



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GRAND JUNCTION



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“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses . . .”
(Hebrews 12:1)

Dear Church Family,

Isn't it amazing how God brings people into our lives to cheer us on? Sometimes it's the constant presence and encouragement of a parent or grandparent. Sometimes it's a teacher, coach or significant adult leader from our church. Sometimes these people are in our life for a brief season: a summer intern, camp counselor, neighbor, co-worker or classmate. And sometimes, we never actually get to meet these people in person. We read or hear stories about them – in a book, article, movie, documentary, or even in the Bible. We expose ourselves to their teaching online, at a conference or in a workshop. They inspire us from a distance – maybe not as distant or far back as Abraham and Sarah, but not up-close-and-personal like those mentioned above.

It's a good exercise to look back on our lives and get specific about those who have influenced us in the ways of God's Kingdom; to name names and give thanks. It's good to remember what they helped us to see, understand and do – to grow more intentionally or serve more faithfully. I would guess growing up in the Church raises the likelihood that the list of those cheering us on would be longer, but that would still require a church family to take its baptismal vows seriously enough to make the necessary time, space and resources available to help children and young people grow in faith. It also requires proximity, conversation, and purposeful modeling.

I am grateful for so many men and women from the little church I grew up in back in Southern California. I'm grateful for some of the counselors at summer camp who didn't come up with our church but volunteered to help at Forest Home whenever needed. I'm especially grateful for those who volunteered as youth ministry leaders during my teenage years – and the paid seminary summer intern we had for my first two years of high school. When he came back to visit with his then fiancée during their seminary years, she's the one who told me I was going to be a pastor. That was news to me!

I am also grateful for the people in the two churches I have been blessed to lead for the last 30 years, and for the people here at FPC who led and served faithfully long before we arrived in 2005 – some of which have inspired me and some who 'finished the race' and are no longer with us. And then there are those I've never met but only heard about, for whom I am grateful. Thank God for the faithfulness of so many who have dared to live out baptismal vows with intentionality and in practical ways. **[One of the very specific ways you can continue to care for our young people is to pray for those who serve them currently as well as those leading our current search for a new Director of Student Ministries.]**

Who are you grateful for? Who has inspired you to run the race of faith with perseverance? Who has God surrounded you with to help you “run with perseverance the race marked out for us”? And let's remember the One who is GREATER THAN any and all of these men and women: Jesus Christ – our Great High Priest.

Faithfully yours,



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

We are happy to announce that Senior Adult Ministry luncheons and activities will be resuming in August. **Our first luncheon will be Monday, August 9 starting at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.** Please bring your own lunch to this first gathering. We will be enjoy playing BINGO! For questions please contact Charity Finnismier at the church office (sam@firstpresgj.org or 242-1923).



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

First Pres and Colorado Christian University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will provide people who attend First Pres with a significant discount on tuition while attending CCU online in Grand Junction. The College of Adult and Graduate Studies at Colorado Christian University offers more than 80 undergraduate, graduate, licensure, and certificate options designed specifically for adult learners. All courses incorporate a Christ-centered worldview that has been a cornerstone of the University for more than a century. Now through a partnership with First Presbyterian Church, you can receive a significant tuition discount (up to 20%) on your online degree through CCU. For more information, contact Nancy Mast in the front office (nancymast@firstpresgj.org or 242-1923). CCU will have a table in the Lobby on August 15.



MEAT THE FRESHMEN

The annual Meat the Freshmen dinner will be on Thursday, August 26 at the Pavilion (under the white canopy in CMU's quad). First Pres. partners with the Christian organizations on CMU's campus, several local churches, and The Christ Center to serve a steak dinner to approximately 1000 CMU students. This is the 14th year for the event. If you would like to help with the dinner, please sign up at the Information Desk. If you have questions, contact Debe Colby (242-1923 or outreach@firstpresgj.org). We need the following help:

- 3:00 – 4:30 set up tables and chairs, roll plasticware, and set up serving lines
- 4:30 – 7:00 be available, as needed, to relieve college students who are on the serving line
- 7:00 – 8:00 clean up, take down tables and chairs, and load vehicles



FIGHTING HUNGER

Exciting news from Kids Aid and the Community Food Bank. They are joining forces to fight hunger here in the Valley. They will be using a “shared staffing” model. The two organizations will share an Executive Director (Alisha Wenger who is the current ED of the food bank) and share a Program and Operations Director (they are in the process of receiving applications to hire someone). The goal is to improve organizational efficiencies and improve the mission capacity of both organizations in providing hunger relief here in Mesa County. Both organizations will retain their respective facilities, assets, financial accountability, individual identities, and brands. They will continue to have their own Boards of Directors. They want their volunteers, donors, and stakeholders to know that their Board of Directors and staff leadership are committed to making this a collaborative and successful process for everyone. If you have questions, contact Debe Colby or reach out directly to the organizations – Kids Aid (info@kidsaidcolorado.org) and Community Food Bank (info@foodbankgj.org).



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

It's August and we are already talking about Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes! Why?... because now is the time that school supplies are abundant and on sale. Head to the store and purchase school supplies to put in the shoeboxes while the prices are right. We will be doing Christmas Child Shoeboxes in late October and early November so stay tuned as more information will be coming in future newsletters.



FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month starting September 2 and continuing thru May 2022. We will meet in Fellowship Hall starting at 9:15 am. We will be using the book "Women of the Bible" by Jean Syswerda, with our study led by Janie Duffy. This year we will focus on women of the New Testament, beginning with the chapter on Elizabeth. All women of the church are invited to attend. Please contact Sarah Potts (243-3696) for more information or if you need a study book.