

Internet Evangelism?

Do you have a Facebook or Instagram account? If so, have you "Liked" the FCC Greeley page? If not, go to the following links and "Like" or "Follow" the page to get ongoing updates on what is happening in our congregation and community. Next, to help spread the news from FCC Greeley to those you are "friends" with, like the posts, events and advertisements you see from FCC Greeley.... or better yet, forward them to your timeline (hit the arrow/share button, then click on "share to feed"). There are many in our community who want to find a church but are overwhelmed with going to a place they don't know. Letting your Facebook & Instagram friends know that you go to an active church may be just the low-pressure invite that they are looking for.

<https://www.facebook.com/FCCGreeley>

https://www.instagram.com/fcc_greeley/

WORLD COMMUNION DAY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2024

FCC Church Elders, Elders Emeritus and members are invited to participate in serving the community Communion elements for WORLD COMMUNION DAY. Share communion around the world and spread the Word of Jesus Christ in service and prayer. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board if you are interested in participating.



Casa Cleansing Kick



Rummage Sale Sept 21st 7 am-2 pm

Stewardship Season has begun with fun!

I just discovered my alma mater, Arthur Hill High, has been "retired" (soon demolished). A new, more efficient, tech savvy, diverse school is its replacement. Chagrined that I haven't even experienced my 50-year reunion and now only have a "former" school with which to associate that milestone, it has made me think again about Stuff.

"Stuff" in my life has certainly changed, including buildings or milestones. I can be nostalgic without hanging on to things while retaining the value of memories. So! Find that stuff. Feel the freedom of not holding it hostage in your heart or home. And just as importantly, consider how you want to support our church and its mission in 2025.

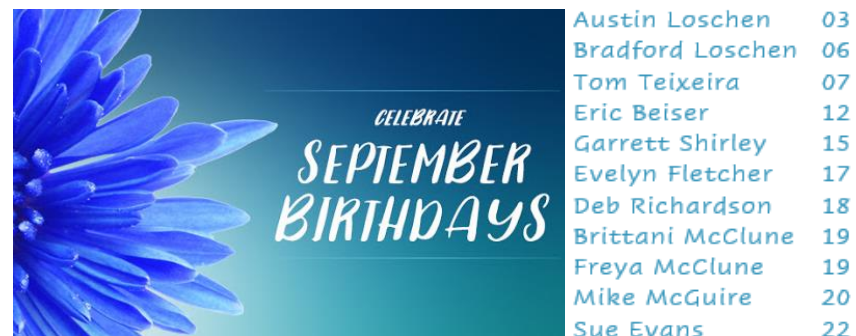


Sign up for volunteering at the rummage sale on the sheet posted in hallway!

Thanks for reading,
Carolyn Rainbolt

Ladies Book Club

Now is a great time to join the FCC Ladies Book Club! We will begin a new year of literary fun this month. Our normal meeting date is the first Monday of the month, but due to Labor Day, the fall kickoff will be Tuesday, September 3, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor. We will share about the books we read over the summer hiatus. Our September read will be *If you ask me: (and of course you won't)* by Betty White. You can talk with Carla Ikenouye if you would like to join, or just show up on September 3!



First Christian Church

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

2230 13th St, Greeley, CO 970-352-1292 fccgreeley.com

The Christian Caller Newsletter

September 2024

Pastor Vince's Message

Faith, Doubt and Fear: The theme of faith and fear is a major concept in the Gospel of Mark, and it runs throughout the entire narrative. From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, we see individuals grappling with their faith in the face of fear, uncertainty, and doubt. For example, when Jesus calms the storm in Mark 4:35-41, His disciples are terrified despite having witnessed His power. Jesus' response, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40), highlights the tension between faith and fear. Similarly, in Mark 5:36, when Jairus receives the news that his daughter has died, Jesus tells him, "Don't be afraid; just have faith."

Often, we think of faith as being synonymous with confidence - being sure about something without any room for doubt. We regularly think that doubt is the opposite of faith, something to be avoided or suppressed. However, rather than being the opposite of faith, doubt is a natural part of the faith journey. Doubting is healthy and expected. God does not ask us to be free from doubt. In fact, the Bible is full of people who doubted - people who were unsure, uncertain, and even skeptical - but who still had faith. Doubt does not disqualify us from faith. Instead, it challenges us to grow deeper in our relationship with God.

The real opposite of faith is not doubt, but fear. Fear is what drives us to question God's goodness, His care for us, and His sovereignty. We may believe that God can do something, but we might fear that it is not in our best interest, that God does not truly care about our situation, or that God's will might not align with our desires. We fear because we too often rely on our own understanding and our desire to control outcomes. We want things to go our way, and we fear that they won't. *This* is the opposite of faith.

True faith is not about being free from doubt or having everything figured out. True faith is trusting that, no matter what happens, God is in control and cares for us. It is believing that, even if the outcome is not what we wanted or expected, God will use it for His glory and to ultimately bring all of creation back to Himself. Faith is not about being certain of what will happen but about being certain of God's character. It's about trusting that God is good, even when life is not. It's about trusting that God is with us, even when we feel alone. And it's about trusting that God's purposes will prevail, even when our plans do not.

First Christian Church Greeley (Disciples of Christ) holds Sunday worship services in the sanctuary at 10:00 am.

Childcare is provided during the service.

Find more information at www.fccgreeley.com



Contact Us

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Admin Asst: fccadmin@comcast.net

Website: www.fccgreeley.com

Church Finances

Financial Update as of July 31, 2024

Income YTD	\$147,694.05
Expenses YTD	\$150,050.50



FALL PICNIC
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND
11:00 a.m. Following Worship

EAST LAWN

Come and share in fellowship
as we celebrate with gratitude
our harvest and bounty
for all God has provided.

**Meal
Games**

Hosted by Church Elders

CWF Groups Resume Meeting September 26

Want to get to know other women in the church better? CWF groups are a great way to make new friends and deepen existing relationships. As part of our fall kickoff, groups will resume meeting monthly in the parlor for fellowship and study beginning Thursday, September 26. The afternoon group will meet at 1:30, and the evening group will meet at 6:00. Feel free to attend whichever meeting is more convenient for you that month. Our study book is *Pew Sisters* by Katie Schuermann, a collection of real-life stories of God's faithfulness in women's lives today. We welcome all women!

Elder's Message

The Bible only gives us one story about Jesus as a child, but what if I told you this story tells us more about Jesus than merely his age? In Luke chapter 2, twelve-year-old Jesus and his parents were in Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. When the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, Jesus stayed behind, but his parents were unaware of it. In verse 44 Mark writes, "Thinking he was in their company they traveled on for a day then began looking for him amongst relatives and friends, but when they did not find him they went back to Jerusalem to look for him." Notice when they lost Jesus it was when they were returning to their place of comfort. In other words, they didn't prioritize communication with God since they knew where they were headed. The text says they went on for a day and were unaware Jesus was not with them. How did they manage to lose Jesus? The same way we do when we stop making our commitment to Him a priority but make destination or aspiration a priority over devotion.

Upon returning to the Temple Joseph and Mary finally found Jesus, and Mary said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you!" Jesus' response is important to this story. Jesus said, "Why were you searching for me, didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?"

Why would Jesus ask that? Remember, Jesus is 12 years old, and these are his parents; in essence, they are closer to him than anyone else. Jesus asked this question to provide a moment of reflection, not just to his parents, but also to us—his children.

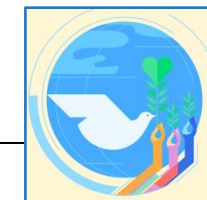
When God asks a question, it's not so He can learn something about us, it's so we can gain an understanding of ourselves. What he's saying is that being anxious about a situation may indicate that you don't know Him as well as you say you do. If you did, you would realize that there's nothing to worry about. God is in control. At times, it may be hard for us to hear God because we stopped making Him our priority. We will never find the peace we are looking for until we return to Jesus.

-Harold Carlson

Mission Matters

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9



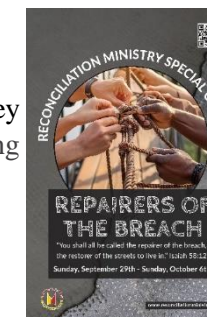
International Day of Peace – September 21

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21. In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Watch for local events; participate in a **Minute of Silence at noon**; google United Religions Initiative "to end religiously motivated violence" (1 stated goal) – OR – find your own way to participate and ask friends!

Special Offerings

- **Reconciliation Special Offering – September 29 & October 6**
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been on a pro-reconciling and anti-racist journey for over 20 years. Reconciliation Offering celebrates our work toward wholeness and imagining a world where racism is dismantled and all of God's children can flourish. Financial gifts to Reconciliation Ministry works to repair the breaches that keep us apart and combat the sin of racism & oppression to help share God's limitless love, restoring wholeness in a fragmented world.
- **Right Here, Right Now Benevolence Fund – September 1**
All \$1 bills and checks written to FCC with "RH/RN" in the memo line will go toward meeting immediate needs within our church family or community.

RH/RN



Upcoming Community Events

- **Greeley Interfaith meeting** 9/12: our church parlor; 2 p.m.
- **Climate Conversations** 9/17: "How faith asks us to care for our Earth" LINC Library; 6 p.m.
- **Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy Superhero Run** to help fight child abuse. 9/21; Greeley Funplex. [Register here.](#)
- **Habitat Breakfast** 9/26: Zoe's Café 8:30-10 a.m.
The breakfast is targeted toward leaders in the faith community, with the goal of exploring ways Habitat and your faith community can support each other through volunteerism and engagement. You will learn about their homeownership program and how members of your community can apply for a Habitat home, where their mortgage payment will never exceed 30% of their income. Habitat builds homes for individuals and families of all faiths, ages, and family sizes.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Thank
You

- The **Fred Tjardes School of Innovation and School District 6 Teachers Closet** were extremely grateful for the art and school supplies that were donated by our congregation.

Mission ideas using your time & resources

- **Greeley Interfaith Clothing Bank** – If you haven't checked out the amazing work of the clothing bank, you're missing out! In June sales were \$4,221; in July \$4,567; all with donated clothing and volunteer labor! This gem of a shop definitely serves our most in-need neighbors with available vouchers and tiny pricing, while still raising considerable funding that is used for community group grants – 2 @ \$1,000 this past month. They need your good used clothing (best in-season, they have no storage) or your volunteer hours to sort or cashier – 4 hours minimum requested. Win / win!
- **Immigrant Center Outreach – September 30th** – Join us to take treats to staff at the Immigrant Center. We pop in with 20-30 breaktime goodies and a warm smile to say "thank you" for staff's challenging work. The interaction builds understanding and friendships. Contact Diana or Tammy to participate.

If you have a heart for mission and would like to join the Mission Ministry Team, please talk to Diana Laws or attend the next **Mission Team meeting on Sunday September 29th at 11:15 in the Parlor!** We will be making plans and decisions about year-end giving. We would love to have your participation.