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Return Service Requested

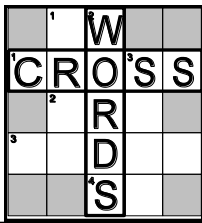
**Volume 9 • April 16, 2020**

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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!**

### Sunday Worship

At Home due to COVID-19

Coffee Mingle— Post-poned  
due to COVID -19

### Church Office Hours:

By phone only

Due to COVID-19

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

## Focusing on Something OTHER Than COVID-19 Amidst COVID-19

“But strive first for the kingdom of God...” - Jesus (Matthew 6:33a)

As I prepared to write this article, the first thought that came to my head was: “I should probably provide another update on what’s happening with the congregation amidst COVID-19.” As I thought about this, I realized that pretty much the first thing I’ve been thinking about when I wake up each day is COVID-19. The first web pages I visit each morning on the internet are the pages that give me the most up-to-date COVID-19 statistics, so I can discern whether the curve is still increasing or if it is finally showing signs of flattening. Last night, I even had a string of dreams about trying to go shopping (the book store, of course) amidst the pandemic and stay-at-home orders (in my dreams, the books I wanted to buy/read were all deemed “non-essential”, so I wasn’t allowed to purchase them.) As I thought about all this, and then gave it to God, I received something of a message from God: “it’s time for me - probably for most of us - to get our focus off of COVID-19 and back where it should be, which is on God.”

So...that’s my message for you today. We are in the midst of Eastertide, the season during which we celebrate new life, both new life (resurrection) after our time on this earth is over AND new life here and now. I don’t want to short-change the former (resurrection is a BIG DEAL), but right now we live in this world, and the problem I perceive pertains to old life versus new life in the here and now. Friends, a big part of the Easter message is that we can and should live differently NOW than everyone else, thanks to God’s grace and God’s gift of new life.

But, how? I mean, choosing new life is much easier said than done...especially with COVID absolutely engulfing us. (By the way, when was the last time you turned on the news, visited a news website, or even had a chat with friends in which the dominant topic was NOT this pandemic?)

The answer is much easier than you think, and Jesus gave it to us long ago: strive FIRST for the kingdom of God. In other words, intentionally make God the first thought of your day, even before COVID. Intentionally make something of God’s kingdom the first topic of conversation with your friends. Intentionally make an online Bible or a daily reflection or something God-focused the first website or television channel/show you visit each day. Intentionally choose to do something Jesus-like by helping people each day before you do something for yourself. Intentionally place God FIRST, and you WILL escape the feeling of being drowned by the weight of this pandemic.



# Birthdays, Anniversaries & Announcements

## FCC Birthday

### April

April 18 Susan Brown  
 April 23 Richalyn Cox  
 April 27 Betty Nelson  
 April 28 JoAnne Hill

### May

May 1 Charles Johnson  
 May 7 Pam Baumgartle  
 May 10 Al Baumgartle  
 May 10 Johnny Cowan  
 May 13 Norma Lavelett  
 May 16 Josh Barton  
 May 17 Phil Oliver  
 May 17 Jeannie Klitzke  
 May 18 Beth Sherry  
 May 19 Marlene Cowan  
 May 21 Carol Matthews  
 May 22 Bill Fitch  
 May 23 Wayne Ostermiller  
 May 25 Alex Everett  
 May 30 Yvonne Warner

## FCC Anniversary

### April

April 25 Melanie & Chip Ferron

### May

May 14 Al & Else Ladage  
 May 18 Brad & Susan Barton

## Here's the Preaching schedule for April - May

- April 19, 2020 —Pastor Brad (“From 11 Frightened Disciples: The World WILL Try to Stop Us”)
- April 26, 2020 —Pastor Brad (“From 11 Frightened Disciples: Jesus' Continued Presence”)
- May 3, 2020 —Pastor Brad (“From 11 Frightened Disciples: The Holy Spirit”)
- May 10, 2020 —Pastor Brad (“From 11 Frightened Disciples: Proof to Overcome Doubt”)
- May 17, 2020 —Pastor Brad (“From 11 Frightened Disciples: Jesus Gave Some Marching Orders”)
- May 24, 2020 —Pastor Brad (“From 11 Frightened Disciples: Why Are You Looking to Heaven?”)



Our sympathy goes out to Dorothy Rhodes and Family.



# Announcements



## Happy Birthday to all you April babies!

Your April cake, compliments of Miles Brekke, will arrive a bit later this year. In the meantime, here is a sample of what's in store when we get together again. Remember that Mary Ann, whose birthday is April 7, always requests a spice or carrot cake! It's worth the wait! Stay well, all of you.

Many of you know Betty Nelson is at Larchwood, and I spoke with her on the 31st of March. She had been to Bingo that day, something they are now playing while sitting 6 feet apart. After the caller called out the first number, Number 10, Betty yelled out "BINGO". Everyone was bewildered, and the caller said, "Betty you can't have Bingo on one number." And Betty responded, "April Fools!" Only problem, Betty said, was that she was a day early. But, she was going to try it again on April 1.

Lamar and I had been on the east end of town delivering cat litter to a friend, and I said I wished I had thought of stopping by the cemetery while we were out that way. He wondered if it would be open, and I said, "I'm sure it is as everyone is six feet--under." May they all forgive me, but we got a good laugh out of it.

### WWOW (Wild Women of the West) Event



Has Been Cancelled

### FOUND

### EARRINGS

Please call the church office or Joyce Wittwer if they are yours.



# Announcements



Missing your Secret Place Devotional? Leave a message with the church office and they will forward one to you. Please specify large or small print.

Disciples Women

31. How would you describe your sense of humor? What kinds of things make you laugh? Do you have a favorite comedian/sit-com/joke/cartoon?

32. What is your favorite food to eat? Is it something you make or does someone make it for you? Do you know the recipe? If you can, include the recipe here to share!



## CROSSWORDS!

**next deadline is...**

Thursday, April 23rd

Please submit to the church office or email them to:

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

Articles arriving later than the deadline will not be included until the next published Crosswords.



**CANCELLED**

Due to COVID-19

Cabinet Meeting

**CANCELLED**

Due to COVID-19

Elders Meeting

**CANCELLED**

Due to COVID-19



# Announcements

My time, I have enjoyed my computer, as am not a tech person but have heard from many old friends, with cute sayings, etc.

Normal Lavelett



## Lamar's Latest Project

It covers our irrigation pump and will be part of our "Whale Way" garden later this fall.

How many of you receive the AARP magazine? In the February/March 2020 issue is an article entitled "5 Great Comebacks." In addition to stories about George Foreman and his grill, Jane Pauley from "Dateline" and the "Today Show" was a story about Jill Bolte Taylor. She was a brain scientist at Harvard and the age of 37 had a stroke. Being in the field of brain research, she knew instantly what was happening to her. She wrote "Stroke of Insight" relating her illness and eventual recovery. It is an amazing story of perseverance, and is available in our library in the "Self Help" section on the south wall. She also did a TED Talk which can be accessed on TED Talk Speakers.

Our monthly donations to the Community Food Bank can be continued even though we cannot give food. Make your monetary donation through their web site: Community Food Bank of Grand Junction or mail a check to PO Box 3614, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Of course, if you donate through the church, it will be included in our Cross-words Chart. The need is great.



# Announcements & Thanks

## Elders List

Chuck Haigler	242-5252
Lily Fitch	250-6966
Al Baumgartle	243-5891
Susan Barton	250-5547
Riecke Claussen	245-3787
Jeanice Swank	242-3588

**Sunday School**  
**Has been indefinitely suspended due to the State Public Health Department COVID- 19 Restrictions.**

**Betty Nelson has a new room, she is still at Larchwood Inns but is now in room B-1**

To put things in perspective for those of us feeling a bit stir crazy already – Anne Frank and 7 other people hid in a 450 sq. ft. attic for 761 days, quietly trying to remain undiscovered to stay alive. We can all do our part to keep everyone safe and spend a few weeks at home.

**THANK YOU!!**

**Thank you to Pastor Melanie and Pam Baumgartle for making masks for our congregation. If you still need in a mask let Pastor Melanie or Pam know.**

I would like to express my appreciation to my church family and I would like to thank you all for the prayers, the beautiful cards and the calls that I have received while I was sick.

God Bless you all,  
 Audrey Richardson



**WISH LIST**

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Diapers
- Tampons
- Cough drops
- Tylenol/Ibuprofen/Advil
- Non-perishable food items

**Donations accepted Mon-Fri 9-4  
 2853 North Ave | (970) 256-9424**

# FCC Prayer Concerns

*“Pray without ceasing.”*

I Thessalonians 5:17

Family of Ken Baumgartle	Ginger Morris
Pam Baumgartle	Betty Nelson
Jim Bennett	Ron & Virginia Nelson
Bill Brown	Brian Neukman
Amy Burns	Dennis Parks
Howard Coltfelter	Carol Perry
Johnny Cowan	Steve Pratt
Chuck Cummings	Dorothy Rhodes
Jeff Dean	Ike Rogers
Maurice Drake	Kyle Rosencrans
Barbara Dunning	Paul Scanga
Earn Eachus	Jessie Sleater
Sheana Emerson	Lois Stouffer
JameyLee Farney	Sue & Allen
Rutha Hart	Angie Tanksley
David & Vickie Hagan	Tierney
JoAnne Hill	Ron Velarde
Ethel Hoffman	Alice Weiseler
Kitty Hughes	Kemitt White & Family
Eleanor Hubbell	
Dee Johnson	
Ed Jones	
Nora Juette	
Hailer Kellog	
Jeanne & Don Klitzke	
Peggy Lawler	
Betty Learned	
Linda (Daughter of Jenny Barnes)	
Ken & Judy Maurer	
Faye Morosini	





April 19, 2020

3rd Sunday

**Worship at home**  
**No servers required**

April 26, 20120

4th Sunday

Food Bank Sunday

**Worship at home**  
**No servers required**

May 3, 2020

1st Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

Elders

TBD

Greeter

TBD

Preparing Diaconate

TBD

Serving Diaconate

TBD

TBD- Worship likely to be at home due to Covid-19 stay at home orders.

May 10, 2020

2nd Sunday

Worship Leader

TBD

Elders

TBD

Greeter

TBD

Preparing Diaconate

TBD

Serving Diaconate

TBD

TBD- Worship likely to be at home due to Covid-19 stay at home orders.

## Church Calendar of Events

Due to the COVID –19 Stay at home order  
All gatherings at the Church Building have been  
temporally suspended.

### Sunday

10:50 am Worship - **at home**  
**(worship materials available  
on our website)**

11:00 am Executive Committee  
Meeting **via Zoom**  
**(invitation sent by email)**

### Monday

10:30 am Staff Meeting - **via Zoom**  
**(invitation sent by email)**

5:00 pm Woman's Bible Study -**via  
Zoom (invitation sent by  
email)**

### Tuesday

5:00 pm Healthy Living -**via Zoom**  
**(invitation sent by email)**

### Wednesday

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study -**via  
Zoom (invitation sent by  
email)**

### Thursday

\*Crosswords/Crosswords Deadline\*