



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

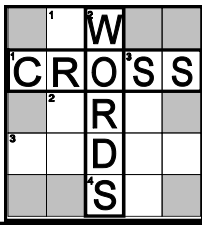
Volume 24 • November 21, 2019

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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

Happy Thanksgiving!

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As we approach our nation's Thanksgiving Holiday, it would be easy to get caught up in the frenzied activity of what the holiday has become:

- Cooking, baking, and cooking and baking some more!
- Eating all kinds of glorious things we eat once or twice a year!
- Even serving at the Community Thanksgiving dinner, which means you've got even less time to take care of the cooking and eating.
- Shopping because, you know, Black Friday now starts even before Thanksgiving but really picks up this year on November 28 (aka Thanksgiving Day).
- Watching football...and basketball!

It would be easy to get caught in the frenzy of what the holiday has become and forget how the holiday should speak to us as Christians.

So...each year, as I start to get overwhelmed by all that Thanksgiving has become, I stop to reflect on the Apostle Paul's words:

- “Rejoice always.” What great advice. Every time I turn on the news and most of the time I look at Facebook, there are reasons to do something other than rejoice. But, once I start rejoicing, everything changes. I recommend this as a biblical strategy to cure any and every form of complaining: if you feel like complaining, rejoice instead. It will change your life.
- A word on “always”. If you rejoice “always”, there's no room for anything else: no room for feelings of doom and gloom, nor room to complain about the state of things (even the state of the congregation or Church)...just rejoicing.
- “Pray without ceasing.” In its context, I see this exhortation to “pray” as a way of Paul telling us to not just rejoice in general but to rejoice to God (and to give thanks to God.) It makes a difference to rejoice to God instead of some other way.
- “Give thanks in all circumstances.” In other words, even if you're day stinks, give thanks to God ANYWAY. As I said above, it will change your life!

Our nation's Thanksgiving holiday approaches. Let's give thanks to God...because “it's the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (By the way, did you notice that fixing things and being critical is not what Paul proclaimed God's will to be?) Give thanks!

- Pastor Brad

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Announcements

FCC Birthday

November

November 30 Leonard Gardner

December

December 1 Greg Sherry
December 4 Janet Biederman
December 6 Jenny Barnes
December 9 Verda
December 10 Jodi Gabel
December 10 Al Ladage
December 12 Phyllis Godfrey
December 21 Gaylene Grimsley
December 22 Carol Steed
December 23 Marian Velarde
December 26 Tammy Ostermiller
December 27 Gabrielle James

FCC Anniversary

November

November 22 Ron & Marian Velarde

**We Need help COOKING
turkeys for the free
Thanksgiving Day Meal**



Saturday, December 21st

@ 8 am

Here's the Preaching schedule for Nov-Dec.

- November 24 - Pastor Brad (Series: Psalms of Thanksgiving)
- December 1—Pastor Brad (Hanging of the Greens: Sermon Series: "Advent Change"))
- December 8 - Pastor Brad (Sermon Series: "Advent Change")
- December 15 —Pastor Brad (Sermon Series: "Advent Change")
- December 22 -Advent Music Service
- December 24—Pastor Brad (Christmas Eve)
- December 29—Pastor Brad (Christmas Carol Sing)

Cabinet Meeting

No Cabinet Meeting for
December

Elders Party - Dec. 15

4pm @ Lilly's House

3760 Horizon Glen Ct.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday December 15th

@ 12:30 pm



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 the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1.

The new series will be called "Advent Change" and will explore the connection between Christ coming and Contemporary issues.

While the series shares the name of our Advent series, the topics of conversation will be different.

Come to talk about how Christmas changes our lives.

-Pastor Brad



CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday December 5th

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.

Calendars for 2020 are accumulating on the Information Table in the Fellowship Hall. Do you need a calendar? Please take as many as you need

On September 3, Texas Roadhouse brought some of their rolls and famous cinnamon butter to the church for us to enjoy during coffee mingle. They also left word that anyone who brought a church flyer to Texas Roadhouse would receive a 10 percent discount.

If you don't get The Daily Sentinel, check out the article on the Fellowship Bulletin Board about the LaJoy family and their newest endeavor. We wish them much success.

- 21. What words come to mind to describe your parents? Tell stories that describe why those words and why they come to mind. (I always tell people when working on a funeral.....it's OK to tell the ornery stories too. Nobody is perfect.)
- 22. What kinds of outdoor games did you play growing up? Did you play with siblings, neighborhood kids? Did you enjoy playing outside?





A Little Food Bank Comparison

2018

2019

Jan.	#177 food	#210 food & \$20.00
Feb.	#142 food	#150 food & \$215.00
Mar.	#170 food	#192 food & \$170.00
Apr.	#240 food	#160 food & \$80.00
May	#100 food	#153 food & \$30.00
June	#223 food	#210 food & \$230.00
July	#223 food	# 125 food
Aug.	#198 food	N/A
Sept.	#117 food	#180 food
Oct.	#176 food	# 346 food
Nov.	#76 food	
Dec.	#285 food	

Congratulations, FCC for all the food you donated to the food bank during the month of October. The Community Food Bank is needing increased donations for these colder months. Thanks to all who donated.



From The Bookshelf

The FCC Bookworms just completed “Lilac Girls”

by Martha Hall Kelly. It is a novel based on the real life

of three women during WWII. A New York socialite, Caroline Ferriday, sought help in bringing the “Rabbits” to the U.S. for reconstructive surgery. One of those Polish “Rabbits”, Kasia, was operated on at the women’s concentration camp in Ravensbruck by the third woman, Herta, who was a German doctor. These three women have quite a story that gives us another glimpse into the atrocities, heroism and compassion during this time in history. Available in the library.



TODAY!!!!

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH FAMILY
THANKSGIVING DINNER SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 24, 2019, AT 12:15 PM

The following foods are furnished by the
Membership Committee:

- ◆ Turkey & Dressing
- ◆ Mashed Potatoes &
Gravy
- ◆ Rolls
- ◆ Drinks



Please bring a side dish to share and your own table service.

What you bring is what we eat!



Announcement

Get Ready for Our Annual

FREE Thanksgiving Day Meal



WHEN: Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 28, 2019
11:00am to 2:00pm

WHERE: 1326 North 1st Street, Grand Junction, CO
Hosted by the First Christian Church

WHO: Everybody...especially those who don't
want to eat Thanksgiving Dinner alone!

NEEDED:

- Workers
- People to cook turkeys
- Monetary Donations
- Pies
- Invite People In!
- Contact Les Armbruster or David Morgan for more information.



Announcements

Advent & Christmas 2019

First Christian Church

Advent Change:

Christmas calls us to change!

Sundays in Advent

December 1, 8, 15, 22

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Theme: Songs of the Nativity

10:50 a.m. as worship begins

First Sunday of Advent

December 1

Hanging of the Greens/
Advent Change: Repent

(Christmas calls us to turn toward God.)
10:50 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8

Advent Change: Forgive

(God's gift of Jesus was a gift of forgiveness.)
10:50 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15

Advent Change: Sing for Joy

(Christmas calls us to sing...all year.)
10:50 a.m.

Christmas Caroling @ Care Facilities

December 15

Call 970-242-7204 for times and locations.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22

The Wonder of Christmas

(Christmas music program.)
10:50 a.m.

Christmas Eve

December 24

Christmas Eve by Candlelight

(The whole story PLUS
the traditional hymns of Christmas!)
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Carol Sing

December 29

(No sermon. Just the carols of
Christmas. You get to pick them!)
10:50a.m.



Announcements

DATE CHANGE!!!

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 15th, after the worship service.

It will be a meeting with three items on the agenda:

- (1) vote on the nominations for 2020 from the Nominating Committee
- (2) vote on the 2020 congregational budget
- (3) vote on a Creation Care covenant.

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



Remember to bring an ornament to decorate the Church Family Christmas Tree on Sunday, December 1



We have beef and noodles left from the Christmas Bazaar. The bag of noodles is \$4. Please let someone from CWF to help you get what you need out of the freezer.



FOUND:

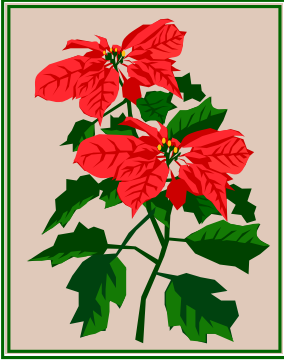
This was found in a purse that was sold in "Grandma's Attic"

Please see Tish in the office if

There are three (3) FCC beige caps available for purchase. Please let Joyce Wittwer know if you would like to buy one or more. They are \$12 each.



Announcements



Christmas Poinsettias

I wish to furnish poinsettias for the Church Altar and Chancel for the Christmas Season, or to make a donation to the food bank.

Orders will be accepted through Sunday,
December 8th.

_____ Number of Poinsettias

_____ Amount of donation to the Food Bank.

As a memorial - In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Presented By: _____

(As you would like it printed in the Bulletin)

I will take the plant after the Christmas Eve Service.

Please take the plant to a Shut-In.

The Church will order the plants. Please enclose a check for \$11.00 for each poinsettia. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and note **“Christmas Poinsettias”** or **“Food Bank”** on the check.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____



Announcements



Advent Memorial Dinner And Service



First Christian Church Fellowship Hall

Friday December 13, 2019

When you have lost someone special, the holidays can be especially difficult. Please come to the Advent Memorial Dinner and share memories. You will find support from others who also are remembering the past but finding ways to create new traditions.

Please contact Joyce Wittwer, 243-6214 by Dec. 3rd to let her know how many in your family will attend. The potluck is followed by a Memorial Service.



SAVE THE DATE

We will be singing Christmas carols , Sunday December 15th, beginning at 1:30 pm Please Plan on joining us!

If you have a red First Christian shirt, feel free to wear it! Please come join us in singing Christmas carols!!





Welcome

WELCOME BONNIE

Bonnie Watts joined our church this past summer, and we welcome her into our congregation. She was born in Salida but her family moved to Georgetown when she was eleven. She has two brothers and a sister, and her mother still lives in Georgetown. After graduation from high school Bonnie went to Westminster College in Salt Lake City and received her degree in history and education in 1978.

After graduation Bonnie had a wide range of jobs which included driving school buses for the school district in Georgetown, working on construction crews, driving snow plows on I-70 and clerking in ski shops. She then got a job as a paralegal in Idaho Springs for an attorney in general practice as well as handling some divorce and estate cases. In order to continue in her job, she went to night school four nights a week for nine months to become certified. She worked for that attorney 12 years until his retirement. She continued free lancing as a paralegal working in Denver, Summit County and Idaho Springs until she moved to Montrose in 2002 where she became a screener at the Montrose airport. In 2007 she transferred to Telluride, and in 2011 she applied for an administrative position with the TSA in Grand Junction and feels fortunate to have been awarded the job.

Exotic birds are Bonnie's passion, and she has three birds. Zeus is her blue and gold macaw, 22 years old, and he has been with her for 20 years. She also has two African grays. She has hand raised Eno from a chick, and he is now 14 years old. Her other gray, Tory, came to live with her after her friend died.

Next to dogs and cats, birds are the most popular pet. Both dogs and cats are domesticated, but birds are still a wild animal and require much care and attention. Bonnie devotes a great amount of her free time to their well being. She says it is nice to have them greet her when she comes home. She and a few other fellow bird lovers created an on-line group that started providing items required for the support of birds that have been taken from an unsafe environment. Their Facebook group has grown to 4,000 participants who donate money for toys, food and maintenance; and this past year the group donated over \$50,000 which was matched by various companies to support these abused birds.

Lily Fitch invited Bonnie to visit us, and she has recently agreed to accept the position of Vice-President of our CWF ladies group. We are pleased to have Bonnie as part of our congregation.

Nominating Committee (Recommendations for 2020)

Announcements

Congregational Leaders (* Denotes a Board Member)

Note: Regarding Elders and Deacons these are the NEW nominees only and not all Elders and Deacons.

***Officers:**

Moderator	Nancy Armbruster
Vice Moderator	Pam Baumgartle
Treasurer	Lily Fitch
Secretary	Linda Edwards

***Congregational Representatives:**

Dennis Edwards
Carol Mathews
Carolyn Bryant

***Committee Chairpersons:**

Worship	Nancy Armbruster
Outreach	Susan Barton
Evangelism	Brad Barton
Christian Education	Melanie Ferron
Technology	Chip Ferron
Membership	Joyce Wittwer
Stewardship	Bill Fitch
Property	Chuck Haigler

Elders:

Chuck Haigler-1 year
Carol Matthews– 1 year
Lily Fitch– 3 years

Deacons:

Ruth Acord -1 year
David Morgan -1 year
Jeanette West—1 year
Joyce Wittwer - 1 year
Donna Ham– 2 years

Brad Krebill -2 years
Carolyn Bryant—3 years
Doug Bryant - 3 years
Jeanice Swank - Alternate/Substitute

<u>Annual Congregational Meeting</u>
The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8th, after the worship service. It will be a meeting with three items on the agenda: (1) vote on the nominations for 2020 from the Nominating Committee (2) vote on the 2020 congregational budget (3) vote on the Creation Care covenant.

Note: Regarding Elders and Deacons these are the NEW nominees only and not all Elders and Deacons.



Thanks



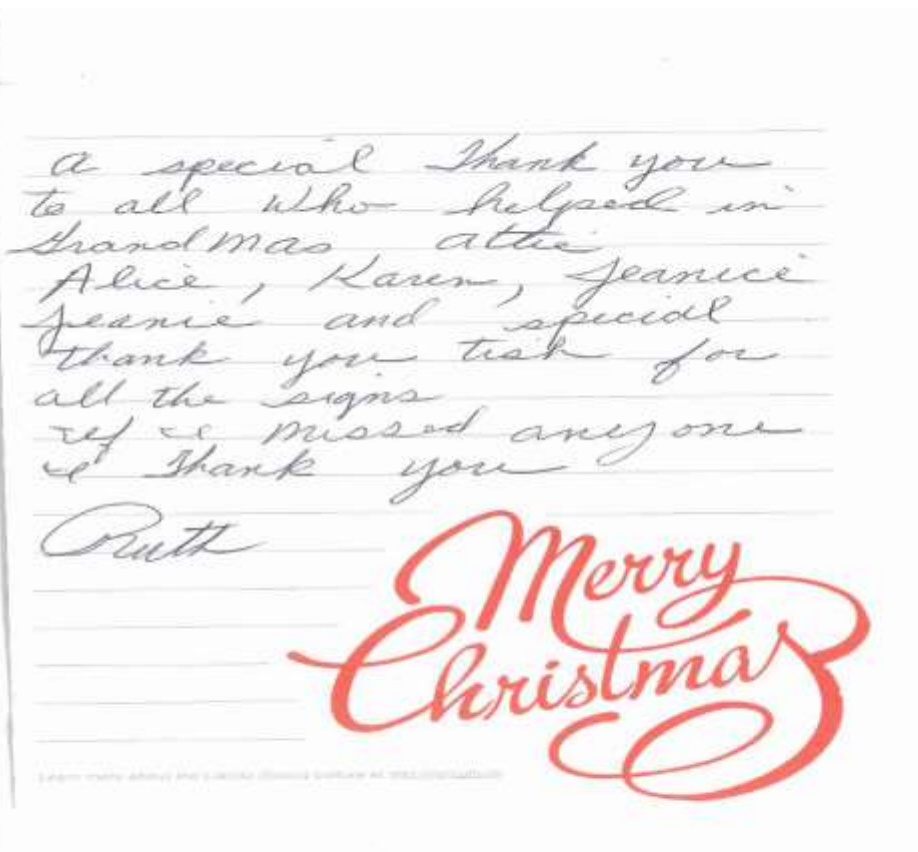
I wish to thank everyone, the men's club, and the congregation for all the Christmas boxes and money I have received. The outpouring of love and money is like WOW. I appreciate all of you so very, very much, thank you.

I was considering not doing the Christmas boxes next year, however with the way everyone has contributed, how can I not do it next year? I really feel like this is coming from God.

Just think of all the 46 children that will be putting smiles on their faces because of what you have done for them. I am so excited, and I hope you are as well.

We have had more contributions this year than we ever have had and I do THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart.

God Bless,
Carolyn Bryant





Thanks



HOMewardBOUND
of the grand valley

November 07, 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 11/01/2019. 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,


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

Thank you for your generosity!

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



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

November 24, 2019 4th Sunday

Worship Leader

Riecke Claussen

Elders

Jeanice Swank

Lois Dunning

Greeter

Kathy Moore

Adele Matera

Joyce Wittwer

Preparing Diaconate

Marian Velarde

Serving Diaconate

Marian Velarde

Dennis Edwards

Ruth Acord

TBD

Van Driver

If you need a ride, call the office by Tuesday

Coffee Mingle

Thanksgiving Dinner

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Chip Ferron

Riecke Claussen

December 1, 2019 1st Sunday First Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader

TBD

Elders

Jim Matthews

Carol Matthews

Greeter

Nancy Claussen

Riecke Claussen

Brad Krebill

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

December Birthday Cake

Lamar Edwards & Joyce Wittwer

Keyboard

Paula Schaffer

Collection Team

Lois Dunning

Grace Farrell

December 8, 2019 2nd Sunday Second Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader

TBD

Elders

Chuck Haigler

Al Baumgartle

Greeter

Carolyn Bryant

Doug Bryant

Norma Lavelette

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

December 15, 2019 3rd Sunday Third Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader

TBD

Elders

Ray Farrell

Riecke Claussen

Greeter

Carol Matthews

Jim Matthews

Audrey Richardson

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 - November 21, 2019– December 19 , 2019

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

Saturday November 23, 2019

9:00 am Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Sunday November 24, 2019

****Food Bank Sunday****
 ****Thanksgiving Sunday****
 9:30 am Sunday School Class
 10:50 am Worship
 12:15 pm Thanksgiving Dinner

Monday November 25, 2019

10:30 am Staff Meeting
 6:30 pm Craft Group
 7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday November 26, 2019

****Pastor Brad out of Office****
 9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
 5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday November 27, 2019

****Pastor Brad out of Office****
 NO Morning Bible Study
 NO pm Evening Bible Study

Thursday November 28, 2019

****Thanksgiving Day****
 ****Office Closed*****
 ****Crosswords Deadline ****
 11:00 am Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday December 1, 2019

******First Sunday of Advent** ****
 ******Hanging of the Greens******
 9:30 am Sunday School Class
 10:50 am Worship
 12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

Monday December 2, 2019

****Office Closed****
 **Pastor Melanie out of Office **
 ****Tish out of Town ****

NO Staff Meeting
 1:30 pm FCC Bookworms
 7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday December 3, 2019

**Pastor Melanie out of Office **
 ****Tish out of Town ****
 9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
 1:30 pm Friends Going Forward
 5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday December 4, 2019

**Pastor Melanie out of Office **
 ****Tish out of Town ****
 10:00 am Morning Bible Study
 3:30 pm Parkinson Support Group
 6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
 @ the Armbruster's house
 (615 Pioneer Rd).

Thursday December 5, 2019

****Office Closed****
 Pastor Brad out of Office
 **Pastor Melanie out of Office **
 ****Tish out of Town ****
 ****Crosswords Deadline****
 9:30 am Ruth Group Christmas Luncheon @ Donna Ham's House (655 Loreda Ct. unit A)

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

Sunday December 8, 2019

******Second Sunday of Advent** ****
 9:30 am Sunday School Class
 10:50 am Worship
 12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

Monday December 9, 2019

10:30 am Staff Meeting
 6:30 am Craft Group
 7:00 pm M&M Bible Study
Tuesday December 10, 2019
 9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
 1:30 pm PEO Chapter Meeting
 5:00 pm Healthy Living
 6:30 pm Night'ngals

Wednesday December 11, 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 December 12, 2019

****Crosswords****
 1:00 pm CWF General
 5:00 pm Homeward Bound Ministries
 6:00 pm Praise Team

Friday December 13, 2019

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group

Sunday December 15, 2019

**** **Third Sunday of Advent** ****
 9:30 am Sunday School Class
 10:50 am Worship
 12:15 pm Congregational Meeting
 12:30 pm Coffee Mingle
 1:30 pm Christmas Carols
 4:00 pm Elders Party @ Lilly's House
 (3760 Horizon Glen Ct.)

Monday December 16, 2019

9:30 am CWU Group
 10:30 am Staff Meeting
 1:30 pm FCC Bookworms
 7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday December 17, 2019

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
 1:30 pm Friends Going Forward
 5:00 pm Healthy Living
 6:00 pm Photography Group

Wednesday December 18, 2019

10:00 am Morning Bible Study
 6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
 @ the Armbruster's house
 (615 Pioneer Rd).

Thursday December 19, 2019

****Crosswords Deadline****
 1:30 pm Monthly Mission Day
 6:00 pm Praise Team