



First Congregational Church United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation

# The Epistle

January 2026

“Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians 1:2)

*God is Still Speaking*



## Pondering Pastor

*Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after false gods. ~ Psalm 40:4*

January brings my favorite holiday of the Christian year--Epiphany! It is when we celebrate the realization that God is in the world with us. This is when the Wise Men recognized the baby Jesus as someone to be worshipped! It is the season in which we remember Jesus’ baptism.

We have just completed the Advent Season when we wait for God to enter the world. Now we enter the Epiphany season when we realize that God is living in the world with us, beside us! During Advent we often do things to help others experience the love of God. Now that Jesus has been born and the world has noticed that Jesus is God among us, how do we continue to make God known in the world?

Perhaps you expect me to say that we can continue to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the sick. You are correct, I would say that. At some level we do things for others out of our devotion to follow Christ and create justice in the world. But there is more to it.

Our faith is one of relationship with God and others. Recognizing that God is in the world with us also means tending to our relationship with God. When we realize that God is in the world with us, we can trust in God to be with us in good times and bad. We can trust that no matter what happens in the world we are not alone, God is with us. Let us trust in God and celebrate God with us in the world as we enter this new year!

In Christ,  
Pastor Kelli Parrish Lucas



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[www.firstrockucc.org](http://www.firstrockucc.org)

Office Hours: Mon 3:30-4:30 Tues-Thurs 12:30-4:30

**Worship: Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:  
 MONDAY 3:30-4:30 PM, TUESDAY-THURSDAY 12:30-4:30 PM

# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>WEEKLY CHURCH USE:</b> LA HERMOSA- TH 7:00 PM ; SAT & SUN 3:00 PM BOY SCOUT TROOP 4- TUES 6:00 PM MIA'S LEARNING TREE: MON-FRI 8-2 P.M.				1 <b>HAPPY            NEW            YEAR!</b> <b>CHURCH            OFFICE            CLOSED</b>	2	3
4 <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:30 AM <b>GROWING            FAITH            NOISY            CHANGE</b>	5 <b>BIBLE STUDY</b> 2PM	6 <b>Prayer            Shawl            Group</b> 1:30 PM  <b>COUNCIL</b> 6:00 pm	7 <b>CHURCHES            TOGETHER</b> 6:30 pm <b>@ SCM            PARISH            CENTER</b>	8 <b>MEN'S            FELLOWSHIP</b> 6:30 PM FH	9	10
11 <b>DECONS</b> 9:15 AM  <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:30 AM  <b>UNDECORATE            CHURCH</b>	12 <b>WOMEN'S            FELLOWSHIP</b> 12:00 PM  <b>BIBLE STUDY</b> 2PM	13 <b>Prayer            Shawl            Group</b> 1:30 PM	14	15	16	17
18 <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:30 AM <b>MISSIONS</b> 11:45 <b>ST.CHRIS            HYWY</b> 5:30 @ HC	19 <b>BIBLE STUDY</b> 2 PM	20 <b>Prayer            Shawl            Group</b> 1:30 PM	21 <b>TRUSTEES</b> 6:30 pm	22	23	24
25 <b>WORSHIP</b> 10:30 AM  <b>ANNUAL            MEETING</b>	26 <b>NO BIBLE            STUDY</b>	27 <b>Prayer            Shawl            Group</b> 1:30 PM	28	29	30	31
-----PASTOR KELLI ON VACTION THROUGH FEBRUARY 1ST-----						

## Please sign up to help us at church.

Each week we need help to lead worship, host fellowship, and shovel snow/ or mow the lawn depending on the season. Sign up lists are on the table in narthex each week. Please sign up if you can help!

There is also the opportunity to display your artwork each month, you will also find a sign up list for this. We also need "approved adults" to assist with Sunday School most weeks, if you would like to do this please speak with Pastor Kelli.

# Volunteers NEEDED



## Worship & Scriptures For January

### January 4th

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Matthew 2:1-12

### January 11th

Matthew 3:13-17  
Acts 10:34-43

### January 18th

Psalm 40:1-11  
John 1:29-42

### January 25th

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Matthew 4:12-23

## ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 25TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP!

Annual Reports will be emailed to members who get the Epistle by email, and paper mailed to members who get the Epistle by paper mail. The Annual Report is only sent to members, so please notify the office if you'd like a print copy of the report and you aren't on the paper mail list.

## New Members' Class

If you would like to become a member of FCC, please speak to Pastor Kelli. We are forming a new members' class.

## SuperBowl Board

This year the Mission board is raising money for the discretionary fund by doing a Super Bowl Fund Raiser. This has been popular in past years and we thank you for your support. This year we have created some cards you may give people if you buy a square in their name. This makes a great gift. Squares are \$20 and the fund supports people in need.

Contact the office for more information!



## IT TAKES A WHOLE COMMUNITY TO RUN OUR CHURCH! MANY THANKS TO...

- ...to Cheryl W., Julie W., Diana W. and Growing Faith students for the Christmas tableau on Christmas Eve
- ...to Growing Faith, Mary Ruth P., Kathy G. Michele O., Terry M., Jacean G., Harper W., Kai G., Johnny R., and Rob W. for being worship leaders
- ...To John & Susie C., Deacons, Joy C., Jan Z. and Godfrey/Legerski families for hosting fellowship.
- ...to Julie G., Mary Ruth P., Michele and Linden O., Kathy and Micheal G., Amy R., and Johnny R for ringing the bell
- ...to Bill W., Paul L., and Linden O. for signing up to shovel snow.
- ...to those who brought baby food and formula and pullups during our Welcome Baby Jesus Advent drive for the Food Bank.
- ...to Linden O. for refreshing our Christmas lights.



## Women's Fellowship

Monday, Jan 12 Women's Fellowship will meet in Fellowship Hall at 12:00. We will have a guest speaker, Maria Kendall from Flaming Gorge Crossfit to talk about Chair Crossfit. Bring your own lunch, dessert will be provided!



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

January 8th

6:30 PM

All men welcome to join



The Bible Study group is meeting on Mondays at 2pm. Please join us!

### Food Pantry

Thank you to all who donate food or many to the food pantry. Currently the food pantry is in good shape. January tends to be a month when the pantry is heavily used. We will need to restock canned fruit and possibly canned soup in February.



Please sign up to shovel snow, lead worship, host coffee hour, or share your art!



**Reduce**  
(Use less of something..)

**Reuse**  
(Use things again.)

**Recycle**  
(Sorting my trash so some can be used again.)

**Refuse**  
(Do not buy unnecessary things.)

Primary Flourish

**COLLECTING CANS AND BOTTLES**

We continue to collect cans and bottles for recycling. Please bring in rinsed-out food cans--we actually get a higher price for these than the drink cans. The funds from this collection are add to our discretionary fund.

\*Remember to take your tabs off the cans and bring them to the office for the Ronald McDonald House.\*



**988**  
SUICIDE  
& CRISIS  
LIFELINE

The Trevor Project has stepped up to provide a suicide prevention hotline tailored to the needs of the LGBTQIA2+ community. Trevor Project: text 'START' to 678-678 or phone 1-866-488-7386.

**St. Christopher's Highway**

PO Box 567 Rock Springs, WY 82902

307-922-2380

**Travel Assistance**  
Rock Springs & Green River



Type of Assistance:  
Lodging Food  
Transportation Clothing

Volunteer on call  
7:00am - 9:00pm

**St. Christopher's Highway Needs Volunteers!**  
**Please reach out to Pastor Kelli if you can volunteer to help this ministry!**

**Ronald McDonald House Charities'**

**Pick up the tab for the Ronald McDonald House Intermountain Area!**

Your donation of pop tabs helps provide a home away from home for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment from local medical facilities.

**Please drop tabs off at the church.**