

June 2026 Newsletter

For the first part of this summer, we will spend six weeks exploring one of the most unusual and searching books in all of Scripture: Ecclesiastes. The title of the series is *When Wisdom Sounds Weary*.

Ecclesiastes is not a book of easy answers. It does not speak with the polished certainty we often prefer. Instead, it sounds like the voice of someone who has lived long enough to know that life is beautiful, frustrating, fleeting, joyful, exhausting, and often difficult to understand all at once.

The writer of Ecclesiastes—traditionally believed to be Solomon, though the author is never named—looks honestly at topics such as work, ambition, pleasure, aging, injustice, time, and death. He asks difficult questions that many of us carry in our hearts: Why does so much effort feel fleeting? Why do wisdom and goodness not always seem rewarded? Why can life feel so fragile and unpredictable?

In Ecclesiastes, Scripture makes room for these questions.

This is one reason the book has always mattered to the Church, even if it is not preached as often as many other biblical texts. Ecclesiastes refuses to pretend. It tells the unblinking truth about human limitations. It reminds us that we are not in control of everything—in truth, very little—that life cannot be mastered through effort or achievement, and that much of our existence remains beyond our grasp.

And yet, Ecclesiastes is not simply pessimistic. Beneath its weariness lies a quieter and more lasting form of wisdom.

Repeatedly, the book calls us to see the holiness of ordinary gifts: shared meals, meaningful labor, friendship, laughter, rest, reverence, and the simple ability to receive life as it comes. Ecclesiastes teaches us that joy is not found in controlling everything, but in learning to recognize moments of grace within a world that often feels uncertain.

In many ways, Ecclesiastes feels deeply relevant for our present moment. We live in an age shaped by anxiety, exhaustion, endless productivity, and pressure to prove our worth. We are constantly told that fulfillment lies just beyond the next accomplishment, purchase, experience, or reinvention of ourselves. Ecclesiastes gently but firmly challenges that illusion, while also calling us back to the One in whom we find our only true and ultimate meaning. Although Ecclesiastes does not explicitly mention Jesus, Christians read this book within the wider story of Scripture. When read well, its honesty about mortality, longing, frustration, and human limitation prepares us to hear the deeper hope of the Gospel with fresh ears.

Ecclesiastes teaches us to stop pretending we are limitless people—which is itself a mark of real wisdom.

I hope you will join us this summer as we listen together to this ancient and strangely timely voice — a voice that sometimes sounds weary but still speaks fresh wisdom into our lives.

Yours Aye,

Josh Mikelson
Associate Pastor

Family Fellowship on the Playground

Family Fellowship at the Playground: Our Children's Sunday School, Grace Place, concluded May 17, but we want to continue creating opportunities for families to gather and connect throughout the month of June. Please join us on the playground following the 9:30 am worship service or before the 11:00 am service. Take some time to meet a new family or reconnect with someone you have not seen in a while. Everyone is welcome! Grab a cup of coffee or lemonade and join us on the playground. If you are interested in hosting a Sunday Fellowship at the Playground, please contact Janet Young at janetyoung@firstpresgj.org.

Women's Flourishing 3rd 3rd Group

Ladies come join us, for a **women's group for Flourishing in the Third Third**. This six-session course will help you understand how to flourish in the third third of your life. Anchored in Scripture and enriched by science and other disciplines, this course will equip you to live faithfully and fruitfully and experience abundant and purposeful life in this season. Each week, you will watch a video lecture, discuss that week's topic, and engage in individual study and reflection at home. We will meet on **Wednesdays, beginning June 3**, from 9 am – 11 am in the Fletcher Room (E-11). For more information, contact Janet Young at janetyoung@firstpresgj.org.

Sports & Arts Camp Volunteers

All **"Laws of the Game" Sports and Arts Camp Volunteers** (or anyone who is interested in volunteering) are invited to come to one of our volunteer training times. Mark your calendar to come and get all the info you need to make this year's camp an amazing experience for you and for the kids! Come to the training that fits your schedule:

Wednesday June 17 at 6:30 pm **OR**
Sunday June 21 at 12:15 pm.

Both trainings will be in Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Janet Young at janetyoung@firstpresgj.org

Senior Adult Ministry Luncheons

Join us for these Summer Luncheons!

Monday, June 8: Ike Rakiecki with Mesa County Libraries will present Prehistoric Living Spaces of Western Colorado. Humans have been living in Mesa County and Montrose County for thousands of years. At several prehistoric sites, archaeologists have discovered material remains that prove human habitation and activities. Come unearth the findings from these sites. This month is a breakfast/brunch themed potluck.

Monday, July 13: The Bravestone Project. Bravestone Project is a victim centered, trauma informed 501c3 nonprofit organization located in Mesa County. Their focus is in helping victims/survivors of human trafficking and sexual traumas. Their mission is to help them find hope, healing, and restoration of their mind, body, and spirit. This month will be a picnic themed potluck with hotdogs as the main dish.

Senior Adult Ministry Outing

Please join us for our next **Senior Adult Ministry outing on Wednesday, June 10** at the CSU Extension Gardens and Clifford Duncan Ute Learning Gardens located at 2775 US-50 East. We will meet at the Gardens at 10:00 am for a lecture by Jeff Piper, followed by an opportunity to tour the Gardens and the Ute Learning Garden area .

Exploring Scripture & Prayer

Hello, I am Jennifer McKenzie, I am the facilitator of Exploring Scripture and Prayer. We are a women's group who meet Monday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 in the Gathering Place. We use Sunday's scripture passage and sermon for our conversations and close our time with prayer. We seek to learn how God's word can transform our head knowledge into heart knowledge. In order for us to be *Rooted in Jesus, Growing in His Love and Branching Out to Serve Others*. We invite you to come and join us.

Women's Ministry Team

The **Women's Ministry team** is hosting a lunch and cornhole event on Sunday, June 14 from 12:15 – 2:15 pm here at FPC! We will begin with a picnic style lunch and then have some fun playing cornhole. Please sign up in the Lobby or outside the MPR. Questions? Please see Janet Young or Tasha Haley.

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; 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>



GriefShare Support Groups

First Pres will be offering **two GriefShare support group** classes starting in August. One of the groups will be for men. One group will meet during the day. If you are interested in attending, please contact Charity Finnigsmier at sam@firstpresgj.org or call the church office at 970-242-1923. Details about these classes will soon be available.

Pathways Birthday Parties

FPC has committed to celebrating the birthdays of the people at Pathways homeless shelter every month. We are looking for volunteers for July 31st, August 28th, and September 25th at 5:30 PM. Time commitment is less than an hour. Please reach out to Tasha Haley for more information. tashahaley@firstpresgj.org

Youth Summer Activities For 7th Through 12th Grade

6/1/26- 6:00 to 8:00 pm- Pool party at the Harrington home.

6/10/26- Get Air night- 6:00 to 8:00 pm--- come and jump and we will order pizzas to munch on. Cost is \$18 per person for two hours of jump time. Pizza provided by youth ministries.

6/18/26- River Float—arrive by 5:30 pm for a 6:00 launch. We will decide route as we get closer and watch water levels. ALL FLOATERS MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET. To make sure we have the proper number of life jackets, all participants must RSVP!

6/22-6/26- SPARTS CAMP- 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm--- Volunteer to help with our Sports and Art Camp at FPC for younger students. This is a great way to get volunteer hours for school requirements. Please contact Ms. Janet or Ms. Tasha to get signed up janetyoung@firstpresgj.org or tashahaley@firstpresgj.org

6/30/26- Taco Tuesday- 6:00 to 8:00—outside the youth room, enjoy a taco dinner and outdoor hang out/games

7/10/26- Outdoor movie night- 8:00- 10:00 pm- outside youth room. Come watch an outdoor movie and enjoy time together. Popcorn provided, bring a snack to share!

7/27- 7/31- Table in the Wilderness Camp, Centennial, Wyoming

8/3/26- 6:00- 8:00 pm- Pool party at the Langston home

If interested in any of these activities, please contact Sarah Queen sarahqueen@firstpresgj.org