



# THE CALL

DEC/JAN  
2015-16



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR  
HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE!

Rev. Cynthia McBride, Lois, Kathy,  
Cyndi, Annette, Amber & Lani

Blessings for a Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy new Year!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 16 - Last day of Preschool

December 20 - Christmas Music Sunday. NO Chapel  
One Worship Service at 10:10 a.m.

Thurs. December 24 - Church Office closes at noon --  
One Worship Service @ 6:30 p.m.  
INVITE your family & friends!

December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY.

Church Office closed the 25th & 28th.

Sun. December 27 - Pulpit Guest Keith Rouse

December 28 - Church Office closed

2016

January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office closed

January 4 - Preschool resumes, Circle of Caring @  
2:00 p.m. - Elders @ 6:30 p.m.

January 6 - Choir rehearsals resume

## **Church Staff:**

**Rev. Cynthia McBride**, Pastor

**Lois Koch**, Business Manager

**Kathy Winders**, Secretary

**Cyndi Trimmer**, Nursery care

**Annette Crain**, Preschool Director

**Amber French**, Music Director

**Lani McBee** - Accompanist

## **Office hours:**

**Mon.-Thurs.**

8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Fridays**

8:30 AM - Noon



## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE:**

**8:15 Chapel Service**

**9:00 a.m. Adult Class**

**10:10 Worship**

**(307) 234-8964**

[www.fcccasper.org](http://www.fcccasper.org)

[fcccasper@gmail.com](mailto:fcccasper@gmail.com)

## **Preschool hours (Sept-May)**

Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM - noon

**Preschool Phone**

(307) 472-0649

**SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATIONS  
DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE  
BY NOON ON MONDAY,  
JANUARY, 11TH**



## Sending Out “Good News!”

This time of year, many folks intentionally send out Christmas cards. Some include a hand-written note, some feature a family photo, some are artistically hand-created, and some have a long newsy list of what's happened in the past year. Another congregation I served had a tradition of posting Christmas cards at the church. Members of the congregation were encouraged to send just one Christmas card to all of their church friends in care of the church's office to be posted on a bulletin board, and then to add up the amount of postage they saved in place of mailing separate cards to all their church friends and adding that amount to their Christmas offering instead. As you walk the hallways at FCC Casper this year, you'll notice several cards sent to our church posted outside of the Inner Room. You're welcome to add your own greetings by pinning a card on the bulletin board.

Last Sunday's bulletin included a different sort of Christmas card - a simple printed invitation that church members are encouraged to personally hand to a friend or neighbor. Have you handed yours out yet? Over recent years we've talked a lot at FCC about “evangelism.” One step of evangelism is to *invite* - Invite someone to worship with you - as a means of inviting them into a relationship with Christ. This time of year, perhaps more than any other, people are open to such an invitation. This Sunday (Dec. 20th) our choir, handbell ringers and other musicians will present a special “Christmas Music Sunday” service, and all of our congregation will worship together at 10:10 a.m. It's the perfect time to *invite* someone to worship with you - or invite them to come to our Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m. on the 24th.

The word “evangelism” comes from the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον (euangelion) or Gospel - which means Good News. As we tell the Christmas story over again, we hear about angels - the angel Gabriel who appeared to Mary and the heavenly host showing up to the shepherds. These messengers came to proclaim “Good news of great joy” for all people. To be an evangelist is to be a messenger - someone who shares the good news of God's love. I know... for some of us that sounds rather scary, but the first word the angels always say is: Fear Not! If we know God's love is real, we don't have to be afraid to talk about it. Think of yourself in the next two weeks as being God's Christmas card sent to the world. YOU are the messenger God wants to use to tell your neighbors, your family, your co-workers and your friends the Good News of Jesus' birth every time you wish someone “Merry Christmas!”

Will you invite someone to worship soon? When you come to church, there are some practical things we can all do to help with evangelism. Say hello to someone you don't know. Offer to sit with a visitor in worship. Park a little farther from the door than you usually do to save a space for someone else. Sit a little closer to the front of the sanctuary than you might and slide into the center of your pew to make room for someone to join you. Helping to shovel the snow at FCC, tidying up after yourself, and helping to keep the building and grounds looking inviting are part of evangelism as well.

My thanks to our musicians for the extra time they're putting in preparing for such a special worship service this week. Let's all do our part to have a “full house” on Sunday as we gather to celebrate the Good News of God's Love made flesh in Jesus.

As I've learned to say from our exchange students through the years... I wish you each: Feliz Navidad, Veselé Vianoce, Fröhliche Weihnachten, Buon Natale, God Jul - a very Merry Christmas.

- Pastor Cynthia

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Robin Nelson	Jan 2	Jane Wallace	Jan.13
Maggie Grooms	Jan 4	Lynda Williams	Jan 13
Jane Baker	Jan 6	Marcus Hayden	Jan 19
Carol Sage	Jan 6	Kim Forbis	Jan 21
Kelly Hover	Jan 7	Nylia Cazier	Jan 22
Debbie Mapp	Jan 10	Dorothy Jones	Jan 22
Dave Taylor	Jan 11	Dylan Mongan	Jan 27
Dorothy Rhoades	Jan 13	Karen Huckfeldt	Jan. 30



## REMINDER!!!!!!!

The FCC Lunch Bunch meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at 11:30 a.m. for their potluck luncheon. Come and bring a dish and fellowship with others from FCC. The FCC Coffee Bunch meets on the 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## CRMR News

**Our Christmas “Special Offering” supports the Disciples of Christ ministries across the Central Rocky Mountain Region.**

### **Here’s an update from our Regional Board:**

In planning for 2016, the Regional Board has decided to make two significant changes affecting the Region in the coming year.

The Central Rocky Mountain Region will make the shift away from maintaining a physical office. Presently, we plan to close the office on the third floor of the Tennyson Center by March 31. Secretary Lara Maerz and Interim Regional Minister Dean Phelps will work out of their homes. The phone number for the Region will remain the same. This physical shift accentuates that the Region is more than Denver, and this will help the Region get ministry closer to all 46 congregations of the Central Rocky Mountain Region, congregations that are as far as 700 miles from Denver.

Beginning in 2016, the Region will also transfer its accounting function to Treasury Services in the Office of General Minister and President. We will join 14 other regions and 5 general units in utilizing this service. Both of these changes will create a cost savings and allow the Region to redirect the money saved into more direct ministry.

If you have questions about the work of the Regional Board, speak with our northern district representative - Nicholas Grooms.

Please continue to pray for Rev. Dean Phelps, the Regional Board and Rev. Doug Goodwin - our pastor in Sheridan as he recovers from surgery.



Dear FCC Friends,

Thank you so very much for your prayers for my great granddaughter Mystic Cardinal. She is much better, but her complete recovery will take a long time. Please keep us in your prayers. Also thank you for the use of the Fellowship Hall. Thanks also to the nice person that shoveled the walk in front of the doors. Linda Bland and his family joined us as well as did Elane Burkhalter. ~Rita Petersen

Dear Cynthia; We, the Norcross and Pittsley families want to express our sincere appreciation for opening your kitchen and dining area for the funeral reception for our little Parker Pittsley. May you and your staff and congregation be richly blessed.

Dear First Christian Church. Thank you for the fall scholarship. I am attending Montana State University and majoring in Microbiology and genetics. I really appreciate your help in achieving my goals. Thank you, Ashley Budack

I hope that you will extend our sincere thanks to the congregation for the generous donation of \$3,000 to Seton House. It is quite amazing to know that a small congregation engaged so many people and provided the labor, time and love to the Pumpkin Patch that benefits not only our organization but your preschool, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

We were delighted to see children, teens, adults and seniors working together the afternoon the pumpkins were delivered. It was truly an afternoon of ministry. This donation and the Pumpkin Patch are truly a blessing to Seton House and the community. Thank you to all that participated to support single parents and their children in their journey to reach self-sufficiency.

Deanna Frey, Executive Director

Thank you for all the phone calls, cards, and visits during my recent illness. Your love and caring made a tough time dealing with my MS much easier. During those low times in our lives it is wonderful to have a loving church family's support to help lift us up.

In Christ's love, John & Sharon Lansing



## CHURCHES, PARENTS & YOUTH! MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

This event will take place July 26-30th at Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort in Buena Vista, Florida. This will be the most magical Disciples of Christ/United Church of Christ, BIG GIGANTIC, YOUTH EVENT (BGYE) NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT (NYE) of all!!!!

Join 3000 youth from across the country for this conference. Details are in the works--keep watching for information to be posted on the bulletin board.



## COME ALONG!

### ALL YOUTH OF FCC!!

The Youth group of FCC will have a meeting in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the plans for the upcoming year.

The Mid Winter Retreat will be at Camp LaForet, February 12-15, 2016. Registration forms are on the bulletin board. Registration forms due the church office January 18th. For more info, contact Carmen Goodman @ 267-9892



**SIGN UP SHEETS** are on the bulletin board for snow removal and for scripture readers. Please help out as you are able. Remember to clean up your pews when you leave worship and to make sure bathroom lights are shut off and windows are closed. Let's all help care for God's house as we are able.



**SPECIAL THANKS** to all who furnished turkeys, hams, made desserts, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, casseroles, salads, rolls, set up tables, helped serve, cleaned up and everything else that needed to be done for the Thanksgiving dinner. GOD bless each and every one.

### **"After Church" Fellowship**

Every Sunday after worship service, you are invited to become better acquainted with one another. **This is part of our Evangelism effort as we intentionally encourage members to personally greet our visitors.**

Refreshments will be served while you visit. Each of our commissions take a Sunday to provide goodies and coffee for this Fellowship. All are invited to stay and enjoy the continued fellowship and welcome visitors.

The schedule for commissions is:

- 1st week - Mission Commission/Property
- 2nd week - Christian Ed/Stewardship
- 3rd week - Spiritual Growth/Diaconate
- 4th week - CWF
- 5th week - Homebuilders Sunday School Class

Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A. It's Christmas, Eve!

### **Current Financials**

Bal. on hand . Nov. 1, 2015	\$ (35,653.82)
Income from	
Pledges & Gifts	\$ 22,263.15
Invested Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cash on Hand	\$ (13,390.67)
Nov. expenses	\$ (19,011.65)
Bal. on hand Nov. 30, 2015	\$ (32,402.32)
<b>Special Offerings:</b>	
Thanksgiving	\$491.70
Christmas	\$ 25.00 (as of 12/10)

### **JANUARY DIACONATE**

Amanda Kirlin, Schuetz Family, Dan Coey, Erika Stupak, Dylan Stupak, Michael Braley



### **COMMUNION PREP**

Amanda Kirlin

### **JANUARY Greeter**

Pat Buck

To volunteer as a greeter  
call Pat Buck at 234-1829

### **JANUARY Offertory Steward**

**Larry Winders**

### **New Address**

Briana Black  
P.O. Box 36  
Amphoe Mueang, Satun, Thailand 91000





## **C.W.F. OFFICERS - 2016**

Co-Presidents - Jane Baker, Carol Sage  
Secretary - Elane Burkhalter  
Treasurer - Melanie Dowler  
Service - Virginia Yohn  
Wedding Coordinator - Kathy Winders  
Bereavement - Wanda Leeling, Darlene Bishop  
Inner Room- Debbie Mapp  
Kitchen - Carol Sage  
Telephone - Jo Cox  
Cards - Jane Baker

FCC's CWF includes four groups of women that hold monthly meetings, participate in preparing and serving meals at the CWRM, bake home-made goodies for the Pumpkin Patch, provide help with bereavement meals and numerous other activities in the church. The CWF Groups are open to all members of FCC. Group 1 meets at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Thursdays; Group 2 meets on the 2nd Wednesday at noon and have a salad luncheon; Group 3 meets at various restaurants at 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd Thursday; Godly Girlfriends meet at the church on the 4th Thursday @ 5:30 p.m.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

The Homebuilders class and the children's sunday school class will NOT meet December 27th or January 3rd. Both classes will meet again on January 10th. Homebuilder's discussions will explore the theme of "tradition" in three ways based on passages from both Old and New Testaments. Included are the traditions by which we honor God, observe special occasions in life, and celebrate holy times together..

Children's Sunday School will be reading and participating in activities related to stories from the New Testament.

## **NEW FROM THE MISSION COMMISSION**

We want to thank everyone for being willing to help with any of the activities we do and for giving so generously to help keep our seniors, homeless and those in need warm this winter! We will continue to collect mittens, scarfs, gloves, caps, and socks as well as blankets and coats through the end of December. These items can be gently used or new. There is Santa's bag outside the church office for you to put them in. We have people from outside FCC congregation that are also helping with this project.

On Saturday, January 30, 2016 we will be making fleece blankets. We will be making them in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and you are invited to participate. You can bring blankets already made or bring 4 yards of fleece pr blanket and join in the fun. Invitations are being made to other churches so we can work together to keep people warm.

Another Homeless count will be made in January and volunteers are needed. Contact Debbie Mestas for more information.

The Mission Commission will be serving a CWRM in January. The Sandwich Ministry has been busy and will be doing lunches on Christmas Day so please consider how you can help. If you have any questions, contact Debbie.

## January 2016

December 2015							January 2016							February 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1	2	3	4	5									
6	7	8	9	10	11	12														
13	14	15	16	17	18	19														
20	21	22	23	24	25	26														
27	28	29	30	31																

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 PULPIT GUEST – Keith Rouse ■ 8:15 AM Chapel ■ 9:00 AM No Sun School ■ 10:10 AM Worship	28 PRESCHOOL ON CHRISTMAS BREAK NCSD CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE CLOSED ■ 12:00 PM No Boy Scouts ■ 6:00 PM No Cub Scouts	29 ■ 7:00 PM AA	30 ■ 9:00 AM Quilters	31 ■ 10:00 AM CWF Board Mtg ■ 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	1 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry ■ 9:00 AM Scrapbooking New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry ■ 9:00 AM Scrapbooking
3 ■ 8:15 AM Chapel ■ 9:00 AM No Sun School ■ 10:10 AM Worship	4 SCHOOLS RESUME ■ 2:00 PM Circle of Caring ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 6:30 PM Elders Retreat ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	5 ■ 7:00 PM AA	6 ■ 9:00 AM Quilters ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	7 ■ 10:00 AM CWF Board Mtg ■ 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	8 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry ■ 10:00 AM State Quilters	9 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry ■ 10:00 AM State Quilters
10 ■ 8:15 AM Chapel ■ 9:00 AM No Sun School ■ 10:10 AM Worship	11 ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 6:30 PM Spiritual Growth ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Commissions ■ 8:00 PM Board Meeting	12 ■ 7:00 PM AA	13 ■ 9:00 AM Quilters ■ 12:00 PM CWF Group #2 ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 ■ 10:00 AM CWF Group #1 ■ 11:30 AM CWF Group #3	15 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry	16 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry
17 ■ 8:15 AM Chapel ■ 9:00 AM No Sun School ■ 10:10 AM Worship	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	19 ■ 7:00 PM AA	20 ■ 9:00 AM Quilters ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	21 ■ 10:00 AM Munch Bunch Coffee ■ 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg	22 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry	23 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry
24 ■ 8:15 AM Chapel ■ 9:00 AM No Sun School ■ 10:10 AM Worship	25 ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	26 ■ 7:00 PM AA	27 ■ 9:00 AM Quilters ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 ■ 10:00 AM Munch Bunch Coffee ■ 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg	29 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry	30 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry
31 ■ 8:15 AM Chapel ■ 9:00 AM No Sun School ■ 10:10 AM Worship	1 ■ 2:00 PM Circle of Caring ■ 6:00 PM Cub Scouts ■ 6:30 PM Elders ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	2 Groundhog Day ■ 7:00 PM AA	3 ■ 9:00 AM Quilters ■ 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 ■ 10:00 AM CWF Board Mtg ■ 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	5 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry ■ 9:00 AM Scrapbooking	6 ■ 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study ■ 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry ■ 9:00 AM Scrapbooking

*First Christian Church  
520 CY Ave  
Casper WY, 82601*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

CASPER WY  
PERMIT NO. 129

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO EVAN WOODS!!!!!!**

Evan took on our Bible Memory Verse Challenge for older children this semester. He memorized 16 different verses of various lengths from the Old Testament including Psalm 100, Psalm 23, the Ten Commandments and the books of the Old Testament.



### **NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL**

December has been so much fun. The children have really enjoyed learning the stories of Christmas with Pastor Cynthia. With her help we celebrated the birth of baby Jesus. After she shared the story with the children, they all dressed-up and created their own nativity.

The kids were so quiet during her sermon, listening and learning more about the reason we celebrate Christmas. She also told the story of advent and why we light candles each week and the story of the Candy Cane. Our families have been collecting Peanut Butter and Jelly for the Sandwich Ministry. Our Christmas Party will be on Wednesday and the kids are excited for our special guest to come. Looking ahead to January, we will start thinking about preschool enrollment for next fall. We currently have one opening in Pre-K. If you know of anyone interested in joining us for preschool have them call the preschool office for more information. Christmas Blessings to all, Teacher Annette