FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

# THE CALL MARCH 2019

# FEB. 24- SCOUT SUNDAY

**FEB. 28-** Preschool Program (in the sanctuary) and fundraiser silent auction at First Christian Church @ 6:30 p.m. Dessert refreshments will be in the Fellowship Hall after the program.

## **MARCH ACTIVITIES**

- Mar. 4 2:00 PM Circle of Caring - 7:00 PM ELDERS
- Mar. 6\* ASH WEDNESDAY
  - Vespers 6:00 p.m.
  - Soup Supper following
- Mar. 7 DWM Quarterly meeting 10:00 AM - Lunch Bunch - 11:30 AM
- Mar. 10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
- Mar. 11 CWF #3 Lilacs & Lavender 11:30 AM - Commissions and Board meeting
- Mar. 16 Blanket Ministry 10-3
- Mar. 24 Young Adult Community Group 3:30 PM March 25 - 29 - NCSD SPRING BREAK

\*LENTEN SERVICES will be every Wednesday night starting with vespers @ 6:00 p.m. in the Inner Room led by the Elders and soup supper at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**YOUTH NEWS** - *THANK YOU* to Erika Stupak for serving as chaperone for the 10 participants in our recent youth group bowling event.

Current children's programming attendance on Sunday mornings is around 15 children/youth. Thank you to all of our adult volunteers who teach every week!

Kylee Stupak attended the Midwinter Retreat at La Foret. Thank you to Katy McGlade for being our driver/chaperone.

## 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 Ronnie Sanborn, Custodial Contractor 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 fcccasper@gmail.com

Preschool hours (Sept-May) Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM - noon



From the Pastor's Desk

#### Leaning In, Letting Go

This is the title of this year's Lenten Devotional from Chalice Press, written by Nicole Massie Martin, a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Princeton & Gordon-Conwell Seminaries who works for the

American Bible Society. In the introduction, she writes: "Throughout life, we've collected quite a bit of stuff we don't need. We have picked up bitterness from disappointment and a bit of anxiety from our need to control. We have packed some anger from unmet expectations and brought along some fear from the past... Leaning in to God and letting go of these unnecessary burdens go hand in hand."

During Lent, I am planning a sermon series on spiritual disciplines. A common discipline often associated with Lent is fasting. Traditionally, it meant going without food for a specified period of time. When you fast, you become aware of your body's hunger, which in turn can cause you to reflect on your hunger for God. You connect with Christ in recalling his fasting in the wilderness. You can choose to give away the money you would've spent on food to feed someone who is hungry. There are many kinds of fasting or "giving up" ... many ways to "let go" as a spiritual discipline.

Is there something you need to let go of in your life? Is there a bad habit or addiction you should leave behind? Is there something you love that you realize you could live without for 40 days that, in letting go of, would draw you closer to Christ?

How will you "lean in" to God this Lenten season? Is there a practice you could take on that would lead you closer to Jesus? If you're not already in the habit of being in worship *every* Sunday, what about making the commitment to come to church every week leading up to Easter? Do you have a daily time for prayer? If not, what about setting aside a specific time to pray each day, even just for a few minutes? Choose an act of service. Practice evangelism - invite someone to church with you or tell the story of your faith journey to someone close to you.

Charles and I are blessed with three very sweet pets - our hyper dog Brett and two cats, Cancion and Berkeley. Each one of them, at various times, will choose just to sit nearby and *lean* on us. It's a simple gesture, a sign of longing for closeness and sharing affection. Perhaps you're at a point in life where you see you've taken your relationship with God for granted. I invite you to spend time between now and Easter *leaning* on God, *leaning* into God's love. Pick up your devotional on Sunday, March 3rd. Come to the Ash Wednesday service on March 6th. As the sign up sheets go up, you're invited to participate in Lent in other ways as well - serve soup on a Wednesday night, come to the Maundy Thursday Seder meal/worship time, join in the prayer vigil on the day before Easter. May this Lenten season bring blessings of peace to your heart and soul. *- Pastor Cynthia* 

Notes From the Office

There are a few items regarding the church that we would like to address: **1)** Please make sure that if you are using the church for meetings, practices, receptions, etc., that **ALL** the lights are turned off, windows are closed and that the doors (especially the kitchen door) are locked before you leave. **2)** When you come in to the church during the day, if you enter through the Fellowship Hall please notify the staff that you are in the building. **3)** With cold and flu season here, please make sure you clean up your pew when you leave on Sunday morning (from chapel or 10:10 worship) and dispose of your used tissues in the bins outside the sanctuary. Thank you!

#### MISSION COMMISSION UPDATES

Volunteers are needed to make sack lunches on Saturday mornings starting at 8:15 a.m. on the 1st, 2nd, & 5th Saturdays. We make 120-130 sack lunches every Saturday for those that are homeless or hungry. The Blanket project continues to meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. - 3p.m. The Casper CROP Hunger Walk is on April 28th @ 1:00 p.m. You can sign up to walk, be a part of the FCC team or donate at <a href="https://www.crophungerwalk.org/Casper">www.crophungerwalk.org/Casper</a> Wyoming. If you want to participate, please register as soon as possible. The goal this year is to have 100 walkers/runners and to raise \$5,000.00. If you are interested in any of these projects contact Debbie Mestas or Keith Rouse.



#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**COMMISSIONS:** First Christian Church has commissions that meet on the 2nd Monday of every month. These are: Property, Christian Education, Spiritual Growth, Financial Stewardship and the Mission

Commission. Please check your calendar and see if you have time to volunteer on a commission. **Cal Decker, Chair of Property is requesting volunteers for the Property Commission.** There are a lot of upcoming projects that will need the help of volunteers for the spring clean up day for the church, mowing and trimming the yard this summer and other necessary upkeep of the church building and grounds. The help of all our members is most appreciated!

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** Volunteers are needed to provide treats, make coffee and clean up after the fellowship time on Sunday mornings after worship. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in fellowship hall. Please consider signing up if you, your family or a group of friends would like to provide treats and make coffee. After all - if you enjoy the fellowship time and having a Sunday snack to eat or coffee to drink - it's only fair that you take a turn to help provide it. We're looking for a "Duke of Donuts" or "Queen of Coffee" who would like to take this project on and coordinate the Sunday Fellowship Hour. Please contact the church office if you're interested or have questions.

Mar 20

Mar 22

Mar 23

Mar 24

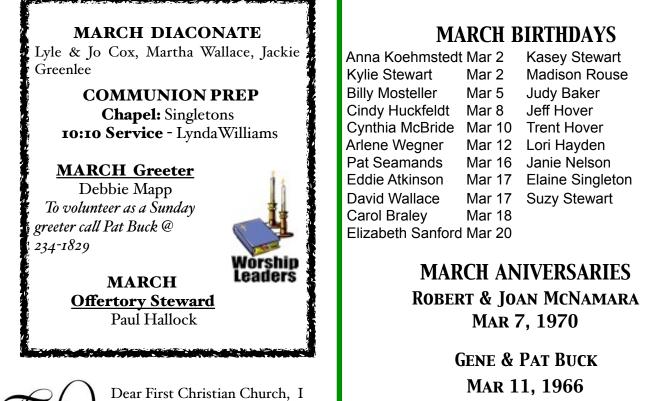
Mar 24

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Mar 30





Dear First Christian Church, I would like to thank you profusely for your donations and assistance with my Boy Scout Eagle Project. It really means a lot to me, and my project wouldn't have been possible without your support.

So Thank You! Sincerely, *Matthew Hills* 

Dear First Christian Church Friends, I want to thank every one of you for the thoughtful messages and prayers for healing. I enjoyed every single card. The flower is still beautiful. I am doing well and they tell me I am right on schedule with my recovery. I thank God for all of you and for the work He is doing to return my health!

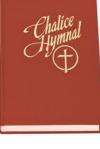
Love, *Elaine Singleton* 

#### THANK YOU!!

Thank you to the Ladies of the Disciples Women Ministries for the delicious spaghetti dinner served



on Friday night, Feb. 15th. The decorations were beautiful and the food was exceptional. The evening was a big success with over 60 people being served. If you loved the Million Dollar Baked Spaghetti (with no calories) copies of the recipe are on the refrigerator in the downstairs kitchen.



#### **CHALICE HYMNAL FINAL PRINTING**

Chalice Press (the Disciples of Christ publishing company) is running a final printing of the Chalice Hymnal which we use on Sunday mornings. The hymnals cost \$25 each. If any member of the church would like to purchase one of these for your personal use — OR you would like to make a donation for the church to purchase additional copies to supplement what we have in the sanctuary, please contact the church office by Monday, Feb. 25th.



#### LENTEN WORSHIP & Soup Supper Volunteer Signup

Every Wednesday evening during Lent from Ash Wednesday, March 6 through April 10th, the First Christian Church Elders will lead a weekly evening vespers service starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Inner Room with a Soup Supper will follow in the Fellowship Hall @ 6:30 p.m. Two people are needed to prepare soup for 30 people each and another to help clean up, bring crackers etc. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to prepare soup for the Wednesday services. The Theme for this year's vespers services will be The Beatitudes. Each

year, we are blessed by the leadership of our elders. This should be a meaningful time of spiritual study to share as we journey through the season of Lent.

Our **Maundy Thursday** service will be held April 17th. There will be a seder supper with roast lamb that night @ 6:30 p.m. with worship and communion shared around the tables as the meal unfolds. If you would like to help the Spiritual Growth commission in hosting the Maundy Thursday meal, please speak with Amber French. A "Seder" meal is based on the Jewish Passover feast and tells the story of Passover, which Jesus shared with his disciples the night before his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Come and experience a holy time during Holy Week.

There will be a **12 hour Prayer Vigil** on Saturday, April 20th from 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A sign up sheet will be posted in April.

#### **"SEWING TO SAVE" PILLOWCASE-DRESS WORKSHOP**

A local ministry group provides clothing to young children in Africa, made from recycled pillowcases. They will host a "Sewing to Save" pillowcase-dress workshop on Saturday, March 16, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Restoration Church, 411 S. Walsh Drive. Sewers & non-sewers welcome. There will be jobs for all who would like to participate. The goal is to get 100 dresses made and ready to send with the missionaries leaving from our area. Leader, Elizabeth Marshall says, "Often we have only a day or two notice so it is nice to have the dresses ready to go. Last year we sent over 500 dresses to several different countries and over 1500 dresses in the the last 4-1/2 years. This has only been possible because of all the volunteers from many churches and organizations in Casper." There will be drinks and snacks sufficient for a light lunch. A planned demonstration will be around 1:00 on how to make the dresses with sleeves. (Many cultures want the girls' shoulders covered.) Bring your sewing machines and sewing aids that you're used to using. We have about 4 machines for people to use if your machine is not easy to transport. For more information call Elizabeth Marchall @ 307-265-1325.

#### YOU MUST'VE BEEN A BEAUTIFUL BABY!!

We'll be having a "guessing game" this spring. All members are invited to give a copy of a baby picture of yourself to Carol Sage. She'll post them on the bulletin board across from the office & then members will be invited to guess who's who. Contact Carol Sage if you have guestions.





GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019 When: July 20 - 24, 2019 Where: Des Moines, IA

Imagine this: Worship that lifts your soul. Stories that touch your heart. Educational resources to assist your congregation in ministry. Conversations that stretch your mind. Messages that call you to action. Connections that remind you that God's family is bigger than a local congregation. All this and more in five short days!

Join us in downtown Des Moines at the Iowa Events Center for General Assembly 2019. Early registration discounts are available until March 31, 2019. Speakers will include Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, and the prophetic voice of Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. Information, schedules and registration forms are available online at <u>www.ga.disciples.org</u>. Peg Jackson plans to attend and is looking for a roommate. Charles and Cynthia McBride are going as well - and would love to see a group from Casper head to Des Moines to share this "family reunion" of Disciples from across the US and Canada. Talk to Pastor Cynthia if you have questions.

i'm a Dinosa<sub>u</sub>r so like, R A W R and stuff

#### Preschool News: FROM THE PINOSAUR PEN!!

We have been very busy giving tours and enrolling current students for the 2019-2020 school year. Open enrollment started on February 19th. Many families are planning on being at the preschool bright and early to get the limited spots available. I'm sure we will have another great year. February 28th is the

preschool fundraiser. We will be having our program @ 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary with a silent auction to follow in the fellowship hall. We have quite a lot of goodies to bid on. They will be on display in the preschool area on the 25th. Come by, look it over and place a bid on some great things. March 14th & 15th is picture day. Audie Jean's will be taking Easter pictures. There will be a sign up sheet for appointments available March 14th in the afternoon. This will be on the main bulletin board in the preschool. Everyone is welcome to take advantage of the great prices she gives the preschool. We thank you for the support you give to the preschool. We have really grown in the Casper Community.

# March 2019

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FCC CASPER CALL

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Friday	1	11:00 AM Q & U Preschool wedding 8	9:00 AM Preschool Pictures	22	50	ιn
Thursday	6:30 PM PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER 28	1 = 10:00 AM CWF MEETING = 11:30 AM Linch Bunch Potluck = 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg	14 = 9:00 AM Preschool Pictures = 10:00 AM CWF#1 = 6:00 PM Boy Scouts Roundtable	21 Hall	28	4 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg
Wednesday	9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Choir Practice	ASH WEDNESDAY ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM Quitters 6:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<ul> <li>9:00 AM Quiters</li> <li>21:00 PM CWF#2</li> <li>21:50 PM CWF#2</li> <li>6:00 PM VSPR REV/CE</li> <li>6:30 PM Soup Supper</li> <li>7:00 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	20 = 9:00 AM Quitters = 9:15 AM CALL folders = 0:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Choir Practice	27 9:00 AM Quilters 6:00 PM VSPRR SERVICE 6:30 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<ul> <li>= 9:00 AM Quilters</li> <li>= 7:00 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>
Tuesday	Rev. McBride day off 7:00 PM AA	Rev. McBride day off 1:00 PM Beta Sigma Phi 7:00 PM AA	Rev. McBride day off 9:00 AM WALLACE QUILTERS 7:00 PM AA	19 Rev. McBride day off 1:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AA	26 Rev. McBride day off 6:30 PM French Mosteller bell rehearse 7:00 PM AA	Rev. McBride day off 1:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AA
Monday	4 5:30 PM Blue & Gold Banquet - Shrine Club Club 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	3 = 2:00 PM Circle of Caring = 6:00 PM Club Scouts = 6:00 PM Club Scouts = 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	11 11:30 AM CWF Group 3 Lilac & Laven- dar 6:30 PM CLA Scouts 6:30 PM StrukADSHP 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Spirtual Growth 8:00 PM Board Meeting	12:00 PM CALL deadline 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	S S SRING BREAK	April Fools' Day april Fools' Day 2:00 PM Cube Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts
Sunday	24 Scout Sunday 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Vorship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	B ::15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	10 Daylght Saving Time 8:15 MK Chapel 9:10 AM SUNDY School 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	17 St. Patrick's Day 8:15 AM Chapel 9:10 AM SUNDY'S CHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	24 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	31 = 8:15 AM Chapel = 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL = 10:10 AM Worship = 11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

#### MARCH, 2019

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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

# **Associate Minister Search**

Please begin to PRAY for whoever God is preparing to call to be our Associate Minister! The process of preparing to enter the search process is nearly complete. A small group well familiar with the needs of our congregation has worked diligently to prepare a job description. Thank you to Dennis Baker, Jo Cox, Melanie Dowler, Paul Hallock, and Jennifer Hawley. We hope to prepare a brief video with interviews of members.

# **New Member Class**

During March and April, Pastor Cynthia will offer a Sunday morning class for people interested in joining First Christian Church and for those who have become members in the past year. If you would like to participate, please let her know. Also, any parents of children or adults to be baptized this Easter should speak with Pastor Cynthia this week.