



First Christian Church (DOC)
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Return Service Requested

Volume 18 June 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

Riecke Claussen and I enjoy reading daily emails from church consultant, Carey Niewhof. Here's a recent one:

Niewhof tells of an ongoing discussion between church leaders on whether we should choose "sharing the gospel," evangelism and church growth; or growing healthy disciples. He explains that most mainline churches like us have chosen in the modern era to focus on discipleship, growing healthy disciples in our church, rather than sending people out to share the Good News. Some churches try to find a balance between both priorities. But, I have to say, being around a lot of Disciple churches, most of our churches put their emphasis on discipleship, particularly growing disciples from their own children and youth. I think this worked well right up to World War II, but not very well since. I suspect First Christian has a similar history to most of our Disciple congregations, in that we've put an emphasis on Christian Education and youth ministries often to find that the young disciples who graduate from our youth programs move on out of the church, or to other churches and other denominations. Not many have stayed with us as adults, nor joined us from other Disciple youth ministries. Not many regularly attend any church.

We're not alone. Carey Niewhof has witnessed this in churches around North America, from all denominations. He suspects that many other churches have made the same decision to focus on discipleship (of all ages), or growing disciples, rather than focusing on sharing the Good News. I've served churches that have made this decision consciously, or have just abdicated the Evangelism part due to discomfort in sharing the Good News. It's really hard to get mainline church folks (Disciples included) to get excited about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. It's hard to get some pastors excited about this, beyond their own doors.

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Carey Nieuwhoff has a simple observation from the Bible: "Jesus Commanded Us To *Make* Disciples, Not *Be* Disciples." He continues, "The way many Christians talk, you'd think Jesus told us to *be* disciples. He commanded us to *make* disciples. The Great Commission is, at its heart, an *outward* movement. Could it be that in the act of making disciples, we actually become more of who Christ designed us to be? It was in the act of sharing faith that thousands of early Christians were transformed into new creations.

This rings true to me. I think we've done a better job of teaching people to love their church and church people than to love and serve Jesus and to love the world as God does. I think the world can see this and chooses to walk away from the church more and more.

Now, I don't want to get too negative about the past, or even the present. I'd rather take a look into the future. Do you think that God would rather have great churches, or even great disciples, or would God rather have people, lots and lots of people who know God and who try to walk with God, however imperfectly that effort turns out to be? Nieuwhoff goes a step further to suggest that perhaps the best way to be and to grow as a disciple is by making disciples, by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Remember, he pointed out, "Jesus Commanded Us To *Make* Disciples, Not *Be* Disciples."

So, my question, as we look forward toward our future as First Christian Church, should we 1) focus more on being a great church, filled with great disciples, and watch what happens inside our church? Or, should we 2) focus on making disciples all around our neighborhood and our community? Carey Nieuwhoff suggests that maybe we'd be better at becoming that first choice if we kept our focus on the second choice.

I invite you to read Carey Nieuwhoff's article, and many others like it at: https://careynieuwhof.com/how-the-church-today-is-getting-discipleship-wrong/?he=revkevrrcc%40gmail.com&el=email&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=What+if+the+church+is+wrong+about+discipleship%3F&utm_campaign=5%2F20+-+Church+Gets+Discipleship+Wrong

Blessings, Pastor Kevin

Schedule for Pastor Kevin's Musical Performances:

May 26; 5-8 p.m. Fruita Fourth Friday Art Walk 160 S.Park Square (Out of Sanctuary Band)

June 2; 6-8:30 p.m. Sang Garden (The Unpaid Bills)

June 16; 5-7 p.m. Glade Park Movie Night (Out of Sanctuary Band)

June 23; 6-8:30 p.m. Sang Garden (The Unpaid Bills)

June 30; 5-7 p.m. Glade Park Movie Night (The Unpaid Bills)

Come on out for Classic Favorite songs and Original songs by Kevin Keith Arensman

Summer Sermons Can Be Fun!

Remember last summer when we got to hear each other's favorite psalms from the Bible? See, we can have fun sermons, especially during the summer.

That's got me thinking about other ways to share the Gospel Good News, learn about each other, and have some fun this Summer. **How about sharing your Favorite Hymns this summer?** We can include praise songs as well. I propose that you use the attached sign-up form to tell me your favorite hymn (like we did in worship yesterday) and write a sentence or two about why it is your favorite. Then drop it by the church office, or give it to me on Sunday. I will contact you to find out a Sunday you plan to be in attendance. I'll invite you share a little about your hymn in worship (if you are willing) or tell me a little bit. Then I will plan to feature your favorite hymn in the sermon that day.

This has been popular in other congregations, so I thought we ought to try it at First Christian, especially with so many music lovers. I'm looking forward to hearing from you, and singing your favorite hymn.

Why not have a little fun this Summer!

Sign Up Sheet,

Fill out and tear. Turn it in the office, thank you!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Favorite Hymn: _____

Why is it your favorite?: _____

HISTORY OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST – PART 4

There were others influential in Christian Church beginnings. Two of these were Walter Scott and “Raccoon” John Smith. Walter Scott, who was zealous, inventive and impulsive, provided the Disciples with an effective evangelism method. As evangelist of the Mahoning Baptist Association in eastern Ohio, he devised a “five-finger exercise” outlining the steps in conversion—faith, repentance, baptism, remission of sins, and gift of the Holy Spirit. In the fingers of one hand, Scott had a visual aid for teaching a lesson children could understand and pass along to their parents. Long after their separation from the Baptists, the Disciples were using Scott’s evangelism methods.

“Raccoon” John Smith of Kentucky was an unschooled but intelligent Baptist preacher. He became a reformer after meeting Alexander Campbell and baptized so many converts that he was called “the Dipper.” He spread the fire of reform so rapidly that former Baptist friends became his fierce enemies. Smith was in Kentucky when Scott was in Ohio, the evangelist who popularized the Disciples movement.

The two groups—Christians and Disciples—inevitably discovered each other since they had much in common. Yet there were differences—the Christians had a higher regard for the clergy than the Disciples did. Stone and Alexander Campbell exchanged editorial jabs in their publications while the possibility of union was being discussed, and the two never became close friends.

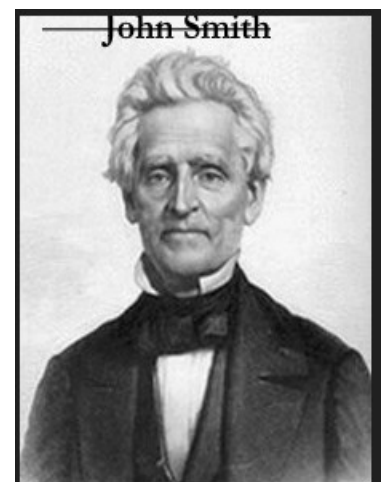
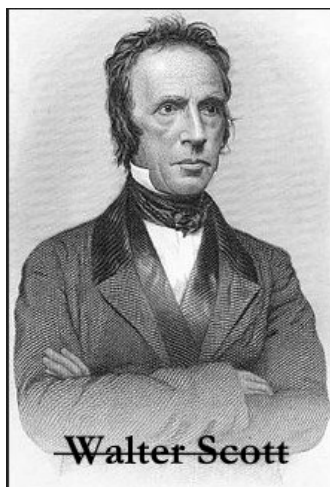
Union of Christians and Disciples is dated from a meeting in Lexington, KY, on New Year’s Day 1832.

“Raccoon” John Smith was chief spokesman for the Disciples and Barton Stone represented the Christians. Their handshake, followed by the giving of “the hand of friendship” among the rest of the participants, constituted approval. Actual union took several years. Smith from the Disciples side and John Rogers from the Christians were selected to ride together among the congregations completing the merger. An estimated 12,000 Disciples and 10,000 Christians came together in those early years of the 1830’s.

Both names lived on. What was wanted was a New Testament name befitting a movement that would reunite the church. Alexander Campbell was sure “Disciples” or “Disciples of Christ” was ideal. He argued that it was descriptive and ancient (since followers of Jesus were known as disciples before they were called Christians). But Stone was equally satisfied with “Christians.” He convinced Thomas Campbell and Walter Scott, but not Alexander.

Yvonne Warner

To be continued



*A note to thank you
for being so thoughtful.*

*Thanks to everyone for the
cards, calls, & prayers during
my stint with the shingles.
What a comfort it is to have
a caring church family.
Blessings,
Gloria Jeffery*

I will be taking a vacation on the
dates of June 28th-July 14th.

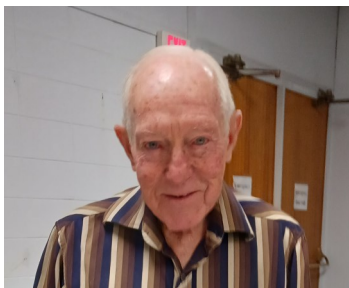
If you would like to be part of the
office and volunteer for a day or
two and find out how a bulletin is
made and church bills are paid, I
will be more happy to walk you
through it prior to my leave. Let
me know if you would be
interested in helping FCC these
two weeks during my absence.

Thank you! -Manny



The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty of the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



Congratulations to Chuck Haigler who has been honored
as Elder Emeritus. We celebrated with Chuck on May 7
with a cake at Coffee Mingle. Thank you, Chuck, for your
devotion to First Christian Church, not only as an elder
but in the many other duties that you have performed.
You are very much appreciated and loved.

God Bless and Thank you!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD YARD

SALE

1326 N. 1st Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Saturday June 3, 2023

8 am—2 pm

We invite you to bring your own table and
sell your items at your table.

**HOT
DOGS**



Jerry Laubhan joined FCC in August, 2021, but before an interview was scheduled his health limited his activities; however, life has improved somewhat for Jerry, and we sat down to visit about his life so far. He was born in Wiggins, CO, and lived on a farm there until he was 11 years old. Wiggins, just west of Fort Morgan, is good farm country, and their 640 acres raised many crops over the years while it was owned by Jerry's family. Jerry's father died at the age of 53 shortly after the family moved to Greeley; then his mother rented the property to sharecroppers for several years.

Jerry is the youngest of three boys. His one brother was 11 years older, and the other brother Ken was just 21 months older and saw to it that Jerry was involved in all sports with the "older guys". Consequently, Jerry was a good athlete playing all school sports and then golf and tennis when he was older.

His working career included several companies. His first job was with Allstate in customer service as a supervisor in the Denver Office and, after several years, had assignments in San Diego and Pasadena, California, before being transferred to their headquarters in the Chicago area in 1978 as the leader of the Customer Service Group and was there for five years. He then moved to New York and became the third employee of an upstart company called Prodigy which was owned by Sears and IBM. This was when computers were just coming into being, and Prodigy guided people and organizations in navigating this new tool. The company grew to over 2000 employees, and Jerry was the leader of the group called Member Services which included Customer Service, Technical Support and Telemarketing.

He later worked for eight years in New York for Siemens IT Services. Siemens IT (Information Technology) Services provided IT support for large companies, and Jerry functioned as the Director of Sales for the Northeast Region. He then began work for several years as a Principal Consultant for a Tennessee-based company called New Leaf Partners that provided consulting expertise in Sales and Customer Service for several large companies.

At the age of 68 Jerry retired to Oro Valley, Arizona, but quickly got bored, so he took a job at a fancy time-share resort where he worked at the front desk helping guests with various needs.

He has been in Grand Junction for over four years, but in early 2020 was diagnosed with MDS (Myelodysplastic Syndrome), which is a blood cell cancer, and for him, results in a low red blood cell count causing severe fatigue. Currently Jerry is feeling stronger and has been attending the night sessions of Bible Study with Pastor Kevin, as he is able to function better later in the day.

Jerry moved to Grand Junction to be close to his daughter and grandson who live with her husband in Palisade. Jerry also has a son and two other grandchildren.

We hope to see more of Jerry in the future as his health permits.



Financial Report

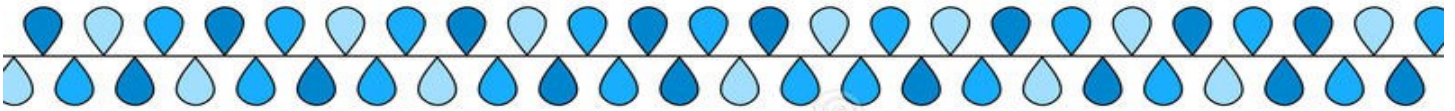
In April we received our 1st Quarter check from the Christian Church Foundation (CCF).

The check was for \$1,831.

Remember that the funds held by the CCF come from the sale of one of the apartments in 2022. The apartments were given to us by Harold and Ruth Moss.

We also received a check from the Western Colorado Community Foundation for \$2,819. The endowment that provides these funds to FCC come from Harold and Ruth Moss.

Once again, we are grateful to Harold and Ruth for all they did for our church. Their legacy just grows each year.

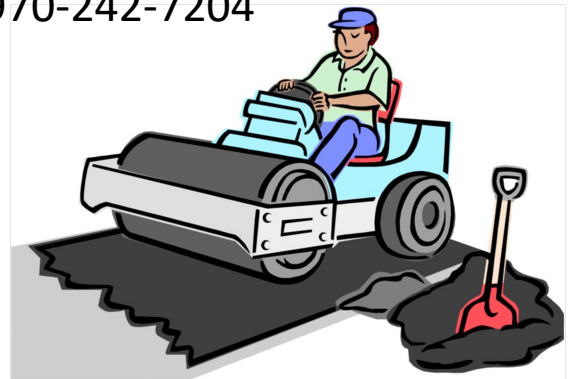


FCC Improvements!

Just a friendly reminder that on June 7 and 8, 2023 we will have our parking lot paved. These 2 days you will not be able to park. You are more than welcome to park on the surrounding areas if you have a group meeting.

For any questions, please call the office at 970-242-7204

Thank you!

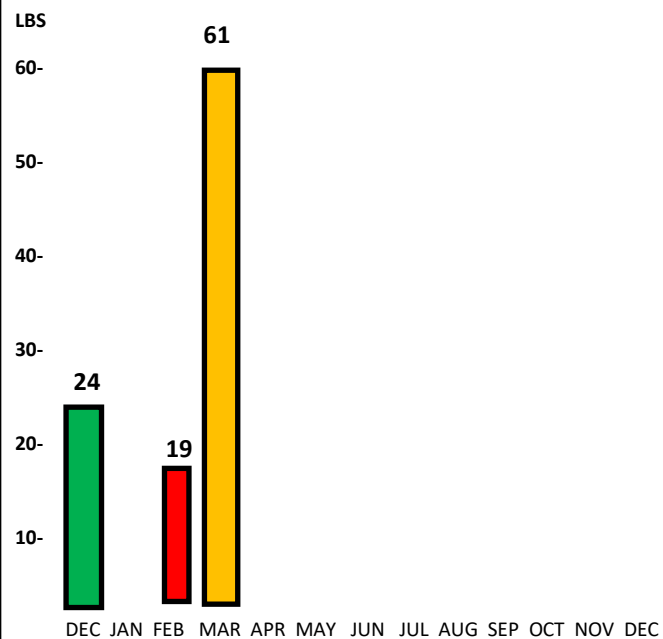


FOR THE YEAR OF 2022, FCC DONATED A TOTAL OF \$2,025 IN CASH.

Giving Boxes

March 2023

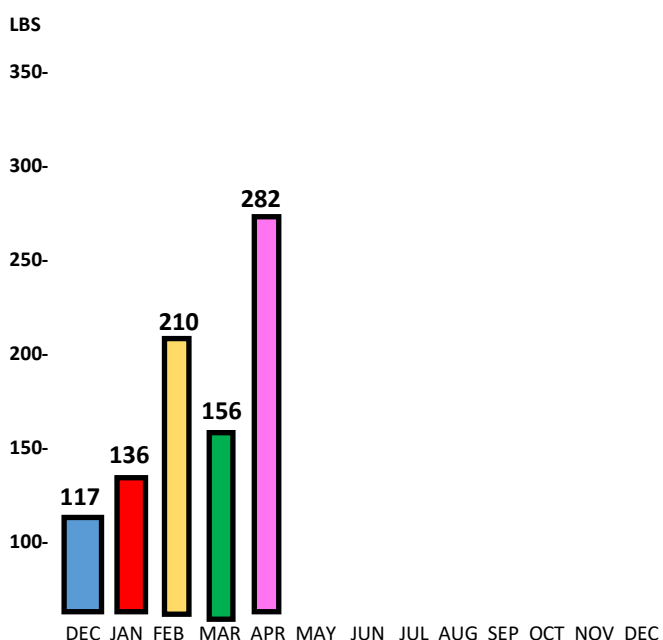
61 Lbs



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

April 2023

282 Lbs



June 2023

FCC Anniversaries

- 23 Les and Nancy Armbruster

FCC Birthdays

- 16 Jeanice Swank
- 21 Sharon Armstrong
- 29 Carolyn Bryant

CROSSWORDS

Next Deadline is

June 22 , 2023

Please submit to the
church office or email to:

firstchristiangi@hotmail.com

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

Our Sympathy To:

The Family of Norma
Matteson and Family in the
passing of Gene Matteson.



Corrections to Membership List

Update

Shannon is collecting newspapers for her birdcages, please get in contact with her if you would like to give any, or drop them off in the office.

Thank you!



Institute of Dancing Arts
PRESENTS
*Sharing
the Light*



A spiritual experience through dance

Thursday, June 8, 1pm

**DW/CWF general meeting and
program**

1pm Refreshments and Program

1:45 Business meeting

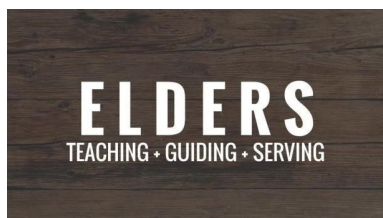
**Experience the beauty and
inspiration of liturgical dance
presented by**

The Institute of Dancing Arts

Liturgical dance expresses the words of the
song through movement that lifts our praise to
glorify God.

FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

June 04, 2023		1st Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u> Riecke Claussen	<u>Elder</u> Joyce Wittwer	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Lamar Edwards Joyce Wittwer	<u>Collection Team</u> Nancy Claussen Al Ladage
<u>Greeter</u> Nancy Claussen			
June 11, 2023		2nd Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u> Cynthia Grover	<u>Elder</u> Johnny West	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Norma Lavelett Gloria Jeffrey	<u>Collection Team</u> Nancy Claussen Al Ladage
<u>Greeter</u> Shannon Arensman			
June 18, 2023		3rd Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u> Al Baumgartle	<u>Elder</u> Donna Ham	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Jeanice Swank	<u>Collection Team</u> Nancy Claussen Al Ladage
<u>Greeter</u> Karen Lehman			
June 25, 2023		4th Sunday	
<u>Worship Leader</u> Gloria Jeffrey	<u>Elder</u> Lily Fitch	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Donna Ham Jeanne Klitzke	<u>Collection Team</u> Nancy Claussen Al Ladage
<u>Greeter</u> Jeanice Swank			
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
Citizens of Ukraine (Sergii Antonov)
David and Vickie Haegen
Faye Morosini
Flora Jane Hayes
Jeanne Klitzke
Jerry Laubhan
Kyle Rosencrans
Law & Military Enforcement Personnel
Our Church and Country
Paul Scanga

Pete Personette and Family

Puerto Rico

Ric Rava
Santiago Rubalcaba
Shirley Kennedy
Tammy Whitcomb & Daughters

Requested By:


Joyce Wittwer
Shannon Arensman/Bonnie
Nancy Armbruster
Nancy Armbruster
Santiago Rubalcaba
Tammy Ostermiller and All of Us
Lily Fitch
Tammy Ostermiller
Kevin Arensman

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

Bolded names are new additions



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 1:00 pm Dorcas Group	2 2:00 pm PPPG	3 8:00 am Neighbor- hood Yard Sale
4 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 12:30 pm Congrega- tional Conversation 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	5 6:00 pm Guitar Club	6 2:00 pm PPPG 6:00 pm Night N' Gals	7 2:00 pm PPPG 3:00 pm Parkin- son's Support Group 5:30 pm Praise Team 6:00 pm CO West Quilters Guild	8 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 1:00 pm CWF Gen- eral Meeting 4:45 pm Serving at Homeward Bound	9 1:00 pm Mexi- can Train 2:00 pm PPPG	10 8:30 am WCARC
11 9:30 am Elder's Meeting 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	12 6:00 pm Guitar Club	13 2:00 pm PPPG	14 2:00 pm PPPG 5:30 pm Praise Team 	15 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 1:00 pm Gene Matteson Memorial Service	16 2:00 pm PPPG	17 8:00 am Monthly Breakfast 12:00 pm Territorial Daughters
18 FATHER'S DAY 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	19 10:00 am CWU Meeting 6:00 pm Guitar Club	20 2:00 pm PPPG	21 2:00 pm PPPG 5:30 pm Praise Team	22 ***Crossword Deadline*** 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group	23 1:00 pm Mexi- can Train 2:00 pm PPPG	24 8:30 am Mesa County ARES
25 10:50 am Worship 12:00 pm Coffee Mingle 6:00 pm NA (Men Only)	26 6:00 pm Guitar Club	27 ***Crossword Sent*** 2:00 pm PPPG	28 2:00 pm PPPG 5:30 pm Praise Team	29 9:30 am-11:30 am Alanon Group 1:00 pm CWF Execu- tive Meeting	30 2:00 pm PPPG	

JUST FOR FUN-FACTS

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

Birthday - King George III (1738-1820) was born. He ruled England for 60 years from 1760 to 1820 and was the British King against whom the American Revolution was directed.

June 6, 1978 - By a vote of almost two to one, California voters approved Proposition 13, an amendment to the state constitution severely limiting property tax rates.

June 20, 1782 - The U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.

June 26, 1945 - The United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco by 50 nations. The Charter was ratified on October 24, 1945.

June 30, 1997 - In Hong Kong, the flag of the British Crown Colony was officially lowered at midnight and replaced by a new flag representing China's sovereignty and the official transfer of power.



June 18th, 2023

Beaver



Beavers are powerful swimmers that can swim underwater for up to 15 minutes. As the beaver dips underwater, the nose and ears shut to keep water out.

Transparent inner eyelids close over each eye to help the beaver see. Beavers are the second largest rodents in the world, behind the South American capybara. Second only to humans, beavers alter their environment more than any other organism on the planet. These tireless animal engineers face the challenges of predators and the full fury of the elements.

Average lifespan: Up to 24 years. A beaver can weigh up to 60 lbs. Their group name is called a colony. Beavers are herbivores