



First Christian Church (DOC)

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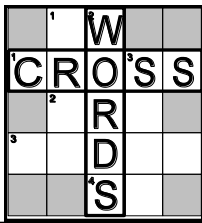
Volume 2 • February 4, 2016

...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

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 Loss

As a church family, we've had a rough beginning to 2016. We've said goodbye to Wilbur and Carol and Anna, and now Pam Krebill. Some of our membership have lost loved ones and family members. We've experienced grave illnesses on the part of others, some of whom are still very ill and facing an uncertain future. It's easy to get down. It's easy to begin wondering if we'll continue to experience the loss of friends and family at such an alarming rate. And it's easy to question where God is in all this.

I've known a number of Christians who believed that prayer and faithfulness on the part of Jesus' followers could prevent all death and heal all wounds. While I don't want to limit what God can do, I don't recall a group of people in human history or even Christian history who were completely free of death and injury and suffering (including the Twelve), which leads me to believe that God is not about the business of preventing all loss of life, that God is not about the business of preventing all illness, pain or suffering. Such belief is simply not consistent with what we experience as the people of God. It is not for us to know why people can't live forever on this earth in this lifetime; it is simply for us to know that this is the reality.

When we come to such a conclusion, however, at least two questions result.

The first question is this: what is the point of prayer? I can't give you a definitive answer; I can only provide my opinion, my perspective. I believe prayer is about relationship, relationship between us and God. We pray to be in relationship with God, to talk to God and to listen to God. Is God changed enough in the relationship of prayer to heal and even extend the lives of our loved ones? I believe so; I believe Jesus' miraculous healings suggest as much. Why, then, does God not heal everyone for whom we pray...every time? Unfortunately, I can't answer that question; it is for God to answer. (If we had the answer, I'm not sure we would like it, even though I'm certain it would be a good one.)

The second question is this: where is God in the midst of pain and loss? I am more certain of my answer to this question, but it is still my opinion. I would suggest God is right there with us, hurting with us, comforting us, offering us relief from the pain and anxiety, and showing us the best way into the future given what has happened.

It has been a tough beginning to 2016. It is my hope that you will seek and find comfort from the God of steadfast love and faithfulness.

- 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.

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.

First Christian Church Chili Cook-Off!



**Sunday February 21!
Starting @ 12:30 p.m.**

Come for chili and to support the Men's Outreach ministries. Spend the afternoon sampling the wide variety of chili and vote for your favorite. We invite all youth and adults to sign up to bring your famous chili. There will be donation baskets on each table, with proceeds benefiting the Men's Outreach ministries. All are welcome to join us for this event! Questions? Contact David Hawley at 970-270-5953!

Souper Bowl of caring is this Sunday!!! The youth will be collecting the change after each worship service and then donating that money to Homeward Bound. Thank you for helping the youth in this annual outreach project!



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!!!



This pin was found in the parking lot with the clasp broken off. Does anyone know who might have lost it? It can be claimed in the church office.



Birthdays & Thanks



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 23 Bill & Lily Fitch
- February 27 Gary & Carol Steed

Thank You

Thank you for your generous contribution of 310lbs of food. Your support enables Community Food Bank volunteers to provide up to nine, three day meal boxes to Mesa County residents in need. We are grateful for your help. Community Food Bank



Ladies of FCCGJ,
Thank you so much for preparing dinner for our family. You will never know how much we appreciate it. The cookies and coffee were welcomed by all of us as well. Thank you again for all the love shown our family through their very sad time.
~The Wilbur Lucore Family

Thank You (Excerpt)

Without your gift of \$125.00 on January 6, 2016, we could not provide necessary services to kids who have survived abuse or neglect, or those who face mental health or developmental issues. Your generous support helps continue our vision of changing lives and giving hope to children and families.

(See bulletin board for full letter)

~Rod Witte, CEO



CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, February 11

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.

Dear members of First Christian Church,
As you all have likely realized Boy Scout Troop 303 has moved to a new charter organization. This decision was a difficult decision for us after all the years of your support, generosity, and kindness towards our troop and scouts. In the end, we just couldn't pass up the opportunity to have access to a Multi-Purpose room facility for our scouts. Access to a multi-purpose room opens up many opportunities for activities and games, especially during cold weather.

Troop 303 wishes to thank you all for all the support you have given us over the years by providing us with a warm, safe facility for our troop home. Your congregation has been a huge part of our success as we strive to build young men of character and integrity.

kindest regards,
Boy Scout Troop 303



Announcements & Thanks

Thank You

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to so many of you, and words seem inadequate at this time. We appreciate Pastor Brad and Susan who visited Dad on numerous occasions, even late in the evening on Christmas Eve. That was so thoughtful, when you could have been home celebrating with the boys, you spent time in prayer with Dad.

We enjoyed the carolers, who brightened up the gloomy room on the Sunday before Christmas. We appreciated the cards, and the love you all sent during Dad's illness, and the many expressions of sympathy following his death.

The CWF deserves special recognition for the delicious dinner you served before the funeral to our big family, and the cookies and drinks served following his service for us to get a chance to greet those attending.

Thank you to those who visited in the hospital and Larchwood, and for the communion that Gene Matteson brought. We also thank those who made the service so meaningful, using their talents with the music, the screen and the words. We appreciate Pastor Brad taking our memories and writing them into an amazing tribute to our Dad.

When writing this, there is a danger in naming names because someone will be left out, but we want all of you to know that we love you and thank you for the overwhelming support we received during this sad time.

We are truly blessed with a wonderful church family!

The family of Wilbur Lucore

The "Passions" class is scheduled to begin Thursday February 4, 2016 at 7:00PM. (4-5 weeks) If you are interested in being in this class please call Deb Eisemann 589-1815 or Marian Velarde 261-3792 to get the details, or if you want to put your name and contact information on the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall one of us will call you.

Also if you have a friend that does not attend the church regularly but that would be interested in attending this class, we would very much like to have them in the class.

Who should attend? Anyone who would like to explore the gifts talents and interests God has given us and the possibilities He has for us in midlife and beyond

The group will look at the book of Ruth from the perspective of Naomi and her midlife experiences of transition and faith. We will use a spiritual gifts inventory and other exercises and journaling experiences to seek understanding to explore what our "passion" or "second calling" might be.

Pinochle

Pinochle (pronounced pee-nuckle) FCC definition: A card game played by beginners and experienced players for fun and fellowship. If you have never played the game, used to play, know how to play or are already playing please come join us on the 3rd Thursday of each month for fun and fellowship. Game time is on Thursday, Feb. 18th from 2PM to 4PM. For more information you may call Jeanne Klitzke at 243-5668 or Larry Eggers at 255-9046. See all ya'll there!



Announcements

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



Lent Announcements



Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016

From ancient times, Christians have gathered on Ash Wednesday, the first day of the liturgical season of Lent, to search their hearts and seek to be cleansed from sin. They have sought reconciliation with God and with one another. They have received ashes marked on their foreheads as a sign of sin's disfigurement and of their own mortality. Let us gather in worship this Ash Wednesday, February 10, at 7 p.m. to continue this tradition as a way of beginning our Lenten journey together in which we confront our brokenness and seek reconciliation.

Ash Wednesday Potluck

Come early at 6:00pm to the Ash Wednesday service and share in our annual pot luck. Please bring a dish to serve 12 people and your own table service.

(For more information, please call
Joyce Wittwer at 970-243-6214)



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.



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen	Jordan Jones
Nancy Armbruster	Pat Jones
Brenda Armstrong	Nora Juette
Family of Anna Bilyeu	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
Chuck Cummings	Jennifer McDaniel
Arinda Davis' Family	Clare & Ally Morris
Helen Dillard	Ginger Morris
John Drury	Larry Petrini
JoAnne Eggers	Jeff Rood
Larry Eggers	Jean Silkey
Leon Gardner	Family of Greg Stouffer
Dorothy Griffin	Lois Stouffer
David & Vickie Hagan	Jiemon & Tayo Takahashi
Emily Hauquitz	Helen Wade
Jason Hawley	Tammy Wenzinger
David Herrera	Kenna Jo Wieseler
Bruce Hines	D.J. Wilhorn
Kim Hopkins	
Robin Jakino	
Family of Carol Johnson	
Ed Jones	



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

February 7, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Norma Lavelett

DeeAnn Lowry

Elder

Al Baumgartle

February 14, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Blanche Marshall

David Hawley

Elder

TBD

February 21, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Wayne Ostermiller

Curtis Rosencrans

Elder

TBD

February 28, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Connie Hawley

Debbie Eisemann

Elder

TBD

February 7, 2016 1st Sunday

Worship Leader

Riecke Claussen

Offering Elder

Grace Farrell

Communion Elder

Ray Farrell

Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Serving Diaconate

Wes Wade

Helen Wade

Jeanice Swank

Yvonne Warner

Coffee Mingle

Gloria Jeffery

Beverly Dorson

Greeters

Donna Ham

Jenny Barnes

Van Driver

TBD

Keyboard

Paula Schaeffer

February 14, 2016 2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

Offering Elder

Kathy Gardner

Communion Elder

Leonard Gardner

Preparing Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Serving Diaconate

Al Ladage

Jerry Francis

Alice Wieseler

Bob Wise

Coffee Mingle

Marlene Cowan

JoAnne Eggers

Greeters

Jeanne Klitzke

Jeanice Swank

Van Driver

TBD

Keyboard

Pam Baumgartle

February 21, 2016 3rd Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

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

TBD

Keyboard

Beth Sherry

February 28, 2016 4th Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

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

TBD

Keyboard

Ray Farrell

Church Calendar of Events - February 4, 2016— February 26, 2016

Thursday February 4, 2016

9:30am Ruth Group
 1:30pm Agape Group
 1:30pm Esther Group
 6:00pm CO West Quilter's Board
 6:00pm Praise Team
 7:00pm Passions Class

Saturday February 6, 2016

5:30pm Grimsley Party (Private)

Sunday February 7, 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 February 8, 2016

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

Tuesday February 9, 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 Mon. View Flute Circle

Wednesday February 10, 2016

Ash Wednesday

9:30am Newcomer's Group
 10:00am NO Bible Study
 4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)
 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Potluck
 6:30pm NO Bible Study
 6:30pm Middle/High School Youth Group
 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday February 11, 2016

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

Thursday February 11, 2016...

6:00pm Praise Team
 7:00pm Passions Class
 7:00pm CO West Quilter's Guild

Friday February 13, 2016

2:00pm Mexican Train Group

Sunday February 14, 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
 12:30pm Elders Meeting
 4:00pm Grimsley Meeting
 7:00pm Sunday at Seven

Monday February 15, 2016

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

Tuesday February 16, 2016

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

Wednesday February 17, 2016

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

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 RMCSC CPE Group

Sunday February 21, 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
 4:00pm 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 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

