



First Christian Church (DOC)

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Return Service Requested

Volume 13 January 2023 Crossword Newsletter

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement



**PRAISING GOD
CHANGING LIVES!**



CROSSWORDS

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Services each

Sunday

Praising God, Changing Lives for 135 Years!

Sunday Worship:

10:50 a.m.

Church Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday:

12:00 pm–3:00 pm

Friday: Close

Pastor Kevin Church hours:

Monday - Wednesday: 10 AM—3 PM

THURSDAY: OFF

FRIDAY: 10 AM—3 PM

Our Ministry

Statement

First Christian Church (DOC)

exists to:

Reach Up to worship God,

Reach In to grow in

Christ-like maturity,

Reach Out to serve others in Christ's name, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others and to invite them to become members of His family.

Kevin's Korner


I love starting my day reading my favorite mystic, Richard Rohr, in his Daily Meditation from the Center for Action and Contemplation. His writings and thoughts are especially helpful when I start feeling like all the challenges and obstacles of the world and life are just too much to bear. Richard has a way of communicating a sense of Hope that there is a greater truth beyond what we can find on TV or in the newspaper. In fact, this week he writes about a truth that is more basic than any human developments; a truth that is built into the very foundations of the created world.

Boiled down, Richard teaches that because God is Love, God needs to be in a loving relationship and so creates "loved creations," from the tiniest molecules of star dust, which all of us are made up from, to the largest galaxies, which we are just now getting to know exist. And because God is Love, God puts a bit of Godself into every particle of every piece of creation. As the Gospel of John says, "...and without him (Jesus) not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people."

So, when I start to get discouraged, I remember that not only is God present, but God is part of everything I can see or experience during my day, and thus God has a purpose for everything, myself included, this church included, this community included, even the mosquitoes, even the things I dislike or disagree with, even the things I don't understand. As we prepare to start a New Year, we can look around us and know that everything we see, or don't see, has a purpose. And deep down every little piece of stardust has a bit of God's love inside and thus a big piece of potential for good.

I find comfort in thinking about these things. I also find hope that God is at work through every one of these particles of stardust, loving and creating a mosaic of beauty and life that will pull every single piece into God's plan for good and love and completion. And God wants to use us to bring His beautiful plans to complete fruition. Furthermore, God still wants to use Christ's church to partner and labor side-by-side with Him.

(Continued on Page 3)



What is God building right here in Grand Junction? And how can God use this church and each one of us to help build something beautiful? I am excited to hear of possibilities to help make life bearable for our “unhoused neighbors” in Grand Junction. I’m excited about getting to know our neighbors in Sherwood Park Neighborhood better this year. I’m always looking for a new song to sing and new people to sing it with. God is working on a melody and inviting us to sing along in harmony. Listen! Look! And get ready to sing a new song in 2023. I’m sure it will be a masterpiece because we’ll be singing it together!

May God bless your New Year!

Pastor Kevin and The “Unpaid Bills” will be back at Sang Garden Chinese Restaurant to share hope and some favorite songs, Friday, December 30th, and also Friday, January 20th, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Good food and good music on a Friday evening.

"Out of Sanctuary," the band with Pastor Kevin and Chip Ferron, and friends, will be performing in the Fruita Cavalcade Variety Show, 201 E. Aspen Dr, in Fruita, on **Saturday, January 14, beginning at 7:30 PM.** Come out for a great show! Admission: \$10.00.

The Covenant Project – Winter Bible Study

Pastor Kevin will lead a Winter Bible study called The Covenant Project, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This will be a 5 week study on Wednesday mornings (Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 8 pm.) from 10:30 to 12:00 am. It will explore foundational theological foundations of Disciples and inform us of coming structural changes being proposed for the General church. It will conclude in time for our Lenten Study on David, “Leap Over a Wall,” written by Eugene Peterson (who translated the Message Bible), beginning on February 22nd, (Books can be ordered ahead of time).

The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the document that governs our common life together, begins with a Preamble that reads more like a hymn than a governing document. In it, we find an affirmation of our faith, an expression of hope, a call to service, and a reminder of “God’s covenant of love that binds us to God and to one another.”

That covenant is written into the Preamble, but it is lived out through covenantal relationships in all expressions of the church. This curriculum is an opportunity for Disciples to explore the notion of covenant within our faith tradition, and to deepen our commitment to living in covenant with each other.

This is a 5 week study including: Week 1 – God’s Covenant of Love; 2 A Movement for Wholeness; 3 The Bonds of Christian Faith; 4 The Light of Scripture; and 5 God’s Limitless Love.



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Pastor Kevin is finishing up reading through the Bible for the 20th something time? This year he listened to the NIV version on an internet Bible app. There are many different versions of the Bible, many Bible apps and many patterns for reading through the Bible in a year. I suggest one in particular as a Chronological reading pattern, which skips through the Bible in a few places and removes the repeated portions of the Old Testament (mostly the Books of Chronicles 1 and 2). This pattern can help the reader follow the historical flow of our Biblical story of faith. These will be left on the table at the sanctuary entrance.

I do try to use a different translation of the Bible, or paraphrase each year, which I think helps me to listen in a new way. The NRSV, which we use in worship is a good start. I really like it. But I also really like "The Message" Bible (paraphrase by Eugene Peterson). This year, he is trying the CEV Bible for the first time, as it is recommended for easy reading and understanding for modern readers.



Take risks: If you win, you will be happy; if you lose, you will be wise. (Author Unknown)



Personal Hygiene Kits for Migrants!

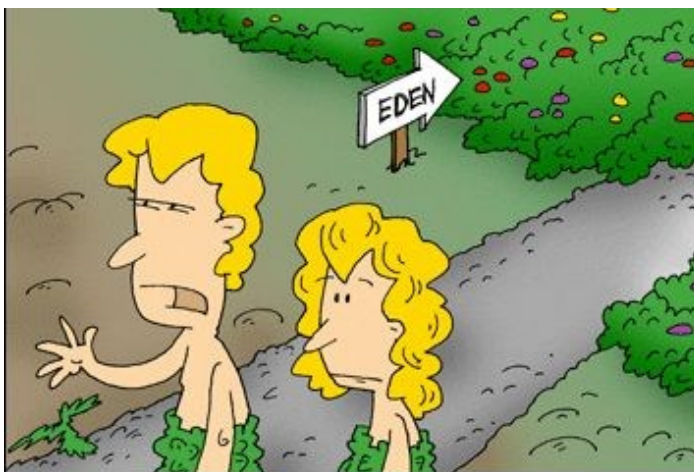
Church Women United (CWU) is an organization that includes women from various denominations who do good works! The local CWU meets at our church monthly, and Jeanice Swank is FCC's representative. Currently they are collecting items for the spring and summer migrants who will be here to help with the various crops grown in our valley. These kits will be assembled in March and donations of the following are needed: **wash cloths, socks, deodorant, bars of soap, tooth brushes, single-use razors, shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion.** A tub for these items is in the Fellowship Hall next to the Information Table. Your help in providing items will be greatly appreciated by CWU and the migrants. Thank You.

HAPPY New Year

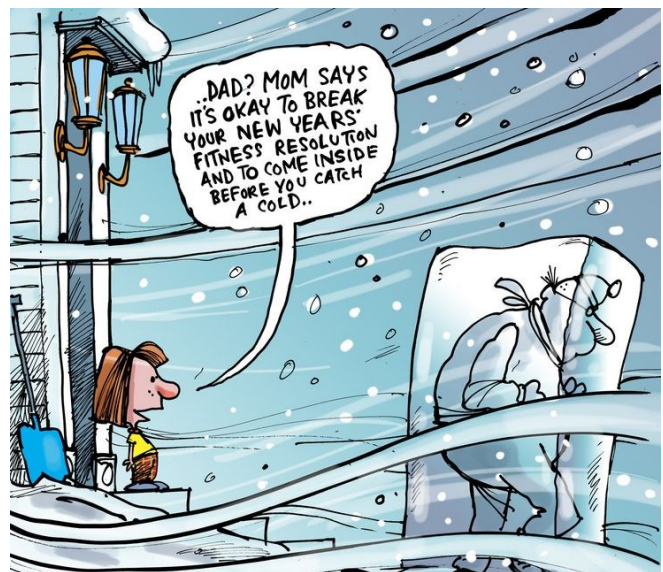
**CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S DAY
AT
1326 N 1ST STREET
FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S SERVICE**

Bring a soup, leftovers, goodies to share, and we can wile away the afternoon playing Mexican Train, Uno, Hearts, Crazy 8s, I Spy, Phase 10 or any other game you would like to bring. We'll even have a puzzle or two you can work on.

Celebrate the New Year with your church family



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Genesis 3) 01-03-2001
OUR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN "LESS FRUIT", BUT NO ... WE WENT WITH "TRUST PEOPLE MORE"



A message from Linda Edwards

Many of today's church leaders grew up in church. We remember a time when church attendance was simply the thing you did every Sunday. And as church leaders or volunteers, it's what we *still* do every Sunday. So at times, it can be a little hard to empathize with people who don't see things the way we see them.

And...here's the danger...if you start judging people for not seeing it your way, (consciously or unconsciously) you almost certainly turn them off. People—especially teens and young adults—can smell judgment a mile away. Judgment creates barriers.

So what do you do instead?
Empathize.

If a formerly unchurched person shows up 12 times a year, that's far more than they've ever been in church! They might think they're doing great, and maybe they are compared to how they used to feel spiritually. So rather than judging them for it, tell them they're doing great. And invite them into a deeper conversation about faith and life.

Somewhere along the way, many of us confused the mission and the method.

Your mission is to lead people into a relationship with Jesus, not to get people to show up for an hour in a box every Sunday.

Please hear me...I value our time together on Sundays as a church. And I think it's presently one of our very best vehicles through which to advance the mission of the church.

But our mission is *not* to fill seats on a Sunday. It's to lead people to Jesus.

You should be obsessed with your mission, not with filling seats.

if you really help people move into an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, they might show up more regularly in your church on Sunday. Ironical, isn't it?

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Church leaders are programmed to measure inputs, not outputs.

We measure how many people showed up, what they gave, who they brought and even online traffic. But rarely do we measure outputs. What if the church became as much a sending organization as a receiving organization?

What if you developed ways to measure spiritual growth? Like, how much time do people spend with God personally each day reading scripture and praying? The stats are surprisingly low. According to a recent study, 57% of Americans read their Bible four times a year or less. Only 26% read it more than 4 times a week.

What if you helped the people around your church change that?

And what if you got innovative and started thinking through whether people were better off five years after joining your church than were before? Or whether they feel closer to Christ? Or whether they're making a difference in their workplaces and neighborhoods? What if you helped them be the church, not just go to church?

Leaders get passionate about what they measure. So measure thoughtfully.



Those pesky electrical bills have everyone at home doling out extra dollars each month. Consequently, many of us wear extra layers to stave off the cold at home, and that's a good policy to follow at church as well. Hopefully, everyone is doing what they can to keep the electrical bills at the church from skyrocketing. Maintaining a 70 degree temperature in the sanctuary during Sunday service may require an extra sweater to keep warm. Don't forget the lap blankets near the doors for extra warmth.



January 2023

FCC Anniversaries

January 23 Bill and Lily Fitch

FCC Birthdays

January 02 Nancy Armbruster

06 Lamar Edwards

06 Angie Drake

07 Marilyn Coff

29 Tara Stauffer

CROSSWORDS

Next Deadline is

January 19, 2023

Please submit to the
church office or email to:

firstchristiangj@hotmail.com

Articles arriving later than the
deadline will be included in
the next Crosswords.

Our Sympathy To:

Johnny and Marlene Cowan

*On the death of his sister
Mary Louise in Kansas City, MO*

*Bill and Lily Fitch on the loss of
his nephew, Tracy Fitch*

*Bradford Family on the loss of
their Grandmother.*

*White Family on the death of
Keith's Wife*

Corrections to Membership List

Update

Shannon is collecting newspapers for her birdcage, please get in contact with her if you would like to give any, or you may dropped it off in the office.

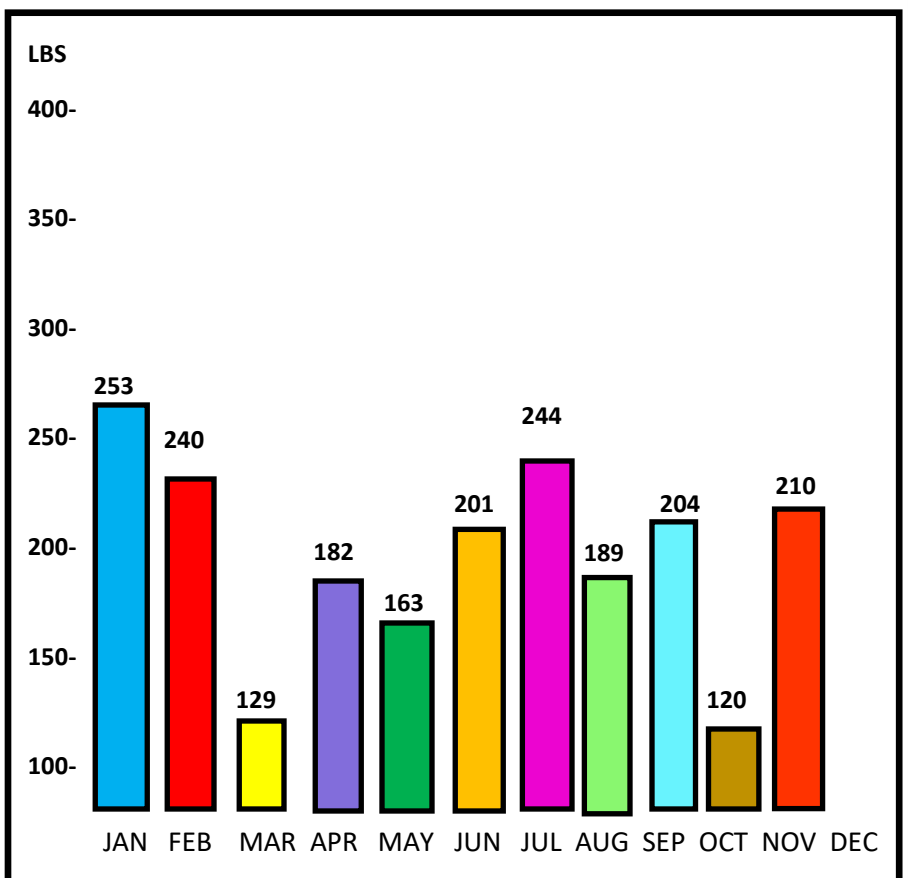
Thank you!

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Your Support enables Community Food Bank Volunteers to provide up to Nine, Three-Day meal boxes to Mesa County Residents in need. And for that we want to say... Thank you for your Support.

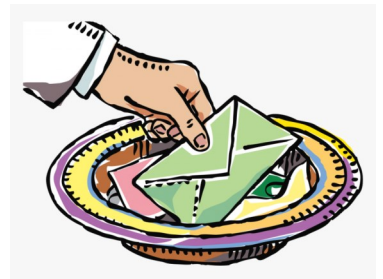
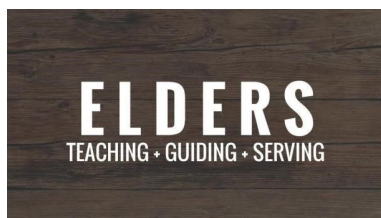
November 2022

210 lbs.



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

January 1, 2023		1st Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Gloria Jeffrey	Jeanice Swank	Lamar Edwards	Al Baumgartle
<u>Greeter</u>		Joyce Wittwer	Ivonne Warner
Jeanne Klitzke			
January 8, 2023		2nd Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Dennis Edwards	Joyce Wittwer	Norma Lavelett	Al Baumgartle
<u>Greeter</u>		Gloria Jeffrey	Ivonne Warner
Jeanice Swank			
January 15, 2023		3rd Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Cynthia Grover	Donna Ham	Beverly Dorson	Jeanice Swank
<u>Greeter</u>			Ivonne Warner
Karen Lehman			
January 22, 2023		4th Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Riecke Claussen	Al Baumgartle	Donna Ham	Jeanice Swank
<u>Greeter</u>		Jeanne klitzke	Ivonne Warner
Nancy Claussen			
January 29, 2023		5th Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Pam Baumgartle	Lily Fitch	Jeanice Swank	Jeanice Swank
<u>Greeter</u>		Ruth Acord	Ivonne Warner
Shannon Arensman			



FCC Prayer Concerns

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Please Pray For:

Betty Nelson
Christina Pherson
Citizens of Ukraine (Sergii Antonov)
David and Vickie Haegen
Diana
Family of Keith White
Faye Morosini
Gerald Rubalcaba-Nephew
Jeff Dean
Jerry Laubhan
Joanne Eggers (Step Grand-Son)
Johnny West
Keith Compton
Law & Military Enforcement Personnel
Linda VanDellen
Les Armbruster
Margie O'Dell
Mary Wright
Megan Dixon
Nancy Armbruster
Our Church and Country
Paul Scanga
Pete Personette and Family
Rebecca's Family
Ric Rava
Richlyn Cox
Rick Ott
Santiago Rubalcaba
Steve McPeck & Family
Tammy Whitcomb & Daughters
Wyatt McNeece

Requested By:

Joyce Wittwer
JoAnne Eggers
Shannon Arensman/Bonnie
Nancy Armbruster
Lily Fitch
Joyce Wittwer
Nancy Armbruster
Santiago Rubalcaba
Gloria Jeffrey
Lily Fitch
Kevin Arensman
Pam Baumgartle
Lily Fitch
Kevin Arensman
Donna Ham
Nancy Armbruster
Shannon Arensman
Gloria Jeffery
Shannon Arensman
Nancy Armbruster

Bev Dorson
Tammy Ostermiller
Kathy Moore
Shannon Arensman
Donna Ham
Dennis and Linda
Shannon Arensman
Tammy Ostermiller
Pam Baumgartle
Santiago Rubalcaba

Bolded



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	2 6:00 pm Guitar Club	3 10:00 am Friends with Missions 6:30 pm Night N'Gals	4 9:00 am Parkinson's Support Group 6:00 pm Praise Team	5 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 10:00 am Ruth G. 12:00 pm Tai-Chi 1:00 pm Dorcas G 6:30 pm Advent	6	7
8 9:00 am Elder's Meeting 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	9 6:00 pm Guitar Club	10 10:00 am FCC Bookworm	11 6:00 pm Praise Team 6:00 pm CO West Quilters Guild	12 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 12:00 pm Tai-Chi 1:00 pm CWF Executive Meeting	13 1:00 pm Mexican Train	14 8:30 am WCARC
15 10:50 am Worship 12:00 Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	16 6:00 pm Guitar Club	17 10:00 am Friends with Missions	18 6:00 pm Praise Team	19 ***Crossword Deadline*** 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 12:00 pm Tai-Chi	20	21 8:00 am Monthly Breakfast 12:00 pm Territorial Daughters
22 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	23 6:00 pm Guitar Club	24 10:00 am FCC Bookworm	25 6:00 pm Praise Team	26 ***Crossword Sent*** 1:00 pm CWF Executive	27 1:00 pm Mexican Train	28 8:30 am Mesa County ARES
29 ***Community Food Bank*** 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	30 6:00 pm Guitar Club	31				

January -- a time for new resolutions! AND some tips for saving the planet!



Every Sunday you receive a bulletin before church, and many of us take them home for reference, but others do not. There are two recycle waste baskets in the Narthex for you to drop your bulletins in that will be added to the paper that is recycled from the church office. Please put your bulletins in the basket rather than leaving them for someone else to retrieve. Thank you for this one little gesture of following your mother's orders of "cleaning up after yourself"!

Talking of recycling paper, did you know that kraft paper can be treated the same as cardboard? So, when you bring your boxes to the church for recycling, include

the kraft paper that protected the contents. **Mother Earth will smile!**



Speaking of Recycling -- We saved 19 additional pounds of batteries from the landfill. Keep them coming!



Many thanks to Gene and Norma Matteson for their library of **Great Courses**. These are books or videos that can be checked out. (Great Courses is a series of college-level audio and video courses and documentaries. Over 700 topics are available through them.) Below are the Mattesons' topics that are on the table in the hall by the library. Please take advantage of this opportunity and check out those that interest you. A sign-up sheet is on the table!

1. The Aging Brain
2. The Apocalypse: Controversies and Meaning in Western History.
3. Comparative Religions (Book only)
4. Comparative Religions (CD)
5. Great World Religions: Christianity (Book only)
6. Great World Religions: Christianity (CD)
7. Great World Religions: Judaism
8. Great World Religions: Islam
9. Great World Religions: Buddhism
10. Great World Religions: Hinduism
11. The Historical Jesus (CD)
12. The Historical Jesus (Book)
13. Lost Christianities (CD)
14. Lost Christianities (Book)
15. The New Testament (CD)
16. The New Testament (Book)
17. Optimizing Brain Fitness



Yvonne Warner invited members of the CWF's Ruth Group and Dorcas Group to her home for their December meeting. It was potluck, and the ladies had a delicious luncheon. They also had the opportunity to visit Yvonne's "Christmas Room" which contains many miniature houses, music boxes and all things musical. Gloria Jeffrey read her favorite story, *A Cup of Christmas Tea*, and Beverly Dorson read a poem by her favorite author, her late husband, George. It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all. Thank you, Yvonne.

The Kids of the Kingdom Daycare at Northeast Christian Church had their Christmas program on December 9. They are ages 3-5 and sang or recited 18 different pieces. They sang several Christmas songs we all know, but some you may never have heard. Take for instance the one entitled "Self Control".

Once I had a knot in my shoe, and it would not come loose.
 I tried, and tired, and tried, but it would not come loose.
 I got so mad, I kicked the door, and stubbed my little toe. OW!
 If only I had learned a little bit of self control.
 Self control is the very best way to go.
 Self control is just controlling myself.
 It is listening to God's heart and doing what is smart.
 So, I think that I'll control myself.
 I never liked to brush my teeth, I wished that I could stop.
 I'd have more time for candy bars and drinking soda pop.

But soon my teeth would hurt so bad from all those cavities. Oh Me.
 I'd better learn some self control so this doesn't happen to me!



Happy New Year

To borrow from a line from Psalm 133, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for a congregation to dwell together in unity!”

I would like to, once again, thank everyone who participated in our annual congregational meeting and to all those who have stepped forward to keep our church running during difficult times.

Following the meeting, votes were counted and all 40 voters chose to unanimously approve the proposed slate of officers and the 2023 budget as presented.

As we look forward to a new year our success will, once again, rely on the strength of our congregational unity. God has plans for us and our challenge will be to discern His will and plan how we will move forward.

I remember a sermon a few years ago when the pastor said, “As a church, we are always one generation away from extinction”. Who will take over when we are gone or, are WE that generation?

This strange new world, in which we find ourselves living, sometimes makes finding answers and moving forward feel like an almost impossible task. And yet, in spite of all the challenges, God calls us to do our best and assures us he will be with us.

I look forward to the new year and to joining with you as we continue to define our new beginning and discover how we can best serve the God we worship.

Riecke Claussen



Shared from Ann Hutton...



A Happy Home Recipe

4 cups love	5 spoons hope
4 cups loyalty	2 spoons tenderness
3 cups forgiveness	4 quarts faith
1 cup friendship	1 barrel laughter

Take love and loyalty, mix it thoroughly with faith.
Blend with tenderness, kindness and understanding.
Add friendship and hope, sprinkle abundantly with
laughter. Bake with sunshine, serve daily with generous
helpings of forgiveness.



GOD IS LIKE --- BAYER ASPIRIN --- HE WORKS WONDERS.

GOD IS LIKE -- FORD --- HE'S GOT A BETTER IDEA.



GOD IS LIKE --- DIAL --- HE GIVES YOU AROUND THE CLOCK PROTECTION.



GOD IS LIKE --- COKE --- HE'S THE REAL THING.



GOD IS LIKE --- PAN AM --- HE MAKES THE GOING GREAT.



GOD IS LIKE SCOPE --- HE MAKES YOU FEEL FRESH.

GOD IS LIKE - G. E. BULBS --- HE LIGHTS YOUR PATH



**GOD IS LIKE --- HALLMARK CARDS ---
HE CARED ENOUGH TO SEND THE VERY BEST.**

JUST FOR FUN-FACTS

Did you know... A Day like Today in History

January 1, 1863 - The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.

January 4, 1790 - President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address.

January 11, 1964 - The U.S. Surgeon General declared cigarettes may be hazardous to health, the first such official government report.

January 15, 1559 - Elizabeth Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, was crowned as Elizabeth I in Westminster Abbey.

January 17, 1773 - The ship Resolution, sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

January 25, 1961 - President John F. Kennedy conducted the first live televised presidential news conference, five days after taking office.

January 30, 1972 - In Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 13 Roman Catholics were killed by British troops during a banned civil rights march. The event became known as Bloody Sunday.

Seahorse



You'll find seahorses in the world's tropical and temperate coastal waters, swimming upright among seaweed and other plants. Seahorses use their dorsal fins (back fins) to propel slowly forward. To move up and down, seahorses adjust the volume of air in their swim bladders, which is an air pocket inside their bodies.

Tiny, spiny plates cover seahorses' bodies all the way down to their curled, flexible tails. The tail can grasp objects, helpful when seahorses want to anchor themselves to vegetation.

A female seahorse lays dozens, sometimes hundreds, of eggs in a pouch on the male seahorse's abdomen. After seahorse moms make their eggs, they pass them over to the males to carry until the young are released. When it's time to give birth, the dad pumps water through the pouch, releasing hundreds of fry, or baby seahorses, in just a few minutes. Called a brood pouch, it resembles a kangaroo's pouch for carrying young. Seahorses young hatch after up to 45 days in the brood pouch. The baby seahorses, each about the size of a jelly bean, find other baby seahorses and float together in small groups, clinging to each other using their tails. Unlike Kangaroos, baby seahorses do not return to the pouch. They must find food and hide from predators as soon as they're born.



DID YOU KNOW ????



The English word with the most definitions is "set."



According to *Guinness World Records*, "set" has the largest number of meanings of any word in the English language, with 430 different senses listed in the 1989 edition of Second Edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. The word "sets" the record with an entry running 60,000 words, or 326,000 characters, and no other English word has come close since.