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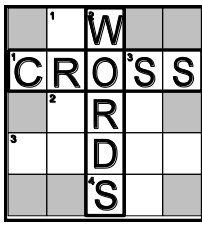
Volume 6 • March 19, 2015

...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

“We Want to See Jesus”

“Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Phillip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’” (John 12:20-21)

This Lent, I preached from the lectionary, but I didn't preach all of the lectionary gospel texts (since I split one of the texts in two to preach on two separate Sundays.) The text I didn't get a chance to preach is from John 12. As I read the text, I felt God's Spirit placing a message upon my heart to share with you, so I will do so in this newsletter article.

In keeping with the form and theme of my sermons this Lenten season, I will provide this message by considering a particular temptation; in this case, it is the temptation to want to see something else, something other than Jesus, even as we do our work as Church.

I think it's pretty amazing in this passage that some Greeks show up in the middle of a Jewish holiday (Passover) to see Jesus. Those non-Jews wanted to see him so badly that they sought him through huge crowds of Jewish festival-goers (all male Jews were required to come to Jerusalem during the festival) to try to find and gain access to Jesus.

Then, I start to think of our temptation, even as Church. When we're doing the business of the congregation, when we're in decision-making mode, when we're:

- Discerning God's vision for the congregation;
- Discerning whether or not we should have more ministries and resources directed outward or inward;
- Discerning whether we should fund raise and give money to a worthy cause or get actively involved with a worthy cause;
- Discerning whether worship should be about what we as individuals want or what helps the most people worship and encounter God;

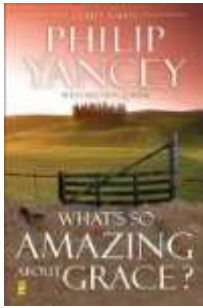
When we are doing these kinds of things, are we doing so while eagerly seeking Jesus or while giving into temptation and seeking something else?

In his response, Jesus pretty much responded by pointing to God and what God is doing and then encouraged everyone to get involved with that. In my estimation, Jesus' response demonstrates how God helps us resist the temptation of seeking something other than Jesus, and it is to simply get involved in what God is doing, rather than what we want.

– Pastor Brad



Sunday School Announcements



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

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

Conversations are “Growing” after first service on Sunday’s

The upcoming conversations for March will be:

Why did Jesus tell such confusing stories?

Was Jesus racist, or sexist—or both?

What’s Jesus got against grownups?

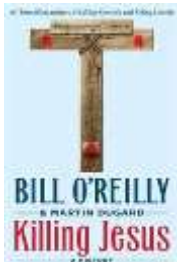
What was really going on at Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem?

What if God wants more than I want to give?

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

—Lily Fitch - Conversationalist Leader

FCC Bookworms- March



The month of March finds the FCC Bookworms reading “Killing Jesus” by Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard—a very timely selection during these weeks leading up to the crucifixion. The book will be available in the library after the first of April. Church members may also find of special interest the movie, “Killing Jesus”, being aired on National Geographic’s channel at 6pm on Palm Sunday, March 29.



Announcements

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 : If you want an FCC Pictorial Directory
 : and do not have one, please let our
 : church secretary, Katie, know as soon as
 : possible. We will also be adding new
 : picture pages in the very near future for
 : those who have a directory. Included
 : will be a new membership list of church
 : members as not everyone is in the
 : pictorial directory. If you have a
 : question, please ask Katie or Joyce
 : Wittwer!



A current membership list dated March 5, 2015 is available in the Fellowship Hall in the file box on the west end of the Information Table. Please pick up a copy to add to your Pictorial Directory. If you see any errors or updates that need to be made, please notify Katie, our secretary. Thank you



The “Box Tops” an “Labels for Education” will be sent to Tennyson Center for Children in April. If you have any stockpiled, please bring them as soon as possible. The collection box for these labels is on the Information Desk in the Fellowship Hall. A list of products that support these two projects is on the CWF Bulletin Board. It is so easy to support this opportunity to help the Colorado Children’s Home.

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.

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 • Spring cleaning is just around the corner.
 • Don’t forget to gather up those old eye
 • glasses you no longer need for donation
 • to the Lion’s Club and a good cause. A
 • container for them is on the information
 • desk in the Fellowship Hall until the end of
 • March!



CROSSWORDS!

**next deadline is...
 Thursday, March 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.



Announcements

Outreach Events Coming Up:

In April we are doing our Sharefest cleaning project at the Grandview Apartments. The date is yet to be decided...Also the city wide Sharefest is on April 18 & 19. There will be a sign up sheet for cookies to be given out then. Thanks, Outreach Committee

Attention All Horseshoe Players!!

Anyone who would be interested in playing in a horseshoe league should contact Al Baumgartle personally, or call him at 243-5891 for details. Make new friends and have a fun outdoor sport!



From The Bookshelf



Many New Books have been added to the library since last fall. Check out the listing on the bulletin board by the library. More great opportunities to find a great read!



Easter Prayer Vigil

The 24 Hour Prayer Vigil is coming up on April 2nd and 3rd. The Vigil starts at 8:00pm following the Maundy Thursday Service and goes until 8:00pm on April 3rd. Prayer times are divided into 30 minute segments. Participants may pray at the church or at home. Please sign up on the Prayer Vigil sheet in Fellowship Hall. If a participant chooses to pray at home and would like to be called at their start time, they should include their phone number. There are numerous times still open. PLEASE SIGN UP AND KEEP THE VIGIL UNBROKEN!



Announcements, Birthdays & Thank You

FCC March Birthdays

March 10	Melanie Ferron
March 12	Chip Ferron
March 13	Gayle Johnson
March 13	Sabrina Meade-Shuman
March 21	Alice Wieseler
March 28	Suzanne Daniels
March 28	Elsie Granere
March 28	Doris Hicks

FCC March Anniversaries

March 22 Debbie & Will Eisemann



El Salvador Mission Trip 2015

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better, it’s not!”

--Dr. Suess

The El Salvador Mission Trip planning is well underway. I will be leaving on July 26, and returning on August 8. Once again, we will be working on the schools in the little town of Las Trincheras and any other needs that God presents to us.

I am asking now if there are any people in our congregation, or who you might know, who are interested in accompanying us.

This two week trip will change you in a way that I can’t describe. You will laugh, you will cry, and your heart will move. The work isn’t glamorous, and you saw the pictures of me at my most unglamorous self, but I wouldn’t change that for a minute. Additionally, I am compelled to return to the sunny, happy, loveable people of El Salvador.

The cost is \$1500 for room, board, translators, and transportation in the country. Airfare is probably around \$800. We book together. If the only thing holding you back from this experience is money, please see me. There may be a scholarship available, or we can work together on a fundraiser.

If you are unable to go, there are many other ways you can contribute to this mission. When it gets a little closer, I will talk about it, but for now please prayerfully consider coming along!

-Beth Sherry

Though I know heaven has welcomed a very special person, my heart still feels the sorrow. I try to imagine Ed’s first glimpse of Heaven. I’m sure it caused him to gasp in amazement and delight.

Thanks go out to the members of FCC for all prayers, cards, phone calls, and offers of help. They helped make the last few months of Ed’s life much easier for both of us.

Thank you to the ladies of CWF for the lovely meal they served our family.

A special thank you to Pastor Brad for joining me at Ed’s bedside, after he passed away.

-Rogene Behrendsen

To my Church Family:

I think it is time to let you again know how thankful I am for those lovely people who are keeping me connected-bulletins, cards, and calls to name a few; Jeanice, Joyce, Donna, Suzanne, and those who bring communion.

Sincerely,
Helen Dillard



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen	Gayle Johnson
Nancy Armbruster	Ed “Chicken” Jones
Brenda Armstrong	Pat Jones
Behrendsen Family	Nora Juette
Guy Bender	Harriette Krall
Jessie Bowen	Gloria Ladehoff
Lois Braun	Bette Learned
Tim Burke	“Chuck” Lopas
Marianne Chapman	Jennifer McDaniel
Marlis Clark	Clare & Ally Morris
Chuck Cummings	Ginger Morris
Carol Jean Daniel	Larry Petrini
Arinda Davis’s Family	Dennis and Lisa Powers
Donald Davis	Peter Roeland
Helen Dillard	Betty Lou Rumpf’s Family
Ray Dodson	Fo Seybold
John Drury	Jean Silkey
Don Dyet	Greg Stouffer
Glen Gardner	Lois Stouffer
Leon Gardner	Jiemon and Tayo Takahashi
Susan Gregory	Rory White
Bruce Hines	D.J. Wilhorn
Kim Hopkins	Allison Williams
Merle Hopper	
Carol Johnson	



Easter Announcements



Make Plans to Order Easter Lilies



In the next few weeks, there will be a bulletin insert inviting you to order Easter Lilies in remembrance or honor of loved ones. Following is some interesting information about the significance of lilies in the Christian tradition*:

The Easter Lily has long stood as a symbol of purity, hope, innocence and peace... The Easter lily is a biblical flower commonly associated with the resurrection of Christ.

In Christian tradition, the Easter lily signifies rebirth and a new beginning. It is said that beautiful white lilies sprang up in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus wept in the last hours before he was betrayed by Judas...

The lily is mentioned frequently throughout the bible and serves today as a beautiful reminder of the significance of the Easter season.

*Posted by the Toronto Sun on April 16, 2011, on its website www.torontosun.com.

Order forms will be in the bulletins on Sunday March 22, and Sunday March 29. Please return your order request to the church office or in the offering plate by Sunday, March 29, 2015.

Easter Brunch

Every year, we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday with worship and brunch. Please plan to attend this year's Easter Brunch and celebrate Jesus' resurrection with your whole church family. The brunch will take place on Easter Sunday, April 5, at 10am in Fellowship Hall. The brunch will be held between our two regular worship services.





Lenten Announcements & Calendar

Lenten Daily Devotional: It's Never Too Late to Start

Lent has begun. Hopefully you are seeking and finding ways to turn toward God this Lenten season. If you're ready to add something new or to make a change to your daily pattern turning to God, don't forget that the Worship Committee is offering a Daily Lenten Devotional guide for your use. It can be picked up at either entrance to the sanctuary. And, it's never too late to start. Feel free to begin at the beginning and read the pages corresponding to the days you've missed or pick one up and begin with today's date. The important thing is to do something this Lenten season to draw you closer to God.

This year's devotional book was produced by the Society of St. Andrew, an organization committed to feeding America's hungry, something we should all support. The devotional has as its theme "Into the Wilderness", which fits perfectly with our congregation's Lenten theme: Ways We're Tempted and How God Gets Us Through It.

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

First Christian Church Grand Junction

Lenten and Easter Calendar

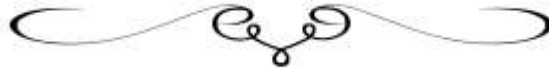
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event/Activity</u>
Every Day		Lenten Daily Devotional Reading
Wednesdays Thru 4/1	12:00pm	Lenten Lunches
Sunday, March 29		Palm Sunday
	8:45am	Contemporary Service
	10:50am	Traditional Service
Thursday, April 2	6:00pm	Maundy Thursday Seder Meal
Thursday, April 2 Thru Friday, April 3	8:00pm - 8:00pm	Journey to the Cross
Thursday, April 2 Thru Friday, April 3	8:00pm - 8:00pm	Prayer Vigil
Sunday, April 5	8:45am	Contemporary Easter Worship
Sunday, April 5	10:00am	Easter Brunch
Sunday, April 5	10:50am	Traditional Easter Worship



Holy Week Announcements

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem amidst the joyful welcome of his followers, and we consider how the joy transitioned so quickly into calls for Jesus to be crucified. Our worshipful celebration will begin with the waving of Palms and something special to remind us of that procession so long ago. Come, worship, celebrate, and consider how the joy could change so quickly to crucifixion.



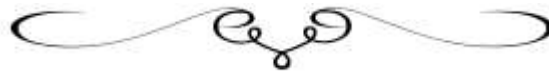
Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

Each Thursday of Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter Sunday), Christians commemorate Jesus' Last Supper when he broke bread and gave the cup to his disciples. Periodically, Christians also gather on that night to partake of a Passover Seder meal, a ritual meal that three of the four gospels strongly suggest was the setting for the Last Supper and a meal that is full of symbolism that helps provide meaning to the events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion. Please plan to join us as we celebrate the Passover Seder this year on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 6 pm. **Advance signup is required (so we have enough food.)**



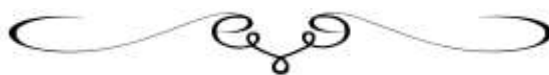
Easter Prayer Vigil

Please make plans to participate in our congregation's annual Easter Prayer Vigil. Just as Jesus' disciples gathered in the Garden of Gethsemane after the Passover meal on Maundy Thursday to pray (as Jesus commanded them), so too will we gather to pray following the Passover meal this Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Please watch for a sign-up sheet on the Sign-Up table in the Fellowship Hall, and find 30 minutes to keep awake and pray (either at the church building or in your home.)



Journey to the Cross

Holy Week is the time when Christians traditionally re-live the events of Jesus' last week (and weeks) on earth. In recent times, Christians have reduced Holy Week to just a few events and worship services (typically Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday.) If you would like to truly remember and re-live the events leading to the cross, plan to spend 30-60 minutes in the sanctuary between 8 p.m. Maundy Thursday (April 2) and 8 p.m. Good Friday (April 3). While in the sanctuary, you will travel on a self-guided tour of the events of Jesus last week(s), and you will be encouraged to consider how those events impact your life today and into the future. **No sign-up required.**



Easter Brunch

Every year, we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday with worship and brunch. Please plan to attend this year's Easter Brunch and celebrate Jesus' resurrection with your whole church family. The brunch will take place on Easter Sunday, April 5, at 10a.m. (in between our two worship services.)



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

First Service Assignments

March 22, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Colton Lowry

Clayton Lowry

Elder

Brad Krebill

March 29, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Debbie Eisemann

DeeAnn Lowry

Elder

Lily Fitch

April 5, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Wayne Ostermiller

Curtis Rosencrans

Elder

Linda Edwards

April 12, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Gretchen Schlechten

Madi Schlechten

Elder

Kathy Gardner

March 22, 2015

4th Sunday

Worship Leader

Suzanne Daniels

Children's Moment

Tammy Ostermiller

Offering Elder

Les Armbruster

Communion Elder

Jim Matthews

Serving Diaconate

Beth Sherry

Carol Matthews

Larry Eggers

JoAnne Eggers

Preparing Diaconate

George Decker

Barbara Decker

Coffee Mingle

Karen Lehman

Beverly Dorson

Greeters

Lamar Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

Van Driver

George Decker

March 29, 2015

5th Sunday

Worship Leader

Pam Baumgartle

Children's Moment

TBA

Offering Elder

Gene Matteson

Communion Elder

Eleanor Hubbell

Serving Diaconate

Doug Bryant

Carolyn Bryant

Cole Barton

Josh Barton

Preparing Diaconate

Ray Farrell

Coffee Mingle

Gloria Jeffery

Beverly Dorson

Greeters

Larry Eggers

JoAnne Eggers

Van Driver

Jenny Barnes

April 5, 2015

1st Sunday

Worship Leader

TBA

Children's Moment

Lily Fitch

Offering Elder

Ray Farrell

Communion Elder

Grace Farrell

Serving Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Nancy Armbruster

Helen Wade

Wes Wade

Preparing Diaconate

Doris Hicks

Coffee Mingle

TBA

TBA

Greeters

Bob Wise

Les Armbruster

Van Driver

Terry Laughlin

Jo Laughlin

April 12, 2015

2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

Gene Matteson

Children's Moment

Ray Farrell

Offering Elder

Leonard Gardner

Communion Elder

Kathy Gardner

Serving Diaconate

Chuck Haigler

Al Ladage

Jerry Francis

Cole Barton

Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Lois Stouffer

Coffee Mingle

TBA

TBA

Greeters

TBA

Van Driver

Jerry Francis

Church Calendar of Events - March 19, 2015— April 8, 2015

Thursday March 19, 2015

10:00am Prayer Blanket Group
2:00pm Pinochle Group
6:00pm Praise Team Practice
7:00pm Transitions Group

Saturday March 21, 2015

8:00am Men's Breakfast

Sunday March 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

Monday March 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 March 24, 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 25, 2015

10:00am Bible Study
12:00pm Lenten Lunches
6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship
Meal
6:30pm Middle/High School
Youth Group
6:30pm Bible Study

Thursday March 26 2015

1:30pm CWF Executive
6:00pm Praise Team Practice

Friday March 27, 2015

10:00am Crafts Group
2:00pm Mexican Train Game Group

Sunday March 29, 2015

PALM SUNDAY

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

Monday March 30, 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 31, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
10:00am A New Door Opens at
Spoons
12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday April 1, 2015

NO BIBLE STUDY

12:00pm Lenten Lunches
3:30pm Parkinson's Group
7:00pm Order of the Arrow

Thursday April 2, 2015

MAUNDY THURSDAY

9:30am Ruth Group
1:30pm Agape Group
1:30pm Esther Group
6:00pm Seder Meal
8:00pm Journey to the Cross/Prayer
Vigil (24 Hours)

Saturday April 4, 2015

9:00am Easter Breakfast Prep

Sunday April 5, 2015

EASTER SUNDAY

8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Easter Brunch
10:50am Traditional Worship
11:00am Jr. Church
12:15pm Coffee Mingle

Monday April 6, 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 April 7, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
4:00pm Grandview Worship
4:00pm Family Leadership Training
5:00pm Healthy Living
6:30pm Night'n Gals

Wednesday April 8, 2015

9:30am Newcomer's Club
10:00am Bible Study
4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth
Group)
6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship
Meal
6:30pm Middle/High School
Youth Group
6:30pm Bible Study
7:00pm Co West Quilter's Guild

