



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

THE CALL



2026



Church Staff:

Bryan Elliott: Lead Pastor
Rhonda Padilla: Associate Pastor
Kathy Winders, Secretary
Kaylee Waters, Nursery attendant
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



MISSION
Statement

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

**"Gathering at Christ's Table,
We Welcome and Serve Others."**



Pastor Bryan's Column

Dear Church Family,

I know you find this hard to believe but it is near the end of April and it is in the 70's with a slight breeze and mostly clear skies! But this you will not find hard to believe - the weather is changing and several days it will be in the 40's and 50's with rain half of that time, we hope and pray! Don't you love winter/spring/summer in Wyoming, all in the same week!

Over the past several weeks I have been dealing with a company who will not honor their warranty. They have given me two or three different reasons, all find fault in me or in some nameless entity. Frustrating when we are not "fairly" dealt with. Frustrating because I think I am on the just and right side of this ordeal. I wonder if I confront other issues in life like I do this warranty claim? Do I think God should give me all I want and desire? Do I think that because I believe in God that my life and the lives of those I love should be care free and easy, or at least not difficult or painful?

One thing I have observed in over 66 years of living - life is tough! There is nothing easy about living and often good people suffer and there doesn't seem to be a thing we can do about much of the suffering in this life that comes to us through no fault of our own. Jesus who always told his followers the truth said that we as his people are called to "take up our crosses daily and follow him." In other words - suffering is the path. Obedience is our vehicle. Jesus is our traveling companion because the good news is that he tells us that he will never leave us and will always love us and hold onto us. I like that. I may wish for an easier time of it in this journey, but companionship is comforting and welcomed.

This summer I will be on a journey that may or may not be easy. It will be a journey of self discovery. A journey of learning and taking on skills for leadership, strategy and stewardship that will hopefully help our church move into a new phase of ministry. My goal is to work out a plan to help our church embrace our mission (Gathering at Christ's table, we welcome and serve others) of leading and discipling others in this Christian journey; while telling the truth with integrity about how our church can be missional to our new and ever changing community. I would like us as a congregation to embark on a path of discovery on how we as Disciples of Christ can renew our Congregation and help to heal the sick and suffering around us as well as help those who are traveling a self destruction path towards a journey into new life. May we all be thinking of ways we can incorporate our congregations Core Values of being: Welcoming and Belonging; Show Faith in Action; Offer Christ centered worship; Building Community and Shared Relationship. Our focus as a congregation for the next 3 years is on: Youth and families; worship and music vitality; care and community needs responses; Generating a volunteer culture; and financial sustainability.

May we be a Blessing as we seek these ideals and grow as people of God who reflect Jesus.

In His Loving Embrace,

Bryan

Mother's Day Tea Party

Join us for an elegant afternoon of delightful conversations, exquisite teas, and delectable treats. Please sign up below to attend!

Saturday, May 9th 2026 at Noon

Please sign up on the sign up sheet outside the office, or reach out to Teresa Elliott or Kimberly Ireland to have them add your name to the list. We are also looking for people to bring finger sandwiches, desserts or vegetables or fruit, if you are able to bring that for the tea let us know.



GARAGE SALE EXTRAVAGANZA!

Hosted by DWM

SATURDAY JUNE 27

9AM TO 2PM

First Christian Church

PARKING LOT

520 CY AVE

Join us and sell your stuff!

Do you have a bunch of stuff laying around that you want to get rid of? Do you have crafts to sell? Well we have the place for you make that happen. Rent a parking space in our Church lot for \$10 and set up your tables and come sell your stuff. All your profits are yours to keep, you are in charge of your own space, items and money. If you or a friend or family member would like to participate please contact Kimberly Ireland at 307-251-5868. Sign up and fees must be received by June 20th.



Our little mouse (**Blanche**) reports that people are becoming lackadaisical in seeing that their pews are clean of all candy wrappers, coffee cups, water bottles, communion cups, hymnals and bibles replaced properly in the hymn rack and used tissues are removed before leaving the sanctuary. Blanche hopes that everyone will take pride in leaving the sanctuary clean when they leave.



Sunday School Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to fill in for summer Sundays. Whatever you can do to help is appreciated. If you have not been background checked by the school district or another Wyoming state agency and have a current one on file we will have to do a background check on those that volunteer. This is expected from our Insurance Company as we comply with all Safe practices when it comes to our children. Thank you for your volunteering and your cooperation. Also, please note that if you are not a staff member, parent (related to the child), or a volunteer who is signed up to help that Sunday, you are not to be around the nursery or the children's area.

There is no set curriculum so the leader would be free to modify lessons to fit what works best for their strengths, be it crafts, games, activities or films. Michelle would be happy to assist with any ideas or materials needed. Contact Michelle Elser at 307-259-1166 if you are interested.

Thank you as this is also part of keeping our children as safe as possible and a requirement of our Insurance company's Safe Practices.

Blessings, Pastor Bryan and Pastor Rhonda.

DATES: May 31st - August 30th.



MISSION COMMISSION

The Mission Commission completed an inventory of the Sandwich Ministry Store room and will update it's status each week. Pastor Rhonda, Nancy Thomas and Carla Schanck are completing the requirements of the Wyoming Food Bank to be able to order and pick up food at the Food Bank along with Debbie Mestas.

The blanket ministry has been busy making and giving out blankets. We are in need of fleeces. If you know of someone who has a stash of fleeces they aren't going to use or if you like to hit the garage sales and you see some, please let Trudy or Carla know.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH is planning summer events for the congregation. Mark your calendar with these dates:

SPUDS BASEBALL GAME

June 21st - 3:00 p.m. Lansing Ball Field

\$18.00 for food and ticket or \$10.00 for just a ticket.

Contact Jane Wallace for further information & sign up sheet will be available on June 7th.

Come celebrate Father's Day at the Ball Park.

A DAY AT THE LAKE

August 15th

More details to follow

WORSHIP AT AYRES NATURAL BRIDGE

July 26th - 11:00

Details next month

PASTOR BRYAN'S RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

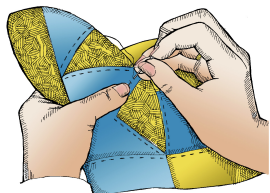
October 25th - after 10:10 service

Further details to come.

THANK YOU for the donations for the Easter Lily's. **We were able to pay for one child's camp fee.**



Every Sunday we are very fortunate to have people sign up to furnish goodies for our Fellowship time after the 8:15 a.m. and 10:10 services. However it is usually our same faithful givers that provide these goodies. Since everyone from both services enjoys this special fellowship time, we need more volunteers to help provide treats. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the kitchen for May, June and July. It doesn't have to be elegant treats.



QUILTING GROUP

Jane Wallace's Wednesday morning quilting group "The Happy Quilters" are able to donate 30 quilts to the At Risk High School graduating Seniors this year. The quilts will be blessed April 26 at the 10:10 service.

Please DO NOT unlock the right side door on the front door of the church. It is broken. You can still unlock (if you need to) the left side. If you unlock it, please remember it is your responsibility to see that it is locked when you leave.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



DIACONATE FOR MAY 2026

8:15 - TBD

10:10- Tom May & TBD

OFFERING STEWARD

Carmen Goodman

ELDERS

April 26- Donna Osterholt, Nicholas Grooms

May 3 - Theresa Elliott, Nicholas Grooms

May 10 - Steve Huckfeldt (both services)

May 17 - Dewey Smith, Dennis Baker

May 24 - Dewey Smith, Nancy Thomas

May 31- Donna Osterholt, Carmen Goodman

ACOLYTES

April 26 - Rhys Elser & Alex Storey

May 3 - Leena Maddox and TBD

May 10 - Alex Storey & TBD

(Contact Nancy Thomas if you wish to be an acolyte for the 10:10 service)

Linda Mosteller	May 3	Trisha Whitcomb	May 16
Jenny Black	May 4	Jamie Williams	May 17
Dylan Stupak	May 4	Raylan Heck	May 17
Darlene Bishop	May 6	Jared Black	May 22
Brady Hover	May 7	Cristof Atkinson	May 24
Lois Purvis	May 11	Amanda Kirlin	May 24
Martha Wallace	May 12	Steve Kingsolver	May 25
Gene Weiss	May 12	Travis Hayden	May 31
Mary Lou Westman	May 16		

ANNIVERSARIES

Robin & Kirk Nelson - May 15, 1982

Michelle & Tyler Elser - May 23, 2011

Julie & Russ Black - May 25, 1980

Jennifer & Ted Grooms - May 31, 1975



Thank you for all the prayers, phone calls, and concerns expressed for Colin, Delilah, John & Kim Stewart after their automobile accident. Everyone is still recovering. I love my church family—Jane Wallace.

THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

Generosity is an expression of joy, not obligation.

We give freely and cheerfully, trusting God to multiply every gift and use it for His glory (2 Corinthians 9:7). Your generosity strengthens our church family and helps extend our ministry far beyond these walls. We invite you to prayerfully partner with us as we continue carrying this mission forward for generations to come.

You can scan the QR code to give as you feel led. On behalf of First Christian Church, thank you for your faithful and generous hearts.





A Message From Pastor Rhonda

As we step into the beauty of May and approach Mother's Day, we do so with grateful hearts, pausing to celebrate all that God is doing among us. This is a season of growth, renewal, and holy joy. I am continually reminded that this church is flourishing because we have chosen—again and again—to love God deeply and to love one another well.

This Eastertide season has been a powerful testimony of God's faithfulness. We began our Lenten journey together in reflection and preparation and were led into the joy of Resurrection Sunday with hearts lifted in worship. Our Easter Egg Hunt was a joyful celebration of community, filled with laughter and connection, and Easter morning was a beautiful expression of unity as music, prayer, and participation filled our sanctuary with life and praise.

God truly multiplied our time, gifts, and talents, beginning with our Hope and Harmony Music Retreat in March. Our commitment to one another helped us grow far beyond what we could have imagined. Through music, prayer, and shared purpose, our labor of love became a living act of worship, filling the sanctuary with music that testified to God's presence among us. It was a vivid picture of the body of Christ at work—every gift, every voice, every hand offered in praise. A special thank you to Caleb for sharing his gift on guitar during the postlude—such a meaningful blessing to us all.

I still find it hard to believe I have now been here ten months. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve among you. I have witnessed a church that is both tender and strong—one that shows up for one another in sorrow and celebration, holding each other with grace and faith. Time and again, I see this truth revealed: we are strong because we are united, shaped not only by what we endure, but by how we love through it all. As we continue living into our mission—**“Gathering at Christ's Table, we welcome and serve others”**—I see this calling come to life more each day.

We also want to honor Ruby, whose last Sunday with us will be **May 17th** as her family is moving back to Texas. We are deeply grateful for the gift she has been to our church. Her musical talent has blessed our worship, and her presence has been a joy. We pray God's blessings over her next chapter.

I would like to invite you to participate in a **card shower for Ruby**. Please bring a card or note of encouragement for the May 17th service as a way to share your love and prayers. You will have a chance to say your farewells after the 2nd service.

As we move into this next season, we turn our hearts toward celebration with gratitude. We honor our mothers and all who nurture, guide, and love so faithfully, and we celebrate our graduates, giving thanks for their hard work and holding them in prayer as they step into new beginnings.

We also look ahead with anticipation to **Pentecost**, a meaningful season in our Disciples tradition that reminds us the Holy Spirit is still moving and bringing life to the Church. If you would like to be part of this service on Sunday, May 24th, please contact me.

I look forward with hope and expectation to all that God has yet to do in and through us here at FCC Casper. Let us continue to move forward in this truth: **we are better together**, and because Christ is with us, our best days are still ahead.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Rhonda



DWM BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Our DWM (Disciples Women's Ministry) continues to be a quiet but powerful expression of Christ's love—serving families during times of loss with care, compassion, and hospitality. While some families are able to give donations, there are many times when costs are not fully covered. Even with careful stewardship, the average reception—simple offerings of sandwiches, chips, dessert and beverages—costs around \$120. Currently, we are still able to provide cookies, coffee, tea, lemonade, and water at no cost, but rising grocery prices are making this increasingly difficult to sustain. If you are able, we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the DWM Bereavement Ministry. Your gift helps us continue this meaningful act of love in their time of need. If you have any questions contact Carla Schanck, DWM President or desire to make a donation by check, please make it payable to Disciples Women's Ministry.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Our church is alive with ministry because of you. From the sandwich and blanket ministries to our dedicated quilters...from Elders and Deacons to those serving in children's ministry and bereavement care...from making coffee and providing refreshments to helping with set up, cleanup, work and especially yard work—your hands make a difference every single day.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways you serve, often quietly and behind the scenes where love is lived out in real and meaningful ways.

To celebrate you, we will be hosting a **Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on June 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. here at the church.** More details are coming soon! We will also have a signup sheet available so you can let us know if you have volunteered this past year and if you're able to attend. We are letting you know in advance so we can budget and plan. An RSVP will be needed as we get closer.

Thank you for all you do—you are a blessing to this church and to all who walk through our doors.

May 2026

April 2026

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

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31						

June 2026

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	27 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilt 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	28 7:00PM AA	29 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	30	1 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	2 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
3 8:15AM Worship School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	4 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Elders meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts	5 Cinco de Mayo 7:00PM AA	6 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	7	8 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	9 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY 12:00PM DWM TEA
10 Mother's Day 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	11 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilting 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM STEWARDSHIP 7:00PM Boy Scouts 7:00PM Commissions 8:00PM Board meeting	12 1:00PM DWM Fellowship 7:00PM AA	13 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	14	15 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	16 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY 9:00AM 3 D's quilters 9:00AM Meri's Group 10:00AM blanket ministry
17 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	18 12:00PM CALL deadline 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	19 7:00PM AA	20 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 5:00PM Mission Meal	23 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
24 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	25 Memorial Day 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilt 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	26 7:00PM AA	27 Eid al-Adha 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	28	29 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	30 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
31 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	1 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Elders meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts	2 7:00PM AA	3 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	4	5 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making	6 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY