

Connecting
Us with God and
one another

March 1, 2015

**CONTACTING THE
CHURCH STAFF**

Main Church Phone Number:
(970) 667-1318

Pastoral Leadership Team

Michael Stein
Transitional Senior Minister
Extension 30
michael@lovelanddisciples.org
Cellphone: (970) 775-4895

Dora DeVan, Ministry Intern
Extension 23

Rachel Nelson
Minister to Emerging Generations
Extension 22
rachel@lovelanddisciples.org

Pam Hilliard
Minister for Grief and Loss
(970) 215-5969
Hilliardp2@aol.com

Tracy Morgan
Commissioned Minister
(970) 988-3219
tdmorgan@earthlink.net

Mission Support Staff

Kirsten Bayne
Office Administrator
Extension 21
kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org

Max and Marcia Peters
Building Managers
(970) 669-6895
mm4ever@q.com

Tammy Swartz
Nursery/Childcare Director
Extension 24
tswartz1784@comcast.net

Gina Schuh-Turner, Choir Dir.
Karen Lee, Organist
Troy Schuh, Pianist



Did you know??????????

We will be serving lunch and everyone is invited.

Saturday April 11th

The community café will be welcoming members and the community during our Spring Fest Arts and Crafts Show. The café will be serving snacks beginning at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be available for purchase from 11:00 – 2:00.

Help Wanted!!!!!!!!!!

We are seeking volunteers who want to join in on the fun.

Here's what's going on.....

Are you a foodie? The café is seeking several volunteers to prepare, set up, serve and clean up. Come and join us and bring out your inner chef. The menu is easy but tasty. We need between six to eight volunteers.

Is baking your thing? Great! Would you mind whipping up a batch of those amazing goodies for our bake sale? First Christian Church will be hosting a bake sale during the Arts and Crafts Show. You know what that means; we are going to need lots of treats. Who can resist?

If God is calling you for this ministry please contact Kathy Vaughn 970.663.3260 or katvau@comcast.net

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

A visitor in our worship service a few months back was surprised by the number of activities and events happening in our church, wondering if we aren't overwhelmed by projects and possibilities.



The question came to light last fall, when the church board asked our various ministries to create displays highlighting their activities and inviting participation from the congregation. The Gallery was filled with posters, pictures, and other creative ways of informing you about what we do.

A positive side of all this activity is that there's a variety of ministries in which to be engaged. If you have the heart for a particular way of serving God, chances are there's an opportunity not only to participate, but to be a leader.

But there are challenges as well; we are a smaller congregation than in the past, and we minister in a different culture. Working individuals and families are presented with many daunting demands on their time – at work, at school, and at home. Few of us work a schedule that is 8-5, Monday through Friday; even fewer households have only one breadwinner.

Teens and young adults are also challenged. If you're in high school and hoping to go to college – and especially if you hope to earn a scholarship – good grades aren't enough. You're expected to be involved in multiple activities outside the classroom.

Seniors and retirees are also busier than in past years. Many grandparents are helping to raise (or completely raising) their grandchildren. Families are scattered across the country, so many are absent for travel. With a longer lifespan and different economics, more seniors are also still in the workforce, at least part time.

When discussing this in the church, I often hear people say, "it's just a matter of priorities. If something is important, you will find the time". While there are situations in which this might be true, I don't think that's always a fair assumption.

As Christians, we should always be examining the ways we live out the faith we proclaim; after all, Jesus didn't ask for believers – he looks for disciples. This is especially true during this season of Lent, as we turn our gaze inward to measure how our actions match our belief.

We must also acknowledge that there are ways and places outside the church where we can live out the Christian values of compassion, thanksgiving and generosity. Sometimes people of other faiths (and even no faith) do a better job of reflecting Christ than the people who claim to follow him. Fraternal and civic organizations with no express claim to religious faith do important works in the community. Agnostics and atheists help feed the hungry and provide shelter for those Jesus called, "the least of these".

Recognizing all this, I still insist that church has an important role in our world and an essential role in the life of the Christian. For us, it's not only important that we do the right things like worship and mission, but it's important that we do them together. In a culture that praises the individual and caters to the consumer, regular and faithful worship helps remind us that WE are not the center of the universe. Likewise, participation in mission reminds us that we are here to serve, not just to be served.

So, in the spirit of Lent, I invite each of us to engage in a couple of disciplines. The first is to be less judging of others; if you do not know the hearts and the life circumstances of another, don't assume they are less faithful or committed because you don't see them in worship every Sunday.

The second is to prayerfully take stock of what God has given you in talents, abilities, time, and energy. Seek new affirmation of and opportunities to use these gifts in service to God and neighbor.

Together, we continue working to build a church that models Christ's vision of the Reign of God.

*Love, Grace and Peace;
Michael*

Living Your Truth

As I type today, I am preparing to leave for the CRMR Midwinter Youth Retreat, for which I have been given the humbling role of Keynoter. The keynoter is the person who is the featured speaker of the weekend, who twice a day spends 45 minutes or so presenting different aspects of the theme for the weekend, teaching and guiding and presenting ideas that will be further processed by the youth in their small group discussions. I've always held our keynoters in high regards, but am learning an extra measure of respect for how much work they do now that I am in those shoes!

The theme for this year's retreat is "Living Your Truth", and is meant to guide youth into a deeper understanding of who their true self is and is becoming, followed by some exploration of what the world could look like if we were all able to live as our true, God given selves, and in kind be accepting and loving and compassionate toward all others around us as they do the same. It sounds a lot like our ideal vision of God's Kingdom. And so, we are going to be going on a journey together, myself, 63 youth, and 16 adult sponsors from around the region. We'll be exploring how to discover our strengths, talents, and spiritual gifts. We'll be discovering and learning about our personality types. We'll be talking about how our relationships and experiences impact the way we grow and change. Woven throughout will be reminders that God has created us each with our own beauty and ability to contribute to the body, and has done so with intentional purpose and great love. We will conclude with a charge to go forward and be all that God has made us to be, and to ceaselessly use all that we are for the glory of God.

As you are reading this, the retreat has concluded, and was hopefully a fulfilling and meaningful weekend for all involved. Thank you so much for your prayers and support of this experience. I am sure I will have stories to tell...

With hope and gratitude,
Rachel

IMPORTANT NOTE: As the retreat was ending Monday morning, Rachel fell and suffered a broken ankle. The injury required surgery and time for recovery. Please add Rachel, Ben, and our youth ministries to your prayers.

Hands to Heaven Update

Last month, I wrote about the tradition the youth have of presenting a song in sign language with black lights on Christmas Eve. Shortly after the Link went out, I received an email from one of FCC's former Christian Education and Youth leaders whom I know many of you will remember, Sue Bishop. Sue reports that Hands to Heaven got started in 1988, with the Christmas Eve tradition starting in 1989. This means this past Christmas Eve was the 26th year in which the youth shared this gift of music, movement, and light. Thanks, Sue, for keeping in touch and reminding us of our roots.

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 spend time together sharing their lives, talking about God, serving others, and of course having fun! *We will not meet on Mar. 15, as we are having a lock-in earlier that weekend.*

Spring Lock-In

Mar. 13-15

Youth will be staying at the church for fun, fellowship, worship, and relationship building. Specific dates and times within the weekend tbd; email Rachel to make sure you are on the youth news email list.

Palm Sunday Brunch

Mar. 29

After the cantata worship service, the youth will be hosting a brunch to benefit their participation in summer church camps. Youth and children attending camp – and their families – are encouraged to serve at this brunch. Brunch food donations are needed as well; please contact Rachel for list of needs.

FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

College Aged YA Gathering

This fellowship group for anyone aged 18-23ish meets a couple of times a month for dinner, conversation, fun, and spiritual growth - Email

Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org for more information.

Special Congregational Meeting



Your church board has called a special meeting of the congregation for **Sunday, March 15th at 9:00am.** The purpose of the

meeting is to consider and to vote on the **call of Rev. Michael Stein as the Senior Minister** for First Christian Church Loveland.

At the February 16th monthly meeting, the board received the report and recommendation from the Transition Team, stating:

"The unanimous conclusion...of the Transition Team...leads us to a high recommendation that Pastor Michael Stein be called to lead First Christian Church as Senior Minister to a most positive future in Loveland".

Consistent with our bylaws, the board voted to refer the recommendation to a meeting and vote of the congregation. The official meeting will take place as **"worshipful work"** during **Sunday worship service.**

Back by Popular Demand!

Plans are underway for a **new pictorial directory** of our First Christian Church Family. The target date for availability is the end of May.

Four photographers will start taking pictures in four different settings here in the church building on **Sunday, March 1**, and will continue taking photos every Sunday through Easter. They will be working before and after worship services.

They also will take family or individual photos here at the church other days of the week, by appointment.

Please check the information table in the Gallery

Noon Lenten Lunches continue every Wednesday through Holy Week, with music and meditations. A free-will offering (\$3

suggested) will be accepted to help defer costs of the meal.

For your home practice, the **FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER daily devotional** is also available in the Gallery. Donations of \$3.00 (or more) to help defray costs are appreciated.



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. The **suggested food for March is macaroni & cheese or ramen noodles** (any contributions are appreciated).



"Help for today... Hope for tomorrow"

Dear Members of First Christian,

The staff and volunteers of House of Neighborly Service would like to express our gratitude & appreciation for all you do to give food & other donations for those who need it. This is especially appreciated during the busy and incedful holiday season. Just know that we value you for who you are and what you do for others! 😊

*Thanks again,
HNS Staff & Volunteers*



financial ministry

Randy Kettenhofen, Treasurer

Final 2014 General Fund Income:	\$221,600
	(\$26,000 shortfall)
Final 2014 Expenses	\$246,000
	(\$6,000 less than budgeted)

Thank you for your generous giving as we move into 2015. Although the February 22nd **worship service was canceled due to weather, please remember that our expenses and obligations do not change.**

2016 Monthly Budget for Income:	\$21,670
January General Income:	\$19,384

Birthdays

JESKULSKI, Bella	03/06
SPIREK, Gloria	03/06
HANSEN, Jordan	03/09
PERRY, Toni	03/10
BUROW, Gwen	03/14
MASTERSON, Martha	03/14
WALTERS, Edna	03/15
JESKULSKI, Dash	03/16
WRAY, Hugh	03/18
BROWNRIGG, 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
HALE, Frances	03/26
PETERS, Marcia	03/26
RUEGSEGGER, Harvey	03/26
MORGAN, Andrew	03/28

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

5. Abraham, Father on Many Nations

No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. (Genesis 17:5-7 NIV)

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar ... Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. (Genesis 16:1-4 NIV)

So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old at that time. (Genesis 16:15-16 NLT)

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. (Genesis 21:1-5 NIV)

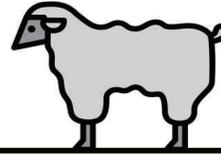
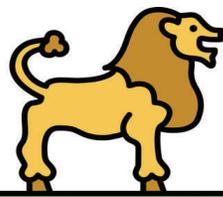
Now Abraham married again. Keturah was his new wife, and she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. Jokshan's two sons were Sheba and Dedan. Dedan's descendants were the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. Midian's sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. These were all descendants of Abraham through Keturah. (Genesis 25:1-4 NLT)



Copyright © GIL Publications 2006

5. Abraham, Father on Many Nations

ABRAM	GENERATIONS	LONGER
AFTER	GRACIOUS	MAIDSERVANT
BORNE	HAGAR	MANY
CANAAN	ISAAC	MEDAN
COVENANT	ISHBAK	MEDIAN
EGYPTIAN	ISHMAEL	SARAH
EIGHTY	JOKSHAN	SHUAH
ESTABLISH	KETURAH	SLEPT
EVERLASTING	KINGS	TIME
FRUITFUL	LIVING	ZIMRAN



MARCH

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

First Christian Church
www.lovelanddisciples.org

2000 N. Lincoln Ave.
Loveland, CO 80538

Phone: 970-667-1318
Fax: 970-744-7047
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.

**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

