FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER,WY

THE CALL



We love seeing all of you during the holidays. Remember your church staff survives on 🍪Christmas Cookies 🍪 & ☕☕caffeine this month!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas,
FCC Staff



Church Staff:

Rhonda Padilla: Lead Pastor
Kathy Winders: Secretary
Gracie Keizer: Music Director
Michelle Griebel: Custodian
Ministers: Every Member!

OFFICE HOURS
Mon.-Thurs.
9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Fridays: CLOSED

(307) 234-8964
www.fcccasper.org
fcccasper@gmail.com

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
11:30 - Choir practice & 12:30 Handbells



Join us on Christmas Eve for our candlelight, Carols, and Communion Service at
7:00 p.m.
EVERYONE is welcome.



Making Room for the Light

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." — John 1:5 (NRSV)

Dear Church Family,

There is something beautiful about the way Advent began this year. Before we even closed the door on November, Advent arrived, inviting us to carry a little of Thanksgiving into this season of anticipation and hope. I love that! It gives us just a little longer to linger in gratitude as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

As I reflect on the time since I moved here, I realize I have so much to be thankful for that I could fill two newsletters or more! But one blessing stands above the rest. **I am deeply grateful and incredibly proud to be part of such a loving, generous, and genuine church family.**

I see a congregation willing to press in, step up, and work together to continue God's mission for us. We are learning to adjust, adapt, communicate, and listen to one another. It hasn't always been easy, but we are growing because we choose to trust in God's faithfulness and live into that trust together.

One of my greatest joys has been watching relationships grow between people from our first and second worship services through our community gatherings, especially at our wonderful Thanksgiving meal we shared. We come from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences, yet we are learning from one another. Sometimes love asks us to step beyond our own preferences and make room for someone else. Sometimes it invites others to discover the beauty of traditions that have shaped our faith for generations. Relationships require both giving and receiving, and I see that happening here.

We are also learning what it means to welcome people who may not have grown up in church or who have been wounded by past experiences and are finding the courage to give church another chance. What a sacred opportunity we have to show them the love of Christ!

This is why I will continue encouraging us to live into our mission: **"Gathering at Christ's Table, We Welcome and Serve Others."** Our mission and four core values are more than words. They are commitments we are learning to embody. Our visioning team meets monthly to pray, listen, and discern where God is leading us. If you would like to participate, please contact me. Your voice matters, and I believe this church has so much love to offer our community.

As I write this, I can hardly wait to see our church decorated for Christmas and to gather once again around the greatest love story ever told. Think about the wonder of it all! The God who created the heavens and the earth, who breathed life into creation, chose to enter our world not in power or splendor, but as a vulnerable child. **The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.** The Light of the world came quietly, in a way humanity could scarcely comprehend.

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And perhaps that is part of the wonder of Advent. God was doing something extraordinary while the world went about its ordinary days. How often might that still be true? How often is God making something new among us, even when we cannot yet recognize it?
I have often said that I believe Christmas can be experienced every day when we receive the gift of the present moment and recognize Christ's presence among us. Perhaps making room for Christ begins with making room in our hearts, our relationships, and our lives for the love that continues to transform the world.

As we enter this sacred season, I ask you to join me in prayer for our church, our community, and our leadership teams in your prayers. Pray for wisdom, guidance, and fruitful abundance as we faithfully steward the people, relationships, resources, and opportunities God entrusts to our care.

And while we wait, let us remain faithful, even when we cannot see what God is doing. After all, the first Christmas reminds us that God's greatest gift arrived in a way no one could have imagined.

The Light still shines. The Love still dwells among us. And the wonder of Christmas is that God is not finished making all things new.

With gratitude, love, and Advent hope,

Pastor Rhonda





The Pastor Will Be Away

Pastor Rhonda will be out of the office, Dec. 7-10th attending the Disciples Worship Arts Institute for pastors and worship leaders in Daytona Beach, FL. Safe travels!!

There will be NO sermon in the round on Dec. 9th.



MISSION *Statement*

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



WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
TIME: 9:15 A.M.
WHERE: FELLOWSHIP HALL
WHY: To approve the 2027 Budget, Board members, Elders and Diaconate

WILL THERE BE FOOD? Of course, doughnuts will be provided along with coffee.

PLEASE ATTEND AND IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED BUDGET, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!



Poinsettias

Last year, the poinsettias purchased did not have a good survival rate. The Spiritual Growth Commission has checked prices and will be purchasing them from Johnny Appleseed. They are again asking that you share a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary during the 2026 Advent Season. **The cost will be $20 a piece.** Please put your check marked "Poinsettias" in the offering with this form on Sunday morning or send to the church office. **Deadline is December 13th.** However, if you wish to make a donation to the Flower Fund for use in purchasing new floral arrangements for the sanctuary, please make that notation on your check. All donations (floral or monetary) will be recognized by "in memory of" or " in honor of" in the Christmas Bulletin.
You may take your poinsettias home on Sunday, January 10 2027.

UPCOMING EVENTS



December 19th at 4:00 p.m. our children will be performing a Christmas Pageant, followed by their Christmas Party. **Dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m**. Please and see the performance.



A Christmas Cantata featuring the choir and handbells will be performed on **Sunday, December 20th at the 10:10 service.** There will be only **ONE** service that day. **If you are interested in being a reader for the cantata visit with Pastor Rhonda.** We are excited to bring our gifts together and share them with the congregation.



December 20th we will hold an ugly sweater contest after the 10:10 service. Because of the Christmas Cantata there will only be one service on Sunday, Dec. 20th. There will be adult and children's categories with prizes.



January 10, 2027 will be the **Chili and Pie contest** after church with games to follow. Be thinking about what favorite pie you want to bring. Tickets to vote for your favorite chili will be 5 for $6.00.



DIACONATE
Nov. 29 -Trisha Whitcomb & Evan Woods

Month of December
Marcus Hayden & Spencer Stupak.

OFFERING STEWARD
Ted Grooms

ELDERS
Nov. 29 - Donna Osterholt
Dec. 6 - Steve Huckfeldt
Dec. 13 - Donna Osterholt, Nicholas Grooms
Dec. 20- Dewey Smith,Nicholas Grooms
Dec. 24 - Dewey Smith
Dec. 27- Donna Osterholt

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS
8:15 service
Nov 29 -Nina and Jim Hytrek
Dec. 6 -Judy Potter and Pat Seamands
Dec. 13- Jolene & Rob Knaus

10:10 service
Nov. 29 - Sabrina & Charlie Thomson
Dec. 6 - Herbst family
Dec. 13 - Maddox family
Dec. 20-Hogan family & granddaughters
Christmas Eve - Storey family



Olivia Wardell	Dec. 1	Paul Maddox	Dec. 18
Lyle Cox	Dec. 6	Althea Wardell	Dec. 19
David Riedel	Dec. 12	Jolene Knaus	Dec. 23
Rob Knaus	Dec. 14	Twyla Gaylord	Dec. 24
Pastor Bryan	Dec. 18	**Rita Peterson**	**Dec. 25**

ANNIVERSARIES

Nicholas & Maggie Grooms
Dec. 7, 2003

Lyle & Jo Cox
December 22, 1990

Gary & Max Jacobson
Dec. 24, 2010



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1880 Preserve Cir. #101
Casper,WY. 82609
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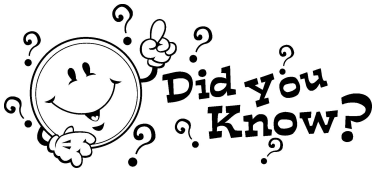
Phone:
(307) 996-8523



Pastor Bryan & Teresa
1622 S. Horton
Nampa, ID. 83686



Seven members of the Happy Quilters made 67 dog and cat beds for the Humane Society. That is a project that the happy quilters do every Veterans Day.





My Christmas wish!!! "May the candles drip only in the candle guards and not on the carpet!" MERRY CHRISTMAS & BLESSINGS TO ALL

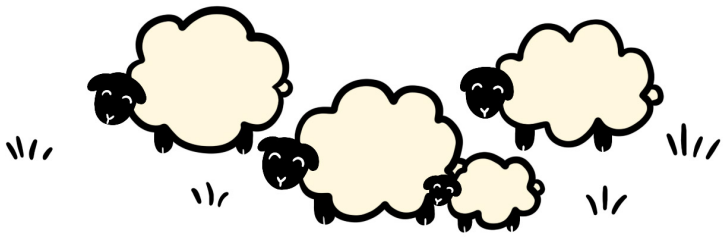
THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

Giving As an Act of Faith and Love

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." - **1 John 3:18**

Generosity is one way we put Christ's love into action. Every gift, large or small, helps FCC share God's grace, welcome others and serve our community. Through our shared faithfulness, God can do extraordinary things. We invite you to prayerfully consider supporting this ministry by scanning the QR code and giving as you feel led. Thank you for being part of this journey of faith.

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.



EVERY SHEEP COUNTS!

IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?

UPDATE

It is time to update the church directory or 2027. Please fill out the form below and mail to the church or you can make your corrections on the directory copy on the card table outside the church office. The deadline for corrections will be December 27th. Thanks

	Congregant 1	Congregant 2	Additional Household Members & ages of children
FULL NAME			
ADDRESS			
PHONE NUMBERS & EMAIL ADDRESS			
BIRTHDAYS			
OCCUPATIONS			



SPRING 2027 APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the upcoming 2027 college semester should be turned into the church office by January 18th by NOON.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Be sure to include your grade transcripts,
- record of enrollment that includes the number of credit hours you are taking. Full time schedule is no less than 12 hours.
- Minimum cumulative minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4..0 scale.

Applications can be picked up at the church office.

Any questions, contact Carmen Goodman, Chairman WTMS

December 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM CHOIR PRACTICE 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:30PM HANDBELLS	30 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:15PM Choir rehearsal 6:30PM Board meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts	1 7:00PM AA	2 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters	5 Hanukkah (1st day)
6 8:15AM Worship 9:15AM Congregational Meeting 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM CHOIR PRACTICE 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:30PM HANDBELLS	7 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:15PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Elders meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts	8 RHONDA IN DAYTON BEACH 1:00PM DWM Fellowship 7:00PM AA	9 9:00AM QUILTERS 1:00PM Mission Commission	10	11 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters	12
13 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM CHOIR PRACTICE 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:30PM HANDBELLS 3:00PM Primrose Service	14 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilting 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts 7:00PM Commissions	15 7:00PM AA	16 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	17	18 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters	19 9:00AM 3 D's quilters 10:00AM Blanket Ministry 4:00PM Children's Christmas party
20 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:00AM Christmas Cantata 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	21 12:00PM CALL deadline 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	22 7:00PM AA	23 9:00AM QUILTERS	24 Christmas Eve 7:00PM Christmas Eve Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day 10:00AM Quilters 5:00PM Mission Meal	26 Kwanzaa
27 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM CHOIR PRACTICE 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 12:30PM HANDBELLS	28 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	29 7:00PM AA	30 9:00AM QUILTERS 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	31 New Year's Eve	1 OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day 10:00AM Quilters	2