



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WYOMING

THE CALL

JANUARY
2026

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Candles, Carols & Communion

7:00 p.m.
Dec. 24, 2025



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

10:10 - Worship Service

11:30 - Coffee Fellowship

11:30-Choir Rehearsal (resumes 1/4/26)

12:30 Handbell Rehearsal (resumes 1/4/26)

(307) 234-8964

www.fcccasper.org



Pastor Bryan will be out of the office December 29-Jan. 9, 2026.
Pastor Rhonda will be in the office.

**Church office
will be closed
Dec, 24-Dec.
26th.**



Dear Friends,

As of this writing and weather permitting Teresa and I will be spending the New Year with our son, daughter and son-in-law and more importantly our three granddaughters. I know I keep telling you all that we have a daughter and son-in-law and granddaughters, but as of now you have not met them. It used to be that our children were able to come and go pretty much at will, our will, yet as they have grown that has become increasingly difficult as they now have lives that are very busy and unfortunately, very much separated from us. Some of you know what this is like because you have been experiencing it for years, others of you still have children at home and my conversation is very foreign to you.

But with the passage of time, we will increasingly have this common life understanding, be that our children are near or far. With that said, how are you showing those you love, that, you love them? I know that many of us go into the New Year with hopeful expectations of weight loss, changing bad habits into good ones, spending more time with family, etc. But when all is said and done, those weight loss items (the ones in the corner of the room with all the clothes hanging on them!) become unused, and take up floor space. Habits often remain pretty much the way they were and spending time with family becomes texts and emails. By the way, texting is how my son and daughter send Birthday wishes and other greetings, not that I'm complaining mind you, but how about a phone call or a visit or maybe even a card or note sent through the US Postal system.

Several years ago, Teresa and I's parents both said that they missed us, wanted to see us, and as they were aging, getting out was and is more and more difficult. So I wonder, how do we spend time with our loved ones? I think they value it more than we realize, and I am hoping we don't realize the value of getting together when it is too late.

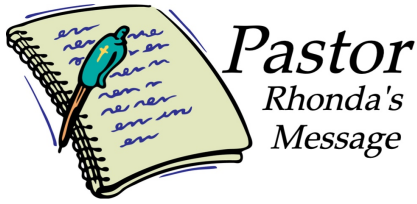
That brings me to our gatherings each Sunday, do we value that time with one another? Because as my children and parents have reminded me, that time, that precious time is running out and it will become so very valuable when it slips away. Take care and thank you for all the gifts and blessings you have showered on Teresa and I this Christmas season as well as this past year. You are in many ways our family and we hope that we will grow into relationships that will show greater love and support as we learn and grow in our friendship with one another.

My prayer is that **2026** be a time of valuing those we love and learning to love others more deeply in this coming year.

In His Loving embrace,
Pastor Bryan

Pastor Bryan will be on vacation December 29, 2025 -
January 9, 2026





Dear Church Family,

As we step into **2026**, I find myself returning to my *book of gratitude*—the place where I write down the people I'm praying for and the small ways I see God showing up in life's simplest moments. This practice helps me slow down and notice the quiet revelations of

God's presence—something that feels especially meaningful in this Epiphany season.

I always start off with giving thanks for the breath of life. Every breath we draw is a reminder that God is sustaining us each moment. And at Christmas, we celebrate that divine breath entering the world in Jesus—the *breath of heaven* born among us. Epiphany reminds us that God's light breaks into our lives in unexpected and deeply personal ways.

After my mom's passing, grief held me tightly for a long season. Every joyful memory of that season was tied to her presence. The weight of that grief made it hard to truly celebrate.

For years, I stayed to myself on Epiphany, but one year I was asked to preach that Sunday, and I said yes without realizing the date. When the truth hit me, my heart trembled. Yet as I wrote the message and studied the Scriptures, something in me began to heal.

It was as though God used Epiphany, this holy day of revelation, to reveal healing in my own spirit. The God who guided the Magi by starlight was guiding me through grief—showing me that even in sorrow, light rises. I share this with you because Epiphany is not just a story of wise men; it is a story for any heart longing for clarity, comfort, or direction.

Epiphany invites us to stand in awe before the God who reveals Himself not to the powerful or the polished, but to those willing to lift their eyes and follow the light they are given. Like the Magi, we bring our questions, weariness, and wonder, trusting that a Love greater than any darkness is still guiding us.

And that Light is guiding us today—guiding our families, our ministries, our church, and our hearts into the life only God can reveal.

And speaking of light—what a bright Christmas season we just shared!

Our Youth Christmas Party was an absolute blast—*toot toot!*

The DWM Christmas Party did *not* disappoint (as usual!).

And our Christmas Eve service, led with such grace and gifts by our youth, truly blessed our Christmas socks off.

You all shine so beautifully.

As we welcome this new year, I want to offer heartfelt thanks:

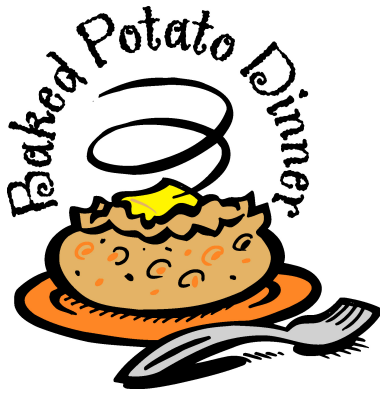
- Thank you for the **Christmas gifts and cards** that touched my heart so deeply.
- Thank you to every **volunteer** who served, decorated, sang, baked, ushered, cleaned, led, supported, or quietly made things happen behind the scenes.
- Thank you for being a church that loves well, prays boldly, and shows up for one another.

Your generosity—of spirit, time, and heart—makes ministry here a joy.

Happy New Year, beloved church.

With gratitude and love.





ATTENTION ALL PAST, PRESENT AND NEWLY ELECTED ELDERS

The Annual Elder Appreciation Dinner will be held Thursday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. All elders—past, present and new—are invited to attend with a spouse or guest. Nancy Thomas will be providing the wonderful baked potatoes and everyone is asked to bring a side or a dessert. The elders will hold their January meeting following the dinner. Installation of the new elders and election of the elder chair for 2026 will also take place.



We are starting up Sunday School again for our middle school aged youth! Starting January 11th, we will have Sunday School for grades 4-8! Older youth are welcome to attend as well, but as lessons are geared more towards middle schoolers, I will have you be my experiment assistants. Our lessons this semester will focus on discovering who God is through science experiments! We have done these lessons in the past and they have been well received. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle @ 307-259-1166. Thank you and I am looking forward to 2026.



SEARCHING FOR NEW FRIENDS, GOOD FELLOWSHIP IN 2026

COME JOIN DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY
First meeting of 2026 is January 13th
@1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

DWM is open to all women of the church. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. and have fun, a brief meeting, good fellowship and yummy snacks. We also have a bible study and will be studying Acts Chapter 17 at the January meeting. Please contact Carla @ 307-267-2415 if you have any questions.



Jesus said, "Love your neighbor," and our congregation really does! Our recent 5th Sunday Mission emphasis proves it. We raised \$2,660 through your generous donations to help alleviate the school lunch debt at our three high schools. WOW! WOW! WOW! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Mission Commission and Disciples Women's Fellowship will be adding to that total from their respective budgets. A final report will be given in the next newsletter.

A goal of the Mission Commission is to keep the congregation informed of the special needs in our community and beyond. In 2025, we introduced the 5th Sunday special mission offerings. First we raised funds for University of Jamestown (ND) nursing students and their mission to Kenya. Second, we collected diapers and baby wipes for the Hearts to Hands ministry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Our third 5th Sunday emphasis was for the Auxiliary Fund at Shepherd of the Valley Care Center. And 4th, the school lunch debt. Because of your generous hearts, we will continue the 5th Sunday offerings for special outreach projects in 2026!

In 2025, the Mission Commission's budget supported five groups with quarterly donations: Interfaith of Natrona County, Navigators missionary training, Maranatha children's ministry in Haiti, Sleep in Heavenly Peace (beds for children), and Week of Compassion (disaster relief). In 2026, we will add the Wyoming Food Bank.

The work of the church is the work of Jesus. He said, "When you do this for one of the least of these, you do it for me." Blessings for the New Year! Nancy Thomas, Commission Chair 2025



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

DIACONATE FOR JANUARY, 2026

8:15 - Tammy Heck

10:10 Trisha Whitcomb & Trudy Woodard

OFFERING STEWARD

Ted Grooms

ELDERS

Nov. 30 - Dewey Smith & Nicholas Grooms

Dec. 21 - Nancy Thomas & Nicholas Grooms

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve - TBD

Dec. 28 - Teresa Elliott (both)

Jan. 4, 2026 - Steve Huckfeldt (both)

Max Jacobson	Jan. 1	Debbie Mapp	Jan. 10
Robin Nelson	Jan. 2	Jane Wallace	Jan. 13
Leena Maddox	Jan. 3	Lynda Williams	Jan. 13
Maggie Grooms	Jan. 4	Marcus Hayden	Jan. 19
Jane Baker	Jan. 6	Evan Woods	Jan. 19
Carol Sage	Jan. 6	Nylia Cazier	Jan. 22

Meet our
New
Members



New Members

Bethany Brown & Zhane Brown,

Legend, Demacio & Quintin

P.O. Box 203

Casper, WY. 82602

At 8:15 - Chuck Lauderdale

At 10:10 -Peggy Kumm



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The Casper Fire Department welcomed Christoph Atkinson as one of the newest members of the CFD. Christoph is the son of Jeff and Kristin Atkinson and the grandson of Jolene and Rob Knaus.



**COLLEGE SPRING SEMESTER
SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS
JANUARY 13TH. APPLICATIONS
ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.**



CRMR Youth Midwinter Retreat

Feb. 13-16, 2026 at La Foret

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing
a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am
making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19

6th-12th grade - \$240 Registration deadline: Jan 22

Forms available from your church, or at crrmrdoc.org or by emailing your
request to Shelly at skgarrison50@gmail.com

CHURCH DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14, 2026



At the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2025, the following Board, members, elders and deacons were approved by the congregation.

PRESIDENT - Steve Huckfeldt
VICE PRESIDENT - Belle Stapleton
SECRETARY - Kathy Winders
MEMBERS AT LARGE - Alice Kraft & Spencer Stupak
NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2028
Annette Ambrosino & Alice Kraft

ELDERS - Class of 2028
Carmen Goodman & Donna Osterholt

DEACONS - Class of 2027
Tom May

Class of 2028
Trudy Woodard, Bill Shughart, Tammy Heck and Erika Stupak.

COMMISSIONS
Stewardship - Carmen Goodman
Christian Education - Michelle Elser
Mission Commission - Carla Schanck
Property - Bill Shughart
Spiritual Growth - Jane Wallace
Chair of the elders - TBD in January
Chair of the diaconate - TBD in January

January 2026

December 2025							January 2026							February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15AM Worship School 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor Bryan vacation 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM AA 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Eve 9:00AM QUILTERS 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor Bryan vacation 8:15AM Worship School 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Elders meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM AA 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00PM Elders annual dinner 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15AM Worship School 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:30PM Handbell Rehearsal 3:00PM Primrose Service 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM STEWARDSHIP 7:00PM Boy Scouts 7:00PM Commissions 8:00PM Board & Orientation 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM DWM Fellowship 7:00PM AA 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY 9:00AM 3 D's quilters 9:00AM Men's Group 10:00AM blanket ministry
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15AM Worship School 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:30PM Handbell Rehearsal 1:00PM Mtn. Plaza 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Luther King Jr. Day 12:00PM CALL deadline 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM AA 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 5:00PM Mission Meal 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 5:00PM Mission Meal 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY
25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15AM Worship School 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:30PM Handbell Rehearsal 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM AA 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM Sandwich making 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30AM Men's BS 8:15AM SANDWICH MINISTRY