



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

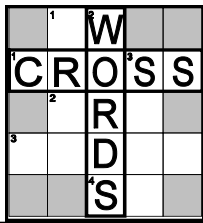
Volume 24● October 15, 2020

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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

We Are Living in Strange Times: What Are We to Do?

By now, you've probably seen the new bulletin insert about the cancellations and changes to many of our traditional/annual end of year ministries (due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic):

- No Trunk or Treat
- No Disciples Women Holiday Bazaar
- No Congregational Thanksgiving Sunday Meal
- No Community Thanksgiving Day Meal
- No Christmas Music Program
- A significant change to the way we participate in Operation Christmas Child

There are more changes than these. There will likely be changes to the way we decorate our church building for Christmas. There continue to be changes to our ability to meet regularly in fellowship. We have many fewer people who can safely venture to our building when we do gather. And, of course, we have already missed the opportunity to participate in Holy Week ministries as a congregation and to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter in communal worship. Changes abound.

As I tried to envision a word to describe these times, the word "strange" came to mind. "Strange" is defined as "unusual or surprising in a way that is unsettling or hard to understand." I would suggest the "unusual" and "unsettling" aspects of "strange" aptly apply to the year 2020.

What are we to do amidst such strange times as these? There are so many passages of scripture that provide the answer. One comes from God through the prophet Isaiah:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isaiah 43:2b-4)

In such times as these, God may not be doing what we want God to do. God may not be providing a vaccine or treatment as fast as we want. God may not be healing our friends and loved ones in the way that we want. God might not be doing anything that we want. However, God is with us. God will be with us. God will direct us into a better future, a better future on this earth and a better future for eternity with God. This is the hope we Christians should have/find in God that will strengthen us as we journey through this pandemic. It is my prayer that you find hope and strength in the God who journeys with us in these strange times!

- 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 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 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

November

November 2	Elsie Ladage
November 8	Karen Lehman
November 9	David Morgan
November 13	Ruby Eachus

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 22th

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

November 8th
@ 1:00 pm
via Zoom



October 24
@ 8:00 am

Cabinet Meeting

October 18th
@ 4:00 pm
via Zoom



Announcements

A Little Food Bank Comparison

	2019	2020
Jan.	#210 lbs. of food & \$20.	#167 lbs. of food & \$70.
Feb.	#150 lbs. of food & \$215.	# 244 lbs. of food & \$250.
Mar.	#192 lbs. of food & \$170.	no food collected & \$100.
Apr.	#160 lbs. of food & \$80.	no food collected & \$0.
May	#153 lbs. of food & \$30.	no food collected & \$40.
June	#210 lbs. of food & \$230.	no food collected & \$90.
July	# 125 lbs. of food & \$230.	no food collected & \$165.
Aug.	N/A & \$250.	#150 lbs. of food
Sept.	#180 lbs. of food & \$20.	#208 lbs. of food
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.	

2019, the food bank served 16,000 people. So far this year they have served 21,000. Part of their process of providing food for those in need has changed. They now deliver to those in quarantine, and at-risk individuals. They have done 3,300 of these home-type deliveries in addition to those coming to the food bank. The article did have some good news. The Food Bank will be moving into permanent quarters after Thanksgiving and will be spending \$800 less per month than they have been on rent. From March through June they provided 100,000 more pounds of food! They do get much of their food from the Food Bank of the Rockies and local restaurants. However, as mentioned in the last Crosswords, they appreciate our much-needed monetary contributions as well as the quality of food we also collect for them. Their need is greater than ever. For the entire article, please check the Fellowship bulletin board.



Announcements

Lois Dunning Memorial Service October 17, 2020 11am FCCGJ Sanctuary

On Saturday, October 17, please plan to attend a Memorial Service to remember the life of Lois Dunning, long-time member, Board Member, and Elder Emeritus of FCCGJ. For those who do not yet feel comfortable attending such a public event during COVID, we are working on figuring out a way to make some form of the service or elements of the service available to you.

The Memorial Service will be in the sanctuary on Saturday, October 17, at 11am.

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

43. Is there an experience of grief that you'd be willing to share? How did you get through it or did you completely? Who helped you? What was it like? What advice would you give to someone else going through an experience of grief?
44. Is there anything that you wish you would have done more of when you were younger? Why? Is it something that you could not do now, or do you think it would be more difficult now or even impossible?





Annual End of Year Ministries that Are Canceled In 2020 (Due to COVID)

As we near the end of the year, also known as “the holiday season”, during this COVID pandemic, a number of typical annual FCCGJ Ministries will be canceled in 2020.

Following is a list of typical ministries that will not be taking place this year, so you can mark your calendars and make plans to find alternative ministries on these special days:

- Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat
- Disciples Women’s Holiday Bazaar
- Congregational Thanksgiving Sunday Meal- typically follows worship the Sunday before Thanksgiving
- Community Thanksgiving Day Meal - the Salvation Army does plan to offer some form of meal, so hungry people in the community will be fed
- Annual Worship Christmas Music Program - We will work to have festive Advent worship, but a worship service involving many different speaking parts and live singing would not be safe.
- Operation Christmas Child - We’re collecting money so that we can order online. If you would line to do your own shopping you can do so at “Samaritans Christmas boxes”

Continue watching bulletin inserts and the Crosswords newsletter for updates.

Congratulations to Josh Barton

Josh is tentatively scheduled to leave for the US Air Force on December 15. Just recently he passed the test to be a linguist and is currently being evaluated for a security clearance. We all wish you the best, Josh.



Announcements



On **November 1, 2020**, we will celebrate during our Worship services the lives of family members and friends we lost this past year. As part of the service their names will be called out and a chime will ring. If you have someone you would like honored in this way, either call the office or place their name and your relationship in the offering plate.

Deadline to contact the church is Monday, October 26, 2020.

Your Name _____

Loved One's Name _____

Relationship _____

A new address for the
Jim & Carol Matthews:
PO Box 1824,
Nixa, MO 65714.

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



Announcements & Thanks

Community Food Bank

PO Box 3614


Grand Junction, Co 81502

Donation

Date	Donation No.
9/11/2020	3936

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

Check No.	Payment Method
14931	Check

Description	Amount
<p>On behalf of everyone at the Community Food Bank, we extend our deep appreciation for your generous contribution and ongoing support of the Community Food Bank.</p> <p>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 during this unprecedented crisis. We believe no one in our community should have to choose between paying their bills, and putting food on the table. Your gift has helped us rise to the call of these uncertain times, allowing us to serve over double our average client volume and launch a new food box delivery program the most vulnerable community members in the Grand Valley. We truly could not do this work without you, thank you!!</p> <p>In Gratitude,  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 alisha@foodbankgj.org</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 First Christian!</i></p>	349.00
Total	\$349.00



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	Valerie Morris
Jim Bennett	Faye Morosini
Bill Brown	Ginger Morris
Amy Burns	Betty Nelson
Johnny Cowan	Ron & Virginia Nelson
Chuck Cummings	Brian Neukman
Jeff Dean	Dennis Parks
Maurice Drake	Carol Perry
Barbara Dunning	Jeff Pratt
Earn Eachus	Steve & Peggy Pratt
Sheana Emerson	Family of Dorothy Rhodes
JameyLee Farney	Ike Rogers
David & Vickie Hagan	Kyle Rosencrans
JoAnne Hill	Paul Scanga
April Hiller	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	

(bolded names are new additions)



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

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

November 1, 2020

1st Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

November 8, 2020

2nd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

Church Calendar of Events

Thursday October 15, 2020

****Crosswords****

Friday October 16, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Saturday October 17, 2020

Men's Breakfast was moved to
October 24th
11:00 am Lois Dunning's Memorial
Service

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Sunday October 18, 2020

10:50 am Worship
No Coffee Mingle
4:00 pm Cabinet Meeting
via Zoom
6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Monday October 19, 2020

No CWU Group
10:30 am Staff Meeting
1:30 pm FCC Bookworms– Library
5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study
via Zoom

Tuesday October 20, 2020

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
5:00 pm Healthy Living–
Classroom A
5:00 pm Franklin Park HOA Meeting
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday October 21, 2020

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
via Zoom

Thursday October 22, 2020

****Crosswords Deadline****

1:00 pm CWF Executive–
Classroom A

Friday October 23, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Saturday October 24, 2020

8:00 am Men's Breakfast
6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Sunday October 25, 2020

****Food Bank Sunday****
10:50 am Worship
No Coffee Mingle
6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Monday October 26, 2020

10:30 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study
via Zoom

Tuesday October 27, 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 28, 2020

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
via Zoom

Thursday October 29, 2020

****Crosswords****

Reminder:

Daylight

Savings Time

Sunday, November 1st

Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday
night before you go to bed!

