FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

THE CALL

MARCH 2026

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

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www.fcccasper.org
fcccasper@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

What a stretch of winter we haven't had! The snow has not fallen and fallen—and then fallen anymore. The parking lot has remained untouched by snow, and the drifts haven't risen overnight. Here in Wyoming, we know that March can still surprise us. In fact, March and even April are often some of our heaviest snowfall months. This year we need that precipitation. And sometimes the drifts that the snow brings can add up around our homes, church and community.

Life can feel that way too. Circumstances don't always arrive gently—they blow in fast, pile up, and before we know it, we're navigating drifts we didn't plan for. Over the past few years especially, we've all earned advanced degrees in adapting, adjusting, and learning how to respond when life changes quickly.

As Christians, how do we stay grounded when things pile up? We order our lives around fixed points—anchors that don't move when everything else does. Years ago in Sunday School, I learned (mostly because I didn't always know the right answer!) that if you answered "Jesus," you were usually on safe ground. And honestly, that still holds true. If your default answer to life's biggest questions is Jesus, you really can't do better.

This year, Lent began on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Lent invites us to slow down, reflect, and realign our hearts. It is a season of letting go and leaning in—releasing what distracts us - may we return to the steady presence of Christ.

With Lent beginning in mid-February, March becomes the heart of the Lenten season—a month of reflection, repentance, gratitude, and renewed focus. It is a time to examine what has piled up in our lives and to clear space for what matters most. As the snow eventually melts and gives way to spring, Lent reminds us that God is always preparing something new beneath the surface.

We have also experienced meaningful transitions within our church family. We hired Rhonda Padilla to Associate Minister position to strengthen our times of praise and help us use the many gifts within our congregation. We have gone through a Visioning Summit with our Interim Regional Minister, Rev. Dale Matherly where we reflected on what we are doing as a church body and how will we impact our future as a church moving forward. We are truly blessed with volunteers who make this church not just a place we attend, but a family that looks to the future with anticipation and faith.

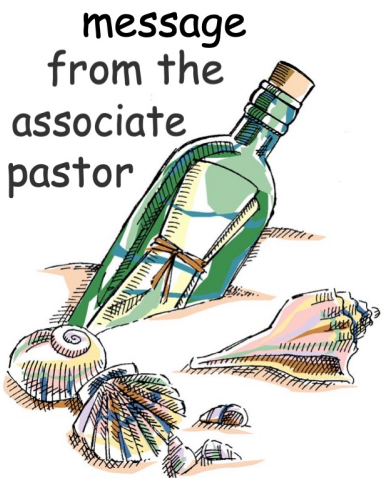
As Lent moves us through March and toward Easter in April, we approach the most profound season of the church year. The celebration of Palm Sunday gives way to the sorrow of Christ's arrest, suffering, and crucifixion. On Maundy Thursday, we will gather to remember the depth of Jesus' love and sacrifice. Yet even in the shadow of the cross, we know the story does not end there. Resurrection is coming.

During March and April, hearts are often more open to hope than at any other time of year outside of Christmas. People long to belong. They long for meaning. And we know the answer—not an idea, not a program, but a person. We belong to Jesus.

So whether the snow falls or the sunshine wins out, remember this: when the blizzards of life blow in, our anchor remains the same. Our answer is always Jesus.

Have a blessed Lenten season. I look forward to walking this journey with you.

In Anticipation,
Pastor Bryan



February was a month of spiritual growth and connection. I had the privilege of attending the mid-winter retreat, which was a wonderful first-time experience with fellow ministers and youth. I am especially proud of our ECOY representative, Emilia Wardell, whose leadership skills, gifts, and talents enriched all age groups at the retreat.
I want to express heartfelt thanks to everyone who assisted me with my competency project for Seminary, and to all who participated in our SOAR vision work for our congregation with our Regional Minister, Dale Matherly. Your support and collaboration are deeply appreciated. This church is growing, and our community is strengthened by everyone stepping up and in. I am so proud to be a part of something so amazing.

Moving into March has us continuing in the season of Lent. I am with you every time you and I engage with the Lenten devotional created. We are on this Grace Toward New Creation together. As we make way for reflection, renewal, and intentionally draw closer to God. As we deepen our faith and prepare our hearts for Easter, let this Scripture remind us:
"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."
— Psalm 51:10

For all FCC choir and bells people, (and anyone wanting to join either group.) **It has been way too long**. I am extending an invitation to you all for a day of music, fellowship, and spiritual renewal as we gather for the *first annual* **"Hope in Harmony: Hand Bell and Choir Retreat."** This special event is designed to prepare our hearts and talents for a joyful Easter Sunday performance.
When: March 7th | 9:30am–3pm (More Details to Come)
What to Expect:

- Food, fun and music
- Technique workshops for both hand bell and choir (experienced and new people can all benefit from this.)
- A dedicated time for connecting with God and each other
- Collaborative work as we rehearse the "Easter Song" and unite our voices and bells in praise.
- Practice Commitment:

To honor everyone's efforts and ensure a beautiful Easter Sunday performance, please commit to attending all five practices held each Sunday after the 10:10 service. If you anticipate tardiness or an absence, kindly discuss it in advance so we can work together respectfully. Let's make music, build community, and celebrate the hope of Easter in harmony!
"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" — Psalm 98:4

Blessings,

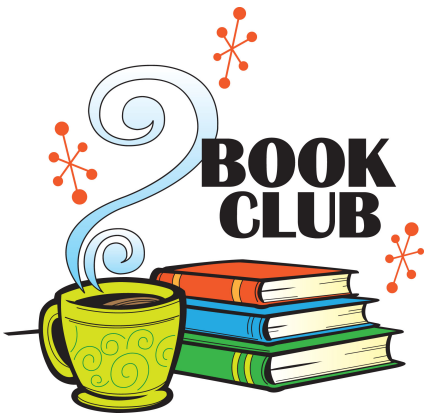
Rhonda Padilla

New Opportunity for Children and Youth in Worship

Would your child/youth like to be part of a new Acolyte ministry? Acolytes assist the worship leaders by bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary and lighting the candles on the communion table to signal the start of the worship service.Nancy Thomas will organize this new ministry with children and youth in grades 2 through 12. The acolytes will be taught the significance of lighting the candles and the procedure for doing so. Two acolytes each Sunday is the goal, and it is important that they be at the church by 10:00 on the days they serve. We will make arrangements for acolytes at the early service if there is interest. If you have questions and/or your children would like to participate, please contact Nancy by calling or texting her at 337-5245.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
APRIL 4TH @ 10:00 A.M.

Beginning on March 8th, there will be bags of empty Easter Eggs next to the sanctuary that we would love to see filled. All you need to do is place WRAPPED candy or toys in the eggs, and bring the full eggs back to the church for our Easter Egg Hunt. We will also accept donations of wrapped candy, however, filling the eggs provided helps take the filling burden off of one person. We appreciate all that this congregation does to helper youth and are excited to offer another fulfilled morning for kids.



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.

Mission Opportunities

March has a 5th Sunday and we are asking for donations to go to the nursing students of the University of Jamestown and their mission in Chogonia Kenya. The nurses are so grateful for our donations that we have given in the past.

The next DWM meeting is March 10th at 1:00 p.m. Continue reading the 52 week journal. We are giving devotions to Kind Grounds in March. If you have any questions, contact Carla at 267-2415

2321 blankets have been made since we started in January of 2016. All but 27 of them have been distributed, and those will be delivered this coming week. Our recent recipients are, Make a Wish, Renal Care, Oncology, Interfaith and Mercer House.

We are always looking for people to come help. Men or women. We meet the 3rd Saturday of every month, Taking off June, July and August. We gather at 10 AM and go til 2 PM. You don't need to stay the entire time. It's amazing what can get done, even in an hour. If you can't help, perhaps you can donate. We use 2 yards of print fleece and 2 yards of plain per blanket. If you know someone who has some they are not using and want to donate as well, that would be awesome. Thank you all. Contact Trudy Woodard for more info.

The Fellowship Quilters and FCC have a heritage of honoring veterans and we are honoring the service of Gene Martin with this quilt. Gene enlisted in the Wyoming National Guard in 1967 and served with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 49th Artillery Regiment. He served for 6 years and attained the rank of Sgt. E-5 before his discharge in 1973.Gene worked in the oil field for 43 years, relocating 29 times, and continued to serve his community. He has continued to do so in the Casper community by participating in food banks, Pop in the Shop,Foster Grandparents Program, worked with senior adult ministries, and helped young people with financial literacy to name a few. He actively attends FCC and loves pot lucks.

Thank you for your service to our country and to God.

Worship Leaders

DIACONATE FOR MARCH 2026
8:15 - Tammy Heck
10:10- Stupak Family

OFFERING STEWARD
Randisue Davis

ELDERS
Mar. 1 - Steve Huckfeldt (both services)
Mar. 8 - Dewey Smith & Dennis Baker
Mar. 15 -Donna Osterholt & TBD
Mar. 22-Dewey Smith & TBD
Mar. 29 - PalmSunday - Dewey Smith & Carmen Goodman
April 5 - Easter Sunday TBD

MARCH Birthdays

Nancy Thomas	Mar. 1	Pat Seamands	Mar 16
Chuck Hake	Mar. 4	Eddie Atkinson	Mar 17
Cindy Huckfeldt	Mar. 8	Alex Rislov	Mar. 21
Sydney Oliver	Mar. 8	Judy Baker	Mar. 23
Asher Rislov	Mar. 9	Lori Hayden	Mar. 25
Arlene Wegner	Mar. 12	Janie Nelson	Mar. 26
Austin Lackey	Mar. 16		

Anniversary
Bob & Joan McNamara
March 7, 1970

Choir & HandBell Workshop

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Spiritual Growth

LENTEN SOUP DINNER & SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25TH-MAR. 25
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.

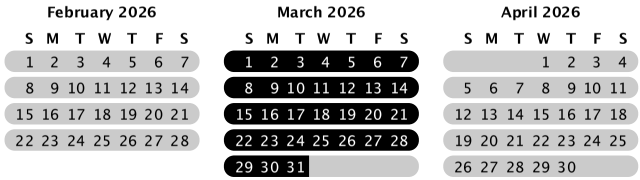
Easter Flowers

The Spiritual Growth Commission will **not** be purchasing flowers for Easter instead money donated to the flower fund will be donated to the Children's Scholarship and Camp Fund. Please contact Jane Wallace if you have questions.

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.

We had a great turnout for Boy Scout Sunday, Bingo & Soup. Thank you for all the donated prizes, delicious soups and desserts that were provided. Special thanks to our two BINGO callers, Blake and Patricia. Looking forward to more fun next year!

March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	2 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Elders meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts	3 7:00PM AA	4 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round 6:00PM Lenten service 6:30PM Lenten soup	5 11:00AM GRACE ROBERTSON FUNERAL	6 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	7 Handbell and choir retreat 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
8 Daylight Saving Time 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 3:00PM Primrose Service	9 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilting 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM STEWARDSHIP 7:00PM Boy Scouts 7:00PM Commissions	10 1:00PM DWM Fellowship 7:00PM AA	11 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round 6:00PM Lenten service 6:30PM Lenten soup	12	13 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	14 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
15 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	16 12:00PM CALL deadline 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:00PM AA	18 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round 6:00PM Lenten service 6:30PM Lenten soup	19	20 OFFICE CLOSED Eid al-Fitr 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	21 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY 9:00AM 3 D's quilters 9:00AM Men's Group 10:00AM blanket ministry
22 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	23 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilt 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	24 7:00PM AA	25 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round 6:00PM Lenten service 6:30PM Lenten soup	26	27 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 5:00PM Mission Meal	28 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
29 Palm Sunday 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	30 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	31 7:00PM AA	1 April Fools' Day Passover 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED Good Friday 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	4 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY