FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

# THE CALL

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

#### **JANUARY DATES!!**

JAN 27 - Nathan Hawley Eagle Court of Honor @ 2:00 p.m. in sanctuary. Reception to follow.

JAN. 28 - Spaghetti Dinner and Ministry Fair after 10:10 service. Eat Spaghetti and stay for the Fair.

#### **FEBRUARY DATES!!**

FEB. 1 - CWF Board meeting and Lunch Bunch Potluck

FEB. 3 - Sound System training 2-4p.m.

FEB. 5 - Elders @ 6:30 p.m.

FEB. 8 - CWF #1 10 a.m. at FCC - CWF #3 meet 11:30 a.m. at Silver Fox

FEB. 11 - Financial Peace class begins 3:00 p.m. Board Room

FEB. 12 - Commissions and Board meeting

FEB. 14 - ASH WEDNESDAY - CWF #2 @ noon -6:00 Ash Wednesday service with soup dinner following at

6:30 p.m.

FEB.19 - PRESIDENTS DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

FEB. 20 - CALL deadline

FEB. 21 - LENTEN SERVICE 6:00 p.m.- SOUP 6:30 p.m.

FEB. 22 - CALL folders

FEB. 28 - LENTEN SERVICE

# Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University"

FCC will offer a 9-week Financial Peace class on Sunday afternoons, starting 2/11 at 3:00 PM. Register online at <u>daveramsey.com</u>. \$129 fee includes class materials, video resources and one year subscription to EveryDollar Plus, a premium budgeting tool. See Rev. McBride for more details.

# **Church Staff:**

**FEB** 

2018

Rev. Cynthia McBride, Lead Pastor Leigh Earle, Bookkeeper Kathy Winders, Secretary Annette Crain, Preschool Director Amber French, Music Director Cheryl Dionne, Nursery Staff Accompanist: POSITION OPEN 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

### PIANIST/ACCOMPANIST STILL NEEDED!

If anyone knows someone who might be interested in playing for church and choir, please contact Amber French ASAP. If there is anyone in the congregation that plays the piano and would be interested in playing once in a while for worship or if you play an instrument and would like to offer a gift of music during the prelude, communion or offertory times speak with Amber.



# THE GIFT OF BAPTISM

While the day of Epiphany falls on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas, the *season* of Epiphany lasts longer. It is sort of a "bridge" season on the church calendar - spanning the gap between Christmas and the beginning of Lent. (This means, depending on the year, Epiphany can vary in length depending on when Lent begins.) An "epiphany" is that ah-ha

moment when the light suddenly turns on and you get it. Theologically speaking, epiphany teaches us about the revealing of Christ as God's Son. From the star's light shining down on a manger to the sparkle of sunlight reflecting off of a dove's wings as Jesus rises from the baptismal waters of the Jordan River, the stories we hear from scripture this time of year help us glimpse God's holy light in the life of Jesus. Do we get it? Do we KNOW Jesus Christ IS God's Son? Do we live our lives, intentionally reflecting the holy light revealed in Jesus?

One of the traditional Biblical texts for the season of Epiphany tells the story of Jesus' baptism. Since Lent is often the time when churches offer a "pastor's class" or other opportunity for young people and adults to study scripture in preparation for baptism, it is common for churches to call people to remember their own baptism - either during Epiphany or in the days leading up to Easter. What about you? Were you sprinkled or immersed? What do you remember about the day you were baptized? (Or, what stories do you recall your family sharing about your baptism if that happened when you were too young to recall it for yourself?) Growing up in a Disciples of Christ congregation, I experienced baptism by immersion. For several weeks, I met with the pastor at church after school and answered questions in a book. I remember being VERY excited about getting baptized! My older brother and sister had each been baptized a few years before, and now it was my turn. The baptism took place early in the service so that, afterwards, I could partake of communion for the first time.

Since that special day, many years ago, I've also had the privilege as a pastor of baptizing others. The first baptism I ever officiated was in the Licking River in Kentucky. (A local pastor gave me the helpful advice, "make sure you point their head upstream, so the water won't go up their nose.") I waded into the shallows with the young woman who was being baptized that day. I talked about the gifts of baptism - being cleansed from sin, having new life, becoming one with Christ, opening yourself to the Holy Spirit. Bridgett came up with her blonde hair dripping wet. I helped her back to shore where her mother waited to wrap her in a towel. We all sang Amazing Grace and had another prayer before heading off for some home-made snacks to celebrate the day.

For some people, their baptism brings a moment of epiphany - an ah-ha insight about the profound gifts of faith and the depth of holiness offered to us humble humans. For others, it is an ah-ha moment that leads them to seek out baptism. I will again be offering a pastor's class during Lent this year. If you have never taken the step of commitment to be baptized, or if there is a young person in your family who may be ready to give their life to Jesus, please speak with me about this year's plans for baptism on Easter Sunday. Mark's gospel BEGINS with Jesus' baptism. What new beginning will you make this year to continue following Christ as your Lord and Savior?

**Did you know?** Seashells as a symbol of baptism date back to first century paintings on the walls of catacombs where early Christians worshiped. The artistic depiction of Christians baptized with water poured from a seashell has been carried forward through the centuries, so that now we find seashells on church banners, in stained glass windows, and incorporated into the design of baptismal fonts. Sometimes the shell is pictured with three drops of water, representing Matthew 28:19.

# FCC CASPER CALL

#### FEBRUARY, 2018



**EXPLORING THE BIBLE.** You've Got Questions, The Bible has answers! Let's dig for them together! Announcing a new OCCASIONAL on-going Bible Study Discussion Group led by Kevin Anderson. Christ-Centered, Bible Based, Plain Language, Topic Oriented. This is intended to be an occasional "free form" discussion group for anybody and everybody wishing to explore the Bible's answers and potential answers to your faith based questions. The purpose is to strengthen each other's faith through Bible Study that addresses questions we have or with which we struggle.

The first three proposed topics will be: 1) the Trinity (in response to questions raised by members of one of the Community groups; 2) Why do we ask God to "Lead us not into temptation" in the "Lord's Prayer"? 3) "Saved? From What?" (based on an essay of the same title). Dates / times / locations for each session will be announced when preparations are completed.

**The proposed plan is**: 1) Submit your question(s). 2) Possible answers will be gathered from Christ-centered, Bible based resources. (3) A meeting will be announced for those wishing to discuss the results. Contact Kevin Anderson in person or by telephone 234-8401 and leave a voice message if you have questions. Check the bulletin board for a more detailed description of the proposal for this new "Exploring the Bible" group!



**WYOMING INTERFAITH NETWORK** (formerly WY Association of Churches) has selected Susie Markus from Cheyenne to serve as Director.

# Pastor's Class for Easter baptisms

A "Pastor's Class" will be offered during Lent. Open to adults and students in 4th-6th grade or older who are interested in growing in faith. You will meet weekly with the pastor, read scriptures related to baptism, ask

questions about faith and learn more about what it means to live as a Christian following Jesus every day. Interested participants (or their parents) should contact Pastor Cynthia ASAP to discuss the meeting schedule.



#### SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER and MINISTRY FAIR

On Sunday, January 28th Sara Williams will be serving a fundraiser spaghetti lunch to raise money for her trip to the International Affairs Seminar March 17-24th. She will be traveling with youth throughout the region to NYC and Washington D.C. Donations are encouraged for this luncheon to help with travel costs during this amazing educational experience. After the luncheon, there will be a "Ministry Fair" in fellowship hall. Every commission and group within the church is encouraged to use this time to recruit new volunteers, advertise events & programs that you'll have coming up this year and help people *hear God's Calling* through sharing in your ministry areas at FCC.

#### POLICE SUPPORT MINISTRY

FCC will be one of the several congregations in town sharing in a new "Police Support Ministry." You are encouraged to pray, on a regular basis, for officers who serve in the Casper Police Department and their families.

#### UPCOMING FUNERAL SERVICES

Grace Sallstrom - June 30th @ 2:00 p.m. at Academy Christian Church, 1635 Old Ranch Rd. in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Bernice Riley's funeral service will be held at First Christian Church, Casper in May. Date TBD.

#### HANDBELL PRACTICE

Handbell rehearsals will be on Tuesday, March 13, 20, & 27 @ 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The bells will play on Easter Sunday, April 1st. Ringers are asked to come a few minutes early for practice to help set up the bell tables and stay a few minutes after to take the tables down. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Amber French. New ringers see Amber.

# FEBRUARY DIACONATE

Cal Decker, Trudy Woodard, Carmen Goodman, Laura Chipperfield, Lyle & Jo Cox (Intinction on 2/4,11 - served by trays 2/18, 25)

Feb. Communion Prep Chapel - Robin Nelson & Pat Seamands 10:10 Service - Deckers

> GREETER Trudy Woodard

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



Offertory Steward: Paul Hallock **Leader** Scripture Readers: Pam Rouse, Belle Stapleton, Charles McBride, Peg Jackson

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Dear FCC Members ~ The families of Henry (Hank) Tanner, and I, his grandmother, thank you for the prayers lifted up during his long surgeries and his healing process. We know they gave us

Faith & Peace & guided the surgeons hands through the long hours. Hank is progressing well, returning to his activities. *In Christian Faith, Gratitude & with Love, Darlene Bishop & Families* 

Thank you for all the goodies I received this year during the holidays from various groups and people in the church. Everyone in the family enjoyed them and everything was delicious. Blessings for a very Happy 2018 *Kathy Winders* 

Dear Church family, The cookies and visits from Tom and Melanie were very much appreciated. Also happy to receive the bulletins. I miss services and seeing all of you, but with the wind and icy surface underfoot, I have stayed inside. Thank you for thinking of me. ~*Betty Blain* 

**BOY SCOUT POPCORN** still available. **FIRE SALE** 30% off regular price. See Mike Ward if interested.

# **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Judy Potter	Feb. 5	Melanie Dowler	Feb. 17
Connor Goodman	Feb. 6	Dona Ryan	Feb. 19
Jo Cox	Feb. 7	Payton Brown	Feb. 20
Carson Johnson	Feb. 7	Ben Ambrosino	Feb. 21
Marie Robertson	Feb. 7	Mark Foster	Feb. 22
Jared Baker	Feb. 9	Steve Kingsolver	Feb. 24
Betty Blain	Feb. 12	Jackie Tighe	Feb. 25
Pat Buck	Feb. 12	Del Lloyd	Feb. 27
Michelle Elser	Feb. 16		

# FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Kathy Winders: February 22, 1969

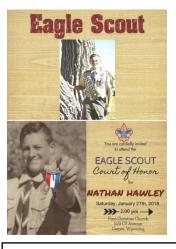


**OPERATION SHOEBOX** was successful this year. FCC's 14 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes went to Mexico. Thanks again for all the contributions made to this project. ~~The Youth of FCC



#### CONGRATULATIONS

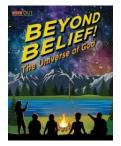
to Larry Winders for perfect attendance in worship for 2017. Larry was presented a certificate from Rev. McBride on Sunday, Dec. 31st, marking his 53rd Sunday present in 2017.



#### TROOP 13 NEWEST EAGLE SCOUT

Scott and Jennifer Hawley invite you to the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Nathan Hawley on Saturday, January 27th @ 2:00 p.m. in the FCC Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Nathan is the 66th Eagle Scout in Troop 13. Congratulations on this awesome achievement!!!!!

<u>CONGRATULATIONS</u> to Ashley Budack & Taylor Zabel. They were married in Bozeman, MT on January 6th. Ashley is the daughter of Kevin & Deanna Budack.



# SAVE THE DATES FOR SUMMER CAMPS 2018

DISCOVERY CAMP (completed grades 1-3) Cost: \$110.00 June 21-23, 2018, LaForet. JUNIOR CAMP (completed grades 3-5) Cost \$330.00 June 10-16, 2018, LaForet. CHI-RHO CAMP (completed grades 6-8) Cost \$330.00 - June 17-23, 2018, LaForet. CYF CAMP (completed grades 9-12) Cost \$330.00 - June 10-16, 2018, LaForet. The LaForet Conference & Potroat Conter is located in the Plack Forest pact of Colorade Springs, CO = ECC page 1/2 of the

Retreat Center is located in the Black Forest east of Colorado Springs, CO. FCC pays 1/2 of the registration cost for our youth to attend summer camps and retreats.

#### SCHEDULE YOUR PHYSICALS NOW!!

Register for summer youth camps <u>online</u> at <u>www.crmrdoc.org</u>, then turn in your completed signature & health pages to our church office. Both online and printed portions of registration are due to CRMR no later than APRIL 20, 2018. In order to get a check in the mail, we need your camp forms <u>in the church office **by April 9**</u>. For further information or questions, contact Carmen Goodman. Adults interested in serving on camp staff should contact Rev. Shelly Garrison at the regional office.



#### PRESCHOOL NEWS

What a **GREAT** start to a New Year! We had a few students that didn't return after the break so now we have two openings in Pre-K and one in the young 3's. We have started our enrollment for next fall. Enrollment is currently open to church members and preschool families. We will open our enrollment to the public on February 16th. I have been busy giving tours. If you know of anyone interested in preschool have

them give us a call 472-0649. I'm anticipating we will fill up fast. February 3rd we will be participating in an Early Learning Fair. This year it will be at the YMCA from 9:00-12:00. There will be over 30 booths providing fun activities and information on the importance of preschool. Preschool is a fun place to be and thanks so much for allowing us to serve so many children.



2018 FALL FEAST - "PUTTING FEET TO OUR FAITH" SEPT. 21-23,2018 - First Christian Church - Casper

Everyone is getting excited for the 2018 Fall Feast to be held in Casper. The Keynote Speakers are Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens (our General Minister and President) and our CRMR Regional Minister, Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes. Please mark your calendar with these dates and plan to attend. There will be

a registration cost discount for local volunteers. CWF is assisting with meal service. Saturday evening banquet will be catered by Silver Fox. Worship in the sanctuary. Workshops throughout the building.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

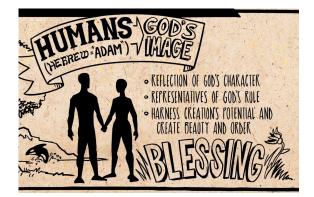
**2018 SPRING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS** Keith Rouse, Abel Stewart and Melissa Heck who received \$500 scholarships. These scholarships were distributed from the Klinker, Murphy and Henry Funds. We are very blessed with the gifts that have been provided in the past to allow the scholarship program to continue. Thank you! If any members of FCC have an interest in contributing to future scholarships or other special projects, please contact any member of WTMS (the Wills Trusts Memorials & Scholarships team).

### SOUND SYSTEM TECH TRAINING!!

Rick Black will be having a training on the sound system on Saturday, February 3rd from 2:00 -4:00 p.m. If you have an interest in learning the workings of the sound system and helping during worship or for special occasions, come to the training. If you have any questions, contact Rick at 259-1963. This training is open to all ages and genders.

# FCC CASPER CALL

#### FEBRUARY, 2018



If you have trouble accessing **RightNow**, check with the church office to see that your email is correctly submitted with the FCC account.

**RIGHT NOW MEDIA** - Did you know that, thanks to our Christian Education commission, you have FREE access anytime to HUNDREDS of Bible videos? Check it out at <u>www.rightnowmedia.org</u>. You can download the "app" to your phone or tablet or visit the website from your computer or laptop. There are devotions, humorous faith-related videos, Bible studies, studies on marriage/work/life, children's videos and MORE. If you've set a 2018 goal to read more of the Bible this year, our pastor recommends the "How to Read" series. Under the search button at right now enter "how to read" - One of the options gives you a brief animated introduction to every book in the Bible. If you want to read the entire Bible this year, you can watch each video before you start each book or if you're interested in just reading a specific book or two of the Bible, check out the overview for that book. These videos are about 8 minutes each and give a solid, though very brief, overview of the main themes you'll find in each book of the Bible.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** on Sunday, February 4th. FCC will be collecting soup and non-perishable food items for the SOUPER Bowl of Caring. Food items can be brought starting January 28th.

**The Casper CROP Hunger Walk** will be on Saturday, April 28th with registration to start at 1:00 p.m. and the walk at 1:30 p.m. Contact Keith Rouse or Debbie Mestas if you are interested in becoming involved. More details as we get closer to the date.

**The Blanket Ministry** meets on 3rd Saturdays from 10a.m - 3p.m. Sandwich Ministry meets every Saturday at 8:15 a.m. Anyone who wants to help with any of these projects is welcome.



# WORSHIP & WONDER Volunteers Needed

Worship & Wonder for children ages 3 through 4th grade is held during the regular worship service. Children stay in the sanctuary until after the hymn of praise and then go with adult leaders for their church time. Worship & Wonder volunteers are needed to help with this program. If you are interested in volunteering or want further information on the program, contact Erika Stupak @ 277-8620. Training is available.

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION --- SAVE THE DATES**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 31 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt -** We are looking for volunteers to assist with this event. If you are interested in helping, contact Jennifer Grooms.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29 - Youth/Parent Luncheon** - Christian Ed will sponsor a lunch for middle school and high school age youth and their parents following worship. During the lunch we will discuss what direction our youth and parents wish to take programming in the coming year. Other people who have a desire to facilitate youth programming are welcome to attend.

**SUNDAY, MAY 13 - Graduation Sunday -** Graduates will be honored during the worship service as well as presenting Bibles to our children completing second grade.

#### **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING**

#### Nursery - Infants through Age 3

**Worship & Wonder** - A mini worship service with Bible stories, play and snacks for ages 3-Kindergarten & **Young Disciples** - Grade 1-4 -includes crafts, games & snacks. Both classes begin after the Children's sermon in worship.

Chi Rho Class - Grades 5-8. Dismissed for class following choir presentation. - Interactive lessons about Bible, faith & life.



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FCC CASPER CALL

Saturday	<ul> <li>7:30 AM Men's Bible Study</li> <li>8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry</li> <li>2:00 PM Sound System</li> <li>Training</li> </ul>	9 = 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study = 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry = 10:00 AM State Quilters	16 = 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study = 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry = 10:00 AM Blanket Ministry	24 = 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study = 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry	2 3 3 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:00 AM Kheta court set up 7:00 PM Kheta Court Style 12:00 PM Kheta Court Style Show/Lunch
Friday	Groundhog Day	<ul> <li>9:00 AM Sandwich/Woods</li> <li>school</li> </ul>		53	
Thursday	1 ing 11:30 AM CWF Board meet- ing 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	8 = 10:00 AM CWF #1 = 11:30 AM CWF #3	15 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg	22 = 9:15 AM CALL folders = 6:00 PM BSA Council dinner - F.H.	1 10:00 AM CWF Board meet- ing 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck
Wednesday	31 = 9:00 AM Quilters = 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	7 = 9:00 AM Quilters = 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	14 Valentine's Day ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 PM CWF #2 6:00 PM LENTEN Service/ Soup 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	21 = 9:00 AM Quilters = 6:00 PM LENTEN Service/ Soup 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	28 9:00 AM Quilters 6:00 PM LENTEN Service/ Soup 7:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE
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Monday	29 = 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	5 = 2:00 PM Circle of Caring = 6:00 PM Cub Scouts = 6:30 PM Elders = 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	12 = 6:00 PM Cub Scouts = 6:30 PM Spiritual Growth = 7:00 PM Boy Scouts = 7:00 PM Board Meeting = 8:00 PM Board Meeting	19 OFFICE CLOSED Presidents' Day 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	26 Leigh out of office 5:30 PM Cub Scout Blue/ Gold Banquet Shrine Club
Sunday	28 = 8:15 AM Chapel = 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL = 10:10 AM Vorship = 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	4 Souper Bowd 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	11 = 8:15 AM Chapel = 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL = 10:10 AM Worship = 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	18 = 8:15 AM Chapel = 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL = 10:10 AM Worship = 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	25 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

## FEBRUARY, 2018

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First Christian Church 520 CY Ave Casper WY, 82601 **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**  NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** 

CASPER WY PERMIT NO. 129



# LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 14TH

The annual Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Inner Room. Come experience this meaningful worship, including the imposition of ashes and communion as the season of Lent begins. The elders will be leading the weekly Wednesday evening Vespers through March 21st. The theme for the Lenten Vespers this year is the "The Parables of Jesus." Weekly vespers worship

at 6:00 p.m. in the Inner Room, will be followed by the Soup Supper at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If anyone is interested in providing soup or helping with the weekly suppers, there is a sign up sheet

on the Elder/Diaconate bulletin board or you can contact Dennis Baker, Chairman of the Elders. We would like to have three people (2 for soup and 1 to help with the "extra" items signed up each week).

The Maundy Thursday Service is scheduled for March 29th @ 7:00 PM and there will be NO soup supper that evening. On this most holy of nights, we remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his Disciples, even as we have communion together. **EASTER SUNDAY IS APRIL 1ST** 

**PRAYER VIGIL** - The annual 12 hour Easter prayer vigil will be held on Saturday, March 31st from 6:00 a.m - 6:00 p.m. The Signup sheet will be posted on February 18th. Volunteers can sign up for either a 30 minute or 1 hour time slot. More than one person can pray at a time and we would like to have ALL time slots covered. The 12-hour prayer vigil will be in the sanctuary. Lenten devotional booklets will be available in February.