



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

# THE CALL

December   
2023



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

## Annual Church Meeting



Dec. 3  
9:15 a.m.



**Deacons Meeting Dec. 3 @ 11:30**

### Church Staff:

**Bryan Elliott:** Lead Pastor  
**Kathy Winders,** Secretary  
**Daniel Galbreath,** Music Director  
**Megan Jones,** Preschool Director  
**Donna Osterholt,** Nursery  
**Megan Jones, Teresa Elliott** Custodians  
**Ministers: Every Member!**

**Office hours:**  
**Mon.-Thurs.**  
**9:30 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**Fridays: CLOSED**



### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

**8:15** Worship Service  
**9:00** Adult Sunday School  
**10:10 -** Worship Service  
**11:30 -** Coffee Fellowship

**(307) 234-8964**  
[www.fcccasper.org](http://www.fcccasper.org)  
[fcccasper@gmail.com](mailto:fcccasper@gmail.com)

**Preschool - M-F 8:30 - 5:30 P.M.**  
**CLOSED JUNE-AUG.**  
**Preschool Phone - 472-0649**

# Happy Holidays!

from Pastor Bryan

When a camera is shooting at 1/500 of a second it captures and holds the moments of our lives and thus grant us the ability to elaborate on the story that happens in less than a blink of an eye. It is my belief that when we can capture fast events (like our schedules) we can in many ways slow them down so that they can truly be lived out, talked out and treasured.

That is my goal this December, to capture the events that seems to pass me by in the blink of an eye, and hold them as precious - a hug given and then received from children who have been off at college, laughing with family around the dinner table, holding a child on his first Christmas morning, sharing the joy of gifts as we give to our family and friends! Those among many others are precious moments that we can capture and hold in the blink of an eye.

I believe God captures moments with us, his children, that happen in the blink of an eye and holds them, savors them, and rejoices in them. In this season of hope, joy, peace and love, may we hold the events of our lives that happen so quickly, but when captured can be rejoiced in for many moments to come. Have a wonderful and joyous Christmas Season and see you soon. This year everything is different in our interactions with one another. We are distant in many ways. Masks are worn. Hand sanitizer is applied frequently. We are placing ourselves some 6 feet or more from others. Schedules are different as well. In the previous three paragraphs I spoke of a situation as normal, busy, hectic, close family and friend interactions, but alas, that is not what is, anymore. Or is it?

What is most important this year? Family, friends, caring, sharing, showing hope in the midst of change and abnormal life interruptions? I would say yes. This year is different, yet the same. We watching the Holy Land enveloped in a war and the war in Ukraine raging around two years now. This is a time when the Advent of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love are needed more than ever. So, December 3rd is the beginning of Advent and it is a time for a family to light the Candle of Hope and share a reading in our worship services. The sermon that Sunday will be "The Woman of Promise - Tamar" as we begin conversations about the women in Jesus' genealogy. Then we will celebrate on December 10th, 17th, 24th and Christmas Eve on the 24th at 7:00 PM. Nothing has changed with the dates. Yet, something has changed! We are starting this New Christian Year with the anticipation of change in our world. We have for your family an Advent and Christmas Meditation booklet entitled "I Came Because of You". Please take one per family and read them in the evening as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Emmanuel.

And to further highlight the season, I would remind you that what hasn't changed is this: Advent still celebrates the **hope** of of Jesus through His **peace** while sharing His **love** and expressing our **Joy!** Let us all sing with one voice: "Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart, prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing!

May the Hope of His presence grant you peace, Pastor Bryan

the  
**Pastor**  
will be  
12/25-12/31



Pastor Bryan will out of the office December 25, 2023 - December 31, 2023. He will return to the office on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Rev. Nancy Thomas will be pulpit guest on Sunday, December 31, 2023. Pastor and Teresa will be visiting family in Idaho.



Stay and help decorate the church Sunday, Nov. 26 after 10:10

*Advent Starts Dec, 3.*



*Devotionals on table One Per Family*

**DECEMBER  
DIACONATE**

**8:15 - Nina Hytrek**

**10:10 - Dale Gregory & Trudy Woodard**

**CHRISTMAS EVE DEACONS**

**Trisha Whitcomb**

**Evan Woods**

**Spencer Stupak**

**Kylee Stupak**

**Contact Pat Seamands @ 262-2921  
to sign up if you haven't already.**

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**OFFERING STEWARD**

**Ted Grooms**

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**LAWN CLEAN UP**

**The Dowlers**

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**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Jennifer Grooms**

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**ELDERS**

**Dec. 3 Robin Nelson & Dan Coey**

**Dec. 10- Robin Nelson & Gloria Monroe**

**Dec. 17 - Teresa Elliott & Nancy Thomas**

**Dec, 24 - Teresa Elliott (both services)**

**Christmas Eve - Nancy Thomas**

**Dec. 31- Robin Nelson & Colin Hogan**

**Rev. Nancy Thomas will be pulpit guest**



**December  
BIRTHDAYS**

Lyle Cox	Dec, 6	Holly O'Brien	Dec. 15
Ted Purvis	Dec. 6	Pastor Bryan	Dec. 18
Mena Pagett	Dec. 7	Robert Cain	Dec. 19
Roger Cook	Dec. 9	Jolene Knaus	Dec. 23
Rob Knaus	Dec. 14	Rita Petersen	Dec. 25



**December  
ANNIVERSARIES**

Nick & Maggie Grooms - Dec. 7, 2003  
 Carol Sage and Bruce Postema - Dec. 17, 1999  
 Lyle & Jo Cox - Dec. 22, 1990  
 Ed & Mary Burgess - Dec. 24, 1974  
 Gary & Max Jacobson - Dec. 24, 2010  
 Bob and Jacquie Cook - Dec. 28, 1951



To FCC and the Scholarship Committee~~

Thank you for granting me the scholarship for this school year. I really appreciate the help as I begin working toward an Associate Degree of Fire Science at Casper College. Thanks again, *Christopf Atkinson*

FCC family, thank you for the generous scholarship you awarded to me. I am very grateful for the support you have given me over the years and the continued support as I begin my college education. Everything is going well in Montana so far. I look forward to seeing everyone when I'm back home over the holidays. *In Christ, Evan Woods*

**MISSION COMMISSION UPDATE**

The Mission Commission has partnered with DWM to collect hats, mittens, gloves & socks for those in need to stay warm this winter. We will be decorating the narthex Christmas tree with the donations.

We will be serving at the Rescue Mission on November 24th and December 22nd. AND as always we welcome any help with our projects. Any questions, contact Annette Ambrosino or Wanda Hogan.



FCC Youth ages K-12 and families are invited to a Christmas party to celebrate the season and learn more about the birth of Jesus. Hot cocoa and snacks will be provided.

**Activities Include**

**Journey to Bethlehem Escape Room**

Explore the Bible verses and discover codes that move you closer to the birth of Christ

**A White Elephant Gift Exchange**

Bring an inexpensive gift to exchange with the group. It can be something you already have, the funnier the best but appropriate

**Ugly Sweater Competition**

People's Choice will win a prize!!

**Advent Wreath Craft**

**And Special Visitor (HO, HO, HO)**

**Sunday, December 10th, 2-4 pm  
Fellowship Hall**



It's the Holiday Season and we have already had a lot of excitement in the preschool. We celebrated Thanksgiving with a Family Feast and First annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. We have had to cancel our celebration for the last two years because so many of the children were sick. We are so thankful everyone is healthy and we could share a meal with our families.

On Dec 7 at 6:30 we will have our 2nd Annual Christmas Pageant. We had more than 100 guests last year. We would love to have you join us if your are available. The kids will present a short Christmas pageant and sing 3 songs. We will end the night with refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff and families of FCC Preschool.

# MINISTRY

FCC BLANKET



THE FLEECE BLANKET MINISTRY is back to meeting the 3rd Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. It is hard to believe that come January 30, 2024 we will be celebrating our 8th year. We have made 1943 blankets to date, some of which our own congregation have received to provide comfort and warmth. We have donated blankets to Community Action, Renal Care East and West clinics, Meals on Wheels, and Unaccompanied Students. We currently have approximately 20 blankets to hand out. We use 2 yards of print and 2 yards of plain Blizzard or Anti Pill fleece. Come join us and tie a knot or two or help by donating some fleece. We would so appreciate it. Contact Trudy Woodard, Annette Ambrosino or Wanda Hogan for more details.

## WHAT DOES FCC BLANKET MINISTRY AND NATRONA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM HAVE IN COMMON??

FCC and the NC girls' basketball team will be making fleece blankets together on Saturday, December 2nd. Thank you NC!!

Fleece blankets will be made by the blanket ministry on Saturday, December 16th. Please join us on the 16th to help with the blankets.



# December 2023

November 2023  
 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

December 2023  
 S M T W T F S  
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 10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
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 24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
 31

January 2024  
 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

## FCC CASPER CALL

## DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:40AM CHOR PRACTICE 12:00PM DECORATE CHURCH	27 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Board meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts	28 11:00AM Sermon in the Round 7:00PM AA	29 9:00AM QUILTERS	30 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	1 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	2 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY 10:00AM NC/Blanket ministry
3 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Congregational meeting 9:00AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:40AM CHOR PRACTICE	4 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Elders meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts	5 11:00AM Sermon in the Round 7:00PM AA	6 9:00AM QUILTERS	7 6:30PM Preschool Christmas Pageant	8 OFFICE CLOSED Hanukkah (1st day) 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	9 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
10 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:40AM CHOR PRACTICE 2:00PM Youth Christmas Party 3:00PM PRIMROSE SERVICE	11 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM STEWARDSHIP 7:00PM Boy Scouts 7:00PM Commissions 8:00PM Board Meeting	12 11:00AM Sermon in the Round 1:00PM DWM Fellowship 7:00PM AA	13 9:00AM QUILTERS	14 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	15 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	16 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY 9:00AM 3 D's quilters 9:00AM Men's Group 10:00AM Blanket Ministry
17 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:40AM CHOR PRACTICE	18 12:00PM CALL deadline 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	19 11:00AM Sermon in the Round 7:00PM AA	20 9:00AM QUILTERS	21 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 5:00PM Mission Meal	22 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	23 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
24 Christmas Eve 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Adult's Sunday School 9:00AM Christmas Eve 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:40AM CHOR PRACTICE 7:00PM Christmas Eve Service	25 PASTOR BRYAN VACATION Christmas Day Kwanzaa 11:00AM Sermon in the Round 7:00PM AA	26 PASTOR BRYAN VACATION Kwanzaa 11:00AM Sermon in the Round 7:00PM AA	27 9:00AM QUILTERS	28 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	29 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	30 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making
31 PASTOR BRYAN VACATION New Year's Eve 8:15AM Worship 9:00AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:40AM CHOR PRACTICE	1 New Year's Day 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters	2 11:00AM Sermon in the Round 7:00PM AA	3 9:00AM QUILTERS	4 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	5 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	6 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY



# From the Elder Chair Nancy Thomas

During 2023, your serving Elders Dan Coey, Teresa Elliott, Colin Hogan, Gloria Monroe, Robin Nelson and Nancy Thomas, along with Pastor Bryan, met monthly (for the most part). During each meeting we shared love and support for each other in whatever joys and concerns we had for ourselves and our congregation.

When appropriate Pastor Bryan also shared non-confidential updates on members of the congregation.

Our study through the year was on Richard Foster's book *Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth*. According to Foster, there is a progression through three sets of disciplines: the Inward Disciplines: meditation, prayer fasting, study; the Outward Disciplines; simplicity, solitude, submission, service; and the Corporate Disciplines: confession, worship, guidance, celebration.

In July we began a monthly worship service at Primrose. Pastor Bryan has taken the lead with Teresa Elliott and Nancy Thomas supporting. The residents who have attended appreciate that we are there sharing music, message, and especially communion. We encourage anyone from the congregation to join us and share this special worship time with the residents of Primrose.

To acknowledge and celebrate our past, present and newly elected elders, there will be an Elder Celebration Dinner on Thursday, January 4, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall. Current plans are to have a baked potato bar (provided) with carry-in salads and desserts. More details will be forthcoming.

Blessings to everyone for a joyous Christmas and safe and healthy New Year!



## **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEDNESDAY QUILTERS PRESENT TAMMY HECK WITH A QUILT OF HONOR.**

Tammy Heck, long time member of First Christian Church entered the Wyoming National Guard in June 1983. After basic training she served with the 67th Army Band as a clarinet player until her discharge in April 1987. She earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. After her discharge she enlisted for active duty and attended Combat Medical School as a 91A. She was stationed at Fort Carson for her entire tour of duty. She earned the rank of Specialist and served honorably until her discharge on Oct. 1, 1991. She was a long time educator in our community and has served the church as a member of the Diaconate, various committees and board offices. She has recently become a new member of the Quilters. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!