



First Christian Church (DOC)

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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 1)

*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.*

It's 2016, a new calendar year, a particular kind of calendar year at that, a presidential election year. Yippee! Or not! Some people love presidential election years because they are full of the hope and promise of something new OR something staying the same; it all depends on what you're hoping for. Other people dislike presidential election years because these years feature a ton of political ads, non-stop political rhetoric, more muckraking (yes, it's a word) than many people care for, few news stories about other worthwhile topics, and a great deal of tension between hard-liners on each end of the political continuum.

Whether or not you like or dislike election years, whether or not you are liberal or conservative, whether or not you are Republican or Democrat or some other party or independent, I've got a few pastoral words for you this presidential election year. I'll share one in this article and add a few more throughout the year.

First and foremost, when it comes to your political identity, try to make sure it flows forth from your Christian identity (and not the other way around.) I'm guessing that last sentence will be read by conservatives and liberals, alike, with thoughts that I'm pushing the agenda of the other side, but I'm not. I'm simply suggesting that when it comes to choosing the issues that matter for you, let those issues be informed and even shaped by your understanding of God and Jesus, whatever that understanding may be. I've known plenty of people who are absolutely on fire for Christ who let that fire lead them to support the Democrats, and I've known plenty of people who are absolutely on fire for Christ who let that fire lead them to support the Republicans. In my estimation, it's the fire for Christ that is important. Jesus did not encourage us to have split identities: one identity in our private lives and another identity in our public/political lives. He encouraged us to have one identity in Him. Plus, when our identities in Christ are left out of the public/political arena, the Christian voice gets left out of the public discourse, and, believe me, that vacuum WILL be filled by something else. Do you want that?

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. Whatever topic that fits your fancy. The upcoming classes for January are as follows:

January 10 - Can God change someone - even if they don't want to be changed?

January 17 - Why should I praise God when my life is hard?

January 24 - Can I be good enough to please God?

January 31 - What does a life of freedom look like?

Lily Fitch – Teacher of Christian Education

It's That Time Again!

The beginning of the new year is here! Please submit your 2016 calendar request forms as soon as possible! Even if you filled one out in 2015, *please* fill out a new form! You can pick up a calendar request form in the church office, email your information, or call the church office! Thank you!!

Attention All Worship Leaders!

There will be a worship leader training on Sunday, January 24, 2016, following second service. If you are now, or would like to be, a worship leader, please plan to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Armbruster 242-2521.

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, January 21

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.

2015 Giving Statements will be ready to pick up by January 24. They will be on the Information table in the Fellowship Hall. Please check your statement, if any errors call Eleanor Hubbell - 242-3583 or Lois Dunning - 242-5437.

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 January Birthdays

January 2	Nancy Armbruster
January 4	Lois Dunning
January 5	Angie Drake
January 6	Cole Barton
January 6	Lamar Edwards
January 16	Juanita Davis
January 19	Rogene Behrendsen
January 20	Anna Bilyeu
January 26	Terry Laughlin
January 27	Dorothy Griffin
January 29	Susan Barton
January 29	Tara Everett
January 30	Austin Krebill

Thank You

My family and I would like to thank those of you who kept us in your prayers and sent cards as we said our goodbyes to David in November. We especially thank Deb Eisemann, Marian Velarde, Beth Sherry, and Donna Ham for the delicious food, goodies, loving presence and hugs(!) you delivered. These angels and the chaplain from Hospice were a blessing and a comfort.
Shalom, Jenny Barnes and Family

Thanks!

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the giving of money, gifts and food for The Giving Tree. Your generosity increased the meaning of the Christmas spirit for yourself through the act of giving and also for those receiving your gifts. Those people included:

- 1 homeless person
- 2 residents at Mantey Heights
- 3 people living at Grandview
- 5 individuals from our church family
- 2 families for a total of 10 more people = 22 individuals

God Bless You and thanks again, Outreach & Membership Ministries

A Big Thank You!

A BIG thank you to the wonderful church women who helped serve and donate food for the memorial dinner to Wilbur Lucore on Thursday, January 7. And, for all the women who brought cookies for the reception following the memorial service.

Also, a very special thank you to Terry Laughlin for helping the women by running the dishwasher.

God Bless Each One of You

~The Bereavement Dinner/
Reception Ministry

Hot cider, cookies and Christmas cheer welcomed those who attended the Christmas Eve services and special thanks are sent to all who provided those delicious cookies and goodies that were shared by all.

~Membership & Martha's Ministry

Thank You

Thank you for your ongoing support. We all appreciate your generosity! The support you provide though delicious, nutritious meals for our residents, from your loving hearts and hands are greatly appreciated!

~HomewardBound Staff





Announcements

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.

Our church has received a complimentary copy of the Quran, which is Islam's revealed text. The Council on American-Islamic Relations has mailed out 100,000 copies to various institutions for use as an educational resource. The Quran was revealed over 1400 years ago and has been translated from Arabic into the English language by an Austrian-Polish convert to Islam. The book will be retained in the library as a reference item rather than a book to check out. Please take time to stop by and look over this book (along with the cover letter) which will be on the south wall next to other books we have on various religions.

Joyce Wittwer - Library

Coat Mix-Up!

Juanita Davis has ended up with a black coat that is not hers! She discovered recently that the coat she is wearing has a pin on it that isn't hers and in closer checking finds the coat has little flecks of white and purple. This coat is a KARIZMA, size 10. If you wear a size 10 and have a black coat, could you check to see if you might be wearing Juanita's coat???? If so, your coat is at the church ready for the big switch.

A Prayer of Thanks

How does one say thank you enough to each and every one for your healing prayers, calls, cards, and words of encouragement. How blessed we are to have such a loving, caring family who serves our Lord in so many wondrous ways. God bless you all.

In His Gracious Name I Pray,
Norma Matteson



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

David & 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 Juette

Harriette & Andy Krall

Gloria Ladehoff

Bette Learned

Anna Lopez

Joyce Lucore

Family of Wilbur 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

January 17, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Wayne Ostermiller

Curtis Rosencrans

Elder

Suzanne Daniels

January 24, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Connie Hawley

Debbie Eisemann

Elder

Ray Farrell

January 31, 2016

Greeters & Offering

TBD

Elder

TBD

February 7, 2016

Greeters & Offering

Norma Lavelett

DeeAnn Lowry

Elder

TBD

January 17, 2016 3rd Sunday

Worship Leader

Gloria Jeffery

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

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

Van Driver

Leonard Gardner

Kathy Gardner

Keyboard

Beth Sherry

January 24, 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 Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

Greeters

TBD

Van Driver

George Decker

Keyboard

TBD

January 31, 2016 5th Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

Offering Elder

TBD

Communion Elder

TBD

Preparing Diaconate

Ray Farrell

Serving Diaconate

Al Ladage

Jerry Francis

Alice Wieseler

Bob Wise

Coffee Mingle

Jim Matthews

Carol Matthews

Greeters

TBD

Van Driver

TBD

Keyboard

TBD

February 7, 2016 1st Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

Offering Elder

Leonard Gardner

Communion Elder

Kathy Gardner

Preparing Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Serving Diaconate

Wes Wade

Helen Wade

Jeanice Swank

Yvonne Warner

Coffee Mingle

TBD

Greeters

TBD

Van Driver

Terry Laughlin

Jo Laughlin

Keyboard

Paula Schaeffer

Church Calendar of Events - January 14, 2016— February 8, 2016

Thursday January 14, 2016

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

Saturday January 16, 2016

8:00am RMCS CPE Group
 8:00am Men's Breakfast

Sunday January 17, 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 Cabinet Meeting

7:00pm Sunday at Seven

Monday January 18, 2016

*** Office Closed for MLK Jr. Day***

9:00am Church Women United

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday January 19, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

10:30am Staff Meeting

12:00pm Lessons at Lunch

1:30pm Membership Meeting

4:00pm Disciples Singers

5:00pm Healthy Living

Wednesday January 20, 2016

10:00am Bible Study

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship Meal
 (Tammy)

6:30pm Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School
 Youth Group

Thursday January 21, 2016

7:00am School Dist. 51 Meeting

6:00pm Praise Team

Friday January 22, 2016

2:00pm Mexican Train Group

Sunday January 24, 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 Worship Leader Training

7:00pm Sunday at Seven

Monday January 25, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting

1:30pm FCC Bookworms

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday January 26, 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 January 27, 2016

10:00am Bible Study

4:00pm (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship Meal
 (Potluck)

6:30pm Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School
 Youth Group

Thursday January 28, 2016

3:00pm CWF(DW) Executive

6:00pm Praise Team

Sunday January 31, 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 Second Service Deacon
 Meeting

7:00pm Sunday at Seven

Monday February 1, 2016

10:30am Staff Meeting

5:30pm Norwex Meeting

7:00pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday February 2, 2016

9:00am Burger King Coffee Group

12:00pm Lessons at Lunch

4:00pm Disciples Singers

4:00pm Grandview Worship

5:00pm Healthy Living

6:30pm Night'n Gals

Wednesday February 3, 2016

10:00am Bible Study

3:30pm Parkinson's Group

4:00pm KFC (Elementary Youth Group)

6:00pm Wednesday Fellowship Meal
 (TBD)

6:30pm Bible Study

6:30pm Middle/High School
 Youth Group

Thursday February 4, 2016

9:30am Ruth Group

1:30pm Agape Group

1:30pm Esther Group

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