

Connecting
Us with God and
one another

February 1, 2011

Senior Pastor

Rev Rebecca Heller (ext 30)

Christian Education Minister:

Tracy Morgan, Director (ext 24)

Custodians:

Max & Marcia Peters

Minister of Operations:

Dennis Miller

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

see inside for deadlines.

Valentine's Day Celebration

*Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
This invitation is for you.
Whether single or two,
Come celebrate Valentine's Day!
(All are welcome and encouraged to attend!)*

Date: Saturday, February 12th

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Minnerly Hall

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Entertainment:

(there will be entertainment for all to enjoy)

Menu:

Tossed Salad

Beer Bread

Roast Port Loin

Herb Roasted Potatoes

Butter and Garlic Sauted Carrots

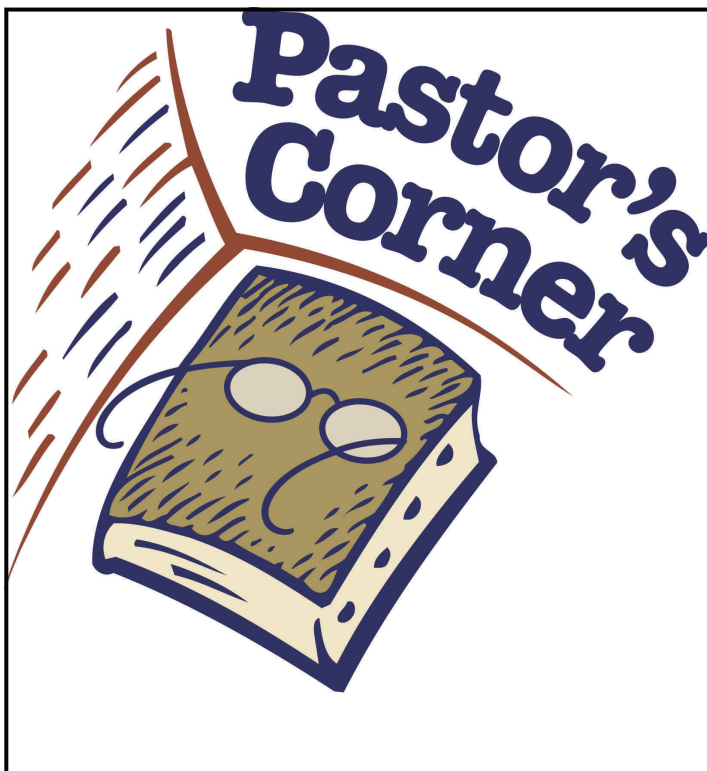
Hot Fudge Brownie Sundaes

Coffee and Punch

Tickets available in the Narthex

Valentine's Day





First Christian Church has "Prepared the Way" for me, your new Pastor, in so many wonderful ways as we literally begin this new year together. So much preparation went on well ahead of my arrival, and your efforts have truly ministered to me and my family. With a heart filled with thanksgiving and gratitude, I want to acknowledge and express my appreciation for all that has been done.

At the beginning of my final week in Kent, Ohio, I received a beautiful basket of flowers with a note that said, "*We just wanted to cheer you up a little as you prepare to leave your church family in Kent. Your new family is anxiously awaiting your arrival in Colorado. Yours' in Christ, FCC Loveland.*" I was truly in need of some cheer and the flowers and note made my day and brightened my final week.

What an incredible surprise to arrive at the church, after getting settled in our new home, and see a beautifully renovated office, newly painted, a new wall concealing the brick, and lovely new furniture—three book cases, new desk and chair, file cabinet, and a round table with chairs for counseling and small meetings. Such a welcome! *Thank you to everyone* who worked so hard to make the changes and updates, to the anonymous donor who gave the funds for the purchase of the new furniture, and to those who helped me bring in all my boxes of books and hang my pictures. *I feel so at home in my office. Stop by sometime and see the new look!*

A few days before Christmas, Max and Marcia Peters stopped by our house on your behalf with a Christmas ham and a welcome basket overflowing with goodness from the congregation. In addition to many wonderful goodies, the basket included an album of Prayer Partners for every week of the 2011 calendar year with members who have committed to lifting me, my family, and our ministry together up in prayer, and favorite scriptures. It leaves me humbled and speechless. What an incredible gift. There was another album, beautifully decorated, that is FCC's version of the Welcome Wagon, with offers to help with unpacking, babysitting, meals and baked goods, tours around the area, a trip to a Rockies game, help with a home project, and much more. I am so thankful for your welcome, your helpfulness and generosity, and the creativity and preparation that went into such a fantastic gift.

I am enjoying the *Meet and Greet* sessions that have been organized on my behalf, and having the chance to get to know you better. It is an honor to have been called to be your Pastor and I look forward to many years of ministry, care, and service together. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of my family, for all the love of Christ you have shown in welcoming us to our new place in God's world—First Christian Church of Loveland!

Blessings, Rev. Rebecca

Tracy's Tidbits

What a great year 2010 was for me personally and for our congregation. Yes. We've had challenges, but we've met those challenges and grown stronger from them. We discovered gifts that I don't think any of us knew that we had! The year culminated in the wonderful Advent and Christmas season and many of you sent blessings my way in the form of cards, baked goods, messages of love, including the staff bonus and I thank you!

As we start the New Year we can't help but reflect on the past but the New Year is also a time for planning and looking ahead. Many of us have made resolutions to make our lives better in the year ahead. We think about what we can do to make the coming year as blessed or more blessed than the last. I believe that giving control to God and listening to what He'd have us do are the only ways to "make" that happen. I also believe that God equips us for blessing. He provides the means for growth and leads us to the gifts. I believe that this congregation is blessed with many excellent facilitators and teachers who God uses to help us grow in the Spirit and many of them are active at the outset of 2011.

We have a wonderful group of teachers working with our children and youth Katie Swartz, Linda Fuchs, Katherine and Lee Sparks, Christy Grimes and Rachel Nelson teach on Sunday mornings and some on Wednesday evenings using FaithWeaver Friends, FaithWeaver, Grapple and other appropriate curriculum to help our children grow in their love for God.

There are some wonderful classes and programs being offered for adults, as well, as we start this New Year. Harvey Rueggseger is teaching a video class on the Holy Land on Sunday mornings in Minnerly Hall, and Bible 101 meets in the Stepping Stones room, Bev Reeves leads a group that meets in the Fireside Room. Tracy Morgan leads a prayer group on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 at the home of Eudora Autrey where ways to pray are discussed and then we practice praying out loud for each other and for others we know who are in need of prayer. Wednesday evenings our house is hopping with activity not just from our children's and youth's groups, music rehearsals, and Jesus Cristo el Buen Pastor but also with our own adult classes of *ARK* (led by Tracy & Brad Morgan) and *Financial Peace University* (led by Lucy Morgan). I believe there are plans for *GriefShare* which have traditionally met on Thursday evenings (please contact Pam Hilliard for information on this group). Matt Swartz has started a group that will be studying *Boundaries* that meets at Matt's home at 6:30p.m. on Thursday evenings. All of these classes and groups offer quality opportunities to grow in relationship with God. Below are descriptions of what some of these groups will be studying and discussing.

The ARKGroup has developed a program called *ARK (Adults Relating to Kids)*. The purpose of *ARK* is to help us adults to become the vessels through whom the unconditional love of God, revealed through the Christ, is poured into the lives of our children. The *ARK Program* employs the best aspects of both a teaching and a discussion format. *ARK* Groups convene weekly for one hour. Each week, the *ARKGroup* facilitators will share one of the lessons on "how to give unconditional love to our children." We also will have an opportunity to bring the Group's wisdom to bear on our own child-rearing experiences. When children feel loved and nurtured without condition, they come to respect themselves as valued children of God.

Boundaries by Doctors Henry Cloud & John Townsend shows you how to set healthy boundaries with your parents, spouses, children, friends, coworkers, and even yourself. Have you ever found yourself wondering: "Can I set limits and still be a loving person? How do I answer someone who wants my time, love, energy, or money? Why do I feel guilty when I consider setting boundaries? Cloud and Townsend give you biblically based answers to these and other tough questions.

Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* class will teach you everything you need to know about dumping debt, building wealth, and changing your family tree. More than one million families have benefited!

I pray that we may all resolve to turn our lives over to God and that God would lead us all to be equipped as God sees that we need it and that God would use these groups and classes! Amen.

Tracy Morgan, Christian Education Minister

Rachel's Remarks

Listening...

Listen...

What do you hear?

Right now, in your surroundings, do you hear other people's voices? Machinery? Music or television? Sounds of nature?

Which sounds are most noticeable? Most annoying? Most enjoyable?

Close your eyes for a few moments, and listen again...

Did you hear something you've forgotten? Something so ordinary that you've stopped paying attention? Something farther off in the distance, or something close, but so quiet that it's often overpowered?

Now try to block out those sounds, both by focusing your mind and by gently covering your ears. Bring your focus inward, and listen again...

Do you hear the voice of your inner monologue? The rhythm of your breathing? Your heartbeat?

Quiet your thoughts, and focus only on your breath. As you exhale, imagine that with the air you are expelling, you are releasing your tension, your anger, frustration, sadness, fear...

Listen again...

As you inhale, imagine that with each breath of fresh, oxygenated air, you breathe in the peace and love and power of God's spirit. Feel yourself renewed with God's presence, filling the spaces left empty by the previous exhalation with air and energy that is clean, bright, new, hopeful, restful, soothing, and empowering.

Listen again...

Do you hear, or otherwise sense, the voice of God? What is God saying to you?

With hope and reverence,
Rachel

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

HS Sexuality & Spirituality

Sundays 2-4 (vanpool @ 1:40)

Our CLER Ministries Sexuality and Spirituality course for high school students is currently underway. See the youth bulletin board for more information.

Northern CO Gathering

Jan. 30

5:30-7:30 (meet at 4:45)

It's once again time for a gathering with our friends from Fort Collins, Greeley, and other nearby youth groups. It's Greeley's turn to host, so pick up a permission slip and join us for nachos, worship, discussion, and fellowship!

CRMR MidWinter Retreat

Feb. 18-21

This year's theme for the retreat is "Church is a Verb!" The retreat will be held at beautiful LaForet and will include plenty of opportunities for spiritual renewal and growth, relationship building with other youth from around the region, and of course fun!

Bulletin Board

Upcoming Link Deadlines

February 15, March 15

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

A reception for Louise Gray's **100th Birthday** will be on Feb. 6th at Sylvan Dale Ranch—Neville Room from 2p-4p. There will be a card shower at the first service that Sunday for those who wish.

Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. We are expanding our Caregiver Support Program to broaden the base of support for family caregivers. Our main goal is to reduce the stress felt by caregivers created by their care giving responsibilities. We are seeking volunteers to help us provide and improve our services and we could use your support. For more information please contact: Gerta Fereday
Caregiver Support Program Coordinator
Volunteers of America
405 Canyon Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521
(970) 472-9630
voavolunteer@frii.com

First Sunday Food

Sunday, February 6th will be our next food collection day and the featured item will be **Peanut Butter!** We will bless the food collected and deliver it to House of Neighborly Service the next day. This ministry has been VERY successful since our beginning last June...so much so that the General Board voted to continue it indefinitely!

♪♪Neil's Notes♪♪

Greetings, First Christian Church, and Happy New Year!! It is my earnest prayer that God touches each of your lives in a meaningful way, and your relationship with God is deepened in this new year. I wish to express gratitude to all of you not only for your Christmas gift, but also for being the vibrant, energizing congregation that you are. I am grateful to God each day for being called to serve here, and I am grateful to all of you for accepting me into your family of faith. Thank you! Happy New Year! - Neil

The Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (DOC) Cordially invite you to The Ordination and Installation Service of Jose Francisco Morales Jr.

On Saturday, January 29, 2011, 1:00 pm
At South Suburban Christian Church (DOC)
7275 S Broadway, Littleton, CO 80122
Reception following the service.

We are in need of volunteers to help in the sound booth on Sunday mornings to run the slides for worship. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Max or Neil. It does not require previous computer skills, we can train you.

Thanks to our FCC family

Dear FCC Family,
I want to thank the carolers for coming and singing to me. It was wonderful and so good to see all of you. Thanks to the Mary and Rachel Circles for the goodie bag. It's so good to be remembered by the church. I'm praying for all of you. Have a great year.
In Christian Love,
Marge Mullins

I would like to say Thanks for the generous staff gift I received at Christmas. It has been a blessing to serve the church these last 3 years and I am looking forward to many more.
God Bless,
Kirsten

February Birthdays

BOVEE, Mildred	1-Feb
COMBS, Jan	1-Feb
SPRAGUE, Bob	1-Feb
KAUFFMAN, Doris	2-Feb
ALTAMIRANO, Victor	4-Feb
HARRELL, Kathleen	4-Feb
GRAY, Louise	6-Feb
DAYHUFF, Pat	9-Feb
HALL, Ann	9-Feb
LIESINGER, Frances	9-Feb
ROBISON, Scott	10-Feb
VAN METER, Debbra	12-Feb
FARNHAM, Jennifer	13-Feb
HERL, Melody	14-Feb
MAGNUSON, Cherlene	14-Feb
UDLOCK, David	15-Feb
UDLOCK, Joshua	15-Feb
YORK, Russell	15-Feb
YOUNG, Kevyn	15-Feb
GAINES, Jean	16-Feb
DAVIS, Les	17-Feb
PERRY, Hollie	17-Feb
HAYES, Dorothea	18-Feb
LOCKE, Jane	18-Feb
SPARKS, Elijah	20-Feb
TODD, Bob	20-Feb
GRIEP, Holly	21-Feb
MITCHELL, Shirley	21-Feb
PARIS, Doris	21-Feb
HAUGHEY, Daniel	22-Feb
KNAUS, Christina	23-Feb
SIMON, Thomas	24-Feb
WALKER, Ron	25-Feb
LUCERO, Jesse	27-Feb

February Anniversaries

WOHLMAN, John & Barbara	8-Feb
STUART, John & Pat	15-Feb
PRATT, John & Wanda	21-Feb
BREINER, Dick & Geraldine	24-Feb

First Christian Church
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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.

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