



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

# THE CALL **NOV./DEC. 2018**



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*

## DECEMBER DATES

- Dec. 1 - Decorate the church @ 9:30 a.m.
- Dec. 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent
  - Hanging of the Greens during worship
- Dec. 3 - Circle of Caring @ 2:00 p.m.
  - Elders @ 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 4 - Handbell Practice @ 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 5 - CWF Board @ 10:00 a.m.
  - Lunch Bunch potluck @ 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 9 - Commissions & Board meeting
- Dec. 11 - Handbell Practice @ 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 - CWF #3 @ 11:30 a.m. @ Silver Fox
  - CWF #2 @ noon
- Dec. 13 - CWF #1 @ 10:00
- Dec. 16 - CHAPEL @ 8:15 - Congregational meeting @ 9:00 - Bring a treat to share -
  - 10:10 Music Sunday service
  - 4:00 p.m. Christmas Recital
- Dec. 17 - CALL deadline
- Dec. 19 - CALL folders
- Dec. 24 - Office open 8:30 a.m. to Noon -
  - ONE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP @ 7:00 P.M.
  - Office Closed Dec. 25 & 26 -

## 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. Adult Class

10:10 Worship & Children's Classes

11:30 Coffee Fellowship

(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 - 472-0649



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

## 2018 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**will be held on Sunday, Dec. 16th @ 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship Hall. The purpose will be to approve the new officers, elders, diaconate & 2019 budget. Bring a treat to share. There WILL BE chapel at 8:15.**

Pastor's  
**Christmas**  
Message



## GIVING THANKS for YOU!

I'm writing this column the night before I leave town for Thanksgiving. By the time The Call is printed, folded, mailed and delivered, some of you will have already finished your turkey feasts and perhaps be immersed in watching football, shopping for great sales or decorating your homes for Christmas. As I drive the 900 miles from Casper to my family home in

southern New Mexico, I'll have plenty of time to reflect on the many reasons I have to GIVE THANKS to the Lord. Top of the list is YOU - my church family.

What an amazing fall we've shared. FCC Casper did a superb job hosting the CRMR Fall Feast. Working together to support the Scout Troop during their first year of coordinating, we again had a successful Pumpkin Patch, welcoming families to our property, sharing story times, and raising funds for the Scouts, Preschool & FCC's youth. Just yesterday, nearly 100 people came to the annual Thanksgiving dinner and many of you invited guests to attend worship. I am thankful to serve a healthy, spiritually vibrant congregation.

When I reached the 10-year mark of full-time ordained ministry (back in 2005), the congregation I was serving showed their appreciation by increasing my annual vacation leave to four weeks. Upon accepting the call to be your pastor in 2009, the same vacation allowance was included in my contract. Earlier this year, I took time to be with my Dad while he was in the hospital and then returned for his funeral. The personnel committee allowed me bereavement leave for that hard journey. As I head south again, this time to help my sister continue the process of cleaning out our childhood home and preparing to sell the house in Alamogordo, I have been deeply touched by the personal words of encouragement from many of you who've made similar journeys through the process of decluttering and letting go of precious memories. I am thankful to serve a congregation that understands the importance of time for family.

Earlier this fall, the congregation voted to further pursue the process of calling an Associate Minister, in part using endowment funds, to strengthen and expand our ministries. The next steps are three-fold: to conduct a thorough review & updating of our online presence, to complete the "congregational profile" required for our denomination's Search & Call process, and to write a detailed job description for the position. After those 3 steps are completed, the official search committee will be appointed. If you are interested in helping with one of these three areas of detailed prep work, please speak with Linda Mosteller or Dennis Baker for further details. I am thankful to be part of a church family willing to take new steps!

In my childhood home, it was our tradition to hunt for the Christmas tree on the day after Thanksgiving. We'd drive up into the Sacramento Mountains, hike over hills in the National Forest permit-in-hand, and finally select just the perfect piñon pine to chop down and take home. I guess I'm a little old fashioned. I really can't get used to seeing Christmas items in the stores the day after Halloween. Or maybe it's just that my heart needs time to change seasons... When I take time to GIVE THANKS to God first for all of my blessings, I'm humbly aware how blessed I am to receive the greatest gift of all - Jesus Christ. So, I will give God thanks for YOU this year - and then eagerly anticipate celebrating the birth of the Christ child together.

May you be blessed by time with your family, friends and loved ones this Thanksgiving. And may having a grateful heart help you be eager to rejoice during Advent as well.

- Peace, *Pastor Cynthia*

## MISSION COMMISSION UPDATE

During the blanket blitz on November 17th, there were 62 blankets made by 37 people of all ages. We had a great turnout and received several donations of fleece. On December 15th, we will be serging blankets at Blakeman's Sewing and Vacuum. If anyone would like to help with this project, contact Debbie Mestas. The Fleece Blanket Project will receive 2% of the sales that day.

The Sandwich Ministry will be making and serving sack lunches on Christmas Day. We will start at 8:45 a.m. at FCC and then take them to King's Corner. Anyone interested in helping should contact Keith Rouse or Debbie Mestas. Greta Hinderliter works with the homeless students and needs gift cards that she can give them for food, gas and other items. We have helped with this project for several years and are asking the congregation for donations of gift cards or money to purchase gift cards. We are also collecting socks, gloves, hats, and scarfs to be given to those in need. There will be a box in the Fellowship Hall for you to drop off these items. Thank you for all the support the Mission Commission receives. **Keith Rouse, Chairman**



## QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DONATIONS

**Did you know---** If you are 70 and 1/2 or older and are taking required

minimum distributions (RDMs) from a qualified retirement account (IRAs or 401(k)s etc.) you may transfer up to the amount of your RMD from your account directly to a qualified charity (FCC). That amount can be excluded from your taxable income. The maximum amount that can be donated is \$100,000 per year for single taxpayers and \$200,000 for taxpayers who are married and filing jointly. For a QCD to count towards your 2018 taxes, the funds must come out of your retirement account by December 31st. If you have any questions please contact your financial advisor or the Stewardship Commission.

## APPRECIATED ASSETS DONATION

Donating appreciated assets to a qualified charity (FCC) may be a strategic way to take advantage of tax benefits available under current law. Giving appreciated assets held more than a year --such as low cost-basis stock--to qualified charities allows taxpayers to deduct the value of the asset from ordinary income without paying capital gains taxes. The gift is deductible as an itemized deduction up to 30% of adjust gross income. If you have questions, please contact your financial advisor or the Stewardship Commission.

## CHRISTMAS RECITAL

There will be a "Christmas Recital" at 4:00 p.m. on December 16th. Any children or adults in the congregation who'd like to perform are encouraged to sign up on the

bulletin board. Singers, instrumentalists, & other performers are welcome to participate. Children of all ages are encouraged to perform. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you are going to participate and if you can bring cookies or help with a "cookie-cocoa" reception after the recital.



## HANDBELL REHEARSALS

**Handbell practice will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10th @ 6:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to arrive early to help set up the bell tables and stay a few minutes afterwards to help take the tables down. The bells will perform on Sunday, December 16th. Any questions, contact Amber French**



Dear Quilting Group- Thank you so much for nominating me for and creating my Quilt of Valor. It is beautiful and I will cherish it forever. You all are so appreciated and loved. Thank you, **Raylan Heck**

**DECEMBER DIACONATE**

Cal Decker, Erika & Dylan Stupak,  
Melanie Dowler

**COMMUNION PREP**

**Chapel:** TBD

**10:10 Service** - Deckers

**DECEMBER Greeters**

Lyle & Jo Cox

*To volunteer as a Sunday  
greeter call Pat Buck @  
234-1829*



**DECEMBER  
Offertory Steward**  
Ted Grooms

**BIRTHDAYS**

Lyle Cox	Dec. 6	Chook McBee	Dec. 13
Ted Purvis	Dec. 6	Rob Knaus	Dec. 14
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	Lorna Cook	Dec. 31
Mark Hallock	Dec. 9	Sebastian Koehmstedt	Dec. 31
Charles McBride	Dec. 12		

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Jim & Trisha Nichols - Dec. 13, 1974  
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  
Nicholas & Maggie Grooms - Dec. 27, 2003  
Robert & Jacquie Cook - Dec. 29, 1977

**NEW ADDRESSES****Dr. Bryant D. Badger**

Sierra Vista Health Care Center  
821 Duffield Ct.  
Loveland, CO 80537

**Virginia Braley**

c/o Kevin Braley  
7030 Chipperton Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75225-1705  
214-691-8253

[VLbraley@bresnan.net](mailto:VLbraley@bresnan.net)

**Kristen Atkinson**

3521 Vista Royale  
Casper, WY 82601

**SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE**

Scholarship Applications are available for the 2019 Spring term and are on the bulletin board across from the church office. Application deadline is noon on January 7th. If you have any questions contact Becky Foster, Chairman WTM&S



*Thank You*  
On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff and volunteers I would like to personally thank you for your recent donation. As colder weather comes to Wyoming we all become increasingly aware of the many homeless animals in our community. It is our privilege—with your help and support—to help as many of those animals as possible. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!! Thank you....**Craig Cummings, Dir. Casper Humane Society.**

Dear Rev. McBride and church family. Thank you for the comfort blanket. We use it everyday. Bob Meloy brought it to me while I was in the hospital. He's my nephew and Kathy Meloy is my sister. A big thank you to the ladies that made it also. Thanks again, Sincerely, **Caroline Morehouse**

First Christian Church Diaconate & Friends, Thank you so much for all the help for the Thanksgiving Feast. 98 people were served. You are all amazing and appreciated for making this day so special for our members and friends at First Christian Church. Happy Holidays to all!! **Tammy Heck, Diaconate Chairman**



## Pumpkin Patch report

The final sale of pumpkins at the 2018 Pumpkin Patch was \$22,901. This put us into the 35% profit bracket. Expenses for the Patch this year included port-a-potty rental, new wagon wheels, and credit card fees. We are thankful to Mike Ward and the Boy Scouts for coordinating the Patch this year. The break-down of shifts & extra hours worked between our partner groups was as follows: FCC members covered 44%, Preschool 23% (\$1,207) Boy Scouts 19% (\$1,016) and Cub Scouts 15% (\$783). This does not include the administrative/Patch management hours. The hours worked by various groups determines their share of the profits. CWF earned \$315.50 on baked goods.

As a community outreach gift, the Olivia Caldwell Foundation will again receive \$1,000. The decision was made to support this pediatric cancer research organization for a second year because, with taking a "patch management fee" out of the profit (last year for the Preschool and this year for the Scouts), the amount available to help a community charity was significantly less than in prior years. Next fall, we will start the process again of selecting community charities, with FCC members able to suggest an area agency to receive a financial gift from the Patch. It is important that the church share these gifts beyond our congregation - 1) as a sign of Christ-based compassion, 2) to encourage the general public to be generous in their donations, and 3) to meet "community outreach guidelines" that allow school groups to volunteer to help in the Patch (such as with unloading the pumpkin truck).

**THANK YOU to EVERYONE** who helped with the Patch - truck unloading, tent setup & decorating, pallet setup and hauling to storage, story-times, sales shifts, covering/uncovering in inclement weather, prayer support, buying a pumpkin, inviting friends to come, posting pictures on social media, behind the scenes administration, and in other ways!

One of the greatest blessings of the Patch is seeing the delight on a child's face when they get to pick out their very own pumpkin. It's a great way to attract people, who would never darken the door of any church, to at least come to FCC, learn where we are and be greeted with a friendly welcome.

## Mission Meal Serving

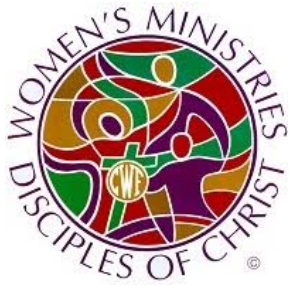
For more years than anyone seems to know, First Christian Church has taken a turn preparing and serving a meal once a month at the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission. **THANK YOU to EVERYONE** who has served in this way through the years! Thank you to those who've planned menus, shopped, cooked at home or at the church kitchen, baked cupcakes, carried food to the mission, given financial support or words of encouragement, and served and visited with the neighbors in our community who find themselves in need of shelter at CWRM. Through the years, our Christian Women's Fellowship has truly served too many meals to count. Moving forward, CWF will be giving financial support to the food budget at the Rescue Mission rather than continuing to cook and serve as they have for so long.

The generosity of many donors in Casper has made the construction of a much-needed, larger facility for the Rescue Mission possible. First Christian Church will continue to partner with CWRM by providing *servers* for the evening meal six times a year. Our Mission Commission will coordinate this effort. We are committed to helping serve on the **third Thursday** every other month in Nov., Jan., March, May, July, and September. Servers need to arrive at the Rescue Mission kitchen at 5:30 PM to receive instruction on your place in the line for that night's meal, which is served at 6 PM. Any age is welcome to volunteer. This may be something your family wants to do together, your Sunday School class or other small group. If you would also like to help prepare the meal, meal prep volunteers are asked to arrive at CWRM at 4:00 PM. To volunteer, please contact Debbie Mestas or Keith Rouse.

If you want to help at the Rescue Mission at another time or in another way, call them directly at 265-3002.

**"Forgotten, lost and, hopeless. This is how many of our guests feel before they arrive. The transformation begins when they walk through our doors. It starts with a heartfelt welcome, a safe place to sleep, and a warm meal." - CWRM**

---



## 2019 CWF (DWM) Officers

**Co-Presidents: Peg Jackson & Harriet Ames**  
**Secretary: Jo Cox    Treasurer: Melanie Dowler**

## CHANGES COMING FOR CWF

**(name changed to Disciple Women's Ministries, DWM)**

Even since before First Christian Casper was chartered in 1921, our women have gathered to share in fellowship and support one another in doing God's work. Our first "women's society" began in Casper in 1915. Nationally, the Christian Woman's Board of Missions had been working since 1874. In 1949 "CWF" was launched, and ever since, FCC Casper has had a strong participation in Christian Women's Fellowship. Through the decades there have been many changes. Different women have come and gone; we've shared in local ministries like Interfaith and serving meals at the Rescue Mission; and we've supported the work of our congregation through providing bereavement meals, helping fund building improvements, volunteering with the sandwich ministry, hosting Sunday morning coffees and all-church meals and more!

In 2006, the International Christian Women's Fellowship "ICWF" became International Disciples Women's Ministries "IDWM". Because of the familiarity of CWF, like our congregation, many Disciples churches continued to use the name CWF rather than DWM. The idea behind the name change was to indicate that ALL Disciples women are part of DWM, whether or not they belong to a CWF circle. Our women are discussing using the name DWM here in Casper as well - but there are some changes coming that are more significant than what we call ourselves.

Because of the age of our most involved women, and due to smaller numbers in our CWF/DWM circles, it has been decided that in 2019, there will not be a monthly CWF Executive Board meeting. Instead, we will have a "General" meeting for any and all women in the church who'd like to attend. These General Women's meetings will happen four times during the year - the first being **Thursday, January 3rd at 10:00 AM**. Please come! If you're a woman of FCC, if you enjoy being with other Christian believers, if you love Jesus, if you'd like to have a voice in women's work here or learn more or just have a fun morning of fellowship, we'd love to see you! Harriet Ames and Peg Jackson will co-chair these general meetings and the executive function of our women's ministries in 2019.

Our three women's circles continue to meet. **Circle #1 "Elizabeth-Ruth-Naomi"** meets second Thursdays at the church at 10 a.m. Contact Carol Sage. **Group #2 "Martha"** meets second Wednesdays at noon for a potluck salad lunch in Fellowship Hall. Contact Lani McBee or Virginia Yohn. **Group #3** meets monthly for a Dutch treat lunch at area restaurants. In December, they'll meet on 12/12 at 11:30 at Silver Fox. Contact Janie Nelson. **Godly Girlfriends** is a circle designed for working women. They meet evenings, usually when needed, on a Thursday at 5:30. Contact Randisue Davis or Melanie Dowler for information.

***Disciples Women's Ministries is a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call.***

Dear First Christian Church family~~ Thank you so much for supporting our daughter, Melissa, during her marriage to Sterling Ingram. Your presence in hers and our lives has been the foundation of our faith with our Lord. She has many memories from youth retreats, camp, and activities that mean the world to her and continue to guide her decisions daily. Again, thank you for your participation in her wedding ceremony and celebration. Sincerely, Raylan & Tammy Heck

# December 2018

FCC CASPER CALL

DECEMBER, 2018

November 2018							December 2018							January 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1	2	3					1						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	26 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	27 Rev. McBride day off 7:00 PM AA	28 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Choir Practice	29	30	1 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:30 AM DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
2 1st Sunday Advent 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM HANGING OF GREENS 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	3 Hanukkah 2:00 PM Circle of Caring 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM HANGING OF GREENS 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	4 Rev. McBride day off 1:00 PM Beta Sigma Phi 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM AA	5 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Choir Practice	6 10:00 AM CWF Board meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	7	8 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 10:00 AM State Quilters
9 2nd Sunday Advent 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	10 11:30 AM CWF Group 3 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Spiritual Growth/Stewardship 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Commissions 8:00 PM Board Meeting	11 Rev. McBride day off 6:30 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM AA	12 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM CWF #2 7:00 PM Choir Practice	13 10:00 AM CWF #1 6:00 PM Boy Scouts Roundtable	14 1:00 PM Staff Luncheon	15 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry 10:00 AM Blankets
16 3rd Sunday Advent 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM Congregational mtg 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship 4:00 PM Christmas Nectal	17 12:00 PM CALL Deadline 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	18 Rev. McBride day off 1:00 PM Beta Sigma Phi 7:00 PM AA	19 9:00 AM Quilters 8:30 AM CALL Folders 7:00 PM Choir Practice	20 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg	21	22 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry
23 4th Sunday Advent 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	24 Office Hours 8:30 - Noon Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day 7:00 PM AA	26 Kwanzaa 9:00 AM Quilters	27	28	29 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:15 AM Sandwich Ministry
30 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	31 New Year's Eve	1 OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day 7:00 PM AA	2 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3 10:00 AM CWF Board meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck	4	5 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

i'm a Dinosaur  
so like,



## UPDATES FROM THE DINOSAUR DEN!

Time goes so fast for us at preschool. We just finished our Fall Feast and Program and now we will be finishing our first half of the school year. It will be time for our parents to enroll children in kindergarten..WOW!! The month of December we will celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. Pastor Cynthia will be teaching them the real reason we celebrate Christmas and we will dress up in chapel to reenact the nativity. The children love learning more about Jesus' birthday. The children will be making gifts for their family and we will have gingerbread day at school. Ms. Cheryl will bake cookies for the kids to decorate. YUMMY!! and the church will smell sooooo good!!! We will collect peanut butter and jelly for the sandwich ministry. It is all so exciting. We will have our school wide Christmas Party on December 19th and we will have two very special guests helping us...Santa and Joan McNamara. Preschool will resume on January 2nd. The preschool and their families would like to wish you all a very HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!! Thank you for your support of our program. Here's to another great year! Seasons Blessings, Teachers Annette, Stacy, Cristina, Brooke, Katie, Brianna & Cheryl.



**Thank you to Matthew Hills and the Scouts of Troop 1013 for the newly built swing set for the church playground. First Christian wishes Matthew well on his "Trail to Eagle."**