

Kevin's Korner

We have Good News!

I want to thank all of you who participated in the "Space Walk" in January and all of you who stayed for the Congregational Conversation after dinner in February. Now I'd like to invite you to come to a special "Vision into Action Retreat," on Saturday morning, March 15th, and Sunday after worship (and lunch), March 16th. Dale Matherly, our Interim Regional Minister, will be coming from Denver to lead this retreat and help us to help ourselves (so we can help others and serve God).

"But we've been talking about this stuff for two years now!" We hear you! But we've also accomplished a lot in those two years. For instance, we explored and decided not to build a senior (affordable) housing project on our property. We recently decided that we're going to stay in our building, but we're not going to just sit here. We decided to build a vital and sustainable ministry right here on the corner of 1st Street and Kennedy.

We retired our senior housing team, or repurposed them. Now our "Vision to Action Team" (latest name and purpose) has met twice already to revisit who we are: strengths and weaknesses (of which our strengths have grown in 2 years); and our Identity as First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We've had great, sometimes difficult, conversations and hope to have some important ideas to share with you soon, preparing for our "Vision into Action Retreat."

We've decided to live! That's a bold statement, which I hope is true. It doesn't mean we aren't alive, nor that we are not doing some great ministry. But we have been worrying about what we don't have: children, young families, enough money for all we want to do, etc. Those worries don't serve us well. They take our attention away from our strengths: kindness, generosity, compassion, Good News, beautiful building, new energy and involvement, new members and continuing members, and more! We're deciding to put these strengths to work in serving God and our neighbors and maybe even growing this church again.

We're not pretending that there aren't challenges ahead. We're deciding to trust that God has a purpose for us Disciples right here in Grand Junction and God will lead the way forward. The timing seems perfect. We're about to enter the season of Lent, where we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem and to the cross (Ash Wednesday observances, a new Bible study: "Christians and the Old Testament Law," beginning March 5th, Easter's reminder of resurrection, which happens every day, even in old churches.

Please find a way to stay involved in God's purposes right here at First Christian Church. Prayer would be a great place to start. Reading through the Bible beginning in Lent would be a great 2nd step. We want to grow our church and that means growing Disciples. That's us!

God bless all you Disciples!

-- *Pastor Kevin*