



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

January 1, 2016

CONTACTING THE CHURCH STAFF

Main Church Phone Number:
(970) 667-1318

Pastoral Leadership Team

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Mission Support Staff

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Gina Schuh-Turner, Choir Dir.

Karen Gullickson, Organist

Troy Schuh, Pianist



THANKS FOR GIVING TREE!

This year's *Giving Tree* made Christmas brighter for more than 20 families in our community and our congregation!

Coordinators Tom & Pam Boudreau thank all those who contributed gifts and food items, and especially those who helped to assemble and carry out deliveries (shown in the picture above).

Your generosity helps reflect the love of God and the spirit of the season in tangible ways.

WHAT'S NEXT?

One of the songs we sing in worship around this time of year (*I Am the Light of the World*) includes this verse:

*When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the magi and the shepherds have found
their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun!*



We might be thinking it's time to rest from our "work of Christmas" instead. That work included gathering gifts for the Giving Tree, participating in the Christmas

Special Offering, ringing bells and tending kettles for the Salvation Army campaign, and other seasonal projects. Truth is, we could be a little tired.

So let's celebrate our work and generosity, and certainly take a breath from the hectic pace of the season just past. Let's welcome in the new year with bowl games and parties as is our custom. We've earned that.

One of the television series Carla and I always return to is *The West Wing*, featuring a fictional White House administration led by President Josiah Bartlett. (One of the things I liked about the show is that the president is a devout Catholic and frequently deals with questions of faith).

After he and his staff deal with a particularly vexing problem or issue, President Bartlett's favorite comment is, "what's next?" By this he means it's time to roll up sleeves and move on to the next task at hand.

The church is not the White House (although some people seem to want to make it that way), but we certainly should also be constantly asking, "what's next?" when it comes to carrying out the work of the Gospel – the work of Christmas.

Like the fictional President Bartlett, your newly elected President Cheryl McAnally and VP Tracy Morgan are enthusiastic to roll up their sleeves and lead you into new adventures in ministry. Along with the rest of the board, they both seek and provide direction for our work in this new year.

So what's next? In January we begin with an all-day retreat with our HOPE Partnership facilitator, working to set a course not only for the year but many years to come. The Elders and Diaconate also organize and prepare themselves for service during January.

The Trustees are also pursuing new opportunities in stewardship of our resources, as they continue making the building more energy efficient and work to secure a communications tower on our property to help generate income for our ministries.

Our Mission Station Project also continues to help our communities rebuild from the 2013 floods. The Brethren Disaster Ministries teams will be cycling through until late April or early May, providing fresh hands and hearts for the work.

From May through July, we will again host hundreds of youth and their adult sponsors from across the country in Group Mission Trips *Week of Hope*. While staying with us, these young people will learn about the Gospel of service and provide real hands-on work around our communities.

Throughout the year, we also continue our many other missions and ministries. Our joint youth group in cooperation with First Congregational United Church of Christ hopes to take a contingent to the national UCC-DOC Youth Event in Orlando this summer. We are also in conversation about a multi-church Vacation Bible School.

Our building also continues to be a hub of help and healing for the community, as we minister the grieving, the injured, addicted, and lost. We are, in many ways, carrying out the work of Christmas throughout the year!

Please join us in rolling up your own sleeves and your roiling up your enthusiasm for "what's next"! God is at work through us in this congregation, this community, and throughout the world!

*Love, Grace and Peace;
Michael*

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES



The Disciples-UCC shared youth group will gather **Wednesday, December 30th** for a fun-filled evening at **Casa Bonita!**

We'll meet at First

Congregational Church (800 N. Lincoln) at 4:00p.m. and take the church van to meet with youth from other Front Range DOC and UCC youth. Please bring \$17 for admission and dinner, plus extra if you wish to play games, etc. in the arcade.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD BANK

On the first Sunday of each month, we invite our church family to contribute non-perishable food items for the community food bank. **Peanut butter and/or jelly** are the suggested food for January, but any contributions are appreciated.



"Help for today... Hope for tomorrow"

for the community food bank. **Peanut butter and/or jelly** are the suggested food for

RETREAT JANUARY 9th



The next step in our Future Story journey is an all-day retreat Saturday, January 9th. Beginning at 8:30am, we'll

review our assessment from HOPE Partnership and plot a course for our congregation in the years ahead

OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)

The OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors) will gather at the church on Friday January 8, 2016 @ 9:30 am for fellowship, fun and food.

We will assist with unwrapping the church from our advent decorations. Then we will have a movie (The Way?) followed by lunch (soup?). All are welcome to join us. Please use the sign-up sheet near the kitchen.



financial ministry

November Stewardship

General Fund Income:	\$22,507
\$840 over budget	
Expenses:	\$17,913
\$2,765 under budget	

*Thanks to a strong month of income from offering and building use reimbursements, coupled with continuing efforts to hold the line on expenses, **our financial picture entered into the final month of 2015 approximately even for the year to date.***

Just a reminder as you adjust your giving intentions for the new year: you can **set up an automatic deduction from your bank account** for your offering that saves you the trouble and expense of writing checks. Call or email Kirsten at 667-1318 or email her at kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org.

Randy Kettenhofen, Treasurer

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Your Trustees continue work improving the energy efficiency of our building, both to reduce budget expenses and to more faithfully care for God's creation.

In spite of greatly increased building occupancy throughout the year, our natural gas expense through November was about \$2,000 below this time last year.

Weather permitting, we plan to complete the west wing window project in January at a cost of about \$8,000. This will eliminate the final sliding glass door on the courtyard, as well as replace the original north facing windows with more energy efficient glass and frames.

January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School <i>First Sunday Food— Canned Meat</i>	4	5	6	7 6p Bell Choir 7p Choir rehearsal	8 9:30a Owls movie & lunch @ FCC	9
10 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School	11 9:30a Rachel Circle 7p Program Ministries	12	13 9:30a Trustees	14 6p Bell Choir 7p Choir rehearsal	15 Link Deadline	16
17 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School	18 7p General Board	19 7p Mary Circle	20	21 6p Bell Choir 7p Choir rehearsal	22	23
24 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School <hr/> 31 9a Worship 10:15a Sunday School	25 6p Worship Committee	26 7p Elders	27	28 6p Bell Choir 7p Choir rehearsal	29	30



PERSON, Craig	01/03
LINDSEY, Randy	01/06
WILLIAMS, Eula	01/06
ESTRADA, Julie	01/09
HILLIARD, Pamela	01/09
HINKLE, Lyle	01/12
JESKULSKI, Aiden	01/13
RUEGSEGGER, Nancy	01/15
DILL, Judy	01/18
CHENEVERT, Sharon	01/20
ZAKAVEC, Tracie	01/20
SWARTZ, Sharon	01/21
MORGAN, Brad	01/25
SEATON, Sylvia	01/29
ENGELHARDT, Orville	01/30
BRAY, Susan	01/31

LIDDLE, Jack & Bonnie	01/13
SPRAGUE, Bob & Chris	01/13
MAGNUSON, Herman & Cherlene	01/15
MORGAN, Lucy & Bryan	01/18
GALUS, Bernie & Linda	01/20

First Christian Church
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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

