



First Christian Church (DOC)

1326 North 1st Street

Grand Junction, CO 81501

firstchristiangj@hotmail.com

www.gjdisciples.org

970.242.7204—phone

970.242.8872—fax

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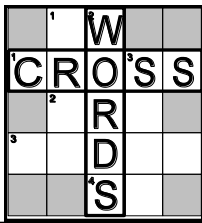
Volume 19 • September 17, 2015

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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

9:00 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

A Conversation We Need to Have: Church Size Theory

Let me begin with a story: I once approached the leadership of a congregation and shared with them some research about something called "church size theory." Church size theory suggests that the size of a congregation is a key determinant of a congregation's culture, governance structure, and resource allocation decisions. Church size theory also suggests that there are 4 types of congregations, based on church size. Church size theory further suggests that different people encounter God best in congregations of different sizes/types of congregations. I approached the leadership of the congregation to talk about church size theory because I sensed a strong difference of opinion among the leaders with regard to which size of congregation each leader desired that congregation to be. After we discussed the various sizes of congregations and took a blind vote to determine which size each leader desired that congregation to become, we found that exactly one third of the leaders had a strong preference for each (of three different) size(s). It turns out, this was the underlying conflict that had been troubling the congregation for decades. Once we got that on the table, the congregation was able to begin a very helpful dialog that led to significant spiritual growth within the congregation.

I tell you this story for a reason. This Sunday, I am going to begin a conversation about church size theory with the Cabinet of this congregation, but I don't want the conversation to end with the Cabinet. I am going to encourage the committee chairpeople of this congregation to engage you in a dialog about the direction we believe God is calling this congregation (with regard to size) so that we can honestly talk about how we feel about it.

In every congregation I have served, there is at first a unanimous agreement that the congregation should grow in number. However, there is much less unanimity regarding what comes with numerical growth (for example: new people with new/different ideas about being church, not knowing everybody, not being able to be involved in everything or even in decision-making about everything, a sense of losing the identity of your church.) After three years of following Jesus with all of you, I sense that we need to talk about some of these things and determine: (1) whether or not God is calling us to numerical growth, and (2) whether or not we're comfortable with what God is calling us to. We need to talk about these things before we can, as a congregation, invite people in.

By the way, staying the same or even growing smaller has drawbacks, as well. Most notably, there are fewer resources available to pay costs that we may feel "stuck" with (like the maintenance costs of our building) but that are the result of decisions made in past generations when the congregation was (numerically) larger but that impact what we can do today.

Please be in dialog with each other and with me!

- Pastor Brad



Sunday School & Announcements

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.

Fearless Conversations - Is God In Control of My Life? Discussions from Joshua, Ruth and Esther
Upcoming questions this month shall be:

September 6 - Why would God protect lawbreakers?

September 13 - How do my relationships affect my walk with God?

September 20 - Why does God use tragedy as part of his plan?

September 27 - Are my actions alone enough to let others know I'm a Christian?

Looks like some interesting conversations afoot! So use **your** feet and join us! :)

Loving your input!

Conversationist,

Lily Fitch

It's Bazaar Time Again!

**Let's bring our items for Grandma's Attic
on Sunday, November 1, 2015**

Start saving all your GOOD, CLEAN items
for **Grandma's Attic!**

Prefer no Furnishings or Clothing
please!!

We are requesting that no articles be
brought before Sunday, November 1st or
after November 6th.

There will be an open house for anyone
to look and purchase beginning Friday,
November 6, 2015 from 1:30pm until
3:00pm.

If you have any questions, please call
Jeanice Swank 242-3588 or
Jeanne Klitzke 243-5668



You have an opportunity of a lifetime!

You can help CWF(DW) reach their goals of
being able to support not only local outreach
but to include worldwide outreach! We can
only succeed with your help and support.
Please take a moment to visit the CWF(DW)
bulletin board in the hallway and sign up for
your spot to help at this year's CWF(DW)
Holiday Bazaar on **November 7th**.

There are all kinds of slots
and jobs to be filled.

Join us for this worthwhile cause.

**Together we can make a difference...
as many hands make lighter work.**

**Thank you...CWF(DW) Holiday Bazaar
Committee 2015**



Anniversaries, Birthdays, & Thanks

FCC September Birthdays

- September 2 Les Armbruster
- September 4 Brad Krebill
- September 4 Connie Hawley
- September 5 Louise Oliver
- September 6 Molly Lewis
- September 6 Gary Steed
- September 9 Curtis Rosencrans
- September 10 Ron Velarde
- September 12 Gene Matteson
- September 14 Eleanor Hubbell
- September 19 Ann Hutton
- September 19 Lisha Snyder
- September 20 Paula Schaffer
- September 23 Judy Campbell
- September 23 Kathy Gardner
- September 26 Linda Edwards
- September 29 Lois Stouffer

FCC September Anniversaries

- September 27 Wayne & Tammy Ostermiller



Member Change!

Bob Wise—
New Phone Number 970-640-5616

Birthday Celebration!

Join us at coffee mingle on September 20th to help us celebrate Lois Stouffer's 90th Birthday!!



Thank You & New Address

What a beautiful loving send off I received Sunday, August 30. Thank you Brad for including me in the service and the laying on of hands. It meant a lot to me and is something I'll remember forever.

Thank you ladies for the beautiful cake and all the work that went into the planning and serving.

Also thanks to everyone for the beautiful cards, all the hugs, prayers, and well wishes. This loving church family will live in my heart forever. There will never be another like it.

God Bless all of you.

Rogene Behrendsen
805 Phoenix Ct.
Grand Island, NE 68801

CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, September 24

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

Please Help Fill the Outreach Room!

Autumn is here and winter is fast approaching. With the change in seasons, we expect increased demand from our hungry, homeless and low income neighbors. Please help feed the hungry, provide water to the thirsty, and provide clothing to those without clothes as Jesus commanded! The Outreach Committee is seeking your help in providing the following items for the Outreach Room as soon as possible:

Sleeping bags

Men's and Women's socks of all sizes

New Men's and Women's Underwear

Winter coats

Winter gloves

Winter hats

Scarves

Sweatshirts

Sweatpants

Bottled Water

Peanut Butter crackers

V8 Canned Juice

Peppermints

Insulated plastic coffee cups/mugs

Band-aids

Hotel Shampoo and Conditioner and soap

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Thank you,
FCCGJ Outreach Committee

"Take a Hike!"

Do you like to hike, especially with a group of friends? On Saturday, September 26th we are planning a hike at McGinnis Canyons in Fruita. If you've never been there, it's a beautiful area, west of the Colorado National Monument with dozens of hiking trails. This particular hike will be about 3 miles with some elevation gains. It will probably be moderately strenuous. We'll be hiking through areas of sand, gravel, sandstone, and hard rock. Bring plenty of water, some snacks, sun-screen, comfortable shoes with good tread, etc. We'll meet at the church parking lot at 8:30 AM and car pool from there. Invite a friend and show them some of the fun things going on with First Christian Church! Contact Brad Krebill with any questions at 242-6430.

El Salvador Presentation

During both services on October 4, Beth Sherry will be presenting her pictures and story of the mission trip she took to El Salvador in July. She hopes to convey to you how powerful you were in the work that was done there. Your prayers, your supplies, the precious little dresses and generous monetary contributions made by individuals and groups of the church blessed many impoverished children and adults in this tiny Latin American country. Please come and hear her story.



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen	Robin Jakino
Nancy Armbruster	Carol Johnson
Brenda Armstrong	Ed Jones
Anna Bilyeu	Pat Jones
Jessie Bowen	Nora Juette
Bailey Boyles	Gloria Ladehoff
Lois Braun	Bette Learned
Tim Burke	Anna Lopez
Marianne Chapman	Joyce Lucore
Charlie & Carol	Carla Martin
Marlis Clark	Jennifer McDaniel
Chuck Cummings	Clare & Ally Morris
Arinda Davis' Family	Ginger Morris
Helen Dillard	Janet Naffa
John Drury	Larry Petrini
Larry Eggers	Lesla Rutter
Eisemann Family	Jean Silkey
Leon Gardner	Greg Stouffer
Dorothy Griffin	Lois Stouffer
Emily Hauquitz	Jiemon and Tayo Takahashi
Jason Hawley	D.J. Wilhorn
Doris Hicks	
Bruce Hines	
Kim Hopkins	
Family of Michael Jakino	



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

First Service Assignments

September 20, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Debbie Eisemann

DeeAnn Lowry

Elder

Dennis Edwards

September 27, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Curtis Rosencrans

DeeAnn Lowry

Elder

Brad Krebill

October 4, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Wayne Ostermiller

Curtis Rosencrans

Elder

Linda Edwards

October 11, 2015

Greeters & Offering

Blanche Marshall

Suzanne Daniels

Elder

Kathy Gardner

September 20, 2015 3rd Sunday

Worship Leader

Carol Matthews

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

Ray Farrell

Coffee Mingle

TBD

TBD

Greeters

Jeanne Klitzke

Jeanice Swank

Van Driver

Leonard Gardner

Kathy Gardner

September 27, 2015 4th Sunday

Worship Leader

Beverly Dorson

Children's Moment

Tammy Ostermiller

Offering Elder

Grace Farrell

Communion Elder

Ray Farrell

Serving Diaconate

Beth Sherry

Carol Matthews

Doug Bryant

Carolyn Bryant

Preparing Diaconate

George Decker

Barbara Decker

Coffee Mingle

Marlene Cowan

JoAnne Eggers

Greeters

Lois Stouffer

Gloria Jeffery

Van Driver

George Decker

October 4, 2015 1st Sunday

Worship Leader

Jeanne Klitzke

Children's Moment

Lily Fitch

Offering Elder

Ray Farrell

Communion Elder

Grace Farrell

Serving Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Nancy Armbruster

Wes Wade

Helen Wade

Preparing Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Coffee Mingle

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

Greeters

Wes Wade

Helen Wade

Van Driver

Terry Laughlin

Jo Laughlin

October 11, 2015 2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

Joyce Wittwer

Children's Moment

Ray Farrell

Offering Elder

Leonard Gardner

Communion Elder

Kathy Gardner

Serving Diaconate

Gary Steed

Chuck Haigler

Al Ladage

Jerry Francis

Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Lois Stouffer

Coffee Mingle

Marlene Cowan

JoAnne Eggers

Greeters

TBD

TBD

Van Driver

Jerry Francis

Church Calendar of Events - September 17, 2015— October 12, 2015

Thursday September 17, 2015

7:00am School Dist. 51 Meeting
 10:00am Prayer Blanket Group
 2:00pm Pinochle Group
 6:00pm Praise Team Practice
 6:00pm Franklin Park West HOA

Saturday September 19, 2015

8:00am Men's Breakfast
 11:00am Ed "Chicken" Jones
 Memorial

Sunday September 20, 2015

9:00am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School
 10:00am Sunday School/
 "Fearless Conversation"
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 ***Celebrate Lois Stouffer's 90th!!
 12:30pm Nominating Meeting
 12:30pm Bazaar Meeting
 4:00pm Cabinet Meeting

Monday September 21, 2015

9:30am Church Women United
 10:30am Staff Meeting
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday September 22, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday September 23, 2015

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

Thursday September 24, 2015

3:00pm CWF(DW) Executive
 6:00pm Praise Team Practice

Friday, September 25, 2015

2:00pm Mexican Train Group

Sunday September 27, 2015

9:00am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School
 10:00am Sunday School/
 "Fearless Conversation"
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

Monday September 28, 2015

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

Tuesday September 29, 2015

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

Wednesday September 30, 2015

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

Thursday October 1, 2015

Brad Out of Office

9:30pm Ruth Group
 1:30pm Agape Group
 1:30pm Esther Group
 6:00pm Praise Team Practice
 7:00pm CO West Quilters Board

Sunday October 4, 2015

***Beth Sherry- El Salvador
 Presentation***

9:00am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School
 10:00am Sunday School/
 "Fearless Conversation"
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle

Monday October 5, 2015

Brad Out of Office

9:30am Church Women United
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday October 6, 2015

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

Wednesday October 7, 2015

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

Thursday October 8, 2015

1:30pm CWF(DW) General
 5:00pm Homeward Bound Ministry
 6:00pm Praise Team Practice

Friday October 9, 2015

2:00pm Mexican Train Group

Saturday October 10, 2015

7:00am Strides Against Breast Cancer

Sunday October 11, 2015

World Communion Sunday

NO 9:00am Worship
 9:30am Sunday School
 10:00am Sunday School/
 "Fearless Conversation"
 10:50am One Worship Service on
 Church Lawn

NO Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 12:30pm Elders Meeting

Monday October 12, 2015

10:30am Staff Meeting
 1:30pm FCC Bookworms
 5:30pm Youth Education Meeting
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study
 7:00pm Boy Scouts