



First Christian Church (DOC)
1326 North 1st Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501
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www.gjdisciples.org
970.242.7204—phone

Return Service Requested

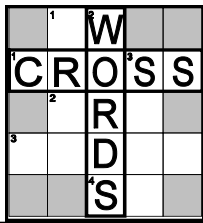
Volume 23● October 1, 2020

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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:

9:0 am-12:30 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 Little Perspective, Please

There's quite a bit of divisiveness and chaos confronting our world today. As a result of the divisiveness and chaos (I think), I regularly hear Christians discussing the possibility - the likelihood even - that we are living in the end times.

- They point to the worsening hurricanes and typhoons across the globe;
- They point to the melting of glaciers and polar ice caps;
- They point to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- They point to earthquakes, fires, and floods;
- They point to national and global conflicts between people;
- They point to the persecution of Christians;
- They point to the changing geo-political landscape of the Middle East, particularly where Israel is concerned;
- They point to the importance of the upcoming US presidential election, like so many people before them have pointed to the importance of almost every presidential election, as if the choice of the leader of the executive branch of the United States government is the single most important factor God will consider for the fate of the world (what hubris we have!);

Each time I hear these claims, I spend some time re-reading "The Little Apocalypse", that is, Jesus' words in Matthew 24-25. There are so many aspects of Jesus' words in Matthew 24-25 I want to share with people when they get worked up about the end times. Mostly, I want to share that Jesus' words were not at all about predicting WHEN the end would come (indeed, he specifically said "about that hour no one knows", Matthew 24:36) but were rather about HOW TO LIVE so that we would be ready for the end to come at any time. So, I don't understand why people try to figure out "when" or "if the end is near".

Aside from pointing out what Jesus was actually saying, I am also inclined to provide some perspective. Did you know Christians have been "predicting" the end of the world for almost as long as there have been Christians? A few of the many, MANY examples:

- Three prominent theologians predicted the world would end in the year 500, based not so much on current events as the dimensions of Noah's ark.
- A Spanish monk predicted Jesus would return on April 6, 703; that's rather specific for such an "ancient" time!
- Various Christian clergy predicted the return of Christ at the end of the first millennium (approximating Jesus' 1000th birthday), on January 1, 1000, while others predicted Jesus' return on the 1000th anniversary of Jesus' death (1033) instead of his birth;
- Even John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, interpreted the scriptures to point to Jesus' return in 1836.
- And who could forget The Great Disappointment, when the Millerties inaccurately predicted the world would end on October 22, 1844? (Some even still say Miller was correct and the world as was known DID end in 1844...which makes me wonder in what world we live now.)

What's the point of sharing just a few of the many predictions of the end times with you? I hope in these past unsuccessful attempts to predict the hour of Jesus' return you will find the strength to NOT focus at all on the "when" so that you may focus more of your attention upon what Jesus wanted you to focus your attention: preparing your life by living the Kingdom of God into existence all around you. If you do this, the "when" of Jesus' second coming won't matter in the least...because you will be in the Kingdom of God whether here or hereafter.

-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.



Here's the Preaching schedule for October, November & December October

- October 4, 2020 - Pastor Brad
(The Forest for the Trees: The Forest)
- October 11, 2020- Pastor Brad
(The Forest for the Trees: The Flesh)
- October 18, 2020 - Pastor Brad
(The Forest for the Trees: Self-Focus)
- October 25, 2020 - Pastor Brad
(The Forest for the Trees: Busy-ness)

November

- November 1, 2020 - Pastor Brad
(The Forest for the Trees: Spiritual Apathy)
- November 8, 2020- Pastor Brad
(The Forest for the Trees: Done)
- November 15, 2020 – Pastor Brad
(The Forest for the Trees: Family)
- November 22, 2020- Pastor Brad
(Giving Thanks Amidst COVID-19)
- November 29, 2020- Pastor Brad
(Jesse Tree Sermon 1: A Real, Human Family Tree)

December

- December 6, 2020 - Pastor Brad
(Jesse Tree Sermon 2: Boaz - Caring for the Least)
- December 13, 2020- Pastor Brad
(The Jesse Tree Sermon 3: Josiah - Returning to God)
- December 20, 2020 – Pastor Brad
(The Jesse tree Sermon 4: Joseph - It's Up to Us)

FCC Birthday

October

October 4	Brad Barton
October 6	Beverly Dorson
October 8	Norma Matteson
October 17	Seth Krebill
October 19	Jerry Francis
October 20	Keden Everett
October 21	DeeAnn Lowry
October 22	Ruth Acord
October 25	Jeanette West
October 26	Gloria Jeffery
October 28	Joyce Wittwer

FCC Anniversary

October

October 22	Jeanette & Johnny West
October 27	Linda & Dennis Edwards
October 28	Joyce Witwer & Lamar Edwards



Announcements

Mark Your Calendars - Celebration Of Pastor Melanie's Ministry December 27, 2020

At the FCCGJ Board meeting on September 20, 2020, Pastor Melanie announced her retirement, effective December 31, 2020. (The letter is printed below.)

September 15, 2020

To Pastor Brad, the Board and members of First Christian Church,
Following prayerful deliberation, I have decided to retire from my position as Associate Pastor of First Christian Church effective December 31, 2020. This letter will confirm conversations I have had with the leadership of the Church indicating my intention to step down at the end of this year. It has been a blessing to serve this church family for the past 22 years, and I look forward to continuing to serve this congregation in whatever capacity God calls me as I begin a new journey of faith and service. I cherish the friendships and bonds with which God has blessed me throughout our many years together and I want to thank each and every one of you for your love, prayers, confidence and assistance during my ministry.

Very respectfully,

Rev. Melanie Ferron

Associate Pastor

Please mark your calendar for a very special service of worship on Sunday, December 27, 2020, as we will have a special celebration of Pastor Melanie's ministry in worship on that Sunday. Hopefully, COVID regulations will allow us to have a special time of fellowship, as well. Be watching for more announcements about fellowship as we get closer to December 27.

As of January 1, 2021, Pastor Melanie will continue to be a member of and leader within First Christian Church, Grand Junction, but she will have a different role. When pastors make such a transition, role clarity can be difficult and confusing for both the pastor and the congregation. Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to look to Melanie as a congregational leader while also allowing her to exit from the role and position of "pastor". It is essential that we all do our part in reducing our expectations of Melanie during this transition.

-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– Grandson of Al & Pam Baimgartle

Judah Baumgartle, US Navy, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii– Grandson of Al & Pam Baumgartle

Rex Nelson, His company Western Filament is producing wire harness materials and tubing covers for ventilators and electric motor stator lacing tape for electric motors used in generators for hospital's back-up power.– Son of Betty Nelson

Shelley, St. Mary's Hospital working in the Pharmacy.– Daughter-in –law of Betty Nelson

Brett, physical therapy– Grandson of Betty Nelson

Jared, QMAP (qualified medication administrative personnel)- Grandson of Betty Nelson



Announcements

The LOVE Fund Needs Your Help!

The LOVE Fund is getting low; it's under \$200 for the first time in as long as I can remember.

If you're not familiar with the LOVE Fund, it is a fund the pastoral staff can draw upon to help needs in the community (members and non-members of FCCGJ, alike). When people approach me with a need that can be met with a little financial help - often a need for food, household goods, clothing beyond what we have in the Outreach room, children's items, transportation, help with utilities, etc. - and I discern the need to be genuine, I use the LOVE Fund to help out. It's the quickest way I can access funds to meet these kinds of needs.

As you can imagine, issues pertaining to COVID-19 have led to greater need in recent months, and the account is low. If you would like to help, please make a donation to First Christian Church and write "LOVE FUND" in the memo.

Thank you for your continued help with this Fund! - Pastor Brad



CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, October 8th

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.

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS WHEN IT COMES TO:

1. Batteries -- We recycled 11 pounds of batteries. Someone donated a few very heavy batteries, but you'd be surprised how quickly all those hearing aid batteries add up. Keep them all coming and thanks,

2. Donations to the Community Food Bank. When the 208 pounds of food was donated for September, they thanked us, First Christian Church, profusely for the quality of the food we donate and our continued contributions. They mentioned that the monthly \$600 stimulus checks have run out as well as the unemployment checks. Our help is especially important now. Bless all who give.

Elder's Meeting

October 11th
@ 1:00 pm
via Zoom



October 24
@ 8:00 am

Cabinet Meeting

October 18th
@ 4:00 pm
Via Zoom



Announcements & Thanks



Thanks to Pastor Brad and Susan for the perfect flower pot for one of the trees in the Narthex. The tree was way over due for additional space for its roots. The roots had actually grown through the old plastic pot and wound themselves around the base a couple of times. It took some major cutting to pull the old pot away; but with more breathing room, it should be a happier plant. Thanks again, Pastor Brad and Susan.

Speaking of plants, we have several on macrame hangers. Those hangers are wearing out. Does anyone have spare hangers or remember how to do macrame??? If so, let Joyce Wittwer or Normal Lavelett know you can help. We have jute



Gene and Norma Matteson have graciously given the church a wide variety of religious books and said to give them the best use. These books are on the table in the church library, and you are invited to check them out. If you see any that you would like to have, please take them. Those that are not taken will either go into the giving boxes out front or the CWF bazaar next fall. Thank you, Gene and Norma for your generosity.



Announcements

A Little Food Bank Comparison

2019

Jan. #210 lbs. of food & \$20.
Feb. #150 lbs. of food & \$215.
Mar. #192 lbs. of food & \$170.
Apr. #160 lbs. of food & \$80.
May #153 lbs. of food & \$30.
June #210 lbs. of food & \$230.
July # 125 lbs. of food & \$230.
Aug. N/A & \$250.
Sept. #180 lbs. of food & \$20.
Oct. # 346 lbs. of food & \$240.
Nov. #145 lbs. of food & \$395.
Dec. #165 lbs. of food & \$160.
Total: #2,027 lbs. of food & \$2040.

2020

#167 lbs. of food & \$70.
244 lbs. of food & \$250.
no food collected & \$100.
no food collected & \$0.
no food collected & \$40.
no food collected & \$90.
no food collected & \$165.
#150 lbs. of food
#208 lbs. of food

41. If you were going to create the perfect "self portrait" of yourself, what would you include in that photo/painting/drawing? Would you smile or would you look more serene or would you frown? Would you want all the wrinkles to show or would you prefer an "airbrushed" version? What would you be wearing?
42. What do you think the best gift is that you can give to another Person?



Hey you guys, we just got a book in the library you might want to read. Ann Hutton gave the library "No Ordinary Dog" by Will Chesney. Chiro is the assault dog who partnered with Will Chesney on many missions including the assignment to eliminate Osama bin Laden. It is available now. Check it out!

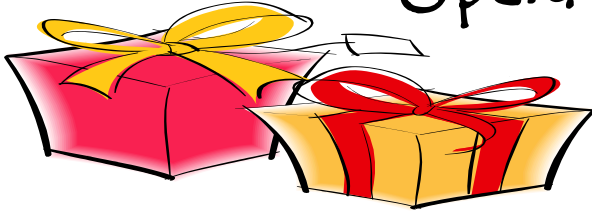
Thanks, Joyce

Don Klitzke has been moved
back to room 121 at
Mantey Heights.



Announcements

Operation Christmas Child



Imagine the childlike joy of boys and girls as they open their presents on Christmas morning. Now imagine that joy manifested tenfold as a child who never received a present, a child who has suffered because of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness or neglect, receives a shoebox

overflowing with gifts. That's the impact that Operation Christmas Child has on needy children around the world.

As a reminder, Christmas Boxes are due at the church by November 8, 2020.

There are shoe boxes wrapped in Christmas paper in the

Fellowship Hall. Inside the boxes, there are instructions on what to do.

I would like to also thank you all for your generosity. I know the children will be so excited!

Please add \$9.00 for Shipping

Things to Bring

for the Christmas Boxes

Stocking caps

Gloves

Barbie Dolls

Soccer Balls

Tennis Balls

Yo Yo's

Toy Cars

Underwear

Socks

Clothes

Shoes

Toys

Books

Bibles

Balloons

Hair brushes

Combs

Hair Barrettes

Hair Ribbons

Dolls of any kind

Stuffed toys

Color Books

Crayons

School supplies

Calculators

Plastic Water Bottles

Plastic Cups

Soap tied in a Washcloth

Things NOT to bring

No Candy
(not even hard candy)

No Toothpaste

No War figurines

No War toys

No lotion

No liquid of any kind

The children will
LOVE anything you
are able to give
them!

Thank You

(Please remember that we will be happy to shop for you and that summer items are now on sale)



September 17, 2020

First Christian Church
1326 N 1st St
Grand Junction, CO 81501-2107

Thanks to your contribution to Tennyson Center for Children, you are building a world where the kids we serve survive their traumatic pasts and can truly thrive. Alison, a young girl within our Life Skills Program, started a coffee cart for staff and visitors in Tennyson's main campus building. Alison is an entrepreneur for coming up with this concept, and also extremely empathetic: she created a punch card for those that may be having a day - as we all do - so that they could enjoy a coffee on the house.

Because of you, we are building a future full of entrepreneurs and kind, compassionate kids. Alison may have moved on from Tennyson since the project began, but this experience lives on for so many kids who walk through our doors.

Your support of these future leaders fuels our mission of working with every child and family impacted by trauma to realize their infinite potential. Your contribution of \$200.00 creates new possibilities for kids like Alison today, and builds for kids well into the future.

With our gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward D. Breslin".

Edward D. Breslin
Chief Executive Officer

Total Gifts \$200.00 Total Deductible Gifts* \$200.00 Donation date 9/16/2020

If you would like to save paper, you may opt to only receive this year end receipt. Please contact our Strategic Operations Manager, Kara Angelini, at kara.angelini@tennysoncenter.org or at 720-855-3212.

Please retain this letter for your records as it serves as your tax receipt. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation. Consult your tax advisor with questions. Tennyson Center for Children is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN 61-1458290

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
Jeff Dean	Carol Perry
Maurice Drake	Jeff Pratt
Barbara 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 Weiseler
Firefighters Safety	
Nora Juette	
Hailer Kellog	
Jeanne & Don Klitzke	
Peggy Lawler	
Betty Learned	
Linda (Daughter of Jenny Barnes)	
Adela Matera	
Ken & Judy Maurer	
Valerie Morris	

(bolded names are new additions)



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

October 4, 2020

1st Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

October 11, 2020

2nd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

October 18, 2020

3rd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

October 25, 2020

4th Sunday

Food Bank Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

Church Calendar of Events

Thursday October 1, 2020

****Crosswords****

9:30 am Ruth Group– Classroom A

1:30 pm Dorcas Group– classroom A

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

Friday October 2, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Saturday October 3, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Sunday October 4, 2020

10:50 am Worship

No Coffee Mingle

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Monday October 5, 2020

Pastor Brad off

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study
via Zoom

Tuesday October 6, 2020

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

10:30 am Staff Meeting

5:00 pm Healthy Living–
Classroom A

Wednesday October 7, 2020

No Evening Bible Study

Thursday October 8, 2020

****Crosswords Deadline****

1:00 pm CWF General–
Classroom A

No Homeward Bound Ministries

Friday October 9, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Saturday October 10, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Sunday October 11, 2020

10:50 am Worship

No Coffee Mingle

1:00 pm Elder's Meeting via Zoom

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Monday October 12, 2020

10:30 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study
via Zoom

Tuesday October 13, 2020

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

10:00 am Friends going Forward–
Fellowship Hall

5:00 pm Healthy Living–
Classroom A

Wednesday October 14, 2020

No Evening Bible Study

Thursday October 15, 2020

****Crosswords****