



Circuit *Rider*

Spring 2022

*"The road of life twists and turns
and no two directions are ever
the same. Yet our lessons come
from the journey, not the desti-
nation."*

*- Don William's Jr.
(former CT state legislator)*



First United Methodist Church
Office: 242-4850 (option 1 in staff directory)
Email: firstmethodist@fumcgj.org

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First United Methodist Church, 522 White Ave.,
Grand Junction, CO 81501.*

Mark Your Calendar

3/2 Ash Wednesday
3/9 A Little Noon Music
3/19 Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop

4/10 Palm Sunday
4/13 A Little Noon Music
4/14 Maundy Thursday
4/15 Good Friday
4/17 Easter
4/24 United Methodist Women's Sunday
4/30 Spring Fling

5/5 Victorian Tea "American" Style
5/8 Mother's Day & Graduate Recognition
5/11 A Little Noon Music
5/29 One Worship Sunday
5/30 Memorial Day—Office Closed

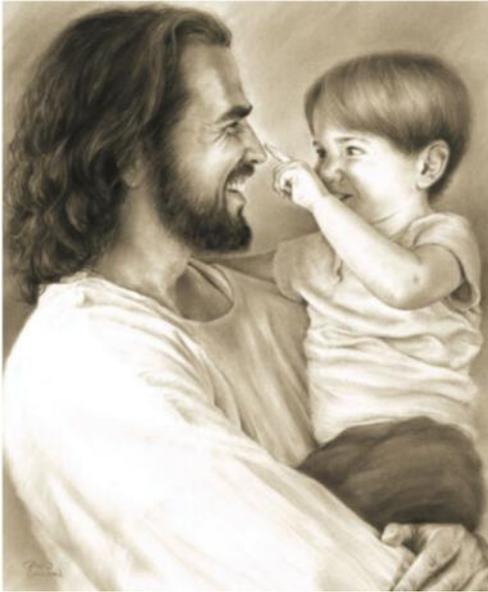
**More information can be found within
the pages of this newsletter.**

**Note: Events are subject to change in
this ever-changing world.**

Pastor Steve's Musings

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."
- Matthew 19:14 [NRSV]*

Greetings, Friends!



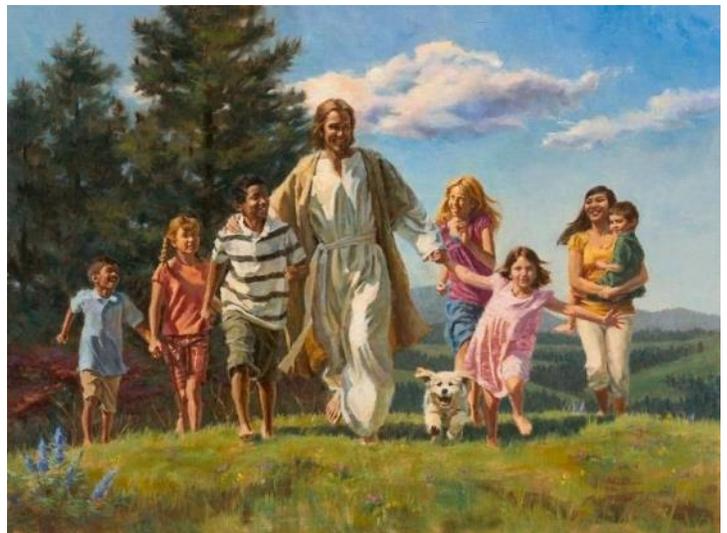
This Lenten Season, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, we're going to be taking Jesus at His word and inviting the little children to come to Him through worship.

The Lenten worship series is called *Are You Kidding?* and is aptly named because that was my first response when I came across the idea in my worship planning retreat last fall! Can the seriousness of the Lenten season really be made accessible to little folks without making it "child's play" for adults?

We adults need to figure out how to do that because Jesus Himself makes it plain in a couple of places in Scripture that unless "we adults" become like little children in our faith in Him, we will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Not to mention that our own Anna Aleksa, Director of Family Ministry at FUMC, has demonstrated Sunday-after-Sunday with her Children's Messages in worship that the answer to the above question is a resounding "YES!"

Through topics such as *being nice, sharing, saying "please" and "thank you", and playing fairly* we'll be engaging not just the children in our midst but the children in our hearts as we are reminded that what shaped our characters when we were young has the power to re-shape our characters even today.

I remember back when I was a young child – a second-grader preparing for my first experience of Holy Communion – my Sunday School teacher instilled in us anything BUT the joy and fun captured in Jesus' interactions with the children in the picture on the right. He had *far too many more important things to do than to engage in silliness and fun and games with children. Well, I think it's high time that misunderstanding was corrected!*



I'm looking forward to a different spirit this Lenten season, and I hope this theme encourages you to share your love for Jesus with one or more of the little people in your lives through worship as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

In the meantime, know that you are loved and appreciated!

Yours in Christ always – **Pastor Steve**

Highlights of Spring 22

Worship Themes

The Season of Lent: *Are You Kidding?*

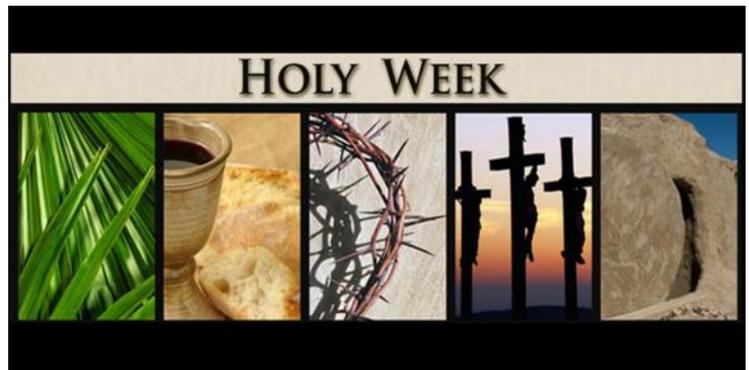
Sunday services held at the normal times: 9 AM and 11 AM.

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd Pastor Steve summoned for Jury Duty! Drive-by distribution of ashes will take place at Fruita UMC, from 11:30 AM to Noon, or at Redlands UMC, from 12 –12:30 PM.

Sunday, March 13th Switch to DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: *Spring Ahead!*

Palm Sunday, April 10th

- ◇ 9 AM service outdoors, weather permitting. Start at Church at 9 AM with a Parade of Palms up to Hawthorne Park for worship and fellowship as we did last year.
- ◇ 11 AM Holy Week Cantata service featuring our Sanctuary Choir.



Holy Week:

- ◇ Maundy Thursday, April 14th TBA
- ◇ Good Friday, April 15th Community Good Friday service, 12:00 Noon, in our Sanctuary (Note that Passover begins after sunset this day for our Jewish brothers and sisters.)



Easter Sunday, April 17th.

Worship at the normal times.

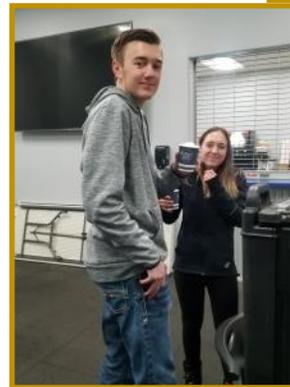
Sunday, April 24th United Methodist Women's Sunday, normal worship times.

Sunday, May 8th Mother's Day and Graduate Recognitions in worship.

5th Sunday, May 30th One service held at 11 AM. Choir's last Sunday for the program year.

Church Family Fun

Sub-District Family Ice Skating



Children's Sunday School



End of Year 2021

Choir & Friends Christmas Concert



Don't you just love our PRAYground!



Ukrainian Egg Decorating

Save the Date & Prepare Ahead of Time!

Ukrainian Egg Decorating – or Pysanky

Saturday, March 19th, 1:00 to 4:00 PM
Gaines Hall at First UMC

Come create a “Ukrainian Easter Egg”, called a *Pysanka*, using the ancient craft of inscribing traditional designs on eggs using beeswax.

Beeswax, eggs, & dyes will be provided, but each participant will need to bring the following:

1. A candle with stand
2. “kistka” with a medium-sized tip (0.3 mm or 0.4 mm)

These can be ordered online at Best Pysanky, Ukrainian Gift Shop, Amazon, or Etsy. (Just Google any one of these 4 sources and explore.)

All are welcome, so invite a friend if you’d like.

Parents: Your children are welcome, with your supervision, but please use discretion as to the appropriateness of this activity for them. Open flames are part of the design process as is working with hot, liquid beeswax and solvent(s) to dissolve the wax and reveal the design at the end of the process.

Questions can be addressed to Kim Easterday-McPadden, kim@e-mcp.org or 303-746-8543, or Liz Thomas, berninamama11@gmail.com or 970-424-7252.

Childcare will be available, but please RSVP with Kim Easterday-McPadden.



Save The Date!

Utah/Western Colorado District Gathering
March 19, 2022
9:00 a.m. to Noon
On Zoom and In-person
Two Locations:

| | |
|--|---|
| Christ United Methodist Church 2375 East 3300 South Salt Lake City, UT 84109 | Crossroads United Methodist Church 599 30 Road Grand Junction, CO 81504 |
|--|---|

Light Lunch Served at a cost of \$5.00 dollars. Please pay on-site. RSVP no later than March 15, 2022, to Mary Lou Storey at utahwco@mtnskyumc.org. Thank you!

Scholarships ** Spring ** Music

2022 Educational and Skill Development Scholarships

The FUMC Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors, as well as others pursuing educational and/or skill development opportunities. There are three types of memorial scholarships:

- I. FUMC Memorial Scholarship First United Methodist Church GJ Member
- II. FUMC Memorial Scholarship Grand Valley Youth Ministry Member
- III. FUMC Memorial Scholarship Skill Development Support Members of FUMC GJ

2022 application forms for all three types of scholarships will be available on the bulletin board across from the church office beginning March 1, and due back to the church office by June 1.

Questions may be directed to Committee Members Sue Yeager, syeager@coloradomesa.edu or Laura TerLouw, terloufamily@gmail.com.

Welcome Spring!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has two new members. Larry Backes and Dennis Brady have joined the group for 2022. Returning to serve on this committee are Charlotte Boylan (Co-chair), Vicki Sallade (Co-chair), Jody Motz and Ellie Young.

It is our responsibility to encourage, strengthen, nurture and support the Pastor and Staff and their families. It is our goal to assist in building a strong and positive relationship between the Staff and the congregation while working to enhance the mission and ministry of this Church. Feel free to contact any of us with your thoughts, concerns, and questions.

A Little Noon Music

Join us for a FREE Concert the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the FUMCGJ Sanctuary.

Concerts begin at 12:15 PM and last 30-40 minutes. Upcoming performers are:

March 9 Jane Kuenzel—Flute and Janet Cummings—Piano

April 13 Elise Anderson—Harp, Kelly Anderson—Baritone, Kelley Latshaw—Flute

May 11 Brian Krinke—Violin-Piano

United Methodist Women



The New Year for United Methodist Women began with Sue Yeager installing new officers for 2022 at the unit meeting in January. We're proud to lift up Pam Bersch as our president and Pat Backes as vice-president. Nelda Partin is secretary and Ellie Young will handle the \$\$\$\$. The program "Adult Spiritual Gifts" was presented by Janine Stanford at the February meeting. A questionnaire helped us identify our special gifts and strengths.



March

Our meeting March 3, begins at noon, in Gaines Hall, with a lunch buffet followed by a special program given by Dr. April Shulte, Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, "Reaching for the Garments of Healing." You are invited to join us to learn some relaxing techniques to help with self-care.

April

We have two events in April. The first, on Thursday, April 7, will begin with lunch followed by the program led by Vicki Sallade, RN, and theme is "Woman, You Are Set Free from your Ailment!" You are invited to join us for lunch at noon and the program.

The second event hosts Guest Speaker, Lisa McGinnett, for our annual UMW Sunday, April 24. Our members will lead worship for both services. Her topic will be Project 1.27, the wonderful, faith-based foster care program that began in Denver in 2004. Ms. McGinnett is Western Slope Director of Project 1.27. (Check out James 1:27 to know more about the focus of this ministry!)



May

The Victorian Tearoom is back! We will host a Victorian tea, Colorado style, May 7. Watch for tickets to go on sale in April. There will also be a gift shop. Invite a woman to be your guest while you "Celebrate Motherhood." Mark the date and stay tuned for more information!

A quiet program of our church is the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, which began fifteen years ago.

During that time, many have donated their time and talents to create handknitted and crocheted shawls, lap robes, scarves, and "twiddle muffs" for friends we know and friends we haven't met yet.

You are welcome to join us on the fourth Thursday of each month from 9:30-11:00 in the church parlor. We share our stories and devotionals and pray as each item is begun. Each finished project is formally blessed before being given to its new owner. There are experienced – and patient – teachers to help you learn. If you would like one of these handmade items for someone facing a difficult situation or even an especially happy time, call Pam Bersch at 970-242-3134 and request one. We share patterns that you can take home. We invite all women, girls, boys, and men to share in this ministry.

Spring meeting dates for 2022: March 24, April 28, and May 26.

"What our hands and hearts create allow others to know God."

Job Well Done

Faithful Servants

 **Grand Junction Police Department** ✓
Dec 21, 2021 · 🌐

Christmas came early! Thank you to [First United Methodist Church GJ](#) for the kind delivery of holiday treats for our officers and emergency communications specialists with the [Grand Junction Regional 911](#)! We're feeling the love in every delicious bite. ❤️



👍❤️👉 201 6 Comments 10 Shares 🌐

 Care  Comment  Share



 **Mesa County Sheriff's Office** ✓
Dec 21, 2021 · 🌐

A big thank you to [First United Methodist Church GJ](#)! Today they stopped by and delivered goodies for our deputies and staff! What a treat! Thank you!



👍❤️👉 324 2 Comments 12 Shares 🌐



Administrative Notes

Psst: Note new day & time

Program Ministry Council Meeting

| Next PMC Meeting | Calendar Coordination for events | Time | Who should come |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday Mar 26 | Jun, July, Aug | 9:30—Noon In-person & | Anyone serving in a ministry area |

Circuit Rider Schedule

| Issue | Events hap- | Due Date to | Mail Date |
|--------|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Summer | Jun, July, Aug | April 15 | May 15 |

Church Office Closures

July 4 Independence Day

Are you receiving the weekly eblast? If not, email or call the church office: firstmethodist@fumcgj.org 970-242-4850 option 1 in staff directory

Missions & Outreach

Wrap up of 2021

We were happy to welcome Casey Mays to serve on our committee this year!

Our mission is to serve others in our community, country, and world. We do this through our Make a Change (MAC) Sundays and commitment to activities in our church and in the community.

Our MAC benefited nonprofits this year including:

- United Methodist Church Camp
- UMCOR
- Native American Affairs
- Hope of the Grand Valley
- Fire relief for Boulder Valley
- Karis, Homeless Shelter

We participated in and supported *ShareFest* in the spring. This coming April we will participate again with churches around the valley in

doing service projects in the community. Watch your weekly eblast for more details.

In September we hosted our Annual Chili Cook-off in conjunction with Family Ministries and Grand Valley Youth. There was a silent auction in conjunction with the cook-off. Had great chili entries and a good time in Gaines Hall. Funds raised at this event go towards our missions, which, this year have included:

- Hayrides at the Fall Festival
- Hosting a holiday luncheon for the students and staff of R5 High School
- Adoption of a large family through Hope of the Grand Valley for Christmas
- Support to a girls safehouse in Kenya
- Haiti Mission Work

Support went to Our Drive-up Ham and Turkey Drive in November with Family Ministries providing over 80 Blessing Bags for the homeless. Grand Valley Youth collected turkeys and Hams. In December we supported Shepherders in our region with warm clothing, medicine and personal needs with our Shepherd's Tree.

We have teamed up with Family Ministries and Grand Valley Youth this year for several events, it has been such a positive collaboration. We appreciate the participation of our church members to make these events and giving possible. Make A Change Sundays continue to make a positive impact for our local nonprofits.

Thank you!

Visit us on the web—www.fumcgj.org

Circuit Rider is a quarterly publication. Submit all materials for Circuit Rider via email to Carolyn Campbell at firstmethodist@fumcgj.org

**First United Methodist Church
522 White Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501**



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**First United Methodist Church
Worshipping God and Loving One Another by
Taking Christ to the Community and the Community to Christ**

**DOWNTOWN | 522 White Avenue. 81501
Sunday Mornings at FUMC
In-Person & Live Stream via fumcgj.org
9 AM Contemporary Worship
11 AM Traditional Worship
Note: On 5th Sunday's only 1 worship at 11 AM
*Our nursery is fully open for both worship services***