



Connecting  
Us with God and  
one another

April 1, 2011

**Senior Pastor**

Rev Rebecca Heller (ext 30)

**Christian Education Minister:**

Tracy Morgan, Director (ext 24)

**Custodians:**

Max & Marcia Peters

**Music Ministers:**

Neil Forsythe, Director (ext 23)

Troy Schuh, Pianist

**Nursery & Wedding Coordinator:**

Tammy Swartz

**Office Manager:**

Kirsten Bayne (ext 21)

**Transportation Coordinator:**

Dennis Miller

**Volunteer Coordinator:**

Lanny Helzer

**Youth Minister:**

Rachel Nelson (ext 22)

**Licensed Ministers:**

Dennis Miller

Lanny Helzer

Pam Hilliard

Tracy Morgan

**Sunday Morning Services:**

8:30 Traditional Service

9:50 Sunday School for all ages

10:45 Contemporary Service

**If you have information for our  
Link, please e-mail that  
information to:**

[kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org](mailto:kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org)  
see inside for deadlines.

## April Events

April is a busy month here at the church with  
Lent and Easter Activities,  
please attend the events listed below to experience  
*Knowing, Growing and Showing the love of God*  
here at First Christian Church.

**We will be finishing up the Lenten Luncheons on April 13th:**

March 23—Matthew 26:69-75 "A Maid" Pam Hilliard

March 30—Matthew 27:27-31 "A Soldier" Neil Forsythe

April 6— Matthew 27:32-37 "A City Dweller" Lanny Helzer

April 13— Matthew 27:38-44 "A Heckler" Matt Swartz

### Here is the Sunday Schedule for April:

April 6th—First Sunday Food—Dry Cereal (Two Services)

April 10th—Youth Sunday (Two Services)

April 17th—Easter Cantata (One Service 10:45)

*Youth Serving Lunch Immediately Following the Service*

April 24th—Easter Sunday (Two Services)

*Youth Serving Breakfast from 7:30—10:30am*

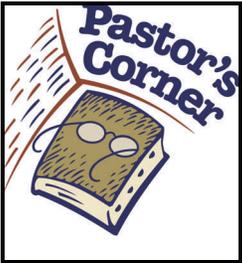
### Maundy Thursday

Dinner at 6:15p (Minnerly Hall)

Worship at 7:00p (Minnerly Hall)

### Easter Egg Hunt

An annual tradition here at FCC for kids up to the 5th Grade  
Meet in Fellowship Hall at 10am on Easter Sunday, please remember  
to bring a basket.



## Growing Churches Wear Nametags!

First Christian Church really is a welcoming congregation. I certainly have been received into this Body with open arms and I am grateful for all the kindness I have been shown. The vision statement for FCC is to Know, Grow and Show the Love of God. A few weeks ago in my sermon we did some discussion about what we (as individuals and a congregation) believe it means to know the love of God, grow the love of God and show the love of God. There were so many wonderful responses. Ideas included sharing the good news; inviting people into a personal relationship with Christ; learning more about the scriptures and what it means to be a follower of Jesus; accepting people into a caring church family; and serving God by serving others in the church, the community, and the world. This is an excellent vision! What it boils down to is growing—growing as Christians, growing as a congregation, and growing in our service to others.

**Well. . . growing churches wear nametags.**

And if I have understood the vision correctly, First Christian Church wants to grow. Now, although I am in the process of learning names, it is not for selfish reasons that I advocate the wearing of nametags. In fact, I can almost guarantee that members of this church do not know the names of all of their fellow members—nametags help members and visitors alike. (If you think you know every name in the church, let me know—I could certainly use your help!) One of the things that facilitates growth and welcomes people into a warm and caring

community is making names accessible. Some of you are great about wearing yours, but I envision seeing everyone wear a name tag of some sort. There are temporary sticky nametags on the welcome table in the Narthex, you can sign up to have one made, or we can print you one. (If you need a nametag, let us know in the office or make a note of it in the "friendship register" in the pew on Sunday morning.) My hope is that you will actively participate in this small effort as we continue to invite, accept, and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

I also have another challenge for you. ***I challenge every single one of you to make a point of talking with at least one person you do not know every Sunday.*** It may be someone who is visiting for the first time, or someone who has been around for years and you have just never gotten acquainted with. Introduce yourself, find out what you have in common, ask questions—don't be shy. During coffee/doughnut time, sit with someone other than your closest friend. Get to know others, grow in your relationships and with Christ, and show God's love. ***I guarantee that if we all commit to participating in this small effort, every Sunday, our community will be transformed.*** What do you say? Will you give it a try?

Blessings,  
Rev. Rebecca

# Tracy's TidBits

Woohoo! I have a herniated disc! Who knew I could ever be excited about having a herniated disc!? But when it means that the spot that was on the PET scan is not cancer, then I'm excited! When it means that the cancer that I have has remained localized to the left breast and that I am back to stage 2 instead of stage 3 then I am excited about it! I have a herniated disc!

This is part of my new normal! I can't remember now if I heard this from a cancer survivor, or if I read it (I've read a lot about cancer lately, Lance Armstrong's book *It's Not About the Bike* is an excellent read), but whatever it was talked about a new normal when you have cancer. My new normal includes chemo weekly for the next 6 months, 2 ½ hours of letting lethal chemicals pour into my body. But it also includes my husband taking the time to take me to chemo and my appreciation for that, and my grandma (87 years old) and my mom meeting me and keeping me company during chemo which I'm growing to appreciate as precious time for us to spend together that I wouldn't have without cancer. My new normal puts me in places that call me to meet others battling cancer and I am developing new friendships that I wouldn't have otherwise. I'm developing a new appreciation for how God made us and how strong and courageous we are through Christ when we don't have to make the decision to let God have control but that is the only thing we can do. This cancer normal has shown me the amazing love of God through my church family (thanks to all of you for prayers, cards, gifts, food, hugs...), my other friends and my family. It gives me opportunities to witness to my faith! I have so many God sightings in a week because of the love that continues to be shown to me and the new appreciation I have for every breath, and for every second of every moment of this amazing life that God has given to us!

Cancer sucks! The fear that it carries with it is paralyzing! But when I started asking people to pray for me I started feeling that prayer move me forward and I knew I had hope! I have joy, peace and love more than I think I've ever known before! I would never wish cancer on anyone, but I pray that it doesn't take a crisis for any of you to come to know and to appreciate the people in your lives who love you and the love in your lives that God through the Spirit stirs around you and the hope, joy, and peace that comes through prayer, and if you do have a crisis know that God can work through it for you and those around you. Cancer is awful, it feels like a darkness within me! My family has deemed the name Ursula for it from the villainess in *The Little Mermaid*, she's a black octopus who takes peoples' lives and leaves them as a pile of black goo, a friend fighting it calls it the "ugly C". Cancer is a villain, it is evil and it is ugly, but the response from people is not to turn away from it and to run from it but they turn and face it and bestow a great love on the people who have it and in so doing you shine the light of Christ into that person. I have no doubt that I have, will, and am changed by cancer but the far greater change has come from so many people shining the light of Christ into my life! I pray that I do not forget that as the effects of chemo increase but I don't think that God working through all of you will allow that to happen!

Tracy Morgan  
Christian Education Minister



## Rachel's Remarks

### The cost of a mountaintop experience

When have you had a mountaintop experience, an experience of deep peace, self worth, and direct connection to God? A few weeks ago, Rev. Rebecca preached about remembering the mountaintop, not falling into despair in its absence, but drawing on those experiences to fuel your passion for God and for life as your life continues on. What an important message! It's not just about remembering what happened, but remembering how it felt, and channeling that feeling into your present self. Have you been remembering?... Whether the experience came through a literal hike in the mountains, a mission trip or other experience of selfless service, the birth of your child, an Emmaus walk, etc., recalling that experience fully can reunite you with your Creator and your true self. These experiences are a gift not only when they occur, but for a lifetime; blessed is the person who experiences - and remembers - the mountaintop.

For many of our youth, mountaintop experiences are their first real connection to God, and perhaps their first experience of feeling at peace with themselves despite all of the awkwardness, confusion, and self doubt that often comes with being a teen. That is why opportunities like summer camp and mission trips are so very important to the development of young Christians. It's not just that they give the youth an opportunity to escape from the pressures of daily life, that they connect the youth with other Christian youth, or that they teach the youth to see the world more through God's eyes. Nor is it that they help the youth gain more appreciation for their life, gifts, and blessings, or that they provide opportunities for self discovery and growth of character. Opportunities like summer camp and mission trips do all of this, *and* open the door for a teen to have an awakening of the holy spirit within them, a God sighting of extraordinary impact, a mountaintop experience that they will be able to remember and draw upon *for the rest of their life*.

Unfortunately the reality is that experiences like these cost money. This year, summer camp costs almost \$400, and for our families experiencing economic hardship, even sending one child is difficult, let alone two or three. We need your help! We expect to try to send about 18 youth and children to camp this year, a total cost of around \$6900. With a budget of \$2000 (funded by Sunday morning offerings), we are \$1450 short of paying half for each camper (it is a common tradition for churches to pay half). So how can you help? You can attend our lunch on Palm Sunday and/or breakfast on Easter Sunday and give generously (you will be served by the very youth you will be helping). You can donate food toward either of those meals (just contact me to find out what we need). You can give an offering above and beyond your usual giving (just make sure to hand it to me or clearly mark it for youth camps). You can purchase cookie dough (an upcoming camp fundraiser). You can also "hire" youth for a specific work project (recently the youth painted a church members' house, for which they were given a generous donation toward the camp fund). Whatever way you choose to help, we greatly appreciate your investment in our youth and their mountaintop experiences! We have high hopes that these experiences will fuel a lifetime of faith and Christian life in action.

One last request: To meet these youth and see some of the fruits of their previous experiences, please come to worship with us on April 10! They are very excited to share their gifts for God's glory and lead a meaningful worship service for our church family.

With hope and gratitude,  
Rachel

#### FCC Youth Ministry Mission Statement

Our Youth Ministry exists to **EXPOSE** teenagers to God's love, to **CONNECT** them with other Christians and help them **GROW** in their faith, challenging them to **SEEK** God's presence and to **SERVE** others for Christ.



## Weekly Youth Meetings

for youth in grades 6 – 12

### Sundays: Rush Hour

Join us for faith exploration  
9:40 – 10:40 am

Middle school "Grapple" class meets  
in SW classroom

High school meets in the NW corner  
'youth room'

### Wednesdays: Xone 77

Youth Groups in Minnerly Hall,

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Worship, fellowship, fun, and food!

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Camp Forms due!

March 30

(We will have a notary available on  
March 27)

### Youth Sunday

April 10

Youth will be leading worship for both services. This is a great opportunity to share our gifts with the congregation and with God – talk to Rachel ASAP to get involved!

### Palm Sunday Lunch

April 17

A fundraiser for summer camp, this meal is prepared and served by the youth.

Youth, we need your help 10:30-2:30.  
Adults, we are in need of food donations – contact Rachel to sign up – and most of all, your participation!

### Easter Sunday Breakfast

April 24

A fundraiser for summer camp, this meal is prepared and served by the youth.

Youth, we need your help 7:00-12:00.  
Adults, we are in need of food donations – contact Rachel to sign up – and most of all, your participation!

### Graduation Sunday

May 15

### Camp Commissioning

June 12

### CRMR SUMMER CAMP

Discovery (Gr. 1-3): Jun. 24-26

Junior (Gr. 3-5): Jun. 19-25

Chi-Rho (Gr. 6-8): Jun. 26-Jul. 2

CYF (Gr. 9-12): Jun. 19-25

Wilderness (ages 16-21): Aug. 7 – 12

# Bulletin Board

## Upcoming Link Deadlines

April 18, May 16, June 14

Items must be turned in by 8am on these days in order to be included in the current LINK

---

## ♪♪Neil's Notes♪♪

Greetings, First Christian Church! Well, it is Lent. My goal for this Lenten season is to make sure to take time out of the week to simply reflect upon what the sacrifice of Jesus means for me personally. Our Lenten Luncheon speakers have been focusing on this question, and thus far have been highly enlightening and engrossing. I invite all to come and experience some wonderful food, fellowship, and testimony, Wednesdays during Lent at noon in the fellowship hall. God bless each of you, and I pray that this Lenten season will bless all of you with meaningful insight into God's love for you. -Neil

---

## FCC Clothing Drive

First Christian Church is hosting its very first clothing drive for the community. This will take place June 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. You may be wondering what this clothing drive means to our church. This means that our church is giving back to our community, giving all families a chance to have some clothes, and most of all we are showing our love from our Awesome God. How can you help? I am looking for gently used adult and children's clothes of all sizes and styles, along with shoes, purses, back packs, belts, and coats for all seasons. If you know of someone who is cleaning out closets please keep me in mind. I will be collecting donations from now up until the clothing drive. Please contact me to arrange a pick up/drop off time for you to donate your items.

Peace and Blessings -Tammy Swartz 962-9612.

## First Sunday Food

Once again, and thanks to you, our *First Sunday Food* day was a wonderful success! **You brought: 210 lbs. of food!!!!** House of Neighborly Service now has all that food on its shelves and ready to go out to needy households in the Loveland community. Your generosity continues to be a blessing to them! Next month's food item will be *Dry Cereal*. Our next collection day is Sunday, April 3rd, both services (**remember, First Sunday Food**). THANK YOU!!

---

## Colorado Rockies Faith day

Colorado Rockies Faith day is scheduled for August 21, 2011 with a game time of 1:10 p.m. The Rockies will be playing Los Angeles Dodgers with Casting Crowns playing a special concert right after the game. I have 30 tickets for this game and each ticket is \$22.00. The tickets are in Section 117 Rows 17, 18, 19 which is down by the first base line in the outfield section. Please contact Tammy Swartz to pick up your tickets at 970-962-9612.

---

## Vacation Bible School 2011

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 25-29th. This will be in the evening again this year from 6-8:30p. I am looking for many people to help out this year to make it a great success. If you hear God telling you "Yes Lord send me to this wonderful community outreach" please contact Tammy Swartz 962-9612 to see where you can be the *hands and feet* of Christ this year. If you know that you are unable to help out this year and would like to sponsor a child to attend VBS please come and visit with me or you may make a donation to FCC. Please note in the memo line of your check 'VBS 2011'. You may not know that it cost FCC \$15.00 per child to attend VBS each year. VBS is one of our many events that we offer to the community that is FREE. As we get closer to our start date I will be posting a want list for items that we will be needing.

## April Birthdays

KAUFFMAN, Ben	1-Apr
MCVAY, Kimberly	1-Apr
PERKINS, Glenys	1-Apr
FELDHUS, Christina Lynn	2-Apr
HALSEY, Kara	2-Apr
PICKERT, Linda	3-Apr
UDLOCK, Michaela	3-Apr
THOMPSON, Ed	4-Apr
BASS, Ed	6-Apr
HARRELL, John	7-Apr
RAEL, Selena	7-Apr
CAMPAGNA, Susan	8-Apr
SPARKS, Marian	8-Apr
FORSYTHE, Tami	13-Apr
GRIMES, Steve	14-Apr
HATHAWAY, Kathryn	14-Apr
HAYDEN, Dixie	15-Apr
LIESINGER, Elmer	15-Apr
BARNETT, Duane	17-Apr
HALSEY, Carol	17-Apr
DYNOWSKI, Shannon	18-Apr
SNIDER, Harold	18-Apr
FOLK, Anita	19-Apr
MAHONY, Tyner	20-Apr
LEKAN, Mike	21-Apr
HYATT, Charles	22-Apr
JENNINGS, Sharon	22-Apr
ENGELHARDT, Cheryl	23-Apr
SCHLAUDER, Brandon	23-Apr
SPARKS, Kathryn	23-Apr
SPRAGUE, River	23-Apr
ADAMS, Hannah	24-Apr
SAUL, Jeanette	24-Apr
MCVAY, Makenna	27-Apr
TODD, Dawn	27-Apr
SIMON, Dixie	28-Apr

## April Anniversaries

RUEGSEGGER, Dan & Nancy	1-Apr
REISDORFF, Larry & Debbie	5-Apr
VAUGHN, John & Kathy	5-Apr
POOVEY, John & Judy	14-Apr
SMITH, Tom & Roberta	16-Apr
HAYWARD, Twila	19-Apr
HAYWARD, Walt & Twila	19-Apr
MILLER, Dennis & Barbara	20-Apr
RIVAS, Frank & Mary	20-Apr
BRADY, James & Susan	24-Apr
RUEGSEGGER, Dave & Janean	27-Apr

# APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>2</b> 8:00a Men's Breakfast
<b>3 IHN</b> <b>1st Sunday Food!</b> 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:45a Classes  7p IHN fundraising Conert @ The Rialto	<b>4 IHN</b> 6p Women's reunion group	<b>5 IHN</b>	<b>6</b> 10:30a Trustees 12p Lenten Lunch 4p Baptism Class 6p Xone77 6p Reach 6:30p ARK class 7p Faithtones 7p Financial Peace Class	<b>7 IHN</b> 6p Festive Ringers 6:30p Grief Share 7p Chancel Choir	<b>8 IHN</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>9 IHN</b> 9a Youth Rehearsal 10a Cantata Rehearsal
<b>10 YOUTH SUNDAY</b> 8:30/10:45a Worship Service—led by Youth 9:45a Classes	<b>11</b> 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12p Lenten Lunch 6p Xone77 6p Reach 6:30p ARK class 7p Faithtones 7p Financial Peace Class	<b>14</b> 6p Festive Ringers 7p Chancel Choir	<b>15</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>16</b> 10a Cantata Rehearsal
<b>17 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:45a Classes 10:45a CANTATA—One Service 12p Youth Fundraiser Lunch	<b>18</b> 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	<b>19</b> 1:30p Pastoral Relations Team 7p Mary Circle	<b>20</b> 6p Xone77 6p Reach 6:30p ARK class 7p Faithtones	<b>21 Maundy Thurs</b> 6p Festive Ringers 6:15p Maundy Thurs Dinner and Service 7p Chancel Choir	<b>22 Good Friday</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group 7p Community Good Friday Service at First United Presbyterian	<b>23</b>
<b>24 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 7:30a Youth Breakfast 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:45a Classes 10a Easter Egg Hunt	<b>25</b> 6p Women's reunion group	<b>26</b> 7p Elder's Meeting	<b>27</b> 4p Baptism Class 6p Xone77 6p Reach 6:30p ARK class 7p Faithtones	<b>28</b> 6p Festive Ringers 7p Chancel Choir	<b>29</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>30</b>

**First Christian Church**  
**www.lovelanddisciples.org**

2000 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Loveland, CO 80538

Phone: 970-667-1318  
Fax: 970-744-7047  
Careline: 970-663-4436  
E-mail: [kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org](mailto:kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PERMIT NO. 22

U. S. POSTAGE PAID

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Last But Not Least

### Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a growing, welcoming, diverse community of faith that worships, shares, and expresses through our service the love of God.

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to know, grow, and show the love of God.

STATEMENT  
**Our Mission**  
STATEMENT  
STATEMENT  
STATEMENT

