



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 27● November 26, 2020

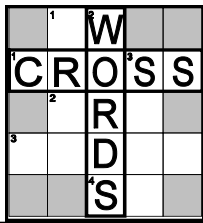
...INSIDE CROSSWORDS:

A Word form Rev. Brad Barton	p.2
A Word form Rev. Brad Barton Cont., Crosswords Deadline, Joys and Concerns, Update on Betty Nelson	p.3
Community Page	p.4
Preaching Schedule, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Elder's Meeting, Men's Breakfast, Your Story, Cabinet Meeting	p.5
Announcements— Mark Your Calendars	p.6
Announcements— Front Line Responders	p.7
Announcements— Food Bank Comparison, Advent Devotional and Jesse Tree Mailing	p.8
Announcements— Annual End of Year Ministries	P.9
Announcements— Outreach room needs	P.10

Announcements-Prepare to Celebrate Advent at Home, New Address for Jim and Carol Matthews, New Address for Judy Campbell	p.11
Announcement & Thanks-YouTube, From the Bookshelf, Thanks to Norma and Gene Matteson	p.12
Announcements & Thanks— Operation Christmas Child, When My Children were Born	p.13
FCC Prayer Concerns	p. 14
4-Week Server Schedule	p. 15
FCC Calendar of Events	p. 16

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:

9:30am-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

Celebrating Advent as a Church Family Amidst COVID-19

By now, you've likely heard the news: we at FCCGJ won't be able to get back to in-building corporate worship in time for the first Sunday of Advent - THIS Sunday, November 29, 2020.

We can - and should - lament what this means for us. At the same time, we've probably spent quite a bit of time lamenting what we cannot do these past 8-9 months. What I'd like to focus on in this article is what you/we CAN do to be God-focused together, especially in our worship, this Advent season. Here are some things you can do.

- Participate in a daily devotional and Advent calendar reading/activity. By the time you read this - or shortly thereafter - you should have received an envelope in the mail that includes an Advent devotional book based on the Jesse Tree, a Jesse Tree Advent calendar, an instructional sheet, and a Chrismon. Please participate in the Advent Calendar activity daily! As you do, imagine others in your church family partaking of the same activity. Even call and discuss the activity with others in the church family as a way of staying connected.
- Participate in Hanging of the Greens at your home worship space. We won't be hanging the greens at the church building in worship, but the November 29 At-Home Worship Plan includes a full Hanging of the Greens worship service to guide you through worshipping God by hanging the greens in your home worship space (and remembering what it's like to go through the same motions in the sanctuary.)
- Watch Bonus YouTube Videos. During the Advent season, I will keep recording my sermons as I have been, but I will also make extra recordings. I will likely record myself participating in the Jesse Tree Advent Calendar activity, reading the Advent Wreath reading and lighting the Advent candles in the sanctuary, and more. I may even send playlists of my favorite Christmas songs. Watch for emails letting you know when bonus content is added. It will be available on both our church YouTube Channel and on the <sermons> tab of our website.

Continued on p. 3



Continued from p. 2

- Participate in Zoom activities. I don't yet know the full extent of our Advent Zoom offerings, but I plan to offer some kind of Zoom Christmas Eve service (even if we have an in-building offering), as well as some other opportunities to "gather" digitally. If you don't have Zoom downloaded on your computer, now would be a good time to do so (and to learn how to use it), so you can participate in these activities. If you need help setting it up, call on a friend in the congregation who uses Zoom.
- Worship On Your Own at the Church Building - At last night's meeting, some people expressed a desire to have the church building accessible for those who connect with God better in the sanctuary than in any other space. If you would like to worship on your own in the sanctuary, two options are available to you: (1) Call Tish in the church office and schedule a time Monday-Thursday between 9am-12pm for you to worship in the sanctuary. (2) Come to the church building on Sunday mornings between 10:30am-11:30am. I will be at the building during this time and can let you into the sanctuary. If you don't see my car or I don't answer the door right away, please call me at 970-644-2274. I will be in the building somewhere and will let you in.
- Call members of your church family to keep connected and to share Advent/Christmas stories and cheer. It's easy to feel disconnected during this time. The best way to reconnect is to reach out to your church family with a phone call!

I know times are difficult, but we can and will be creative to discern ways to keep connected with each other and with God during this Advent season!

-Pastor Brad

CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, December 3, 2020

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.

Please Remember to get your
Joys and Concerns to the
office by 9:00 am on Thursday
Morning and we will get them
added to the at home
Worship .

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.



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 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

December

December 1	Greg Sherry
December 4	Janet Biederman
December 6	Jenny Barnes
December 7	Donna Ham
December 9	Verda
December 10	Al Ladage
December 22	Carol Steed
December 23	Marian Velarde
December 25	Jesus
December 26	Tammy Ostermiller
December 27	Gabrielle James

FCC Anniversary

December

None

Elder's Meeting

December 13th
via Zoom



Cancelled for December

Board Meeting

January 17, 2021 @
4:00pm
via Zoom

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?





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.	
Total:	#2,027 lbs. of food & \$2040.	

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.



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.



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

New Address :

Jim & Carol Matthews

1893 S. Shayla Ave.

Springfield, MO 65802

New Address :

Judy Campbell

3260 N 12th #233,

Grand Junction, CO 81506



Announcements & Thanks

Dear Church Friends,

I would like to share with you a YouTube site that is personal for Lamar and me. Many years ago, Lamar and his first wife, Janice, had friends in Oregon by the names of Dutch and Pat. After Lamar and I were spending our summers in Alaska, Dutch and Pat were with us for a week or so. Such fun people, but Dutch has since passed and Pat lives in Gulfport, FL in a senior housing community where she shares her interest in exercise at the City of Gulfport Senior Center. Recently she let us know that her exercise sessions are on YouTube. Pat is a retired judge, long-time sailor and watercolor enthusiast. Recently her sight has limited some of her activities, but she still has her sense of humor and delightful personality. If you are needing a gentle exercise program to follow, check out Pat at: YouTube Chair Exercise with Pat. I already have stretched a few muscles I forgot I had. You will have fun with Pat.

Joyce Wittwer

From The Bookshelf

The FCC Bookworms were able to gather to read and discuss a wonderful book by Elizabeth Goudge who was a well-read author starting in the 40s. She died in 1984 at the age of 84. We read "Pilgrim's Inn" written in 1948, which is the middle book in a trilogy of the Eliot family. The family buys an old inn named after the herb of grace (rue), and the inn, with its surrounding woods, transforms their lives in the best ways possible. Goudge's style of writing is very descriptive transporting you back into the time just after WWII. Goudge also wrote "The Little White Horse" which is a fairy tale and won for her the prestigious Carnegie Medal. If you are interested in reading either of these books, please let me know, and I will loan them to you.

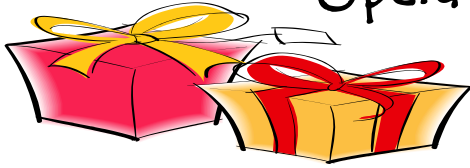
Joyce Wittwer 243-6214

Many thanks to Norma and Gene Mattteson and Sharon Armstrong for three large flower pots they donated to the church. One is already in use as the new home for one of our trees. Surely the extra space for its roots will make it a happy tree! We also thank Norma and Gene for another box of books for the church library. Speaking of the library, Christmas is just around the corner, and we have some great books in the library to be read during the Advent Season. Stop by the church library and just inside the door on your right are the Christmas stories. If you need help in selecting a book, give Joyce a call at 243-6214.



Announcements & Thanks

Operation Christmas Child



I would like to thank the men for making such a generous donation for the Christmas boxes this year. Thank you so very much.

I would also like to thank the congregation for their participation.

I ordered the Christmas boxes on line.

I ordered 21 boxes on line. There are some people that chose to order on line themselves.

I do not have a total amount.

I feel that with the circumstances this year that we all did a great job getting as many boxes that we did.

I know the children will be so happy to receive our boxes.

Again thank you for helping .

Carolyn Bryant



WHEN my children were born, I dedicated them to serve God. I was very sure that my first duty was to foster their faith in Him. As the children began to grow up, however, I began to realize that their trust in God was surpassing mine.

One night as Donna was going to bed, I suggested she might pray for an end to the drought that was threatening the livelihood of everyone in the countryside.

"Well," she hesitated, looking up sleepily from her pillow, "if I do, will you bring my dolls inside? I left them in the sandbox, and I don't want them to get wet."

I remember so well the evening Robin ran downstairs to kiss some visiting relatives good night.

"Now be sure to say your prayers," her grandmother admonished.

"I will," Robin promised solemnly. Then, turning to the guests, she asked with innocent yet total assurance, "Anybody need anything?"

Lucille Campbell, Cainesville, Missouri



Submitted by Joyce Wittwer

FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

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



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

November 29, 2020	5th Sunday	Food Bank Sunday
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Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

First Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2020	1st Sunday
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Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

Second Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2020	2nd Sunday
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Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

Third Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2020	3rd Sunday
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Preparing Diaconate

Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Church Calendar of Events

Thursday November 26, 2020

****Thanksgiving****

****Crosswords****

No CWF Executive

Friday November 27, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–

Classroom E

Saturday November 28, 2020

8:30 am American Legion Post 37 –

Classroom D

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–

Classroom E

Sunday November 29, 2020

****First Sunday in Advent****

****Food Bank Sunday****

In Building Worship Suspended

Indefinitely

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–

Classroom E

Monday November 30, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

10:30 am Staff Meeting

1:30 pm FCC Bookworms– Library

No Woman's Bible Study

Tuesday December 1, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

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

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

No Healthy Living

No Night'ngals

Wednesday December 2, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

No Evening Bible Study

Thursday December 3, 2020

Pastor Melanie on Vacation

****Crosswords Deadline****

No Ruth Group

TBD Dorcas Group

No Quilters Board

Friday December 4, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–

Classroom E

Saturday December 5, 2020

8:30 am American Legion Post 37–

Classroom D

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–

Classroom E

Sunday December 6, 2020

****Second Sunday in Advent****

In Building Worship Suspended

Indefinitely

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous–

Classroom E

Monday December 7, 2020

10:30 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study–

via Zoom

Tuesday December 8, 2020

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group

TBD Friends going Forward–

Fellowship Hall

No Healthy Living

Wednesday December 9, 2020

No Evening Bible Study

No Quilters Guild

Thursday December 10, 2020

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

Crosswords

No CWF General