



December Newsletter

FAMILY OF CHRIST

Our Mission: *"Reaching those who don't yet know Christ by strengthening and equipping those who do."*

What's going on at Family of Christ this month?

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Mark your Calendars

Advent Services - Dec 4, 11, 18

Wednesdays - 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services

12:00 pm, 3:00 pm,

5:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Service

10:00 am

Pastor's Page

The Perfect Gift

As a child, not many things brought wonder and excitement quite like Christmas did. From a child's perspective, there are great decorations like the shiny, colorful lights and the majestic tree covered in ornaments. There were usually a few traditions like putting out reindeer food and cookies for Santa. It all culminated in a sleepless night as I wondered what might be under the tree. I hoped for the perfect gift! I was hoping for a cool action figure.

As an adult, I wonder how much wonder and excitement is associated with Christmas these days. Adults tend to look at this time of the year as an endless string of weekend commitments, purchasing gifts, and racking up debt. There are family members to visit and pictures to be taken. We hope for a stress-free holiday.

What is missing in those first two paragraphs is anything about our faith and how Christmas is defined by the perfect gift of love: Our Lord Jesus! Early Christians thought of the Trinity as being connected to the big three Church celebrations: Jesus is celebrated at Easter, the Holy Spirit is celebrated at Pentecost, and God the Father is celebrated at Christmas.



Over the years, we focus so much on the baby in the manger. And rightly so! But let us not forget that Christ is a gift from the Father!

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

Isaiah 9:6-7

God knows exactly what we really need: Love and forgiveness. No returns are needed, no exchanges are made. Christmas is another way God proclaims to His creation that He LOVES us. My prayer for you this December is to not worry about the perfect gift and providing the perfect experience for everyone else: Enjoy and celebrate the perfect gift already given!

By the way, I did get a pretty sweet toy that Christmas: The Lone Ranger!

In Christ,
Pastor Moreno, Senior Pastor

New Member Class

We will be starting a class for anyone that is interested in joining Family of Christ and learning more about what we believe and teach. This class is intended to help explore and ask questions and to celebrate our faith in Jesus! We will offer these classes Sunday mornings between services during our Education Time starting on Sunday, January 12. If that time doesn't work for your schedule, but you would like to set up a time to meet with Pastor Moreno, please contact the Church Office - office@foccs.net. Thank you for being part of our FOC family!



Calendar of Events - December 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Classic Service 8:00 am Education Time 9:15 am Modern Service 10:15 am FPU 12 pm Gospel of Mark 5 pm Student Ministry Game Night 5 pm 1	AA 6:00 pm 2	JEWELS 9:00 am 3 Kempo Karate 6:00 pm JOLT 5:00 pm Security Team 6:30 pm Trace 7:00 pm	Advent Service: Children's Program 6:00 pm 4	Kempo Karate 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study: Esther 6:15 pm AA 7:00 pm 5	Men's Bible Study Group 8:00 am 6	Men's Bible Study Group 8:00 am 7
Classic Service 8:00 am Education Time 9:15 am Modern Service 10:15 am FPU 12 pm Gospel of Mark 5 pm Confirmation 5 pm High School Christmas Party 5 pm Stephen Ministry Meeting 5 pm 8	BOD Meeting 6:00 pm AA 6:00 pm 9	JEWELS 9:00 am 10 Kempo Karate 6:00 pm Trace 7:00 pm	Advent Service: Lessons & Carols - feat. the FOC Chancel Choir 6:00 pm 11	Kempo Karate 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study: Esther 6:15 pm AA 7:00 pm 12	Men's Bible Study Group 8:00 am 13	Men's Bible Study Group 8:00 am 14
Classic Service 8:00 am Education Time 9:15 am Modern Service 10:15 am Gospel of Mark 5 pm Confirmation 5 pm IMPACT 5 pm 15	AA 6:00 pm 16	JEWELS potluck 9:00 am 17 Elders' Meeting 6:00 pm Kempo Karate 6:00 pm Trace 7:00 pm	Advent Service: Unplugged w/ Strings 6:00 pm 18	Kempo Karate 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study: Esther 6:15 pm AA 7:00 pm 19	Men's Bible Study Group 8:00 am 20	Men's Bible Study Group 8:00 am 21
Classic Service 8:00 am Modern Service 10:15 am 22	AA 6:00 pm 23	Christmas Eve Services 12:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 24	Christmas Day Services 10:00 am 25	Church Office Closed ALL DAY AA 7:00 pm 26	Church Office Closed ALL DAY Men's Bible Study Group 8:00 am 27	Men's Bible Study Group 8:00 am 28
Classic Service 8:00 am Modern Service 10:15 am 29	Church Office Closed ALL DAY AA 6:00 pm 30	Church Office Closed ALL DAY 31				



Holiday Schedule

All of us at Family of Christ are looking forward to another wonderful holiday season! Here is a preview of our special worship services coming up for Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. We hope you and your family are able to join us during this wonderful time at FOC!

If you have any questions about our Holiday Schedule, please contact the Church Office - office@foccs.net or 719.481.2255.

Special Worship Services at Family of Christ

Advent - Wednesday Evenings

These services will take place in the *South Sanctuary*. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will be provided following each service in the *South Cafe* (donut room.)

December 4: Children's Christmas Program - 6:00 pm // *Cookie Decorating & Photo Booth*

December 11: Lessons & Carols featuring the FOC Chancel Choir Christmas Service - 6:00 pm // *Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate & Cookies*

December 18: Unplugged with Strings Christmas Worship - 6:00 pm // *Holiday Punch & Gingerbread*

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

Traditional Service - 12:00 pm

Modern Service - 3:00 pm

Blended Service - 5:00 pm

Traditional Service - 7:00 pm

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25

Morning Service - 10:00 am

Christmas Drives

This Christmas season, you can make a difference in the life of a child and their families through our Christmas Drives! If you have any questions about the Christmas Drives Family of Christ is hosting this year, please contact the Church Office - office@foccs.net.

Operation Christmas Child - *Sponsored by Samaritan's Purse*

Thank you to everyone who packed boxes this year! You helped spread good news and great joy. Together our FOC church family collected over 150 boxes to bless children around the world!

Angel Tree Christmas Drive - *Sponsored by Lutheran Family Services and Tri-Lakes Cares*

Stop by one of our Angels Trees (located in the hallway near the *SE Wing* and in the *South Cafe*.) and pick up tags listing gifts and food items you can purchase for families in Monument and North CO Springs. Please bring new, unwrapped toys and food back to FOC by the date noted on each tag.

Christmas Toy Drive - *Sponsored by the Monument Police Department*

Simply bring new, unwrapped toys to the bin in the *South Cafe* by Tuesday, December 10. These toys will be distributed to children in our local community during Monument's "Santa on Patrol" event.

FOC Holiday Closures

Christmas & New Year's

Thursday, December 26 - Wednesday, January 1

*** Regular Worship Services will be offered at 8:00 am & 10:15 am on Sunday, December 29 ***



Volunteer at FOC

Holiday Volunteers

The Christmas season is such a wonderful time at Family of Christ, and we're looking forward to all the special services we have coming up! We're in need of individuals and families to help with specific roles for our Advent and Christmas Eve services. If you and/or your family would like to volunteer for any of the positions listed below, please contact Jane Jenik in the Church Office - office@foccs.net or 719.481.2255 and indicate which role interests you as well as the specific service and time you prefer. Thank you in advance for giving your time to volunteer!

Advent Candle Lighters for December Services

We are looking for families to light our Advent Candle(s) at the beginning of our Sunday Services during the season of Advent: December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at the 8:00 am Classic Services and 10:15 am Modern Services.

Christmas Eve Christ Candle Lighters

We are also in need of help from families to light the Christ Candle at the beginning of our Christmas Eve Services. Our Christmas Eve Services are at 12:00 pm (Traditional), 3:00 pm (Modern), 5:00 pm (Blended) and 7:00 pm (Traditional).

Readers

We are looking for volunteers to read the Bible Readings for the following services:
Wednesday, December 11 for the Advent Service - 6:00 pm
Tuesday, December 24 for our Christmas Eve Services - 12:00, 3:00, 5:00, & 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candle Preparation

Each year we need to prep the candles for our Christmas Eve Services. We are looking for several volunteers to scrape off old wax and assemble them into the holders.

More Opportunities

There are so many wonderful areas where you can volunteer at Family of Christ. We would love to help you find the position where you can flourish and nourish those around you, as you serve. We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities within our ministries. If you're not sure where to start, we'd love to chat with you and help you figure out where you can best use your gifts. Feel free to reach out to us at the Church Office - office@foccs.net or 719.481.2255. We look forward to having you serve alongside us as we work together as the body of Christ! Here is a list of the ministries where you can serve:

Counters: Assist in counting the offering following each Sunday service / Laura Vallado - larav820@msn.com

Tech Team: Use your skills to make our services wonderful / Shannon Adducci - shannonadducci@foccs.net

Worship Team: Sing a joyful noise on Sunday mornings / Shannon Adducci - shannonadducci@foccs.net

Welcome Experience: Greet people as they arrive for Sunday worship / Church Office - office@foccs.net

Children's Ministry: Share God's love with children / Brooklyn Sumovich - brooklynsumovich@foccs.net

Student Ministry: Walk alongside students through mentorship / Jeremy Hetzel - jeremyhetzel@foccs.net

Fellowship Team: Foster fellowship through donuts and coffee / Church Office - office@foccs.net

Prayer Ministry: Pray with and for people in our congregation / Susan Johnson - susjohnson34@gmail.com

Communion Team: Serve Communion at our Sunday services / CJ Bohn - recumbentcj@icloud.com

Altar Guild: Prepare the Altar for our Sunday worship services / Paula Marks - swim-mom24@comcast.net

Baptismal Blankets: If you enjoy crocheting and/or knitting, we need your amazing crafting talents to help make blankets for the children being Baptized at FOC! Simply make baptismal blankets at home (we can provide patterns) and bring the finished blankets to the Church Office. Interested in getting involved? Contact Connie Stout for more information at amama43@gmail.com or 719.357.3379.



Adult Ministry

The Gospel of Mark

Sunday nights from 5:00 - 6:30 pm, join us for a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark in the *South Cafe* through December 15.

COORDINATORS: Pastor Moreno | markmoreno@foccs.net - Al Maurer | acmaurer@gmail.com - Gary Moe | gpmoe11@gmail.com

Education Time

We offer great classes and Bible studies for you to enjoy!

Join a study on Sunday mornings from 9:15 - 10:00 am as your schedule permits.

See the *Education Time* page for more details. Our classes will take a break December 22-January 12.

Women's Ministry

JEWELS Tuesday Morning Bible Study

This group meets weekly in the *Kitchen Cafe* on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 am. Their study on the Gospel of Luke by *David E. Pratte* will continue through this spring. Drop by as often as your schedule allows!

COORDINATORS: Catherine Allen | allencltcu@falconbb.net - Christie Ramshur | jacrams67@gmail.com - Tammy McLeran | tamaramcleran@yahoo.com - Amy Abernathy | aabernathy54@gmail.com

Winter/Spring Women's Bible Studies

Find the study that speaks to where you're at in your walk with God!

Esther - It's Tough Being A Woman // Continues weekly on Thursdays evenings through February 27 at 6:15 pm

How Happiness Happens // Bi-Weekly on Monday evenings: January 13 - March 23 at 6:00 pm

The Amazing Word of God // Weekly on Tuesday evenings: January 14 - April 7 at 6:00 pm

No Other Gods // Weekly on Saturday mornings: February 1 - March 21 at 9:30 am

Contact Jane Jenik - office@foccs.net for more information about any of these studies or to start your own!

Men's Ministry

Men's Tuesday Night Study: Bibles & Brews

This group is meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at the home of Mark Weiss (9165 Sunstone Dr. Colorado Springs, 80924) from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Spend some quality time in fellowship while getting together with some other guys to study God's Word! **This group is taking a break for the month of December.**

COORDINATOR: Wayne Pittman | pwpittman@hotmail.com

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study

This group of men meets weekly at the *Village Inn* in Monument on Friday mornings at 8:00 am to enjoy fellowship, spend time in prayer, and discuss God's Word and the impact it has on their lives.

COORDINATOR: Bill George | sabilgeo@msn.com

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

This group is based on Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Every Saturday morning at 8:00 am, join the men of Family of Christ as they meet in the *South Cafe* to discuss the Word, God's impact on their lives, and how they as men can become the "MEN" that God has truly intended them to be. Their door is always open for more men to join! (Coffee and pastries are provided.)

COORDINATOR: Tom Keithley | tomkeithley@gmail.com

Bible
Studies



Classes and Bible Studies

Adult Bible Study - "Being Christian in Secular Society" *A Topical Study of Contemporary Issues*

Take part in important discussions about what it means to have a Christian worldview and how to discern between what the Bibles says and what our culture teaches. Important topics include evolution, homosexuality, abortion, addiction, etc.

Taught by Ron Moody | iammoodytoo@gmail.com in Youth Room 1.

Student Ministry Class - IMPACT Academy

Utilizes curriculum from Axis to help navigate today's culture and connect with teens through meaningful conversations.

This class is for Jr. High and High School students, as well as parents! They're discussing topics that will help teens recognize how faith is relevant to every aspect of their lives. These videos from Axis are fast-paced and engaging, mixing culture, quotes, videos, and dialogue. The topics being discussed this year include the Bible and identity.

Taught by Shad & Heidi Jeseritz |
shadjeseritz@gmail.com & heidijeseritz@gmail.com
in Youth Room 4.

axis



**SUNDAY
MORNINGS**

**9:15
- 10 am**



Children's Ministry Bible Study - Kids 3:11

Digging Into the Heart of God - Reflecting God in Everyday Life

Kids 3:11 is our Sunday morning programming for children ages 3 - 6th grade. This year, our curriculum from Group brings a fresh approach to growing a lifelong relationship with God. As kids explore God's character throughout the Bible, God transforms them from the inside out. Kids discover what it means to reflect the heart of God in everyday life!

Taught by Brooklyn Sumovich | brooklynsumovich@foccs.net & Volunteers
in the Children's Ministry Classrooms in the Southwest Wing.

Education Time - Holiday Schedule

Please note that, due to the holiday season, our regular Education Time classes will not be held on Sundays, December 22 through January 12.



Outreach

Community Outreach Events

"Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon." **Isaiah 58:10**

A huge thanks to all who participated in our November outreach activities!

November 8 – The Jewels Bible Study group provided brunch for the teachers at Pikes Peak Academy.

November 19 – Julie and Wanda provided lunch for the Tri-Lakes Cares staff of 12 people in appreciation for all they do for the community.

November 26 – The Schulze, Curtiss, and Moore families prepared a meal for Ronald McDonald House residents.

Also in November, FOC hosted an Americorps team for 5 nights! The team worked during the day on building homes through Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, and they thanked us for our warm hospitality. Due to the hard work of this team, three families will be moving into their Habitat homes prior to Christmas!



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
of Southern Colorado



BETHESDA GARDENS
a Bethesda Senior Living Community

We're looking forward to these great activities in December:

December 15 – Caroling at Jackson Creek Senior Living in Monument: We need your voice!!!! There will be more details to follow about this fun, festive outreach opportunity, so be on the lookout.

December 16 – Snack Packing at Tri-Lakes Cares: Lisa Szumigala's LifeGroup will be putting together weekend snack packs for District 38 students in the reduced and free lunch program.

December 22 – Meal at Ronald McDonald House: The Schulze family will be preparing a meal for Ronald McDonald House residents. Please note that the Apron Challenge continues! When you serve a meal, be sure to wear fun aprons, take a photo of your team in your aprons, and submit it to Julie Curtiss through March of 2020. The cutest aprons win! Winners will be announced by the Outreach Committee in April.

December 22 – Caroling at Bethesda Gardens: Details to come!

Looking ahead to the new year, we will be holding a congregation-wide drive in support of Life Network from Sunday, January 12 through Sunday, January 26. We'll be collecting baby items and maternity clothes as there are many young women in our community who need both clothing for themselves as well as essential items for their babies. A list of needed items will be provided in our January newsletter.

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Please contact your Community Outreach Group co-leads, NancyJo Houk - nancyjo@houkhouse.com OR Julie Curtiss - prayonnon@yahoo.com, with any questions or ideas for future outreach opportunities.

Men's Build at Casas por Cristo

CASAS
POR CRISTO

We are planning a trip to Juarez, Mexico in the spring of 2020 to build a home for a family. A Casas por Cristo mission trip is an opportunity for people of all ages, skill levels, and backgrounds to come together to build a home for a family in need.

No prior building experience is necessary to work on a team - just a desire to serve the Lord and the people of México. Pastor Moreno and Scott Miller are heading up this effort, and we are looking at a group of 15 men for this build. In the future, we may offer a womens' build, youth group build, or mixed families. If you are interested in being a part of this, please contact Pastor Moreno for more details!



Ministry Updates

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders are truly excited and energized about the direction that FOC is heading, especially concerning Missions and Outreach as 2020 looks like an exciting year. As we move into the Christmas season, the Elders want to encourage the congregation to come to the Advent mid-week services as well as look for an opportunity to serve in your part of the city. There are so many ways that you can impact the community, and we encourage you to find one that fits you.

May God bless each and every one of you with health and happiness during this upcoming joyous season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Blessings and Merry Christmas,
FOC Board of Elders

Board of Directors

It's hard for me to believe that it's already Thanksgiving and we're fast approaching the end of the year. I am grateful for God's merciful blessings in 2019 as I know you are. I'd like to thank those of you who were in attendance at our fall Voters' Meeting on November 10. It was a successful meeting at which we approved our proposed church budget for 2020 and elected three new members to our Board of Directors: Randi Creedon (At-large Member), Dave Ross (At-large Member) and Pat Schumaker (CDC Representative.) We will welcome these new members to our Board in January. I'd like to express great thanks and appreciation for our three outgoing members, Wayne Pittman, JW Roth, and Lauren Stadjuhar, who have honored God and contributed significantly to FOC with their service. As I mentioned in my report at the meeting, I am excited for our future here at FOC as we begin this new season and turn our focus outward to serving our Lord in our community and our world. With His blessing, 2020 will be a great year at Family of Christ!

Finally, please remember to help us express our appreciation for our incredible church staff and all they do for us with a Staff Gift donation this Christmas season. You can simply drop it in the collection plate during our worship services anytime through Sunday, December 15. Make sure your donation is clearly marked "Staff Gift," and we will distribute these gifts to our staff before Christmas.

Sincerely,
Bill Schulze, President of the Congregation



The Dinner Club

We're excited to begin our Dinner Club fellowship opportunity in January 2020. Those who wish to participate - adults only but singles are welcome! - will be randomly matched to have dinner once a month in January, February, and March.

Each household will be the "Host" only once in three months. You will be provided a master schedule with names and contact information. The Host will organize the day, time, and place for the dinner. The Host may choose to open their home and cook, make it a potluck dinner, or make reservations at a restaurant. These dinners are a fun way to make connections with others while enjoying food and faith!

To be part of FOC's great new Dinner Club, please contact Diana Harris - thx2jc611@gmail.com OR Jane Jenik - office@foccs.net **no later than Sunday, December 15 to ensure your place on the schedule.** We're looking forward to bringing people together through this special ministry!



Ministry Updates

LifeGroups

Are you interested in joining a LifeGroup? Or starting a LifeGroup? If so, the new year offers a perfect chance for a new start! We are blessed to have many different groups active here, and you can explore joining an existing group OR you can be part of new groups that are starting in early 2020.

What are LifeGroups all about? God created us to live in community and to do life together. That's how we're wired! We learn and grow from each other, bear one another's burdens, and offer encouragement along the way.

We each come to the table with a wide variety of gifts and abilities, given to us in order to help us serve and love others well. God must revel in the beauty of seeing us come together! In a healthy, vibrant community, such as this, people can share honestly, pose challenging questions, confess struggles and doubts, and trust that they will always be met with love and support.

Prayer Ministry

Did you know that FOC has a Prayer Ministry? It is our hope that praying for one another is becoming more of a common occurrence within our church family. Certainly, we pray often during worship, or in our LifeGroups, and since 2007 there have been Prayer Team Members available, currently at the front of the sanctuary, to confidentially pray for you after each service.

Please consider utilizing this outreach Prayer Team when you would like to take a minute to thank God for a recent blessing, praise Him for an unexpected intervention, share grief you're going through, or request help with an illness. Look for those brothers and sisters in Christ wearing a purple lanyard — they are at the front of the sanctuary willing and waiting to pray with you and your family.

The Prayer Ministry is always looking for more volunteers to pray for/with others after each worship service. Contact Susan Johnson at 719.641.3891 or susjohnson34@gmail.com, if you would like to volunteer to be part of this exciting, expanding ministry. As you bless others, God will bless you!

Stephen Ministry

We have a Stephen Ministry here at Family of Christ to care for those in our congregation and community. FOC's Stephen Ministers will be meeting for their next ongoing training and a supervisory session on Sunday, December 8, at 5:00 pm in *Youth Room 1* (northwest wing.)

Open Sessions: Starting in January, our Stephen Ministry will be offering Open Sessions where those interested in learning more about this care ministry and the topic being addressed can sit in on meetings.

We invite you to attend these upcoming Open Sessions in 2020:

Caring for the Hospitalized

Sunday, January 26, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, *North Kitchen Cafe*

Ministry to the Dying and their Family and Friends

Sunday, March 22, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, *North Kitchen Cafe*

Our Stephen Ministry offers HELP, HOPE, & HEALING: To learn more about the one-to-one care a Stephen Minister can provide and to receive help through any on-going challenges, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: CJ Bohn - recumbentcj@icloud.com / Tami New - tami.new@philips.com OR the Church Office - office@foccs.net. You will receive a response within 48-hours.



Ministry Updates

Student Ministry

Our Student Ministry is dedicated to the mission of passionately and intentionally following Jesus. Check out these upcoming events!

Game Night: If you're in town over Thanksgiving weekend, join us on Sunday, December 1, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm for our Game Night! We'll be playing awesome games like exploding kittens, Diaper Sniper Wars...more! Pizza will be provided for dinner. We'll see you there!

2020 Mission Trips: This summer, we'll be taking students to serve in Manchester, Kentucky (June 28-July 4) & Florence, South Carolina (July 5-11). Be sure to fill out an application as soon as possible to reserve a spot!

Diamonds & Denim: Each year, the Student Ministry here at FOC embarks on Christ-centered and life-changing summer Mission Trips. Our Diamonds & Denim Dinner Auction is the primary fundraiser for our students. **Tickets are now on sale for our 2020 event held on Saturday, January 18, at Boot Barn Hall - featuring a concert from Wirewood Station!** Tickets are \$40.00 per person and include dinner and event/concert admission. To purchase your tickets, visit <https://www.showclix.com/event/foc-dnd-011820> today!

To make this event incredible, we're in the process of collecting donations of gift baskets, vacations stays, services, event tickets, and new goods for the Silent & Live Auctions. Please reach out to Randi Oliver - randioliver@foccs.net if you would like to contribute, Thank you for supporting our Student Ministry!

STUDENTS! We need all hands on deck for this event, so sign up to volunteer as soon as possible!

Christmas Parties: Our students will be celebrating the joy of the Christmas season with festive games and a white-elephant gift exchange at our Christmas Parties this month. **High School Party:** Sunday, December 8, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at the Wolfe household. **Junior High Party:** December 14, from 2:00 - 4:30 pm at the Jeseritz household. Remember to bring a snack to share and a gift (worth \$10 or less!) for the exchange.

Holiday Schedule: Our Student Ministry activities will be taking a break for the holidays from Sunday, December 22 - Tuesday, December 31. We look forward to all that God has in store for our ministry in 2020!

Children's Ministry

In Children's Ministry, we are enjoying "Digging In" to the Heart of God! Kids 3:11 is available at 9:15 am in the Children's Ministry Hallway. If you are unable to attend Kids 3:11 Sunday School, we do offer an expansion of our lesson with new activities during the 10:15 am Modern worship service with our Children's Church program. Please note: On Sundays, December 22 and 29, only Nursery will be offered for children ages 0-3. Kids 3:11 and Children's Church will be taking a break for the Christmas and New Year holidays!

Please ensure that your children are checked into the appropriate service at any of our computers found near the church entrances. If you've not yet registered your kiddos with our Children's Ministry for the 2019/2020 school year, take a moment to do so at <http://foccs.elexio.church/forms/CM-Enrollment>. If your child(ren) is/are not registered for this school year, the option to check them in on Sunday morning will not appear.

Children's Ministry Christmas Program: As the Christmas Season is upon us, we're looking forward to our Children's Ministry Christmas Program! Our Christmas Program at Family of Christ is scheduled to be a part of our Advent Services! **It will be held during the first Advent worship service on Wednesday, December 4, at 6:00 pm.** We hope you can join us for this special event as children share the love of Jesus and the miracle of His birth! Following the program, you can join us for a time of fellowship in the *South Cafe* featuring Cookie Decorating and a fun Photo Booth!

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If have any questions about FOC's Children's Ministry, please don't hesitate to contact our *Director of Children's Ministries*, Brooklyn Sumovich - brooklynsumovich@foccs.net or 719-481-2255 (ext. 204).



Ministry Updates

Men's Ministry

FOC Band of Brothers USA – Colorado Springs Outpost
ONE King, ONE Kingdom, ONE Force of Men
- SUIT UP -

Our Purpose: We are a community that is committed to challenge and raise up men to be warriors and disciplers for Christ - for our families, as single men, in the workplace, and in our "community" with others in this world.

"Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." Abraham Lincoln

There is a distinct difference between reputation and character. Our reputation is what we want other people to see on the outside while our character is who we are on the inside. If one's reputation is bigger than their character, they will soon crumble. When you grow in character, you automatically grow on the outside.

Oftentimes, and even especially at church, we are so concerned about our reputation that we fail to be real with each other in our areas of struggle. This can harm our character. Your character doesn't make you a good Husband, Dad, Son, Brother, or Grandpa; but lack of character will destroy you in all of these roles. Part of being a man of character is being authentic and having someone to share your struggles with — to hold you accountable. We are a community of men, a "Band of Brothers" coming together to share stories and build up and encourage one another for the battle raging around us. Jesus says, "my yoke is easy and my burden is light." We can be Jesus with skin on and share one another's burdens.

The Four Pillars of Band of Brothers

1 Excursions

Do you enjoy an activity like fishing, golf, hiking, etc? If so, how about coordinating an "excursion" for other men to join you? Give us the dates, and we can help you publicize it!

2 Base camps - "Suit Up" Men's Bible Study Opportunities

Friday Mornings - 8:00 am weekly at the Village Inn in Monument: Study on the book of Hebrews.

Coordinator: Bill George - sabilgeo@msn.com

Saturday Mornings - 8:00 am weekly at FOC: Study on the Book of Acts through a leadership lens.

Coordinator: Tom Keithley - tomkeithley@gmail.com

Bible & Brews - This group is taking a break for the month of December but will resume in January on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 pm **Coordinator: Wayne Pittman** - pwpittman@hotmail.com

Men's Quarterly Breakfast - Saturday, February 15, at 8:00 am. Enjoy a delicious breakfast followed by a guest speaker. We'll have updates on our webpage at www.foccs.net about this event and the speaker.

3 Fire Teams

These are closed groups consisting of 3-5 men who read Scriptures daily and meet weekly to strengthen and encourage one another from those readings. If you are interested in getting a new group started, please contact **Tom Keithley** - tomkeithley@gmail.com or 719.761.3055.

4 Service

- ▶ Pastor Mark is looking to take a team of men to Juarez, Mexico through Casas por Cristo in the spring of 2020. No official dates are set yet, but reach out to Pastor Moreno if you are interested in going on the trip.
- ▶ Men's Ministry is looking to coordinate Holiday Dinners for needy families in our community.

If you're interested in coordinating a service project for our Men's Ministry, let us know! This can be a project to serve our community or help a neighbor — anything that gives us an opportunity to share God's love with those around us.

FOC Men's Ministry,

John Harris - Brian Wanamaker - Scott Miller - Jordan Hengst - Tom Keithley



Ministry Updates

Worship Arts

Special Services: The FOC Worship Arts Ministry is so looking forward to celebrating the Holiday season with our family at Family of Christ. We'd love for you to join us for each of the Advent services as we prepare our hearts in celebrating the Reason for the season! Each service will be very unique (Children's Program, Chancel Choir, and Modern Worship Unplugged with Strings) and will include a special time of fun, yummy Christmas fellowship afterwards. And, of course, there's Christmas Eve...we hope to see you there!

Volunteer Needs: We continue to have a need for Tech volunteers, and this would be a great time to sign up to help serve! And, as always, if you have the gift of singing or are a gifted instrumentalist and you'd like to offer your gifts to help serve in the Worship Arts ministry, please get in touch with Shannon - shannonadducci@foccs.net. Fa-la-la-la-la!

Chancel Choir: Join us for the Advent Service on December 11, a Lessons and Carols service featuring our FOC Chancel Choir! Warm drinks and cookies to be served afterwards. You can also hear the Chancel Choir sing at the 5:00 & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve services. Choir will have a break after Christmas Eve and starts back up again on January 8. If you've been thinking of joining choir, this would be a great time to start! They meet Wednesdays in the *South Sanctuary* at 6:30 pm and would love for you to join them for their winter/spring season! Simply contact the *Chancel Choir Director*, Katy Mariotti - katymariotti@foccs.net to learn more. See you in January!

Women's Ministry

"Encourage one another and build each another up."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

God is good! Women's Ministry had three amazing meetings in November with over 30 women lending their thoughts, ideas, needs, and wants for the future of Women's Ministry at Family of Christ! A Women's Leadership Team will be announced in January and will begin planning for the upcoming year. **2020 will be a fantastic year for women at Family of Christ to grow in their faith-life!** Here are a few "teasers" for the upcoming year:

A Ladies Tea · Priscilla Shirer Event in Loveland, Colorado · Fall Retreat at LVR · Second Sunday Cinema · Bunco/Bingo Nights · Mentoring Program. . .and more! If you were unable to participate in the November Women's Ministry meetings and would like to share, please contact Jane Jenik - office@foccs.net or 719.481.2255.

JEWELS Tuesday Morning Bible Study: This group will continue their Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke by *David E. Pratte* through this spring. Join them starting at 9:00 am in the *Kitchen Cafe!* December 17 will be their last meeting of the year with a holiday potluck. They will start back up in January 2020. Questions about this Bible Study? Reach out to one of the coordinators: Catherine - allencltcu@falconbb.net | Christie - jacrams67@gmail.com | Tammy - tamaramcleran@yahoo.com | Amy - aabernathy54@gmail.com.

The Amazing Word of God! Together we will discover how world events fit in with what God's people were doing throughout history; how the Bible relates with itself; and how God's oral, written, and sacramental Word directly interacts with our individual lives today. You'll learn great resources for future studies! This 12-week study will meet at FOC on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm beginning January 14. Led by Christine Berg.

How Happiness Happens by *Max Lucado*. Explore passages of scripture - explaining how practical acts of generosity can produce a life of satisfaction. This 6-week study will meet every other week at the home of Carol Masters in Jackson Creek on Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm beginning January 13. Led by Carol Masters.

No Other Gods – The Unrivaled Pursuit of Christ by *Kelly Minter*. Idols can sometimes take the form of loved ones or busy seasons of work, motherhood, and ministry. In prioritizing these pursuits before God, you're missing out on the full joy of Jesus. Learn to dethrone your modern-day idols and be set free for the deeper, more abundant life Jesus came to give you. This 8-week study will meet at FOC on Saturday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am beginning February 1. Led by Diana Harris

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Interested in joining one of our Women's Bible Studies? Please contact Jane Jenik - office@foccs.net or use the sign-up sheets in the *South Cafe* so we can anticipate how many books to order for each study.



Birthdays

- 1 Ron Meyer, Ron Doolittle, Louis Odenwald, Dan Collier, Kevin Morse
- 2 Dorothy Evans, Karen Hengst, Abi Grotelueschen, Myla Bull
- 3 Don Kirkland, Jocelyn Donahoo
- 4 Mike Schaub, Ayla Hollinger
- 5 Jeff Schuelke
- 7 Barry Rizk, Davis Williams
- 10 NancyJo Houk, Kim Jankowski, Julie Collard, Katie Beineke
- 11 Mary Timm, Julie Rowe, Gregory Lehmann, Stephanie Jagels, Caleb Morgan
- 12 Jana Klopsch, Marley Todd, Adam Pulis
- 13 Trevv Colson, Billy Schulze
- 14 Ed Hoden, Scott Pope, Liz Doolittle, Corey Hopkins, Zachary Lewis, Taylor Phillips
- 15 Newlene Laib, Maria Green, Brandon Doolittle, Alexa Van Bergen
- 16 Holly Millar
- 17 Sam Klopsch, Richard Varney
- 18 Tom Lamb, Rick Workentine, Ian Bruns, Lilly Kirk, Abigail Flemming, Eli Morgan
- 19 Katherine McNabb
- 20 Jane Jenik, Brenda Ochsner, Jordan Hengst, Kierstin Marks, Micah Chizzo
- 22 Diann Davis, Amy Matissek, Alison Smith
- 24 Steve Rice, Tyler Walker, Jillian Curry, Mason Rempelos, Jaxson Buchholtz
- 25 Leland Fay
- 26 Walker Williams
- 27 Kevin Vezzani, Thomas Gallagher, Judd Bull
- 28 Kilyn Roth, Aiden Achten
- 29 Carmen Smith, Robin Collier, Jason Achten, Sandina Gresham, Brian Maestas
- 30 Chris Dahl
- 31 Dave Alley, Curtis Engle, Wendy Collison, Emily Odenwald



Anniversaries

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| 1 Joe & Shannon Adducci
1 year | 12 Albert & Sunnette Kleynhans
23 years |
| 1 Doug & Sharon Shatto
7 years | 20 Kurt & Pamela Reno
39 years |
| 4 Keith & Dianthe Cawthern
9 years | 21 Shannon & Angie Curry
28 years |
| 6 Chad & Erica Austin
16 years | 22 David & Kelie Morse
17 years |
| 6 Edward & Susan Denzer
11 years | 26 Raymond & Maggie Kline
4 years |
| 6 Harold & Linda Latzke
50 years | 27 Gary & Phyllis Moe
42 years |
| 8 David & Keri Hamula
18 years | 30 Leland and Judy Guthrie
42 years |
| 8 Larry & NancyJo Houk
19 years | 30 Del & Nickie Wilson
30 years |
| 10 Kevin & Melanie Vezzani
25 years | |

**We hope you enjoyed our
December Newsletter!**

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