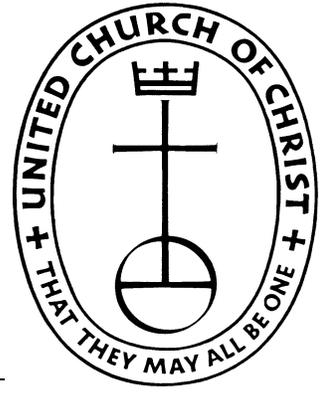


First Christian United Church of Christ Newsletter August 2019



The Summer Symposium was held July 16, 17, 18... and was filled with interesting... informative... and useful information. This years speakers were Peggy Johnson, Carol Fonville and Mack Painter.

First Christian UCC – August 2019 Newsletter

PASTOR'S COLUMN

If you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don't have. II Corinthians 8:12.

As a person knows of God - and is aware of God's goodness and mercy, - and senses the hope God has for him or her, - she or he should also be aware of a feeling of gratitude that he or she needs to make in response back to God for God's goodness.

What is an appropriate response of thanks to God?

When we have someone give us something that we greatly appreciate we normally say "Thank You!" We may send a "thank you" note, and we may even reciprocate with various things we give to the person. We may spend more time with a person who has given us something very special. We may do special things to let the person know we appreciate the care and love he or she has shared.

Our response toward other people is a good way to consider how we should respond to God - who is the giver of life, who helps sustain our lives, and who offers us the hope of an eternal future.

To God, who has given to us, and who continually gives to us, a grateful "Thank you" is due! This "Thank you!" should be offered daily to God through our thoughts and prayers. Since God desires for our praise to also be shared as a community, then regular worship of God is important. Praise and "Thank you" should lead us to attend and actively participate in worship with others who join us in our "Thank you" for gifts we can only receive from God.

Our "Thank you" to God should also be shown as we strive to help others experience the wonder of knowing of a God who has created us with the purpose of an eternal lifetime of loving fellowship.

How many of us have been impressed by a movie or an entertainment event and we tell others, "If you have a chance, you need to see that! That will be worth your time!"

Knowing of the value that God bestows upon us should lead us to want others to experience what we have found happening in our lives that gives us eternal worth and recognition. Being aware of God's deep, forgiving, caring love for us is an event that we can appreciate an endless number of times as we seek to mature spiritually.

Gifts that we give God are to say "Thank you" for the value and hope God gives to us. Our gifts to God, Paul reminds us, are to be based on what we have, not on what we do not have.

How well do the gifts you give to God express your "Thank you" to God?

The gifts we have to offer to God are many – quality of our living, time, abilities, attitude, possessions, money, service, publicity – these are some ways we show our "Thank you" to God.

One purpose of the church is to be a group of people who help promote, publicize and lead people to have faith in and obedience to God. Therefore our church should be considered an important place where we share our "Thank you" to God with the various gifts we have to offer. It is not the amount you give to God for God's work that is important, but your eagerness to give based upon what you are aware God has given and offers to you. How do you share "Thank you" with God? How do you share your life and your gifts that God has made possible? Your sharing helps God to promote healing, hope and wholeness among all God's people as we together share, "Thank You, God for loving us!"

Jamie Fonville, Pastor

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

August 5th is the date of our Annual Ice Cream Social. Things will kick off in the Bray Fellowship Hall at 7 pm. This always promises to be a fun time with a whole array of wonderful frozen treats. And, if you have an ice cream freezer and would be willing to contribute to the cause, please be in touch with Phil Bray and let him know!

Along with ice cream there will be cookies and other snacks, along with great toppings. Invite a friend and join the fun.



TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY – AUGUST 11

It is with grateful hearts that we will recognize the dedication and willingness to lead and guide us in our Sunday School hours that we recognize our faithful Teachers on August 11th. Please join us at the 11 am Worship Service and help us show this group a warm note of thanks.

SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

First Christian's Summer Symposium was held on July 16, 17 and 18 – Tuesday through Thursday. The event provided us with a variety of educational opportunities!

Tuesday night had Peggy Johnson giving us interesting information about the history of First Christian Church, including information about our present building and the beautiful stained-glass windows we have. In addition, Matt Rice gave a demonstration of the versatility of our organ and its musical capabilities.

On Wednesday night, Carol Fonville shared music that was inspirational to her, which gave us the opportunity to have this music also inspire us. We also learned the history of some of these musical pieces and had the opportunity to join in singing some favorite hymns.

Mack Painter, on Thursday night, shared about "What Happened to the Gospel?" We were reminded that the word "gospel" means "good news". This presentation on the good news of Jesus reminded us of why it is important to be a Christian in thanksgiving for the hope God offers to us through the life, death and resurrection of our savior.

We thank the Board of Christian Education for arranging this variety of educational opportunities for our edification!

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GREETINGS FROM COLORADO

Joan contacted me a bit ago and suggested that I write a piece for the newsletter giving you an update on what is happening with us out here in the west. It has been a busy time for us consumed with a lot of childcare. Shortly after we arrived, our daughter, Michal, was off for a week-long conference in Washington, DC. Then, a few weeks later, her husband, Ben, was out of town for a week for work. On top of that, there have been patches of time when the kid's programs were on break because of the summer. Needless to say, we've managed to keep ourselves going at a frantic pace. In between all of that, we've slowly been trying to put our house in order.

I'm happy to report that all the boxes on the main floor of our house have been unpacked, and most all the pictures have been hung! The basement is another matter. We'll get to that when there's time. But since that's essentially an indoor play space for the kids, it's fine as it is for now, and a few unpacked boxes just adds to the space's intrigue for two little ones.

And as if all that weren't enough, a couple weeks ago, Margot's sister and brother-in-law celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Indiana. Most of the family planned to attend, so Michal, Ben and the kids joined us for the trip, and our other daughter, Courtney, was able to get away and be there as well. We flew and the kids were amazing on the plane. It was a good celebration - but an even better family reunion.

Here in CO, out on the edge of the Rockies, we're enjoying the out of doors and try to do as much hiking as time allows. Tomorrow, in fact, we're headed up to Rocky Mountain National Park with some friends to do some real hiking! And fortunately, the park is just over half an hour from our door.

We think of you often and have been saddened by the those long, dear members who passed away as well as those who are dealing with illness. Know that you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers on a regular basis. And, if any of you are tempted by a trip out west, we have a guest room. In fact, a former intern from Germany who served with us at our church in Durham is planning a visit in early August. She'll be able to break in the Pickett B&B and help us work out the kinks.

I miss all the wonderful activities at First Christmas. I see the Summer Symposium is coming up and the Ice Cream Social can't be too far behind. But beyond the activities, however, I miss the fellowship with you. Know that I'm with you in spirit.

Blessings on you all.

Mark

For those of you who would like to know... or need to be reminded... Mark and Margot may be reached at : 4620 Lucca Dr., Longmont, CO 80503 and markpickett52@gmail.com or margot.Pickett@gmail.com

First Christian UCC – August 2019 Newsletter **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL MEETING**

The Women's Fellowship of First Christian UCC will meet on Monday, August 6th at 6:00 pm. Members are asked to bring items for a salad supper. Lettuce will be provided. Make plans to come and bring a friend! All are welcome

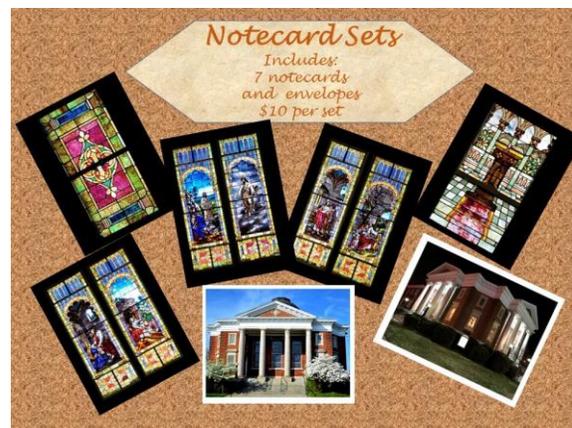
HOMECOMING IS ON THE HORIZON

Homecoming for First Christian United Church of Christ will be held of Sunday, September 15, 2019, with our Memorial Worship Service to be at 10:30 am. We will have a special worship service that will include a time to remember those of our membership who passed from us since our Homecoming last year, as well as those members who died 5, 10, and 15 years ago.

Our worship service will be followed with a covered dish lunch in Bray Fellowship Hall. The Deacons will be providing the meat. First Christian members are asked to bring vegetables, salads, and/or desserts. Invite former members whom you know to join with us that day, as well as family and friends. This is always a special time for enjoying fellowship together, as we also give thanks for the gift of salvation offered to us and our loved ones through Jesus our Savior.

CHURCH NOTECARDS AVAILABLE

Beautiful Notecards of First Christian's Building and Stained-glass windows are available for purchase. This set of 7 notecards sells for \$10 a box and may be found in the Parlor. We thank Ken Little and Mark Pickett for taking these special pictures!



A WORD OF THANKS

From the Salvation Army: Thank you so much for your support of our mission and our community. Without you and your support we couldn't do what we do! Thank you for your generous donation! (food collected each month goes to the Salvation Army)

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Family of Elizabeth Woodlief—Mother of Peggy Johnson, Bobbye Mebane, Nancy Thomas, Anna Gerow, Norma Simons, Family of Jeanne Williams, Family of Mary Jane Pettigrew, Frances Morgan, Harvey Sharpe.

Friends: Jud Bricker—friend of Elsie Bolick, Crystal Barker—friend of Connie Collins, Tom McPherson – relative of Nancey Simmons, Children and Adults at our Southern Border, Pete Pate & Jane Pate—Family of Jamie Fonville.

Please remember the families as well as the person listed.

FOOD DONATIONS – FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

In many places in the Scripture we find the instructions to share with others... to care for our fellow man. Isaiah 58:1-10 speaks of the ways of fasting and giving to others. Matthew 25:34-40 tells us that as we are feeding others, we are feeding Christ. Luke 3:11 instructs us to share with others, and Proverbs 19:17 and 22:9a speak to the idea of 'blessed to be a blessing'.

We are collecting non-perishable food donations on the first Sunday of each month. Items may be placed in the barrels located in the Bray Fellowship Hall at any time. The food items collected will be donated to the Salvation Army Food Ministry when the barrels reach capacity... and thank you for your donation!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Year to Date through 06-30-19

	Actual	Budget
Income:	\$105,741.99	\$103,449.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>\$84,074.18</u>	<u>\$103,468.11</u>
Net Balance:	\$21,667.81	<\$19.11>

Balance in Checking 06-30-19 \$10,203.52

Everyone's continued support is greatly appreciated to carry on the ministry of the church. Please send in your giving today.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Little and Connie Collins
Treasurer and Accounting Manager