthening community while digging deeper into Jesus' life, seeking a better understanding of the one we call 'savior'.

Our **college age group** for those aged 18-23ish (regardless of student status – nonstudents are welcome too!) resumes its first and third Saturday gatherings on January 18. We will be spending some time in fellowship as well as exploring themes and questions in Rob Bell's book "Love Wins". This age group also has a mission trip planned in Denver January 6-9.

A new opportunity for those **young adults who are further into their twenties or thirty-ish** will begin with a lunch gathering later this month. Whether single or attached, working, job hunting, or engaged in post-graduate education, a parent or years from parenthood, we are interested in connecting and growing with you! Please email Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org to express interest in this great opportunity and join us for lunch!

Parents and grandparents of youth and young adults, please help make sure your loved ones are aware of these opportunities! I am happy to answer questions, too – I can be found in the narthex/gallery between services on most Sundays, and would love to be introduced!

Adults who work (or would like to work) with children or youth, we are offering a valuable Boundary Awareness training event with Shelly Garrison, our Associate Regional Minister to Youth, on January 25 from 9:30-noon at Heart of the Rockies. We are offering a carpool meeting at 9:10 at FCC. Please contact Rachel to RSVP or get more information.

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!

CRMR Mid-Winter Retreat

Feb. 14-17

Register now for this awesome regional retreat at LaForet, for grades 6-12! The theme will be "Standing for Justice and Truth" and keynoter will be Daphne Gascot Arias. This retreat is planned and led by ECOY, and is a great opportunity to reconnect with your camp friends, make new friends, and renew or deepen your faith.

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!

Post College YA Gathering

Day and time tbd

Contact Rachel to get in on the start of a new small group for young adults who are past the traditional college age (ie mid twenties to early thirties).

Name and meeting details to be determined, more information to the left!



OWLS Outing (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)

The OWLS will gather at the church for a movie and lunch on Friday January 10, 2014. Pastor Michael has agreed to choose the movie and lead the discussion. The movie will begin at 10:30am. Lunch will follow with details to be determined. All are welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship. Sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board near the kitchen.

January Elders Meeting

The next elders' meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary at First Christian Church.

We will hold a short regular meeting, elect a chair and vice-chair for 2014, introduce the new elders, and then Lyle Hinkle will conduct a training session for them.

There will be no meeting on Jan. 28, but regular meetings will be on the fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning February 25th.

Current active elders and members elected to the eldership at the annual meeting in November are urged to attend.



We would like to thank the carol group for the visit and the ladies who sent us the wonderful goodies. Merry Christmas to all our friends at First Christian.

Twila and Walt Hayward

Thank you from all the staff at FCC for the wonderful blessings you bestowed upon us through the staff gift and all of your love and devotion shown to us throughout all of last year. We care so much for our church and church family and we get that back and more from you every year. May God bless you all in 2014.

First Sunday Food

January- Peanut Butter & Jelly

February- Soups-Canned-Dry

March- Mac & Cheese, Ramen

April- Canned Fruit

May- Pasta & Sauce

June- Dry Cereal

First Christian Church
www.lovelanddisciples.org

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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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