



First Christian Church (DOC)

1326 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street

Grand Junction, CO 81501

firstchristiangj@hotmail.com

[www.gjdisciples.org](http://www.gjdisciples.org)

970.242.7204—phone

970.242.8872—fax

Return Service Requested

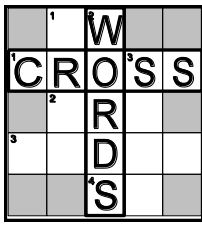
Volume 8 • April 16, 2015

...INSIDE CROSSWORDS:

A Word from Rev. Brad Barton	p. 2	Announcements	p. 7
Sunday School Announcements	p. 3	Prayer List	p. 8
Birthdays & Announcements & Thanks	p. 4	4-week server schedule	p. 9
Announcements	p. 5	FCC Calendar of Events	p. 10
Announcements	p. 6		

### 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

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” – Jesus of Nazareth (John 3:16, NRSV)

## When is Eternal Life?

We just celebrated Easter and God's amazing act of conquering death. Now, it's time for us to figure out the meaning of this abundant reality in our own lives. Hopefully, one of the questions that is raised for you by the event of Jesus' resurrection is one that I think about quite regularly: when is eternal life?

I know, it sounds like a strange question. If you're like me, you were raised to believe that eternal life begins after our lives here on this earth – in this lifetime – end. It's the kind of thinking that has given rise to great hope for people who experience difficulties in this lifetime; they can look forward to an eternal future that is different from the pain they experience now. And that's what I thought without even questioning for about 30 years of my life. However, the more I dug into the scriptures, the more I found Jesus offering people something in the here and now, in this lifetime, in those same moments that Jesus was talking about “eternal” life. And, I started reading the works of others, like Carlo Carretto, who wrote things like, “and above all I experienced joy, true joy, that stands above the vicissitudes of life, as soon as I tasted and experienced for myself the gift he came to bestow on us: eternal life” (from *In Search of the Beyond*.) Such words got me to wondering: how could Carretto experience something here and now that doesn't happen until after we die?

Folks, here is the amazing thing that I have discovered about the gift of eternal life: it is both now and in the hereafter. Eternal is a never-ending that doesn't begin in some future life; it begins NOW. The good news offered from this realization is that we can experience now the same quality of life that we will find in God's kingdom in the hereafter if only we choose to live in God's kingdom while on this earth. Eternal life can and will begin for you as soon as you spend your time praising God, praying, reading scripture, and helping others in life the way Jesus did. Then, that same eternal life will go one without ceasing...ever! That's the good news of Easter!

- 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.

Our Fearless Conversation group has been digging into some really interesting stuff...so interesting that our Senior Pastor stops by to get in on the discussion!

We are a fortunate group as our Associate Pastor is in on the action every week and adds wonderful insight to our questions and discussions.

Please feel free to join us for one Sunday or all...your choice. The following are the topics for April:

April 5 - Easter Sunday - breakfast is served, no class but great conversation in the fellowship hall!

April 12 - **Did God really disown Jesus on the cross?** Matthew 27:32-55

April 19 - **Resurrection seems so impossible...how can I believe in a literal "Easter" Story?** Matthew 27:62-28:15

April 26 - **How can I know Jesus is really alive today?** Luke 24:36-53

Future Fearless Conversation will be based primarily on 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel

God Bless!

Lily Fitch - Conversationalist

Dear Christian Friends,

There are two important ideas I would like to introduce to you. Some may be aware of these, but for those who don't know about them, this might benefit you.

- 1.) There is information you can put in your cell phone called “**ICE**”. This stands for “**In Case of Emergency**”. If you have a spouse or someone who you'd call if something happened to you, such as if you were in an accident and couldn't talk, the emergency officials could look in your cell phone and contact them. All you need to do I put the letters “**ICE**” in front of your contact's name.
- 2.) The second item I'd like to bring to your attention is that is you put in your wallet your primary doctor's name and phone number on a piece of paper with a list of your medicines, the strength and the frequency you take them, an emergency department might be able to treat you faster. Put tape over the paper to protect it and put it in the back of where you keep your driver's license, making it a little taller than your license. Jim and I each have a medication list in our wallets and it says, “**In Case of Emergency**” on the very top. And if you are allergic to a medication or anything else, this should go on the paper also.

If you need help making this, we would be happy to help.

-Carol & Jim Matthews

# Announcements, Birthdays & Thank You

## FCC April Birthdays

- April 3 Charles Grimsley
- April 6 George Decker
- April 9 Larry Eggers
- April 23 Richalyn Cox
- April 24 Curtis Brammer
- April 28 JoAnne Hill



## FCC April Anniversaries

- April 2 Al & Pam Baumgartle
- April 2 Ray & Grace Farrell
- April 4 Wilbur & Joyce Lucore
- April 25 Chip & Melanie Ferron



To all the wonderful church women who continue to help with the Bereavement Dinners and Receptions, a BIG thank you. Your willingness to donate your time with food preparation or serving a meal is very much appreciated.

God Bless Each One of You

-The Bereavement Dinners/Receptions Ministry

The Maundy Thursday Seder Meal was celebrated with Pastor Brad leading about 70 members of our congregation and visitors in a holy Passover tradition. Many hands went into the beautifully decorated setting and the preparing and then the serving of the meal by table leaders. We thank God that so many were able to reenact this holy ritual.

-Submitted by Joyce Wittwer

## 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

## 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!



# Announcements

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, Norma Lavelett, or Joyce Wittwer!



**Outreach Events Coming Up:**  
 Sharefest Workday at the Grandview Apartments will be on April 18 at 10:00am. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Help clean apartments, refrigerators, sweep, dust, if needed help hang curtains and drapes, wash cars, etc. This is an opportunity to help our neighbors. Also, if anyone in the church needs some help doing yard work, or cleaning, please let us know. We will give you a helping hand!  
 -Outreach Ministry

**CROSSWORDS!**  
**next deadline is...**  
 Thursday, April 23  
 Please submit to the church office or email them to:  
[firstchristiangj@hotmail.com](mailto:firstchristiangj@hotmail.com)  
 Articles arriving later than the deadline will not be included until the next published Crosswords.

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" and "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.

**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!



DID YOU SEE in the "Museum Times" from the Museum of Western Colorado that our own George Decker was the first recipient of the Archeological Award, which recognized his long-time and distinguished contributions to increasing knowledge of the archeological treasures in our area. Congratulations, George!  
 - Submitted by Joyce Wittwer





# Announcements

## PEO High Tea



You are invited to attend an old fashion tea May 2nd from 2:00pm-4:00pm at First Christian Church. Live entertainment, fashion show, and food will be provided at a cost of \$20.00 per ticket. There will be a silent auction. Tickets can be purchased from Linda Edwards, Jo Laughlin, or Dottie Ruth, who are the members of the PEO group hosting the even. CWF will be providing the food and service. So put on your Victorian hat and come to have some fun!

Fundraiser to Benefit Beth Sherry's Trip to El Salvador

Sponsored By: Youth and Men of FCC

Sunday, May 3 at 5:00pm

Fellowship Hall at First Christian Church

Cost: Love Offering (Remember that this is 2 fundraisers wrapped into one. The men and youth are combining their efforts to help Beth, so please be generous!)

\*Spaghetti Dinner

\*Youth Talent Show and Pastor Brad's Magic

\*Silent Auction

NEEDED: Silent Auction Items (Please drop them off in the room outside Pastor Brad's office. If you'd like there to be a minimum bid, please write that clearly on something attached to your item.)





# Announcements

## -A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP-

Taking a look at our books for the months of January and February and comparing them with the same months in 2014 is almost like *deja vu*. Obviously, to calculate (for lack of a better term) profit and loss, you subtract expenses from income. For the first two months of 2015 this means that our expenses have exceeded our income by about \$750.00.

While our hope is that the bottom line will always yield a positive number, the good news is that, it is better than last year at the same time when we were a little over \$5800.00 in the hole.

Now, as I am learning, there's more to this stewardship business than simply subtracting expenses from income and calling it good. Given the various sources of income coming in, e.g. rent from condominiums donated by Harold and Ruth Moss, CD's and savings account, special offerings etc., it's a challenge just to track and keep a record of how and when money moves through our system to the various ministries, building expenses, utilities, office supplies, salaries and so on. We are blessed to have Bill and Lily Fitch who provide the technical expertise to guide us through the process in a logical and transparent manner.

I think I speak for all us of when I say that we are proud of our church and our mission to serve as the Disciples of Christ in our community. I hope we also remember that much of what we do is supported by the generosity of our congregation. Just as "many hands make light work" even a small increase in the weekly tithing by each member of our congregation can make a big difference in our bottom line.

Riecke Claussen  
Stewardship Chair

Thank you for your March 03, 2015 gift of \$1,050.00 to Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home. Our generous support helps us to fulfill our mission if "Changing lives, Giving hope."

Because of your support, Tennyson Center is able to extend your ministry to the abused, neglected, and at-risk children we serve. Our services have branched out to include children dealing with mental health issues, Special Education, and foster care in addition to abuse and neglect. That is why your support is so important. Through our main campus, satellite locations, and community based services, we serve more than 400 children and their family members annually. We couldn't accomplish our mission without your generosity. Your generosity ensures that these children can heal, trust, and bloom so that they will one day live satisfying and fulfilling lives as adults.

Thank you for all that you do, and for all that your church membership does for the children in our care. Thank you for welcoming the children in His name.

Serving together,

Rod Witte  
Chief Executive Officer



-(An excerpt from a recent letter from Tennyson Center for Children)



# FCC Prayer Concerns

*“Pray without ceasing.”*

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen

Nancy Armbruster

Brenda Armstrong

Behrendsen Family

Guy Bender

Jessie Bowen

Lois Braun

Tim Burke

Marianne Chapman

Marlis Clark

Chuck Cummings

Carol Jean Daniel

**Arinda Davis's Family**

Donald Davis

Helen Dillard

Ray Dodson

John Drury

Don Dyet

Glen Gardner

Kathy Gardner

Leon Gardner

Susan Gregory

Doris Hicks

Bruce Hines

Kim Hopkins

Merle Hopper

Carol Johnson

Gayle Johnson

**Ed “Chicken” Jones**

Pat Jones

Nora Juette

Harriette Krall

Gloria Ladehoff

Cody Lavelett

Bette Learned

**“Chuck” Lopas**

Anna Lopez

Jennifer McDaniel

Gary Meade and Family

Clare & Ally Morris

Ginger Morris

Larry Petrini

Dennis and Lisa Powers

Peter Roeland

Fo Seybold

Jean Silkey

Greg Stouffer

Lois Stouffer

Jiemon and Tayo Takahashi

Rory White

D.J. Wilhorn

Allison Williams





# FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

## First Service Assignments

**April 19, 2015**

### Greeters & Offering

Blanche Marshall

Suzanne Daniels

### Elder

Brad Krebill

**April 26, 2015**

### Greeters & Offering

Colton Lowry

Clayton Lowry

### Elder

Dennis Edwards

**May 3, 2015**

### Greeters & Offering

Wayne Ostermiller

Curtis Rosencrans

### Elder

Linda Edwards

**May 10, 2015**

### Greeters & Offering

Gretchen Schlechten

Madi Schlechten

### Elder

Leonard Gardner

**April 19, 2015**

**3rd Sunday**

### Worship Leader

Cole Barton

### Children's Moment

Al Baumgartle

### Offering Elder

Ray Farrell

### Communion Elder

Grace Farrell

### Serving Diaconate

Larry Eggers

JoAnne Eggers

Jeanne Klitzke

David Morgan

### Preparing Diaconate

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

### Coffee Mingle

Beverly Dorson

Gloria Jeffery

### Greeters

George Decker

Barbara Decker

### Van Driver

Leonard Gardner

Kathy Gardner

**April 26, 2015**

**4th Sunday**

### Worship Leader

Al Baumgartle

### Children's Moment

Al Baumgartle

### Offering Elder

Jim Matthews

### Communion Elder

Les Armbruster

### Serving Diaconate

Beth Sherry

Carol Matthews

Doug Bryant

Carolyn Bryant

### Preparing Diaconate

George Decker

Barbara Decker

### Coffee Mingle

Donna Ham

Alex Peters

Ethan Peters

### Greeters

Lamar Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

### Van Driver

George Decker

**May 3, 2015**

**1st Sunday**

### Worship Leader

Lily Fitch

### Children's Moment

Lily Fitch

### Offering Elder

Grace Farrell

### Communion Elder

Ray Farrell

### Serving Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Nancy Armbruster

Wes Wade

Helen Wade

### Preparing Diaconate

Doris Hicks

### Coffee Mingle

TBD

### Greeters

TBD

### Van Driver

Terry Laughlin

Jo Laughlin

**May 10, 2015**

**2nd Sunday**

### Worship Leader

Riecke Claussen

### Children's Moment

Ray Farrell

### Offering Elder

Kathy Gardner

### Communion Elder

Leonard Gardner

### Serving Diaconate

Gary Steed

Chuck Haigler

Al Ladage

Jerry Francis

### Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Lois Stouffer

### Coffee Mingle

TBD

### Greeters

TBD

### Van Driver

Jerry Francis

# Church Calendar of Events - April 16, 2015— May 6, 2015

## Thursday April 16, 2015

7:00am School Dist. #51  
 10:00am Prayer Blanket Group  
 2:00pm Pinochle Group  
 6:00pm Praise Team Practice  
 7:00pm Transitions Group

## Friday April 17, 2015

10:00am Crafts Group

## Saturday April 18, 2015

8:00am Men's Breakfast

## Sunday April 19, 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  
 12:15pm 2nd Service Diaconates  
     Meeting  
 4:00pm Cabinet Meeting  
 4:00pm Grimsley Dissertation

## Monday April 20, 2015

8:00am RMCSC CPE Group  
 9:00am Church Women United  
 10:30am Staff Meeting  
 12:00pm Lunch with Brad  
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

## Tuesday April 21, 2015

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

## Wednesday April 22, 2015

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

## Wednesday April 22, 2015(...)

6:30pm Bible Study

## Thursday April 23, 2015

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

## Friday April 24, 2015

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

## Sunday April 26, 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  
 4:00pm Grimsley Dissertation

## Monday April 27, 2015

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

## Tuesday April 28, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group  
 10:00am A New Door Opens at  
     Spoons  
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch  
 1:30pm FCC Bookworms  
 4:00pm Family Leadership Training  
 5:00pm Healthy Living

## Wednesday April 29, 2015

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

## Thursday April 30, 2015

6:00pm Praise Team Practice  
 7:00pm Transitions Group

## Friday May 1, 2015

10:00am Crafts Group  
 1:00pm PEO Set-Up

## Saturday May 2, 2015

9:00am PEO High Tea

## Sunday May 3, 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  
 4:00pm Grimsley Dissertation  
 5:00pm Fundraiser for Beth  
     Sherry's Trip to El Salvador

## Monday May 4, 2015

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

## Tuesday May 5, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group  
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch  
 1:30pm Membership Ministry  
 4:00pm Grandview Worship  
 4:00pm Family Leadership Training  
 5:00pm Healthy Living  
 6:30pm Night'n Gals

## Wednesday May 6, 2015

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