

CROSSROADS

Upcoming Sermon Series

"Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White"

One of my biggest fears is that the Christian church will continue to worship a small God whose mystery we think we've nailed down in our black-and-white theology. The solution is for thinking people of faith to model a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the moral and religious issues that divide us, offering a faithful and compassionate way forward. This reformation will be led by people who are able to see the gray in a world of black and white.

January 11

"Living Beyond the Labels"

I Cor. 1: 9-13

January 18

"Straining Gnats Out of the Wine"

Matthew 23: 23-24

January 25

"If You Can't Say Anything Nice..."

James 3: 6-10

February 1

"The Power of Paradox"

Matthew 18: 2-7

February 8

"Finding the Sweet Spot"

Galatians 5: 13-18

February 15

"Leading With Listening"

James 1:19

Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting to vote on the budget for 2009 will be held on January 11, 2009 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. **Please note we will have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY at 10am.** Every member should have received his or her copy of the proposed budget by mail. If you have not received a copy, please contact Andie at the church office and she will be happy to give you a copy.

Please try to attend this important meeting. There will be an opportunity to learn how the budget was made and for each person to ask relevant questions. Absentee voting forms were sent in the mail for those unable to attend.

Each committee chair will also be making a presentation to share what their committee is responsible for and what the goals are for 2009.

Explore Membership at FCC Concord

Looking for a community of faith? Have you thought about joining our church but you wanted some questions asked first? Have you been curious about what membership really means, but you don't know who to ask?

Please join us for our next inquirers gathering:

Wednesday, Jan. 14 @ 7:00 p.m. in Russ Peterman's office

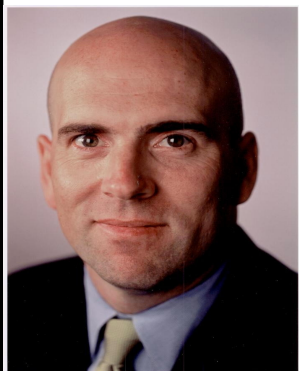
This is your chance to:

- Get to know the minister
- Ask questions about FCC, the Disciples of Christ, the meaning of membership, and life in community
- Get to know fellow guests and members

Interested?

Contact Russ Peterman at the church office (russ@concordfcc.net or 925/685-7503)

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



Compass

Sunsets, Midnights, and Cups of Coffee...

By The Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

There's a great song from the Broadway musical turned hit movie "Rent" that is called "Seasons of Love." It's a happy, upbeat little tune that drives the following lyrics:

525,600 minutes

How do you measure a year?

525,600 minutes so dear

525,600 minutes

How do you measure a year?

In daylight

sunsets

midnights

cups of coffee

In inches and miles

In laughter and strife

525,600 minutes

How do you measure a year in the life?

As we stand at the dawn of a new year, perhaps it would be good for us to pause for a moment and simply breathe. As you turn around and look back at the year behind you, what do you see? Where were you a year ago and what were the hopes that were driving you?

And even more importantly, what are the hopes that drive you into this New Year? And when I ask that, I just don't mean what do *YOU* hope for, but what does *God* hope for you?

You see, I'm convinced that if we are in tune with what God dreams for us, then the best year of our lives is ahead of us. It is God who is defining what best looks like in your life. You see, we are reminded with every sunrise that God is not finished creating in us. We can be fashioned even more into who God wants us to become.

Best may not mean least painful. Best may not mean financially successful or even relationally fulfilling. We don't know what 'best' may mean. But in the mystery of God's redeeming love, God is creating God's best year in you.

This year as you put away your Christmas decorations and begin to get your house in order for the New Year, I would ask you to prayerfully consider what God is dreaming for you.

And then, in every sunset and midnight and in every cup of coffee, simply listen for God's response. We are being called into a new day. A day filled with laughter and even strife; but a day filled with the presence of God, who wants nothing more than to make our year ahead the best year ever – full of wholeness and meaning.

In the year ahead, let us seek to find the sacred in each minute and in every moment!

It is a privilege to be your pastor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ".

January Birthdays

Carlisle-Scott	Alexis	1-Jan
Schifano	Michael	1-Jan
Carlisle	Lilly	11-Jan
Plambeck	Beverly	13-Jan
Waggoner	Kay	13-Jan
Ludwig	Traute	14-Jan
Peterson	Kelcea	19-Jan
Ulibarri	Ed	24-Jan
Powers	Genai	24-Jan
Armstrong	Edith	26-Jan
McDougal	Ellie	26-Jan
Carlisle	Judi	26-Jan
Tarvin	Don	26-Jan
Ulibarri	Ann	27-Jan
Gerhart	Virginia	31-Jan



January Anniversaries

HOOD Julie & Mark 8-Jan

Save the Date!

Please join us next, Sunday, January 18th to help celebrate Traute Ludwig's 90th birthday. We will be serving birthday cake after the 11am service.

Pledge Envelopes are ready

The 2009 Pledge envelopes are now ready for pick up in the Narthex!

Serving in Worship...

January 11, 2009

"Living Beyond the Labels"

I Corinthians 1: 9-13

10:00 AM

Greeters: The Morgan Family

Scripture Reader: Patti Halter

Table Elder: Sarah Young

Offertory Elder: Denise Schneider

Diaconate: Andie Raymond [captain], Heather Raymond, Meg Sumner-Moore, Sue Sumner-Moore, Bill Plambeck, Scott Bisbee, Luz Porto & Matt Hecker

Ushers: Doris Hamblin [captain], Dee Laird & Gloria Mattson

January 18, 2009

"Straining Gnats Out of the Wine"

Matthew 23: 23-24

9:00 AM

Elder: Tim Rose

Scripture Reader: Lois Mackey

Deacons: Pat Twigg & Bill Bush

11:00 AM

Greeters: Debbe Hughes & Chris Walker

Scripture Reader: Toni Barmore

Table Elder: Carolyn Partney

Offertory Elder: Ellie McDougal

Diaconate: Gloria Mattson [captain] Lori Landberg, Matthew Landberg, Tom Kilpatrick, Judi Carlisle, Diana Carlisle & Cecelia Ambach

Ushers: Patti Halter [captain], Pat Watson & Kay Waggoner

Christmas Card Tree

As you know, there was a Christmas card tree in the Narthex during Advent where we were invited to place a card to our church family and to then write a check to the church for the saved postage.

The following families placed cards on the tree this year:

Cecilia Ambach
 Jeanne Clark
 Robert "Coz" Coslett
 Kathleen DeGiobbi
 Mike, Janet, Zak and Nik Gay
 Shirley Hall
 Dee and Collier Laird
 Ellie McDougal
 Gloria Mattson
 Cookie and Don Orescanin
 Russ, Jake and Ella Peterman
 Bill and Bev Plambeck
 Yvette and Ysabella Portello
 Allen, Andie, Mary and Heather Raymond
 Linda Smith
 Scott, Sue, Ben and Meg Sumner-Moore
 Chris Walker

January and February Greeter Schedule



January 11 - The Morgan Family
 January 18 - Debbe Hughes & Chris Walker
 January 25 - The Graves Family
 February 1 - The Henry Family

February 8 - The Hood Family
 February 15 - Hugh & Arlene McNamar
 February 22 - Elaine Ortiz & Elaine Sherman

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!!!

Inner-Change at the Crossroads

Upcoming Events

Jan. 11- YOUTH GROUP!!!

JAN 17-19 - MID WINTER

Jan. 18 - YOUTH GROUP!!!

Jan. 25 - YOUTH GROUP!!!

Chi Rho Mid Winter

January 17 - 19

High School Feb. Camp

February 14-16

BOTH Camps will be at

Toulumne Trails in

Groveland, CA



For registration forms:

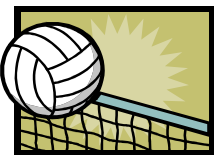
* Claire will provide some at Youth Group.

* OR you can visit the regional website. <http://www.ccncn.org/youth.htm>

**DO YOU HAVE a performance, sports game,
recital/concert COMING UP?!?!**

Please feel free to e-mail me when any of our youth have special events such as these! I would love to see us being present and supporting each other outside of weekly Youth Group meetings!!!

If an event comes up and you would like others to come support you, PLEASE e-mail me so I can e-mail the Youth Group! Claire@concordfcc.net





CROSSROADS

AN INCLUSIVE, LOVING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND JUSTICE,
SEEKING, CELEBRATING AND SERVING CHRIST THROUGH OPEN
MINDS, COMMITTED HEARTS AND WILLING HANDS.



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN CONCORD**

Staff:

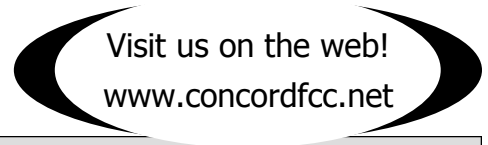
Senior Minister:	Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman:	russ@concordfcc.net
Director of Youth Ministry:	Claire Richardson	claire@concordfcc.net
Office Administrator:	Andie Raymond	andie@concordfcc.net
Organist:	Robert Coslett	
Childcare Co-ordinator:	Antoinette Bulatao	
Website:	www.concordfcc.net	

Contact Information:

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 am—4 pm.
 Phone: 925-685-7503 Fax: 925-685-0963
 Address: 3039 Willow Pass Rd., Concord CA 94519

CROSSROADS

Email submissions and subscriptions to: info@concordfcc.net
**Submission deadline for next issue: Monday, January 19, 2009
 12 noon.**



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 11, 2009

10am — Worship/ Sanctuary
 11am — Congregational Meeting/Sanctuary
 6pm — Church Bowling League/Paddock Bowl
 6pm — Youth Group/Youth Building

Monday, January 12, 2009

7pm — Rachel Ruth Circle/Library

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

9:30am — Mary Martha Circle/Library

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

6:30pm — Spiritual Formation team/Library
 7pm — Inquirers Class/Russ' Office

Thursday, January 15, 2009

7pm — Finance Team meeting/Library

Saturday, January 17, 2009

8:30am — House and Grounds

Sunday, January 18, 2009

9am — Worship/Sanctuary
 10am — Sunday School for all ages
 11am — Worship/Sanctuary
 6pm — Church Bowling League/Paddock Bowl
 6pm — Youth Group

Monday, January 19, 2009

7pm — Ministry Council Meeting/Library

Saturday, January 24, 2009

3pm — Homeless Meal Preparation/Kitchen