



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

Reflections on Community Tragedy

Two weeks ago, we were reeling from loss within our church family, and I offered my reflections in a newsletter article. We've said goodbye to too many people in the opening weeks of 2016.

In the past two weeks, we've experienced a different kind of loss, a community tragedy. Headlines from articles around the nation read "Deadly Day for Law Enforcement in the US" and "5 U.S. Law Enforcement Officers Shot Dead Within Days." Here in Grand Junction, the reality of that "deadly day" was made all too real, as Mesa County sheriff's deputy Derek Geer was a victim of that day, leaving behind a wife, two children, and an absolutely stunned community. Deputy Geer was the first Mesa County Sheriff's Deputy to be killed in the line of duty in more than 100 years. In an article written by Zane Matthews and posted on February 12, we find words that help express what we are all feeling:

Whenever we hear of officers across the country who have been killed in the line of duty, our hearts are saddened, to be sure. We can't help but be affected. But, when it happens in our very own community, it suddenly becomes extremely personal. Deputy Geer was one of ours. But, more than that, he was one of us.

I agree with Matthews' words but would add something to them within the Church. Sometimes we find comfort in believing that God is in control, that God is somehow running things - to some extent - in this world. Amidst chaos, we get a sense of peace in knowing that. But when tragedy strikes, we wonder what good it does for God to be in control if God would allow Derek Geer to be shot and killed in the line of duty. Suddenly, God being in control doesn't provide much comfort. Suddenly, we don't feel safe. Suddenly, we feel as if evil might be overtaking our little corner of the world.

So...what can we do as people of faith? How is believing in God helpful at all in such times of tragedy? To begin with, I would suggest we need to re-evaluate what it means for God to be in control. It must mean something that has a bigger picture with a longer term than our individual lives. Here and now, tragedy does strike and people do die. Evil sometimes wins in the moment. Our faith is that God will win in the long-term. But our faith also involves a trust that God loves us, not just communally, not just long-term, but individually here and now.

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Sunday School & Announcements

Reflections on Community Tragedy

(continued from page 2)

God's love doesn't mean that we'll never experience hardship or die; it doesn't. But it does mean God won't let death get in the way of God's relationship with us. Somehow, some way, we will continue on with God forever.

One final thing: when community tragedy strikes, it is easy to give into fear and hate. The young man who shot and killed Deputy Geer did a terrible thing; of that there is no doubt. But if we let that terrible thing lead us to act out of (and even speak out of) fear and hate, that means we're letting evil win. Even amidst tragedy, especially amidst tragedy, as followers of Jesus, we must let love, not hate or evil, win.

~Pastor Brad

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...

February 14 - is my pastor better than your pastor?

February 21 - how far can I take God's grace?

February 28 - where do I fit in the body of Christ?

See you Sunday at 10:00 after first service!

Lily Fitch – Teacher of Christian Education



Many books have been added to our church library these last few months. Please take time to look around. There are many titles to tweak your interest. The FCC Bookworms have just finished reading Bill Bryson's "A Walk in the Woods" in which he rediscovers America on the Appalachian Trail. Do you have any idea how long this trail (could also be considered a trial!) is? Bryson walked over 800 miles of it, but it is about 2,100 miles long and a real challenge even to the seasoned hiker. You will be astounded at the vast range of information and humor that are crammed into this book. A real education to those of us in the west who think we have it all.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thanks, & Announcements



FCC February Birthdays

- February 6 Gretchen Schlechten
- February 8 Harriet Conway
- February 10 Barbara Decker
- February 15 Amy Brammer
- February 20 Jim Matthews
- February 22 Dorothy Rhodes
- February 27 Billy Fitch



FCC February Anniversaries

- February 12 Robert & Carol Johnson
- February 14 Jason & Katie Schuman
- February 14 Larry & JoAnne Eggers
- February 23 Bill & Lily Fitch
- February 27 Gary & Carol Steed

Thank You

Thank you for your gift to Disciples History. First Christian Church we appreciate your contribution of \$25.00 on 12/23/2015 to Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Your gift helps us preserve our history for generations to come.
~Todd Adams, Interim President

Thank You

Thank you for inviting the Gideons into your church and for your support of God's word in reaching the lost. Your donation of \$152.00 is greatly appreciated.
"Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love" 1 Thessalonians 1:3
~The Gideons International

Thank You

The Krebill family would like to thank everyone at FCC for their prayers, calls, cards, visits, and food during this very difficult time. Thank you to the ladies from CWF for the meal you brought to our house and for providing refreshments after the memorial service. Thank you to Brad and Susan Barton for their many visits in the hospital and for helping arrange the memorial service. Everyone at the church has offered to help in some way, which shows what a loving and caring congregation we have. The memorial service was absolutely beautiful and I know many of our church members were there, and those who couldn't make it have been praying for us. We will continue to need your prayers as we try to figure things out, and I know that's something we can count on.
God Bless you.

~Brad, Austin, and Seth Krebill

SOUPEL BOWL SUNDAY

Our youth collected \$241.17 on Souper Bowl Sunday. The proceeds will go to Homeward Bound. Many thanks to those of you who donated for this event and to our Youth who participated!

Thank You

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped with the memorial services for the family and friends of Carol Johnson, Anna Bilyeu, and Pam Krebill. Our church family is always so willing and caring when there is a need to help others who have been touched by deep sadness.
~The Bereavement Dinner/
Receptions Ministry



Announcements

A Note From Brian Schlechten

I started a new position at CoorsTek on December 16th and have found myself working lots of hours trying to get up to speed. Two production planners retired at the end of the year with each working for CoorsTek for 42 years. One of the planners stayed on for 12 days to try and get me trained. It has been a stressful process to say the least.

I have been thinking about the people we have lost in just the last couple of months. The resolution I have come up with is that we spend our lives making, hopefully, good memories with our friends and family. When someone passes we lose those shared memories and so a part of ourselves with each loss. That is why the closer we are to someone the harder is it to let them go. We all wish for happy times but know that our time here on earth is finite. I hope that Jesus can bring peace to all that are hurting at this time, I know I have asked for strength many times in the last 2 months. Please let our First Christian Church family know that we miss and support them.

Blessings to All,
Brian Schlechten

Box top and Education Labels are being readied to send to the Tennyson Center for Children in Denver. Gather up those loose labels and place in the gray box on the Information Table. It takes only a few seconds to cut the labels out of the products you use. Do this for the kids!!!



CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, February 25

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.

LENTEN LUNCHES

Easter is fast approaching, and that means LENTEN LUNCHES—always on Wednesdays at 12 noon starting February 17th. This is a great opportunity to have a soup lunch with friends and hear a very meaningful message from one of our church members. This year’s messages will have to do with “the cross: how it impacts our lives”, so please plan to come! This is also an opportunity for you to share the “soup of your labor” by signing up to bring a soup on Wednesday. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the information table in the Fellowship Hall.

We will look forward to seeing you and any friends you want to bring along! If you have questions, please call Joyce Wittwer at 970-243-6214.





Holy Week Announcements

Holy Week 2016 (March 20-27) Announcements

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, we traditionally celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the last week of his life. This year, we will join our morning worship services into ONE at 10:50a.m., so the combined choirs can lead us in a Cantata called *Come, Touch the Robe*. This moving cantata invites us to consider who Jesus showed himself to be as we remember Jesus' interaction with several people who were with him in his last days.

Journey to the Cross

Holy Week is the time when Christians traditionally re-live the events of Jesus' last week on earth. In recent times, Christians have reduced Holy Week to just a few events and just a few worship services. If you would like to truly remember and re-lives the events leading to the cross, plan to spend 30-60 minutes in the sanctuary - anytime after the conclusion of the morning worship service on Palm Sunday (March 20) and 8p.m. Good Friday (March 25).

Maundy Thursday

We will begin our remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper and death by hammering nails into a cross, considering our sins for which Jesus died. We will partake of the communion meal Jesus instituted on that night. And, we will spend the remainder of our time together hearing from some of the people who were with Jesus in those final days and watching together as candles - representing the light of Jesus life on earth - are extinguished. We will end with the hope of Jesus' prophecy that his death would lead to resurrection.

Easter Prayer Vigil

Please make plans to participate in our congregation's annual Easter Prayer Vigil. Just as Jesus' disciples gathered in the Garden of Gethsemane after the Passover meal on Maundy Thursday to pray (as Jesus commanded them), so too we will gather to pray following our remembrance of that meal in our Maundy Thursday worship service and throughout Good Friday. Please watch for a sign-up sheet on the sign-up table in the fellowship hall, and find 30 minutes to keep awake and pray (either at the church building or in your home.)

Easter Brunch

Every year, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday with worship and with brunch. Please plan to attend this year's Easter Brunch, which will take place at 10a.m. on Easter Sunday (March 27) and will be followed by one special, combined worship service at 10:50a.m.



Announcements

Grief Recover Support Group

GriefShare is a weekly seminar and support group for people grieving the death of someone close to them. This seminar will be March 8-May 31, Tuesdays 6:30pm-8:30pm at First Presbyterian Church, 3940 27 1/2 Rd, Grand Junction.

To register, or for more information, please contact Cindi Brower at 970-242-1923 ext. 25 or cmlbrower@gmail.com. There is a \$20.00 registration fee (includes workbook). More information on the bulletin board.



2016 Elders

(REVISED PHONE NUMBERS)

Al Baumgartle, Chairperson: 243-5891

Suzanne Daniels. Vice Chairperson: 589-6297

Dennis Edwards: 314-7009

Linda Edwards: 314-7009

Grace Farrell: 986-9193

Ray Farrell: 986-9128

Kathy Gardner: 216-6693

Leonard Gardner: 216-6714

Jim Mathews: 773-8280

Gene Matteson: 241-9550

Les Armbruster: 242-2521

There are your elders for 2016. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a visitation or receiving communion from an elder, please contact any of the above elders. This will enable the elders to fulfill these requests. If you would prefer, you could also contact the members of the Visitation Committee and they will relay these requests to me. It is my intent to work closely with the Visitation Committee so as to make it more certain that people requesting the service of an elder will have those requests met. If you would like to contact me personally, my phone number and email are listed below. Thank you for any assistance in this very important matter.

In Christ's Love,

Al Baumgartle

Phone: 243-5891

Email: abaumgartl@aol.com



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen	Pat Jones
Nancy Armbruster	Nora Juette
Brenda Armstrong	Harriette & Andy Krall
Jessie Bowen	Family of Pam Krebill
Lois Braun	Gloria Ladehoff
Tim Burke	Bette Learned
Marianne Chapman	Anna Lopez
Charlie & Carol	Joyce Lucore
Marlis Clark	Carla Martin
Johnny & Marlene Cowan	Jennifer McDaniel
Chuck Cummings	Clare & Ally Morris
Arinda Davis' Family	Ginger Morris
Helen Dillard	Larry Petrini
John Drury	Jeff Rood
Leon Gardner	Jean Silkey
Family of Derek Geer	Lois Stouffer
Dorothy Griffin	Jiemon & Tayo Takahashi
David & Vickie Hagan	Helen Wade
Emily Hauquitz	Tammy Wenzinger
Jason Hawley	Kenna Jo Wieseler
David Herrera	D.J. Wilhorn
Bruce Hines	
Kim Hopkins	
Jamie & Nate	
Robin Jakino	
Ed Jones	
Jordan Jones	



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

February 21, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Wayne Ostermiller

Curtis Rosencrans

Elder

Suzanne Daniels

February 28, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Connie Hawley

Debbie Eisemann

Elder

Linda Edwards

March 6, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Norma Lavelett

DeeAnn Lowry

Elder

Les Armbruster

March 13, 2016

Greeters & Offering

David Hawley

Blanche Marshall

Elder

Dennis Edwards

February 21, 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

Melanie Ferron

Greeters

Lois Stouffer

Gloria Jeffery

Van Driver

Leonard Gardner

Kathy Gardner

Keyboard

Beth Sherry

February 28, 2016 4th Sunday

Worship Leader

Gene Matteson

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 Edward

Joyce Wittwer

Greeters

Karen Lehman

Lois Braun

Van Driver

George Decker

Keyboard

Ray Farrell

March 6, 2016 1st Sunday

Worship Leader

JoAnne Eggers

Offering Elder

Grace Farrell

Communion Elder

Ray Farrell

Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Serving Diaconate

Wes Wade

Helen Wade

Jeanice Swank

Yvonne Warner

Coffee Mingle

Ruth Acord

Jeanice Swank

Greeters

George Decker

Barbara Decker

Van Driver

Terry Laughlin

Jo Laughlin

Keyboard

Paula Schaeffer

March 13, 2016 2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

Al Baumgartle

Offering Elder

Leonard Gardner

Communion Elder

Kathy Gardner

Preparing Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Serving Diaconate

Al Ladage

Jerry Francis

Alice Wieseler

Bob Wise

Coffee Mingle

Marlene Cowan

JoAnne Eggers

Greeters

Lamar Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

Van Driver

Jerry Francis

Keyboard

Pam Baumgartle

Church Calendar of Events - February 18, 2016— March 11, 2016

Thursday February 18, 2016

7:00am School Dist. 51 Meeting
 2:00pm Pinochle Group
 6:00pm Praise Team
 7:00pm Passions Class

Saturday February 20, 2016

8:00am Men's Breakfast
 8:00am RM CSC CPE Group

Sunday February 21, 2016

Leadership Recognition Sunday
 9:00am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews
 10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 12:30pm Chili Cook-Off
 1:30pm Cabinet Meeting
 7:00pm Sunday at Seven

Monday February 22, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday February 23, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 10:00am A New Door Opens @ Spoons
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 4:00pm Disciples Singers
 5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday February 24, 2016

10:00am Bible Study
 12:00pm Lenten Lunches
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)
 6:00pm Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Potluck)
 6:30pm Bible Study
 6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group

Thursday February 25, 2016

3:00pm CWF(DW) Executive Meeting
 6:00pm Praise Team
 7:00pm Passions Class

Friday February 26, 2016

2:00pm Mexican Train Group

Saturday February 27, 2016

8:00am LifeLine Screening

Sunday February 28, 2016

Pastor Brad Out of Town
 Riecke Claussen Presiding
 9:00am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews
 10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 7:00pm Sunday at Seven

Monday February 29, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting
 1:30pm FCC Bookworms
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday March 1, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 4:00pm Grandview Worship
 4:00pm Disciples Singers
 5:00pm Healthy Living

6:30pm Night'n Gals

Wednesday March 2, 2016

10:00am Bible Study
 12:00pm Lenten Lunches
 3:30pm Parkinson's Support Group
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)
 6:00pm Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Suzanne Daniels)
 6:30pm Bible Study
 6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group

Thursday March 3, 2016

9:30am Ruth Group
 1:30pm Agape Group
 1:30pm Esther Group
 6:00pm Praise Team
 6:00pm CO West Quilter's Board

Thursday March 3, 2016...

7:00pm Passions Class

Sunday March 6, 2016

9:00am Contemporary Worship
 9:30am Sunday School/ Book of Hebrews
 10:00am Sunday School/ "Fearless Conversation"
 10:50am Traditional Worship
 11:00am Jr. Church
 12:15pm Coffee Mingle
 7:00pm Sunday at Seven

Monday March 7, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting
 7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday March 8, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group
 10:00am A New Door Opens @ Spoons
 12:00pm Lessons at Lunch
 4:00pm Disciples Singers
 5:00pm Healthy Living
 6:15pm Monument View Flute Circle

Wednesday March 9, 2016

9:30am Newcomers Group
 10:00am Bible Study
 12:00pm Lenten Lunches
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)
 6:00pm Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Pizza)
 6:30pm Bible Study
 6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group

7:00pm CO West Quilter's Guild

Thursday March 10, 2016

9:30am Young Republican Moms
 1:30pm CWF(DW) General
 5:00pm Homeward Bound Ministry
 6:00pm Praise Team

Friday March 11, 2016

2:00pm Mexican Train Group