



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

# THE CALL

## *August Days*

by Lenore Hetrick

The last of summer and the first of fall –  
Together they stand in August Days.  
The garden is bright with summer bloom,  
And yet there creeps up that autumn haze.  
You can look forward or look backwards  
To a lovely summer you would recall,  
But the changing of the season has come –  
The last of summer and the first of fall.



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## August 2025

### Church Staff:

**Bryan Elliott:** Lead Pastor

**Rhonda Padilla:** Associate Pastor

**Kathy Winders,** Secretary

**Mikayla Fulwider,** pianist

**Donna Osterholt,** Nursery

**Michelle Griebel,** Custodian

**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**

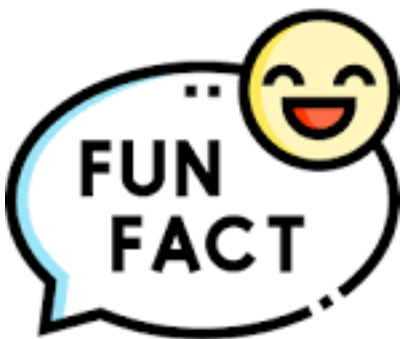
**11:30-Choir Rehearsal (does not meet in summer)**

**12:30 Handbell Rehearsal (does not meet in summer)**

**(307) 234-8964**

[www.fcccasper.org](http://www.fcccasper.org)

[fcccasper@gmail.com](mailto:fcccasper@gmail.com)



Observe on what day in August  
the first fog occurs, and expect  
a hard frost on the same day in  
October.

If the first week of August is  
unusually warm, the winter will  
be white and long.



Dear Church Family,

This has been a very exciting time in our church: We hired Rhonda Padilla who has started in her Associate Minister position. In the coming months Rhonda will take on more ministerial activities. She is working on music in worship right now, soon she will be serving at the table and doing our Prayers - Concerns and Joys. The next activity will be her visiting parishioners (goal is 2-3 a week) and then take over doing the Children's Moment from time to time. It is great having her here and we are blessed.

The other exciting thing in the life of our church is that our "Faith Promise with a Purpose" "Let the Light Shine - Restoring our stained glass for generations to come!" has been a great success. As of this writing we have over \$53,000 pledged and over \$35,000 received (that is 75% of our original goal!!). That is great. Sometime the end of Summer or beginning of Fall the educational wing window will be replaced and the upper portion of the sanctuary window will be taken out and fixed. The sanctuary window will be put back in sometime in the Spring of 2026.

As you all know we have had many visitors in the past couple of months. Many have visited and some have joined the church. Our finances seem to be as solid as our attendance. This is the highest average attendance summer since I came to FCC just about 4 years ago. I anticipate that the subtle changes that we will be making to enhance our worship experience in the coming months will help grow our church even more. Please remember to invite people to attend and to greet those who look new to our church. The feedback that I have received from visitors who have been looking for a church is that FCC is the first church they have visited where people actually talk with them and want to get to know them. Thanks for using your gift of hospitality as a church!

Our worship outdoors took place at Ayer's Natural Bridge and had great attendance. It was a great celebration. Fun was had by all - and yes it was a bit warm! This place is wonderful and it is some of God's best creative work!

I am leading our regions "Theology and Fishing" this year in the Big Horns on August 11 - 15th. John Hull will be our "theologian" and our Regional Minister Dale Matherly, along with about 8-10 participants will be there as well.

Blessings and thank you for allowing me to be your pastor!

In His Grace,  
Pastor Bryan



## WORDS FROM

PASTOR  
RHONDA

## A Heart Felt Thank You

Hello to God's good people of FCC Casper, my new church family. I have been blessed beyond measure since my arrival on the evening of June 29, 2025. My life has been forever impacted by the continued outpouring acts of love and kindness that I've experienced from the moment I arrived. This is

**exactly** where I am supposed to be and the confirmations continue to surprise me daily.

I have had some time to unpack but find I still have much to sort through and donate. (Mostly my mom's items I've had in storage.) Trusting in God and letting go has been the theme for this season of change in my life. I have been intentional in making tough decisions to let go of many precious things I have carried around for over a decade. To my surprise, as I let them go to bless someone else, I realized God pouring into me while I was emptying and emotionally letting go.

As I was sorting through these items, I realized they once held so much meaning. I experienced joy as some things had me bursting into laughter such as the picture of a bowl hair cut I sported when I was little. (No photo attached **on purpose**.) I remembered mom putting an actual bowl on my head while "hold still" were the words used. I remember doing my best to balance myself on the stack of phone books sliding off the chair. I experienced heart ache, my eyes shedding tears of lingering grief as I pushed play on an old cassette player. (Energizer batteries are the best!) It was my mom and me singing together. It was only seconds long because someone recorded over it.

In July, Pastor Bryan preached about things that hold meaning to us. His example was the church. Not the building, but God's people and Jesus **in** the church. I keep coming back to that sermon and now I realize what was tugging on me, holding me in the moment.

Coming to Casper is not only a new beginning and way of living, but this church, FCC Casper already has much meaning to me. The hearts of the people here in this place and the ministries that serve this community are precious treasures indeed, but what I have also witnessed is **strong** unwavering faith! Thank you God that I **get** to be a part of this!

I am excited to be here and thank God first and foremost for paving the way. I am thankful, honored and privileged to serve God alongside Pastor Bryan who is a great leader and mentor. My deep gratitude extends to all of **you**, God's people for welcoming me with open arms. Above it all, I **know** that God is surrounding us and guiding us in this new season of change.

I come to Casper with a humble heart and a desire to serve, remaining focused and faithful to God's purpose. However, this is not just about me, this is about **us** because we are better **together** and as we serve together, I look to seeing what God has in store for the future of FCC Casper.

I am looking forward to spending more time with you as a congregation in worship and fellowship but also getting to know you personally and that includes our youth. As I make my way through contacting people in this next month, please also feel free to stop by the office or drop me a call or text at (720) 422-4331. I am always open to a good cup of coffee or tea. Until then, my prayers continue for this church body and all who are in our region and beyond..

Anchored in Christ.  
Pastor Rhonda Padilla



## MISSIONS HEADLINES

Many thanks to the generous members of our congregation for your support of the mission projects of our church. The 5th Sunday mission emphasis on June 29 was "Babies' Bottoms". We received generous donations of diapers and baby wipes to help families who may struggle with the cost of these items. Our donations were delivered to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in a joint effort to support their Heat to Hands ministry, from which parents can receive necessary baby care supplies that are often difficult to afford.

Our next 5th Sunday is August 31. Our goal is to collect various items for Shepherd of the Valley Nursing Center. Jane Perez and Martha Wallace are faithful volunteers there. Stay tuned for specific ways you can help.

On July 9, our church hosted the Fuller Center Bike Adventure, a group of bicyclers who were riding cross-country from Florida to Oregon to raise awareness of their organization and work. Founded in 2005, "The Fuller Center for Housing is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. By forming partnerships with local organizations The Fuller Center provides structure, guidance, and support that communities need to build and repair homes for the impoverished among them". The bicyclers take days off from cycling to work alongside homeowners to improve their living situations. "The Fuller Center home is not a handout, but a hand up, allowing homeowners to retain a sense of basic human dignity." The Mission Commission arranged for showers at the Rescue Mission, served supper and provided breakfast items and food and drink supplies for the next days of their journey. THANK YOU to everyone that helped with the supper and provided food.

*Nancy Thomas, Commission Chair*



Micah tells us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. I think Floyd Field gets it. One of the hardest parts about our current Quilt of Honor presentation was convincing him that he was a veteran. The second hardest part was getting detailed information about his service. Although I was able to get a bare bones account, none of my stealth informants were able to get a lot of detail. So here is what we know:

Floyd attended Selah Junior College in Yakima, Washington after high school. He then enlisted in the National Guard. He served 6 years as a radar repair specialist. That was an IT specialist in the days before IT was even a thing. The last 4 years of his service was in El Paso, Texas at a radar repair school. An instructor? I'm not sure.

Here at First Christian, we honor the service of our veterans, but not just their military service. Floyd has years of service to this congregation and this community. Again with that walk humbly thing. Floyd is a talented wood worker. He was one of many hands who worked countless hours on the beautiful Bible display case in the alcove by the elevator. If you haven't visited, take some time to do that. There's a sign as you leave the church that says, "You are now entering the mission field." That's all Floyd. It not only has his fingerprints, it also sums up his definition of discipleship. His love for this congregation is without bounds. He visits us, offers rides, and checks on those who aren't here. He has served on the Property Commission, as a deacon, hosted shepherding groups, and is currently one of your Members at Large on the church board. I'm sure I'm missing something.

We are honored to have Floyd as a member of this church, this community and this nation. We are all better for his service.





# Spiritual Growth

If anyone has greeting cards (birthday, thinking of you, condolence, thank you etc.), that you're looking to donate, Spiritual Growth would love to have them and can put them to good use. They can be blank cards or have a verse in them. There will be a box for you to put them in.

They have also purchased several new paraments for the table so look for some new additions to the communion table.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor Rhonda's installation will be on Sunday, September 14th at the 10:10 service. That will also be Welcome Back to church Sunday so some fun activities will be planned. Stay tuned for further details.

ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT will be under the direction of Michelle Elser and Erika Ward. Dates and activities to be determined.



## WINDOW UPDATE

Thank you to everyone that has so generously donated to the restoration of the sanctuary window and the replacement window for the education wing. It has been a great success. Sometime towards the end of summer or beginning of Fall the educational wing window will be replaced and the upper portion of the sanctuary window will be taken out and fixed. The sanctuary window will be able to be put back sometime in the Spring of 2026.

If you wish to contribute to this project, you can still do so by sending your check or pledge with window written on the memo line to the attention of Nicholas Grooms at the church office. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

At time of printing  
Pledged \$53,077    Received \$37,577



### DIACONATE FOR AUGUST, 2025

**Contact Belle Stapleton if you cannot serve**

8:15 - Pat Seamands

10:10 service

Aug. 3- Debbie Mestas & Spencer Stupak

Aug. 10 - Debbie Mestas & Trudy Woodard

Aug. 17 - Debbie Mestas & Belle Stapleton

Aug. 24 - Debbie Mestas & Spencer

Aug. 31 - Debbie Mestas & Belle Stapleton

### OFFERING STEWARD

Judy Baker

### ELDERS

**July 27** - Teresa Elliott - Steve Huckfeldt

**Aug. 3** - Nancy Thomas (both services)

**Aug. 10** - Steve Huckfeldt (both services)

**Aug. 17** - Teresa Elliott (both services)

**Aug. 24** - TBD & Nicholas Grooms

**Aug. 31** - TBD

### SPECIAL MUSIC

**July 27** - Outdoor Worship

**Aug. 3** - Kathy Winders

**Aug. 10.** Pastor Rhonda

**Aug. 17** - Janis Coey

**Aug. 24** - Michelle Elser

**Aug. 31** - Maddox family

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**July 27th** - Jennifer Grooms

**Aug. 3** - Brandi Maddox

**Aug. 10** - Michelle Elser

**Aug. 17** - open

**Aug. 24 & 31** - Jennifer Grooms

Melissa Hayden	Aug. 2	Shirley Wenn	Aug. 24
Kathy Winders	Aug. 3	Larry Winders	Aug. 25
Sarah Brown	Aug. 5	Val Williams	Aug. 27
Teri Black	Aug. 7	Elaine Umbach	Aug. 28
Janis Coey	Aug. 9		
Tammy Heck	Aug. 15		
Bill Westman	Aug. 16		
Travis Sibal	Aug. 17		
Erika Stupak	Aug. 19		

### ANNIVERSARIES

Greg & Gayle Andress - Aug. 4, 1990

Jim & Nina Hytrek - Aug. 5

Chris & Sandie Stoltenberg - Aug. 7, 1993

Bill & Mary Lou Westman - Aug. 8, 1964

Dennis & Judy Baker - Aug. 11, 1979

Brandon & Amanda Wardell - Aug. 15, 1998

David & Teri Taylor - Aug. 16, 2003

Don & Belle Stapleton - Aug. 24

Allen & Elaine Singleton - Aug. 29

Bryan & Teresa Elliott - Aug. 29, 1981

Leonard & Ruth Jones - Aug. 31, 1960



THE MADDUX FAMILY  
Paul, Brandie, Mason & Leena

First Christian Church--Thank you so much for the wonderful donation of diapers and wipes. Your generosity will be helping so many families in need!

St Mark's Episcopal Church  
Hearts to Hands Ministry

# August 2025

July 2025						
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		

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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					

September 2025						
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				

## FCC CASPER CALL

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 11:00AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP	28 6:00PM Boy Scouts	29 7:00PM AA	30 9:00AM QUILTERS	31	1 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	2 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY
3 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	4 Kathy vacation 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Boy Scouts 6:30PM Elders meeting	5 7:00PM AA	6 9:00AM QUILTERS	7	8 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00AM Scholarship deadline 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	9 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY
10 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 3:00PM Primrose Service	11 Fishing Theology Bryan out 6:00PM Boy Scouts	12 1:00PM DWM Fellowship 7:00PM AA	13 9:00AM QUILTERS	14	15 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	16 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY 9:00AM 3 D's quilters
17 Pastor Rhonda preaching 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	18 12:00PM CALL deadline 6:00PM Boy Scouts	19 7:00PM AA	20 9:00AM QUILTERS	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 5:00PM Mission Meal	23 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY 9:00AM Men's Group
24 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	25 6:00PM Boy Scouts 6:00PM Cub Scout Kickoff	26 7:00PM AA	27 9:00AM QUILTERS	28	29 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	30 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY
31 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	1 Labor Day 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Boy Scouts 6:30PM Elders meeting	2 7:00PM AA	3 9:00AM QUILTERS	4	5 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	6 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY



DWM MTG.  
AUG. 12  
1:00 P.M.

READ ACTS 13

PROJECT  
DWM OFFERING

All women of the church are invited to join Disciple Womens Ministry (DWM) Fellowship group. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m in Fellowship Hall. Join us in our challenge this year to read the entire Bible. If you have any questions, contact Carla Schanck at 267-2415.