



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

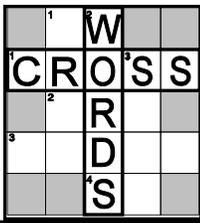
Volume 18● July 23, 2020

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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

10:50 am

Coffee Mingle— Post-poned
due to COVID -19

Church Office Hours:

8:30 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

Reflections on Being Unwell

As most of you know, I have been rather ill lately. More specifically, I've had a flare-up of a chronic autoimmune disease that I've suffered from since 2009. Since my immune system is broken and the medicines the doctors prescribe for me work to break my immune system further, my situation has been particularly troubling as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic. When my symptoms started turning unusual a few weeks ago - and the doctors had no explanation - the doctors' suspicions turned to COVID-19; that's why I missed a Sunday in worship - I was awaiting the results of a COVID test (that was negative.)

During the past few weeks, while spending most of my time self-quarantining and working to recover from some rather severe symptoms, I spent my time alternating between working (writing sermons, preparing Sunday morning videos and worship materials, managing staff activities from afar, etc.) and praying/reflecting. I'd like to share with you some of my reflections from this time of illness:

- **Relationships (With People) Always Matter, But They Matter MORE When We're Unwell.** While in great pain and often unable to perform simple activities for myself, I had little choice but to rely on others. I don't know if I could have avoided a lengthy hospital stay without the help of my family. I am certain First Christian Church continued to function well due to all the people who stepped up to help! And I felt the prayers of the many who were praying for me. I'm not suggesting you build relationships for the sole purpose of receiving support during your times of need; rather, I am suggesting relationships matter - always! Work on them.
- **Relationship (With God) Always Matters, But It Matters MORE When We're Unwell.** During these past few weeks, I have needed God's strength to carry me. In moments in which I wondered if I had the strength to keep going (I was in serious pain!), I found strength and peace from God. My daily reflections, my regular prayers and scripture reading, and even my preparation for Bible Study and sermons helped significantly. Here's what I learned: it wasn't the specific prayers about my illness that lent me God's strength but was rather the continuation of my regular relational activities with God (that have been decades in the making) that made all the difference. Develop a strong relationship with God EVERY day, and it will make all the difference when you're struggling!
- **God Has Been My Greatest Antidote to Despair.** It's so easy to despair when we become ill. During multiple times in the past few weeks, I have wondered if the pain and other incredibly annoying symptoms would ever cease. During those times, the primary thing that got my mind out of despair was my consideration of God's plan and God's future. Somehow, some way, I knew God would prepare a way for me. I had no idea what it would be, but I knew God would provide something, which got me out of despair.

If, in the near or distant future, you find yourself suffering from COVID or some other illness, I hope these reflections will be helpful to you!

- Pastor Brad

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Announcements

FCC Birthday

July

July 24 Dorothy Mitchell

August

August 4 Virginia Johnson
August 6 Chuck Haigler
August 9 Bob Wise
August 10 Earn Eachus
August 10 Tony Guarente
August 12 Ryder Stauffer
August 14 Riecke Claussen
August 14 Ebany James
August 15 Paula Schaffer
August 18 Bonnie Watts
August 28 Mason Stauffer
August 29 Donald Prouty

FCC Anniversary

August

August 4 Gene & Norma
Matteson
August 14 Don & Jeanne Klitzke
August 15 Doug & Carolyn
Bryant
August 16 Mason & Tara
Stauffer
August 16 Mervin & Paula
Schaffer

Here's the Preaching schedule for July– August

- July 26, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living the Christian Faith: Pray in
All Circumstances")
- August 2, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living in the Past, Present, and
Future: Past")
- August 9, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living in the Past, Present, and
Future: Future ")
- August 16, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Living in the Past, Present, and
Future: Present ")
- August 23, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Pursuing Change for Christ:
Philemon, Part 1 ")
- August 30, 2020 —Pastor Brad
("Pursuing Change for Christ:
Philemon, Part 2 ")



Our sympathy goes out to the family of
Lois Stouffer.

Elders Meeting

August 9th
@ 1:00 pm
via Zoom

Cabinet Meeting

August 16th
@ 4:00 pm
Via Zoom

(Updated address)
Cynthia & Ralph's Grover
969 Celestite Dr.
Fruita CO 81521



Announcements

FRONT LINE RESPONDERS

We all are praying for the front line responders all over the world, whether they are doctors and nurses, in law enforcement, preparing take-out or whatever. But we also are worrying about own family members who are performing their front-line duties. Do you want to share the names of your family members who are on the front lines? Call Tish in the office and ask her to add those names to our list.

Amanda Sundstrand, doctor's office in Denver area – niece of Joyce & Lamar

Doug and Lissah Norcross, police and sheriff's office in Grand Junction – cousins of Joyce & Lamar

Karen Edwards, dentist's office in Ferndale, WA – daughter in law of Lamar & Joyce

Wes Cruse, participating in Covid-19 vaccine study in Seattle – grandson of Lamar & Joyce

Bryan Dyat, DEA, Grand Junction -- Son-in-law of Gary and Carol Steed

Mark Wright, Dentist, Colorado Springs-- Nephew of Jeanice Swank

Fletcher Drogas, Doctor in Chicago Hospital -- 2nd Cousin of Jeanice Swank

Rebecca Prim, P.A. Tinker Air Force Base Oklahoma -- Daughter of Sharron Armstrong & Granddaughter of Gene & Norma Matteson

Lance Hood, sheriff's deputy for Montrose County. -- Son of Suzanne Andrew

Daniel Connor, Utah National Guard and Rangely Police Department

Judah Baumgartle, US Navy, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii



Congratulations & Announcements



Congratulations Grads!

Goal Academy High School

Josh Barton
Son of Rev. Brad and Rev. Susan Barton

Grand Junction High School

Gabriella James
Granddaughter of Paula Schaffer

Caprock Academy

Alex Peters
Grandson of Jerry Francis and Nephew of Karen Lehman

Central High School

Eddie Godfrey
Grandson of Phyllis Godfrey

Ferndale High School, Washington

Aaron Cruse
Grandson of Lamar Edwards and Joyce Wittwer

Thompson Valley High School

Miles Armbruster
Great Grandson of Les and Nancy Armbruster

Campbell County High School

Seth Iken
Great Grandson of Les and Nancy Armbruster

Colorado School of Mines

Colton Lowry
Mechanical Engineering Degree
Son of DeeAnn Lowry

Front Range Community College

Ashlyn Davis
Associates Degree of the Arts
Granddaughter of Bill and Lily Fitch

Colorado Mesa University

Lilli McCarty
Radiology Technician Degree
Granddaughter of Doug and Carolyn Bryant

University of Wyoming

Jordan McCracken
Agricultural Business Degree
Nephew of Dennis and Linda Edwards

Waldorf University

Matthew Green
Bachelors of Psychology Degree
Grandson of Al & Pam Baumgartle

Boise State University

Bret Nelson
Bachelors of Science in Biology with Honors
Grandson of Betty Nelson

Electrician Training

Taylor Lucero
Electrician
Nephew of Karen Lehman



May God bless your life and may you go forth to fulfill His special purpose for this generation.

Betty Nelson has moved again at Larchwood and now has a window where she can watch the birds and comings and goings at the main entrance. Her room number is F-11, and her phone number is 254-7668. She says to tell everyone hello and that she misses seeing everyone. She also misses not hearing from anyone.

We have learned of an organization that takes all sorts of religious material to ship overseas. After you have read your Secret Place or any other devotionals, magazines, etc., please bring them to the Church Library for shipping. We will be able to give all this material a second opportunity to spread the word.

Thanks, Joyce



Announcements

37. What has given you the most strength to get through hard times throughout your life? Tell me more. How did it help? Can you give a real life example?

38. How do you want people to remember you? What stories do you think people will tell about you after you are gone? Do these thoughts make you happy? If not, there's time change!

You can start writing a different story today!



CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, July 30th

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.

New Address:

Charles & Gaylene Grimsley

838 Walnut Ave.

Hot Springs, SD 57747



August 15th

TBD

Good News

1.65 million

Wiping out medical debt in Georgia.

As reported by Gracie Benninghoff, Dillon Dodson, Kathleen McCleary and Kaylan Ralph

Parade Magazine June 28 – July 5, 2020

In mid-April, the nondenominational Freedom Church in Acworth, GA., donated more than 1.65 million to cover at least 1,043 families' medical debts in the Atlanta area by partnering with RIP Medical Debt, an organization that uses donor contributions to forgive the debts of individuals and families in need and help repair their credit ratings.

Submitted by Susan E. Brown



Announcements & Congratulations



From The Bookshelf

The final book of the 2019-2020 season for the FCC Bookworms was “The Secret Diary of Hendrick Groen, 83 ¼ Years Old”. Goen is from The Netherlands and won a prestigious award for his book, but it turns out that

Hendrick Groen is a fictitious character, and the author was a librarian who didn’t show up for his award. However, the book was full of facts about elderly life in The Netherlands, learning how to drive a scooter at 83 ¼, making new friends, seeing new places and being who you are. It gave our group an opportunity to discuss Alzheimer’s and assisted suicide, contemplate assisted living and nursing homes, and learn about some known and some not-so-well known people, the politics of The Netherlands, and life in general. You will find Hendrick to be a loveable old curmudgeon. He may even remind you of someone you know!! Check it out.

Did you see it in “The Daily Sentinel”? Sunday, July 5 on the front page of the Lifestyle Section was a full-page article about “The Hill Brothers”. Hill Gear is a company owned and operated by Joanne Hill’s two sons. They develop, test and sell all sorts of interesting outdoor gear they sell on line and in their store on Main Street here in Grand Junction. It’s a great place to buy Christmas and birthday presents for all your grand kids! Be sure to check them out when you’re on Main Street, or if you can’t get down town, check out Hill Gear on the Internet

Congratulations to Kathy Moore who will become the Kitchen Supervisor at Homeward Bound later this month. The facility on 29 Road for families and single women is almost complete, and when they move in and start preparing meals there, Kathy will take over the responsibility for the kitchen at the old location on North Avenue. In addition to her new kitchen responsibilities, she is also in charge of accepting all donations made to Homeward Bound. Congratulations, Kathy.



From The Bookshelf

If you are interested in the books read this season by the FCC Bookworms, there is a list on the bulletin board by the library. The group will resume in October. Would like to join us?



Get ready to enjoy and experience
God's wonderful outdoors at
This is Our Father's World



Join us at Adult Vacation Bible School
as we see, hear, and touch what
God has provided for us in the natural world .

This is Our Father's World begins
Monday, September 14 and
continues through Wednesday, September 16
from 6:00 -8:30 pm

Each day will begin with scripture and music and an introduction to the day's topic. The rest of the evening will include a lesson, an activity and craft projects. The activities will include construction and placement of a garden prayer cairn and standing stone, completing a butterfly garden and planting a tree. Crafts will include assembling benches for the side yard, and art projects

For more information call Melanie Ferron at 242-7204



Announcements

Continued from P.8

To keep everyone safe we will be practicing social distancing, wearing masks and being sure to sanitize the inside surfaces we use. Most of our activities will take place outside on the side yard. Some of the crafts will take place in the narthex with our safety regulations in place. Opening will take place in the Sanctuary with the same requirements as we have in place on Sunday mornings.

We are asking for preregistration for this event so we can set up in a way that ensures social distancing. Please let us know by August 23 if you will be attending.

If you will be attending please enter your name below and return to the office or put this insert in the offering plate

If the September date does not work out would you be interested in coming if we rescheduled the event in the spring of next year?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe



Announcements

Subject: God and the Lawn Care

Submitted by Ann Hutton

GOD

Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD

Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD

The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD

They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS

Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS

No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD

Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

Continued on p.11



Announcements

Continued from p.10

ST. FRANCIS

Yes, Sir.

GOD

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS

You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD

What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS

You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD

No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS

After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD

And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS

They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD

Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE

'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

GOD

Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



Dear First Christian Church members,
Thank you so much for your generous contribution in support of our mission. Your gift will help us remain strong & continue to provide food to those in our community who need it most during these uncertain times. We truly could not do it without you! This support is a blessing & warms our hearts.

Thank You!

Alisha & the Community
Food Bank team



Announcements

Community Food Bank
PO Box 3614
Grand Junction, Co 81502

Donation

Date	Donation No.
4/2/2020	3423

Donor
First Christian Church 1326 N First St Grand Junction, CO 81501

Check No.	Payment Method
14848	Check

Description	Amount
<p>With sincere appreciation for your generous contribution and ongoing support on behalf of the Community Food Bank-Thank You. It is through people, such as yourself, that the food bank is able to meet the demand of those Mesa County individuals and families in need of food.</p> <p>Gratefully,  Alisha Wenger Executive Director</p> <p>In order to qualify for the Colorado Enterprise Zone Tax Credit, donors are requested to provide the last four digits of the Social Security Number or EIN on the check or enclosed information. Community Food Bank will obtain certificates for donations of \$250 or more in a calendar year. For assistance and more information, please contact Pete Kunisch at pkunisch@eaglestrategies.com.</p> <p>No goods or services of any value were transferred in connection with this donation. The Community Food Bank is a non-profit organization recognized as tax-exempt as described in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN #84-0817696.</p> <p><i>Thanks so much for your support!</i></p>	450.00
Total	\$450.00

FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

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



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

July 26, 20120

4th Sunday

Food Bank Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

August 2, 2020

1st Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

August 9 , 2020

2nd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

August 16, 2020

3rd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

Church Calendar of Events

Thursday July 23, 2020

****Crosswords****

****Office Closed****

1:00 pm CWF Executive @ Church
Building

Friday July 24, 2020

No Mexican Train Group

Sunday July 26, 2020

****Food Bank Sunday****

No Conversational Sunday School

10:50 am Worship

No Coffee Mingle

4:00 pm Cabinet Meeting via Zoom

Monday July 27, 2020

8:30 am Babysitter Class/ First aid

10:30 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study via
Zoom

No M&M Bible Study

Tuesday July 28 2020

8:30 am Babysitter Class/ First aid

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

5:00 pm Healthy Living@ Church
Building

Wednesday July 29, 2020

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
via Zoom

Thursday July 30, 2020

****Crosswords Deadline****

Sunday August 2, 2020

No Conversational Sunday School

10:50 am Worship

No Coffee Mingle

Monday August 3, 2020

10:30 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study via
Zoom

No M&M Bible Study

Tuesday August 4 , 2020

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00 am Friends going Forward @

Spoons

5:00 pm Healthy Living@ Church
Building

6:30 pm Night'ngals

Wednesday August 5, 2020

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
via Zoom

Thursday August 6, 2020

****Crosswords****

TBD Ruth Group

1:30 pm Dorcas Group

6:00pm CO. West Quilter's Board