



First Christian Church (DOC)

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Grand Junction, CO 81501

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www.gjdisciples.org

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Return Service Requested

Volume 14 February 2023 Crossword Newsletter

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement



**PRAISING GOD
CHANGING LIVES!**



CROSSWORDS

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Services each

Sunday

Praising God, Changing Lives for 135 Years!

Sunday Worship:

10:50 a.m.

Church Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday:

12:00 pm–3:00 pm

Friday: Close

Pastor Kevin Church hours:

Monday - Wednesday: 10 AM—3 PM

THURSDAY: OFF

FRIDAY: 10 AM—3 PM

Our Ministry

Statement

First Christian Church (DOC)

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.

Kevin's Korner

What an exciting beginning to the New Year! After our calm and fun New Year's celebration Game Day, it soon


became clear that we were needed to fill a gap for overflow refuge housing for a group of our unhoused neighbor gentlemen. Wow! Did we ever have to hit the ground running! Too many people to name all that were essential for a successful mission effort. You know who you are, and THANK YOU!!!

I was reminded of the words of several church leadership experts since the beginning of Covid. A consistent trait identified in effective churches, now, and into the future, is called 'nimbleness.' In churches, that is the description of churches who are aware of their surroundings, the trends heading into the future, and any significant shifts in 'wind-direction,' like community needs. Oh yes, and the ability to quickly adapt to the new reality even as it is only just beginning to appear. Well, First Christian Church family and friends; we did just that! It wasn't all pretty. Certainly, there was some stress. But, I can only use the word, 'beautiful,' to describe what I saw happening right inside our big ol' church building. We were nimble in our daily schedules, nimble in volunteering, being flexible, and donating time (including sleep time) and talents, and treasures.

Our guests experienced a level of hospitality that many of them said, they could not remember experiencing before. And, when not dragging with exhaustion, the hosts experienced a level of joy they won't soon forget. We all learned a lot too, which ought to make it a bit easier next time and make for an even more satisfying experience for all involved. Do please add your evaluations and suggestions in the next few weeks.

Our experience gave us plenty to talk about in our first two Pastor's Cabinet meetings of the year. We have a good start on our planning for 2023 and our communication about planning, and learning, and growing as a church. Part of our Cabinet discussion was an exercise called S.W.O.T., which many of you are familiar with. It stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (I included temptations in the threats). This exercise is designed to help us better understand ourselves and our neighborhood and community around us. I want to share our observations.

(Continued on Page 3)



I invite you to give us feedback on what you think we might have missed, but also the observations that you believe are especially important for our church as we continue through 2023 and beyond. Here we go: (Do give us some grace, as some of these observations were in hopes of getting even better at some important factors.)

Weakness: Age, building, conversation, could be more friendly, traditions, involvement, and energy level.

Threats (temptations): Park, unhoused, “they”, fear of failure, fear, negativity, status quo, evangelism, rejection, communication (early, often, more often), hearing.

Opportunities: 20,000 square feet, 1.85 acre, neighborhood, congregation, growing community, location, park, unhoused, Guitar Club, display kindness and welcome – radiate love and Christian principles, “We”, Hope, Spring is coming.

Strengths: Congregation, location, age, building and grounds, friendly, diverse, new involvement, “made it happen”, Nimble, Lamar (and Joyce, and all of you)!

You see I did not go in order, because I wanted to leave you with the positive observations, which outnumbered the negatives. I hope you read these observations and find hope for our future, and our present. I also hope you will consider the negatives and think about ways we can turn them into positive opportunities, even if it would take a lot of work. I hope you will pray about these observations and ask God what we ought to do with both the negatives and positives. And I hope you will give your own observations about our reality at First Christian Church and the possibilities that might arise, when mixed with God’s kingdom realities and possibilities. Please send me an email, or call, make an appointment, or write a note. I’d like to hear from you!

I’m already praying and trusting in God. Please join me!

God bless you! Pastor Kevin



-Attention-

There will be a Board meeting on Sunday, March 19 at 4:00 PM.

This will be the first meeting of 2023 as we look to the future. The Board will hear reports from our various ministries and discuss the business of the church.

As usual, everyone in the congregation is welcome. If you’ve ever wondered what’s going on “behind the scenes” this is the time to find out.

Riecke Claussen

Board Moderator

According to the January 6 edition of *The Week*, **hearing aids** may cut your risk of developing dementia. A study involving more than 4,300 American adults, average age 68, found that those with untreated hearing loss were more than twice as likely as those without to develop mild cognitive impairment, a precursor to dementia. There was no significant difference in risk between those with normal hearing and those who used hearing aids. “This implies that use of hearing aids may help mitigate cognitive decline associated with hearing loss,” say the authors, “offering an actionable strategy” to prevent dementia.

Also in that same issue, it mentioned that **A SENSE OF WONDER** can improve your enjoyment of life. If you have a strong appreciation for moments of beauty, you are more likely to feel that your existence is meaningful. Slow down, let life surprise you and embrace the significance in the everyday!



It's interesting how one thing can lead to another. First Kevin came with his wife Shannon, and then there was the Guitar Club. That led to some of the guitar club people and friends attending FCC's February Monthly Breakfast. One of those attendees was our guest speaker. Terry Chase confesses that she is always learning something new, and a broken back from a bicycle accident when she was hit by a drunk driver has propelled her to divergent paths. She has several degrees and most of those have been attained as a result of her spinal cord injury. Currently she is an instructor at CMU in the nursing field. Her main emphasis on the 18th was that, regardless of “whatever hand we're delt, we always have the choice to live a wholehearted life.” She has written ***Spoke by***

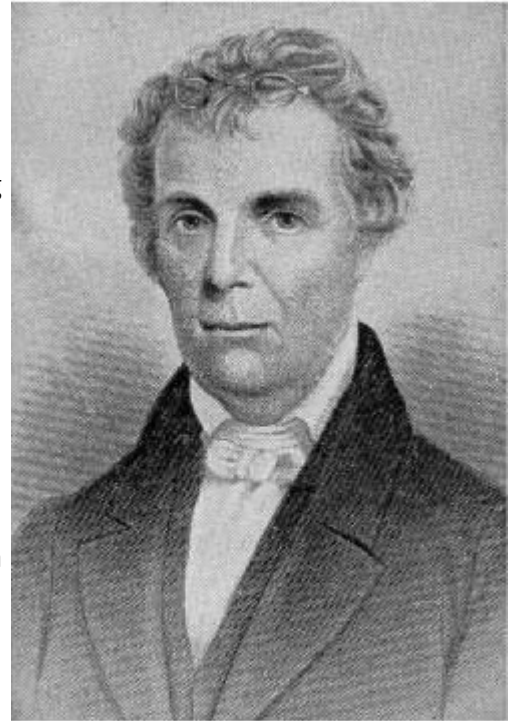
Spoke which shares some of her stories that help us realize what we are all capable of. The copy she donated to FCC is available for check out in the library.



The **2023 Membership** list is available in the Fellowship Hall along with the additions and corrections to the Pictorial Directory. If you see any errors, please report them to the office. Also, if you would like help in updating your directory, please contact Joyce for assistance.

HISTORY OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST – PART 2

Barton Stone was a Presbyterian minister in Bourbon Co, KY. He was born in 1772 in Maryland and attended David Caldwell's academy near Greensboro, NC and completed the classical course in 1793. His plan was to practice law but after hearing a young New Light Presbyterian minister whose sermon concerned the love and grace of God, he was promptly converted and decided he would be a Presbyterian preacher. In 1801 a tremendous camp meeting was held around the Presbyterian church at Cane Ridge, KY, where Stone was pastor. Ministers from several denominations worked together preaching the gospel to crowds estimated at 20,000. This experience of cooperation made a deep impression on Stone. Plus, this large revival meeting convinced Stone and other Presbyterian ministers in the area the Calvinist doctrine that Christ died only for the "elect" was untrue. Five ministers withdrew from the Synod of Kentucky in 1803 and organized the independent Springfield Presbytery. Less than a year later, that little presbytery was dissolved with the publication of one of the most significant documents in Disciples history. It was called "The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery." Major sections of the "mock will" contend that the people should have "free course to the bible," which is "the only sure guide to heaven," and that local congregations should govern themselves. The Stone-led movement took the name "Christian" because it was biblical and nonsectarian. The group continued to be evangelistic and spread through the Midwest with settlers from Kentucky. Strictly congregational, the Christians were slow to develop organizations. Their so-called "conferences" were little more than rallies at which the congregations of an area could share reports.



Barton W. Stone (1772-1844)

To be continued...



Meet Anita Chitaya from Malawi. Malawi is a small country in Africa between Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique, and she is a farmer who tries to end hunger and gender inequality in her village and tackle climate change in the United States.

The documentary, ***The Ants and the Grasshopper***, has been made of her efforts and visit to the U.S. Membership has made arrangements to view this through DOC headquarters on March 1, 2023 at 5 p.m. local time. It will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for your viewing.

Malawi is one of the world's least developed countries. Their economy is based on agriculture, and their population is growing rapidly. However, it is nicknamed "The Warm Heart of Africa" because of its friendly people. This film has received much recognition. Join us!

Dear Neighbors,

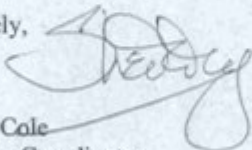
Thank you so much for saying yes to hosting during the first season of the **WEShelter Single Men** Program at your location. As you well know, **WEShelter** offers smaller size sites for those who do not share walls well with others. By sharing your compassionate regard for their plight and their human dignity, you kept these vulnerable men from the harshness of sleeping rough night after night, never sure where they will find a spot to sleep safely in the winter elements.

We are so appreciative of people like you who truly understand what need is and how important it is to feel that you belong. Thanks for helping us to ameliorate trauma for those who are unhoused in our community but absolutely call Grand Junction home. Thank you for the amazing dedication of your breakfast staff, who served a mix of 15 different men 212 breakfasts during the time they spent with you. Your willingness to extend their stay was a generosity that I consider divine order, an out-picturing of your love and faith in action.

Your meal providers, overnight volunteers and support staff are such fine examples of the kindness we all want to receive, kindness that shows we are acknowledged for just being who we are. Whether you brought food, stayed overnight, prepared the site in advance, organized the volunteers and meals or made a monetary donation, you made a difference in their lives.

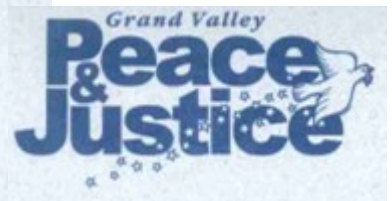
May the months and years ahead bring new hope for justice and peace within our hearts as we strive for a more compassionate and loving world. Your support is indeed a fine example of just that.

Sincerely,



Sherry Cole
Program Coordinator

Thank you Rev. Kevin,
Bonnie, Chip and
Lamar — we all
were so blessed by
your presence.



Dear Church Family
My son Rafael will not need
anything done to his
brain aneurysm.
Thanks for your prayers!

I had wanted to come to
Church this morning, yesterday
when I started out to paint
in Montrose the snow was
so bad before I even got
to Delta I had to turn
around and come home.

I must go to Montrose today
and do the work I needed
to do yesterday.

Hope to see you soon!
Love Angie

Thanks so
very much
First Christian!
Whisper

Chelsea

Michelle

Katelynn

Dear First Christian Church Congregants,

Thank you so much for your
generous support. Your donations
helped us feed almost 2,000
households in the month of
January! We appreciate all you
do for our community.

In Gratitude,

Community Food Bank Staff

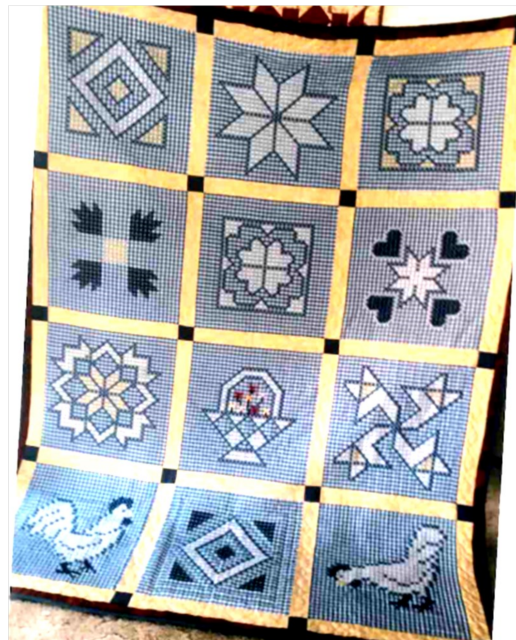
Friends with Missions Quilt Raffle for Latimer House

Twelve years ago, The Sunshine Through Tears Ministry was created to help our church members deal with the loss of a loved one. Over the years, this ministry has changed the name of the group four times: Sunshine Through Tears, A New Door Opens, Friends Going Forward and currently, Friends With Missions. The group meets every two weeks. We welcome anyone to come and join us.

Recently this ministry has undertaken a new project. We wish to donate to a local charity and chose Latimer House. Latimer House provides services for those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault offering emergency safe houses, advocacy and 24-hour crisis line.

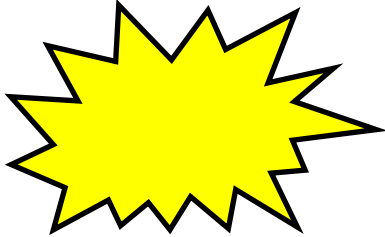
To help raise funds for this worthy cause, Norma Lavelett has donated a beautiful hand quilted cross-stitched pattern single size quilt. Help us make this fundraiser a huge success by purchasing ticket or tickets at one dollar each.

Tickets will be available to purchase from group members beginning the first of February. The quilt raffle drawing will be on Sunday March 19th.



Giving Boxes

January 2023



LBS

60-

50-

40-

30-

20-

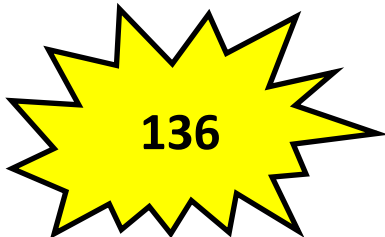
10-

24

DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

January 2023



LBS

350-

300-

250-

200-

150-

100-

117

136

DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC



March 2023

FCC Anniversaries

- 22 Johnny and Marlene Cowan

FCC Birthdays

- 2 Kathy Moore
- 7 Johnny West
- 8 Audrey Richardson
- 10 Melanie Ferron
- 12 Chip Ferron
- 13 Gayle Johnson
- 14 Kevin Arensman
- 22 Shannon Arensman
- 31 Daniel Connor

CROSSWORDS

Next Deadline is

March 23, 2023

Please submit to the
church office or email to:

firstchristiangj@hotmail.com

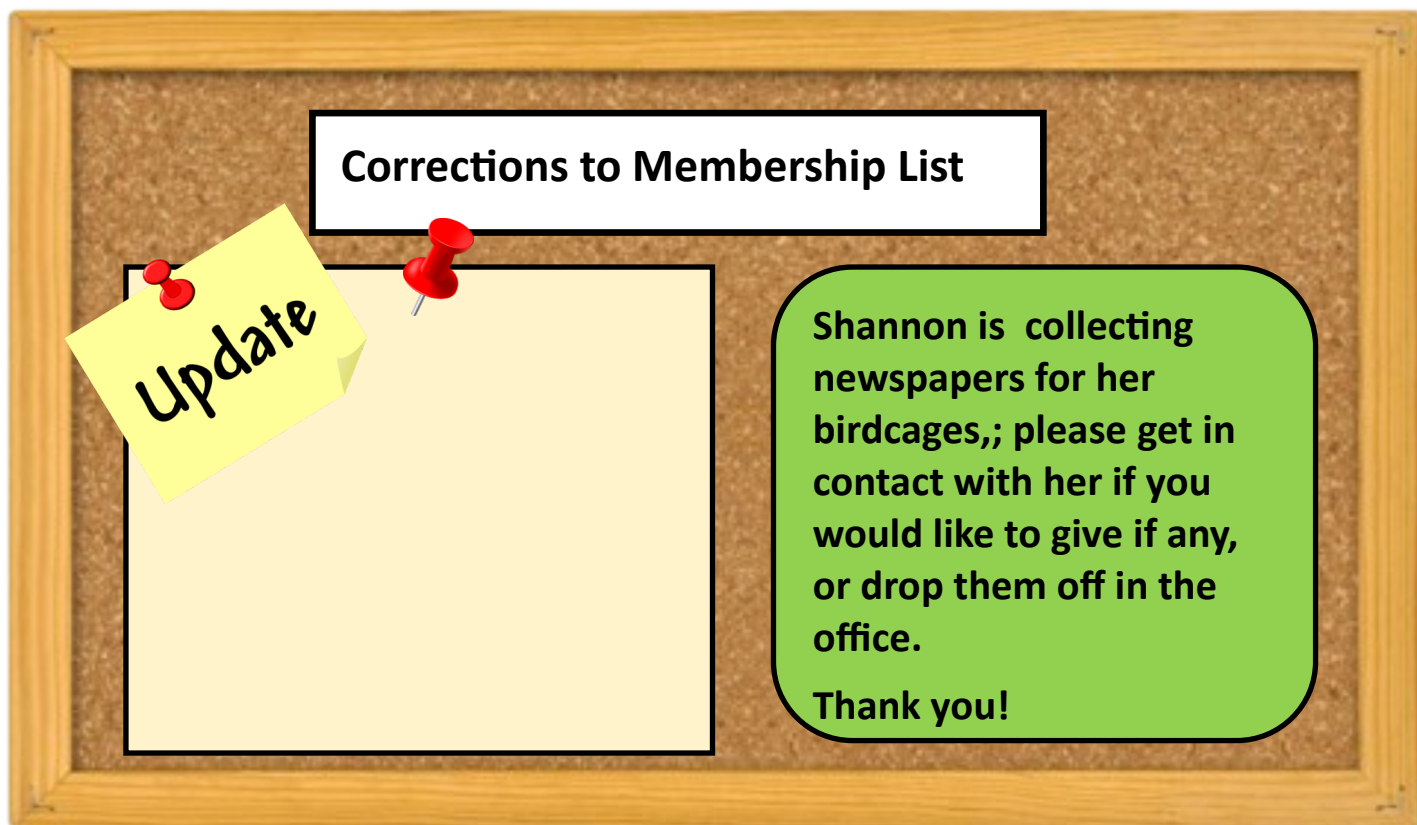
Articles arriving later than the
deadline will be included in
the next Crosswords.

Proverbs 12:25

**Anxiety weighs down the heart,
but a kind word cheers it up.**

Nancy and I are grateful for our
church family
and for the kind words from so
many during
our recent bout with Covid 19.

Riecke and Nancy Claussen



Disciples Women (CWF) General Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 12:30 pm

On Thursday March 9, at 12:30 , everyone is invited to attend a salad luncheon followed by a program given by speakers representing three non-profit organizations. **The House**: Provides temporary shelter for homeless, runaways and unaccompanied youth ages 13-20. **Hope of the Grand Valley**: Provides support and a hand up, not a hand out to hardworking families who still find it difficult to make ends meet. **Latimer House**: Provides services for those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault for anyone in Western Colorado.

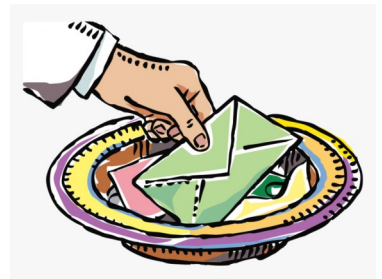
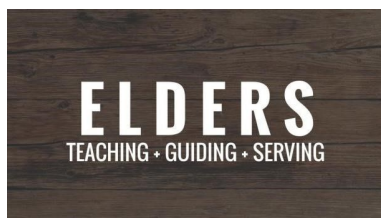
Each speaker will give a 5 minute presentation followed by a 5 minute question and answer period. The Disciples of Women voted to give a share of their 2022 Bazaar proceeds to the non-profit organizations.

The Dorcas group is hostess and will do the worship. Bring a salad to share and your own table service. You will have the opportunity to hear how each organization gives support and education to those facing life's changes.



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

February 05, 2023		1st Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Joyce Wittwer	Al Baumgartle	Lamar Edwards	Chip Ferron
<u>Greeter</u>		Joyce Wittwer	
Johnny West			
Jeanette West			
February 12, 2023		2nd Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Pam Baumgartle	Lily Fitch	Norma Lavelett	Chip Ferron
<u>Greeter</u>		Gloria Jeffrey	
Shannon Arensman			
February 19, 2023		3rd Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Dennis Edwards	Jeanice Swank	????	Chip Ferron
<u>Greeter</u>		Jeanice Swank	
Ann Hutton			
February 26, 2023		4th Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
Riecke Claussen	Donna Ham	Donna Ham	Chip Ferron
<u>Greeter</u>		Jeanne Klitzke	
Nancy Claussen			
5th Sunday			
<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Coffee Mingle</u>	<u>Collection Team</u>
<u>Greeter</u>			



FCC Prayer Concerns

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Please Pray For:

Betty Nelson
Christina Pherson
Citizens of Ukraine (Sergii Antonov)
David and Vickie Haegen
Darla Niles
Diana
Faye Morosini
Janet Biederman
Jeff Dean
Jerry Laubhan
Law & Military Enforcement Personnel
Les Armbruster
Margie O'Dell
Nancy Armbruster
Our Church and Country
Paul Scanga
Pete Personette and Family
Ric Rava
Santiago Rubalcaba
Shirley Kennedy
Tammy Whitcomb & Daughters

Requested By:

Joyce Wittwer
JoAnne Eggers
Shannon Arensman/Bonnie
Nancy Armbruster
Shannon Arensman
Lily Fitch
Nancy Armbruster
Elders
Gloria Jeffrey
Lily Fitch
Kevin Arensman
Nancy Armbruster
Shannon Arensman
Nancy Armbruster

Bev Dorson
Tammy Ostermiller
Shannon Arensman
Shannon Arensman
Shannon Arensman
Pam Baumgartle

Bolded names are new additions



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2:30 pm Parkinson's Support Group 5:00 pm "Ants & Grasshopper" 6:00 pm Praise	2 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 10:00 am Ruth G. 12:00 pm Tai-Chi 1:00 pm Dorcas G	3	4
5 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	6 6:00 pm Guitar Club	7 10:00 am FCC Bookworm 6:30 pm Night N'Gals	8 6:00 pm Praise Team 6:00 pm CO West Quilters Guild	9 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 12:00 pm Tai-Chi 1:00 pm CWF Executive Meeting 4:45 pm Serving at Homeward Bound	10 1:00 pm Mexican Train	11 8:30 am WCARC
12 9:30 am Elder's Meeting 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	13 6:00 pm Guitar Club	14 9:00 am Easter Lilies Reminder 10:00 am Friends with Missions	15 6:00 pm Praise Team	16 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 12:00 pm Tai-Chi	17	18 8:00 am Monthly Breakfast 12:00 pm Territorial Daughters
19 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	20 6:00 pm Guitar Club	21 10:00 am FCC Bookworm	22 6:00 pm Praise Team	23 ***Crossword Deadline*** 1:00 pm CWF Executive 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group	24 1:00 pm Mexican Train	25 8:30 am Mesa County ARES
26 ***Community Food Bank*** 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 12:30 pm Movie "Nature" 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	27 6:00 pm Guitar Club	28 10:00 am Friends with Missions	29 6:00 pm Praise Team	30 ***Crossword Sent*** 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group	31	

JUST FOR FUN-FACTS

Did you know... A Day like Today in History

March 1, 1961 - President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, an organization sending young American volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education and other basic human needs.

March 4, 1681 - King Charles II of England granted a huge tract of land in the New World to William Penn to settle an outstanding debt. The area later became Pennsylvania.

March 10, 1880 - The Salvation Army was founded in the United States. The social service organization was first founded in England by William Booth and operates today in 90 countries.

March 24, 1934 - The Philippine Islands in the South Pacific were granted independence by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after nearly 50 years of American control.

March 25, 1807 - The British Parliament abolished the slave trade following a long campaign against it by Quakers and others.

March 27, 1977 - The worst accident in the history of civil aviation occurred as two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths.

Bottlenose Dolphin



Bottlenose dolphins squeak, squawk and use body language—leaping as high as 20 feet in the air, snapping their jaws, slapping their tails on the surface of the water, blowing bubbles and even butting heads. Each dolphin has a special whistle that it creates soon after it is born. This whistle is used for identification, just like a human's name. Dolphins also produce high frequency clicks, which act as a sonar system called echolocation (ek-oh-low-KAY-shun). When the clicking sounds hit an object in the water, like a fish or rock, they bounce off and come back to the dolphin as echoes. Echolocation tells the dolphins the shape, size, speed, distance, and location of the object.

Dolphins grow to be anywhere from 6 to 12 feet long. They shed their outermost layer of skin every two hours.



DID YOU KNOW ????



Cotton candy was invented by a dentist.



It is not known whether William Morrison had an ulterior motive for inventing the soft confection, but the dentist no doubt helped ensure others in his profession continued drawing in plenty of customers. In 1897, he partnered with candy-maker John C. Wharton to develop the cotton candy machine (which at the time was known as "Fairy Floss"), and it's been bringing kids cavities ever since.

AARP, in their December/January issue, had an article concerning adopted children from Vietnam, most of whom are biracial. One of the adoptees said a nun in Vietnam once told her: "Coincidence is God's way of staying anonymous."

A quick update on Annie Grogan who moved to the west coast last year. She is now the minister at Queen Ann Christian Church in Seattle, WA.

Congratulations, Annie



I am so looking forward to spring. How about you? The Green Chalice, a DOC program that encourages and assists congregations to be good stewards of God's creation, has a video that will be shown at our church on Sunday, March 26 just after Coffee Mingle. The title of the video is "Restoring Nature -- What People of Faith Can Do to Heal the Earth." The author of *Nature's Best Hope*, Douglas W. Tallamy, is the guest speaker who, with the aid of glorious photography, outlines what he has done in his corner of the world to restore nature on his property. You will come away with hope for Mother Earth and perhaps some ideas of what you or we as a church can do to help restore the ecology of our back yards. Please come, you won't be disappointed. Joyce



YOU DID IT! says it all when it comes to caring for the unhoused for 18 days during January and February. The Fellowship Hall was converted into a dormitory with mattresses lined up from one end of the room to the other. Men from various situations and different personalities were given a place to sleep, a warm breakfast and a wide variety of dinners. Thanks to all who helped. There was the morning crew made up of Lamar Edwards, Terry Laughlin and Bruce Hinds who were faithful in providing the warm breakfasts, and many ladies in the church saw to their delicious evening meals. Also very important were those individuals who gave up a night's sleep, and in some cases more than one, to be the church representative to provide assistance to the volunteer in maintaining security. Although this was not a new endeavor for our church, there were many who participated for the first time, and we couldn't have done it without all of you. The gentlemen who were housed were most appreciative and provided many a thank you. WE DID IT!

Thank You Everyone, Bonnie Watts and the Outreach Ministry

P.S. If you are able and willing additional donations for this project are still needed. Thanks.