



First Christian Church (DOC)
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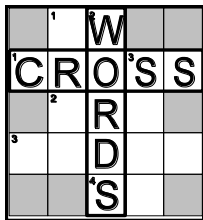
Volume 22● December 7, 2017

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

Pr aising God,
Changing Lives!



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Services each Sunday...

Praising God, Changing Lives for 127 Years!

Contemporary Worship

9:00 AM

Sunday School

9:30 AM and 10:00 AM

Traditional Worship

10:50 AM

Coffee Mingle

12:15 PM

Church Office Hours:

8:30am-1:30pm

Monday-Thursday

Our Ministry Statement

First Christian Church

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.

The Staff

Welcomes You...

Rev. Brad Barton

Sr. Minister

970-644-2274

revbradbarton@gmail.com

Rev. Melanie Ferron
Associate Minister

Paula Schaffer, Pianist

Tish Key, Secretary

John Moore, Custodian

Peace on Earth"

There's a song I really enjoy listening to every year during Advent. It's called "Do You Hear?" and is sung by James David Carter. The chorus features the following words:

Do you hear what I hear
Do you see what I see
A child is born for all the world
A song of joy fills the earth
Do you hear what I hear

After the final singing of the chorus, at the end of the song, one final phrase is repeated: "Peace on earth."

As I read the prophecies about how the Messiah will bring peace on earth, something I find myself wondering is how it could be that the Messiah has come but there still appears to be no peace on earth. Do you ever wonder the same thing?

While I know that some of the "peace on earth" foretold through the prophets was a peace between people and God (and that Jesus very clearly brought that peace about), I still find that at least SOME of the peace foretold was peace among people. Why don't we yet realize that peace?

I don't know where you come out on this question, but I'll provide a little insight into my own answer. I believe Jesus made "peace on earth" among people a real possibility by his words and actions. However, like God had done so often in the past, God required that we, people, follow the example God gave in Jesus in order for this peace among people to be realized. Sadly, we're not doing a great job of following on this one.

But there is hope, and there is something you can do. Actually, the two are one and the same. YOU can make a difference for "peace on earth" by following Jesus' example of showing love to your neighbors, all your neighbors in life, even the ones you don't particularly like. When all of us followers of Jesus actually FOLLOW Jesus in this way, Jesus' love shown through our actions will spread through all the earth, and peace will finally be achieved.

-Pastor Brad

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Announcements



FCC Birthdays

December 7	Donna Ham
December 9	Helen Dillard
December 9	Verda
December 10	Jodi Gabel
December 10	Al Ladage
December 12	Phyllis Godfrey
December 21	Ed Jones
December 22	Carol Steed
December 23	Marian Velarde
December 26	Tammy Rosencrans
December 27	Gabriella James
December 31	Joanne Eggers
January 2	Nancy Armbruster
January 4	Lois Dunning
January 6	Cole Barton
January 6	Lamar Edwards



FCC Anniversaries

December 27	Leonard & Kathy Gardner
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Calling all Elders..... current year,
previous years, upcoming year.....

All are invited to our annual Christmas
Potluck Party at the Fitch Home

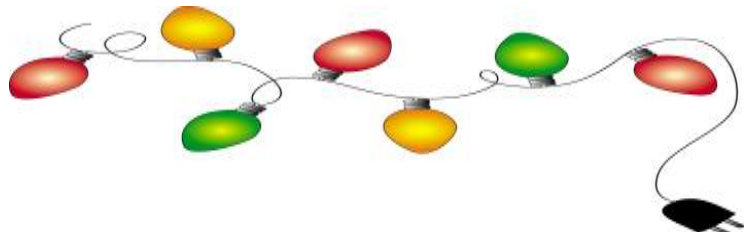
Sunday, December 10 after our regular
Church Service and Annual Meeting

Please bring a dish to share. See you all
there!

IT'S PICTURE TIME AGAIN!!!

Photos will be taken of new members for the
Pictorial Directory starting October 22.

If you are already in the Directory and need
to have any information updated be sure to
let Joyce Wittwer know. 243-6214



CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, December 14

Please submit to the church office or
email them to:

firstchristiangj@hotmail.com

Articles arriving later than the deadline in-
cluded until the next published
Crosswords.



Save The Date

Save the Date!

December 10th

Morning Worship, Please plan to attend our annual Congregational Meeting and vote to approve our Congregational Leaders for 2018 and Approve the Congregations 2018 Budget

Save The Date!

Sunday, January 14, 2018

The Vision Committee invites you to a Luncheon In Fellowship Hall at 12:30 To visit together about First Christian Church's Vision For the Future. More details to come, please add this date to your calendar now.

Save the Date!

2018 Central Rocky Mountain Region CC(DOC)
Fall Feast: "Putting Feet to our Faith"



September 21-23

In Casper, Wyoming



Thanks, Change of Address & Announcements

Thank You

With sincere appreciation for your continued support on behalf of the Community Food Bank– Thank You. It is through people, such as yourself, that we are able to meet the ongoing demand of those in need in Mesa County. You donated 240 pounds in October!

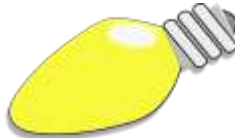
Gratefully,
Community Food Bank



I want to thank those wonderful, thoughtful members and friends of First Christian Church for all the beautiful cards, visits, calls and other acts of kindness since my accident. It means more than I can say.

I am still at Foresight rehab, looks like will be here longer.

My sincere Love to all,
Joan White



New Address for:

George and Barbara Decker
17834 Hanson Road
Cedaredge, CO 81413

New Address for:

Molly Lewis
1125 Lowell Ct. #4
Grand Junction, CO 81506
Phone 970-987-7568

New Address for:

DeeAnn Lowry
4952 Iglehart Road South
Garrison, ND 58540

In your Pictorial Directory, change
Dennis Edwards cell phone
number to 970-640-5293.

The bright rays of sunshine are filtering through the window panes as I listen to Christmas music. This Advent Season is a time for me to reflect on Christmases past, and the wonderful times I spent sharing part of this season with you. I love my new home, new friends, being near family....but always dear to my heart will be my Grand Junction church family.

A Blessed Christmas to You All,
Donna Ham



Announcements

Soup and Carols

Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM

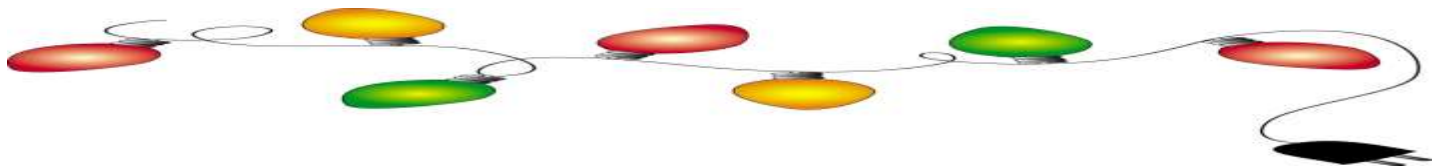
November 29-December 20

Let's make this Advent season special by meeting with our church family once a week for a soup dinner, to sing Christmas carols and to explore the story of the birth of Jesus with a study of the gospel birth narratives.

There will be a sign up sheet for
bringing soup in the Fellowship Hall
on the Sign Up Table.

Soup and Carols

Advent Bible Study



Christmas Carols!

We will be singing Christmas carols today, Sunday the 17th, after coffee mingle.
The following is our route schedule:

Foresight Center– 1:00 pm Joan White

Grandview Apartments– 1:45

If you have a red First Christian shirt, feel free to wear it! Please come join us in singing Christmas carols!!



Announcements

Christmas Gift for Staff

Our church family is blessed with a capable staff that serves us so well. Sometimes we might tend to take them for granted.

However,

Christmas gives us a special opportunity to share a love gift with our wonderful staff. Please give your contribution to Lois Dunning, or place it in the offering plate, and be sure to mark it for **"Staff Christmas Gift."** This will give us a special way to thank Brad, Melanie, John, Paula, and Tish. We know we have an outstanding group of people leading our church, and we want to show them our appreciation at this time of year!

Thank you for your willingness to give back to the staff in this way.

Sincerely, Nancy Armbruster



Great Job, Elves! Thanks to Jeanice Swank, Jean Bird, James Krenzer, Virginia Johnson, and Lois Dunning for your much needed help in making our church beautiful this Advent Season. Chuck was a master again with the greenery and lights on the Narthex railing. And John Moore came along cleaning up after us all. THANK YOU AGAIN! -- Membership

Advent & Christmas 2017

First Christian Church

Christ's Light Is Coming!

Advent Soup and Carols

Eat, Sing & Study, Wednesdays

Nov 29 - Dec 20

6:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Advent

December 3

Hanging of the Greens

10:50 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10

The Prophets Foretold

10:50 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17

The Innkeeper's Children

Youth Christmas Program

10:50 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24

Christmas Cantata

10:50 a.m.

Christmas Eve

December 24

Christmas Eve by Candlelight

7:00 p.m.

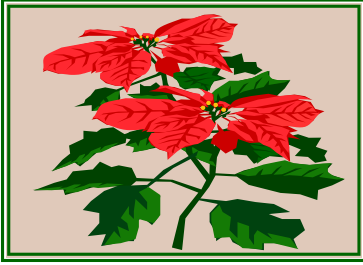
Christmas Carol Sing

December 31

10:50a.m.



Announcements



Christmas Poinsettias

I wish to furnish poinsettias for the Church Altar and Chancel for the Christmas Season, or to make a donation to the food bank.

Orders will be accepted through Sunday, December 17th.

_____ Number of Poinsettias

_____ Amount of donation to the Food Bank.

As a memorial - In Loving Memory of: _____

☐ In Honor of: _____

☐ Presented By: _____

(As you would like it printed in the Bulletin)

☐ I will take the plant after the Christmas Eve Service.

☐ Please take the plant to a Shut-In.

The Church will order the plants. Please enclose a check for \$11.00 for each poinsettia. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and note "Christmas Poinsettias" or "Food Bank" on the check.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____



CHRISTMAS EVE 2017

Cookies, Cider, Coffee and Worship



This December 24 (it's a Sunday):

6:00 p.m. Come to the Fellowship Hall for cookies, cider, coffee and greetings prior to our Christmas Eve by Candlelight Worship Service.

7:00 p.m. Enter the sanctuary to participate in our annual Christmas Eve by Candlelight worship service...with a little something extra this year. We'll tell the story of Christmas and end by singing "Silent Night" while holding candles - as always, and this year we'll add a Las Posadas celebration (a re-enactment of the scene at the inn), as well.

Celebrate Christmas Eve with your FFCGJ Family!



Announcements

2018 is just around the corner: 1) Do you need a new devotional? There are so many different ones to select from in the church library. Check them out. 2) Do you need another calendar? There are several to select from on the Membership table in the Fellowship Hall. Help yourself. Also some free notepads.



The FCC Bookworms will be reading “Skipping Christmas” by John Grisham during the month of December. If you would like to join our group and enjoy this delightful story, please let Joyce Wittwer know as soon as possible so a book can be ordered for you. 243-6214



“The Worst Hard Time” is a book about the Dust Bowl written by Timothy Egan in 2006. It was read by the FCC Bookworms during the month of November. Much of southeastern Colorado was included in the Dust Bowl, and your own family may have some stories to tell. Egan, who writes for the New York Times, won several awards for this book including the National Book Award. One of the things we found that touched home (GJ) was that a man by the name of Roy Emerson Stryker was appointed by FDR to document the depression for the Farm Security Administration, part of the New Deal. Stryker was born in Kansas but lived in Grand Junction until his death. To learn more about the desperate times of those who waited out those years of the dust bowl, you’re encouraged to check out this book.





Nominating Committee

(Recommendations for 2018)

Congregational Leaders (* Denotes a Board Member)

*Officers:

Moderator	Nancy Armbruster
Vice Moderator	
Treasurer	Lily Fitch
Secretary	Linda Edwards

*Congregational Representatives:

Dennis Edwards
Riecke Claussen
Carolyn Bryant

*Committee Chairpersons:

Worship	Nancy Armbruster
Outreach	Susan Barton
Evangelism	David Hawley
Christian Education	Melanie Ferron
Technology	Chip Ferron
Membership	Joyce Wittwer
Stewardship	Bill Fitch
Property	Chuck Haigler

Elders:

Susan Barton 1st Service
Al Baumgartle 2nd Service
Jim Matthews 2nd Service (2 years)

Deacons:

Cole Barton
Al Ladage
Jo Anne Eggers
Wes Wade
Nancy Claussen
David Morgan (2 years)
Jodi Gabel
Jeanne Klitzke

Junior Deacons

Josh Barton 2nd Service

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10, after the worship service. It will be a meeting with two items on the agenda: (1) vote on the nominations for 2018 from the Nominating Committee, and (2) Vote on the 2018 congregational budget.



A NEW DOOR OPENS



Each year during the Holiday Season we participate in a project which benefits the local community. The past two years, we supplied new toys for the Toys for Tots program to bring joy to less fortunate children. This year we joined in purchasing stocking stuffers for foster children—a program sponsored by Project 1.27, a church based ministry.

We are a group of women who have lost loved ones and came together to provide support for one another. When the need arises, we are ready to listen. Grief brought us together, but friendship keeps us together. If at some point in your life, you have the need for our group we will be there for you. We meet every other Tuesday morning at 10 A.M. in the coffee shop at the Pavilion. For further information, contact Bev Dorson at 242-1613.



THE DAILY SENTINEL

Baker cranks out 162 desserts for Salvation Army's Thanksgiving

By AMY HAMILTON

Nov 22, 2017

It was difficult not to drool over the divine smell of baked apples and freshly made crust wafting from a warehouse at the Salvation Army on Wednesday. Rows of apple pies lined the shelves, each one a golden brown creation, scored with apples peeking through and the crusts crimped like miniature, flaky mountain ranges.

Lamar Edwards, 77, of Grand Junction is responsible for this culinary feat, this year creating 162 pies from scratch for the Salvation Army's Thanksgiving feast. Rather quietly and without fanfare, Edwards has been going about this pie-making business for the nonprofit organization for at least the past 15 years.

"I'm just doing it because I can," he said matter of factly in front of a backdrop of dozens of pies. "I'm just doing it because it needs to be done."

Edwards' pies cap the lip-smacking grand finale of the annual Thanksgiving meal today, which feeds thousands of people each year..

Edwards actually created a total of 192 pies this year. He delivered 30 to his church, First Christian Church, 1326 N. First St., which hosts about 300 people at its annual Thanksgiving feast. While the thought of creating one or two pies for a Thanksgiving meal may elicit a bout of anxiety in the best of cooks, Edwards shrugs off his conquest. He scoffs when asked if he's ever seen the faces of those tasting his pies.

"I'm low profile. In fact, this is making me embarrassed," he said about being interviewed for a story.

In order to make nearly 200 pies, Edwards starts the process in mid-October, a couple weeks after his annual return from fishing in Alaska.

Edwards, a lifelong avid ocean fisherman and hobby boatmaker and carpenter, professes attention to detail in most everything he does.

It's no surprise he runs a tight ship in the small kitchen in the 1950s Redlands home he shares with his wife, Joyce Whittwer.

He'll take one day to make dough for 32 pies, weighing 64 dough balls (crusts for the top and bottom) to ensure each are nine ounces. The next day he'll roll the dough and make pies, baking six at a time in the oven. When a batch of 32 pies is made, he takes them down to the Salvation Army headquarters for freezer storage.

He buys 500 pie tins at a time and purchases bulk supplies at Sam's Club. Edwards uses 16 boxes of apples for the entire project, a donation from Palisade's Peachfork Orchards & Vineyards, 281 33 Road.

"I made everything except the apples," he said with a just a hint of twinkle in his eye.

The first couple years, Edwards purchased dozens of pies and dropped them off for the Thanksgiving meal. He graduated to making about 40 pies, and over the years worked his way up to creating the nearly 200 pies he baked this year.

At 77, Edwards said he'll probably knock off the pie-making hobby at age 80.

Making pies — "anything in a pie shell" — is especially rewarding and delicious, he said.

Why does he do it? "I'm trying to get into heaven," Edwards laughed.





94-year-old turns strangers into relatives at church holiday feast

By Megan McNeil Posted: Thu 5:02 PM, Nov23,2017/ Updated: Fri 11:14AM, Nov 24, 2017



GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (KKCO/KJCT)-- There were hundreds of volunteers all over the valley on Thanksgiving. They're working to make sure everyone can celebrate the holiday.

Les Armbruster is 94-years-old, or as he puts it: "Well, I'm kind of 49."

Putting together a Thanksgiving dinner for the community is second nature to him. He and his wife organized one at a church in Denver and brought the tradition to Grand Junction when they moved.

"Found out they didn't have a program like that here, and I said 'why don't we try to start one,'" Armbruster said.

About five years ago, they served their first turkey dinner at the First Christian Church in Grand Junction. On Thursday, they served about 200 people. That may not be a record-setting number, but no one has ever been turned away.

"We invite them, too, because a lot of them are older, and they don't have anybody to eat with on Thanksgiving...so this is their home," Armbruster said.

Cooking a meal for 200 people is a lot of work.

"We've been here since about 7:30 this morning," David Morgan, volunteer, said.

It's a learning experience for everyone, especially Atticus Mansur, 17, who showed up to volunteer with his brother and grandma after they walked by a sign the church had put up advertising the free meal.

"I've learned that it's always good to help other people instead of just thinking about yourself," he said.

The annual tradition turns a church meeting room into a family room.

"We make it home for them, too, so it's a lot of fun, a lot of work, but a lot of fun," Armbruster said.

But most importantly, it turns strangers into relatives.

"I love all these people. They're my whole family," Armbruster said.

The leftover food they had from their meal was donated to HomewardBound.



FCC Prayer Concerns

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen	Thomas Hunn
Brenda Armstrong	Dee Johnson
The Arnold Family	Family of BettyAnn Jones
Clara Arroyo	Ed Jones
Eugene Braun	Nora Juette
Lois Braun	Jean Kees
Sandy & Tim Brown	Betty Learned
Tim Burke	Mike Loehring
Amy Burns	Blanche Marshall
Randy Cass	Cecilia Massey
Chuck Cummings	Norma Matteson
Dannielle	Jennifer McDaniel
Dennis	Brian Neukman
Dennis & Family	Scott & Shirley Nider
Helen Dillard	Phil Oliver
Kat Edwards	Kendra Pappan
JoAnne Eggers	Carol Perry
Larry Eggers	Janice Riches and Family
Vicki Gassman	Oscar Aaron Rodriguez
Ethel Goebel	Diana & Memesio Rodriguez
Kyle Graham	Dr. and Mrs. Schwartz
David & Vickie Hagan	John Sherry
Connie Hawley	Lois Stouffer
Jason Hawley	Alysia Tannery
JoAnne Hill	Terry
Kameron Hill	Wes & Helen Wade
Ethel Hoffman	Joan White
Eleanor Hubbell	The Worrell Family



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

December 10, 2017

No First service

December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

Riecke Claussen

Offering Elder

Leonard Gardner

Communion Elder

Kathy Gardner

Preparing Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Serving Diaconate

Al Ladage

Bob Wise

Carolyn Bryant

Doug Bryant

Coffee Mingle

Beverly Dorson

Gloria Jeffery

Greeter

Larry Eggers

Van Driver

Jerry Francis

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Al Baumgartle

Ray Farrell

December 17, 2017

No First Service

December 17, 2017

3rd Sunday

Worship Leader

Pam Baumgartle

Offering Elder

Lois Dunning

Communion Elder

Beth Sherry

Preparing Diaconate

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

Serving Diaconate

Josh Barton

Jo Anne Eggers

Ruth Acord

Nancy Armbruster

Coffee Mingle

Melanie Ferrion

Greeter

Karen Lehman

Van Driver

Leonard Gardner

Kathy Gardner

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Al Baumgartle

Ray Farrell

December 24, 2017

No First Service

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

Offering Elder

Ray Farrell

Communion Elder

Al Baumgartle

Preparing Diaconate

Marian Velarde

Serving Diaconate

Marion Velarde

Molly Lewis

TBD

TBD

Coffee Mingle

Lamar Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

Greeter

Carol Steed

Van Driver

TBD

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Al Baumgartle

Ray Farrell

December 31, 2017

No First Service

December 31, 2017

5th Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

Offering Elder

Gene Matteson

Communion Elder

Chuck Haigler

Preparing Diaconate

Ray Farrell

Serving Diaconate

Al Ladage

Bob Wise

Carolyn Bryant

Doug Bryant

Coffee Mingle

Nancy Claussen

Riecke Claussen

Greeter

Earn Eachus

Van Driver

TBD

Keyboard

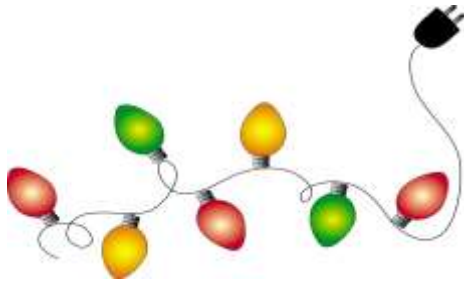
Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Al Baumgartle

Ray Farrell

Church Calendar of Events - December 7, 2017—December 31, 2017



Thursday December 7, 2017

*** Pastor Melanie out of office ***

1:30 pm Agape Group

6:00 pm Praise Team

6:00 pm Co. West Quilters Board

Friday December 8, 2017

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group

6:00 pm Advent Memorial Dinner

Sunday December 10, 2017

*** Second Sunday of Advent***

9:30 am Traditional Sunday School

10:50 am One Worship Service

12:00 Annual Congregational meeting

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

1:00 pm Elders Christmas

Potluck @ Lily's House

Monday December 11, 2017

10:30 am Staff Meeting

7:00 pm M&M Men's Bible Stud

Tuesday December 12, 2017

Pastor Brad out of office

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch

1:30 pm PEO

5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday December 13, 2017

9:30 am Newcomers Group

10:00 am Morning Bible Study

6:00pm Advent Soup & Carols

6:30 pm Youth Group

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

Thursday December 14, 2017

1:30 pm CWF(DW) General

1:30 pm Homeward Bound Ministry

6:00 pm Praise Team

7:00 pm Co. West Quilters

Saturday December 16, 2017

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

8:30 am RMCSC CPE Group

Sunday December 17, 2017

*** Third Sunday of Advent***

9:30 am Traditional Sunday School

10:50 am One Worship Service

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

1:00 pm Christmas Carols

Monday December 18, 2017

9:30 am CWU

10:30 am Staff Meeting

1:30 FCC Bookworms

7:00 pm M&M Men's Bible Study

Tuesday December 19, 2017

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00 am Friends Going Forward

12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch

5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday December 20, 2017

10:00 am Morning Bible Study

6:00pm Advent Soup & Carols

6:30 pm Youth Group

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

Thursday December 21, 2017

*** Pastor Brad out of office***

1:30 pm CWF Executive Meeting

6:00 pm Praise Team

Friday December 22, 2017

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group

Sunday December 24, 2017

*** Fourth Sunday of Advent***

*****Christmas Eve*****

9:30 am Traditional Sunday School

10:50 am One Worship Service

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

6:00 pm Cookies, Coffee & Cider
Before Service

7:00 pm Christmas Eve by Candlelight

Monday December 25, 2017

***** Christmas Day*****

Office Closed

Tuesday December 26, 2017

*** Pastor Brad Vacation***

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch

5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday December 27, 2017

****Pastor Brad Vacation****

10:00 am NO Morning Bible Study

6:00pm Advent Soup & Carols

6:30 pm Youth Group

6:30 pm NO Evening Bible Study

Thursday December 28, 2017

**** Pastor Brad Vacation****

1:30 pm CWF Executive Meeting

6:00 pm Praise Team

Sunday December 31, 2017

*** Christmas Carol Sing***

*****New Year's Eve*****

9:30 am Traditional Sunday School

10:50 am One Worship Service

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

