

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, until I declare Your power to the next generation, Your mighty acts to all who are to come” (Psalm 71:18)

Dear Church Family,

As this newsletter goes to print, almost 50 students and adult leaders will be heading back from Table in the Wilderness – having spent five days together: learning, laughing, trusting, exploring, listening and worshipping. Their worlds will have slowed down; phones will have been turned off; deeper connections will have been made with each other; places and spaces inside of them will have opened to the presence and deep love of Jesus.

God has known each of our teenagers intimately since the day they were “knit together in [their] mother’s wombs.” (Psalm 139) During their time at Table in the Wilderness, they will have been made more aware of Christ’s deep love for them. They will also be better equipped and inspired to be “Rooted in Jesus, Grow in His Love and Branch Out to Serve Others.” And when they return, they will need our encouragement and example.

How can you encourage one or two of our teenagers – and their parents?

How are you encouraging some of our teenagers already?

Do you know any of them by name?

Do you know what they like to do?

Do you know how they are doing in their walk with Jesus?

To come alongside and cheer on a young person is life-giving!

Those of us who went through “Flourishing in the Third Third of Life” learned that entering the world of a child or teenager is generative in a variety of ways – for them . . . and for us. A growing body of research is confirming that investing in the younger generations has numerous impacts (physical and emotional) on those in the Third Third. I would like to encourage more of us to take the initiative and invest in our young people; those inside and outside of our church. Our church and community are full of young men and women (boys and girls) who are longing to be seen, listened to, affirmed and celebrated.

Will you and I help to make sure that happens? If you need ideas about how to do this – inside or outside the church – don’t be afraid to check in with us to discover the many opportunities to serve and encourage younger folks . . . and be more personally energized while you do so.

Faithfully yours,



Installation of Josh Mikelson

The Session of First Presbyterian Church invites you to mark your calendars for **Wednesday, August 5** as we gather for the installation of Josh Mikelson as Associate Pastor.

The celebration will include a service of worship as well as a time of food and fellowship. Whether you are a longtime member, a friend of the congregation, or a guest, **all are welcome** to join us for this joyful occasion.

An installation service is a special occasion in the life of the church, celebrating God's call to ministry and the covenant shared between a pastor and congregation. Through worship, prayer, and fellowship, we will give thanks for God's faithfulness and look forward with hope to the ministry we will share together in the years ahead.

We are currently beyond capacity for dinner. If you would like to bring a dessert, **we will have dessert after the installation for those of you who want to stay.** The installation service will be in the Sanctuary beginning at 7 pm.

Senior Adult Ministry Luncheon

Please join us for the **Senior Adult Ministry Luncheon on Monday, August 10** from 11:30 am -1:15 pm in Fellowship Hall. This month Dr. Martha Sandford-Heyns will play piano for us, and we will have a hymn sing. This month is a potluck with no main dish, please bring something to share! Sign up at the Information Desk to attend.

Women's Bible Study

The Wednesday Women's Bible study starts up again **on Wednesday, August 19 from 9:00-11:00 am** in the Fletcher Room. We will be studying Elijah by Priscilla Shirer. Please let Tasha Haley know if you plan to attend, so we will have enough books for everyone! tashahaley@firstpresgj.org

Meat The Freshmen

This month we have the annual **MEAT the Freshmen** dinner at Colorado Mesa University. This event is sponsored by The Christ Center, Christian organizations on the CMU Campus and several local churches including **US!** It is a free dinner for the CMU freshmen (ANY students on campus are welcome). We grill and serve around **1000** steaks and provide multiple side dishes. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, August 20!** We need volunteers to help with the event:

3:00 -4:00 pm set up tables, chairs, and roll plasticware.

4:30-5:45 pm serving line 1st shift

5:45-7:00 pm serving line 2nd shift

7:00-8:00 pm cleaning up

A sign-up sheet is available at the Information Desk. If you have any questions please contact Emily Grady at outreach@firstpresgj.org or 970-242-1923.

Women's Afternoon of Encouragement!

Mark your calendar for our next Women's Ministry **Afternoon of Encouragement!** Make plans to join us on Sunday, September 27, from 2:00-4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall for food, fellowship, and fun!

GriefShare Support Groups

We are offering **two GriefShare support groups this fall. For both groups to meet**, we require a minimum of 5 attenders. A Men's Group will start on Tuesday, August 25 from 6-7:30 pm in the Fletcher Room. The Other group will start Wednesday, August 12 from 1-2:30 pm in E-6. A GriefShare support group is a safe, Christ centered, and welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. In the 13-weeks, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Sign-up at the Information Desks or you can register at www.griefshare.org and click "in person" to join.

Mission Fair/Ice Cream Social

Get the Scoop on Serving! Do you like ice cream? Do you want to learn more about ways to serve at First Pres? Then our **Ministry Fair/Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 30**, from 9:30 – 11:30 is for you! That Sunday morning, many of the ministries of our church will have information tables and volunteers to share about what they do and how you can be a part of it. And it's the 5th Sunday, so you'll have plenty of time to circulate and socialize! This event is a great opportunity for everyone to get a general overview of all the diverse ministries at First Presbyterian Church and to get involved!

Directory Pictures

If you would like to **update or if you don't have a picture in our Church Directory**, Sue Broderdorp will be taking pictures on Sunday, **August 30**. The upcoming Sunday bulletins will have information on which room and times. You do not need an appointment. Questions, contact Chris in the office at 970-242-1923.

First Sunday Breakfast

This year we are helping The Christ Center with something **NEW!** The Christ Center is hosting a breakfast for CMU students before church on **August 23**. The idea is that students could eat together and attend churches in groups instead of going alone. We have a few volunteers going over to meet the students and hopefully bring a couple new young adults to FPC. So mark your calendar and keep your eye out for new faces at the **9:30 am** service here at FPC.

Law Enforcement & First Responders Meet & Greet

First Pres will hold a **Law Enforcement and First Responders Meet and Greet** on Sunday, September 20 from 9 - 11:30 am. We will have the opportunity to thank the men and women who step up every day to keep us safe and help in times of crisis. We will host representatives from multiple services including: GJ Police, GJ Fire, Mesa County Sheriff, Palisade Police, Palisade Fire, Fruita Police, Colorado State Patrol, and the GJ Victims Advocate Program. There will be opportunities to acknowledge them during each church service, to talk to them during coffee hour, and to see the equipment each department is bringing. Our kids will have the chance, during Sunday school, to talk with individual law enforcement and first responders, to sit in a police car, a state patrol car, and a sheriff department car. Of course, adults can do the same. If you have questions or would like to help with this event, please contact Emily Grady at (outreach@firstpresgj.org) or Janet Young (janetyoung@firstpresgj.org)

Desert Bloom Bash 2026

Hilltop Community Center is hosting their annual **Desert Bloom Bash, a dinner and auction** event on Saturday, August 29. All profits will go to unhoused young adults through Hilltop's Connections Program. They are in need of volunteers! There are many opportunities to help with set-up/clean-up for the Bash both the day before (August 28) and the day-of (August 29). For more information contact Emily Grady at outreach@firstpresgj.org or 970-242-1923. Visit their website to attend, donate, get tickets and a donation link at: <https://pro.gofundme.com/event/2026-hilltop-bash/e773494>

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 keep tuned as more information will be coming in future newsletters.

October & November Events

- ♦ CCU Representative is visiting on OCT 4!
- ♦ Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes!
- ♦ Sunday Supper is NOVEMBER 1!

5th Sunday Service

August 30

In the Sanctuary at

9:00 & 11:00 am.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

If you are going to be in 7th-12th grade this fall join us on **August 9, 3-6 pm** for a Pool party at the Langston Home. For information contact Sarah, at sarahqueen@firstpresgj.org

We are nearing the end of our summer activities. We will begin our regular **Wednesday Night Youth Group** after Labor Day, Sept. 9, from 6 - 8 pm with dinner provided. Sign up sheets for dinners at both Information Tables will be out in a few weeks. If you are interested in providing food for our group on a Wednesday night, please watch for those.

Mark your calendar for these Children's and Youth Ministry Start Dates!

- Wednesday, September 9, Fireproof/Youth Group (5th-12th) 6:00-8:00 pm
- Sunday, September 13, GRACE Place begins (preschool-6th) at 11:00 am
- October 14 – November 18th, Wednesday Night Live (K-4th) 6:00-8:00 pm