

Circuit *Rider*

Fall 2021

*"We can make our plans, but the Lord
determines our steps." - Proverbs 16:9*

Mark Your Calendar

9/6 Church Office Closed
9/12 Kick-off Sunday
9/26 Chili Cook-off & Silent Auction

10/3 World Communion Sunday
10/14-19 Youth/Adult Mission Trip
10/21-24 Annual Mountain Sky Conference
10/24 Fall Festival
10/31 1 Worship Sunday (11 AM)

11/2 Election Day
11/5 Holiday House Bazaar (in person)
11/7 Daylight Savings Time Ends
11/7 Native American Sunday
11/11-13 Holiday House Bazaar (online)
11/11 Veterans Day
11/12 Church Office Closed
11/14 Ham & Turkey Food Drive
11/21 All Church Thanksgiving Dinner
11/25 Thanksgiving Day
11/25-26 Church Office Closed

Sunday Fellowship Time

Each Sunday after our first service "Fellowship Time" is taking place in the courtyard. Pastries, fruit, coffee, lemonade, and water are served. Please stay late after the first service and come early before our second service to join us and connect for a wonderful experience with friends, families, and kiddos. "Fellowship Time" is from 10:00-10:55 AM.

Blessings

*First United Methodist Church
Office: 242-4850 (option 2 in staff directory)
Email: firstmethodist@fumcgj.org*

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Pastor Steve's Musings

Greetings, Friends!

With those words, Paul began what is called his “second missionary journey,” a story that takes up the better part of the next three chapters in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. This journey covered not only the territory Paul and Barnabas had covered in the first missionary journey, but pushed far to the west, beyond Asia Minor – what is western Turkey today, across the Aegean Sea to Macedonia, down the Grecian Peninsula through the Peloponnese, back across the Aegean to Ephesus in southwestern Asia Minor, then across the Mediterranean to Jerusalem, and finally back to Syrian Antioch and home.

His travels were full of adventure – and misadventure! He made large numbers of converts to the Christian faith and founded church communities all along the way. He was also severely mistreated and abused in several of the cities to which, and through which, he traveled, and along the way he learned in any and all circumstances...the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:12-13).

Next fall, September 20 – October 1, 2022, Kim and I are leading another pilgrimage, this one we’re calling *In the Footsteps of Paul*. While the name suggests we’ll be retracing Paul’s exact missionary pathway, the eastern parts of it aren’t particularly safe for Americans. So, we’ll be concentrating on the western portion of Paul’s journey, essentially ringing the Aegean Sea with

stops along western Turkey, the Greek isles in the Aegean, and various cities on the Greek mainland. One of our goals is to experience the world Paul penetrated with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to come to a much deeper appreciation for the courage, the grit, and, above all, the faith of this most remarkable and enigmatic man without whom it is safe to say the church would not be what it is today. The more important goal is to be able to read the bulk of the New Testament, everything outside of the Gospels, with fresh eyes and a deeper understanding – one borne of firsthand encounter with the traditional sites of Paul’s

ministry and preaching.

We are capping this pilgrimage at 35 and currently have 28 registered participants. That means we are still able to accommodate seven or eight from our congregation who may want to make this journey. If you are interested, please get in touch with

me, and I’ll be glad to share the brochure, itinerary, and registration/application form with you.

In the meantime, I am excited about the ministry of our church as our program year begins, the temperatures begin to cool, the days begin to shorten, and the beautiful colors of fall begin to adorn the river banks, the broad Grand Valley, and the hillsides with the splendor of autumn. One doesn’t have to look too hard to see the presence of God in the beauty around us at this time of year.

Yours in Christ always – **Pastor Steve**



Worship at FUMCGJ



Church Family Joinings



Hugh Johnson



Nancy Snelling-Gross

Extend the Table Ministry (ETT)

Are you interested in delivering communion to our home worshippers? We usually take the elements on the first Sunday of the month after we partake in communion at FUMC. A script is provided for you to use that Pastor Steve has written.

We contact our home worshippers (when possible) prior to visiting them to ensure they want ETT that month.

This ministry will start up again when the nursing homes and assisted living facilities open.

Please contact Marta Collazo at 970 778-0029 or martajcollazo@gmail.com if you want communion brought to you or If you'd like to serve in this ministry.

Celebrations

Of all kinds

FUMC Memorial Scholarship Celebrations

The FUMC Memorial Scholarship Fund was established many years ago by our congregation to invest in the educational pursuits of its students. Gifts to the Fund were given in memory or in honor of many individuals. Applications were made available this past spring for awards intended for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. The FUMC Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce and celebrate this year's recipients!



Congratulations and best wishes to ...

*Ashley Goldthwaite
Daven Brennan
Deirdre Gray
Eden Almgren
Emily Steiner
Grace Nelson Poe
Kyra TerLouw*

Growing All the Time

City Market is rewarding First United Methodist Church! For the second quarter of 2021, the 64 families who have registered their City Market Value Cards with our Financial Secretary, Roxie Denning, combined for a total donation to the Church of \$636.00. This reflects an increase in both households participating and dollars donated!

All that is required to join this growing support for FUMC is to register your City Market Value Card with Roxie and then shop at your local City Market store. How simple and easy! Contact Roxie at finsec@fumcgj.org or call the Church at 970-242-4850, press 4 for the Staff Directory, and press 8 for Roxie. She will be delighted to take care of all the details.

What peace of mind to know that with no reduction in your supermarket savings or rewards, your purchases at City Market will benefit FUMC!



Jeannie Lewis being prayed over during worship.

We are excited to have Jeannie as our new Director of Hospitality and Caring Ministries. A warm welcome to Jeannie and her family.

Church Contact Info:
242-4850 option 5 in staff directory
hospitality@fumcgj.org



Cafe Chocolat

where women delight
in God's grace

**A women's (age 16+) retreat
on God's Grace and building relationships
with other women**

Saturday, September 18th, 2021

First United Methodist Church

5th and White Ave., Grand Junction, CO

Check in at 8:30am

**Retreat: 9:00am - 3:00pm +
(lunch provided)**

This is a day to
slow down, enjoy
music, participate in
games, win a prize,
eat some chocolate,
and have a
yummy lunch.

Register before 9/6/2021

\$25

(cash or check made out to FUMC)

Childcare available upon request

Questions? Marta 970.778.0029 or Michelle 970.260.7999

**"We praise God for the glorious
grace he has poured out on us
who belong to his dear Son."
Ephesians 1:6**



Chocolate, fellowship, discipleship, grace.

FUMC Faith Family & Fun

Pray Ground and Grace Space:

The Sanctuary has a new addition... The Pray Ground is an area in the front of the sanctuary where worshippers (mainly children) can experience worship through age-appropriate worship materials and tools that will help keep them engaged in worship. This area can be used by children who are not comfortable sitting in the pew or leaving the worship service. Parents and adults can sit in a nearby pew, or even on the floor with the children. There is a fully staffed nursery available during both 9 AM and 11AM services. We also have the Grace Space that is available in the library. The Grace Space is an area where moms or dads can take the littles to change diapers, feed them or just relax during services or events.



May Village of Faith (VOF): Pentecost Party

A night celebrating Pentecost, the Christian day that commemorates the descending of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church.



FUMC Faith Family & Fun



June Family Fun Day

We had such a fun time at Sherwood park! We made Tie-dye shirts and bags, we painted rocks, and we made pinecone bird feeders. Pretty sure most of the peanut butter for the bird feeders ended up being eaten rather than used for the actual feeders! All is all it was such a beautiful day to come together as a village of faith!



Children's Sunday School

Sunday school is meeting IN PERSON

Join Ms. Glenna and Gabe at
10:00am for Sunday school
We will be meeting upstairs in the purple room
Open to ALL in Pre K-5th grades



For more information contact
Anna at (970)946-3179 or
familyministry@fumcgj.org



Grand Valley Youth Ministry

Upcoming Youth Calendar and Events

August:

- 1st- Senior Send-off
- 5th- Ice Cream Making @ Palisade
- 8th- Back to School Drive
- 15th- Youth Group Launch Party
- 21st- Palisade Peach Fest 10am-8pm
- 22nd- Regular Youth Group (Youth Sunday practice)
- 29th- Youth Sunday 10am @ Fruita Civic Center Park

September:

- 5th- Informal Youth Group @ FUMC
- 12th- Speed Dating the Church @ Crossroads
- 16th- Regular Youth Group @ Redlands
- 26th- Chili Cook-off and Corn Hole Tournament @ FUMC

October:

- 3rd- Regular Youth Group @ FUMC
- 10th- Speed Dating the Church @ Redlands
- 14th-19th- Mission Trip to Wyoming
- 24th- Fall Harvest Fest 2-4pm @ FUMC
- 24th- Annual Conference @ Ogden, UT
- 31st- No Youth Group

November:

- Stay Tuned- More information to come

Senior High Bible Study:

- Wednesdays at Four Winds Coffee/ Hybrid Zoom 6:30pm-8pm

Youth group is usually from 5-7pm! Any changes will be announced prior to the event on ALL social media outlets



Connect with Us

Website: www.gvym.org
Facebook & Band:
Grand Valley Youth Ministry
Twitter: GVMInistry
Snapchat & Instagram: GVMInistry

Jessica Mays,
GVMY Director
522 White Ave
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: 970-242-4850 option 9
E-mail: gvymistry@gmail.com

United Methodist Women

September 2 at noon: “A Journey Through Dementia” is the topic for our Welcome Back Luncheon hosted by United Methodist Women at noon in Gaines Hall. “We may not always be able to nurture the mind, but we can always nurture the soul.” This is the statement on Lori A. Sommers’ business card. Lori, Director of LAS Dementia Navigation LLC, will expand on this as the guest speaker. All are invited. Reservations are not required, but a phone call to Ruth Trowbridge letting her know you want to join us for lunch would be nice. 970-257-7707. Childcare provided upon request.



the tools to be healthy in body and mind. Luncheon and program sponsored by United Methodist Women. Child-care provided upon request.

November 11 at noon: Come and break bread with other women of the church! Join us for a potluck luncheon of thanksgiving and fellowship! Bring your favorite dish and old stories to share in Gaines Hall.



There will also be a bit of business, including our annual World Thank Offering. Bring your little boxes and jars full of coins collected throughout the year. (Checks are also accepted!) Ellie Young will facilitate the program about how our coins and dollar bills (and checks) support local and global ministries. Officers will be elected to serve in 2022. We’ll also honor our deceased members with a Memorial Service.



A KIDZ CLINIC

October 7 at noon: A KIDZ Clinic? Yep. Partnering with Delta School District, A KIDZ Clinic provides whole child healthcare. Director Stacey BeLisle will share information about medical, dental, and behavior/mental healthcare services to children and youth from birth to 21 years of age. Join us for lunch in Gaines Hall and stay to hear Stacey’s presentation about providing kids with



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

There is always a need for prayer shawls, lap robes, and twiddle muffs. If you knit or crochet, come join us for fellowship and creativity. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 4th Thursday of the Month from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the parlor. However, for November, we will meet on the 3rd Thursday, due to Thanksgiving being on the 4th Thursday. For questions or if you need yarn, contact Pam Bersch at 970-242-3134.

Fall dates for 2021 are:

- September 23rd
- October 28th
- November 18th

United Methodist Women

Awards college scholarships

Deirdre Gray and Robert Liwanag, 2021 graduates of Central High School and Caprock Academy respectively, are recipients of \$500 scholarships provided by the church's United Methodist Women for the 2021-2022 school year.

Deirdre, 18, has been active in church-related activities such as Westside Weekend for eight years, which includes being on the planning team the past four; Annual Conference, 2019; Ignite Youth Conference, 2019; Youth, 2015 and 2019; Sharefest, since 2013; Valentine Day Dinner, 2018-2020; Youth Sunday, 2016-19. Grand



Valley Youth Director Jessica Mays lifted up Deirdre's leadership, commitment, attendance, and effectiveness in the youth program.

Serving beyond her local church, Deirdre has been a leader of Grand Junction Assembly #12 of the International Order of Rainbow Girls, holding nearly every office including Worthy Advisor (president).

Deirdre stated in her letter of application: "I am excited to set an example for all children I meet, the young women with dreams, and all the African American children who are told they won't make it. I am excited to become my ancestors' wildest dreams. I am excited to make ... a difference, even if it is a little one, to women and children."

Deirdre, whose grandmother Billie Janss and great-grandmother Marian Janss were active in the local unit of United Methodist Women, will be a pre-med major at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Robert Liwanag, 18, was active in Grand Valley Youth Ministry from the day he was eligible in 2015. He went on several mission trips in other states and countries, reaching out to people who needed help. He led a Vacation Bible School and helped build a school in Jamaica and taught refugee children in Portland, Maine. Robert is considered to be a natural leader at school and sports venues. He also has a creative mind, dreaming of being a filmmaker and animator, perhaps for Disney, which he says he loves.



At Caprock Academy, Robert was a leader in academics, extracurricular activities, and sports. One of his teachers wrote that Robert "is an excellent, insightful, and skilled writer." In general he is a well-rounded person liked by his peers as well as his teachers.

Robert wrote in his letter of application: "This scholarship will [be] a steppingstone to achieve those dreams of strengthening my involvement in the community, as well as push me to get the education I need to continue being so strong of a voice in my community." Robert continues with wisdom of work ethic and "wisdom that can be passed on to youth, women, and children...to prepare for their tomorrows."

Robert's grandmother, Pat Backes, is an active member of the local unit of United Methodist Women. This outstanding young man will stay in his community for now and attend Colorado Mesa University.

We are proud of these young people who will represent our church community in worlds to come!

A Garden of Generosity

Autumn brings the joy of gathering the final harvests of the season. All the work spent during the summer yields luscious varieties of vegetables and fruits. Autumn is a season of change.

The COVID pandemic has proven to be a source of constant change for many. Even the way our tithes and our offerings are collected at First United Methodist Church has changed. Remembering that presenting our gifts to God, no matter how they are brought, is an act of worship will keep our garden green and growing.

A new option and more consistent method of donating is setting up electronic giving. It can eliminate the worry of monthly check writing, especially if you are out of town on business or pleasure. Our Financial Secretary, Roxie Denning, can set up “E-Giving” for you quickly and hassle-free after you complete one simple form. Her knowledge of the ins and outs of electronic banking comes from being a retired banker who served in that industry for 30 years! Twenty-five families have already opted for the simplicity of this choice to fulfill their generosity. Contact Roxie at finsec@fumcgj.org or call the Church at 970-242-4850, press 4 for the Staff Directory, and press 8 for Roxie. Thank you!

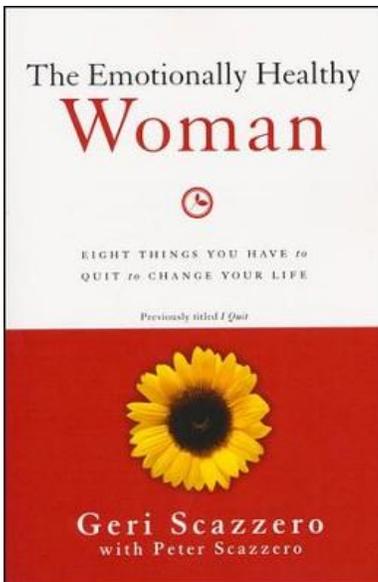
Electronically giving to FUMC can also be accomplished through PayPal. You remain in the driver’s seat for this way of donating. Visit our website, fumcgj.org, click on

the Giving tab, and scroll down to Donate. This allows for PayPal or one-time payments from a debit or credit card. Thank you!

The tradition of passing the offering plate has been updated to a time of reflection and celebration of God working through us by focusing on the stories of how we are impacting our community. The offering plate is still in the Sanctuary, resting quietly in a spot that you will pass by each Sunday as you enter or exit, reminding you to invest in spreading the Good News of God’s Kingdom. It is a physical way to give in person. Donations may be left during the week by placing them in the safe in the Church Office Workroom. Thank you!

Your physical gifts are also most gratefully received when they come by mail. They can be sent to First United Methodist Church at 522 White Ave.; Grand Junction, CO 81501. Thank you!

Just as there are a wide variety of vegetables and fruits to gather at harvest time, there are a wide variety of ways to present our gifts to God at FUMC. Let us worship Him with joyful giving. As Donald Smith wrote in his book [A Better Offering](#), “And as old things pass away in the wilderness of this pandemic and its post-season, God is working through us in a new way that can lead to a garden of generosity.”



Upcoming Study for Women

“The Emotionally Healthy Woman” by Geri Scazzero is a wonderful study about following Jesus and summoning the courage to quit anything that does not fit into his kingdom. It is about strength and choosing to live in the truth.

Pat Backes will facilitate 2 classes this fall, each for 8 weeks, starting September 14, and ending November 2. Times will be 1:00-2:30 PM and 5:30-7:00 PM each of those Tuesdays. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the front bulletin board just outside the Sanctuary. Cost of book & study guide will be \$23 and will be available at the first class. Please make your check payable to FUMC and write EHW in the memo line. There will not be a Zoom option. Childcare will be provided upon request.

United Methodist Women

Holiday happenings

Holiday House Bazaar

Shop to your heart's delight and help women, children and youth, in order to make a better world for all!

United Methodist Women's Holiday House Bazaar is back in-person AND online for 2021!

The elves have been hard at work, sawing, gluing, sewing, knitting, painting, and creating original Fall and Christmas crafts for sale **IN PERSON** on Friday, November 5th, 2021, from 9 AM to 3 PM, and **ONLINE** November 11th through 13th.

The Friday luncheon is back, with Patton's Famous Vegetable Beef Soup featured, as well as baked goods in the pantry and the Victorian Tea Room. This is one of the Valley's most highly-anticipated and attended craft events of the Christmas season.

Christmas Tea

The Annual UMW Christmas Tea will be in person this year. We will be gathering on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 2:00 PM, in Gaines Hall, to hear entertainment by the Sweet Adeline's and enjoy desserts and tea. All are invited, no tickets required, no reservations, just come and kick off your Christmas season with us!



Montana
BILLINGS

All church MISSION trip

October 14th-19th

More information to come

Cost per person

Mission work • Church connection • Adventure •
Yellowstone National Park and more!

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL/EMAIL
970-242-4850 / GVYMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM

Administrative Notes

Program Ministry Council Meeting

Next PMC Meeting	Calendar Coordination for events	Time	Who should come
Sept 8	Dec, Jan, Feb	9:30-11:30 AM	Anyone serving in a ministry area

Church Office Closures

September 6

November 12

November 25 & 26

Circuit Rider Schedule

Issue	Events happening in	Due Date to office	Mail Date
Winter	Dec, Jan, Feb	October 15	November 16



October is Pastor Appreciation Month.

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee would like to recognize and honor the work Pastor Steve has done this year. The challenges of the year have been many within the church. We are fortunate that his vision, leadership and dedication to his service as our Pastor have guided us through the difficult days.

God has instructed us to recognize His servants. Paul writes in 1 Timothy 5:17, *"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those who work is preaching and teaching."* The good news is that we can do just that! As a congregation of friends and members of the church family, we can show our support for him by giving the positive affirmation he needs as the leader of our church. Lift him and his family up in prayer. Since the church is now open for in person attendance, plan to attend more services regularly and enjoy the fellowship and meaningful experience of worship.

If you are watching online on Sundays, let him know with a call, text or e-mail that you are watching. Perhaps you want to send a card and encouraging note to him. Other suggestions include sending a gift card or giving a monetary gift. If you desire to send a check, make the check payable to FUMC with a notation on the memo line that it be designated as a gift for Pastor Steve. It will added to the other donations.

These gifts will be presented on Sunday, October 31st. Hebrews 13:7 encourages us to, *"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."*

If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Boylan @970-986-8051 or Vicki Sallade @941-661-8095.

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**

**NON PROFIT
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**DOWNTOWN | 522 White Avenue. 81501
Sunday Mornings at FUMC
In-Person & Live Streamed 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***