



First Christian Church (DOC)

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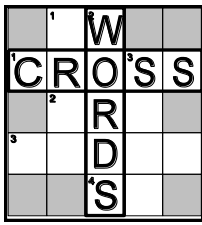
Volume 2 • January 22, 2015

...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
(On Sabbatical)

Paula Schaffer, Pianist

Norma Matteson, Pianist

Susan Barton, Interim Secretary

John Moore, Custodian

Where is God When the Chips are Down?

Having spent 9 days and 7 nights in the hospital recently (with the flu, pneumonia, a-fib, and a case of dangerously low blood pressure), I had some extreme experiences of "when the chips are down." In fact, I dreaded the coming of each and every night. For some reason, the daytime was relatively good, but the night was another thing completely.

I couldn't sleep, and I mean not at all. My cough got so bad each night that I simply couldn't fall asleep. On top of the cough was the pain that ran the entirety of the left side of my body from shoulder to hip. So, there I sat, watching the seconds slowly tick away, in unbearable pain, and there was nothing I could do.

Well, I discovered there was something I could do. I spent most of each night in prayer. And those night-time prayers were some of the most frustrating prayer experiences of my life. I started with a simple breathe prayer, praying for sleep and healing and the removal of pain with each breathe. I prayed with confident faith, telling God I absolutely knew He could heal me and take away the pain. I trusted in God to give me sleep. But...nothing! I was so frustrated.

So, I went back to listening. I told God that I knew God could heal me but that for some reason God wasn't, so I would listen for whatever message it was that God wanted me to receive.

This went on for all three nights of my first stay in the hospital and the first two nights I was back at home (which were just as painful as the nights at the hospital.) And even though God never took my pain away as I requested, I did experience something from God in those all-night-long prayers. I experienced God's presence in a way I never had before. It wasn't God's presence taking away the pain. It wasn't God's presence giving me peaceful sleep. But I felt God's very real presence with me all through those nights, letting me know that I wasn't alone and that I could survive this thing.

It brings tears to my eyes just remembering the experience. I'm not sure I was as grateful in those moments for what God gave me as I should have been, but looking back I know it was a great gift. I sincerely hope I never have to experience such pain again...ever...and I sincerely hope that none of you ever have to endure something so painful. It really felt like it would be easier to let death take me than to keep pushing through. But God was there for me - not the way I wanted, but there. For that, I am eternally grateful!

- Pastor Brad



Announcements

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

These discussions will begin right after first service on January 11 (and following Sundays)

The material comes from Matthew and Luke.

January's questions will be:

Why did God come as a baby? Luke 2:1-20

Can we really beat temptation? Matthew 4:1-11

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

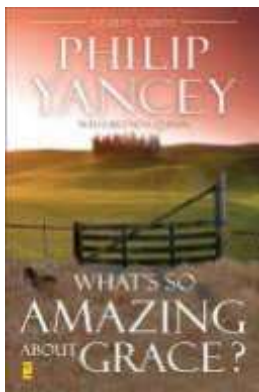
Why did Jesus tell such confusing stories? Matthew 13:24-45

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

Birthdays & Announcements & Thank Yous

FCC January Birthdays

January 2	Nancy Armbruster
January 4	Lois Dunning
January 5	Angie Drake
January 6	Cole Barton
January 6	Lamar Edwards
January 16	Juanita Davis
January 19	Rogene Behrendsen
January 20	Anna Bilyeu
January 26	Terry Laughlin
January 27	Dorothy Griffin
January 29	Susan Barton
January 29	Tara Everett



Member Information Update:

Carol and Jim Matthew's New Phone Number:

970-773-4797



Un-decorating the church was a quick experiment in "many hands" making a daunting task an opportunity to start 2015 off with a bang. It was heartening to have so many come for one or two hours and prepare the church for 2015. Thanks to everyone! A special thanks goes to Chuck, Walt and the youth for moving the myriad of boxes back to the attic. God bless you all!

-Membership Ministry

Christian Women's Fellowship (C.W.F.)
We're having a Birthday Party!



Thursday, February 12 at 1:30 PM
First Christian Church Fellowship Hall

Hostess: Night-n-Gals

Games with Beth Sherry

Worship led by Lois Dunning



Announcements

A Diaconate Meeting for Second Service Deacons

Immediately after church on Sunday, January 25, the deacons will be meeting to make plans for the new year!

Please make plans to attend and be a part of the conversation.

This is an important meeting as calendars will be discussed to determine who will be able to serve when.

Thank you all for your leadership.

The **Membership Ministry** held its quarterly meeting on January 20th. We are responsible for:

Caring and Sharing - Sending cards on various occasions

Church Clerk - Maintains church records

Coffee Mingle - Sunday gathering after second service

***Food Basket** - Frozen meals for those in need

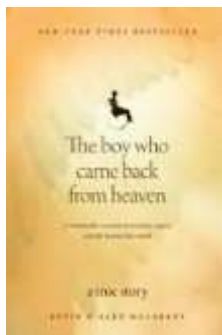
Martha's Ministry - Preparing annual meals (Easter, Thanksgiving, etc)

Van - For those who need rides to church

***Elders** are reminded that this food is available to be taken to any on your shepherding list needing assistance during a death in the family, illness, surgery, or other emergencies. If you have questions, please contact: Joyce Wittwer, Membership Chair at 243-6214

"Best—seller book about journey to heaven is pulled"

Headline in "The Daily Sentinel"



Many of you have read "The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven" published in 2010. It is now being pulled from sale as Alex Malarkey admits that he was lying to try to get attention. The article from "The Sentinel" will be on the library bulletin board and later filed with the book.



When: Sunday February 1st

Please bring your spare change to church and the youth will collect your money and then donate it to a cause that helps feed people in need!



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

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



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

First Service Assignments

January 25, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Gretchen Schlechten

Madi Schlechten

Elder

Linda Edwards

February 1, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

TBA

February 8, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

TBA

February 15, 2015

Greeters & Offering

TBA

Elder

TBA

January 25, 2015 4th Sunday

Worship Leader

Pam Baumgartle

Children's Moment

Tammy Ostermiller

Offering Elder

Jim Matthews

Communion Elder

Gene Matteson

Serving Diaconate

Jenny Barnes

Church Haigler

Jeanne Klitzke

Gary Steed

Preparing Diaconate

Barbara Decker

George Decker

Coffee Mingle

Bev Dorson

Gloria Jeffery

Greeters

Barbara Decker

George Decker

Van Driver

George Decker

February 1, 2015 1st Sunday

Worship Leader

TBA

Children's Moment

Lily Fitch

Offering Elder

TBA

Communion Elder

TBA

Serving Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Helen Wade

Wes Wade

Alice Wiesler

Preparing Diaconate

Doris Hicks

Coffee Mingle

Doris Hicks

Jeanne Klitzke

Greeters

TBA

Van Driver

Jo Laughlin

Terry Laughlin

February 8, 2015 2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

TBA

Children's Moment

Ray Farrell

Offering Elder

TBA

Communion Elder

TBA

Serving Diaconate

Jenny Barnes

Jerry Francis

Chuck Haigler

Al Ladage

Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Lois Stouffer

Coffee Mingle

Beverly Dorson

Jeanice Swank

Greeters

TBA

Van Driver

Jerry Francis

February 15, 2015 3rd Sunday

Worship Leader

TBA

Children's Moment

Al Baumgartle

Offering Elder

TBA

Communion Elder

TBA

Serving Diaconate

JoAnne Eggers

Larry Eggers

Jeanne Klitzke

David Morgan

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Claussen

Coffee Mingle

Rogene Behrendsen

Marlene Cowan

Greeters

TBA

Van Driver

Kathy Gardner

Leonard Gardner

Church Calendar of Events - January 22, 2015— February 8, 2015

Thursday January 22, 2015

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

Friday January 23, 2015

1:45pm Mexican Train Game
Group

Saturday January 24, 2015

1:00pm Red Hat Ladies

Sunday January 25, 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

2:00pm Memorial Service/
Roger Granere

4:00pm Cabinet Meeting

Monday January 26, 2015

10:00am Staff Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday January 27, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

12:00pm Lessons at Lunch

1:30pm FCC Bookworms

4:00pm Family Leadership
Training

Wednesday January 28, 2015

10:30am Bible Study

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth
Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship
Meal

6:30pm Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School
Youth Group

Thursday January 29, 2015

6:00pm Praise Team

Sunday February 1, 2015

Souper Bowl of Caring

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 February 2, 2015

8:00am RMCS CPE Group

10:30am Staff Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday February 3, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00am A New Door Opens
@ Spoons

12:00pm Lessons at Lunch

4:00pm Grandview Worship

4:00pm Family Leadership Training

6:30pm Night n Gals

Wednesday February 4, 2015

10:00am Bible Study

3:30pm Parkinson’s Group

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth
Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship Meal

6:30pm Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School
Youth Group

7:00pm Order of the Arrow

Thursday February 5, 2015

9:30am Ruth Group

12:30pm Agape Group

1:30pm Esther Group

6:00pm Praise Team Practice

Saturday February 7, 2015

4:00pm Go Green Motorcycle Club
Event

Sunday February 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

