



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CASPER, WY

THE CALL



Church Staff:

Bryan Elliott: Lead Pastor
Rhonda Padilla: Associate Pastor
Kathy Winders: Secretary
Gracie Keizer: Music Director
Kaylee Waters: Nursery attendant
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



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



Pastor Bryan's Column

Dear Church Family,

Summer in Wyoming has a way of reminding us just how close we are to God's magnificent creation. Whether we're gathered beside a river, enjoying the mountains, or simply spending an evening with family in the backyard, we are surrounded by daily reminders of God's beauty and faithfulness.

As I write this, I am reflecting on our worship service at Ayres Natural Bridge. What a wonderful day it was! We gathered in one of Wyoming's most beautiful places to sing praises to God, hear His Word, enjoy the fellowship of one another, and share a meal together. There is something special about worshipping outdoors that reminds us that all creation joins in praising its Creator. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a blessing.

During our worship at Ayres Natural Bridge, Pastor Rhonda and I invited everyone to reflect on two important questions:

What is your hope for First Christian Church as we move into the future?

How can that hope become a reality—both today and in the years ahead?

These are important questions because the future of our church belongs to all of us. I encourage you to spend some time praying about them. Talk with your family. Share your thoughts with friends. Listen to one another. Together we will continue this conversation during a "Picnic with the Pastors" later in August. We hope it will be an informal, enjoyable opportunity to dream together about where God is leading First Christian Church. Watch for the date and details in the coming weeks.

The first full week of August (August 3–7), several members of First Christian Church will head to the Big Horn Mountains for our annual Theology and Fishing Retreat. I have the privilege of coordinating this regional event, now in its fifteenth year. This year, Dr. John Hull of Lexington Theological Seminary will lead our study, "Stories in Genesis," helping us explore the rich beginnings of our faith while we enjoy God's breathtaking creation together.

This retreat has become much more than a fishing trip. It is a time of Bible study, thoughtful conversation, laughter, worship, and deep friendships. I am grateful that First Christian Church, along with First Christian Church in Sheridan, continues to support this ministry, making it possible for people from across our Region—and beyond—to gather for learning and renewal. I would appreciate your prayers for everyone attending, that God would strengthen our faith, deepen our relationships, and send us home refreshed for ministry.

As summer begins to wind down, I hope you'll take every opportunity to enjoy God's creation, spend time with those you love, and give thanks for the many blessings God has provided.

The psalmist reminds us:

"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge."

Psalms 19:1–2 (NRSV)

May we have eyes to see God's handiwork all around us and hearts ready to share His love wherever He leads us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bryan



Celebrating the Retirement of **Pastor Bryan Elliott**

will retire on **October 25, 2026**
with a celebration meal following
our 10:10 am service.

After over
32 *years of ministry*

and serving 6 congregations
in various roles:



Youth Minister



Associate Minister
for Youth and Children



Senior Minister

Thankful for the past.

Celebrating the present.

*Trusting God
for the future.*

Please join us at First Christian Church
📍 **520 CY Avenue, Casper, Wyoming**
to celebrate **Pastor Bryan**
and our congregation!

It is one of the missions of the Fellowship Quilters to honor the service of our veterans for both their military service and their service in the wider community. Two quilts have been presented to the following veterans: Steve Huckfeldt and Chuck Lauderdale, one of our newest members.



Steve Huckfeldt has emphatically stated that he did not want a quilt or need another one. So to stay within his wishes we will honor that request, and not present a quilt, but with the quilted wall hanging shown to the left. We do not want to neglect honoring his service.

Steve enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1975 and started boot camp in San Diego in November. He joined the marines because he liked the looks of the dress blues, and they guaranteed him training in heavy equipment, however, he never wore a set of dress blues, and was trained as an ammunition technician at Red Stone Arsenal in Alabama. His primary duty stations were Camp Pendleton in California and Hanoco on Okinawa.

He earned the rank of corporal by the end of his first year and sergeant shortly over a year later. In his last year of enlistment he was transferred from the ammo dump to the Infantry Training School where he was responsible for all the small arms round used for training. At the end of his enlistment he came home to Casper.

Steve has served as a deacon, elder, commission chair, vice president and president of the Congregation at FCC. He unloaded tons of pumpkins, trimmed bushes with a chair saw, and washed mountains of dishes. He built the parson's table in front of the communion table, the small table behind the pews in the sanctuary, the Bible display case, frames for both the fake and real stained glass and most of the furniture that the Fellowship Quilters use on a weekly basis.

We are FCC thank you for your service both in our military and to our church.



Chuck Lauderdale entered the Air Force in August of 1968 and was trained in cryogenics aircraft support. These airmen handled extremely hazardous, ultra-cold gases critical for the servicing and fueling of fighter aircraft. Chuck served in Vietnam during some of the heaviest fighting of the war and on airbases in Thailand and the Philippines. His enlistment ended in July of 1972. His commitment to the military did not end, however, and he continued to support the VA and DAV on a local basis.

As a civilian, Chuck continued to serve our nation and community. He served 12 years in the Casper Police Department from 1973-1985. It was then that he began a 25 year career with the Natrona County Sheriff's Department. He reached the rank of Lieutenant before he retired in 2010. It seems to be a family business with 2 of his 4 daughters working in law enforcement.

We are honored that Chuck Lauderdale chose to call FCC home. His attendance has been near perfect at the 8:15 service since we found each other.

Thank you for your service to our country, our community, and to God.



Thank you
for your service



JULY/AUGUST 2026



SPIRITUAL GROWTH is planning summer events for the congregation. Mark your calendar with these dates:

WORSHIP AT AYRES NATURAL BRIDGE

July 26th - 11:00

Chicken, plates, silverware, and drinks will be provided. If you bring your own drinks (no glass bottles are allowed). Bring your own chairs, sunscreen, umbrella, water. No glass bottles or dogs.

A DAY AT THE LAKE

August 22nd

Cottonwood Beach- 10:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Sloppy Joes, utensils & drinks provided. Sign up for desserts & salads and number people coming. Bring chairs, sunscreen, umbrellas and a Boat if you have one.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY Sept. 20th.

Food and activities TBD after the 10:10 service in Fellowship Hall

PASTOR BRYAN'S RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

October 25th - after 10:10 service

Further details to come.

(See invitation in the newsletter)

Contact Jane Wallace if you have questions.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are available for the 2026 Fall Semester. You can find an application on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office. **Please submit your completed application along with your either high school or college grade transcript by August 12, 2026.** For questions, see Judy Baker or Randisue Davis.



5TH SUNDAY MISSION EMPHASIS FOR AUGUST is the **School Lunch Debt** at our three high schools. We had this mission last November and our congregation was very generous in your response. No one wants to see children go hungry through no fault of their own. There are hundreds of high school students in Casper who cannot pay for their school lunches. It is hard to learn well when you are hungry. Please join the Mission Commission and Disciples Women's Ministry in this joint mission emphasis to help our local students. The money we donate will go directly to **Food Services** at the three high schools. **Please make checks to FCC, designate school lunch debt and a specific school if you wish — NCHS, KWHS, or Roosevelt or place cash donations in an envelope and mark it school lunch debt.**

Thank you for your care and concern for our students and for your generous contributions to this important and very worthwhile mission. Blessing, Nancy Thomas

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



DIACONATE FOR JULY & AUGUST, 2026

8:15 - Tammy Heck Pat Seamands or Nina Hytrek

July 26 - Outdoor Worship

Aug. 2 - Erika & Spencer Stupak

Aug. 9 - Amanda Wardell & daughter

Aug. 16- Erika & Spencer Stupak

Aug. 23 - Martha Wallace & Dale Gregory

Aug 30 - Martha Wallace & Trudy Woodard

OFFERING STEWARD

July - Randisue Davis

Aug. 2- Trisha Whitcomb

Aug 9 - Steve Huckfeldt

Aug. 16-30 - Cindy Hake

ELDERS

July 26 - Outdoor Worship

Aug. 2 - Donna Osterholt (both)

Aug. 9 - Dewey Smith & Nicholas Grooms

Aug. 16 - Donna Osterholt (both)

Aug. 23- Dewey Smith & Dennis Baker

Aug. 30 - Carmen Goodman (both)

ACOLYTES

July 26 - Outdoor Worship

Aug. 2 - Leena Maddox & Cailynne Storey

Aug. 9 - Abel Cazier & McKenzie Grooms

Aug. 16-Rhys Elser & Alex Storey

Aug. 23- Rayden Herbst and Brielle Storey

Aug. 30- Rhys Elser & Natalie Grooms

OUTDOOR CLEANUP CREWS

July - Steve Huckfeldt

Aug. - Tom & Melanie Dowler

Sept. - Belle Stapleton

Oct - Pastor Rhonda

Nov. & December - Belle Stapleton

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Sam Kingsolver	July 2	Wanda Hogan	July 19
Cooper Goodman	July 4	Carla Schanck	July 20
Joyce Preston	July 5	Amanda Wardell	July 21
Al Metz	July 9	LuElla Dwyer	July 22
Ruth Jones	July 12	JoAnn Neal	July 22
Emma Lackey	July 16	Jason Ireland	July 24
Belle Stapleton	July 16	Nita Martin	July 28
Mason Maddox	July 18	Rick Black	July 31

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Jenny Black - July 2, 1988

Gene & Nita Martin - July 7, 1969

Rick & Teri Black - July 14, 1990

Michael & Carol Braley - July 15, 1972

Scott & Jennifer Hawley - July 20, 1996

Tim & Katy Havasi- July 28, 2001

Spencer & Erika Stupak - July 31, 1999

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Brandi Maddox	Aug. 1	Shirley Wenn	Aug. 24
Melissa Hayden	Aug. 2	Larry Winders	Aug. 25
Kathy Winders	Aug. 3	Val Williams	Aug. 27
Sarah Brown	Aug. 6	Cindy Hake	Aug. 28
Teri Black	Aug. 7	Elaine Umbach	Aug. 28
Jan Coey	Aug. 9		
Tammy Heck	Aug. 15		
Bill Westman	Aug. 16		
Erika Stupak	Aug. 19		

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Kelli Slominski - Aug. 2, 1992

Greg & Gayle Andress - Aug 4, 1990

Jim & Nina Hytrek - Aug 5

Chris & Sandie Stoltenberg -Aug. 7, 1993

Colin & Wanda Hogan - Aug. 8, 2020

Bill & Mary Lou Westman - Aug. 8, 1964

Dennis & Judy Baker - Aug. 11, 1979

Brandon & Amanda Wardell - Aug. 15, 1998

Dave & Terri Taylor -Aug. 16

Bryan & Teresa Elliott - Aug. 29, 1991

Al & Elaine Singleton - Aug. 29

Leonard & Ruth Jones - Aug. 31, 1960



A Message From Pastor Rhonda

As we look back on the summer and ahead to a new season of ministry, my heart is full of gratitude.

July 1 marked my one-year anniversary as your Associate Pastor. What a year it has been! I want to thank FCC Christian for the incredible love and support you have shown me. Your prayers, words of encouragement, and commitment to helping me continue my education at Lexington Theological Seminary have been such a blessing. Your investment in me is an investment in the future of our church, and I am deeply grateful.

Because so many of you have asked about my progress, I wanted to share a brief update. I continue working diligently to complete both my studies at Lexington Theological Seminary and my Commission on Ministry requirements through the Central Rocky Mountain Region (CRMR). I remain on track to complete this journey in January 2027, and I am thankful for your prayers and encouragement every step of the way. During my most recent intensive classes in Kentucky, I realized something unexpected. I became homesick—not for Colorado, but for Casper. While being away from my children and grandchildren has been an adjustment, I know this is where God has called me to serve. FCC Christian welcomed me as family from the very beginning, and over this past year, Casper has truly become home. That realization filled my heart with gratitude and reminded me how blessed I am to be serving alongside you.

Over the past year, we have welcomed new families, celebrated baptisms, embraced a new mission statement and four core values, shared meals, honored volunteers, grieved together, and celebrated together. Through every season, I have seen Christ's love lived out in this congregation. It is a privilege to serve alongside you, and I truly would not want to be anywhere else doing God's work.

As we look ahead, we know that in just a few months, Pastor Bryan and Teresa will begin a new chapter. I encourage you to take a few moments to write them a note of encouragement and gratitude. Please continue to pray for them as they prepare for their move to Idaho, asking God to provide the right home, the sale of their home in God's perfect timing, and peace throughout the transition. I am personally thankful for Pastor Bryan's hand in bringing me here, and I am equally grateful that this congregation chose to extend the call that brought me here. I also want to thank Kathy Winders for her faithful service and welcome her back to the church office. Thank you to Cindy Hake for graciously stepping in when we needed her most, and to Spencer, Erika, and Blake Stupak for serving our community during an urgent need, along with Nancy Thomas. Your willingness to serve reflects the love of Christ so beautifully. Well done, good and faithful servants.

As summer continues and another school year approaches, please join me in praying for all the children of Casper, especially the children of our church family. Pray for their safety, their teachers, school staff, their friendships, and that they will grow in wisdom and in the knowledge of God's love.

I am proud to be part of this church and this community. As we continue to live into our mission and core values, I believe God has wonderful things in store for FCC Christian. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and for your faithful partnership in ministry. I look forward with hope to all that God will do through us in the coming year.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Rhonda

THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

Generosity is an expression of joy, not obligation.



We give freely and cheerfully, trusting God to multiply every gift and use it for His glory (2 Corinthians 9:7). Your generosity strengthens our church family and helps extend our ministry far beyond these walls. We invite you to prayerfully partner with us as we continue carrying this mission forward for generations to come.

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.



SANDWICH MINISTRY is being re-evaluated at this time and we will have more information to share later. Please keep the Mission Commission in your prayers as they discern.

BLANKET MINISTRY will resume making blankets on Saturday, September 19th at 10:00 a.m. The fleece blanket mission has made 2,343 blankets to date. The most recent recipients have been Make a Wish, Mercer House, Interfaith of Wyoming,

Renal Care, and Rocky Mountain Oncology. We use 2 yards of print and 2 yards of plain anthill fleece. We are always in need of donations. Please keep your eyes and ears open for garage sales that have fleece or people who find they have a surplus. All our scrapes go to Jane Wallace to make doggy blankets. If you need further information contact Trudy Woodard.

A BIG THANK YOU! For the cards, calls, texts, and especially the food that was brought in from FCC members when I had my recent detached retina surgery. It was soooooo appreciated and Larry especially liked the food since he didn't have to cook! **ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU** to Cindy Hake who graciously agreed to come in at the last minute and help Pastor Bryan and Pastor Rhonda out the weeks I was gone. She also had a crash course on how to use a Mac computer. It was so much appreciated to have her here. Blessings to my church family, *Kathy Winders*

Colin Stewart received 7 excellence awards at the 8th grade awards ceremony - The Woody Herman Jazz band award, Perseverance in Art, Excellence in English, Language Arts, Newton Award (science), Dual Language Immersion Excellence Award, Presidential Excellence and Star Comet Award for outstanding citizenship.

He also received ribbons in Diamond art and a lego car at the Central Wyoming Fair in July

Colin and Delilah also participated in the Western Winds Marching Band Parade in Cody and Casper. Max Stewart is a member of the All-State Marching Band which will be going to Hawaii the week of Thanksgiving.

Kylie Stewart received Judge's Choice for a Butterfly Stained glass piece and a red ribbon for a Buffalo stained glass piece.

Thank you to the Mission Commission for providing water and snacks for the 100+ band members going to Cody. It was very much appreciated by all the band members and chaperones.

Help Shape the Future of Our Youth Ministry!

Volunteers Needed

We are blessed with an amazing group of children and youth at our church, and together we have an exciting opportunity to help them grow in faith, friendship, and service.

Imagine a youth ministry filled with meaningful activities, fun events, service opportunities, and experiences that help our children, youth, and high school students know they are **welcome, loved, valued, and that they truly belong**. That vision begins with people who care enough to help make it happen.

We're looking for volunteers to join our **Education Commission**—a team that will dream, plan, and work together to build a vibrant and thriving ministry for the next generation. It has been many years since we've had an active Education Commission, and we're excited to bring it back. We believe that when people gather around the table to share their ideas, gifts, and passion for our young people, God can do amazing things.

You don't need experience in youth ministry or all the answers—just a heart for our children and youth and a willingness to be part of the conversation. Every idea, every gift, and every helping hand can make a lasting difference.

If you'd like to be part of shaping the future of our youth ministry, please call or text **Michelle Elser** at **307-259-1166**. Once we know who is interested, we'll find a meeting time that works for everyone and begin dreaming, planning, and creating a flourishing ministry for all of our children, youth, and high school students.

Our young people are worth investing in. Together, let's build a place where every child and every young person knows they are welcome, loved, valued, and belong. Come be part of something that will make a difference for generations to come!

ADDRESS CHANGES

Darlene Bishop
Primrose Retirement Facility
1865 S. Beverly 102
Casper, WY. 82609
Email & phone remain the same

Nancy Vreeland
1013 Mission Drive
New Braunfels, TX 78130
NEW PHONE NUMBER: (307-277-1404)
nancy_vreeland@yahoo.com

August 2026

FCC CASPER CALL

JULY/AUGUST 2026

July 2026							August 2026							September 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	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 11:00AM Worship at Nat. Bridge 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	27 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilt 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Personnel mtg. 7:00PM Boy Scouts	28 7:00PM AA	29 9:00AM QUILTERS Round 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	30	31 - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM	1
2 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 9:15AM Youth Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	3 - Bryan Elliott gone Fishing retreat 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM Elders meeting 7:00PM Boy Scouts	4 7:00PM AA	5 9:00AM QUILTERS Round 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	6	7 - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM	8
9 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship 3:00PM Primrose Service	10 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilting 6:00PM Cub Scouts 6:30PM STEWARDSHIP 7:00PM Boy Scouts	11 1:00PM DWM Fellowship 7:00PM AA	12 9:00AM QUILTERS Round 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	13	14 - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM	15 9:00AM 3 D's quilters 9:00AM Men's Group
16 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	17 12:00PM CALL deadline 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	18 7:00PM AA	19 9:00AM QUILTERS Round 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	20	21 - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM	22 10:00AM Lake Day
23 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	24 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilt 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	25 7:00PM AA	26 9:00AM QUILTERS Round 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	27	28 - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM 5:00PM Mission Meal	29
30 8:15AM Worship 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School 10:10AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship	31 6:00PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Boy Scouts	1 7:00PM AA	2 9:00AM QUILTERS Round 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	3	4 - OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM Quilters 1:00PM	5