



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

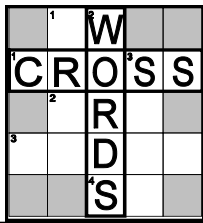
Volume 21● September 3, 2020

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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

A Vision From God to FCCGJ

On Sunday, August 30, I shared a God-sighting in worship. If you were there, please keep reading, as this article provides an important UPDATE to that God-sighting.

The God-Sighting:

Early Thursday morning (August 27), I awoke with full memory of a dream that was about FCCGJ. In the dream, a Christian women's group from the community - not our CWF - was looking for a new congregational home following COVID; their congregation didn't make it through the pandemic. And God directed that group to FCCGJ. The dream took place on a Sunday morning, the first Sunday morning this group and their family members - husbands, siblings, children, grandchildren - decided to worship here. The sanctuary was so packed we had to add chairs. And there was a buzz, an enthusiasm, as these new worshippers became acclimated to FCCGJ. I don't know that God was telling me that a group just like the one in my dream would soon be joining us, but I do know that dream was a God-sighting. I do know God was offering us hope through that dream, hope for prosperity on the other side of the COVID pandemic. And I very strongly experienced God urging me to share the dream with you during God sightings.

The UPDATE:

On Sunday, August 30, the day I shared this God-sighting, we had four visitors from Las Vegas worshipping with us. Two of them were a husband-and-wife ministry couple. They shared with me that they were passing through Grand Junction and allowed God to direct them where to worship; God directed them to FCCGJ. They told me that when they heard the God-sighting above, they received confirmation from God's Holy Spirit that something like what I described in my dream WILL happen here at FCCGJ after the pandemic. They said the new people God will send our way will bring change - likely in the form of greater ethnic diversity - but that God WILL send new people to FCCGJ following the resolution of the pandemic. They were very excited for us, even to the point of tears of joy!

Please keep this congregation in your prayers. Pray that we will have the strength to follow God's direction into the future God has planned for us!

- Pastor Brad



Community Page

About First Christian Church Grand Junction: Information for Visitors and the Greater Grand Junction Community

Welcome to the Crosswords Newsletter of First Christian Church, Grand Junction. We are blessed that you have chosen to read this newsletter, which provides detailed information about the happenings in our faith community.

This page of our newsletter is dedicated to you, someone who has chosen to take a glimpse at what First Christian Church is about. Periodically, the information contained on this page will change, so please come back in the future to wherever you found this newsletter to get another one.

Today, I'd like to share with you the meaning behind one of our congregation's mottos, a motto that has been printed on every one of our bulletins and newsletters for many years: "Praising God, Changing Lives!"

In so many ways, this motto describes the core of what we're about as a congregation.

Praising God. Our first priority is God. Everything else we do stems from what we understand about God; that's why "Praising God" comes first. Even if we chose to do all the same things we do for a reason other than God, we would not be First Christian Church, Grand Junction...because we allow God to direct the whole of what we do. This phrase, "Praising God", also describes our first response to the God we encounter. When we look to God, we are reminded of God's great love for us and all people shown throughout history, and our first response MUST be to praise. That's why we worship every Sunday, to praise God and set a pattern for praising God in our lives.

Changing Lives. Our second response to God is to change lives, which means to help other people. By "other people", we don't mean people within our congregation exclusively; rather, we mean all other people, especially other people in need. That's why so many of our ministries are focused on identifying needs and meeting them. A few examples include our Love-in-Action box, our commitment to Community Food Bank, our service at HomewardBound of the Grand Valley, our collection of school supplies, and our offering of a community garden to feed hungry people.

If you would like to learn more about First Christian Church, Grand Junction, and how you can get involved in "Praising God and Changing Lives", please call the church office at 970-242-7204, and ask for me, Pastor Brad.

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Announcements

FCC Birthday

September

September 4	Brad Krebill
September 6	Gary Steed
September 9	Curtis Rosencrans
September 10	Ron Velarde
September 12	Gene Matteson
September 14	Eleanor Hubbell
September 19	Ann Hutton
September 20	Marvin Schaffer
September 23	Judy Campbell
September 23	Kathy Gardner
September 26	Linda Edwards

October

October 4	Brad Barton
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FCC Anniversary

September

September 27	Tammy & Wayne Ostermiller
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CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, September 10th

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.



Here's the Preaching schedule for September

- September 6, 2020- Pastor Brad
(Pursuing Change for Christ: Reconciliation)
- September 13, 2020-Pastor Brad
(Pursuing Change for Christ: Engage Those Who Disagree)
- September 20, 2020 -Pastor Brad
(Pursuing Change for Christ: Love)
- September 27, 2020 -Pastor Brad
(Pursuing Change for Christ: Provide a Good Example)

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEED:

Our Outreach Ministry is in need of men's crew socks to be donated, so we can give them to men who need socks. If you would like to make a donation, please drop socks off at the church office (1326 N. 1st Street) Mon-Thurs 8:30am-1:30pm.

— Pastor Brad



Announcements

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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August 15, 2020

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

The past few months have been full of uncertainty, fear, anxiety, and unrest...however I find that our spiritual life has increased as we have turned more of our focus to God on a "daily" basis instead of only one day a week. When you have negative feelings, unrest, humans seem to focus on God more for the comfort and strength that we need.

First Christian Church, Grand Junction - compared to other churches in our region - is fairing ok financially even with thirty of our members attending worship regularly at the church building, many of you attending online, and it is unknown how many of you are reading the sermons each week and participating in worship on your own.

Even in the midst of the hardships of this pandemic, the congregation continues to send money to Disciples Mission Fund to help those in need all over the world. We continue to send funds to the Food Bank, Homeward Bound and the Tennyson Center. We still continue to do "Outreach".

Our ministers have been very busy inside and outside of the church. Pastor Brad and Pastor Melanie have been on the go as there are many of us that require their spiritual assistance during these uncertain times. They have also been working to adapt to the challenges of this time to provide opportunities to keep the congregation connect, providing daily reflections, producing YouTube sermons, leading Zoom Bible Studies, making many calls, making the building as safe as possible for gatherings at the building, and more.

It is important that I share with you that income for 2020, May, June and July, is down (\$6,528.58) compared to 2019 during the same period of time. Although expenses have dropped some due to the lack of use of the building there still remains some constant unchanged expenses.

With this said, Stewardship is asking that you keep the church in mind when processing your giving these summer months. Continue to connect with God on a daily basis and we look forward to the time when all of us will be together as a family again!

Best regards...

William D. Fitch
Stewardship Chair

Senior Minister, Rev. Brad Barton • Associate Minister, Melanie Ferron



Week of Compassion: How Our Giving Meets The Needs of the World

In recent weeks, I've received questions about how the money we give to our Denomination's Week of Compassion ministry is getting used to meet the needs of the world, particularly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you are interested in learning as much as you can about Week of Compassion and what happens to your giving to Week of Compassion (WoC), I encourage you to visit the WoC website at www.weekofcompassion.org. The specific link for WoC's COVID-19 response is www.weekofcompassion.org/covid19response.html.

If you are looking for a summary of WoC's COVID-19 response, I'll provide one here.

Domestically, WoC provides two types of grants. Household Solidarity Grants for Income Loss provide financial assistance to households which have experienced extreme financial hardship due to the pandemic and are not eligible for state or federal aid. Congregational Solidarity Grants for Community Assistance provide financial support to congregational ministries focused on addressing food security.

Internationally, WoC supports existing WoC partners who have developed COVID-19-specific programs focused on meeting needs related to water, hygiene, sanitation, and food security.

Even though WoC is working diligently to meet needs related to the pandemic, the ministry continues to meet other needs, as well. One recent example is assistance to help communities that were devastated by the August 10 derecho that swept across the Upper Midwest of the US. Through WoC, your giving is helping provide food and charging stations to the hundreds of thousands of people impacted by the storm who are still awaiting governmental assistance.

- Pastor Brad



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

Elders Meeting

September 13th

@ 1:00 pm

via Zoom



September 19th

@ 8:00 am

Board Meeting

September 20th

@ 4:00 pm

Via Zoom



Announcements

Guidelines for Church Groups Seeking to Use the Church Building

It seems like the COVID-19 pandemic has been going on for a long time! At the FCCGJ Cabinet meeting on Sunday, July 26, the cabinet members discussed that it also feels like the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact our society, our daily lives, and our congregational life for the foreseeable future (likely at least until the end of 2020.)

Given the uncertainty about the future coupled with the desires of our congregational members to find ways to continue to meet and be connected as a congregation, the FCCGJ Cabinet created some guidelines for church members and groups who wish to use the church building for gathering opportunities while the pandemic continues. Here are the guidelines:

#1 - Yes, church members and church groups CAN use the church building outside of Sunday worship, as long as they adhere to the rest of these guidelines.

#2 - While in the church building, people from family groups (people you live with) must maintain social distancing of 6+ feet from people from other family groups.

#3 - While in the church building, masks/face coverings must be worn over the mouth and nose.

#4 - Only one person is allowed in each bathroom at a time.

#5 - All touched surfaces must be cleaned with appropriate cleaning supplies by the members of the group which meets prior to departing the building.

#6 - Please coordinate your gatherings at the church building with Tish in the church office.

#7 - If you're wondering, the Cabinet believes up to 25 people can be accommodated in the Fellowship Hall and up to 50 people in the sanctuary with proper social distancing. Other spaces are limited to 10 or fewer people.

Please call the church office if you have questions or to schedule a gathering.

- Pastor Brad



News from Disciples Women

CURRENTLY - It is with great sadness that the Disciples Women's Holiday Bazaar will **not** take place this year. As you have seen, with most larger events in our community, many of them have been cancelled in order to prevent the further spread of COVID19. The logistics of holding such a large event was too overwhelming to accomplish for our small group of organizers. The decision was made after results from group meetings were presented. Two of the ladies groups wanted to cancel and one group did not want to cancel. Based on this information, the executive committee for Disciples Women voted and one said not to cancel and five said to cancel.

IN THE FUTURE - Please continue working on the crafts for the event in 2021 and keep them at your homes if possible till next year when we will need them. We will continue collecting items for grandma's attic and may hold a grandma's attic, book, plant event in the spring followed by the holiday bazaar in the fall so if you haven't become crafty so far you have a little more time to be productive! ☺ Be rested now as next year there will be two fun raising events planned.

If the concern for COVID19 diminishes in the next few months we may still hold a silent auction/spaghetti event for a fundraiser but that is to be determined at a later date as well as a cookie exchange for Christmas but all that depends on what the next few months bring ahead.

Respectfully submitted...

Lily Fitch
President Disciples Women

Did you Know:

Judy Campbell has personally driven in every state in the union. Each vacation, she and her husband would start out one direction or another, and, since he was sight impaired, she drove to and in every one of the lower 48 states. They flew to Hawaii where they rented a car for 14 days, and she drove. Even after her husband had passed away, she took the Inside Passage to Alaska and in Juneau rented a car to see the sights. She has also seen Canada from coast to coast and especially liked Nova Scotia. Those trips have given her many fond memories.

Did you see in "The Daily Sentinel " on Sunday the 16th was George Decker's photo of three nice bucks in his backyard. We do miss George & Barbara Decker.



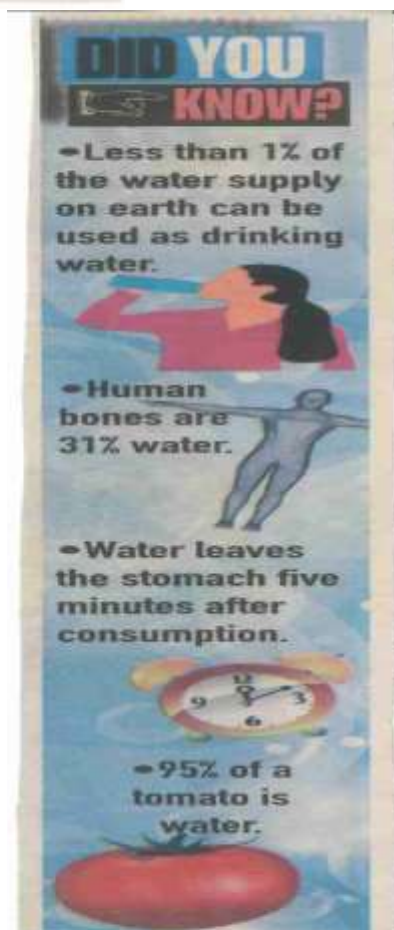
Announcements

Psychologists who study the science of happiness have identified simple practices that can boost your mental state. Gratitude, for example, is “super good for us”. Whereas, complaining reinforces negative emotions, writing a list of what you’re grateful for can significantly improve well-being, and quickly! Take a few minutes each morning to make a list of three things you are grateful for.

Monday	_____	_____	_____
Tuesday	_____	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____	_____
Sunday	_____	_____	_____

Submitted by Joyce Wittwer

From the:



39. What does forgiveness mean to you? Have you found it easy or hard to forgive others? Are there still people from whom you need to seek forgiveness? (It's not too late!)

40. What is something that you likely know more about than most people? There's something (Maybe you know how to organize your tools in the garage, or you know how to make Christmas stockings, or you know how to decorate a house, or you know how to detail a car, or you know how to create an App, or you know how to take care for people.....) What tips can you share with other people?

Tell Your Story



Dear Pastors Barton and Terren and friends of
First Christian Church,

I am very pleased to thank you for the support you have consistently given to Week of Compassion. We celebrate with you the commitment First Christian Church has shown - helping to fulfill the vision of transforming suffering into hope. Your generosity is a joyful affirmation to the mission we share.

We know that all churches are facing challenges in this time of pandemic and unrest and we pray you are able to experience community locally, nationally, and globally. Our prayers join yours for health and wholeness for all.

As a board member I am happy to respond to any thoughts or questions about the Week of Compassion ministry. We are all blessed by your ministries.

With thanks and gratitude,

Judi Frost



Announcements

Update on Dorothy Rhodes

I am writing to provide an update on Dorothy Rhodes, who resides at Grandview Care Lodge here in Grand Junction.

As you likely know, due to COVID-19, Dorothy has been able to have very limited contact with the **world outside her residence**; it's part of the reality of the rules being implemented to protect our most vulnerable citizens, including Dorothy.

Many of you have responded to Dorothy's predicament by sending her cards and making phone calls to help keep Dorothy connected. Dorothy has reached out to me through her daughter-in-law, Arlene, to express her gratitude - she is very thankful for your expressions of love and friendship - but also to make a request.

During the past 5 months (the lockdown), Dorothy's ability to communicate has deteriorated. She has difficulty hearing on the telephone, and she has difficulty writing cards and letters. She communicates best face-to-face, but she can only communicate face-to-face with a few people (who have just recently been granted face-to-face access to Dorothy.)

Given these changes, Dorothy asks the following: if you would like to communicate with Dorothy (cards, phone calls, anything really), please communicate through Arlene, who will then take your communication and provide it to Dorothy in a face-to-face setting.

You can get a message to Arlene in one of the following ways:

PHONE: 970-201-1779

EMAIL: arlene@skypony.org

Dorothy very much looks forward to the day when she will be able to return to the church building in person to interact with her FCCGJ family. Until that time arrives, or until you receive an update from me, please communicate with Dorothy through Arlene.

Thank you and blessings,

Pastor Brad



Our sympathy goes out
to Marlene Cowan
and Family



Our sympathy goes out
to the Family of
Ben Whit



Our sympathy goes out
to the Family of
Lois Dunning



Announcements & Thanks

This Is Our Father's World



Due to the status and concerns about COVID-19

This Is Our Father's World

Adult Vacation Bible School

is being postponed until the Spring of 2021.

Depending on the weather,
we are planning for the end of May.



August 7, 2020

Dearlly Beloved of
First Christian Church,

Thank you for welcoming my
mother into your embrace. She loved
you dearly, and was grateful for your
continued remembrances even after
she could no longer actively worship
with you. Ralph and I appreciate
your kindness to our family.

Blessings,
Cynthia Grover
Family of Lois Stouffer

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
Johnny Cowan	Brian Neukman
Chuck Cummings	Dennis Parks
Maurice Drake	Carol Perry
Barbara Dunning	Jeff Pratt
Family of Lois Dunning	Steve & Peggy Pratt
Earn Eachus	Dorothy Rhodes
Sheana Emerson	Ike Rogers
JameyLee Farney	Kyle Rosencrans
David & Vickie Hagan	Paul Scanga
JoAnne Hill	Mike & Pam Shipp
Ethel Hoffman	Angie Tanksley
Kitty Hughes	Tierney
Eleanor Hubbell	Tyrone & his Mom
Dee Johnson	Ron Velarde
Ed Jones	Alice Weisele
Firefighters Safety	
Nora Juette	
Hailer Kellog	
Jeanne & Don Klitzke	
Jo Laughlin	
Peggy Lawler	
Betty Learned	
Linda (Daughter of Jenny Barnes)	
Adela Matera	
Ken & Judy Maurer	

(bolded names are new additions)



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

September 6, 2020

1st Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

September 13 , 2020

2nd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

September 20, 2020

3rd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

September 27, 2020

4th Sunday

Food Bank Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

Church Calendar of Events

Thursday September 3, 2020

****Crosswords****

9:30 am Ruth Group- Classroom A

1:30 pm Dorcas Group– Classroom A

6:00 pm CO. West Quilters Board– Fellowship Hall

Sunday September 6, 2020

No Conversational Sunday School

10:50 am Worship

No Coffee Mingle

Monday September 7, 2020

****Labor Day****

**** Office Closed****

No Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study via Zoom

No M&M Bible Study

Tuesday September 8, 2020

****Pastor Brad on Vacation****

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

2:00 pm PEO Chapter Meeting- Parking lot

5:00 pm Healthy Living– Classroom A

Wednesday September 9, 2020

****Pastor Brad on Vacation****

No Evening Bible Study

7:00 pm CO. West Quilters Guild– Fellowship Hall

Thursday September 10, 2020

****Crosswords Deadline****

****Pastor Brad on Vacation****

1:00 pm CWF General– Fellowship Hall

NO Homeward Bound Ministries

Friday September 11, 2020

No Mexican Train Group

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous– Classroom E

Saturday September 12, 2020

9:00 am Ham Fest

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous– Classroom E

Sunday September 13, 2020

No Conversational Sunday School

10:50 am Worship

No Coffee Mingle

1:00 pm Elder's Meeting via Zoom

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous– Classroom E

Monday September 14, 2020

10:30 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study via Zoom

No M&M Bible Study

Tuesday September 15, 2020

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00 am Friends going Forward– Classroom A

5:00 pm Healthy Living– Classroom A

Wednesday September 16, 2020

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday September 17, 2020

****Crosswords****