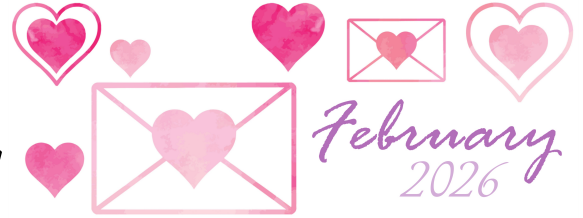




FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

THE CALL



February
2026




Valentine Smile

On Valentine's Day we think of those
Who make our lives worthwhile,
Those gracious, friendly people who
We think of with a smile.

I am fortunate to know you,
That's why I want to say,
To a rare and special person:
Happy Valentine's Day!

By Joanna Fuchs
Poemsources.com



Church Staff:

Bryan Elliott: Lead Pastor
Rhonda Padilla: Associate Pastor
Kathy Winders, Secretary
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

9:15 a.m. Gr. 4-8 Sunday School

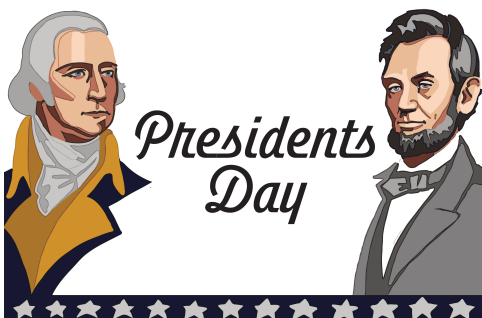
10:10 - Worship Service

11:30 - Coffee Fellowship

(307) 234-8964

www.fcccasper.org

fcccasper@gmail.com



OFFICE CLOSED
FEB. 16, 2026
PRESIDENT'S DAY



Dear Church Family,

Can you believe Christmas was just six weeks ago? Somehow, here we are already moving quickly through the new year—and the church calendar isn't slowing down either! Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and before we know it, Easter will be right around the corner. Time really does fly.

On Ash Wednesday, I will be in the sanctuary from 7:30–9:30 a.m. for anyone who would like to stop in for a brief devotion, prayer, and the receiving of ashes (if you choose). Whether you come before work, after school drop-off, or simply because you need a quiet moment with God, we would love to see you.

Lent is a meaningful season—a 40-day journey that invites us to slow down, reflect, and prepare our hearts. We remember Jesus' time in the wilderness, when he prayed, faced temptation, and prepared for the ministry God was calling him into. This season invites us into that same spirit of prayer, sacrifice, and renewed focus on sharing Christ's love in our daily lives. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of that journey—a time to realign our hearts with the heart of Jesus. To help you on your journey, we have developed an in-house Lenten devotional similar to our Advent devotional and should be available Sunday, February 15th.

We'll also be gathering for Lenten Soup & Devotions, led by our Elders, beginning Wednesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. and continuing through March 25. These evenings will include a short devotion, followed by a simple meal of soup, bread, dessert—and plenty of good fellowship. It's a wonderful midweek pause to reconnect with God and with one another.

I hope you'll find ways to participate in these opportunities and others as we continue living into life together as the Body of Christ. Be sure to check the church calendar for ways you can serve, grow, and share your gifts.

Winter won't last forever—even in Casper. Easter is coming, and with it the promise of new life. You can almost feel it already, quietly stirring hope in our hearts.

In His Grace,
Pastor Bryan

Grace: Love That Gathers Us and Leads Us Forward

Dear Church Family,

It is a joy-filled memory for the books to have been here with you through Christmas and as we rang in the New Year together. We have connected in so many meaningful ways, and I am deeply grateful. The changes in our sanctuary have blessed us beyond measure, and our congregation has been richly gifted through music during this season.

We are blessed by the musical gifts among us: Ruby Jennings has graciously agreed to play piano for us once a month; the Maddox family is also willing to bless us monthly; and Kathy has agreed to serve the church with her many gifts as well. On Christmas Eve, we were surrounded by the beauty of shared talent as Michelle Elser sang for us, Peggy Kumm (who sang with me and played the flute), Asher and Alex Rislov (guitar and piano), Caleb Wood (guitar), Collin Stewart (who played for us in November), along with our choir and bell choir, all stepped forward to share their gifts.

We will continue to allow God to shape our worship, and we are currently in discussion with a potential pianist/accompanist who may begin in May—more information will be coming soon. If you are interested in joining the choir or bell choir, I am planning a worship retreat in March to support vocal growth, bell techniques, and to prepare music for Easter. As soon as we have a confirmed date, I will share more.

I would also like to ask a small favor. Please consider stopping by the sound booth to thank Rick and Dennis for the hard work they do each week. We all strive to make worship a meaningful experience, and while sometimes everything flows smoothly and other times it does not, there are many moving parts behind the scenes. They genuinely do their best for us, and it is often a thankless role.

If you have comments or concerns regarding sound, cameras, or related matters, please write them down clearly and drop them off at the office for Kathy. If you choose to comment, please do so in love, include your name, and provide details such as which service you attended and where you were seated—especially if volume is the concern. This helps us address issues thoughtfully and effectively. I promise, I don't bite.

As 2026 continues, so does our transitional journey. Our Regional Minister, Dale Matherly, will be joining us this month for *The Visioning Summit* on February 21–23. I will also be attending my first Mid-Winter Retreat with our youth in the Central Rocky Mountain Region, and I look forward to all the “firsts” I continue to experience here with you. It has been a blessing to witness our growth, to welcome new members, and to see how powerfully people are drawn to the love we share as one body in Christ. Thank you for being the light of Christ's love.

Speaking of love, February often greets us with reminders—cards, conversations, and small gestures that say, “You matter.” As people of faith, we know love is more than a season or a gesture. Love is an action word. It is the very heartbeat of God, poured out to us in grace and lived out among us in community.

This month, we also enter the holy season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. The ashes remind us of our humanity—our limits, our losses, and our deep need for God. Yet they are traced on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, a powerful sign that even our frailty is held within God's redeeming love. We begin this season not with shame, but with gratitude—gratitude for a grace that meets us exactly where we are and invites us into renewal.

Lent is not a journey we take alone. It is a shared walk—learning, praying, serving, and supporting one another along the way. Community is one of God's greatest gifts to us, and this church body is filled with love that is undeniable, especially in seasons that call for reflection and transformation.

Whether it is worshiping together, checking in on a neighbor, joining a small group, or offering a helping hand, every act of connection becomes a living expression of God's love. As we move through February, may we practice love intentionally, notice and receive God's grace with gratitude, and engage our community faithfully.

Let us be a people who show up for one another—honest about our need for God, hopeful about what God is still doing, and confident that love will always lead us forward.

With gratitude and hope,

Rhonda Padilla



Hello from your NEW Board President,

First of all I'd like to thank Trisha Whitcomb for her two years of service as board vice president 2024 and president 2025. We are thankful for Trisha, and her shoes will be a hard pair to fill!

I look forward to working with Pastor Bryan and Pastor Rhonda as we continue to grow as a church. As I have stated many times, we are only as good as the people with which we surround ourselves! This year we need to concentrate on bringing more people to our home of worship and ensure that they feel that FCC is also their home.

Our commission chairs have a lot of new ideas and different ways to engage the congregation in our church. I encourage everyone to participate in activities for our youth, scouts, spiritual growth dinner, and our sandwich and blanket ministry.

It is not a secret that Pastor Bryan is planning his retirement for the end of 2026t, and Pastor Rhonda will be stepping into the role as Lead Pastor Rhonda is currently finishing up her requirements to become a fully ordained pastor with all the accreditations required. It is my opinion that she will be an incredible asset to this congregation and has my full support. Pastor Bryan will be slowly letting go of the reins as the year progresses, and no doubt we will see some subtle changes happening in leadership, music, and pastoral responsibilities. Change is not always comfortable, but it is necessary. We wish that some things would never change, but as people of God, we know a church is a living, growing, and stretching work of Christ.

Thank you for putting your trust in me! I am praying that this will be an exciting, eventful, and fulfilling year!

Knowing that I have surrounded myself with the best congregation that one could hope for, I know that it will be!

God be with you
Steven Huckfeldt
Executive Board Chairman



Youth Sunday School for grades 4-8 will resume on Sunday, February 1st.

HOWEVER, there will be no lesson February 15th due to Midwinter Retreat and Michelle will be out of town.

Children's Church, led by Jennifer Grooms is going quite well. Attendance has been up which is wonderful.

Souper Bowl Sunday will not be this year. Due to limited support the last few years, we are evaluating the program.



Hold tightly to your faith, even when there's no chocolate in sight.



Mission Opportunities

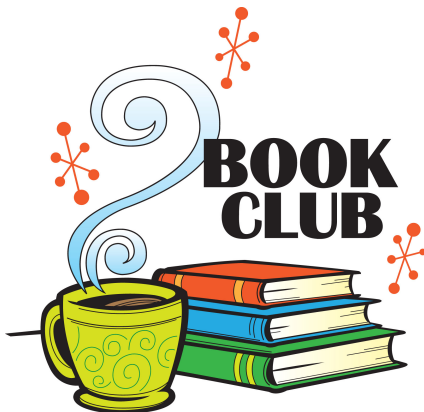
The Blanket Ministry is one of the hands-on activities of the Mission Commission and is a valued ministry in our community. Dozen of blankets are given to various agencies, including Renal Care, Cancer Treatment centers, Make-a-wish, Headstart, and more. The following is a note we put with each of the blankets we donate.

Comfort Blanket

This simple gift comes to you with love and prayers from the members and friends of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Casper, Wyoming. This soft fleece was purchased, trimmed, and lovingly hand-tied by a group of volunteers. Before this blanket reaches your hands, we pray for you, asking for God's blessing in your life. As you wrap it around your shoulders or lay it on your lap, as you snuggle under its warmth, may you feel the warmth of God's love and the gentleness of Christ's Spirit enfolding you. Our prayers are being lifted on your behalf".

Please join us in the Lord's work at 10:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month, September through May, in Fellowship Hall of the church.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Trudy Woodard or Carla Schanck.



DO YOU LIKE TO READ!!!!

Then let's get on the same page and discover some amazing books together.

Jane Wallace is looking for interested persons to start a Book Club. If you are interested in joining a Book Club, please contact Jane Wallace @ 258-2063.

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

I would like to thank the congregation and Boy Scouts for helping make the residents at Shepherd of the Valley have a Merry Christmas. They loved all their gifts that they received. So many residents have no family or monetary means to purchase necessities or something special for themselves. Your generosity was much appreciated. Blessings, Jane Wallace.

**DIACONATE FOR FEBRUARY, 2026**

8:15 - Tammy Heck

10:10 Trudy Woodard & Spencer Stupak

OFFERING STEWARD

Judy Baker

ELDERS**Feb 1** - Dewey Smith & Carmen Goodman**Feb. 8** - Donna Osterholt & Dennis Baker**Feb. 15** Nancy Thomas (both services)**Feb. 22** - Dewey Smith & Carmen Goodman**Mar. 1** - Steve Huckfeldt (both services)

Judy Potter	Feb. 5	Pat Buck	Feb. 12
Connor Goodman	Feb. 6	Michelle Elser	Feb. 16
Jo Cox	Feb. 7	Russ Black	Feb. 17
Jadalyn Wardell	Feb. 8	Melanie Dowler	Feb. 17
Jared Baker	Feb. 9	Allison England	Feb. 20
Emillia Wardell	Feb. 11	Ben Ambrosino	Feb. 21

Anniversaries

Larry and Kathy Winders

Feb. 22, 1969

**New Addresses for
OUR MEMBERS**

Chuck Lauderdale
2225 Boyd Ave
262-4324

Peggy Kumm
405 Upper Aster Road - 259-3056

Virginia Yohn
1851 Preserve Circle #103
82609. 251-4477. vly1539@gmail.com

Jerry Meeks
Sugar Valley Estates. #4928
4320 Georgetown Drive
Loveland, CO. 80538



Members of FCC, Thank you for your generous donation of \$25 We appreciate your continued support! We have put 540 beds in the Natrona County area thanks to people like you. Regards, Sleep in Heavenly Peace

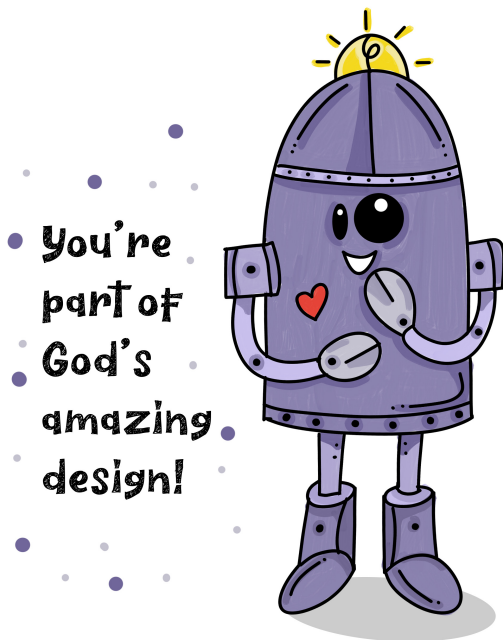
Dear FCC—Thank you for donating to Seton House! Our mission to support single-parent families is very important to our staff and board, and we could not support them or their journey toward independence and self-sufficiency without the support of our community, and you! We are grateful that you are a part of the work we are doing! With gratitude, Carrie O Reese, Ex. Dir Seton House.

WHAT'S NEXT?



Regional Assembly 2026

What's Next for the Central Rocky Mountain Region? Light, Hope, and Expectation! Save the date for our next Regional Assembly. The Central Rocky Mountain Region 2026 Regional Assembly will be August 7-8, 2026 in Pueblo, Colorado. Come and see how God is shining through us, help us proclaim our hopes in this present time, and journey with us as we imagine and envision with expectation how God is calling us to be the Church.



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
1:00 p.m.

EVENT: Regular monthly meeting

BIBLE READING: Acts 18 and continue reading in
the 52 week journal.

Any questions, contact Carla at 267-2415

*When God asks you to step out of your comfort zone, **do it**—and wear a glorious pair of shoes.*



Spiritual Growth

UPCOMING EVENTS that the commission has planned for FCC. Jane Wallace is in charge of the Commission this year and has a lot of activities planned. Please put the dates on your calendar and come and enjoy the fun.



FEBRUARY 8

Annual Bingo and Soup potluck for church family and Scouts. This is also Scout Sunday. Come join us for fun, food and fellowship. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for everyone to sign up to bring soup, bread, dessert. If you wish to donate gifts for the BINGO game, you are welcome to do so.



LENTEN SOUP DINNER & SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25TH

SERVICE @ 6:00 P.M.

SOUP @ 6:30 P.M.

The Elders and Spiritual Growth Commission will be starting the Lenten Service and Soup supper on Feb. 25th-Mar. 25th. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin for soup and desserts. They are figuring they'll need three people to sign up for soup and a couple for desserts.



This summer Spiritual Growth is planning a Day at the Lake, attending a Spud's baseball game and are planning the Outdoor Worship on July 26th. It will be at Ayres Natural Bridge again. Dates for the Day at the Lake and Spud's baseball are TBD.

February 2026

January 2026

February 2026

March 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>8:15AM Worship School</div> <div>9:10AM Adult's Sunday School</div> <div>9:15AM Youth Sunday School</div> <div>10:10AM Worship</div> <div>11:30AM Coffee Fellowship</div>	<div>Groundhog Day</div> <div>9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters</div> <div>6:00PM Cub Scouts</div> <div>6:30PM Elders meeting</div> <div>7:00PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>7:00PM AA</div>	<div>9:00AM QUILTERS</div> <div>10:00AM Sermon in the Round</div>		<div>OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div>10:00AM Quilters</div> <div>1:00PM Sandwich making</div>	<div>8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY</div>
<div>Scout Sunday</div> <div>8:15AM Worship School</div> <div>9:10AM Adult's Sunday School</div> <div>9:15AM Youth Sunday School</div> <div>10:10AM Worship</div> <div>11:30AM Soup & Bingo</div> <div>3:00PM Primrose Service</div>	<div>6:00PM Cub Scouts</div> <div>7:00PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>1:00PM DWM Fellowship</div> <div>7:00PM AA</div>	<div>9:00AM QUILTERS</div> <div>10:00AM Sermon in the Round</div>		<div>OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div>10:00AM Quilters</div> <div>1:00PM Sandwich making</div>	<div>Valentine's Day</div> <div>8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY</div>
<div>Rhonda pulpit</div> <div>8:15AM Worship School</div> <div>9:10AM Adult's Sunday School</div> <div>10:10AM Worship</div> <div>11:30AM Coffee Fellowship</div>	<div>Office Closed</div> <div>Presidents' Day</div> <div>6:00PM Cub Scouts</div> <div>7:00PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>Lunar New Year</div> <div>12:00PM CALL deadline</div> <div>7:00PM AA</div>	<div>Ash Wednesday</div> <div>First Night of Ramadan</div> <div>7:30AM Receiving ashes</div> <div>9:00AM QUILTERS</div> <div>10:00AM Sermon in the Round</div>		<div>OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div>10:00AM Quilters</div> <div>1:00PM Sandwich making</div>	<div>Dale Matherly workshop</div> <div>8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY</div> <div>9:00AM 3 D's quilters</div> <div>10:00AM blanket ministry</div>
<div>Dale Matherly workshop</div> <div>8:15AM Worship School</div> <div>9:10AM Adult's Sunday School</div> <div>9:15AM Youth Sunday School</div> <div>10:10AM Worship</div> <div>11:30AM Coffee Fellowship</div>	<div>6:00PM Cub Scouts</div> <div>7:00PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>7:00PM AA</div>	<div>9:00AM QUILTERS</div> <div>10:00AM Sermon in the Round</div> <div>6:00PM Lenten service</div> <div>6:30PM Lenten soup</div>		<div>OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div>10:00AM Quilters</div> <div>1:00PM Sandwich making</div> <div>5:00PM Mission Meal</div>	<div>8:15AM SANDWICH MIN-ISTRY</div>