



First Christian Church (DOC)  
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970.242.7204—phone

Return Service Requested

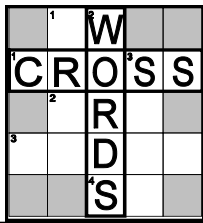
**Volume 25● October 29, 2020**

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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

## Advent 2020:

### “A Light Shines in the Darkness”

I bet you're struggling - at least a little bit - with the coming of Advent amidst this strange year that has been 2020 and the current worsening of the COVID-19 pandemic in the nation and especially around us in Mesa County:

- Maybe you're lamenting the cancellation for this year of some of your favorite ministries of FCCGJ;
- Maybe you're lamenting the cancellation or significant changes to whatever comprises your typical pre-Christmas activity schedule: Christmas parties, parades, Black Friday, get-togethers with friends, festive shopping and meal trips, etc.
- Maybe you're worried Christmas won't feel like Christmas if you must celebrate alone, or at least more alone and isolated than usual.
- Maybe you won't be able to travel to visit family and friends this year.

There's nothing wrong with worrying that Advent - the time of preparing for Jesus' birth/Christmas - won't be the same this year. While there's not much I can do about the reality of what is transpiring around us - the activities of Advent will NOT be the same this year, there might be something I can offer about the “worrying” part.

As it turns out, the way we modern Americans, even modern American Christians, tend to celebrate Advent isn't all that similar to what was going on during the original Advent. In fact, the original Advent - the period of time leading up to Jesus' birth - was likely quite a bit more like 2020 than like any other Advent during my life-time. Remember God's words through the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

Since we live in a time post-Jesus'-birth, it's usually quite difficult for us to associate Advent with darkness. We tend to focus more on the light which for us is in the past, not the future. For God's ancient people, the time of Advent was truly a time of darkness: God's people had been exiled from the Promised Land, and, even after they were allowed to return to the Promised Land, most of God's people chose to remain in exile and even away from the kind of relationship God desired with them. In that time, God's people understood darkness. In that time, God's people understood defeat, and they longed for a spiritual victory.

This year, as you mourn the loss of some of your typical Advent celebrations, rather than despairing, I encourage you to try to imagine yourself longing for God's light to shine in this darkness. Take your feelings of loss to God and ask God to show you how to look forward to God's light amidst this present darkness. That's what Advent is supposed to be about!

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 November & December November

- 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

## CROSSWORDS!

**next deadline is...**

**Thursday, November, 19th**

Please submit to the church office or  
email them to:

[firstchristiangj@hotmail.com](mailto:firstchristiangj@hotmail.com)

Articles arriving later than the deadline

## FCC Birthday

### November

November 13	Ruby Eachus
November 18	Dennis Edwards
November 30	Leonard Gardner

### December

December 1	Greg Sherry
December 4	Janet Biederman
December 6	Jenny Barnes
December 7	Donna Ham
December 9	Verda
December 10	Al Ladage

## FCC Anniversary

### November

November 22	Ron & Marian
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TBD for November

### **Elder's Meeting**

December 13th

TBA

### **Board Meeting**

November 22nd

@ 4:00 pm

via Zoom



# 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

## 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.	#190 lbs. Of food & \$ 349.
Nov.	#145 lbs. of food & \$395.	
Dec.	#165 lbs. of food & \$160.	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>#2,027 lbs. of food &amp; \$2040.</b>	

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

Update on Betty Nelson  
She is back in room F-11  
and back to her regular phone number of 254-7668  
She so appreciates all the cards.

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.



## **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 like to do your own shopping you can do so at “Samaritans Christmas boxes”

Continue watching bulletin inserts and the Crosswords newsletter for updates.

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## **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

## Outreach Room Needs

Recently Susan Brown donated most of the clothes from the Outreach Room to veterans in need. I am happy that Susan organized that donation and that we were able to help in that way; however, it has left our Outreach Room rather bare. In the future we will take more care to not empty our room of the most basic of supplies. That said, I have faith that God will provide through you and those you know, as we ask our neighbors to help this need! So, please consider seeking out the following items for our Outreach Room (**new or used with no stains or tears**):

\*Please note that we have more men stop by for help than women. So, if you are trying to make a decision between men's wear and women's, know that men's items are more needed.

### Mens

Med and Large Underwear  
Med and Large T-shirts  
Med and Large Long sleeve T-shirts  
Med and Large Sweatshirts  
Med and Large base layer clothing  
32-36 size jeans  
Medium and Large jackets and coats  
Athletic socks  
Beanie hats  
Gloves

### Womans

Medium and Large Underwear  
Medium and Large T-shirts or Tank Tops  
Medium and Large Long Sleeve T-shirts  
Medium and Large Sweatshirts  
Medium and Large base layer clothing  
  
Medium and Large jackets and coats  
Athletic socks  
Beanie Hats  
Gloves

Thank you all so much for your continued support of this project. It is something that helps those in need in our community. While COVID is creating a lot of changes for us, we know that there is still need in the world and God calls us to help those in need. I look forward to re-stocking the Outreach Room with you.

Sincerely,

Susan Barton  
Outreach Room Chairperson



# Announcements

## Time to Start Making Preparations for Advent Home Worship!

Advent is near; it begins Sunday, November 29, 2020.

Some of you may choose to spend your Sunday morning worship time here at the church building...if the COVID situation in Mesa County improves enough to allow it. But, some of you will almost certainly be worshipping at home. Since Advent is a special time, and Advent worship will involve special elements, I want to give you the opportunity to start making plans for your Advent home worship.

Here are some things you will need for worshipping at home this Advent season:

- Hanging of the Greens elements. November 29 will be our Hanging of the Greens service. I encourage you to find elements around your house to use for this service. Examples include: garland/greenery, a wreath, holly and ivy, pictures that remind you of Advent (to take the place of "banners"), a nativity scene, and your family Christmas tree.
- Candles to represent your "Advent Wreath". Each Sunday, I will supply an Advent Candle Reading with instructions for lighting a candle. You could use one candle or up to five candles for your at-home "Advent wreath".
- A candle for Christmas Eve. Whether we have a Christmas Eve service at the church building or not (and whether you're able to attend or not), I will make a Christmas Eve service available for you to use at home that will include a singing of "Silent Night" with a lit candle. (I will try to have a "live" service broadcast via Zoom from the church building.) Be thinking about and finding the candle you would like to use.

It will take some creativity, but I encourage you to do what you can to make your Advent worship special amidst COVID this year!

- Pastor Brad

### Advent Devotional and Jesse Tree Mailing

The week of November 22nd be looking for a manilla envelope in your mailbox from the church. Inside you will find an Advent devotional book entitled "Praying the Jesse Tree". You will also find a green Jesse tree Advent calendar, a sheet of stickers, and an instruction sheet. We have turned our Advent devotional into an Advent calendar to help you count down the days until Christmas and have a little fun.

You will also find a Chrismon ornament (a white Cross) that you will need for the Hanging of the Greens at home worship service.

If you have any questions please call the church office 242-7204.



# 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 <a href="mailto:alisha@foodbankgj.org">alisha@foodbankgj.org</a></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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$349.00</b>

# FCC Prayer Concerns

*“Pray without ceasing.”*

I Thessalonians 5:17

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



## FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

**November 15, 2020**

**3rd Sunday**

**Worship at home**

**No servers required**

**November 22, 2020**

**4th Sunday**

**Worship at home**

**No servers required**

**November 29, 2020**

**5th Sunday**

**Food Bank Sunday**

**Preparing Diaconate**

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

**December 6, 2020**

**1st Sunday**

**Preparing Diaconate**

Nancy Armbruster

Kathy Moore

# Church Calendar of Events

## **Thursday November 12, 2020**

\*\*\*\*Crosswords\*\*\*\*

No CWF General-

## **Friday November 13, 2020**

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–  
Classroom E

## **Saturday November 14, 2020**

8:30 am American Legion Post 37 –  
Classroom D

2:00 pm Dorothy Rhodes' Memorial  
Service

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–  
Classroom E

## **Sunday November 15, 2020**

\*\*\*\*2021 Committee Budgets due  
to Stewardship\*\*\*\*

In Person Worship Suspended until  
November 29, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–  
Classroom E

## **Monday November 16, 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 November 17, 2020**

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

5:00 pm Healthy Living–  
Classroom A

## **Wednesday November 18, 2020**

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study  
via Zoom

## **Thursday November 19, 2020**

\*\*\*\*Crosswords Deadline\*\*\*\*

## **Friday November 20, 2020**

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–  
Classroom E

## **Saturday November 21, 2020**

TBD Men's Breakfast

8:30 am American Legion Post 37-  
Classroom D

No Territorial Daughters

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–  
Classroom E

## **Sunday November 22, 2020**

In Person Worship Suspended until  
November 29, 2020

4:00 pm Board Meeting–  
via Zoom

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–  
Classroom E

## **Monday November 23, 2020**

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

No Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study  
via Zoom

## **Tuesday November 24, 2020**

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

\*\*\*\*Crosswords\*\*\*\*

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

No Friends going Forward

5:00 pm Healthy Living–  
Classroom A

## **Wednesday November 25, 2020**

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

\*\*Office Closed for Thanksgiving\*\*

NO Evening Bible Study

## **Thursday November 26, 2020**

\*\*Office Closed for Thanksgiving\*\*