



First Christian Church (DOC)

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Return Service Requested

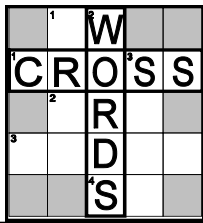
Volume 22● September 17, 2020

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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

The Forest for the Trees: A New Sermon Series Beginning October 4, 2020

We're coming to the close of our sermon series about pursuing change for Christ, which means it's time for a new sermon series.

As I've been prayerfully considering what God is calling me to preach through the end of this liturgical year (the liturgical year ends on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22), I've been led to preach one more series: "The Forest for the Trees".

The series will consider how the modern Church - I can't speak to/for the Church in any time but the present - focuses on a great many things other than the big picture of what Jesus was/is about. I call Jesus' purpose "the forest", and I call the great many other things upon which the Church has decided to focus "the trees." As in the idiom, "can't see the forest for the trees", I find that the Church gets so caught up in things that don't matter so much - things that Jesus never said matter so much - that we lose sight of the things Jesus seemed to care about very deeply.

The sermon series will begin October 4. As you prepare for this series of sermons, I encourage you to spend some time asking God to guide you in prayerful reflection about the kinds of things God desires the Church to focus upon versus the kinds of things the Church tends to focus upon. Ask God to reveal to you if we're spending enough/adequate time addressing the issues God showed God cared about through Jesus and even the prophets before him. You might even go back and read some of God's words through the Old Testament prophets to discover how this "can't see the forest for the trees" thing isn't at all new for God's people. In the Old Testament, God's people took their focus off of God's justice and mistakenly placed their focus on a host of other things. God tried through the prophets to refocus the Israelites' attention on what matters most.

I look forward to considering "the forest for the trees" with you this October and November!

- 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 September

- September 20, 2020- Pastor Brad
(Pursuing Change for Christ: Love)
- September 27, 2020 - Pastor Brad
(Pursuing Change for Christ: Provide a
Good Example)

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)

FCC Birthday

September

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
October 6	Beverly Dorson
October 8	Norma Matteson
October 17	Seth Krebill

FCC Anniversary

September

September 27	Tammy & Wayne Ostermiller
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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



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

Bulletin Boards

We have several in our church:

1. Creation Care articles and drop-off boxes are next to Pastor Brad's Office door.
2. General Information next to kitchen door in Fellowship Hall
3. CWF information board next to Re-use room
4. Library information — updated every Sunday in September — See what's new
5. Our Father's World — preparation for VBS for adults — hopefully in May 2021

Be Informed — Stay in the Know



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

Elders Meeting

October 11th
@ 1:00 pm
via Zoom

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

Board Meeting

September 20th
@ 4:00 pm
Via Zoom



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



Announcements

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.



September 19th
@ 8:00 am

There will be a Men's Breakfast on September 19th. Due to the Corona Virus social distancing will be followed. Please do not change the arrangement of two chairs per was table so as to keep the distance.

Masks are to be worn at all times (except when eating). Cafeteria serving cannot be used. Instead prepackaged items will be placed on each table.

There will be coffee, but please observe social distance when getting your coffee. Riecke Claussen will be giving the program. I will be out of town, so please contact either David or Lamar if you plan to attend. This will allow the correct amount of food items to be purchased determine the cost of these items.

Submitted by Al Baumgartle

CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, September 24th

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.



Our sympathy goes out
to the Family of
Lois Dunning

Don Klitzke has been moved
to room 116 at
Mantey Heights.



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 & \$???

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?



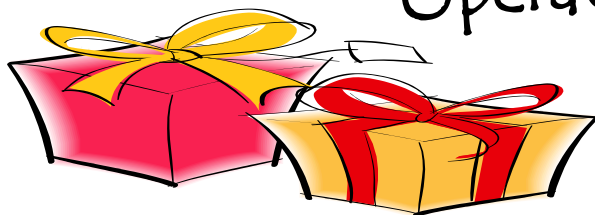
Hey you guys, we just got a book in the library you might want to read. Ann Hutton gave the library "No Ordinary Dog" by Will Chesney. Chiro is the assault dog who partnered with Will Chesney on many missions including the assignment to eliminate Osama bin Laden. It is available now. Check it out!

Thanks, Joyce



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)

FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Mark Barnes	Ginger Morris
Jim Bennett	Betty Nelson
Bill Brown	Ron & Virginia Nelson
Amy Burns	Brian Neukman
Johnny Cowan	Dennis Parks
Chuck Cummings	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	
Faye Morosini	

(bolded names are new additions)



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

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

October 4, 2020

1st Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

October 11, 2020

2nd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

Church Calendar of Events

Thursday September 17, 2020

****Crosswords****

Friday September 18, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Saturday September 19, 2020

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

12:00 pm Territorial Daughters
Meeting

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Sunday September 20, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

10:50 am Worship

No Coffee Mingle

4:00 pm Board Meeting via Zoom

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Monday September 21, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

No CWU Group

10:30 am Staff Meeting

No Woman's Bible Study

Tuesday September 22, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation*

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

No Healthy Living

Wednesday September 23, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study via
Zoom

Thursday September 24, 2020

****Crosswords Deadline****

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

1:00 pm CWF Executive– Classroom
A

Friday September 25, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

No Mexican Train Group

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Saturday September 26, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Sunday September 27, 2020

****Food Bank Sunday****

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

10:50 am Worship

No Coffee Mingle

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–
Classroom E

Monday September 28, 2020

10:30 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study via
Zoom

Tuesday September 29, 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 30, 2020

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
via Zoom

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