



First Christian Church (DOC)
 1326 North 1st Street
 Grand Junction, CO 81501
 firstchristiangj@hotmail.com
www.gjdisciples.org
 970.242.7204—phone

Return Service Requested

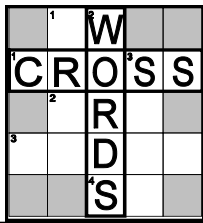
Volume 22● October 24, 2019

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

Pr aising God,
 Changing Lives!



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Services each Sunday...

Praising God, Changing Lives for 135 Years!

Summer Hours

One Worship

10:50 AM

Coffee Mingle

12:15 PM

Church Office Hours:

9:15 am-1:30 pm

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

Rev. Melanie Ferron
Associate Minister

Paula Schaffer, Pianist

Tish Key, Secretary

Challenges of an Aging Congregation

It's been a fascinating week in the offices of First Christian Church, Grand Junction, and it's been a challenging week. More than any week since I was called to serve FCCGJ more than 7 years ago, I am aware of the challenges facing an aging congregation. I invite you to read this article and then pray with me for guidance from God. I have no doubt God seeks to guide us, God will guide us, into the best possible future for us, even as our congregation ages.

But first: let's accept the reality that we are aging as a congregation. This has little to do with whether or not we want it to be true. Look around: there aren't many children or youth. Look some more: there are almost no young adults. Look even closer: Generation X and the younger Baby Boomers are barely represented as a percentage of the congregation. The reality is: we are aging. None of us can stop the individual aging process. None of us have successfully halted our communal aging process.

Aging together has its blessings and its challenges.

The blessings:

- We relate well with others of our own generation. We share a similar culture; we share similar desires; we even share similar memories.
- Our church building, activities, and worship feel comfortable to us; they remind us of what church was like in the past; they are comfortable.
- We feel like a more close-knit family.

The challenges:

- Our members become less able to participate regularly. Some become homebound. Some end up in nursing facilities. Some die.
- None of us can do everything we used to be able to do, which means we need to spread the leadership around among more people; yet, there are fewer people able to take on the responsibilities of leadership.
- We fear the future. Looking ahead, we see ever more aging; it's irreversible. So we worry about what the future will bring.

There are more blessings and more challenges but little space. So, I want to address the chief challenge I have faced this week: mental decline. For a whole host of reasons, as people age they become more susceptible to cognitive impairments. We know this to be true. As the average age of our congregation increases, we know the incidence of mental decline will increase. Some people won't be able to think as well or function as well as they used to be able to. There's nothing inherently wrong with this; it is natural. However, for optimal congregational functioning, we absolutely, positively, must both recognize this reality and be open to living, leading, and loving as best we can within the context of this reality. If one of our dear family members can no longer do what she or he could once do, we must recognize it and help that person learn new roles lovingly suitable to the new reality. Those of us who can must also do our part to perform new roles as they arise. Please pray for congregational discernment surrounding this issue, that we may live into God's desired future for us.

- Pastor Brad

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Announcements

FCC Birthday

October

October 25	Johnny West
October 26	Gloria Jeffery
October 28	Joyce Wittwer

November

November 2	Elsie Ladage
November 8	Karen Lehman
November 9	David Morgan
November 13	Ruby Eachus
November 18	Dennis Edwards
November 18	Walter Meders
November 30	Leonard Gardner

FCC Anniversary

October

October 27	Dennis & Linda Edwards
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November

November 22	Ron & Marian Velarde
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It's time again!! To take pictures for the Pictorial Directories. If you have not had your picture taken for the directory or would like to have a new picture taken, please let Joyce Wittwer know so we can take your picture after worship during the months of October and November. Thanks, Joyce 243-6214



Here's the Preaching schedule for Oct.– Nov.

- October 27 - Pastor Melanie
- November 3 - Pastor Brad (Series: Back to Basics)
- November 10 - Pastor Brad (Series: Psalms of Thanksgiving)
- November 17 - Pastor Brad (Series: Psalms of Thanksgiving)
- November 24 - Pastor Brad (Series: Psalms of Thanksgiving)

Special Board Meeting

Sunday, November 3rd

@12:30 pm



Saturday November 16th

@ 8 am

Elders Meeting

Sunday, November 10th

@ 12:30 pm

Board Meeting

Sunday, November 17th

@12:30 pm



Announcements



Creation Care

The Sierra Club recently had a flyer in their literature for members explaining “The Truth About Plastic”. Here are some of their figures:

10 Billion plastic bags are used each week. Only 1% is recycled.

2,500,000 plastic bottles are used hourly by Americans.

7,000 years pass before plastic is degraded in landfills.

100,000 mammals & 1 million sea birds are killed by ocean debris each year.

They also had some suggestions on how to use less plastic:

1. Carry a reusable bag to the store. (Plastic bags are choking marine life and there is no reason to ever use them!)
2. Don't buy what you don't need. (It may seem obvious, but asking yourself, “Do I really need this?” can save both money and plastic.)
3. Use a reusable water bottle, every time. (Instead of plastic, use an environmentally friendly alternative, such as stainless steel, glass, or a wooden refillable bottle.)
4. Don't use a disposable razor. (Your planet isn't disposable, so why should your razor be?)
5. Carry a travel mug. (If you drive, keep it in your car so you won't forget. Even when coffee cups are made of paper, the lids are usually plastic. And say no to plastic stirrers!)
6. Reuse your plastics. (Have plastic bottles? Find new purposes for them, like watering your plants. Have a plastic margarine tub? It's perfect for leftovers.)
7. Choose natural fibers. (Synthetics include plastic and other microfibers that may not break down for thousands of years. Instead choose cotton, wool, hemp, and silk.)
8. Buy powdered laundry detergent. (It comes in boxes instead of liquid detergent, which comes in plastic bottles.)
9. Stop chewing gum. (Or at least make sure it's all natural. Believe it or not, most gums are now made with plastic—chew on that for a minute...and then don't!)
10. Buy in bulk. (The larger portions you buy, the less packaging you use. Buying in bulk also means fewer trips to the store, which helps cut your carbon footprint.)

Their (Sierra Club) flyer was printed with vegetable-based ink on recycled paper and, of course, is recyclable. Hope you see some new ideas in here to help save our planet.



Announcement

Little Free Library and Love in Action Box Update

We have two boxes out by the gardens, in the church lawn.

The box closest to the church, when walking down the sidewalk, is the Love in Action Box. This box is to hold items such as: seasonal clothing (socks, coats, gloves and mittens), toiletry items (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, women's pads etc.), shelf stable food (trail mix, peanut butter, water bottles, beef jerky etc) and other things that seem appropriate like school supplies.

The box further down the sidewalk, closest to 1st street, is the Little Free Library. This is the box where all books are to be placed.

If you stop by to drop off items in either box and the box is full then you can drop off the items in the church's Outreach Room, which is outside of Pastor Brad's office. These items can then be used to fill the boxes when they are getting empty.

If you notice something that does not seem "right" when you stop to drop off items or get items from either of the boxes, then please fix what you see if you feel that you can do so. (These boxes do not have an owner. They are there for all of us to use, and to keep an eye on.) For example:

The Love in Action box has been being filled with books. Books go in the Little Free Library. Move the books to the appropriate place, if you are able. (However, I am placing a new sign up that I hope will communicate better the purpose of the Love in Action Box.)

If you find something inappropriate in either of the boxes like a needle or pornography, then please dispose of those things if you feel safe to do so. Otherwise let someone on the ministry staff know immediately because we do not want to risk someone getting hurt.

We are very fortunate that our boxes, so far, are being used for the purposes for which they've been placed in our yard. They seem to be being used to help our neighbors in need. I just said to Josh the other day, "I don't think I've ever seen a Little Free Library used this much!" The Love in Action box is also very well utilized. I do not have as much experience with them, but I can tell you that everything we place in the box is taken.

Our biggest need is for people to bring shelf stable food and other items for the Love in Action Box. Please help as you are able.

May we continue to love our neighbors as Jesus called us to!

Susan Barton, Outreach Chairperson, Member of Creation Care Ministry



Announcements



On **November 3, 2019**, we will celebrate during the morning Worship services the lives of family members and friends we lost this past year. As part of the service their names will be called out and a chime will ring. If you have someone you would like honored in this way, either call the office or place their name and your relationship in the offering plate.

Deadline to contact the church is Monday, October 28, 2019.

Your Name _____

Loved One's Name _____

Relationship _____



Announcements



Conversational Sunday School Class Update

A new series in the Conversational Sunday School class (Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the large Sunday School Classroom) is scheduled to begin soon. Mark your calendars for November 10.

The first series of classes entitled, "What do you believe?" has ended. As planned, we will take a break for several weeks before reconvening with a new series. The new series will be called "Giving Thanks in ANY Situation" and will explore the challenges of giving thanks to God amidst difficult circumstances.

While the sessions of the series, which runs November 10-November 24, will be conversational, I will focus attention on specific Psalms to encourage dialog.



CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday October 31rd

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.

Thank-You

I want to send out a heart
felt thank- you to my
Church Family for all the
Calls, Cards and Visits
after my surgery.

Nancy Armbruster



Please remember to pick up
your Operation Christmas
Child shoebox in the
Narthex.

19. Do you have a favorite movie or genre of movies? What is the name of the movie and/or genre? Or, maybe movies lull you to sleep, tell that story. That's OK too! It's your story!
20. Did you have a least favorite grade in school growing up or a least Favorite age? Why did you not like it? (If you liked all ages and stages, explain why!)





Announcements



Need Something Fixed?

On Saturday, October 26, 2019, FCCGJ will be launching Grand Junction's inaugural Repair Cafe!

We will have people ready to fix all kinds of things:

- jewelry
- bicycles
- furniture
- small appliances/electrical
- clothing/sewing
- even a table with glue, string, and tape

Mark your calendars, look for stuff you need repaired, and please, TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Repair Cafe
October 26, 2019
9am-2pm
1st Christian Church
1326 N. 1st Street
Grand Junction 81501



Announcements



Thursday, October 31 @ 6:00 PM

West side of the parking lot

Trunk or treating is a safe, fun alternative to door-to-door "trick or treating"! Cars that have been decorated for Halloween will be lined up in our parking lot with trunks full of goodies. Children go trunk to trunk in their costumes to collect their treats. Please help us reach out to the children and their parents in our neighborhood by decorating your car trunk and spending a couple hours meeting them. Tammy Ostermiller will provide a chili supper for those who are working this event.

We will be collecting candy to hand out to the kids. The collection box will be in the Narthex.

If you will be decorating your car trunk for this event please let us know on the **sign up sheet** on in the Fellowship Hall.

For further information contact

Tammy Ostermiller @ 462-6120



Halloween Candy Collection

We will be **collecting candy** to hand out to the kids on Halloween. The collection box will be in the Narthex.

Thank You!!



A Little Food Bank Comparison

2018

Jan.	#177 food
Feb.	#142 food
Mar.	#170 food
Apr.	#240 food
May	#100 food
June	#223 food
July	#223 food
Aug.	#198 food
Sept.	#117 food
Oct.	#176 food
Nov.	#76 food
Dec.	#285 food

2019

#210 food & \$20.00
#150 food & \$215.00
#192 food & \$170.00
#160 food & \$80.00
#153 food & \$30.00
#210 food & \$230.00
125 food
N/A
#180 food

Reminder:

Daylight

Savings Time

Sunday, November 3rd

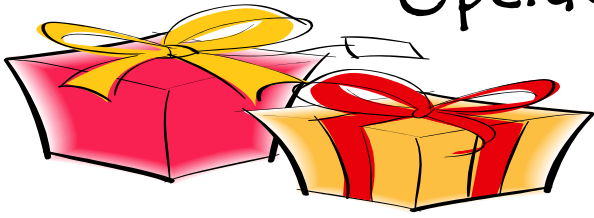
Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday
night before you go to bed!





Announcements

Operation Christmas Child



Imagine the childlike joy of boys and girls as they open their presents on Christmas morning. Now imagine that joy manifested tenfold as a child who never received a present, a child who has suffered because of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness or neglect, receives a shoebox

overflowing with gifts. That's the impact that Operation Christmas Child has on needy children around the world.

As a reminder, Christmas Boxes are due at the church by November 10, 2019.

There are shoe boxes wrapped in Christmas paper in the

Fellowship Hall. Inside the boxes, there are instructions on what to do.

I would like to also thank you all for your generosity. I know the children will be so excited!

Please add \$9.00 for Shipping

Things to Bring

for the Christmas Boxes

Stocking caps

Gloves

Barbie Dolls

Soccer Balls

Tennis Balls

Yo Yo's

Toy Cars

Underwear

Socks

Clothes

Shoes

Toys

Books

Bibles

Balloons

Hair brushes

Combs

Hair Barrettes

Hair Ribbons

Dolls of any kind

Stuffed toys

Color Books

Crayons

School supplies

Calculators

Plastic Water Bottles

Plastic Cups

Soap tied in a Washcloth

Things NOT to bring

No Candy

(not even hard candy)

No Toothpaste

No War figurines

No War toys

No lotion

No liquid of any kind

The children will
LOVE anything you
are able to give
them!

Thank You



Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 9, 2019

8:30 AM—2:00



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1326 N. 1st Street
Grand Junction, CO
970-242-7204

Beef and Noodles Luncheon 11am – 1pm

\$7.50 for adults; \$3.00 for children 12 and under.

Fabulous crafts; Famous Grandma's Attic, Delicious

Baked Goods, Frozen Meals, and Books

Special new addition – Prayer Stations available

8:30am – 2pm in the Sanctuary – open for all!!

Come experience new methods of prayer.

**Invite your family, friends and
Neighbors**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BRINGING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS:

Grandma's Attic – Can bring in after church on November 3rd – NOTHING BEFORE
THAT PLEASE

Put items in the Narthex

Also – no furniture please.

Baked Goods – Thursday November 7th.

Books - Can bring now to the Library. There is a corner they can be stacked in.

Crafts – anytime beginning Monday November 4th –NOTHING BEFORE THAT PLEASE

Please contact Yvonne Warner if you need to drop off items earlier.

Thanks



September 24, 2019

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1326 N. First Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

RE: Thank You

Dear First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),

On behalf of all of us at HomewardBound of the Grand Valley, I want to thank you for your gift of \$41.66 received on 09/11/2019. This donation benefits families, veterans and singles by giving them access to vital food, shelter and other programs they need to move from surviving to thriving in our community.

HomewardBound is an Enterprise Zone, which means you are entitled to a 25% tax credit in the state of Colorado for donations totaling \$50 or more in a year. To receive this credit and have a certificate issued, you will need to provide HomewardBound your organization's Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN). If you have donated to us, and **have not yet provided us with this information**, please call our Administrative Director, Ashley Giese, at (970) 985-7430.

Your kindness is more than a contribution, it ensures the safety and well-being of everyone in our community, and - most importantly - helps those without a place to go break the cycle of homelessness.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Redmond".

Jesse Redmond
Development Director
970-985-7422
jredmond@hbgv.org

Thank you!

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. HomewardBound of the Grand Valley is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN 26-0052916.

HomewardBound 2853 North Avenue Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-256-9424

FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Clara Arroyo	Betty Learned
Kimberly Barton	Ken & Judy Maurer
Pam Baumgartle	Faye Morosini
Jim Bennett	Ginger Morris
Bill Brown	Brian Neukman
Amy Burns	Dennis Parks
Gale Carper	Carol Perry
Howard Coltfelter	Steve Pratt
Robert Chandler	Scott Rienks & Family
Chuck Cummings	Ike Rogers
Annabelle Decker	Kyle Rosencrans
Barbara Dunning	Paul Scanga
Earn Eachus	John Sherry
Sheana Emerson	Lois Stouffer
Rutha Hart	Angie Tanksley
David & Vickie Hagan	Tierney
JoAnne Hill	Ron Velarde
Ethel Hoffman	Joan White
Eleanor Hubbell	
Dee Johnson	
Ed Jones	
Nora Juette	
Hailer Kellog	
Don Klitzke	
Peggy Lawler	



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

October 27, 2019

4th Sunday

Worship Leader

Ray Farrell

Elders

Jeanice Swank

Lois Dunning

Greeter

Gloria Jeffery

David Morgan

Adele Matera

Preparing Diaconate

Marian Velarde

Serving Diaconate

Marian Velarde

Dennis Edwards

Ruth Acord

Jodi Gabel

Van Driver

If you need a ride, call the office by Tuesday

Coffee Mingle

Beverly Dorson

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Al Baumgartle

Ray Farrell

November 3, 2019

1st Sunday

Worship Leader

Joyce Wittwer

Elders

Jim Matthews

Carol Matthews

Greeter

Melanie Ferron

Jeanice Swank

Lamar Edwards

Preparing Diaconate

Karen Lehman

Serving Diaconate

Kathy Moore

Jerry Francis

Jeanice Swank

Yvonne Warner

Van Driver

If you need a ride, call the office by Tuesday

Coffee Mingle

November Birthday Cake

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Chip Ferron

Riecke Claussen

November 10, 2019

2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

Lois Dunning

Elders

Chuck Haigler

Al Baumgartle

Greeter

Alice Wieseler

Bob Wise

Pam Baumgartle

Preparing Diaconate

Alice Wieseler

Serving Diaconate

Bob Wise

Al Ladage

Josh Barton

Cole Barton

Van Driver

If you need a ride, call the office by Tuesday

Coffee Mingle

Ruth Acord

Jeanice Swank

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Chip Ferron

Riecke Claussen

November 17, 2019

3rd Sunday

Worship Leader

Pam Baumgartle

Elders

Ray Farrell

Riecke Claussen

Greeter

Jeanne Klitzke

Ruth Acord

Cole Barton

Preparing Diaconate

Riecke Claussen

Nancy Claussen

Serving Diaconate

David Morgan

Doug Bryant

Carolyn Bryant

Nancy Claussen

Van Driver

If you need a ride, call the office by Tuesday

Coffee Mingle

Melanie Ferron

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Chip Ferron

Riecke Claussen

Church Calendar of Events - October 24, 2019– November 22 , 2019

Thursday October 24, 2019

**** Crosswords****

1:30 pm Monthly Mission Day

6:00 pm Praise Team

Friday October 25, 2019

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group

6:00 pm Repair Café set-up

Saturday October 26, 2019

9:00 am Repair Café

Sunday October 27, 2019

****Pastor Melanie Preaching****

Pastor Brad out of Town*

****Food Bank Sunday****

NO Sunday School Class

10:50 am Worship

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

Monday October 28, 2019

****Pastor Brad out of Town****

10:30 am Staff Meeting

6:30 pm Craft Group

7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday October 29, 2019

****Pastor Brad out of Town****

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday October 30, 2019

****Pastor Brad out of Town****

NO Morning Bible Study

NO Evening Bible Study

Thursday October 31, 2019

****Pastor Brad out of Town****

****Crosswords Deadline****

NO Praise Team

6:00 pm Trunk or Treat

Saturday November 2, 2019

****Pastor Brad out of Town****

8:30 am Babysitter Class/ CPR First Aid Training

Sunday November 3, 2019

****Daylight Savings Time****

NO Sunday School Class

10:50 am Worship

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

12:30 pm Special Board Meeting

Monday November 4, 2019

10:30 am Staff Meeting

1:30 pm FCC Bookworms

7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday November 5, 2019

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00 am Friends Going Forward

5:00 pm Healthy Living

6:30 pm Night'ngals

Wednesday November 6, 2019

Pastor Brad @ Regional Board

NO Morning Bible Study

3:30 pm Parkinson Support Group

NO Evening Bible Study

Thursday November 7, 2019

Pastor Brad @ Regional Board

**** Crosswords****

9:30 am Ruth Group

1:30 pm Dorcas Group

6:00 pm CO. West Quilters Board

6:00 pm Praise Team

Friday November 8, 2019

Pastor Brad @ Regional Board

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group

Saturday November 9, 2019

Pastor Brad @ Regional Board

8:30 am Christmas Bazaar

8:30 am Babysitter Class/ CPR First Aid Training

Sunday November 10, 2019

9:30 am Sunday School Class

10:50 am Worship

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle/ Sandwich & a Show

12:30 pm Elders Meeting

Monday November 11, 2019

10:30 am Staff Meeting

6:30 pm Craft Group

7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday November 12, 2019

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

1:30 pm PEO Chapter Meeting

5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday November 13, 2019

9:30 am Newcomers Group

10:00 am Morning Bible Study

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

@ the Armbruster's house
(615 Pioneer Rd).

7:00 pm Co. West Quilters Guild

Thursday November 14, 2019

**** Crosswords Deadline****

1:00 pm CWF General

5:00 pm Homeward Bound Ministries

6:00 pm Praise Team

Saturday November 16, 2019

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

8:30 am RMCSE CPE Group

12:00 pm Territorial Daughters Group

Sunday November 17, 2019

9:30 am Sunday School Class

10:50 am Worship

12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

4:00 pm Board Meeting

Monday November 18, 2019

930 am CWU Group

10:30 am Staff Meeting

1:30 pm FCC Bookworms

7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday November 19, 2019

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00 am Friends Going Forward

5:00 pm Healthy Living

6:00 pm Photography Group

Wednesday November 20, 2019

10:00 am Morning Bible Study

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

@ the Armbruster's house
(615 Pioneer Rd).

Thursday November 21, 2019

**** Crosswords ****

12:30 pm PEO Special Meeting

1:30 pm Monthly Mission Day

6:00 pm Praise Team

Friday November 22, 2019

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group