



First Christian Church (DOC)

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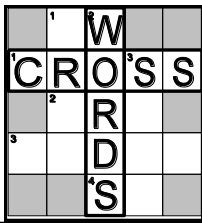
Volume 3 • February 1, 2018

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

**Pr aising God,  
Ch anging Lives!**



# 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

### Church Office Hours:

8:30am-1:30pm

Monday-Thursday

## 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

970-644-2274

[revbradbarton@gmail.com](mailto:revbradbarton@gmail.com)

**Rev. Melanie Ferron**  
Associate Minister

**Paula Schaffer**, Pianist

**Tish Key**, Secretary

**John Moore**, Custodian

## My 3-Month Sabbatical Begins April 2, 2018

If you didn't yet know I am going to be taking a 3-month sabbatical this year, the above article title probably surprised you. If it did, that's ok, as long as it led you to read this article. At our Cabinet meeting Sunday night, the Cabinet urged me to begin talking about my sabbatical with frequency between now and April 2 (the day after Easter this year), so no one will be surprised when I'm not reachable between April 2 and July 2.

### What is a Sabbatical?

The website "Soul Shepherding" defines a sabbatical as:

*...a season of Sabbath for prolonged rest. It's an extended time in which you do no work. You do no pastoring, no leading, no ministering. You don't try to accomplish anything big. You just "do nothing"!*

This idea of sabbatical as prolonged rest (from leading) for pastors is based on the spirit of biblical Sabbath rest. If God proclaimed resting to be a good thing, it must be.

### Why 3 Months, and Why Now?

The straightforward answer to both of these questions is that it's in my Letter of Call and contract with FCCGJ. After 5 years of service, I receive 3 months of Sabbatical time to refresh and recharge for continued leadership in ministry to the congregation.

### What Will I be Doing?

A sabbatical is not an extended vacation but rather a time to rest and refresh for ministry, so that's exactly what I intend to do. I have a week-long retreat in the mountains scheduled beginning April 2, as well as some time to reconnect with my family (it's more difficult to do than you can imagine when you're on call 24/7). I'll also be studying a book about environmental stewardship and learning some practical skills to help in that endeavor.

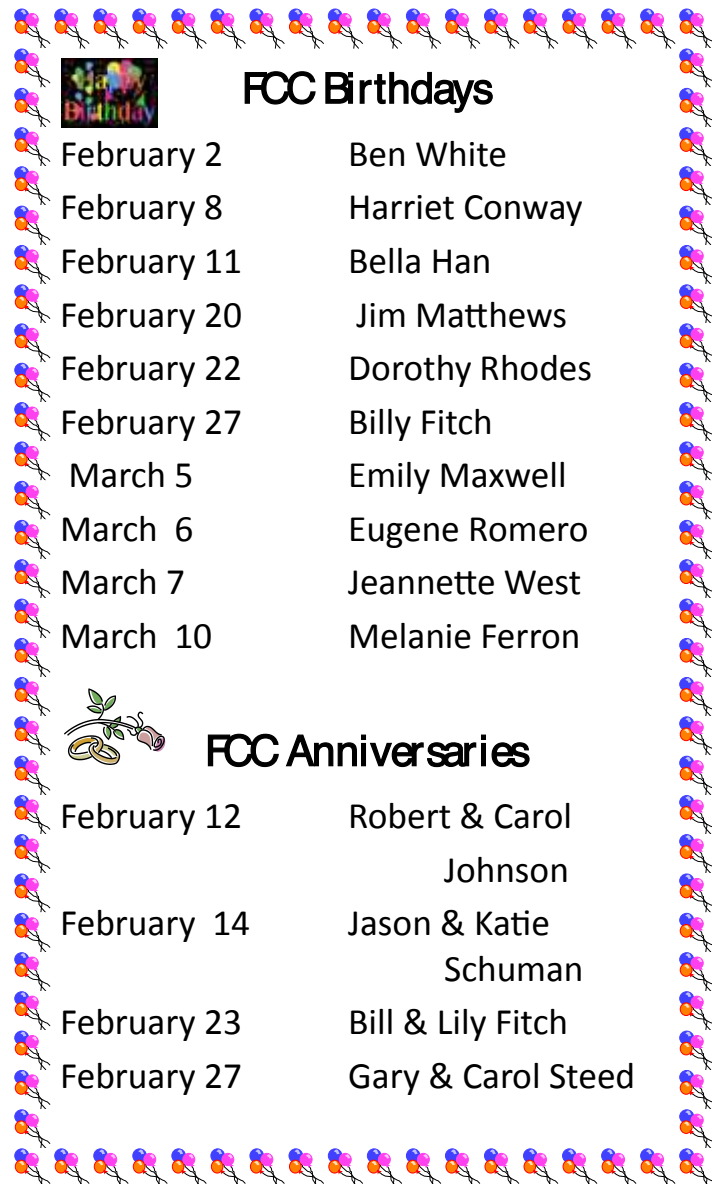
### What You Can Do

Keep supporting the ministries of FCCGJ while I'm away. Pray for me. Study the book I'll be studying (opportunities will be available.) And, most importantly, trust in, pray for, and call the leaders (Pastor Melanie, the Elders, and the Cabinet) who will be assuming my responsibilities while I'm away.

-Pastor Brad



# Birthdays, Announcements & Thanks



## FCC Birthdays

February 2	Ben White
February 8	Harriet Conway
February 11	Bella Han
February 20	Jim Matthews
February 22	Dorothy Rhodes
February 27	Billy Fitch
March 5	Emily Maxwell
March 6	Eugene Romero
March 7	Jeannette West
March 10	Melanie Ferron



## FCC Anniversaries

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

## Many thanks

to Pastor Brad, Melanie, Paula and all who made this past Advent/Christmas season full of joyful memories and experiences to ring in the birth of Baby Jesus. The Children's program and all the Christmas music created many opportunities to relax and enjoy the season. People helped decorate (and undecorate) the church this year; many brought goodies to share; and the wide variety of ornaments on the "family" tree all brought smiles to each of us. Thank You Everyone!



## Thank you

to our drivers who provide transportation to and from Church on Sunday's. These dear ones are my hero's!

Terry & Jo Laughlin

Leonard & Kath Gardner

Jerry Francis

Lamar Edwards & Joyce Wittwer

Fifty –two times a year they work behind the scenes getting our members to Church.

God Bless you all,

Beverly Dorson( Transportation)



Saturday, February 17@ 8 am

Elders Meeting



Sunday, February 11  
@ 12:30

Cabinet Meeting



Sunday, February 25  
@ 4:00

## CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

**Thursday, February 8**

Please submit to the church office or email them to:

[firstchristiangj@hotmail.com](mailto:firstchristiangj@hotmail.com)

Articles arriving later than the deadline included until the next published Crosswords.



## Announcements

The Giving Statements for 2017 are ready for you to pick up.. They are on the information table in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,  
Stewardship.



### **Lent is Coming: Begin Lent with Your FCCGJ Church Family!**

#### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Party**

*Tuesday, February 13, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.*

Spend the last night before Lent eating pancakes, making craft masks, playing games, talking with friends, learning the history of Shrove Tuesday (and why we eat pancakes on this day) and worshipping God.

#### **Ash Wednesday Fellowship Meal and Worship Service**

*Wednesday, February 14*

*Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.*

*Worship @ 6:45 p.m.*

Spend your first day of Lent eating a fellowship meal with your church family, followed by a traditional Ash Wednesday Service and the imposition of ashes as a reminder of human sinfulness. Our Ash Wednesday Service is the fitting way to begin following Jesus on his journey toward the cross.

#### **Lenten Daily Devotionals**

*Daily throughout Lent*

This year's Lenten Daily Devotional guide, prepared by the Society of St. Andrew, is entitled, *Walking in Newness of Life*. "In the devotional booklet, you will find daily meditations and prayers that show how renewal begins or is refreshed, through life's circumstances. These devotionals are written by people of deep and abiding faith: pastors, missionaries, and laypersons from many Christian traditions." Be sure to pick up at copy at the beginning of Lent, and follow the daily devotional guide to help you get closer to guide and prepare yourself for the joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday!



# Announcements

## **Lent & Easter 2018** **First Christian Church, GJ** Focusing on the Cross!

### **Lenten Lunches**

Eat and Listen to Cross-focused talks  
Wednesdays  
Feb 21 - March 28  
12:00 p.m.

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper And Celebration**

Tuesday, February 13  
Eat pancakes, have a party,  
and learn why we do these things  
The day before Lent begins.

### **Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

Wednesday, February 14  
Share a meal with your Church family,  
and receive the imposition of ashes.  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
Worship at 6:45 p.m.

### **Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 25  
Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry  
Into Jerusalem @ both services.  
9:00 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, March 29  
Worship around tables to recall Jesus'  
final evening with his disciples.  
7:00 p.m.

### **Easter Prayer Vigil**

Thursday, March 29 - Friday, March 30  
Participate in 24 hours of continuous prayer.  
8:00 p.m. Thurs. - 8:00 p.m. Fri.

### **Easter Sunrise**

Sunday, April 1  
Proclaim "Christ is Risen"! In two distinct styles,  
and enjoy an Easter brunch with your Church family!  
Easter Sunrise Service @ 9:00 a.m.  
Easter Brunch @ 9:45 a.m.  
Celebration of Resurrection @ 10:50 a.m.



## Announcements

# Vision Committee

Thank you! Thank you!

Almost 50 people attended the Vision Committee luncheon this past Sunday and participated in the round table discussions to identify the needs of those here in our Grand Valley community.

Seven tables each created a list of the hurts and needs we see people around us facing, that could become a focus as our church ministers to the people we encounter right here where we live.

Just as Jesus sought out the needs of those around him as he travelled from town to town, we should each have our eyes open to the needs around us so that we can share Jesus' love and everlasting life to the folks here.

The Vision Committee will meet again in February (2/6/18) and begin to compile and prioritize the lists you all helped create, as we search for the focus and being of First Christian Church Grand Junction.

We ask each of you in the congregation to continue to pray for the committee, and we will continue to welcome thoughts and ideas from everyone as God speaks to our hearts of his desires for us.

Thank you again,

Suzanne Andrew, Committee Chair

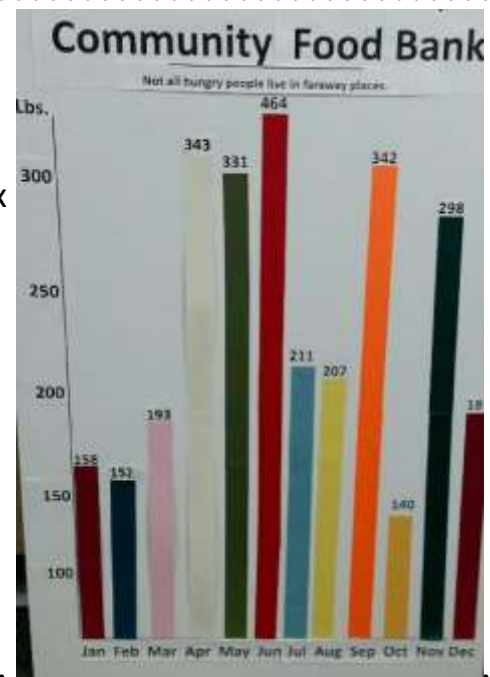
Nancy Armbruster

Riecke Claussen

Leonard Gardner

Lily Fitch

In 2017 First Christian Church, GJ, gave 3,379 lbs. of food to the Community Food Bank. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. A new chart for 2018 is hanging in the Narthex just behind the Membership Table, and already we are off to break our record for last January. Our 2018 contribution of 177 lbs. surpassed last year's January contribution of 158 lbs. Way to go!! Let's make 2018 another great year—one more can of soup will give someone one more meal.





## Announcements



**Sunday, February 4**

All money will be going to **The House**,  
a home for homeless teens

On Sunday February 4, 160 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 4. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

## From The Bookshelf



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The FCC Bookworms got the Christmas spirit this year by reading two Christmas stories. "Skipping Christmas" by John Grisham was our first read, and, oh, the problems the Krank family ran into trying to skip Christmas. "Skipping Christmas" was made into a movie which is called "Christmas with the Kranks", and you can imagine with Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis that it was pretty slapstick—both the book and the movie are a great way to get a good laugh. We also read "A Redbird Christmas" by Fannie Flagg. This novel shows how one small bird can bind a community together with the outcome benefiting them all. You may know Fannie Flagg as an actress who appeared frequently on Match Game. She has written several books including the one that became the movie "Fried Green Tomatoes". We now have three of her books in the library.



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A year or so ago Beverly Dorson donated "Maisie Dobbs" by Jacqueline Winspear to the church library. What a delightful book this is. It is the first in a series of 13 books (so far) about a young investigator with her story beginning in 1929. We have just added "Birds of a Feather" which is the second book in the series. These books are fiction, but you will learn much about post-war Europe while being held in suspense as Maisie solves one mystery after another.

Ann Hutton has donated "The Way She Were Back Then" a Cowboy's Memoir by Scott Walck who spent many years around Collbran and the Plateau Valley. This book, written in 2014, is one of many books we are accumulating about our local history.





# FCC Prayer Concerns

*“Pray without ceasing.”*

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen	Jean Kees
Brenda Armstrong	Betty Learned
The Arnold Family	Mike Loehring
Clara Arroyo	Blanche Marshall
Jack Barton	Cecilia Massey
Lois Braun	Norma Matteson
Sandy & Tim Brown	Brian Neukman
Tim Burke	Scott & Shirley Nider
Amy Burns	Phil Oliver
Randy Cass	Carol Perry
Chuck Cummings	Janice Riches and Family
Dannielle	Oscar Aaron Rodriguez
Dennis	Diana & Memesio Rodriguez
Dennis & Family	Dr. and Mrs. Schwartz
Helen Dillard	John Sherry
Kat Edwards	Lois Stouffer
JoAnne Eggers	Terry
Larry Eggers	Joan White
Vicki Gassman	The Worrell Family
Ethel Goebel	
Kyle Graham	
David & Vickie Hagan	
Connie Hawley	
Jason Hawley	
JoAnne Hill	
Ethel Hoffman	
Eleanor Hubbell	
Thomas Hunn	
Dee Johnson	
Family of BettyAnn Jones	
Ed Jones	
Nora Juette	





# FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

## February 4, 2018

### Elder

Lilly Fitch

### Deacon

Brad Krebill

### Greeter

Brad Krebill

## February 11, 2018

### Elder

Suzanne Andrew

### Deacon

Norma Lavelett

### Greeter

Lavelett

## February 18, 2018

### Elder

Susan Barton

### Deacon

David Hawley

### Greeter

David Hawley

## February 25, 2018

### Elder

Al Baumgartle

### Deacon

TBD

### Greeter

TBD

## February 4, 2018

## 1st Sunday

### Worship Leader

TBD

### Offering Elder

Jim Matthews

### Communion Elder

Carol Matthews

### Greeter

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

Cole Barton

### Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

### Serving Diaconate

Jerry Francis

Wes Wade

Jeanice Swank

Yvonne Warner

### Coffee Mingle

Jeanice Swank

Ruth Acord

### Van Driver

Terry Laughlin

Jo Laughlin

### Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

### Collection Team

Chip Ferron

Riecke Claussen

## February 11, 2018

## 2nd Sunday

### Worship Leader

TBD

### Offering Elder

Leonard Gardner

### Communion Elder

Kathy Gardner

### Greeter

Doug Bryant

Carolyn Bryant

Lamar Edwards

### Preparing Diaconate

Alice Wiesler

### Serving Diaconate

Al Ladage

Bob Wise

Josh Barton

Cole Barton

### Coffee Mingle

Gloria Jeffery

Beverly Dorson

### Van Drivers

Jerry Francis

### Keyboard

Lily Fitch

### Collection Team

Chip Ferron

Riecke Claussen

## February 18, 2018

## 3rd Sunday

### Worship Leader

TBD

### Offering Elder

Chuck Haigler

### Communion Elder

Al Baumgartle

### Greeter

Jim Matthews

Carol Matthews

Pam Baumgartle

### Preparing Diaconate

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

### Serving Diaconate

Doug Bryant

Carolyn Bryant

Nancy Claussen

David Morgan

### Coffee Mingle

Melanie Ferron

### Van Driver

Leonard Gardner

Kathy Gardner

### Keyboard

Beth Sherry

### Collection Team

Chip Ferron

Riecke Claussen

## February 25, 2018

## 4th Sunday

### Worship Leader

TBD

### Offering Elder

Beth Sherry

### Communion Elder

Lois Dunning

### Greeter

Chuck Haigler

Earn Eachus

Ruby Eachus

### Preparing Diaconate

Marian Velarde

### Serving Diaconate

Jeanne Klitzke

JoAnne Eggers

Ruth Acord

Jodi Gabel

### Coffee Mingle

Lamar Edwards

Joyce Wittwer

### Van Driver

TBD

### Keyboard

Ray Farrell

### Collection Team

Chip Ferron

Riecke Claussen

# Church Calendar of Events - February 1, 2018— February 25, 2018

## Thursday February 1, 2018

### Crosswords

9:30 am Ruth Group  
1:30 pm Dorcas Group  
6:00 pm Praise Team  
6:00 pm Co. West Quilters Board

## Friday February 2, 2018

6:00 pm Winterfest (lock-in)

## Saturday February 3, 2018

10:00 am End Winterfest  
4:00 pm Grand River Hospital District

## Sunday February 4, 2018

9:00 am Contemporary Worship  
9:30 am Traditional Sunday School  
10:00 am Contemporary Sunday School  
10:50 am Traditional Worship  
11:00 am Jr. Church  
12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

## Monday February 5, 2018

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

## Tuesday February 6, 2018

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group  
10:00 am Friends Going Forward  
12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch  
5:00 pm Healthy Living  
6:30 pm Night'ngals

## Wednesday February 7, 2018

10:00 am Morning Bible Study  
3:30 pm Parkinson's Support Group  
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal- Pizza  
6:30 pm Youth Group  
6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

## Thursday February 8, 2018

### Crosswords Deadline

1:30 pm Homeward Bound Ministry  
1:30 pm CWF(DW) General  
6:00 pm Praise Team

## Friday February 9, 2018

2:00 pm Mexican Train Team

## Sunday February 11, 2018

9:00 am Contemporary Worship  
9:30 am Traditional Sunday School  
10:00 am Contemporary Sunday School

10:50 am Traditional Worship  
11:00 am Jr. Church

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle  
12:30 pm Elders Meeting

## Monday February 12, 2018

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

## Tuesday February 13, 2018

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group  
12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch  
1:30 pm PEO Chapter Meeting  
5:00 pm Healthy Living  
6:00 pm Shrove Pancake Supper & Party

## Wednesday February 14, 2018

\*\*\*\*Valentines Day\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*Ash Wednesday\*\*\*\*\*

9:30 am Newcomers Group  
10:00 am Morning Bible Study  
6:00pm Ash Wednesday Potluck  
6:30 pm Youth Group  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

## Thursday February 15, 2018

### Crosswords

6:00 pm Praise Team  
7:00 pm Co. West Quilters Guild

## Saturday February 17, 2018

8:00 am Men's Breakfast  
8:30 am RMCSC CPE Group  
12:00 pm Territorial Daughters Meeting

## Sunday February 18, 2018

\*\*\*\*Week of Compassion\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*Special Offering\*\*\*\*

9:00 am Contemporary Worship  
9:30 am Traditional Sunday School  
10:00 am Contemporary Sunday School

10:50 am Traditional Worship  
11:00 am Jr. Church  
12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

## Monday February 19, 2018

9:30 am CWU  
10:30 am Staff Meeting  
1:00 pm FCC Bookworms  
7:00 pm M&M Bible Study  
13:30 pm Chili Cook -off

## Tuesday February 20, 2018

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group  
10:00 am Friends Going Forward  
12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch  
5:00 pm Healthy Living

## Wednesday February 21, 2018

10:00 am Morning Bible Study  
11:00 am Lenten Lunches  
6:00pm Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal- Tish

6:30 pm Youth Group

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

## Thursday February 22, 2018

### Crosswords Deadline

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

## Friday February 23, 2018

\*\*\*\*Week of Compassion\*\*\*\*

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group

## Sunday February 25, 2018

\*\*\*\*Week of Compassion\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* Special Offering \*\*\*\*

9:00 am Contemporary Worship  
9:30 am Traditional Sunday School  
10:00 am Contemporary Sunday School  
10:50 am Traditional Worship  
11:00 am Jr. Church  
12:15 pm Coffee Mingle  
4:00 pm Cabinet Meeting