

The Good News Gazette

March 2018

First Christian Church

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The Gift of Slowing Down

A few weeks ago, I hurt my back. It was a culmination of several things that led to me being in a lot of pain and not really able to move very much. Needless to say, my recently attained workout disciple was interrupted, it was hard to focus, and I was a bit worried about what long term issues I was going to be enduring. This was of course compounded by me being a bit of a stubborn guy who refuses to let some injury stop me from doing my normal routine.

What I discovered in the next few days was an ever increasing need to take care of my back. This required getting more rest at night, getting up early to stretch, and being more conscious about my movement and my day. My back has gotten much better, but the residual damage is still there and will demand a continued diligence on my behalf, for it to get better.

I share this to drive home a point.

It's much better to live a life of discipline without the pain, but when the pain comes, it can be a gift.

Most of us live with good intentions, but we fail to follow through with them. That is so true with much of the stuff that swirls around in my head and on my "to do" list. The juggle of obligations can come crashing down at any moment with a single misstep.

When Jesus was trying to communicate how following him was different than mindless, soulless religion he described it by calling it rest.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Now this passage isn't about pain relief, but rather relief from trying so hard to follow a pattern of life forced upon you. Instead a life of following Jesus is one of freedom and lightness of burden. It's a life of embracing each moment as a gift and then using that gift to make light shine in the darkness all around us.

I think we have lost the ability to rest and add so much to our lives in the hopes of finding value in our existence. That struggle can lead to so much pain in our hearts and ultimately rob the joy from our lives.

My prayer is that we can avoid the pain and embrace the freedom of a life lived knowing we are loved by the creator. However, if it takes some pain for us realize this, then that temporary suffering is a gift from the father who love us more than we can fathom.

Mike



Thank You!

Dear First Christian Church,

We would like to thank you for allowing us to have Andrea Kern's funeral and reception at First Christian. We appreciate your hospitality greatly! The Kern Family

To all my friends at First Christian - Thank you all for your prayers, cards, and visits while I have been homebound these last few months. They have lifted my spirits and once the ice is gone, I hope to get back to church. I miss you all, Jean Wheat!

We also received thank you cards from the following:

InterFaith Good Samaritan

Laramie Soup Kitchen

Safe House



Can you flip pancakes? Grill Sausages?

The men of the church prepare a wonderful Pancake Breakfast for everyone on **Easter Sunday, April 16th at 9:15am** and are looking helpers for Easter Breakfast preparation! Please contact Jack Harvey - 760-5613 to volunteer .

March Celebrations

3	Terri Harvey	17	Linda Bickel
4	Ruth Monroe	19	Jim Gunderson
5	Darlene Lauck		Kelli Erickson
	Barb Spreng	22	Dawson Evertson
	Chuck Bauer	24	Marcia Doty
8	Wilma Harnden	27	Marilyn Stover
	Bob Smith	28	Florence Brandt
	Roy & Nancy Kern ♥		Chris Christian
9	Chase Webb		John & Marilyn Newman ♥
11	C'Anna Lundberg	29	Steve Miller
13	Mike Dunlay		
	Lisa Kinney		
15	Margie McDonald		
16	Beverly Pochop		
	Laney Connally		



Have a birthday in March that is not on this list?

Please let the office know as we never want to miss anyone!

Easter Week at First Christian



March 25, 2018 7:00pm - Sanctuary

Good Friday is observed on the Friday before Easter Sunday. On this day Christians commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Join us for a beautiful and meaningful communion service.



April 1st Easter

Worship Services at 7:50am + 10:30am

Children's Presentation during the 10:30 service

PanCake Breakfast – 9:15am

Many Devotionals for Easter are available for your thoughtful reflection on scripture, meditation and readings. Some are available on the back table, some on-line – please find the one that works for you! Here are a couple of links.

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org>

<https://www.biblegateway.com>



What a BLESSED month February was for Outreach. We collected goods for "Bags of Grace." The children put together the bags with items that had been donated as on February 17. THANK YOU kids. We had a HUGE success from Night to Shine. 57 guests attended and there were at least 98 volunteers. Most of the Buddy volunteers were athletic students from UW. I know the guests as well as other

volunteers were appreciative of the athletes generosity. That stated...I personally want to thank each volunteer for their own generous time and effort to make Night to Shine a special night for all who attended. The committee has decided to host again in 2019. Be on the look out for more information.

The Outreach Committee has decided to pause on having a monthly/bi-monthly donation box. Our personal lives are busy and we feel God directing us to hold off for a little bit. We are not sure when we will utilize the donation box again. Please feel free to donate to any organization you feel led to in the mean time. Thank you for all of your support in this. We have a very giving church!

One side note...there is discussion of a group of members from the church going on a mission trip to Guatemala to build a house this July. No member has selected and nothing has been finalized. We are just in the discussion/planning phase. If you are interested in going or want more information, Amber and I are working on the details. We will be presenting it to the church in the near future if we decide to pursue God's direction in this.

Thanks again for all of the outpouring of love to the community through the Outreach Box and the volunteering for Night to Shine.

Joy Fawcett & team!



The kids will begin practicing their performance for Easter during Children's Church on March 11th. I know they will be excited to be a part of Easter Sunday and show that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sin.



St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Saint Patrick described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paeon of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God"

Communion Preparation



March 4 - Brian Fawcett
 March 11 - Brian Fawcett
 March 18 -
 March 25 -

Volunteers Wanted!



Some of you may have heard us mention the wonderful meats we get from Zaycon Fresh - We have served the bacon and sausage on Easter, hotdogs & chicken for events, burger for chili cook-offs etc. Zaycon uses our parking lot for their distribution location in Laramie every month. In return they provide us with a selection of the product they are delivering. Some comes frozen and all we have to do is place it in the freezer while other selections come fresh and we must trim, repackage, and vacuum seal the meat before we can place it in the freezer.

This provides us with the opportunity to help those in need as they come to the church seeking assistance. Sometimes they just need a package or two to get them through the week.

We are offering the opportunity to those interested in helping prepare these items for our freezer to help and then also take home a package or two for your family. Would you have a couple of hours during the month to help out? If so, please contact Marilyn in the office - office@fcclaramie.org or 745-4248.

Check out their website @ <https://www.zayconfresh.com> to learn more about Zaycon Fresh you might want to share a box or two with friends. If you decide to join in this opportunity, please use this reference code. <https://zayconfresh.com/refer/zf287975>



PLEASE remember to set
 your clock ahead Saturday
 night, March 10, 2018
 You don't want to be late to
 church on Sunday!



Disciples Women

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

This is our Disciples Women theme verse for 2018, and the one that will guide every event we host.

Each month on the 3rd Saturday, 9-11 am, we'll host a women's gathering where we'll explore the theme of "Loving Well." A variety of women (maybe even YOU!) will share from the scriptures and their experiences, then give you a chance to share and discuss. It may include time for prayer, constructing a plan of action, or doing something to encourage you as you seek to love well. We hope this will be a time for both connecting and exploring practical ways of demonstrating God's great love for us.

Coming Soon...

Loving God

Saturday, March 17 at 9:00 am

Refreshments and childcare provided

Fellowship Hall

Feedback from the "God's Love for Us" Session in February:

"It was the best casual, but intentional time!"

"The teaching on who I am in Christ went straight to my heart."

"It was a very comfortable environment where we could share our hearts."

We hope to join with you this year as we learn together how to love well. See you on the 17th!

L ibrary Highlight

Featured Author: John Eldredge

John Eldredge is an author, a counselor, and a teacher. He is also president of *Ransomed Heart*, a ministry devoted to helping people discover the heart of God, recover their own hearts in God's love, and learn to live in God's Kingdom.

Books Available in Our Library by John Eldredge (borrow or purchase):

Beautiful Outlaw (2011) Experiencing the Playful, Disruptive, Extravagant Personality of Jesus

Walking with God (2008) Talk to Him. Hear from Him. Really.

Waking the Dead (2003) The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive

Wild at Heart (2001) Discovering the Secret of a Man's Soul

The Sacred Romance (1997) Drawing Closer to the Heart of God

The Journey of Desire (2000) Searching for the Life We've Only Dreamed Of

Library Policies

- ❖ Our library is located on the west wall of the admin area and is available for perusal on Sunday mornings and during office hours.
- ❖ All books may be borrowed at any time. Any books (except reference materials) may be purchased for \$10. Please indicate on the form provided which item you have borrowed or bought.
- ❖ The nonfiction section of our library is now organized according to topic/interest group.

Just A FEW quick...



- In search of (ISO) - In November someone brought some really yummy fruitcake cookies for us to share – We have asked all around and can't seem to find the person who was so generous – and we would love to have the recipe. If you are willing to share your treasured recipe, please contact the office.
- If you are using the range in the kitchen, please note that due to high winds, we have turned off the gas valve to the range. To use the range, please turn the red valve parallel to the pipe on the right side of the back of the range. Then, be sure to light all the pilots, including the ones for the griddle (might need long matches – which are in the drawer in the island)
- Deacon's – when gathering the fellowship pad sheets, please be sure to go through all of the pads – we seem to be missing 4 or 5 a week and that means we miss some precious prayer requests.

Deacon's – please remember to sign up to prepare communion. There are quite a few open Sunday's on the list on the Kitchen storage refrigerator.

You're Always There for Me
When the world comes crashing in
And Chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure, sweet peace I find.
You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.
In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.
You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.
