

First Christian Church (DOC)

1326 North 1st Street

Grand Junction, CO 81501

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www.gjdisciples.org

970.242.7204-phone

Volume 25• October 29, 2020

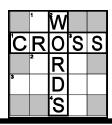
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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

Return Service Requested





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

What the New COVID Worship Pause Means for Us

Hopefully, by now you've received the news that the FCCGJ Executive Committee has decided to suspend in-person worship at the church building through November 22 due to a variety of factors relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and that our planned first Sunday to return from this brief pause will be November 29, 2020, which is the first Sunday in Advent.

I'd like to briefly address what this means for FCCGJ:

• The Executive Committee cares deeply about each member and friend of FCCGJ and, out of Christian love, desires to keep our members and friends as safe as possible!

• We will not be worshipping together at the church building for another month.

• We plan to worship together during the Advent and Christmas seasons! Our desire to worship together during Advent impacted the decision to suspend worship now; hopefully, the situation will be much improved by Advent.

• We can continue to meet and worship using some of the alternative means available to us (Zoom meetings, sermons recorded and presented on our website and YouTube, sermons and at-home worship plans provided each week, reflections sent daily.)

• Non-worship gatherings at the church building can still take place, as long as the COVID rules/restrictions are observed. HOWEVER, the Executive Committee urges all groups who meet at the church building to prayerfully discern whether or not meeting in-person is a good idea for your group and to seek any alternatives to in-person meetings that are available to you. Keep safe!

• The church staff will continue to work at the church building, and the church office will be open for regular hours (weather permitting.)

• FCCGJ needs your continued prayers and financial support. With each passing month of this pandemic, our monthly giving declines somewhat significantly. Please prayerfully consider how God calls you to continue to financially support the ministries of First Christian Church, Grand Junction.

• Our End-of-Year calendar remains in place. Please return your 2021 pledge cards to the church office by November 8, so the Stewardship Committee can prepare a budget in time for the November Board meeting. The annual Congregational Meeting is planned for December 13 after worship.

Please let me know if you have any questions. -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!"

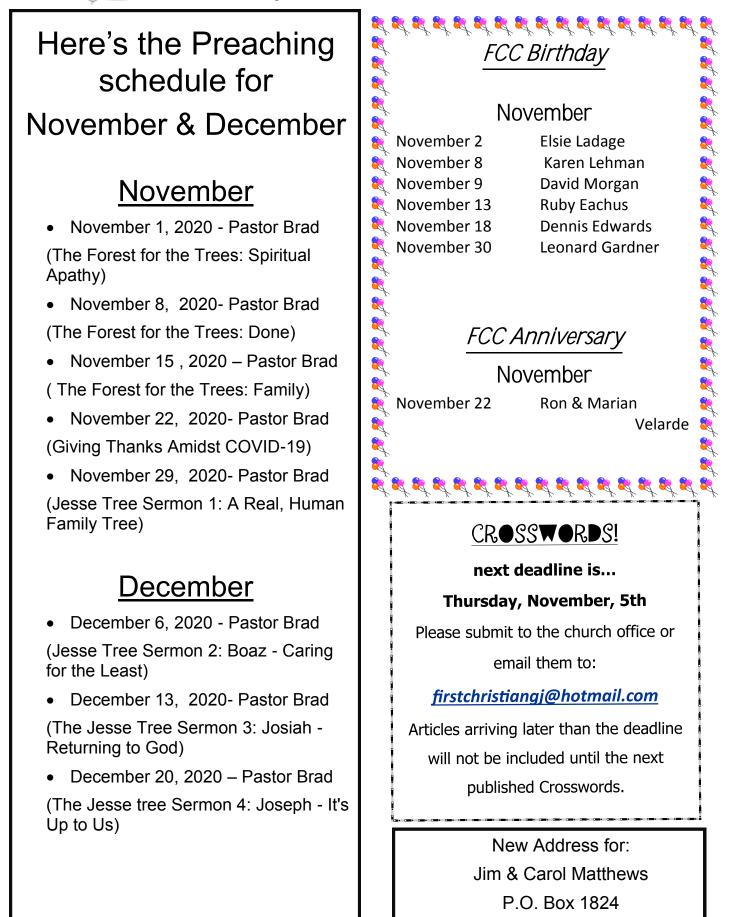
In so many ways, this motto describes the core of what we're about as a congregation.

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.

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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,

Melanin Jun

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



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



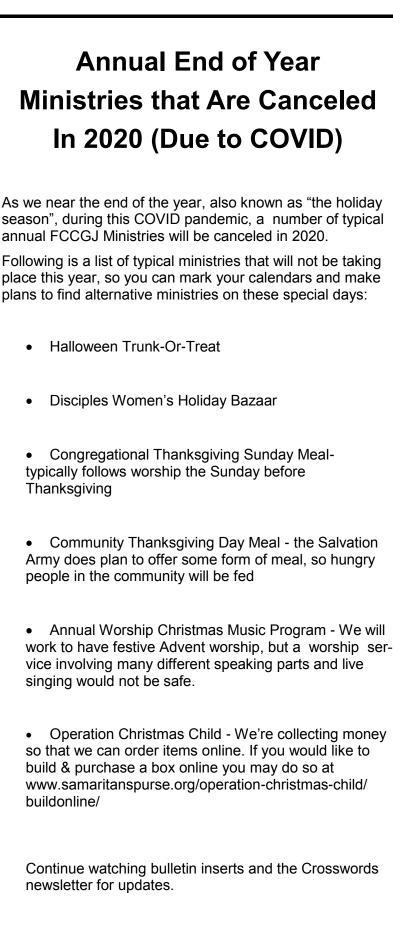
A Little Food Bank Comparison

2019

2020

#210 lbs. of food & \$20. #167 lbs. of food & \$70. Jan. #150 lbs. of food & \$215. # 244 lbs. of food & \$250. Feb. #192 lbs. of food & \$170. no food collected & \$100. Mar. #160 lbs. of food & \$80. no food collected & \$0. Apr. May #153 lbs. of food & \$30. no food collected &\$40. #210 lbs. of food & \$230. no food collected &\$90. June July no food collected &\$165. # 125 lbs. of food & \$230. N/A & \$250. #150 lbs. of food Aug. #180 lbs. of food & \$20. #208 lbs. of food Sept. # 346 lbs. of food & \$240. #190 lbs. Of food Oct. Nov. #145 lbs. of food & \$395. #165 lbs. of food &160. Dec. #2,027 lbs. of food & \$2040. Total:

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.







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**):

*<u>Please note that we have more men stop by for help</u> 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



Dorothy Rhodes' Memorial Service

Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 2pm. There will be no meal following the service.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend to remember and celebrate Dorothy's lífe!





Announcements & Thanks

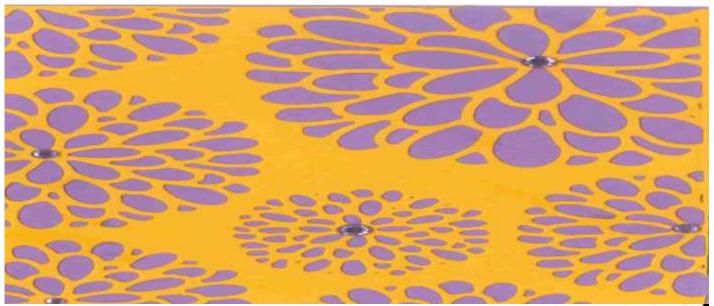
Congratulations to Josh Barton

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 & Thanks



Please accept this for wherever it do the most good aun Jusa

JUST SAYING HELLO

THE BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE WISHES TO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO DONATED MONEY, DONATED FOOD AND ALL OF THOSE WHO HELPED SET UP, SERVE AND CLEAN UP WITH THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LOIS DUNNING. WE SO APPRECIATE ALL. LOIS WAS SO SPECIAL. THANKS



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	

ĺ	Check No.	
	14931	
Description		Amount
On behalf of everyone at the Community Food Bank, we extend our deep appreciation for your generation 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 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!! In Gratitude, We truly could not do this work without you, thank you!! In Gratitude, Here To the Colorado Enterprise Zone Tax Credit, donors are requested to provide the 1 four digits of the Social Security Number or EIN on the check or enclosed information. Community F Bank will obtain certificates for donations of \$250 or more in a calendar year. For assistance and more information, please contact alisha@foodbankgj.org	unty has ast 'ood	349.00
Тс	otal	\$349.00

FCC Prayer Concerns

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

	L.
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	Family of Dorothy Rhodes
JoAnne Hill	Ike Rogers
April Hillen	Kyle Rosencrans
Ethel Hoffman	Paul Scanga
Kitty Hughes	Mike & Pam Shipp
Eleanor Hubbell	Angie Tanksley
Dee Johnson	Tierney
Sharon Johnson	Tyrone & his Mom
Ed Jones	Ron Velarde
Firefighters Safety	Alice Weisele
Nora Juette	
Hailer Kellog	
Jeanne & Don Klitzke	(bolded names are new additions)
Jo Laughlin	
Peggy Lawler	
Betty Learned	



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

November 1, 2020

1st Sunday

Worship at home

No servers required

November 8, 2020

2nd Sunday

Worship at home

No servers required

November 15, 2020

3rd Sunday

Worship at home

No servers required

November 22, 2020

4th Sunday

Food Bank Sunday

Worship at home

No servers required

Church Calendar of Events

<u>Thursday October 29, 2020</u>

****Crosswords****

Friday October 30, 2020

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous– Classroom E

Saturday October 31, 2020

8:30 am American Legion post 37-Classroom D

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous– Classroom E

Sunday November 1, 2020

****All Saints' Sunday****
At home Worship until November 29th
6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous– Classroom E
Monday November 2, 2020

Monday November 2, 2020

10:30 am Staff Meeting TBD FCC Bookworms– Library 5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study via Zoom

Tuesday November 3, 2020

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
5:00 pm Healthy Living– Classroom A
6:00 pm Night'ngals
Wednesday November 4, 2020

****Pastor Brad on Vacation****6:30 pm Evening Bible Studyvia Zoom

Thursday November 5, 2020

 ****Crosswords Deadline****
 No Ruth Group
 No Dorcas Group
 6:00 pm CO/ West Quilters Board-Fellowship Hall
 Friday November 6, 2020
 G:00 pm Narroting Apopumous

6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous– Classroom E

Saturday November 7, 2020

8:30 am American Legion post 37-

Classroom D 6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous-Classroom E Sunday November 8, 2020 At home Worship until November 29th 1:00 pm Elder's Meeting via Zoom 6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous-Classroom E Monday November 9, 2020 10:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study via Zoom Tuesday November 10, 2020 9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group No Friends going Forward-Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm Healthy Living-**Classroom A** Wednesday November 11, 2020 6:30 pm Evening Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm CO West Quilters Guild

Thursday November 12, 2020

****Crosswords****

TBD CWF General- Fellowship Hall