

THE
link



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

October 1, 2014

**CONTACTING THE
CHURCH STAFF**

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(970) 667-1318

Pastoral Leadership Team

Michael Stein

Transitional Senior Minister
Extension 30
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Dora DeVan, Ministry Intern
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Tracy Morgan

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Mission Support Staff

Kirsten Bayne

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Max and Marcia Peters

Building Managers
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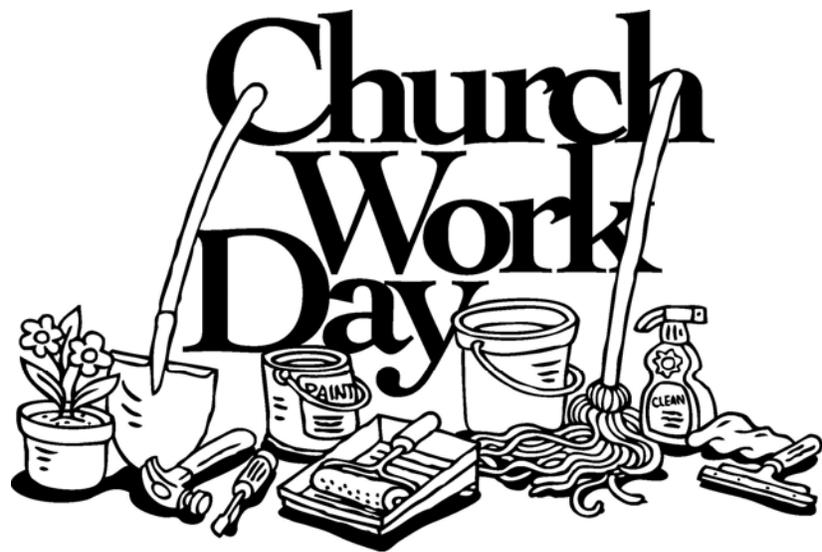
Tammy Swartz

Nursery/Childcare Director
Extension 24
tammy@lovelanddisciples.org

Gina Schuh-Turner, Choir Dir.

Karen Lee, Organist

Troy Schuh, Pianist



Fall Clean-Up @ FCC

On Saturday, October 11th at 10:00am we will be painting and cleaning around the church. We are looking for as many volunteers as we can get. We also need trimmers, leaf blowers, trucks and trailers. Bring your work clothes and paint brushes and let's have some fun! If you have any questions contact Dennis Swartz at 667-1318.

IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY!

A few weeks ago during the Gospel for Children moment in worship, the youngest



Christians and I talked about anniversaries. We were learning about the institution of the Passover meal in Exodus, but nearly every kid already had an

idea of what “anniversary” means.

Coincidentally, last week many of you added a blessing to Carla and me in observance of our wedding anniversary – and we thank you!

In the midst of a very busy and fast-changing time in our church, we've nearly forgotten our own anniversary. According to records, First Christian Church of Loveland was founded in 1879; this year **we are 135 years old!**

We will celebrate this milestone during worship **October 26**, designated as **Heritage Sunday** in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Since October is also *Month of the Ministry*, we will take the opportunity on that day to honor and affirm our congregation's called and commissioned ministers.

While it's important to celebrate such moments, we also know that anniversaries are not just for looking back. In the process of taking a breath and honoring where we've been, we also recommit to the future and look forward to the milestones ahead.

In that spirit, I suggest that our church family now set our sights on the **150th anniversary** in 2029. As we move into transition and beyond, we should make our vision to be a thriving, faithful church when we celebrate our **sesquicentennial**.

Certainly the first response for many will be, “I won't even be alive then”. If you're 85 or older now, that would have you celebrating your own centennial in or before that year. For you, I offer the reminder that one of our centenarians attends worship regularly, and two others have only recently joined the company of the saints.

That last part is especially important when we remember that being Christian extends beyond this lifetime. The folks who met in 1879

to begin our fellowship here are still with us every time we share communion. It is not absurd to make plans beyond your earthly lifetime when you believe that life (and membership in the church) is eternal.

In the perspective of history, 15 years is not that long; for example, we just observed the 14th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks. The building project that replaced the World Trade Center was only recently completed.

At the same time, let me be clear that this is not just pie-in-the-sky optimism. I do recognize the challenges for a church to make plans 15 years into the future. My own prognosis is that as many as half the houses of worship today will have closed their doors in that time. It would be foolish not to acknowledge that God's people are walking uphill in our time and our culture.

But that doesn't mean we quit walking. We are earnest when we speak and sing nearly every Sunday about the walk of faith being a journey – for ourselves individually and collectively as the Body of Christ.

What steps will we need to take to reach this milestone? First, we have to keep pursuing new ways of reaching our community and the world with the Gospel message. The 6 living generations and those born in the interim each need to know the reality of Christ in a way that speaks to them. New and varied ministries, as well as new ways of worship, are essential to making 150.

We will also need to tend to our structures, both physical and virtual. Our church building and grounds require extensive care and maintenance in the coming years. The way we organize ourselves for ministry and governance are also outdated and in need of reconfiguring.

When those pioneers formed this church 135 years ago, their vision was to reflect the one who called himself “the light of the world”. We do not honor them and those who followed if we limit our own vision to merely “keeping the lights on”.

*Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael*

Where Are the Youth?

In recent opportunities for the congregation to voice their input on what they found important at FCC, the youth were mentioned multiple times, most commonly with regard to folks missing seeing youth on a weekly basis in church. While I share in that sentiment, I also see that we are not alone in what is really a nationwide trend, nor are our youngest generations the only ones sparsely represented on the typical Sunday morning. I've read books, blog posts, and articles, talked with fellow youth leaders and ministers, and attended a conference focused on Christianity in the 21st century, and the resounding message I'm hearing is that church is changing for our future generations, but we don't know what that is going to look like. Is that scary to hear? Yes, for those of us who know no other way of doing or being church. Does that mean our faith is going to fade into history? No, I don't believe so.

You see, our youth and young adults and many of their parents may be less interested in attending Sunday morning worship, but that does not mean they are less interested in knowing God – though many of them may not have the exposure and awareness that would lead them to directly express that. The challenge that we all have before us is not just how to get people of all 6 living generations in to worship, but how to continue being a relevant body of Christ in our community, locally, nationally, and globally. It is a challenge that I consider on a daily basis, a challenge that I know is deeply meaningful to our body of faith whether we're directly talking of it or not.

I don't have the answers, but I find great comfort in knowing I'm not alone. As long as we put God first, as long as we focus on ministry to and with each other, I do not believe our church, or especially our faith, will fade into oblivion. We might have to change how, when, or where we worship, but that change can be gradual, and we must remember that worship is not just something for us to consume, but an opportunity to gather together with others and devote time to God. We might have to move out of our comfort zones, but we'll be able to do so a step at a time, and we must remember that as long as communion with Christ is the goal, we will not be moving alone. We must have faith, and we must work together.

If this sounds like I am optimistically brushing off your concerns, please understand I want nothing more than to see our youth and young adult ministries visibly full and thriving. I believe we would be remiss, though, if focus on growth causes us to overlook the dedicated youth and young adults who are already in our midst. We have wonderful young people who are gifted in a variety of ways, who love our church, and who most importantly love God, who are willing to make time in their busy lives to participate in youth group, and to give up a week of their summer vacation to be uncomfortable and dirty in service of others. I hope you'll take a moment with me to celebrate the wonderful ways in which God can touch all of our lives, to consider possible ways we can come together to grow opportunities for others to share in our love of God, and for us to continue to be part of the light of God's presence in our world.

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!

CROP Walk **Oct 4**

Youth and their families are invited to participate together in this year's Loveland CROP Walk. This is a fundraising walk that supports provision of food and innovation to our hungry brothers and sisters both locally and around the world. Contact Rachel or Tracy Morgan to sign up or to sponsor a walker – even a \$1 donation can be put to good use!

NoCO Gathering **Oct 12**

This youth group meeting will be held in partnership with our friends from Fort Collins and Greeley.

CRMR CYF Fall Retreat **Oct 24-26**

High schoolers, don't miss out on our regional fall retreat! We are hosting this weekend of service and fun with camp friends here at FCC this year. Registration is due to Rachel by October 12.

FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

College Aged YA Gathering

This fellowship group for anyone ages 18-23ish meets twice a month for dinner, conversation, and camaraderie

Email Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org for more information.

STEWARDSHIP & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Among the priorities of the Trustees and other congregation leadership over the years has been to reduce our use of electricity and natural gas. To be sure, much of the impetus has been to save money. Lowering our energy bills allows more room in the budget for our other ministries and allows us flexibility to accomplish the mission God calls us to carry out.



In recent years, we have replaced most of our interior and exterior lighting with more efficient forms. Last year we took a major step by replacing all of our heating and air conditioning systems with much more efficient equipment. We were aided in these efforts through rebates offered by the energy companies, and have reaped the reward through lower monthly costs.

Just last month, the lighting system in our marquee sign was replaced with low power LED bulbs that are much brighter and use less electricity. This project was made possible by the generous donation of the skills of Garry Perry and yet another rebate.

As we reported last month, your Trustees are working with potential contractors to achieve further energy savings through replacement of many windows in the original church building. While the bulk of this project is being financed through a mission station grant from *Week of Compassion* and matched by energy rebates, several members have stepped forward to offer gifts specifically targeted for this purpose. We certainly **welcome additional gifts** from those so inclined.

The scope of the proposed project will replace all the windows on the west side, facing Lincoln Avenue. In addition to providing energy savings and room comfort, the most public face of our building will have a new look to the thousands who drive by every day.

The plan also calls for replacement of nearly all the sliding doors exiting to the courtyard. The combination of light-reducing glass, better sealing and greater insulation will result in substantial energy savings. According to a recent energy

audit, the doors in the fellowship hall are a major source of energy loss and cost.

While the financial stewardship of these savings is clearer, we are also mindful of our responsibilities to be stewards of God's creation. By reducing energy use we not only save money, we also help reduce emissions and environmental impact.

We thank you for your continued support towards becoming a more "green" congregation through faithful use of the resources God has entrusted to our care.

BY THE NUMBERS

A financial snapshot in rounded figures

August Income: \$19,000 (\$1,000 **under** budget)
Expenses: \$13,000 (\$5,000 **under** budget)
2014 Approved Budget: \$252,679

Treasurer's Note: Through the month of August our expenses exceed income by about \$8,000. In order to meet our approved budget, we need to average giving of about \$25,000 per month for the remainder of 2014.

Don Stoppel, Treasurer

Average August Worship Attendance: 122



- 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.

Allnutt Funeral Service
Invites you to join us For our annual
Fall Festival

Pumpkins! Games! Refreshments!
It's great fun for family and friends!
Saturday, October 25
2-5pm

2100 N Lincoln Ave., Loveland
Fall Festival is free and open to the public.

Clothing Give Away Update

I would like to say a very special thank you to everyone who helped make this year's clothing give away such a success. Without all of you this event would not have happened. This year's clothing give away had 460 community members who attended our event this is up from the 200 guest we had last year. We also gave away 160 home coming/prom dresses. We blessed 70 children this year with our first ever back pack give away. Thank you Lea Delehoy for having the back pack vision. The most impressive thing was giving 906 lbs of canned goods to House of Neighborly Service through our first food Sunday along with what was donated the day of the giveaway. The left over clothing was donated to McKee Thrift of Loveland along with Larimer County Detention Center clothing room. Thank you again for being the Hands and Feet of Christ and for making a difference to those in our community. Peace and Blessings Tammy Swartz

Christmas Cantata

Rehearsals began on Thursday, September 25 at 7:00PM. Come lend your voice and join us for the Christmas Season. All skill levels are invited and encouraged to sing.



The 2014
Loveland Area
CROP Walk
for Hunger is
Saturday,
October 4 at
9:00am. To



walk or support a walker, please contact
Tracy Morgan at (970) 988-3219

Benefit for House of Neighborly Service

"Fall into Jewels"

November 6th, 2014
at The Fountains of Loveland
1480 Cascade Ave & Eisenhower Blvd
5:30pm - 8:30pm
Tickets on sale at HNS
& at the door - \$25

Wine, Hor d'oeuvres, Music
HNS needs jewelry donations to make this a successful event. New and gently used jewelry, purses and scarves now being accepted at the House of Neighborly Service.

OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)

The OWLS will be visiting/touring Walker Manufacturing in Fort Collins on Friday October 10, 2014. We will leave from the south parking lot of the church at 9:30 am. Walker made the new lawnmower that was recently acquired by the trustees for the church. We will have lunch before we return to the church. Please note the tour will be 1 to 1.5 hours with walking and standing. All are welcome, please let us know if you are coming via the sign-up sheet near the kitchen. Please contact Ann McSay at 226-2542 if you have questions.

**1st Sunday Food for October is
canned vegetables**

Birthdays

Anniversaries

PERSON, Bobbie	10/02
STUART, Pat	10/04
BRADY, Susan	10/05
GALUS, Linda	10/05
BRADY, James	10/06
MCGEE, Larry	10/07
YOUNG, Maxine	10/07
BENTLEY, Duane	10/08
HAYWARD, Walt	10/09
NOTTINGHAM, Dawn	10/11
YOUNG, Carol	10/11
OLSON, Curtis	10/12
IMEL, Linda	10/13
MCGEE, Pam	10/14
WHITING, Richard	10/14
KRINGS, LeRoy	10/15
MORGAN, Lucy	10/19
MORGAN, Tracy	10/20
SMITH, Roberta	10/26
DILL, Chuck	10/29
POMRANKA, Don	10/30
BENTLEY, Cheryl	10/31
KNAUS, Keith	10/31

SHAFFER, Don & Joan Ritter Shaffer	10/01
ROBERTS, Joe & Ruth	10/08
BYERS, Jake & Vi	10/20
SHARRAR, Ed & Fayeane	10/20
YOUNG, David & Carol	10/21
HALSEY, Larry & Carol	10/27
KEELER, Kenneth & Cherie	10/29



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	3 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	4
5 9a Worship <i>First Sunday Food—Canned Vegetables</i> 4:30p Youth Group	6 6p Women's reunion group	7 6:30p GriefShare	8 9:30a Trustees	9 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	10 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	11 10a Fall Clean-Up Day
12 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	13 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries	14 6:30p GriefShare	15 Link Deadline	16 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	17 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club 9:30a OWLS	18
19 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	20 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	21 6:30p GriefShare 7p Mary Circle	22	23 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	24 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	25
26 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	27 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	28 6:30p GriefShare 7p Elders Meeting	29	30 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	31 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	

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.

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

Sunday Morning Services:
9:00 Worship Service
10:10 Sunday School for all ages

