



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

THE CALL

**DEC.
2017**



Merry Christmas!

The staff at First Christian Church wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas. Blessings to everyone.

*Rev. Cynthia McBride
Leigh Earle
Kathy Winders
Amber French
Cheryl Dionne*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NOV. 23 & 24 - OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

NOV. 26 - Hanging of the Greens Service at 10:10 a.m. led by the Elders. Rev. McBride will return to the office on Wednesday, Nov. 29th.

SUN. DEC. 3 - Annual congregational meeting at 9:15 a.m. Bring a tasty snack or seasonal food to share. NO Sunday School. NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

DEC. 4 - Commission & Board will meet at regular times on the FIRST Monday.

DEC. 17 - Christmas Music Sunday - 10:10 worship - NO CHAPEL

DEC. 21 - Elders' Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

DEC. 24 - Christmas Eve - 10:10 a.m. worship NO CHAPEL - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. - Bring a guest.

Be sure to read calendar for other upcoming events during Advent.

Church Staff:

Rev. Cynthia McBride, Lead Pastor
Leigh Earle, Bookkeeper
Kathy Winders, Secretary
Annette Crain, Preschool Director
Amber French, Music Director
Cheryl Dionne, Nursery Staff
Ministers: Every Member!

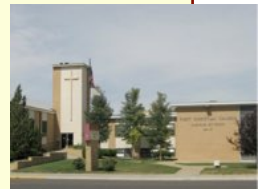
Office hours:

Mon.-Thurs.

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Fridays

8:30 - NOON



SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:15 Chapel Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:10 Worship & Children's Classes

11:30 Coffee Fellowship

(307) 234-8964

www.fcccasper.org

fcccasper@gmail.com

Preschool hours (Sept-May)

Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM - noon

Preschool Phone - 472-0649

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 9:15 A.M.

**Sunday, DECEMBER 3, 2017
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Bring a snack to share

**Approving budget, and 2018
Board, Elders & Diaconate.**



THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

As I write this article, Charles and I are packing up to leave town for the Thanksgiving holiday. We'll drive to the southwest corner of Colorado to meet my Dad, my sister and her family (including our new great nephew). We'll stay at Debbie and Paul's cabin relaxing, cooking turkey, working jigsaw puzzles, laughing, and taking long walks in the piñon covered hills near Navajo Lake. The real joy of the trip will just be BEING together.

I've been excited about this get-away. You see, often the first Sunday of Advent falls immediately after Thanksgiving, and it just never feels like that's an ideal time to be away from the work of ministry - but this year, we have an "extra" Sunday before Advent begins. I'm not sure why it sometimes seems like "work" to get ready for a trip - washing laundry, packing, planning and taking care of all the last minute things I'd intended to do sooner. For some reason, this has got me thinking about the kind of work that might have been going on in heaven before Jesus came to earth... there wasn't a suitcase to pack, but the star that guided the magi needed to be polished extra bright, the heavenly host tuned up like they never had before, and the spirits of the saints that whisper to the prophets were putting in overtime for sure... The excitement of Jesus' coming birth could barely be contained! How does that compare with the work that we earthly beings do at Christmas? ...shopping and wrapping gifts, planning special meals and parties, sending cards with just the right message, baking cookies, hosting, visiting, hoping... and as church folk, whether you're on staff, an elder or sing in the choir - there are special services to plan and, yes, extra work to do... Sometimes, does it just seem like Christmas is a lot of work?

I invite you to TAKE A BREATH. As this holy time of year begins, give yourself the grace to know - it won't all be perfect (no matter how hard you try) - and that's okay. Choose the activities that bring you joy and bring you closer to God. Honor those family traditions that are most precious, but also allow yourself to let go of a few things and do a little less.

You see - from a theological perspective - the "work" of Christmas is much more internal than external. Giving yourself a little extra time each morning to read a daily devotional, taking a leisurely walk in your neighborhood and really noticing the world around you, pausing to listen... The work of Christmas is unfolding already as each of us makes a manger bed in our hearts with enough room to welcome the Christ child. The work of Christmas begins in Advent, but it continues throughout our lives, when we feed the hungry, welcome a stranger and comfort the hurting. Advent, in a sense, is the preparation season for all the rest of the Christian life - helping us learn each year to walk so closely with God that the straw of a Bethlehem stable clings to our shoes all the way to Calvary.

- Pastor Cynthia

Howard Thurman wrote:

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Poet, theologian, educator and civil rights leader, Howard Thurman was Dean of Chapel at Howard University and Boston University for more than two decades, and was a mentor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

PROPERTY UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH BOARD.

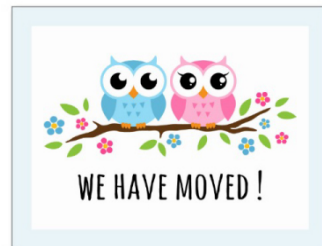
Thank you to the Property Commission for their work this year to increase the energy efficiency of our building by updating lighting, and adding a new door, windows & roof. These efforts, funded by generous members and the congregation's recent capital campaign, are already bearing fruit as the savings on utilities will offset anticipated rate hikes from the power company. Thank you also to the volunteer lawn mowers. Cal Decker has a few additional projects in mind for 2018 as we continue to spruce up the church property in preparation for hosting the Central Rocky Mountain Regional Assembly, known as "Fall Feast" Sept. 21 - 23, 2018. Cal will continue to be "on call" for maintenance issues at the church as Dewey Smith steps up to be the Chairman of the Property Commission next year.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

September 21-23, 2018 for the FALL FEAST at First Christian Church.

There will be MANY opportunities to help during the Regional Assembly next September. Good news from the Regional planning team -- a discounted registration fee will be available to FCC Casper members! One area that we know will need help is on the sound board as it'll take more than our usual volunteers to help with setting up mics, running volume for speakers & musicians, preparing slides and running the computer that projects on the sanctuary screens. If you are interested in being trained to learn how the sound & projection system works, if you'd be willing to help our a.v. ministry team on Sunday mornings and during next year's Regional Assembly, please talk to Rick Black on Sunday mornings or contact him @ rblack117@mac.com or 259-1963.

YOUTH REMINDER!! - We will decorate the downstairs hallway and upstairs hallway on Wednesday, November 29th @ 6:00 p.m.



Bob & Laura Glasspoole
5709 Sycamore Rd
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 797-2193 (Laura Cell)
(307) - 797-2194 (Bob cell)

FREE POOL TABLE!!



Are you interested in a pool table??? The one in the CYF room is free to a good home and all you have to do is come haul it away. It is very heavy and needs some restoration work. The youth will replace it with tables. If you are interested, contact Jennifer Grooms @ 259-4460.

The **Wyoming Association of Churches** has officially changed its name to the Wyoming Interfaith Network. Rabbi Larry Moldo is the chair of the board of directors of the Wyoming Interfaith Network. Chesie Lee will continue to serve as executive director through March 15, 2018 to allow time for the selection of her replacement. "Mental Health" and "Children" will be the top priorities of concern for WIN during the 2018 Wyoming Legislative Budget Session.



May your **HOME** be warm, your **HOLIDAYS** grand, & May your **HEART** be held gently in the Lord's Hands

DECEMBER DIACONATE

Jennifer and Nathan Hawley, Sara and
Lynda Williams, Trudy Woodard, Wanda
Gochenour

Communion Prep

Chapel - Janie Nelson

10:10 Service - Jennifer & Nathan
Hawley

GREETER

Pat Buck

*To volunteer as a Sunday
greeter, call Pat Buck at
234-1829.*

Offertory Steward
Anne Klocksien

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Lyle Cox	Dec. 6	Rob Knaus	Dec. 14
Ted Purvis	Dec. 6	Dottie Gray	Dec. 17
Mike Ward	Dec. 6	Terri Taylor	Dec. 21
Sharon Lansing	Dec. 7	Virginia Braley	Dec. 22
Mena Pagett	Dec. 7	Jolene Knaus	Dec. 23
Crystal Rodgers	Dec. 8	Rita Petersen	Dec. 25
Roger Cook	Dec. 9	Dwayne Axworthy	Dec. 30
Mark Hallock	Dec. 9	Lorna Cook	Dec. 31
Charles McBride	Dec. 12	Sebastian Koehmstedt	Dec. 31
Chook McBee	Dec. 13		

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Stan & Darlene McIrvine - Nov. 20, 1953

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce Postema & Carol Sage - Dec. 17, 1999

Roger & Lorna Cook - Dec. 22, 1953

Lyle & Jo Cox - Dec. 22, 1990

Ed & Mary Burgess - Dec. 24, 1974

Nick & Maggie Grooms - Dec. 27, 2003

Robert & Jacquie Cook - Dec. 31, 1951

**THANK YOU!**

Dear FCC Elders, Board & Church
Members. Thank you for the card for
Pastor's Appreciation in October. I
will enjoy taking my hubby out to
dinner to celebrate your recognition
of my work during "Minister's Appreciation Month." After
8-1/2 years, it is still by holy privilege to serve as your
pastor. With God's love & mine, *Pastor Cynthia*

To the Congregation at FCC-Thank you so much
for choosing the Olivia Caldwell Foundation as your charity
partner for your 2017 Pumpkin Patch! We are so grateful
and your \$1,000 donation will go a long way towards
helping us find a cure for pediatric cancer. It was an honor
to work with you all and to be invited to speak to you all
during your church service on Nov. 12th.

Thanks again and God Bless, *Katie Caldwell*

PIANIST NEEDED!!!

**We are still searching for a pianist for FCC.
Please spread the word!!!!**

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR
HOLIDAYS**

NO CHI RHO classes (grades 5-8) until January. Date TBD

Nov. 26 - Nursery only. Thanks to Kylie Stewart for covering.
Children will stay in sanctuary to enjoy the Hanging of the
Greens.

Dec. 3 - Nursery, Worship & Wonder and Young Disciples will
meet. Night in Bethlehem that afternoon. Nursery care is
available.

Dec. 10 - Nursery, Worship & Wonder, and Young Disciples
will meet. Advent gifts for children age 3 to grade 8 will be
distributed.

Dec. 17 - Nursery only. Children stay in sanctuary to enjoy
the Christmas Cantata.

Dec. 24 - Nursery only.

Dec. 31 - Nursery only

Jan. 7 - Nursery available. Worship & Wonder will join with
Young Disciples for Veggie Tales.

Jan. 14 - Nursery, Worship & Wonder and Young Disciples will
meet as usual.



ON THE TRAIL WITH TROOP 13

The Scouts have been busy this month with popcorn sales. Over the past two weekends, the young scouts have been doing 5 mile hikes along the river to complete some of their badge requirements. Popcorn is still available for sale. It makes great Christmas presents, so if you want some see a scout. You can purchase and take it with you. The Pumpkin Patch kept us busy and we again thank the church for the opportunity to help. The Scouts and leaders want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!.

NEWS FROM THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH COMMISSION

Thank you to all who helped with the Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 19th. The fall decor was beautiful, the food was delicious and the attendance was great. Please put the following dates on your calendar for December:



Nov. 26th - Hanging of the Greens Service

Dec. 3 - First Sunday of Advent, annual congregational meeting & tasting party in the morning and Night in Bethlehem starting at 3:00.

Dec. 10 - Handbell choir playing at 10:10 service

Dec. 17 - Christmas Cantata - 10:10 service - NO CHAPEL

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Sunday - 10:10 morning service - NO CHAPEL ---

--- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with candlelight and communion

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Sunday - two services at 8:15 and 10:10 - Volunteers are asked to help take down the Christmas Decorations after worship.

If you have any questions, contact Melanie Dowler, Chair. We are looking for new commission members and leadership for next year. Is God calling YOU to help with worship and membership events?

NEW BIBLE STUDY OFFERED Starting January 7, 2018



It seems that **women of all ages** are always busy in this day and age--raising families, caring for parents, pursuing careers, keeping up with school activities and volunteering. It's hard to find time to study God's Word. If you find this to be true, join Lani McBee during the Sunday School hour beginning **January 7, 2018** for a 10 week DVD based Bible Study "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" by Joanna Weaver that will focus on deepening your relationship with God and with each other. In the meantime, if you have any questions, you may call Lani @ 258-3503 or lanimcbee@gmail.com. Childcare will be available.

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

On December 3rd from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. join us for an interactive night of fun and fellowship! During "A Night in Bethlehem," kids and their families will explore the city at the time of Jesus' birth. Through hands-on experiences they'll find out about the most important baby ever—and learn that Jesus came to save us. For you! This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall.





NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL ZOO!!

This year marks my 21st Thanksgiving Program and Feast and it was wonderful. The children did such a great job giving thanks and sharing with their families. Each year when we gather together we are reminded of how much we are thankful for. I am thankful for the church that provides us with our preschool home and for my staff that is always willing to help me whenever I ask. This school year is going so quickly. Soon (next week) we will be getting ready for Christmas, making gifts for our parents and having our parties with our kids. The Staff and children want to wish the congregation at FCC a very Merry Christmas--*Teacher Annette, Teacher Chanel, Teacher Stacy, Teacher Christina, Teacher Cheryl*

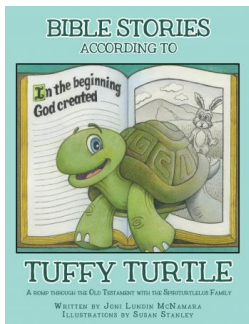


UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Youth met on Wednesday, Nov. 15th and packed 14 shoeboxes. Thank you to those that provided items for the shoeboxes. The youth will be meeting on Thursday, Nov. 30th @ 6:30 p.m. for the God & Life Class and on December 12th or 13th for the Bowling Christmas Party. Details will be posted on the FCC Youth FB page or if you need more information, contact Carmen Goodman or Laura Chipperfield.

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME!

It's time to apply for the spring semester scholarships. Deadline is Monday, January 8, 2018 by noon in the church office. Applications are on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact Judy Baker.



Tuffy Turtle and his family of Spiriturtleluses have been given the gift of faith from the time of Creation which they are to share with all animals throughout time. There is only one so-called problem by the name of J.R. Rabbit who just cannot get the idea of faith in a God he cannot see or touch. His family of skeptics, the Skeptirabbituses, follows all the Tuffy Turtles throughout the history of the Old Testament, and create and share some interesting and insightful discussions on the meaning of faith and trust in God.

This book was written by Joan McNamara, who with her husband Rev. Bob McNamara, has been visiting First Christian Church for awhile. Joan and her puppet friends have participated during our Children's time of worship. For more information on her book, give her a jingle @ 307-203-8054.

ATTENTION HAND BELL CHOIR

Practice for the holiday season of the Hand Bell Choir will be held Tuesday, Nov. 21st, Nov. 28th & Dec, 5th @ 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The bells will play on Sunday, December 10th @ 10:10. If you have any questions or cannot make a practice, please contact Amber French.



ATTENTION ALL ELDERS



The annual Elder's Christmas dinner will be on Thursday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The meal will be catered by Bernard and cost is \$18. Please come and help recognize our new elder class and enjoy an evening of fun, friends and great food. Please call the church to RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 13th. Any questions, contact Dennis Baker.

December 2017

FCC CASPER CALL

DECEMBER, 2017

November 2017							December 2017							January 2018						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
26	27	28	29	30					24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
									31											

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Rev. McBride vacation Hanging of Greens 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	27 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	28 6:30 PM Handbell practice 7:00 PM AA	29 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP 7:00 PM CHOR PRACTICE	30 10:00 AM CWF Board meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	1 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry	2 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry
3 8:15 AM Chapel 9:15 AM ANNUAL CHURCH MTG 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship 5:00 PM Hallock Shep. - Cox	4 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Commissions 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 8:00 PM Board Meeting	5 6:30 PM Handbell practice 7:00 PM AA 11:30 PM BETA SIGMA PI	6 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters ... BETA SIGMA PI 12:00 PM STAFF MEETING 7:00 PM CHOR PRACTICE	7 10:00 AM CWF Board meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	8 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM State Quilters 11:00 AM Beta Sigma Phi party 5:00 PM Choir Potluck	9 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM State Quilters 11:00 AM Beta Sigma Phi party 5:00 PM Choir Potluck
10 8:15 AM Chapel 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	11 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	12 7:00 PM AA	13 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM CWF #2 6:00 PM YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY 7:00 PM CHOR PRACTICE	14 10:00 AM CWF #1 11:30 AM CWF #3 - SILVER FOX 11:30 AM Circle of Caring - LILAC & LAVENDAR 6:30 PM God & Life	15 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:00 AM CHOR REHEARSAL & PIZZA	16 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:00 AM CHOR REHEARSAL & PIZZA
17 MUSIC SUNDAY NO CHAPEL 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	18 PRESCHOOL BREAK 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	19 11:30 AM BETA SIGMA PI 7:00 PM AA	20 NCSD CHRISTMAS BREAK 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters	21 6:00 PM Elder's Christmas Party 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg	22 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry	23 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry
24 CHRISTMAS EVE NO CHAPEL 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship 7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE	25 PRESCHOOL BREAK NCSD CHRISTMAS BREAK Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 7:00 PM AA	27 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Choir Practice	28 REV. MCBRIDE VACATION 6:30 PM God & Life	29 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry	30 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	1 PRESCHOOL BREAK New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 2:00 PM Circle of Caring 6:30 PM Elders	2 11:30 AM BETA SIGMA PI 7:00 PM AA	3 6:30 AM T.O.P.S. #35 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM CHOR PRACTICE	4 10:00 AM CWF Board meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	5 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry	6 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry

First Christian Church
520 CY Ave
Casper WY, 82601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

CASPER WY
PERMIT NO. 129



The Sun Sets on the 2017 Pumpkin Patch.....

What a blessing it was for our church to have the Preschool teachers take over management of the Pumpkin Patch this year. After being the “pumpkin patch church” for over a dozen years, this was a new level of partnership that brought mutual blessings! We paid a “patch management fee” to the Preschool staff to compensate for their many hours, and this takes off the burden of their annual fundraiser. Thanks especially to Teacher Chanel McCash who was the lead patch manager and to Preschool Director Annette Crain for the financial reporting. They learned a lot, worked hard and had fun. Chanel and Annette learned the Patch takes a LOT of work behind the scenes — and it is not possible for one group to do it alone.

THANK YOU to ALL of the Patch workers! From unloading the truck to selling pumpkins, hosting story times, to putting away the last pallet, we had lots of help from church, Scout/Cub and Preschool families plus students and friends beyond the church. Thanks to everyone’s hard work and the generosity of Casperites, we again

passed the \$20,000 sales mark -- which means we got to keep 35% as profit. This year we reported a total of \$21,205.90 in pumpkin sales to the Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser company. (If you want to learn more about where our pumpkins come from, visit www.pumpkinsusa.com). All of the sales shifts and set up times were counted, then divided up between each group that worked to share a percent of the profits based on hours given as follows: preschool 41%, church 36%, Boy Scouts 14% and Cubs 9%. Individual donations to each group were tracked and added in.

FINAL FIGURES: CWF earned \$311 in bake sales which they will donate to Hospice. The youth will receive \$266.75 from the craft fair, hot dog lunch and pie sale. The Boy Scouts netted \$732.22 and the Cubs earned \$494.44. The Preschool’s share of the sales was \$2,055.56. And the church is honored to announce that **\$1,000** has been given to the Olivia Caldwell Foundation to help with pediatric cancer research.