



First Christian Church (DOC)

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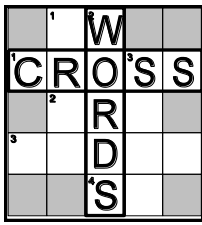
Volume 4 • February 19, 2015

...INSIDE CROSSWORDS:

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

God has called us to be a
Congregation TO and FOR adults 50+,
Even as we joyfully welcome
ALL into our church family.



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



Services each Sunday...

Praising God, Changing Lives for 127 Years!

Contemporary Worship

8:45 AM

Sunday School

9:30 AM and 10:00 AM

Traditional Worship

10:50 AM

Coffee Mingle

12:15 PM

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
970-314-5540

revbradbarton@gmail.com

Rev. Melanie Ferron

Associate Minister

Paula Schaffer, Pianist

Norma Matteson, Pianist

Katie Wendland, Secretary

John Moore, Custodian

Your Elders as Spiritual Leaders

In his book, *Communion Thoughts and Prayers*, Carlton Buck introduces the role of elders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as follows: "The elders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are called to a spiritual leadership in the church... The elders should be resources and consultants in all spiritual matters of the congregation... They are to serve at the Lord's table..., be available to take communion to the hospitalized and homebound..., and assist in times of emergency. They are to be supportive of the various committees..."

In my time as a pastor (both student and ordained), I have witnessed elders serving in a number of different capacities. It seems that, for one reason or another, in every congregation I have served, the elders as a group have tended to emphasize either spiritual leadership or managing shepherding groups. This year, I expressed to the elders that it is my desire that the elders of this congregation shift their emphasis from managing shepherding groups to developing their role as spiritual leaders of the congregation. In my estimation, there is not time enough for the elders to emphasize both.

What will this look like? Well, read the words from Carlton Buck above, and you'll get a sense. For now, I want to assure you that I will find a way to continue to have shepherding groups. Every member of the congregation will be cared for. It will look different than it has in the past, but it is my hope that it will be better...because the shepherds will be people who are gifted to lead shepherding groups and who are passionate about leading shepherding groups. (If you feel you are one of these people or know who one of these people might be, please let me know!!!!) Also, please know this: a group has already formed to provide regular visits to all homebound/shut-in members of the congregation.

If you are wondering who your elder is, the answer is, whichever elder you choose to talk to when you need an elder. You now have every elder at your disposal. A list of elders is provided elsewhere in this issue of Crosswords.

I know this transition might feel a little uncomfortable to some of you; it represents a change from the way this congregation has done things for what I assume is a very long time. However, I firmly believe this change, over time, will improve the spiritual leadership and shepherding within this congregation. Please be patient and open-minded as we make the transition.

– Pastor Brad



Sunday School Announcements

10:00 AM Sunday School Class: Fearless Conversation discussions with coffee and donuts.

These discussions will begin right after first service.

The material comes from Matthew and Luke.

February's questions will be:

What does it really mean to follow Jesus? Matthew 4:18-25

How can I tell if Jesus cares enough to act in my situation? Matthew 9:18-26

What does it mean if Jesus really is God's Son? Luke 9:18-36

Why did Jesus tell such confusing stories? Matthew 13:24-45

If you are interested, please come for one or all of our session! Would love to have you.

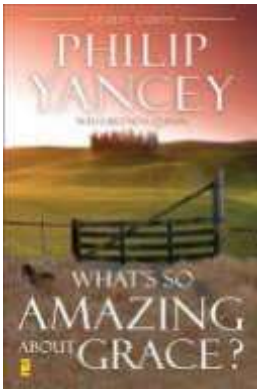
Lily Fitch - Conversationalist

9:30 AM Sunday School Class

“What’s So Amazing About Grace”

Come and join Nancy Armbruster as she guides you through this book
written by Philip Yancey.

“In *What's So Amazing About Grace?* award-winning author Philip Yancey explores grace at street level. If grace is God's love for the undeserving, he asks, then what does it look like in action? And if Christians are its sole dispensers, then how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and unforgiveness than it does of mercy? Yancey sets grace in the midst of life's stark images, tests its mettle against horrific "ungrace." Can grace survive in the midst of such atrocities as the Nazi holocaust? Can it triumph over the brutality of the Ku Klux Klan? Should any grace at all be shown to the likes of Jeffrey Dahmer, who killed and cannibalized seventeen young men? In his most personal and provocative book ever, Yancey offers compelling, true portraits of grace's life-changing power. He searches for its presence in his own life and in the church. He asks, How can Christians contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all they hold dear?” -Online review





Announcements

First Christian Church Chili Cook-Off!



**Sunday February 22!
Starting @ 12:30 p.m.**

Come for chili and to support the Men's Outreach ministries. Spend the afternoon sampling the wide variety of chili and vote for your favorite. We invite all youth and adults to sign up to bring your famous chili. There will be donation baskets on each table, with proceeds benefiting the Men's Outreach ministries. All are welcome to join us for this event! Questions? Contact David Hawley at 970-270-5953!

Experience the Chalk Art Ministry of Betty Green

Through Art, Music, and Speech, she serves God!

Thursday, March 12 1:30pm

Hosted by the Ruth Group
Worship by Joyce Edwards

CROSSWORDS! next deadline is...

Thursday, February 26

Please submit to the church office or email them to:

firstchristiangj@hotmail.com

Articles arriving later than the deadline will not be included until the next published Crosswords.



*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

LENTEN LUNCHES

Easter is fast approaching, and that means LENTEN LUNCHES—always on Wednesdays at 12 noon starting February 25th. This is a great opportunity to have a soup lunch with friends and hear a very meaningful message from one of our church members. This year's messages will have to do with "the ways we are tempted and how God gets us through it", so please plan to come! This is also an opportunity for you to share the "soup of your labor" by signing up to bring a soup on Wednesday. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the information table in the Fellowship Hall. We will look forward to seeing you and any friends you want to bring along! If you have questions, please call Joyce Wittwer at 970-243-6214.





Elder Information

Need An Elder? **Call on the Elder of Your Choice**

In the past, every member of the congregation was assigned an elder. This year, we're trying something different. Eventually, you will all be assigned "Shepherds", who will keep in contact with you and help you stay connected the way your shepherding elders used to. However, I'm sure there will come times when you will need to talk to an elder as a spiritual leader in this congregation. When that time comes, please know you can now call on the elder of your choice, rather than the elder assigned to you. Below is a list of the elders of First Christian Church, Grand Junction, for 2015. If you need the help of an elder, please call on any one of them:

Ray Farrell - Chair
Brad Krebill - Co-chair
Les Armbruster
Al Baumgartle
Dennis Edwards
Linda Edwards
Grace Farrell
Kathy Gardner
Leonard Gardner
Eleanor Hubbell
Gene Matteson
Jim Matthews



Daily Lenten Devotional Books Now Available (in the Narthex)

Lent is here! Our Lenten theme this year is Temptation: Ways We're Tempted and How God Gets Us Through It. The Lenten devotional book, "Into the Wilderness", published by the Society of St. Andrew, fits perfectly with this theme and will help you journey with Christ toward the cross (without losing focus on what comes afterward) this Lenten season. If you would like to subscribe instead to the Society's daily Lenten devotional e-mail or to download a PDF eReader version of the devotional booklet, please visit the website <http://endhunger.org/lent/>.

- Pastor Brad



Birthdays & Announcements & Thank You's

FCC February Birthdays

- February 6 Gretchen Schlechten
- February 10 Barbara Decker
- February 15 Amy Brammer
- February 20 Jim Matthews
- February 22 Dorothy Rhodes
- February 27 Billy Fitch

FCC February Anniversaries

- February 12 Robert & Carol Johnson
- February 14 Jason & Katie Schuman
- February 23 Lily & Bill Fitch
- February 27 Carol & Gary Steed



Thank You's

Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you for your generous contribution in 2014. Your support enables Community Food Bank volunteers to provide up to nine, three day meal boxes to Mesa County residents in need. We are grateful for your help!

Sincerely,
Community Food Bank



Member Information Updates:

Please use one of the following numbers to reach Carol or Jim Matthew's, instead of their home number.

Carol's Cell: 970-773-8280

Jim Cell: 970-773-4797

JoAnne Eggers Email: joanneeggers19@gmail.net

Larry Eggers Email: larryeggers4@gmail.net

HEAVEN TO SAIL

The moon flies high and O so bright; 'A gilded bulb that casts forth light.'

An Ah! A seagull soaring over the sea of seas,
Ever graceful winging, then gliding softly with the breeze.

Now into view, the roaming sea, and in its palm
A desolate ship, clad of steel, sailing calm.
And the ship she leans, but not so much,
Just slightly tilts from natures touch.

The mainmast gray, as if of clay
Sways to an fro, in a lazy sway;
While on deck, a hissing crown of foam does leap,
To cast a lavish spray from the wind-whipped deep

Then comes four pulsated chimes from a gleaming bell,
And a voice speaks out that all is well.

So to sleep, tired and weary crew,
And laggard sea of a sapphire hue...

A poem from *Diary of My Heart* by Edwin Lee Sankey



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Ruth Acord's Family	Rusty James
Brenda Armstrong	Carol Johnson
Nancy Armbruster	Ed "Chicken" Jones
Karon Ballard	Nora Juette
Pastor Brad Barton	Harriette Krall
Ed Behrendsen	Jennifer Lang
Guy Bender	Bette Learned
Jessie Bowen	Jennifer McDaniel
Lois Braun	Michelle
Tim Burke	Jamie Miller
Carol	Clare & Ally Morris
Joe Cecere	Ginger Morris & Family
Marianne Chapman	Katie Orto
Marlis Clark	Sandy Pegg
Chuck Cummings	Larry Petrini
Carol Jean Daniel	Matt Peterson
Donald Davis	Dennis and Lisa Powers
Helen Dillard	Peter Roeland
Ray Dodson	Wes Schuller
Don Dyet	Nancy Selbe
Susie Fisher	Fo Seybold
Glen Gardner	Greg Stouffer
Leon Gardner	Jiemon and Tayo Takahashi
Pat Graham	Rory White
Susan Gregory	D.J. Wilhorn
Vicki Harrington	Allison Williams
Bruce Hine	
Kim Hopkins	
Merle Hopper	
Shelby Howard	



Website Re-Design Information!

FCCGJ Website Re-Design Underway and Coming Soon (Date TBD)

The First Christian Church, Grand Junction, website, www.gjdisciples.org, will soon look different and, hopefully, offer more features that will be helpful to both visitors and members.

We had many **objectives** as we searched for a re-designed site:

- Have a site that is more **dynamic** than static – content will be added and updated daily;
- Have **more information** – like a real-time updated church calendar – that will be helpful **for members**;
- Allow the office **staff to be able to update** the site without needing to learn advanced programming techniques;
- **Flexibility** – so we can change the site to meet the needs of congregational leaders and members;
- **Low cost** – we wanted a professional design for as low a cost as possible.

In order to accomplish all of these objectives, we have chosen to build what is called a WordPress website (the software for WordPress is free) and have purchased a professionally designed theme (designed specifically for congregations) to install in it. As a result, for \$50, we have a professionally designed site that is easily customizable to meet our needs as a congregation.

The re-design is underway but not yet complete. **New features** include:

- The aforementioned **Calendar** (a Google calendar);
- An **Events page** (with detailed descriptions of upcoming events);
- A **Pastor's Blog** – so you can read what I'm thinking about;
- A **Sermons page** (so you can read/hear sermons if you miss them);
- A **Resources page**;
- An **About Us** page with more information (and links) about our **congregation and denomination**;
- More **pictures** (lots and lots of pictures), so please give the office pictures you take of important events in the life of the congregation;

If you would like to see the work that is being done on the re-design, feel free to check it out at preview.gjdisciples.org. Please be aware that the site is under construction (and nowhere near finished). However, if you would like to make suggestions for things to be added to the site, please send me an email at revbradbarton@gmail.com.

– Pastor Brad



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

First Service Assignments

February 22, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

Brad Krebill

March 1, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

Linda Edwards

March 8, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

Leonard Gardner

March 15, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

Dennis Edwards

February 22, 2015 4th Sunday

Worship Leader

Lois Dunning

Children's Moment

Tammy Ostermiller

Offering Elder

Jim Matthews

Communion Elder

Les Armbruster

Serving Diaconate

Beth Sherry

Carol Matthews

Doug Bryant

Carolyn Bryant

Preparing Diaconate

Barbara Decker

George Decker

Coffee Mingle

Wilbur Lucore

Joyce Lucore

Greeters

Beverly Dorson

Ruth Acord

Van Driver

George Decker

March 1, 2015 1st Sunday

Worship Leader

Cole Barton

Children's Moment

Lily Fitch

Offering Elder

Grace Farrell

Communion Elder

Ray Farrell

Serving Diaconate

Alice Wiesler

Nancy Armbruster

Helen Wade

Wes Wade

Preparing Diaconate

Doris Hicks

Coffee Mingle

Donna Ham

Alex & Ethan Peters

Greeters

Marlene Cowen

Carol Matthews

Van Driver

Jo Laughlin

Terry Laughlin

March 8, 2015 2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

Beth Sherry

Children's Moment

Ray Farrell

Offering Elder

Kathy Gardner

Communion Elder

Leonard Gardner

Serving Diaconate

Chuck Haigler

Al Ladage

Jerry Francis

Josh Barton

Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Lois Stauffer

Coffee Mingle

Lamar Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

Greeters

Jeanne Klitzke

Don Klitzke

Van Driver

Jerry Francis

March 15, 2015 3rd Sunday

Worship Leader

Suzanne Daniels

Children's Moment

Al Baumgartle

Offering Elder

Al Baumgartle

Communion Elder

Gene Matteson

Serving Diaconate

Larry Eggers

JoAnne Eggers

Jeanne Klitzke

David Morgan

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Claussen

Coffee Mingle

Ruth Acord

Jeanice Swank

Greeters

Joyce Wittwer

Lamar Edwards

Van Driver

Kathy Gardner

Leonard Gardner

Church Calendar of Events - February 19, 2015— March 11, 2015

Thursday February 19, 2015

7:00am School District 51
 10:00am Prayer Blanket Group
 2:00pm Pinochle Group
 6:00pm Praise Team
 7:00pm Transitions Group

Friday February 20, 2015

11:00am CAPA

Saturday February 21, 2015

8:00am Men's Breakfast

Sunday February 22, 2015

8:45am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/
 “What's So Amazing
 About Grace?”
 10:00am Sunday School/
 “Fearless Conversation”
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 12:30pm Chili Cook-Off

Monday February 23, 2015

8:00am RMCSC CPE Group
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 12:00pm Lunch with Brad
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday February 24 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 1:30pm FCC Bookworms
 5:00pm Family Leadership Training
 5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday February 25, 2015

10:00am Bible Study
 12:00m Lenten Lunches
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth
 Group)
 6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship
 Meal
 6:30pm Bible Study
 6:30pm Middle/High School
 Youth Group

Thursday February 26, 2015

9:30am CWF Executive
 6:00pm Praise Team Practice

Friday February 27, 2015

2:00pm Mexican Train Game Group
 6:30pm Youth LOCK-IN

Saturday February 28, 2015

All Day: Snowblast
 9:00am Church Cleaning
 2:00pm Betty Lou Rumpf Memorial

Sunday March 1, 2015

8:45am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/
 “What's So Amazing
 About Grace?”
 10:00am Sunday School/
 “Fearless Conversation”
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

12:30pm Chili Cook-Off

Monday March 2, 2015

8:00am RMCSC CPE Group
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 12:00pm Lunch with Brad
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday March 3, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 10:00am A New Door Opens at
 Spoons
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 4:00pm Grandview Worship
 5:00pm Healthy Living
 6:30pm Night n Gals

Wednesday March 4, 2015

10:00am Bible Study
 12:00pm Lenten Lunches
 3:30pm Parkinson's Group
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth
 Group)
 6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship
 Meal
 6:30pm Middle/High School
 Youth Group
 7:00pm Order of the Arrow

Thursday March 5, 2015

9:30am Ruth Group
 1:30pm Agape Group
 1:30pm Esther Group
 6:00pm Praise Team Practice
 7:00pm Transitions Group

Saturday March 7, 2015

8:30am Family Leadership Training

Sunday March 8, 2015

8:45am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/
 “What's So Amazing
 About Grace?”
 10:00am Sunday School/
 “Fearless Conversation”
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 12:30pm Elders Meeting

Monday March 9, 2015

8:00am RMCSC CPE Group
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 12:00pm Lunch with Brad
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday March 10, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 1:30pm FCC Bookworms
 4:00pm Family Leadership Training
 5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday March 11, 2015

9:30am Newcomers Club
 10:00am Bible Study
 12:00pm Lenten Lunches
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth
 Group)
 6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship
 Meal
 6:30pm Middle/High School
 Youth Group
 7:00pm CO West Quilters Guild