



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

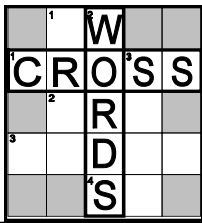
Volume 13● May 14, 2020

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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

What Does Pentecost Worship at the Church Building (May 31, 2020) Mean for You?

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” - Acts 2:1 (NRSV)

Acts 2:1 is sounding pretty appealing right about now. It's also sounding at least a little bit scary (to some/many.)

As I mentioned in last week's Crosswords Flash, the Executive Committee of FCCGJ decided on May 3 to plan to have Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020 be the first worship gathering of FCCGJ in our church building in more than two months.

Some of you may be looking forward to May 31 and gathering at the church building with joyful anticipation, while others may be looking forward to the same with fearful apprehension. Both responses are understandable; both responses (and any response in between) are perfectly fine. Wherever you are in your feelings about gathering at the church building on Pentecost Sunday, I want to be sure you are informed about what this worship gathering means (and will look like) and what it doesn't. Most importantly, we must continue social distancing and limit touching of common items. Here are some highlights of what to expect:

- We can have up to 50 people in each worship space. (If we have more than 50 people in the building, we can have overflow spaces, as long as there are no more than 50 people in any of the spaces and as long as social distancing can be practiced in each space.)
- Family groups must remain 6 feet apart from other family groups. We will re-arrange the chairs in the sanctuary accordingly. It will look and feel different.
- We must wear masks at all times while in the building.
- We will limit singing (one of the easiest ways for the virus to spread).
- Only one person may be in each restroom at a time, and restroom doors will be open to minimize touching of the doors.
- We will not have coffee mingle (for the foreseeable future.)

There will be more changes, for sure. I want you to be prepared for worship gatherings to look and feel different for a while.

Also, *please don't feel any pressure to come to worship at the church building.* Most of you have become accustomed to a regular worship routine while in lockdown, a routine that includes certain elements provided by the pastoral staff (various forms of the sermon, an at-home worship plan, You-Tube playlists of songs, etc.) I want you to know we will continue to provide these elements for the foreseeable future, so you can continue to worship at home if you desire to do so. *I want to emphasize that Governor Polis is encouraging all people age 65+ and all people who are otherwise susceptible to more serious symptoms of the virus to stay home as much as possible.* Neither I nor anyone in leadership wants you to feel pressure to worship, nor do we want you to get sick. Please make the decision that is right for you!

I look forward to seeing each of you whenever the time is right!

- Pastor Brad

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Announcements



FCC Birthday

May

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

June

June 8	Jo Laughlan
June 16	Jeanice Swank
June 20	Keith White
June 29	Carolyn Bryant
June 29	Don Klitzke

FCC Anniversary

May

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

June

June 1	Jim & Carol Matthews
June 23	Le & Nancy Armbruster
June 26	Charles & Gaylene Grimsley
June 27	Bob & Dottie Ruth

Here's the Preaching schedule for May, June & July

- 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?")
- May 31, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("If Only God Would Put God's Spirit
on Them")
- June 7, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living the Christian Faith: Enduring
Temptation ")
- June 14, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living the Christian Faith: Live Im-
partially")
- June 21, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living the Christian Faith: Tame
the Tongue")
- June 28, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living the Christian Faith: Whom to
Follow/Trust")
- July 5, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living the Christian Faith: Friends
of God ")



Announcements

-God Sighting in Stressful Times-

As we continue to live within this Covid-19 stay-at-home story, I have been reading a little about WW2 and some of the folks who were there. It's interesting to contrast the current crisis with the impact a world war had on the country and how people tend to react in stressful times such as we experience today.

As I was reading (and thinking about "God sightings"), I was reminded of a story Ben Carnes once told me. For those who have never met him, Ben and his wife were very active members of our church around the time our current church building was constructed. In looking through old church documents it is apparent he and Harold Moss were some of the primary movers and shakers of church financial activities.

For background, just a few weeks after his 18th birthday, Ben enlisted in the Army Air Corps. and was assigned to the 15th Army Air Force, 2nd Bomb Group, 20th Squadron in Italy. The primary objective of the 15th was to turn off the supply of oil to the Axis forces by bombing refineries and factories in Axis occupied countries. Before he celebrated his next birthday, Ben had flown 19 bombing missions.

As part of this undertaking, the B17 bomber in which Ben was a bombardier was assigned to participate in a bombing mission to destroy a refinery south of Berlin that manufactured fuel for the Messerschmitt 262, the first German jet powered aircraft.

A story I read in the Senior Beacon quoted Ben "Before we left, our commander said, 'Gentlemen, we don't expect any of you to come back'" "But the good God gave us a strong tailwind as we flew up the Adriatic Sea."

This then was Ben's story as I remember it. A few years ago, Ben attended a reunion of veterans who served with the 15th Army Air Corps. during the war. While there, he was approached by a man who asked if Ben had participated in the bombing of a specific refinery. Ben told him that he had, in fact, flown that very mission. The man went on to tell him that, at the time of the bombing, he was a prisoner of war in a POW camp located just beside the refinery. The Germans had the idea that locating the camp there might deter Allied forces from bombing the refinery and fuel dumps.

The man related that the prisoners in the camp knew the refinery was a primary bombing target. The day they heard the thunder of the bombers approaching, he said, they knew they would likely die when bombs fell. He went on to recount that, as the bombs began to explode, prisoners went out into the yard and joined together in prayer. He said, as the bombing continued, the explosions sent flames and smoke soaring thousand of feet into the sky. Although the prisoners definitely experienced the terrible intense heat and the tremendous concussion of the explosions, the prevailing winds blew the flames away from the camp and the prisoners were miraculously saved.

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Announcements

Continued from p.4

What a story of true God sightings on so many levels. A young man in a B17 bomber flying a mission from which he was not expected to return and a young man in a German prisoner of war camp expecting to die in the holocaust of a burning fuel refinery, both praying for themselves and their comrades, and then ... meeting each other, for the first time, more than 50 years later.

Thinking about this story and the impact WW 2 had on this country, and the whole world, puts our current situation into a different perspective. We emerged from the war a stronger and more faithful people, let us pray that this current crisis has the same effect

Riecke Claussen

.....

: 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 for- :
 : give me, but we got a good laugh out of it. :
 :

Hunting prey in family packs across the West, grasshopper mice are like tiny wolves — they even throw back their heads and howl to each other. They may be making territorial calls, or they may be letting their pack members know that they've caught dinner. These fierce nocturnal predators of deserts, prairie and grasslands hunt insects, other rodents and even scorpions.

During a pandemic, it's important to keep in touch with family and friends. Just be like a grasshopper mouse and do it from a distance — if not by howl, then perhaps over video call.

Oh, and if you're trying to avoid the grocery store? Take inspiration from these resourceful rodents: When they catch a Pinacate beetle, which defends itself by spraying a foul, toxic liquid from its rear end, grasshopper mice ram the beetle's backside into the ground so it can't spray, then chomp down on its head and abdomen, leaving its stinky behind, behind. You shouldn't be afraid to eat creatively, either.



Creation Care Team --- We all need to stay in touch with family, friends and nature.

Announcements

CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, May 21th

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.

Explore.org is a great website to
watch nature in action. There are
quite a few different webcams that
one can click on and follow the
different animals and locations.

Cabinet Meeting

CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19

Elders Meeting

CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19



CANCELLED

Due to COVID-19

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: 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.
:



From The Bookshelf

The FCC Bookworms had an unusual adventure with the selection for March. Member Adele Matera recommended our book and led the lively discussion, but it wasn't all conducted at the church library as usual. The last two sessions going into April were held via Zoom! Some (Yvonne Warner) were very clever in staging their appearance in front of the Golden Gate Bridge. The rest of us joined from home!

"Upstairs at the White House" by J B West was a wonderfully written book about the wives of Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. Eleanor, Bess, Mamie, Jacqueline, Lady Bird and Pat all had their unique ways in the White House which was reflected in its décor and the comings and goings of all who lived there plus their invited guests. Each First Lady had her own way of doing things which required much juggling on the part of the White House Chief Usher and his staff. You will enjoy learning about life inside the White House for these first ladies and their individual accomplishments and imprints on the White House itself. Available in the church library.

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

Happy Mother's Day
My mother kept a garden, garden of the heart. She planted all the good things that gave me life its start. She turned me to the sunshine and encouraged me to dream, fastening and nurturing the seed of self-esteem. And when the wind and rains came she protected me enough, but not too much because she knew I needed to grow strong and tough. Her constant good example always taught me right from wrong. Markers for my pathway that will last a lifetime long. I am my mother's garden. I am her legacy and I hope today she feels the love reflected back from me.

Kathy Moore



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

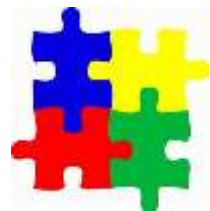


Lamar's Latest Project

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



Pam and Al Baumgartle are working on puzzles and gardening.



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.

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

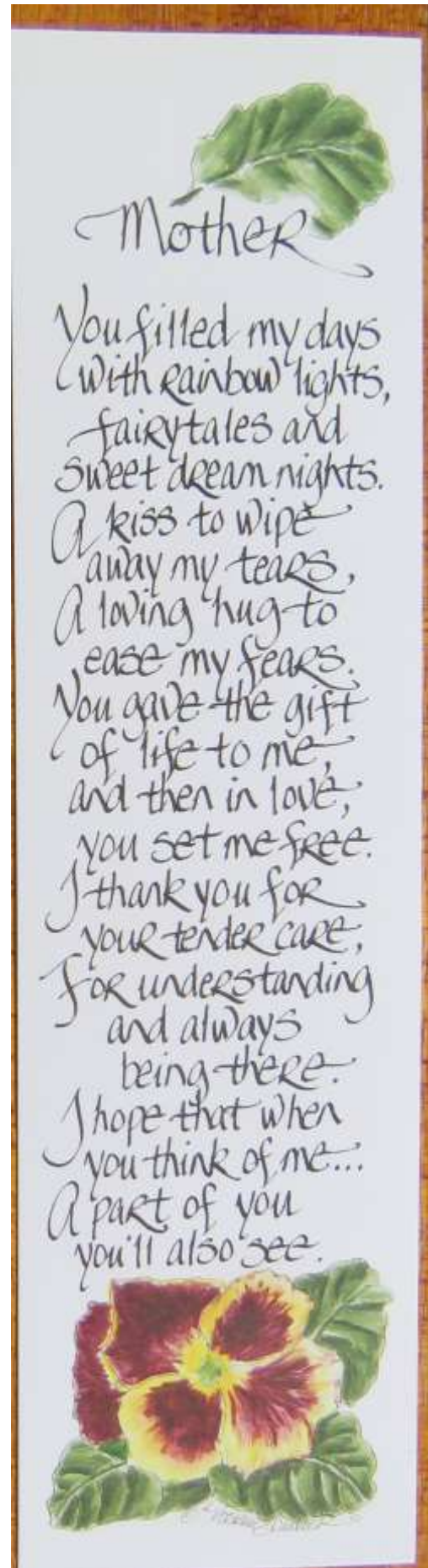
**Has been indefinitely suspended
due to the Safer at home COVID-19
Restrictions**

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.

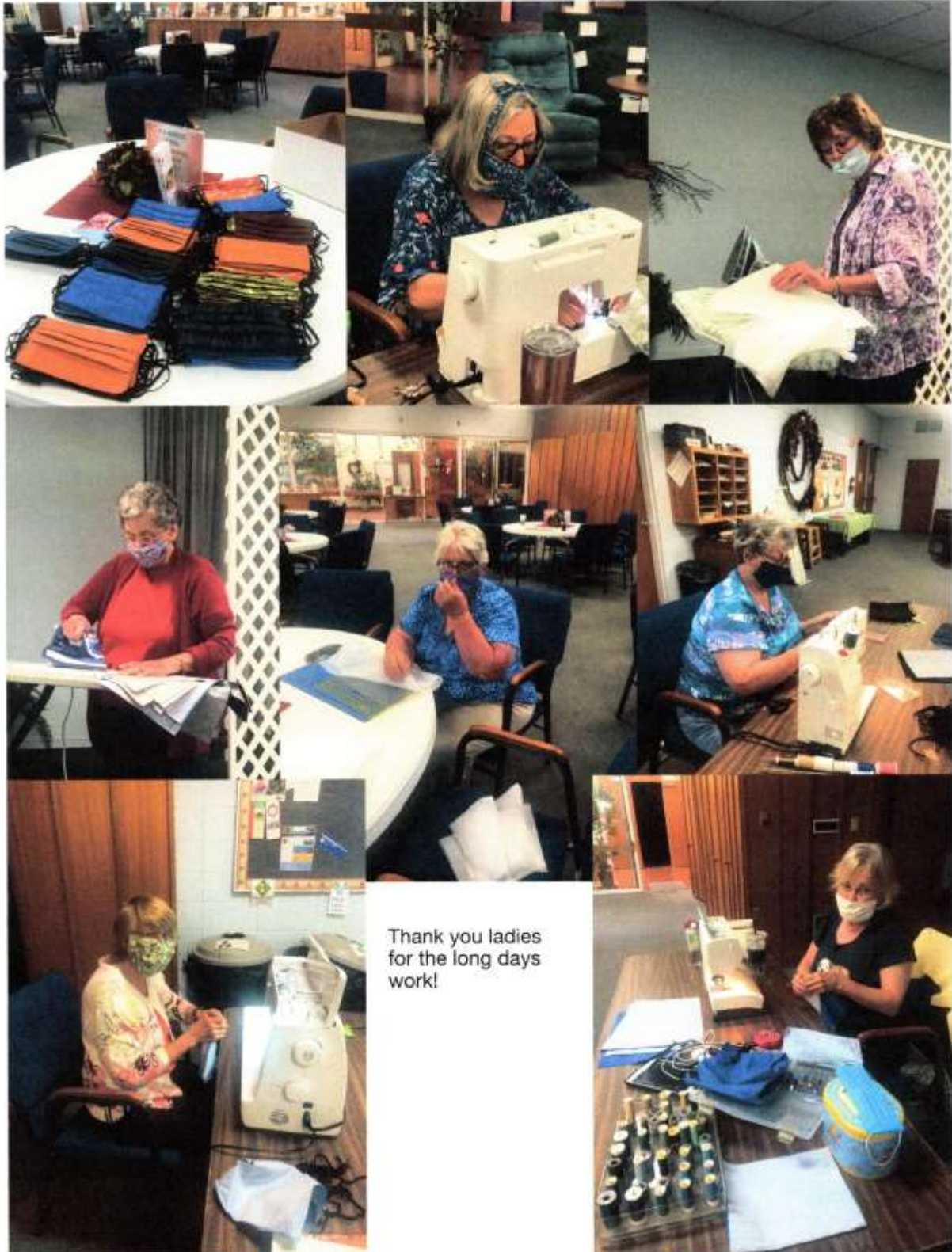
God Bless you all,
Audrey Richardson





Announcements

Disciples Women Working "Together....Apart" for the glory of God to raise money for outreach projects!



Announcements



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 Crosswords Chart. The need is great

For those of you who knew Sandra Egan, her death notice was in Sunday's Daily Sentinel. She was 76 and died April 15 at Mosaic.

FOUND EARRINGS

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

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!



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

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.

Joy of Birds is a great way to enjoy your time alone. Go to www.audubon.org/joy-of-birds. It will put a smile on your face and a song (bird song??) in your heart.

High Country News is a magazine whose home office is in Paonia, Colorado. Their latest issue has several articles related to the virus, and one included tips from the natural world's inhabitants on how to social distance. "Keep The Pack Posted" by grasshopper mice was a good read.

FCC Prayer Concerns

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

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



May 3, 2020

1st Sunday

Worship at home
No servers required

May 10, 2020

2nd Sunday

Worship at home
No servers required

May 17, 2020

3rd Sunday

Worship at home
No servers required

May 24, 20120

4th Sunday

Food Bank Sunday

Worship at home
No servers required

Church Calendar of Events

Due to the COVID –19 Safer at Home Policy
All gatherings of > than 10 people at the Church
Building have been temporally
suspended.

(If you would like to schedule a meeting of < than 10 members
please call the office 242-7204)

Sunday

10:50 am Worship - at home

(Worship materials

Available on our website.

**Worship service & Sermon
on you tube)**

11:00 am Executive Committee
Meeting **(Church building)**

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/
Crossword Flash*

9:00 to 11:00 am Sanctuary open
for Prayer(**Call office to**
schedule 242-7204)

Monday May 11– Friday May 15

Pastor Brad will be in a Virtual
Conference, if you have an
immediate need Please call
Pastor Melanie
970-201-1432

Wednesday May 20, 2020

No Evening Bible Study