First Christian Church (DOC)

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Return Service Requested

Volume 7● April 1, 2021

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

Praising 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

Paula Schaffer, Pianist

Tish Key, Secretary

New Life

Christ is Risen!

I know many of you will read this prior to Easter Sunday, but, as my last newsletter article as Senior Pastor of First Christian Church, Grand Junction, I will focus on what we begin to celebrate this Sunday: Easter and resurrection.

There's a reason I chose Easter Sunday to be my last day with you once I felt God's call to move onto the next phase of my life and ministry. The reason is this: Easter is a reminder to all of us individually and ALSO all of us collectively of what God does with things that are broken, even things that feel like death.

As I depart, it may feel like a kind of brokenness or death: the relationship we've built together over the last 9 years is coming to an end. I am required by the ethical obligations of my calling to take time away from you. Whatever future plans and ministries you envisioned with me in them will not unfold as you envisioned; they will not include me. That is a kind of death, the death of an envisioned future story.

Easter calls us to remember what God does with death. God responds to death with new life!

As I prepare to depart, I encourage you to consider the new life to which God calls you as a congregation. I am certain God envisions great things for you. I am certain God has great purpose for you. In order for you to live into these great things and this great purpose, however, you must go through this difficult time, and you must go through this time with your focus on God.

I offer two things to help you on your journey...that stem from the Easter message of resurrection.

Number 1. Seek God's purpose for you as a congregation. As I write this, my mind wanders back to Jesus. Can you imagine what would have happened if Jesus would have decided to do something other than God's purpose for him? Can you imagine if Jesus would have used miraculous power to "force" Herod to set him free or to come down off the cross? There would have been no resurrection; where would we be today without resurrection? Just like Jesus lived into God's purpose for Him, difficult as it was, your path forward MUST be a path of discerning and living into God's purpose for you as a congregation. I would suggest as a subset of discerning God's purpose for you: listen to the people you perceive to be spiritual leaders! They will direct you to God when others struggle to know where to turn or struggle to know how to help the congregation find God's purpose.

Number 2. Have hope. As I've talked with a great many of you these past few months, I have heard one thing more often than anything else, and it concerns me. I have heard a lack of hope. I've heard fears that the congregation is too small to find

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Announcements

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another pastor. I've heard fears that the congregation's numbers are close to forcing the congregation to close its doors. Please, please, PLEASE: have hope. The God who resurrected Jesus from death on a cross surely has enough power to revitalize First Christian Church, Grand Junction. If you truly believe God resurrected a dead body and breathed new life into it, you must believe God can breathe new life into a congregation. I have long sensed God plans to do just that. (You might think I am leaving because I fear this "ship is sinking". That is NOT the case. Rather, I am leaving because God has shown me that God will send someone else to lead you into the amazing future God has planned for you. I have done my part; God will send another to guide you into the new life that is coming.)

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

- Pastor Brad

Article from the search committee

The Search Committee has continued meeting and reviewing profiles. We have one individual whom we are hoping might be available in a timely fashion. We have checked references and have scheduled a Zoom interview with him. We will keep you updated. Please call one of us if you have questions.

Effective April 5, 2021, Reverend Melanie Ferron will take over administrative responsibilities for our church until an interim minister can be hired. Our regional minister, Reverend Joan Bell-Haynes recommended to our committee that we ask Melanie to take on this responsibility. Reverend Bell-Haynes felt it was best for us to have someone in place to manage ongoing day to day operations of our church while the search process continues.

Melanie has agreed to take on this responsibility on a part time basis. Melanie, the elders, and the executive committee will work together to keep operations smooth while the search committee continues its process.

If you have questions about this, please call me. 970-261-1161

Pam Baumgartle

Link to Alice Wieseler's Memorial Service

The link is:
https://youtu.be/dCEYSEhwOmg

Corrected Address for
Vernon Black
2934 W Amber Sun Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85085

The 2021 Membership List and Pictorial Updates are available in the Narthex.

Corrections to those already picked up are:

1. Remove asterisks after the names of Marilyn Cobb, Jeanne & Don Klitzke and in the non-participating list Suzanne Andrew.

2. Correct the Room number for Don Klitzke to #12l in both locations (listed as a participating member and also in Nursing Homes.

If other errors are found, please contact Joyce Wittwer at 243-6214 or Tish at the office. Thank you!

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Announcements

FCC Birthday

April

April 7	Mary Ann Bogani
April 18	Susan Brown
April 23	Richalyn Cox
April 27	Betty Nelson
April 28	JoAnne Hill

May

May 1	Charles Johnson
May 7	Pam Baumgartle
May 10	Al Baumgartle
May 10	Johnny Cowan
May 13	Norma Lavelett
May 17	Jeannie Klitzke
May 17	Phil Oliver
May 18	Beth Sherry
May 19	Marlene Cowen
May 22	Bill Fitch
May 23	Wayne Ostermiller
May 25	Alex Everett
May 30	Yvonne Warner

FCC Anniversary

April

April 2	Al & Pam Baumgartle
April 25	Chip & Melanie Ferron

May

May 14	Al & Else Ladage

Here's the Preaching schedule for April 2021

- April 4, 2021– Pastor Brad ("When the Sabbath was Over")

Elder's Meeting

April 11, 2021

after Worship in Conference Room

April 17, 2021

@ 8am

Board/Cabinet Meeting

TBD

CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is…

Thursday, April 8, 2021

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.

Maunday Thursday Worship Service

Thursday April, 1 2021

At 6:30 pm

In the Church Sanctuary

Led by FCCGJ Elders

Please Make Plans to Pray:
The Easter Prayer Vigil Will Be Different This Year

Please plan to pray - at home - during our annual Easter Prayer Vigil this year. The vigil takes place from 8pm Thursday, April 1 through 8pm Friday, April 2.

Instead of asking you to come up to the church building or sign up for a particular time, the Elders of FCCGJ are simply asking every member and friend of FCCGJ to spend 30 minutes in prayer sometime during this 24 period of time. This will help limit exposure to COVID, and it will hopefully allow everyone to more fully participate.

Please join your FCCGJ Elders in remembering Jesus' prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane - and Jesus' request that His disciples pray with Him - by taking intentional time to pray during this 24 hour prayer vigil.

- Riecke Claussen, FCCGJ Elder Chair

MY VICTORY GARDEN OF LIFE

I will plant five rows of peas
- Presence
- Promptness
- Preparation
- Perseverance
- Purity

Next, I will plant three rows of squash
- Squash gossip
- Squash indifference
- Squash criticism

Then, I will plant five rows of lettuce
- Let us be of service
- Let us be on purpose
- Let us be true to our commitments
- Let us look for the good
- Let us love one another

No garden is complete without turnips
- Turn up for meetings
- Turn up with a smile
- Turn up with new ideas
- Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

Submitted by Ann Hutton

Love in Action Box is in need of Donations

We are now seeing more families in need and taking from our

Love in Action Box.

Families Needs:

Canned Goods

Veggies
Fruit
Peanut Butter
Pasta Sauce
Noodles
Raman Noodles
Canned Soup
Beans
Rice
Evaporated Milk
Spam
Tuna
Vienna Sausage
Canned Chicken

Boxed Goods

Instant Massed Potatoes
Dried Milk
Oats
Cream of Wheat
Malt-o –Meal

Misc.

Salt/pepper
Cooking oil

Homeless Needs:

Snacks

(Individual Packets Please

Cookies
Trail mix
Cheese Crackers
Peanut Butter Crackers

Misc.

Men's Socks
Woman's Socks
Shoe Strings
Denture Cream
Denture Cleaner

Easter Offering

a special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund

March 28 and April 4, 2021

Imagine what God can do *when we share our gifts.*

The Easter Offering reaches deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ.

- developing Disciples
- forming new faith communities
- connecting with ministry partners around the world
- serving God's people in need

Imagine what God can do:

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. — John 20:1

The Easter Offering supports these general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):

Center for Faith and Giving • Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries
Communication Ministries • Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry
Disciples of Christ Historical Society • Disciples Home Missions • Disciples Women
Division of Overseas Ministries • Higher Education and Leadership Ministries
National Benevolent Association • National Convocation
New Church Ministry • North American Pacific/Asian Disciples
Office of the General Minister and President • Treasury Services

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Deep...

leadership development programs for college and seminary students

Bible studies that challenge and inspire

opportunities for clergy to gather in prayer

spiritual care for those in prison

resources for mental health and trauma care

visionary leadership that calls the church to imagine new ways to witness to God's love

Digital materials for the Easter Offering are available online at **www.DisciplesMissionFund.org.** You will find a variety of media to help your congregation imagine what God can do:

- ***Images, videos, and stories showing the impact of your gifts***
- ***Worship materials, prayers, and liturgies***
- ***Graphics for social media and virtual worship***
- ***Information on inviting a virtual guest speaker from one of the general ministries***

Offering envelopes are available as needed; please email your request, including shipping address and the amount needed, to supplies@disciples.org.

...and Wide.

global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation, and peace

colleges, universities, and theological institutions that nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society, and world

volunteers who help in the aftermath of disasters

new congregations who worship in a variety of languages and worship styles

ministry grants for congregational service ministries that serve hungry neighbors

Easter Offering

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March 28 and April 4, 2021

FCC Prayer Concerns

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

Peyton Andrew
Mark Barnes
Jim Bennett
Sarah Bishop
Bill Brown
Amy Burns
Johnny Cowan
Chuck Cummings
Jeff Dean
Maurice Drake
Barbara Dunning
Earn Eachus
JameyLee Farney
Donna Graham
David & Vickie Hagan
JoAnne Hill
April Hillen
Ethel Hoffman
Kitty Hughes
Eleanor Hubbell
Dee Johnson
Ed Jones
Firefighters Safety
Nora Juette
Hailer Kellog
Jeanne & Don Klitzke
Jo Laughlin
Peggy Lawler
Linda (Daughter of Jenny Barnes)
Adela Matera

Ken & Judy Maurer
Valerie Morris
Faye Morosini
Ginger Morris
Betty Nelson
Ron & Virginia Nelson
Brian Neukman
Dennis Parks
Carol Perry
Jeff Pratt
St. Francis of Assisi Christian Church
Steve & Peggy Pratt
Ike Rogers
Kyle Rosencrans
Joseph Rubalcaba Jr.
Paul Scanga
Tami Sheets & Bryant Family
Mike & Pam Shipp
Amy Sigley
Angie Tanksley
Tyrone & his Mom
Ron Velarde
Jacob Watkins and Family

(bolded names are new additions)

FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

April 4, 2021	1st Sunday	Easter Sunday

Preparing Diaconate
Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

April 11, 2021	2nd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate
Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

April 21, 2021	3rd Sunday

Preparing Diaconate
Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

April 28, 2021	4th Sunday	Food Bank Sunday

Preparing Diaconate
Nancy Armbruster
Kathy Moore

Church Calendar of Events

Thursday April 1, 2021
****Crosswords****
8:00 am Easter Prayer Vigil Begins
9:00 am Ruth Group
1:30 pm Dorcas Group
6:00 pm Co. West Quilters Board
6:30 pm Maundy Thursday
Worship Service
8:00 pm Easter Prayer Vigil Begins

Friday April 2, 2021
6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
8:00 pm End Easter Prayer Vigil

Saturday April 3, 2021
9:00 am Amateur Radio Emergency
Services (ARES)
6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday April 4, 2021
****Easter Sunday****
****Pastor Brad Last Day****
10:50 am Worship
No Coffee Mingle
No Narcotics Anonymous

Monday April 5, 2021
1:30 pm FCC Bookworms
5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study—
via Zoom

Tuesday April 6, 2021
No Burger King Coffee Group
10:00 am Friends Going Forward
5:00 pm Healthy Living-
via Zoom
6:30 pm Night'ngals

Thursday April 8, 2021
****Crosswords Deadline****
No CWF General
6:00 pm CO. West Quilters Board

Friday April 9, 2021
1:00 pm Mexican Train Group
6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday April 10, 2021
8:30 am Western Colorado Amateur
Radio Club
6:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday April 11 2021
10:50 am Worship
No Coffee Mingle
12:30 pm Elders Meeting
No Narcotics Anonymous

Monday April 12, 2021
5:30 pm Woman's Bible Study-
via Zoom

Tuesday April 13, 2021
No Burger King Coffee Group
5:00 pm Healthy Living-
via Zoom

Wednesday April 14; 2021
7:00 pm CO. West Quilters Guild

Thursday April 15, 2021
****Crosswords****

Have you reached out to a fellow church member today?

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