

Sharefest 2026: Faith Made Visible

This year marked my first experience of Sharefest, and I'll be honest—I didn't quite know what to expect. What I encountered, however, was something deeply moving: a living, breathing expression of faith that stepped off the page of Scripture and into the streets of our community.

As I spent time driving from site to site with Janet, I had a front-row seat to something remarkable. At each location, I saw volunteers giving their time, their energy, and their care with no expectation of recognition or return. There was no fanfare—just quiet, steady acts of service. And yet, those acts spoke volumes. They revealed a kind of compassion and selflessness that is increasingly rare and deeply needed.

I found myself struck not only by what people were doing, but by why they were doing it. This was not volunteerism for its own sake. This was faith in action. It brought to mind the words of James: "Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17). What I witnessed throughout Sharefest was anything but lifeless. It was vibrant, embodied faith—hands and feet moving in love.

At the same time, it was impossible to miss the response of those who received help. Again and again, I saw expressions of genuine joy and gratitude. There is something profoundly human about being seen, supported, and cared for in a tangible way. For many, these were not just projects being completed—they were reminders that they are not alone, that their community has not forgotten them. In those moments, the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 came alive: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me."

One particular highlight was the distribution of care packages to students at CMU. As I observed the interactions between our team and students, it was clear that this gesture of care meant a great deal to those who crossed our path. Watching volunteers engage with students and faculty—offering not just supplies, but conversation, presence, and kindness—was a powerful reminder that ministry often happens in the ordinary moments. My hope is that the impact of those care packages will linger as quiet signs of God's care and compassion—small but meaningful reminders that someone thought of them, prayed for them, and cared.

To those who assembled those packages, and to those who took the time to distribute them: thank you. What you offered mattered more than you may ever fully know.

And to everyone who participated in Sharefest—whether at a work site, behind the scenes, or in supporting roles—please hear this clearly: your time, your effort, and your willingness to serve made a difference. Not in some abstract or symbolic sense, but in real, tangible ways. You embodied the call of Micah 6:8: "to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." You showed what it looks like when a community takes seriously the command to love our neighbors—not just in word, but in deed.

If there is one thing I carry forward from this experience, it is this: Sharefest is a powerful invitation to keep looking for ways—big and small—to make our faith visible in acts of love, service, and generosity. The early church in Acts was known for meeting needs as they arose, sharing what they had, and ensuring that no one was left behind (Acts 2:44–45). That same calling rests with us. Personally, I am already looking forward to Sharefest 2027.

So let's keep going. Let's keep paying attention. Let's keep asking: where is there need, and how can we respond? Because when we do, we are not just helping others—we are participating in the ongoing work of God in the world. And that is a calling worth living into.

Yours aye in Christ,

Josh Mikelson
Associate Pastor



Sports and Arts Camp



“Laws of the Game” Sports and Arts Camp will be June 22-26!



Camp will be at First Pres, from 5:30 – 8 pm each day. The camp will feature instruction in soccer, cheerleading, flag football, drama, and art for 6 to 12-year-olds, and basketball and volleyball for 8 to 12-year-olds. Four and five-year-olds can participate in Team 45, learning the basic movements of sport. Focusing on Matthew 28:19-20, kids will learn about the commands Jesus gave to love God and others and to make disciples of all nations. The cost is \$15 per camper. Scholarships are available. All campers will receive a camp T-shirt. Both volunteer *and* camper registration forms are available at <https://www.myvbs.org/first-presbyterian-church-vbs-2026>



Kokopelli Handbell Spring Concert

Come join Kokopelli at FPC on May 3 at 4 pm for an afternoon of ringing, swinging, and toe-tapping fun! We'll be playing some of our favorite pieces—full of lively rhythms, dance-worthy tunes, and music that's sure to leave you humming on the way home. It's music, it's joy—it's handbells like you've never heard them before!

Employment Opportunities

We're currently hiring for two part-time positions! You can find the details on our website www.firstpresgj.org under “About Us”, “Employment Opportunities”

- Outreach and Mission Administrative Assistant
- Worship Planning Assistant

Senior Adult Ministry Events

Please join us for these Senior Adult Ministry events in May and June!

- Mon, May 11 11:30 am - 1:15pm, Fellowship Hall: luncheon with The Christ Center. Catered by The Ribber
- Tues, May 12 10:00 am: outing to visit Holstein 'n Horses Farm Animal Sanctuary. Meet at the church at 9:15am to carpool or meet us at 2529 I Rd.
- Mon, June 8 11:30 am - 1:15pm, Fellowship Hall: luncheon, speaker TBD. Breakfast/Brunch potluck.
- Wed, June 10 10:00 am: outing to the CSU Extension Tri-River Area and the Clifford Duncan Ute Learning Garden. Meet at the church at 9:15am to carpool or at 2775 US-50

Watch your bulletin for more details on these events and an additional outing to visit the new Grand Junction Rec Center.