



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

11:30 - Choir practice & 12:30 Handbells



MISSION
Statement

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



Pastor Bryan's Column

Dear Church Family,

This month is my last month as your Lead Pastor. This is also my last newsletter article for our church and to you my church family. I have been thinking about what I want to say at this my last article, but honestly I don't really know what to say, so as I did in my last Board Meeting last month, I will leave you with this prayer from the last sermon I will preach as your Lead Pastor (October 25, 2026):

Closing Prayer

Gracious and loving God,

Today we give you thanks for the gift of ministry, for the people who have walked beside us, and for the ways your Spirit has guided us through every season of life.

We thank you for First Christian Church—for every person who has worshiped here, served here, prayed here, cried here, laughed here, and experienced your love here.

Lord, as this chapter closes, remind us that your work continues. The church belongs to you. The mission belongs to you. The future belongs to you.

Bless this congregation. Give them courage for the days ahead. Strengthen their leaders. Deepen their faith.

Bless Pastor Rhonda. Help them all to continue to ring the bell of your love and grace throughout Casper and beyond.

And Lord, I offer my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving as their pastor. Thank you for the sacred moments, the lessons learned, the relationships formed, and the memories that will always remain in my heart. Wherever you lead each of us next, may we continue to trust your calling, follow your voice, and share your love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we pray.

Amen.

Respectfully Yours,

Pastor Bryan

Soon to be retired Lead Pastor



You will be missed. I wish you and Teresa the best on your new adventure. Safe travels and Happy Adventures

Blanche





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

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

 **FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
CASPER, WYOMING

Thankful for the past.
Celebrating the present.
*Trusting God
for the future.*

THERE IS A SIGN UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR THE CONGREGATION TO SIGN UP TO BRING EITHER A SIDE OR A DESSERT TO THE DINNER. A CHOICE OF BBQ MEATS WILL BE OFFERED. PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR LAST MEAL WITH PASTOR BRYAN AND TERESA BEFORE THEY HEAD TO IDAHO FOR THEIR NEW RETIREMENT ADVENTURES.



**A Message
From Pastor Rhonda**

Love in Action

October brings us to a significant moment in the life of First Christian Church. On October 25, Pastor Bryan will retire, bringing to a close his season of pastoral ministry among us and marking an important transition in the life of our congregation.

As that day approaches, my heart is filled with gratitude for Bryan and Teresa and for the support and encouragement they have given me throughout this succession journey. I am especially grateful that Bryan thought of me for this position and introduced me to a congregation I have come to know as loving, compassionate, and generous.

This journey has not always been easy. There have been challenges and difficult conversations, but there have also been victories, healing, and new relationships. Bryan helped create space for us to think faithfully about the future, and Dale Matherly, our CRMR Interim Regional Minister, brought guidance and wisdom to the process. Together with congregational leadership and all of you who participated in listening sessions, conversations, and discernment, we did the work of asking who God is calling First Christian Church to be in this time and place. And look at what has come from that work. **Look at God!**

We listened. We gathered. We lamented and celebrated. We began rebuilding relationships and establishing new ones. Together we named a mission that gives us direction: **"Gathering at Christ's Table, we welcome and serve others."** We also identified four core values: **Welcoming and Belonging, Faith in Action, Christ-Centered Worship, and Community Relationships and Shared Leadership.** These are more than words on paper. They give us a way to ask whether the life of our church reflects what we say we believe. Now comes the continuing work of living them. How do we make room for others? How will our neighbors experience Christ through our compassion and service? How do we keep Christ at the center of our worship? How do we nurture relationships and recognize that each of us has a place in the ministry of this church? Perhaps all of those questions can be gathered into one: **How do we continue becoming love in action?**

We do it by practicing what we have already begun to learn together. We welcome before we decide who belongs. We listen before we assume we understand. We serve not simply because there is work to be done, but because we want others to experience the love of Christ through us. We worship together, make room for one another's gifts, repair relationships when they are strained, and share responsibility for the ministry God has entrusted to us. Love in action is not another program for us to create. **It is a way of being church together.** And this season of transition gives us an opportunity to practice it.

Bryan's retirement is an ending, and endings deserve our attention. We need time to thank Bryan and Teresa, celebrate their ministry, tell stories, grieve what is changing, and be present for one another. Alongside this transition, our congregation carries other griefs as well. We do not need to rush toward what comes next. We can listen, care for one another, and walk through this season together.

Sometimes love serves and sometimes love listens. Sometimes it celebrates, rebuilds, or simply sits beside someone who is grieving. Sometimes love means walking into an uncertain future together.

On September 14, I celebrated my first anniversary of being installed as your associate pastor. I cannot fully express my gratitude to God for calling me to Casper and to First Christian Church. Over this past year, I have had the privilege not only of serving alongside you, but of participating with you in this season of listening, discernment, and change. It is an honor to serve this congregation, and I do not take lightly the trust you have placed in me.

As our succession process continues, I look forward to being installed as your senior pastor. There will be more information about that in the days ahead. But even as pastoral leadership changes, one truth must remain at the center: **This church belongs to God.**

It does not belong to Bryan or to me, nor does it belong to any one group or generation. We have been entrusted with its ministry for this season, just as faithful people before us were entrusted with it in theirs. And through all of this, **Christ remains at the center.** Christ gathers us when we celebrate and when we grieve, when we agree and

Continued.....

Pastor Rhonda continued.

when we disagree, when the path is clear and when we are still finding our way. At the Table we receive grace, and from the Table we are sent to extend that grace to others. For many years, Micah 6:8 served as a guiding Scripture for our congregation, calling us “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” Those words remain part of our story.

When we discerned our new mission and core values, we also chose another Scripture to speak to this chapter of our life together:

“And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up.”— Acts 20:32

I love what these Scriptures say together.

Micah reminds us how we are called to walk: with justice, kindness, and humility. Acts reminds us that as we walk, we do not depend upon ourselves alone. We are entrusted to God and to the grace of God that is able to build us up. One Scripture does not replace the other. Together they remind us that we can honor where we have been while remaining open to where God is leading us. **We keep walking faithfully, trusting God’s grace to keep forming us along the way.** That is what I mean by entering a season of **recalibration**. We are not starting over, abandoning our past, or becoming a different church. We are carrying forward what we have learned and discerned together while remaining open to how God will continue to shape our life and ministry. So let us give thanks for what has been, make room for the grief that accompanies change, and remain open to what God is doing among us. And may the way we welcome, listen, serve, worship, care, and walk together show our community what we mean when we say we are becoming love in action.

With gratitude, hope, and love, Pastor Rhonda



The Mission Commission will be meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall beginning October 14th.

The Blanket Ministry will resume making blankets on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, beginning October 17th. Please join us and if you have questions contact Trudy Woodard.

**DIACONATE**

Sept. 27- Marcus Hayden & Amanda Wardell
Month of October - Stupak family

OFFERING STEWARD

Carmen Goodman

ELDERS

Sept. 27-Donna Osterholt & Nicholas Grooms
Oct. 4 - Dewey Smith & Nicholas Grooms
Oct. 11 - Carmen Goodman
Oct. 18-Steve Huckfeldt
Oct. 25 - Dewey Smith
Nov. 1 - Steve Huckfeldt
Nov. 8 - Donna Osterholt and Nicholas Grooms
Nov. 15 - Dewey Smith & Nicholas Grooms
Nov. 22 - Carmen Goodman
Nov. 29 - Donna Osterholt

ACOLYTES

Sept. 27 - Natalie & McKenzie Grooms
Oct. 4 - Brielle Story Rhys Elser
Oct. 11-Leena Maddox, Cailynne Storey
Oct. 18-Abel Cazier, Rayden Herbst
Oct. 25-Brielle & Alex Storey

OUTDOOR CLEANUP CREWS

Nov. & December - Belle Stapleton



Cal Decker	Oct. 3	Carmen Goodman	Oct. 24
Mark Williams	Oct. 11	Brian Black	Oct. 27
Chris Stoltenberg	Oct. 12.	Kelley Henry	Oct. 27
Sara Williams	Oct. 16	Randisue Davis	Oct. 31
Dale Gregory	Oct. 20		

ANNIVERSARIES

Chuck & Cindy Hake, Oct. 4
Bill & Nikki Storey, Oct. 4, 2003
Dewey & Jan Smith, Oct. 25, 2003



Hello congregation. It's me Blanche, the church mouse, reminding everyone again that it is getting close to cold & flu season and it will be very much appreciated by the church mouse if you REMEMBER to put your coffee cups, trash, bulletins, communion cups & miscellaneous stuff from your pew in the garbage bins and place hymnals back in proper position in the hymnal rack. Remember like the scouts — LEAVE NO TRACE!



FCC Scholarships for the fall semester of college were awarded to Caleb Woods (UW) and to Pastor Rhonda (Lexington Seminary). We wish them well on their higher education journey. Just a reminder that if you are interested in applying for a college/university scholarship in the spring, please provide all the documentation needed or asked for and adhere to the deadlines. Any questions about an application, please speak to Randisue Davis or Judy Baker, co-chairs of Wills, Trusts, Scholarships and Memorials.





Worshipping Together: Tradition, Growth, and Grace

Over the past year, our congregation has experienced many different expressions of worship and learned many new songs together. Some became immediate favorites. Others took time to learn. Through it all, we have continued to grow as a worshipping community.

As we move forward, our goal is to maintain a healthy balance between hymns and contemporary worship music. One week may include three hymns and two contemporary songs, while the next week may include three contemporary songs and two hymns. Our desire is to honor both the traditions that have shaped our faith and the opportunities God gives us to reach new generations.

One of the realities of a multi-generational church is that no worship service will perfectly match everyone's preferences every week. Hymns carry deep memories, treasured theology, and connections to generations who faithfully sang them before us. Contemporary worship songs often connect with younger generations, newer believers, and those who may be entering church life for the first time. Both have value. Both can teach, encourage, and inspire faith. Most importantly, both can glorify God.

Over the past year, we have intentionally introduced new music while continuing to honor familiar favorites. As we enter the coming year, we will continue recirculating many of the songs that have connected well with our congregation so that they become familiar and meaningful parts of our shared worship life. We will also continue learning new music thoughtfully and gradually. Our goal is not constant change, but steady growth. Many years ago, I learned an important lesson while searching for a church home. I visited several churches and found myself unable to participate because I did not know the songs. A pastor challenged me with a simple question: "Are you going to church for the music, or are you going to be fed by the Word of God?" That question changed my perspective. I began to understand what visitors, younger generations, and those who are new to church often experience. They may not know our hymns, our traditions, or our expectations. The songs we love became familiar because someone took the time to teach them and congregations took the time to learn them.

That is what we are doing together. To help us continue building our shared worship life, please complete the music survey included in the October bulletin and list your five favorite hymns and five favorite contemporary worship songs. Your input matters and will help guide future planning.

Worship planning involves much more than selecting songs. Scripture, sermon themes, the church calendar, the gifts of our musicians, the needs of the congregation, and the leading of the Holy Spirit all play a role in the process. Worship is not something we take lightly.

I've also heard concerns that worship music can sometimes feel like a performance. It may be helpful to remember that different musical moments serve different purposes. Congregational songs invite us all to participate. Choir anthems, bell choir selections, instrumental pieces, and songs of reflection are offerings shared on behalf of the congregation. Their purpose is not entertainment but worship. If people choose to applaud after these offerings, I encourage us to view that applause as gratitude for service rather than recognition of performance. The focus remains on God, who gives each person their gifts and talents to share.

I am grateful for everyone who contributes to our worship ministry. Choir members, bell choir members, vocalists, instrumentalists, worship leaders, sound technicians, and volunteers give generously of their time and talents. I am especially grateful for Gracie and her willingness to share her gifts with our congregation. A healthy church encourages people who step forward to serve. As we continue growing together, I encourage us to remember the words of Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

I also invite us to practice the Spiritual CPR we have discussed before:

Check Your Heart.

Pray Before You Speak.

Respond in Love.

Not every song will be our favorite. Not every worship service will reflect our personal preferences. Yet our worship is larger than any one person's preferences, including my own. We worship as one body, seeking to glorify Christ together.

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas about worship, please come speak with me directly. My door is always open. Honest and respectful conversations help us grow together. What does not help is criticism shared in hallways, parking lots, or among small groups of people. Those conversations can unintentionally discourage volunteers, hinder ministry, and create barriers for visitors who are seeking a church home.

Let us be known as a congregation that builds one another up, welcomes newcomers warmly, and extends grace freely. Growth is not always comfortable, but it is often where God does some of His greatest work.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rhonda Padilla



FCC and Scout troop #13 are hosting a Trunk or Treat/Haunted House on October 31st from 10 - noon! We are looking for people to decorate their trunks and pass out Halloween candy or other items during the event. The scouts and packs from our church will be hosting a haunted house to entertain all of our guests. We will also have games set up in the gazebo area for more fun. You do not have to RSVP to join in the fun, just make sure that you are at the church, and your trunk is set up by 9:40 on the 31st! We really hope to have everyone's support so that we can continue this event because it was so successful! If you have any questions, contact Michelle at 307-259-1166. Thank you.

We are asking for donations for if we have so many kids we run out of the candy we bring (fingers crossed!), or if people aren't able to purchase candy for their trunks, but would still like to participate. If you would like to donate candy, small toys, small chips, pencils or anything really that is in sealed packages (if edible), please place it in the basket by the sanctuary by October 25th. Thank you.



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Thank you FCC Family.

Thank you so much for the scholarship I was awarded this semester. I feel so blessed that my church family supports higher education. I am still getting settled in Laramie and can't wait to see you all soon!

Caleb Woods



Bill & Jeanne Stolte
Primrose
1865 S. Beverly - Apt. 209
Casper, WY 82609



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.



A Quilt of Honor was presented by the Fellowship Quilters to Rob Knaus.

Rob received his “letter” from President Nixon and enlisted in the Army in September 1970 as a member of the 1st Infantry Division, 16th Ranger Regiment. After basic training in Ft. Lewis Washington, where he received advanced training in the Army’s Electronic Warfare School at Fort Huachuca. This involved using radio waves, infrared, radar, and microwaves to disrupt enemy communications and protect our military and other friendly forces. Upon completing his training he was surprised to be one of three soldiers to receive orders to Germany rather than Vietnam. He was stationed on the West German Border with Czechoslovakia. His team used ground surveillance radar to detect Soviet troop and equipment movements at night while simultaneously observing civilian refugees and military defectors heading

toward the closed border. Rob was discharged in April 1972 with a rank of SP4. He earned a National Defense Service medal and a sharpshooters award. In civilian life, Rob worked as a finance officer in the auto industry before switching to the credit industry. He retired from Expert Global Services in 2012. He married Jolene in June 1995 in FCC. He is an active Mason and a Shriner since 1995 and volunteers at Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions with his focus on “We Honor Veterans.” He is a faithful attendee at the 8:15 service and winters in Texas where he spends time fishing. We are pleased to honor Rob and thank him for his service.

CRMR FALL YOUTH RETREAT

COME AS YOU ARE

Belong fully. Be yourself.
Rest in a love you never had to earn.

Heart of the Rockies Christian Church
 November 6th (7pm) – 8th (noon), 2026
 9th – 12th grade \$50

**REGISTRATION
DUE CHURCH
OFFICE
MONDAY,
OCTOBER 19TH**



ALL Commission Leaders are asked to make a short presentation about their commission to the congregation on Sunday, October 18th. Be sure to include some of your activities, and your budget. Contact Carmen Goodman, Stewardship Chairman

October 2026

FCC CASPER CALL

OCTOBER 2026

September 2026							October 2026							November 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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 ■ 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilt ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scouts	29 ■ 7:00PM AA	30 ■ 9:00AM QUILTERS ■ 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	1 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters	2 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters	3
4 ■ 8:15AM Worship ■ 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School ■ 10:10AM Worship ■ 11:30AM CHOIR PRACTICE ■ 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship ■ 12:30PM HANDBELLS	5 ■ 9:00AM Paper Piecing Quilters ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 6:30PM Elders meeting ■ 7:00PM Boy Scouts	6 ■ 7:00PM AA	7 ■ 9:00AM QUILTERS ■ 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	8 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters	9 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters	10
11 ■ 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	12 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day ■ 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilting ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scouts	13 ■ 1:00PM DWM Fellowship ■ 7:00PM AA	14 ■ 9:00AM QUILTERS ■ 10:00AM Sermon in the Round ■ 1:00PM Mission Commission	15 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters	16 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters ■ 9:00AM 3 D's quilters ■ 9:00AM Men's Group ■ 10:00AM Blanket Ministry	17
18 ■ 8:15AM Worship ■ 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School ■ 10:10AM Worship ■ 11:30AM CHOIR PRACTICE ■ 11:30AM Coffee Fellowship ■ 12:30PM HANDBELLS	19 ■ 12:00PM CALL deadline ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scouts	20 ■ 7:00PM AA	21 ■ 9:00AM QUILTERS ■ 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	22 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters ■ 5:00PM Mission Meal	23 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters ■ 5:00PM Mission Meal	24
25 ■ 8:15AM Worship ■ 9:10AM Adult's Sunday School ■ 10:10AM Worship ■ 11:30AM CHOIR PRACTICE ■ 12:00PM Pastor Bryan retire lunch ■ 12:30PM HANDBELLS	26 ■ 9:00AM Working 4 Warriors quilt ■ 6:00PM Cub Scouts ■ 7:00PM Boy Scouts	27 ■ 7:00PM AA	28 ■ 9:00AM QUILTERS ■ 10:00AM Sermon in the Round	29 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters	30 OFFICE CLOSED ■ 10:00AM Quilters Halloween	31