



First Christian Church (DOC)  
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Return Service Requested

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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

## Your Christian Identity and Politics (Part 3): Keep the Dialog Going

*Disclaimer: If, by this title, you **are expecting** that I'm going to tell you who to vote for or even what to think about specific issues, please know that I will do neither. If, as you read this, you **feel** like I'm telling you who to vote for or what to think about a specific issue, please re-read what you just read...because that's not what this article is about.*

I remember sitting down to my first men's breakfast at a congregation I served long ago. I noticed a group of guys sitting at one end of the very long table and a group of guys sitting at the other end. There were several empty seats in between each group of guys. I was very happy at my good fortune: I could sit in the middle of the table, where I could talk to the most people! It didn't take long to learn that I was wrong about this being good fortune. From one end of the table, guys chided me for sitting too close to the Republican men of the congregation. From the other end of the table, guys chided me for sitting too close to the Democratic men of the congregation. From each end, I was told I had to choose to side with one group or the other; I was not permitted to sit in the middle.

For the rest of the time I served that congregation, I noticed there was no real dialog that crossed the gap between those two groups of men. There was no real dialog on Saturday mornings at men's breakfast or any other time. Any time - even on Sunday morning - a conversation arose that had anything to do with politics, someone from one of the two groups would shut it down with name calling or a raised voice.

I realized at that moment that we (in that congregation) had forgotten something very important the Apostle Paul taught us: as Christians, our affiliation is through Jesus, not through anything else. "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." - Galatians 3:38

The world will try to tell us something different. In fact, I just watched a news segment about how people like to form an identity as being part of a group and that political affiliation offers one of the strongest group identities. This election year and always, I would like to remind you that our strongest group affiliation should be our affiliation with our brothers and sisters in Christ. To that end, we should seek not to cut off dialog when topics evoking strong opinions arise in conversation but should instead seek to discover how our affiliation as followers of Jesus can lead to a civil discourse in which we all seek to discover what Christ most wants for us and from us. It really shouldn't matter what the Republican Party says we should want or what the Democratic Party says we should want. As Christians, what should matter is what we discern Jesus would want.

Happy presidential election year! - Pastor Brad



# Sunday School & Announcements

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

Welcome one and all...first...second and third service attendees

Every Sunday morning after first service...around 10:15 am we have a Fearless Conversation. The next thirteen weeks are based on questions of Why is Grace so amazing? Discussions from Acts, Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians and 1 Thessalonians. You are encouraged to attend one or as many of these as you would like.

Fearless conversations continue...

**April 3** - why should I be generous when others have more than I do? 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

**April 10** - shouldn't people clean up before they come to God? Romans 5:1-11

**April 17** - is it okay for Christians to smoke? Romans 14

**April 24** - why would God want to make an example of me? Ephesians 2:1-10

Hope to see you at one or all of the questions!

God Bless,

Lily Fitch – Teacher of Christian Education

## Sharefest is Coming!!!



**April 30, 2016**



Save the date!!! We are going to be helping our neighbors at 9:00am at the Grandview apartments again this year, on April 30th. Please mark your calendars as Vicki is getting jobs lined up for us to do. There will be jobs for everyone. We will help with changing furniture in rooms, flipping mattresses, cleaning refrigerators, maybe vacuuming, hanging curtains- just small jobs that are difficult for some people to do. Also, if anyone needs help with your own yard work, or repairs, please let us know, as we can help you too. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. David Morgan will be cooking a lunch for everyone! We do need homemade cookies; by being homemade it shows we care! There will be a sign-up sheet for cookies in Fellowship Hall as well. This is a good time to get to know our neighbors and have good fellowship. Remember to save the date, April 30!!!

~Outreach Ministry

### **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!



### CROSSWORDS!

**next deadline is...**

Thursday, April 28

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.

# Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Thanks



## FCC April Birthdays

- April 3      Charles Grimsley
- April 6      George Decker
- April 9      Larry Eggers
- April 23     Richalyn Cox
- April 24     Curtis Brammer
- April 27     Betty Nelson
- April 28     JoAnne Hill



## FCC April Anniversaries

- April 2      Al & Pam Baumgartle
- April 4      Pete Brown & Verda
- April 25     Chip & Melanie Ferron

### Thank You!

Thank you to all who supported the El Salvador mission by attending and donating to our baked potato lunch. We nearly raised enough money for the airfare (or half the lodging/trip cost) for Clayton. You all are encouraging him and doing the Lord's work with your donations. Everybody who is in the delegation to El Salvador benefits when we have young people among us. The school boys in the town are especially excited when they see somebody who can give piggy back rides and play soccer with them. You are a generous group. ~Beth

We want to thank everyone who helped us celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and joined us for our vow renewal. We had such a wonderful time and appreciate our church family being with us. Thank you for all the beautiful cards and wonderful wishes. We love you all.  
Al & Pam Baumgartle

Thank You to Pastors Brad & Melanie, the awesome choir led by Paula Schaffer, and everyone else who had a part in our glorious Easter Season's Activities. Did you participate in: Ash Wednesday, Lenten Lunches, Palm Sunday, Journey to the Cross, Maundy Thursday's Tenebrae Service, the Prayer Vigil, Easter Brunch & Easter Service? We are blessed to have so much talent and so many opportunities in our church.  
~Joyce Wittwer

A Big Thank You to everyone who volunteered to help with the Emergency Shelter Program. Without all the food you brought for evening meals, those who volunteered to spend the night, and the many that came to just visit with the men! Thank you to Melanie for organizing all of the meals! I can't express my thanks enough to David Morgan and Lamar Edwards for coming every morning to cook breakfast for the men. And, to John Moore, for making sure all the jobs were done! I didn't keep a count of the men who stayed each night but we were able to help approximately 160. The men all appreciated our help and thanked us many times!  
~Outreach

Thank you to David Morgan and Lamar Edwards for the wonderful and delicious breakfasts they served the homeless each morning and the overnights that stayed at church in the last two weeks!!!

Did you get a chuckle out of the quotes on the Library Bulletin Board?



# Thanks

April 11, 2016

To All the Wonderful Volunteers who served at  
First Christian Church in Grand Junction, Colorado!



Dear Loving Friends,

Please know that I am particularly grateful to have had the loving and compassionate support of the many volunteers at First Christian Church who focused so kindly on our homeless guests in the Emergency Shelter "Overflow" Program this season. Many of our guests this year were new to the community and so appreciate being welcomed warmly and respectfully each evening to a place they can call home, even temporarily. You have made their experience comforting, relaxing and healing. Our guests do know that when you said 'yes' to providing an overnight location, brought in food or stayed for the night to offer friendship with a smile, you stopped yet another man from dying on our streets. For all this, they are extremely grateful, as am I.

You are a blessing. I deeply appreciate the time you gave to making certain that all needs were met for our guests. I am certain that your belief in basic human dignity continues to draw more good to your own lives now, as well. Thank you for sharing the blessing of who you are. It is indeed true that Season 8 is Great.....because of you.

You are appreciated,

Sherry Cole, Program Coordinator

Grand Valley Peace & Justice

740 Gunnison Avenue 81501

[programcoordinator@gvpeacejustice.org](mailto:programcoordinator@gvpeacejustice.org)

*You are one of the  
reasons we had no  
deaths this winter!  
Again, you are a blessing!*



# Announcements

## **Mark Your Calendars: An Opportunity to Provide Input to Executive Regional Minister Search Team**

On May 6 at 2:30p.m., the Executive Regional Minister Search Team will be coming to FCCGJ to listen to you.

Please mark your calendars and plan to be here for this very important meeting.

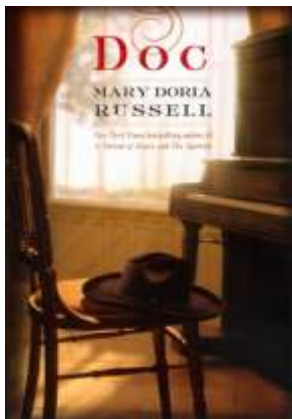
As you know, our region, the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has been without a settled Executive Regional Minister since Rev. José Gonzalez departed to pursue a Ph.D. in California. We have been led by Interim Executive Regional Minister, Rev. Dean Phelps, who has been doing a great job but has not been called to his position indefinitely.

In 2015, the Region's Executive Committee approved the appointment an Executive Regional Minister Search Team to lead the process of finding the right person to call into the position of Executive Regional Minister. The Team is in the process of meeting throughout the Region in an effort to listen to members of congregations as a way of preparing a profile of who our Region is and what our Region desires from our future Executive Regional Minister.

Please plan to meet with the Team on Friday, May 6, at 2:30p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to provide your input. As the Team writes on our Region's website: "Every voice is important."

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

- Pastor Brad



During March the FCC Bookworms found Doc Holliday to be a very interesting character as portrayed by Mary Doria Russell in her historical novel entitled "Doc". Russell, who is well known for her books "The Sparrow" and "Children of God" and considered to be a science fiction writer, switched gears and delved into the life of John Henry Holliday starting with his youth in Georgia, his dental training, his contraction of tuberculosis and subsequent life out west in the throws of life with people like the Earps. Although some in our book club found the language and lifestyle difficult to read, Russell is an excellent storyteller, and it was well after the book was read before some grasp the difference between truth and fiction. If you want a history of Doc before the OK Corral, you will not put this book down after you have first read the list of players!



# Announcements

## YARD SALE!!!

Do you have too many “treasures” cluttering up your house or garage? Would you like to find a new home for your excess items and do some good at the same time? Your chance is here! The church yard sale is coming up on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and DeeAnn Lowry will be setting up a table to raise money to assist in sending Clayton to El Salvador for a mission trip with Beth Sherry and others from our church. Your extra stuff can make a real difference in making this wonderful mission experience a reality for one of the young people of our church. If you are not setting up your own table at the Yard Sale but would like to donate to this cause or have any questions, contact DeeAnn (261-8720) or the church office.

## ALL CHURCH YARD SALE

MAY 21, 2016

7:30 AM TO 2:00 PM

**Tables for church attendees will be \$15 and outside vendors \$25 per table.**

CWF is having an All Church Yard Sale out in our parking lot. There are some rules for this yard sale:

1. Carol Matthews will be accepting reservations for the tables.
2. You must pay for your table by May 1, 2016
3. You are responsible to bring your own items that you want to sell and whatever does not sell you need to remove them from the church property by 4:00 PM on May 21, 2016.
4. No furniture taking up more space than your table space is allowed. However, you may use the space under your table as allotted space—but it can only be the size of your table.
5. If it rains, the sale will be held in our Fellowship Hall and you will be responsible to move your own items indoors.
6. There will be no refunds on the table(s) once paid for.
7. You must be present or have someone at your table to sell your items at all times. What you make will be your profit.
8. You need to bring additional change to use at the sale to make change as the church will have no money to make change.
9. The entry fee (table cost) is to cover advertising and CWF (DW), our church women’s group.
10. Hours for the yard sale are 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM.





# Announcements

## PEO Tea!

The PEO is hosting it's Spring Tea/Silent Auction/Fashion Show at First Christian Church on Saturday, April 23, 2016, from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be obtained from Jo Laughlin. Food will be supplied by CWF(DW). This is a fun filled afternoon, with lots of time to visit and be entertained. Please plan on attending; tickets are selling out fast!



## Directory

A new version (2016) of the pictorial directory is available on the Information Table for those who do not have a directory. Be sure to take the one that has your name on it. For those who do have a directory, updates are in the folder on the Information Table. Also in the folder is a list of the Non-participating Members if you are interested in this information. In March we provided a list of current members and their addresses. If you did not get a copy of this, it is also in the folder. Please let Normal Lavelett or Joyce Wittwer know of any corrections you see that need to be made.

This Fall we will take pictures of newer members for our next update. Thanks for your patience in getting this information. The next update will be this Fall.

## Gift Cards

This is **a program for non-profit organizations**, such as churches, the Red Cross, Mc Donald House Charities, World Food program USA and many more organizations.

If you buy from your gift cards, the company gives these non-profit organizations a "rebate" on each card that is purchased. The "rebates" can be anywhere from 3% up to 14% depending on which cards you buy. The "rebates" are sent back to our church to be deposited in our general fund to be used for church repairs.

**This is one way to support our church.** Gift cards make good presents for Christmas, birthday, anniversary, or Valentine gifts, wedding gifts and graduation gifts, or any other gift.

After you order your gift cards, most of the time the gift cards are back the next week. Please contact Carol Matthews to order your gift cards.

Thank you.





# Announcements

## Evangelism Luncheon!

Sunday May 22, 2016 at 12:30 pm

There will be a Congregation Evangelism Training Luncheon on Sunday, May 22, following 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Lunch will be provided, and includes the following...



Smoked Baby Back Ribs  
Baked Beans  
Potato Salad



After lunch, be prepared to learn about our Evangelism Ministry and how you are an important part of it. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate!

Please get a ticket from David Hawley or Kathy Gardner if you can attend so we know how much food to prepare!



## **Honoring Our Graduates Sunday, May 8**



Do you have a Graduate in your family? If you have a graduate from High School, Trade School, College or the Armed Forces, we would like to honor them at Worship on May 8th. Please get the names to Melanie before May 2nd.

There will be a reception for our High School graduates during coffee mingle that day and we would like them to bring items for a display—senior pictures, awards mementos etc....anything they would like to share. Please submit the following information to the church office.

Graduate's name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Relationship to Graduate \_\_\_\_\_



# FCC Prayer Concerns

*“Pray without ceasing.”*

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen	Gloria Jeffery
Nancy Armbruster	Robin Jakino
Brenda Armstrong	Ed Jones
Jessie Bowen	Jordan Jones
Lois Braun	Pat Jones
Brady, Cole, & Tyler	Nora Juette
Tim Burke	Harriette & Andy Krall
Family of Carrie Carnes	Gloria Ladehoff
Marianne Chapman	Bette Learned
Charlie & Carol	Anna Lopez
Marlis Clark	Joyce Lucore
Johnny & Marlene Cowan	Carla Martin
Chuck Cummings	Jennifer McDaniel
Helen Dillard	Richard McPeck
John Drury	Clare & Ally Morris
Tara Everett & Family	Ginger Morris
Gabe French	Larry Petrini
Leon Gardner	Jeff Rood
Dorothy Griffin	Jean Silkey
David & Vickie Hagan	Carol Steed
Emily Hauquitz	Lois Stouffer
Jason Hawley	Jiemon & Tayo Takahashi
David Herrera	Helen Wade
Bruce Hines	Tammy Wenzinger
Shaun Hood	Ryan Wilson & Family
Kim Hopkins	Kenna Jo Wieseler
Ilomae & Rex	D.J. Wilhorn
Jamie & Children	



# FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

**April 24, 2016**

**Greeters & Offering**

Connie Hawley  
Debbie Eisemann

**Elder**

Linda Edwards

**May 1, 2016**

**Greeters & Offering**

Norma Lavelett  
DeeAnn Lowry

**Elder**

Kathy Gardner

**May 8, 2016**

**Greeters & Offering**

Blanche Marshall  
David Hawley

**Elder**

Dennis Edwards

**May 15, 2016**

**Greeters & Offering**

Wayne Ostermiller  
Curtis Rosencrans

**Elder**

Suzanne Daniels

**April 24, 2016**

**4th Sunday**

**Worship Leader**

Riecke Claussen

**Offering Elder**

Les Armbruster

**Communion Elder**

Jim Matthews

**Preparing Diaconate**

George Decker

Barbara Decker

**Serving Diaconate**

Beth Sherry

Carol Matthews

Earn Eachus

Ruby Eachus

**Coffee Mingle**

Lamar Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

**Greeters**

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

**Van Driver**

George Decker

**Keyboard**

Ray Farrell

**May 1, 2016**

**1st Sunday**

**Worship Leader**

Pam Baumgartle

**Offering Elder**

Grace Farrell

**Communion Elder**

Ray Farrell

**Preparing Diaconate**

Karen Lehman

**Serving Diaconate**

Wes Wade

Helen Wade

Jeanice Swank

Yvonne Warner

**Coffee Mingle**

Jeanne Klitzke

Beverly Dorosn

**Greeters**

Earn Eachus

Ruby Eachus

**Van Driver**

Terry Laughlin

Jo Laughlin

**Keyboard**

Paula Schaffer

**May 8, 2016**

**2nd Sunday**

**Worship Leader**

Gloria Jeffery

**Offering Elder**

Leonard Gardner

**Communion Elder**

Kathy Gardner

**Preparing Diaconate**

Alice Wieseler

**Serving Diaconate**

Al Ladage

Jerry Francis

Alice Wieseler

Bob Wise

**Coffee Mingle**

Carol Matthews

**Greeters**

Wes Wade

Helen Wade

**Van Driver**

TBD

**Keyboard**

Pam Baumgartle

**May 15, 2016**

**3rd Sunday**

**Worship Leader**

Beth Sherry

**Offering Elder**

Al Baumgartle

**Communion Elder**

Gene Matteson

**Preparing Diaconate**

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

**Serving Diaconate**

Larry Eggers

JoAnne Eggers

Ruth Acord

Nancy Armbruster

**Coffee Mingle**

Jeanice Swank

Ruth Acord

**Greeters**

Eleanor Hubbell

Louise Oliver

**Van Driver**

Leonard Gardner

Kathy Gardner

**Keyboard**

Beth Sherry

# Church Calendar of Events - April 21, 2016— May 11, 2016

## Thursday April 21, 2016

\*\*\*Brad Out of Town\*\*\*

6:00pm Praise Team

## Friday April 22, 2016

\*\*\*Brad Out of Town\*\*\*

All Day PEO Tea Set-Up

## Saturday April 23, 2016

\*\*\*Brad Out of Town\*\*\*

10:00am PEO Tea

## Sunday April 24, 2016

\*\*\*Brad Out of Town\*\*\*

9:00am Contemporary Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:00am Disciples Singers

10:50am Traditional Worship

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

7:00pm Sunday at Seven

## Monday April 25, 2016

\*\*\*Brad Out of Town\*\*\*

8:30am RMCS CPE Group

10:30am Staff Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

## Tuesday April 26, 2016

\*\*\*Brad Out of Town\*\*\*

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

12:00pm Lessons at Lunch

5:00pm Healthy Living

## Wednesday April 27, 2016

\*\*\*Brad Out of Town\*\*\*

NO Morning Bible Study

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Night

Fellowship Meal  
(Pizza)

NO Evening Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School

Youth Group

## Thursday April 28, 2016

\*\*\*Brad Out of Town\*\*\*

3:00pm CWF(DW) Executive

## Thursday April 28, 2016...

6:00pm Praise Team

## Friday April 29, 2016

2:00pm Mexican Train Group

## Saturday April 30, 2016

9:00am ShareFest @ Grandview Apts.

## Sunday May 1, 2016

9:00am Contemporary Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:00am Disciples Singers

10:50am Traditional Worship

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

7:00pm Sunday at Seven

## Monday May 2, 2016

8:30am RMCS CPE Group

10:30am Staff Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

## Tuesday May 3, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00am A New Door Opens @ Spoons

12:00pm Lessons at Lunch

1:30pm Membership Meeting

4:00pm Grandview Worship

5:00pm Healthy Living

6:30pm Night'n Gals

## Wednesday May 4, 2016

10:00am Morning Bible Study

3:30pm Parkinson's Support Group

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Night

Fellowship Meal  
(Lily Fitch)

6:00pm Evening Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School

Youth Group

## Thursday May 5, 2016

9:30am Ruth Group

1:30pm Agape Group

1:30pm Esther Group

6:00pm CO West Quilter's Board

## Thursday May 5, 2016..

6:00pm Praise Team

## Friday May 6, 2016

11:00am CWU Friendship Day

2:00pm Executive Regional Minister  
Search Team

## Saturday May 7, 2016

11:00am PEO Officers Workshops

## Sunday May 8, 2016

\*\*\*Graduation Sunday\*\*\*

\*\*\*Mother's Day\*\*\*

9:00am Contemporary Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:00am Disciples Singers

10:50am Traditional Worship

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

7:00pm Sunday at Seven

## Monday May 9, 2016

8:30am RMCS CPE Group

10:30am Staff Meeting

1:30pm FCC Bookworms

4:30pm RMCS CSCP Group

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

## Tuesday May 10, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

12:00pm Lessons at Lunch

5:00pm Healthy Living

6:15pm Monument View Flute Circle

## Wednesday May 11, 2016

9:30am Newcomers Group

10:00am Morning Bible Study

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Night

Fellowship Meal  
(Pizza)

6:30pm Evening Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School

Youth Group