



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

# THE CALL

October  
2025



Fall  
FOR  
Jesus  
HE NEVER LEAVES



I LOVE YOU, LEAVES  
RED, GOLD AND YELLOW  
TO LOOK AT YOU,  
MAKES ME SO MELLOW.  
BUT IF YOU COULD, OH, WOULD YOU, PLEASE,  
STAY WHERE YOU ARE,  
UP IN THE TREES.  
I LOVE YOU, LEAVES,  
SO GIVE ME A BREAK.  
I REALLY, REALLY  
HATE TO RAKE!!!



## Church Staff:

**Bryan Elliott:** Lead Pastor

**Rhonda Padilla:** Associate Pastor

**Kathy Winders,** Secretary

**Mikayla Fulwider,** Music Director

**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

12:30 Handbell Rehearsal

(307) 234-8964

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



**BATS ARE  
JUST  
HALLOWEEN  
BUTTERFLIES**



Dear Church Family,

I thought this article was good for all of us to apply to our relationships, be they family, church or work environments. It is good to check ourselves from time to time and see what fuels our particulars as it applies to our personal preferences. In this time of Fall when we are talking about our time, talents and treasures (it is Stewardship Month this month), we need to set our priorities on things above. To this end I offer you this article. Blessings, Pastor Bryan

by Sam Rainer

President & Senior Consultant

Some churches have disagreements over matters of consequence—doctrine, governance, or leadership. This article is not about such cases.

We've encountered some strange reasons for church conflict.

There was the time a church fought over the appropriate length of the pastor's beard. Or the case of a church fighting over whether to build a children's playground or to use the land for a cemetery. We witnessed a conflict over people leading worship with their eyes closed during a portion of the song. One church held two business meetings to determine which weed-eater to purchase. Lastly, a church had a 70% affirmative vote to excommunicate a deacon who threatened to kill the pastor. The running joke was, "Thirty percent of this congregation wants the pastor dead." Some of these examples may seem petty. Well, they are. And all of them could have been avoided. Just about every church has multiple examples of fights over inconsequential matters. What leads to this point? The problem is too pervasive to ignore.

Conflict over trivial matters, especially in churches, usually isn't really about the trivial matter at all. I took a deep dive into hundreds of our consultations and coaching relationships. Here is what I discovered.

The surface issue masks a deeper issue. When a church fights over what color the carpet should be, it's rarely about the carpet. It's often about control, influence, or feeling heard. The "small" issue becomes a safe battlefield to fight a "bigger" but unspoken issue.

Emotional over-investment in traditions. In churches, even small traditions—like a particular classroom arrangement, holiday programming, or decorations—can carry deep emotional meaning. Changing them feels like erasing history, dishonoring past generations, or disrupting personal identity. While people should not devote so much emotional energy to these things, they do.

Low-trust environments amplify small problems. In a high-trust church, a minor disagreement can be handled with grace. In a low-trust environment, every decision is suspect, so even small changes are viewed through the lens of fear and skepticism.

The "last straw" phenomenon. A trivial issue sometimes becomes the breaking point after years of built-up frustration. People channel all their pent-up irritation into one minor conflict because it feels more manageable than addressing the deeper, messier problem.

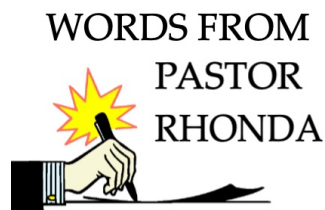
Displaced conflict. Members may have personal frustrations (marriage, work stress, health issues) that they subconsciously displace onto church matters. The church becomes the arena where unrelated tension spills over. We see this a lot with people who are upset about progress in their professional careers. They can't yell at their boss, so they take it out on their pastor.

Personal identity is intertwined with church identity. Churches are deeply tied to people's sense of community and spiritual identity. Even small changes can feel like a threat to "who we are" as a church family, or "who I am" as a person, so people defend the status quo passionately.

Small matters are easier to argue about. Fighting over what to call small groups is easier than addressing gossip. Debating a budget line item is safer than confronting a broken relationship. Minor issues become proxy battles for bigger but harder conversations.

Every church will experience a fight over something trivial. The problem is not in an argument over carpet color, beard length, or weed-eater purchases. The danger lies in the erosion of trust that occurs when trivial disputes multiply over time and are left unresolved. How can the small stuff stay small? The health of a church is revealed not in the absence of disagreements, but in how those disagreements are handled with humility, grace, and a shared desire to glorify God above all else.

Satan doesn't need big issues to divide a church—just small ones left unchecked.



## Gratitude

Dear First Christian Church congregation,

I am deeply grateful for the love and support shown on my installation and commissioning day. To see members from both services gathered as one body truly touched my heart deeply.

Since arriving, I have witnessed God at work as our congregation comes together in joint worship. I've seen people meet for the first time, bridging services and schedules. What strikes me most is the sacrifices each of you make to serve, worship, and support this church. From all of our leaders, music director, AV team, choir, bells, and volunteers—your dedication makes us stronger together.

The most moving example was the choir and bells piece arranged by Mikayla. Each group practiced separately, then joined for just two rehearsals. As I sat in the pew, hearing every voice and bell blend into one beautiful offering, I wept. That harmony is a picture of what God is doing in us as a congregation. *"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others"* (Romans 12:4–5).

Let us continue to view our church through the lens of gratitude. We are richly blessed with compassionate, generous people, and God is orchestrating something good here. When we gather as one body, take a moment to notice the beauty of that harmony and give thanks.

Finally, I echo Reverend Dale Matherly's reminder of the power of prayer. I pray for you often—in this building, before worship, before I preach and sing. Please continue to lift up your pastors, elders, diaconate, board, and committees in prayer. Together, in gratitude and prayer, God will continue to grow us. Thank you for the honor of serving this great Community.

With a humbled heart,  
Pastor Rhonda



Left to right: Pastor Rueben Rodriquez, Pastor Bryan Elliott, Pastor Rhonda Padilla, Rev. Dale Matherly, Interim Regional Minister



# We Want Your Opinion

As many of you have witnessed we have a growing need to increase the space in our choir area to accommodate various vocalists and instrumentalists. The Board and Pastors are recommending that we move the pews out on the piano side so that we can move the piano closer to the choir, who will occupy the pulpit side pews. This would free up space for our many vocalists and instrumentalists while we diversify our music to incorporate the gifts of our young people to help with worship. We will have choir, bells and a worship team during different times of our weekly worship so that all can celebrate the different styles of music and blend them so that we continue to have worship that inspires and allows us to experience together the spirit of the living God. Please tell Pastor Bryan, Pastor Rhonda or the office what you think of this proposal as your input is very important to us. Blessings.







# Mission Opportunities

Thanks to your continued generosity toward the special needs in our community, we had a successful 5th Sunday Mission Emphasis for Shepherd of the Valley Care Center. We delivered 23 bottles of shampoo and conditioner, 11 bottles of body wash, 11 bottles of lotion and some miscellaneous personal care items. They were thrilled with the donation! We also collected \$235 in cash donations for the Auxiliary Fund to be used in the ice cream shop, which is coordinated by Martha Wallace.

The 12th anniversary of our Sandwich Ministry was celebrated on September 6th. Thanks to Debbie Mestas for her tireless efforts and to the volunteers who make sandwiches and pack lunches every week. We currently give our 80 lunches to very appreciative individuals and families.

Our Blanket Ministry resumes on Saturday, September 20. Under the coordination of Trudy Woodard, we meet in the fellowship hall to tie fleece blankets every third Saturday from 10:00-2:00. Our blankets are distributed to various organizations and individuals in the community. Contact Trudy Woodard for additional information on the blankets.

We continue to support the Wyoming Rescue Mission by serving an evening meal on the 4th Friday of every month. Three volunteers are needed one Friday every month from 4:30-6:30 p.m. to assist the kitchen staff. We prep a few items and dish up and serve the meals to as many as 100 men, women & children.

The Mission Commission selects and organizes these projects, but they are open to anyone who wants to help. None of them are difficult and all of them are appreciated by the recipients. Contact Nancy Thomas to find out when and where you can join us in these community mission opportunities!!

Thank you notes received: Dear Deb (Mestas) and friends of FCC. "Thank you for the gift of comfort blankets and the prayers you offer up for the patients at Rocky Mountain Oncology. Some take a blanket and re-gift it to a caregiver or significant other. What a wonderful ministry"

Deb Mestas-"Thank you for your generosity donation 10 fleece blankets (valued at \$300) to the Youth Crisis Center. We appreciate your support?



There will be **NO** trunk of treat this year. Erika Stupak, co-chair, will be out of town the only weekend we could do it and we were hoping to bring the boy scouts into it to increase interest and participation. Education Commission decided to skip it this year and will hopefully have an amazing event next year!. Any questions, please contact Michelle Elser, Education Commission Chair.



### DIACONATE FOR OCTOBER, 2025

**8:15 - Pat Seamands**

**Oct.5 10:10 - Trudy Woodard & Belle Stapleton**

**Oct. 12 - Trudy Woodard & Spencer Stupak**

**Oct. 19- Belle Stapleton & Trisha Whitcomb**

**Oct. 26-Belle Stapleton & Spencer Stupak**

**Contact Belle Stapleton if you cannot serve**

### OFFERING STEWARD

Carmen Goodman

### ELDERS

**Sept. 21 - Dewey Smith & Nancy Thomas**

**Sept. 28 - Teresa Elliott & Nicholas Grooms**

**Oct. 5 - Teresa Elliott & Nancy Thomas**

**Oct. 12 - Steve Huckfeldt (both)**

**Oct. 19 - Dewey Smith & Dennis Baker**

**Oct. 26 - Dewey Smith & Nicholas Grooms**

Cal Decker	Oct. 3	Carmon Goodman	Oct. 24
Mark Williams	Oct. 11	Brian Black	Oct. 27
Chris Stoltenberg	Oct. 12	Kelley Lackey	Oct. 27
Sara Williams	Oct. 16	Chuck Potter	Oct. 29
Dale Gregory	Oct. 20	Randisue Davis	Oct. 31
Neal Jacquot	Oct. 20		



Dewey & Jan Smith  
October 25, 2003



Will, Trusts, Memorials and Scholarships received one application this semester. The committee reviewed and approved financial aid for Pastor Rhonda Padilla as she completes her MDiv program through Lexington Theological Seminary. This aid will be paid through the Marie Patrick fund for ministerial studies.



# NO Elders meeting Oct. 6, 2025

## FELLOWSHIP QUILTERS PRESENT HONOR QUILT



**Jim Oliver** served as an infantryman in the US Army from August 21, 1973 to September 5, 1975, reaching the rank of PFC. Although he served during the Vietnam War, he never saw combat as his primary duty station was in Germany.

Jim has been a valuable part of our community here at First Christian. He has a deep passion for music, and for many years he was a strong and steady voice in our choir. During the summers, he and his daughter Sydney blessed us with duets, Sydney on flute and Jim with vocals and guitar. We miss your voice, Jim, and look forward to hearing it again.

Jim's passion for music is not confined to these walls. He often takes his music to nursing homes and assisted living centers to brighten the lives of the elderly. We are honored to have Jim as a member of our church and our community. Thank you for your service.

*Come to tea. All  
ladies of the church &  
friends are invited.  
Bring your daughters,  
granddaughters to  
join us.*



*Sunday, October 5 @ 3p.m.*

*Tea, Cider & hot  
coca provided. Sign up to bring finger  
foods if you wish.*

*Sponsored by Spiritual Growth  
Commission*

*Mikayla will share her ministry  
of music therapy with us.*



# October 2025

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13				5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20				12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	22	23	24	25	26	27				19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
28	29	30								26	27	28	29	30	31					30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Pastor Bryan vacation Rhonda in pulpit 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship and 2 more...	29 6:00PM Boy Scouts	30 7:00PM AA	1 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	2 Yom Kippur	3 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	4 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY
5 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:00PM Handbell Rehearsal 3:00PM Spiritual Growth Tea	6 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	7 7:00PM AA	8 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	9	10 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	11 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY
12 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:00PM Handbell Rehearsal 3:00PM Primrose Service	13 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	14 1:00PM DWM Fellowship 7:00PM AA	15 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	16	17 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	18 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY 9:00AM 3 D's quilters 9:00AM Men's Group
19 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:00PM Handbell Rehearsal	20 12:00PM CALL deadline 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	21 Diwali 7:00PM AA	22 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 5:00PM Mission Meal	25 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY 10:00AM BSP Oktoberfest
26 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:00PM Handbell Rehearsal	27 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	28 7:00PM AA	29 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED Halloween 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	1 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY