



First Christian Church (DOC)

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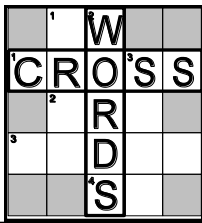
Volume 24 • December 3, 2015

...INSIDE CROSSWORDS:

A Word from Rev. Brad Barton	p. 2	Announcements	p.7
Sunday School & Announcements	p. 3	Prayer List	p. 8
Anniversaries, Birthdays, & 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

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

“Making Sense of the Bible”:

Join Me on a Journey of Discovery This Year

I don't know about you, but, for me, a new year has already started.

I like New Year's resolutions. Do you? But the difference between my resolutions and those of most people I encounter is twofold: (1) mine begin when the Christian calendar begins (that is, the beginning of Advent, not January 1), and (2) mine usually involve something to help me get closer to God. Please, don't interpret these statements as a suggestion that my way is better than some other way; I encourage you to practice resolutions however you wish.

This year, my New Year's resolution is to study in-depth Adam Hamilton's book, "Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today". Why this book? Well, it's not exactly new to me. I picked it up at a conference in May and have been reading bits and pieces of it since, usually as a resource for Bible study. I discovered in these sporadic readings a couple of things. First, Hamilton presents a variety of perspectives on Biblical interpretation, not just one. I like that. Hamilton even admits (on page 5) that he doesn't have all the answers. Rather, he tries to provide the tools to help us find the answers. Second, Hamilton acknowledges that the Bible is a complex (and even difficult) book to interpret. He writes of struggling with the Bible, especially when it comes to discerning what the Bible has to say for us, today. I agree that the Bible is complex and challenging, and I look forward to wrestling with the book alongside Hamilton. Finally, the book is incredibly easy to read. Adam Hamilton is a preacher, not a seminary professor, and (in my opinion) he has a gift for what he calls "distill(ing) down the work of scholars."

Why do I tell you about this book? Why not just read it privately and be inspired by it and maybe quote it occasionally in sermons? Do I expect you to read it alongside me? While I don't expect anything from you with regard to the book, I would enjoy conversing about the book with as many of you who care to read it as I can. I'm sure we'll disagree sometimes. I'm sure the book will stir up some controversy. But we are members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We give the Bible primacy as a source of authority. And we agree to work together to interpret and understand while allowing each person to reach her or his own conclusions. I believe this book offers us a great opportunity to do these things. Please join me...if you're willing.

~ 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!

Starting November 29th the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a study called

SENT...DELIVERING THE GIFT OF HOPE AT CHRISTMAS.

This is a video/book study on Jesus Reconciling, Setting Us Free, Bringing New Life and Changing Everything!

We hope you will take this Christmas Advent Season to prepare for the Coming of our Lord! Join us on Sunday in the library after first service (around 10:05)...note: we adjust part of our discussion to accommodate those that would like to join us but go to second service, so that is not a problem to attend. All are welcome!

Lily Fitch – Teacher of Christian Education

International Potluck December 13
Following Christmas Program

It's a potluck with International "flavor".

What is your heritage? German, French, English, or another country? Please join us and bring your favorite dish to feed 15. If you have invited family members and friends to the program, be sure to bring table service for all of you and lots of good food to share.

Questions? Call Jeanne Klitzke 243-5668. Jeanice Swank 242-3588 or Joyce Wittwer 243-6214



FCC CHURCH FAMILY

The Friends, (Church) Family, and Fellowship Event at the Hawleys has been cancelled.

This event was scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2015 @ 6:00pm

CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, December 10

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.

Anniversaries, Birthdays, & Thanks



- FCC December Birthdays**
- December 1 Greg Sherry
 - December 4 Janet Biederman
 - December 4 Helen Wade
 - December 4 Emily (Farrell) McHugh
 - December 7 Donna Ham
 - December 9 Helen Dillard
 - December 9 Verda
 - December 10 Al Ladage
 - December 11 Carol Johnson
 - December 12 Phyllis Godfrey
 - December 21 Gaylene Grimsley
 - December 21 Ed Jones
 - December 22 Carol Steed
 - December 23 Marian Velarde
 - December 23 Kermit Schade
 - December 24 Rebecca Farrell
 - December 26 Tammy Rosencrans
 - December 31 JoAnne Eggers

- FCC December Anniversaries**
- December 27 Leonard & Kathy
 Gardner

Thank You

First I want to thank Pastor Brad and a few church members– Carol and Donna, for being there and saying prayer with me before going into surgery. I also want to thank my church family for all the prayers, cards, and the beautiful prayer shawl during my recovery. Love & God Bless,
Marlene Cowan

.....

: A warm “Thank You” is sent to those who
: helped decorate the church on Tuesday for
: Advent: Chuck Haigler for hanging the
: greens and lights on the banner in the
: Narthex, Gene Matteson, Donna Ham,
: Virginia Johnson, Marian Velarde, Beth
: Sherry and Karen Lehman for helping
: decorate the Christmas trees. Your
: participation was very much appreciated.
: ~Membership Ministry

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A Big Thank You!

A special thanks to the cooks and all the helpers who worked to make the Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 22, a great success. Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!
~Martha’s Ministry

Outreach is very thankful for our church members!

For everyone who came and helped with the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Thank you. It was a wonderful day to give Thanks for all we have. Les said you served 170 people, how wonderful that is. And we collected \$292.00 for the Thanksgiving offering. This will help with the expenses of books etc. many need at college. We also collected 56 Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. Thank you all so much!
~Outreach Ministry

Thank You

On behalf of the Karis board of directors, myself, and homeless teens in Grand Junction, THANK YOU for your generous gift of \$400.00 to The House, A Safe Place for Western Slope Teens.
~John Mok-Lamme
(See full letter on the bulletin board!)



Announcements

The Giving Tree



Christmas is almost upon us and there are people within our congregation and our church-sponsored friends at Grand View apartments who are in need of a little help to make this Christmas brighter. Please take an ornament (or even two or more) off the Giving Trees in the Narthex. The items (gifts, food, gift certificates) need to be at the church no later than Sunday December 20. Please leave price tags and value of cards attached. The items will be wrapped and delivered by Christmas Eve. If you would be interested in helping with any part of this important project, please let Lois Dunning or Joyce Wittwer know you can help.

REMEMBER! It is more blessed to give than to receive.

THANK YOU ALL!!

Membership and Outreach Ministries

Advent Calendar of Events 2015

Re-discover Christmas!

Advent Soup and Carols
Wednesdays in December
(except December 30)
6:00 p.m.

Nursing Home Caroling
Dec. 6, Eagle Ridge—1:30 p.m.
Dec. 10, Mantey Heights—7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20, Larchwood—1:30 p.m.

First Sunday of Advent
November 29
Hanging of the Greens
10:50 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6
*The Songs of Christmas:
Their History and Meaning*
10:50 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13
*Everywhere, Everywhere,
Christmas is Here*
An Intergenerational
Christmas Program
10:50 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20
*Re-discovering Christmas
Through Holiday Traditions*
10:50 a.m.

Christmas Eve
December 24
Christmas Eve by Candlelight
7:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Christmas
December 27
Christmas Carol Sing
10:50 a.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE COOKIE MINGLE
6:00 P.M. TO 6:45 P.M.

Start your evening off with cookies and a drink in the Fellowship Hall. If you can bring cookies to share, please contact Martha's Ministry (Jeanne Klitzke, Jeanice Swank or Joyce Wittwer)





Announcements

Nominating Committee (Recommendations for 2016)

Congregational Leaders (* Denotes a Board Member)

Note: All department chairpersons and board officers have agreed to continue on with their service.

Officers:

*Moderator	Pam Baumgartle
*Vice Moderator	Lily Fitch
*Secretary	Linda Edwards
*Treasurer	Bill Fitch

Deacons: (1st & 2nd Services)

Norma Lavelett
David Hawley
Connie Hawley
Earnest Eachus

Congregational Representatives:

*DeeAnn Lowry
*Al Baumgartle
*Nancy Claussen

Ruby Eachus
Yvonne Warner
Ruth Acord
Jeanice Swank

Committee Chairpersons:

Bob Wise

*Christian Education	Yvonne Warner
*Evangelism	David Hawley
*Membership	Joyce Wittwer
*Multimedia	Chip Ferron
*Outreach	Lois Dunning
*Property	Chuck Haigler
*Stewardship	Riecke Claussen
*Worship	Nancy Armbruster

Elders:

Suzanne Daniels (1st Service)

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, after the worship service, and before the International Pot Luck. It will be a meeting with two items on the agenda: (1) vote on the nominations for 2016 from the Nominating Committee, and (2) Vote on the 2016 congregational budget.



Announcements

Dear Friends,

The passing of time is bringing a big change to my life. I have been blessed to live in my own home and have someone live with me for the last few years, but I have surprised my children by deciding to try something new. As of December 1st, I am moving to Mesa View Senior Living.

I have lived in this house for 58 years and it is amazing how much stuff I have accumulated! Sandra and Mac are here for Thanksgiving and we will have dinner at my granddaughter Monica and Tony's home. Then we are sorting through 58 years of assorted "treasures"!

I will have a lovely two-bedroom apartment. I look forwards to having you all visit me there. My new address is

**Mesa View
Room 239
601 Horizon Place
Grand Junction, CO 81506**



I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a year filled with many blessings,
Elsie Granere

Transitions Group

The Transitions FOG (fellowship of the grape) group will be having its next get together at the home of Wayne and Tammy Ostermiller on December 19th @6:30pm. Bring wine (or the beverage of your choice) and a finger food to share. Enjoy the lights on your drive out and enjoy visiting with each other in the season we celebrate Christ's birth.

The Ostermillers
541 Lopez Ct.
Clifton, Co 81520
970-462-6120



CWF(DW) General Christmas Party

Join us on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at 12:30pm for our Salad Luncheon and Christmas Party! Please bring your own table service!
~Hosted by Esther Group

Shop With Scrip

Why buy your gift cards (**scrip**) at stores when you have to get in your car, go to the stores and pick them up when you can buy them at our church and give our church a rebate on the cards? The gift cards (scrip) are the same price you'd pay in the stores. The difference is that when you buy scrip through this company, our church gets a "rebate" that stores don't give. This is one way to support our church.

"Scrip" is gift **cards you can buy at stores** such as clothing stores (Herberger's, Kohl's, Macy's), restaurants, (Chili's, Applebee's) grocery stores, home improvement stores, just to mention a few.

We need people to participate in this committee and also in purchasing scrip. If we don't have enough interest, we will be unable to offer this! Please sign-up!!

*****Don't forget, the holidays are coming!! Shopping with Scrip can help with your holiday list AND help out our congregation!*****

Please contact Carol Matthews if interested! 970-773-4797





FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen

Nancy Armbruster

Brenda Armstrong

David Barnes’ Family

Anna Bilyeu

Jessie Bowen

Lois Braun

Tim Burke

Marianne Chapman

Charlie & Carol

Marlis Clark

Marlene Cowan

Chuck Cummings

Arinda Davis’ Family

Melissa Frankland’s Family

Helen Dillard

John Drury

JoAnne Eggers

Larry Eggers

Melanie Ferron & Family

Leon Gardner

Dorothy Griffin

Daneial & Vickie Hagan

Emily Hauquitz

Jason Hawley

David Herrera

Doris Hicks’ Family

Bruce Hines

Kim Hopkins

Robin Jakino

Carol Johnson

Ed Jones

Jordan Jones

Pat Jones

Nora Julette

Harriette & Andy Krall

Gloria Ladehoff

Bette Learned

Anna Lopez

Joyce Lucore

Carla Martin

Jennifer McDaniel

Clare & Ally Morris

Ginger Morris

Larry Petrini

Jeff Rood

Jean Silkey

Greg Stouffer

Lois Stouffer

Jiemon & Tayo Takahashi

Helen Wade

Tammy Wenzinger

D.J. Wilhorn



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

December 6, 2015

No First Service

December 6, 2015 1st Sunday

<u>Worship Leader</u> N/A	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Alice Wieseler	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Beverly Dorson
<u>Children's Moment</u> N/A	Nancy Armbruster	Gloria Jeffery
<u>Offering Elder</u> Ray Farrell	Wes Wade	<u>Greeters</u> Earn Eachus
<u>Communion Elder</u> Grace Farrell	Helen Wade	Ruby Eachus
	<u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Alice Wieseler	<u>Van Driver</u> Terry & Jo Laughlin

December 13, 2015

No First Service

December 13, 2015 2nd Sunday

<u>Worship Leader</u> N/A	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Gary Steed	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Carol Matthews
<u>Children's Moment</u> N/A	Chuck Haigler	
<u>Offering Elder</u> Les Armbruster	Al Ladage	<u>Greeters</u> Walt Meders
<u>Communion Elder</u> Jim Matthews	Jerry Francis	Susan Meders
	<u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Karen Lehman	<u>Van Driver</u> Jerry Francis
	Lois Stouffer	

December 20, 2015

No First Service

December 20, 2015 3rd Sunday

<u>Worship Leader</u> N/A	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Larry Eggers	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Melanie Ferron
<u>Children's Moment</u> N/A	JoAnne Eggers	
<u>Offering Elder</u> Al Baumgartle	Jeanne Klitzke	<u>Greeters</u> Terry Laughlin
<u>Communion Elder</u> Gene Matteson	David Morgan	Jo Laughlin
	<u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Riecke Claussen	<u>Van Driver</u> Leonard & Kathy Gardner
	Nancy Claussen	

December 27, 2015

No First Service

December 27, 2015 4th Sunday

<u>Worship Leader</u> N/A	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Beth Sherry	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Lamar Edwards
<u>Children's Moment</u> N/A	JoAnne Eggers	Joyce Wittwer
<u>Offering Elder</u> Leonard Gardner	Doug Bryant	<u>Greeters</u> Wes Wade
<u>Communion Elder</u> Kathy Gardner	Carolyn Bryant	Helen Wade
	<u>Preparing Diaconate</u> George Decker	<u>Van Driver</u> George Decker
	Barbara Decker	

Church Calendar of Events - December 3, 2015— December 25, 2015

Thursday December 3, 2015

Melanie Out of Office

10:30am Ruth Group (@ Richalyn's)

1:30pm Agape Group

1:30pm Esther Group

6:00pm Praise Team Practice

Friday December 4, 2015

6:00pm Advent Memorial Dinner

Sunday December 6, 2015

2nd Sunday of Advent

NO First Service

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:50am Re-discovering Christmas Through Songs Worship Service

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

1:30pm Caroling at Eagle Ridge

Monday December 7, 2015

10:30am Staff Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday December 8, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

NO MEETING A New Door Opens @ Spoons

4:00pm Disciples Singers

5:00pm Healthy Living

6:00pm Night'n Gals (@ Lily's House)

6:15pm Monument View Flute Circle

Wednesday December 9, 2015

9:30am Newcomers Group

10:00am Bible Study

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Advent Soup and Carols

6:30pm Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Grp

Thursday December 10, 2015

9:30am Young Republican Moms

12:30pm CWF(DW) General

Christmas Party

5:00pm Homeward Bound Ministry

6:00pm Praise Team

Thursday December 10, 2015...

6:00pm CO West Quilters Guild

7:00pm Caroling @ Mantey Heights

Friday December 11, 2015

2:00pm Mexican Train Group

Saturday December 12, 2015

8:00am RMCSC CPE Group

Sunday December 13, 2015

3rd Sunday of Advent

NO First Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:50am Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas is Here Worship Service

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

12:15 Congregational Meeting

12:30pm International Potluck

Monday December 14, 2015

10:30am Staff Meeting

1:30pm FCC Bookworms

5:30pm Youth Education Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday December 15, 2015

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

4:00pm Disciples Singers

5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday December 16, 2015

10:00am Bible Study

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Advent Soup and Carols

6:30pm Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Grp

Thursday December 17, 2015

7:00am School Dist. 51 Meeting

10:00am Prayer Blanket Group

6:00pm Praise Team

Saturday December 19, 2015

8:00am Men's Breakfast

Sunday December 20, 2015

4th Sunday of Advent

NO First Worship

9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews

10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"

10:50am Re-discovering Christmas Through Traditions Worship Service

11:00am Jr. Church

12:15pm Coffee Mingle

1:30pm Caroling @ Larchwood

No Cabinet Meeting

Monday December 21, 2015

Brad Out of Office

9:30am Church Women United

10:30am Staff Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday December 22, 2015

Brad Out of Office

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00am A New Door Opens @ Spoons

4:00pm Disciples Singers

5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday December 23, 2015

NO Bible Study

NO KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Advent Soup and Carols

NO Bible Study

NO Middle/High School

Youth Group

Thursday December 24, 2015

Office Closed for Christmas Eve

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday December 25, 2015

Merry Christmas!

