



CIRCUIT RIDER

Spring Edition 2024

Calendar & Administrative Notes



MARCH

3/10 Time Change to Daylight Savings Time
3/13 A Little Noon Music FREE Concert
3/24 Palm Sunday
3/28 Maundy Thursday
3/29 Good Friday
3/31 Easter Sunday

APRIL

4/6 Program Ministry Council Mtg.
4/7 United Women in Faith Sunday
4/10 A Little Noon Music FREE Concert
4/18 FUMC at BeaconFest
4/27 ShareFest
4/28 Exploring FUMC Class

MAY

5/8 A Little Noon Music
5/12 Mother's Day/Membership Sunday
5/19 Pentecost Sunday
5/27 Memorial Day—Office Closed

"God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile."

— Max Lucado, Pastor and Author

Reminders for all of us

- The people pick-up area is in the Welcome Center just outside the office. Please do not leave items in the work room
- If you aren't using your door access Card or fob let the office know.
- You must sign up to use the front bulletin board.
- If you use cups, dishes, or silverware please wash, dry and put away.

First United Methodist Church
Office: 242-4850 (option 4 then 1)
Email: firstmethodist@fumcgj.org

Circuit Rider and Circuit Rider ENews are published quarterly (November, February, May, August) by First United Methodist Church, 522 White Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501.

Worship Themes



Lent: February—March

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Valentine's Day! We'll have an evening service, emphasizing the wonderful connection between love that is too often one-dimensional on Valentine's Day and the all-encompassing, self-giving love of God that conquers all.

The first Sunday of Lent is February 18th, and our Lenten theme will be **What R U Up 2?** Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual

pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, this season, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. What pursuits are we up to in our lives that call us to be our best selves, and our best selves as the church?

Don't be a stranger! See you in and around the Church and the Valley –

Pastor Steve ><>

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HOLY WEEK

Events

03. 24. 2024
PALM SUNDAY
10:00AM- CHOIR CANTATA WITH STRING ENSEMBLE
11:15AM- PARADE OF PALMS TO HAWTHORNE PARK,
WITH REFLECTION, WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

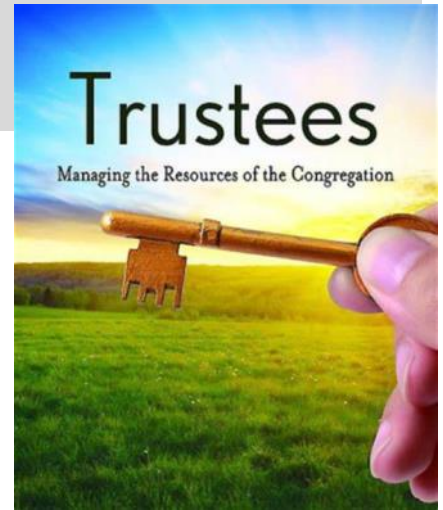
03. 28. 2024
MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00PM- SERVICE WITH HAND
WASHING AND COMMUNION

03. 29. 2024
GOOD FRIDAY
A NOON SERVICE WITH UMC CLERGY
FROM ACROSS THE VALLEY.

03. 31. 2024
EASTER SUNDAY
JOIN US FOR AN EASTER CELEBRATION
9:00AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
11:00AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

522 WHITE AVENUE, GRAND JUNCTION • WWW.FUMCGJ.ORG

Trustee Report on Building Happenings



The Gaines Hall Policy has been completed and is on next page in full. As part of the completion, the following items have also been accomplished:

- ⇒ New chairs have come in and have been put in the Gathering Room (formerly the Parlor) and in the Community Room (formerly known as the Chapel). The chairs that were in both of those rooms were taken down to Gaines Hall for use.
- ⇒ Trash and donations that were housed in Gaines Hall for several months have now been taken away.
- ⇒ The lift will no longer be used to transport people. It will be used only as a Service Lift.
 - The one exception to this is that those in the congregation that have access to the church but cannot navigate steps from the street level to the main Sanctuary level.
- ⇒ Our CF & A affirmed the renaming of the Parlor and the Chapel Rooms.
- ⇒ Our Gathering and Community Rooms have been painted, set up, and new blinds adorn the windows.
- ⇒ The Community Cross has been rehung in the Community Room.
- ⇒ Reorganization of many rooms have taken place which allows for ministry areas to have space for storage.
- ⇒ New camera's have been installed in the back of the church and we replaced our controller for our alarm system.



Community Room

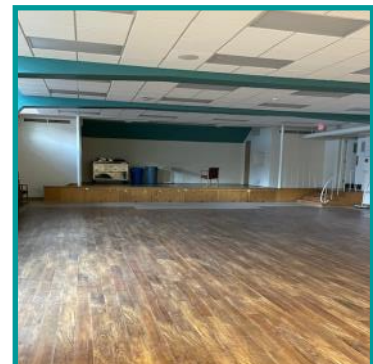


Gathering Room

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Board of Trustees

Gaines Hall Policy

Gaines Hall Use Policy

Adopted by CF&A October 18, 2023

Purpose Statement: The purpose of establishing a clear policy for the use of Gaines Hall is to provide for the care and safety of our church family as well as any who come into our building. These policy statements were carefully and prayerfully considered, with the Task Force's full mind, heart and soul. Current situations continue to develop, and when there is a major change, this policy will be reconsidered. If there are any concerns with the policy as it stands, please direct questions to the Chair of CF&A or the Chair of Trustees.

1. The lift will no longer be considered accessible for use to transport people. It will be utilized as a "service lift" only, to transport cargo. Rules will be posted by each lift door and a current copy will be filed with the Office Manager.

2. Group sizes in Gaines Hall shall be limited to 65, exclusive of kitchen staff. The leader(s) of each gathering shall be responsible for compliance with this policy in terms of numbers and use. This policy will be provided to each leader by the Office Manager. The policy will be signed as read and understood by the leader, and a copy will be made to keep for church records along with a copy of the facility use application form filled out by that leader. **IT IS FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY THAT THIS OCCUPANCY LIMIT IS NOT TO BE EXCEEDED.**

3. No receptions will be held in Gaines Hall, as the number of potential occupants cannot be predicted or controlled. All receptions at the church will be held on the main floor.

4. Trustees shall ensure that all available cooking equipment in the Gaines Hall Kitchen is up to current safety standards and is fully operational.

5. A contact person will be appointed by Trustees to turn on gas for users of the pizza oven, and that person's contact information will be clearly posted in the kitchen, and by the pizza oven for any potential questions. A copy of that posting will be given to the Office Manager. The commercial range will be locked and unavailable for use, except in the presence of the appointed contact person.

6. This policy is subject to change with the approval of the Trustees.

Signature of group leader & date signed are required.

Administrative Note

From Carolyn, Office Manager

Any use of the church building must be requested through the Church Office.

Both the Facility Use Application and the Gaines Hall Policy are available through the office.

Church Office—Carolyn
Phone: 970-242-4850 (option 1 then 4)
Email: firstmethodist@fumcgj.org

Christian Education Ministry

~ Proverbs 18:15- An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

There are many roles and steps when it comes to creating a class for our Christian Education Ministry.

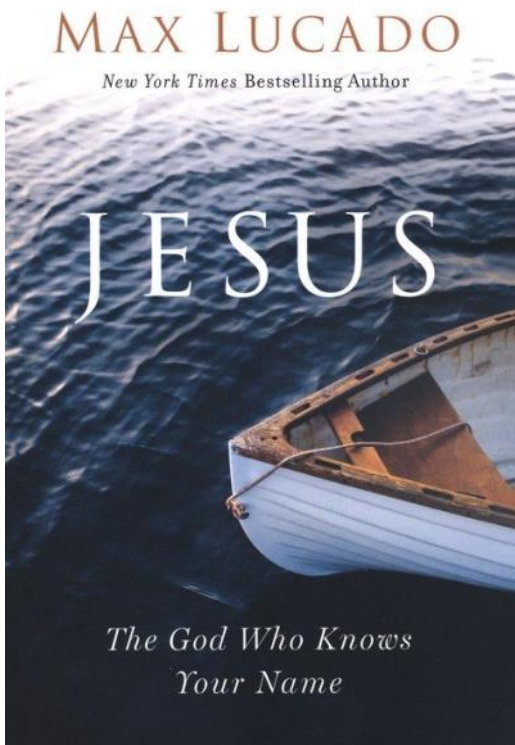


Once a person decides to be a facilitator of a class/study:

1. They should contact Roxie the Christian Education Leader at cfa@fumcgj.org to order books, guides, and dvd's if appropriate and for any questions they may have. Please allow 4-6 weeks for books to arrive. Once the cost is determined facilitator will be notified as well as when the books arrive.
2. **Facilitator is responsible for:**
 - Creating Publicity & Communications (ex: posters, sign-up sheets, What's Cookin' and Circuit Rider articles, social media announcements, etc...)
 - Reserving bulletin board space by signing up
 - Reserving a room by contacting Carolyn in the church office at 970-242-4850 or firstmethodist@fumcgj.org.
 - Unused books/guides must be packed up and returned to Roxie within a timely manner. She will then mail them back to appropriate place so FUMC may get a refund for them.

After Easter Book Study Coming...

"Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name" by Max Lucado



Matthew Aleksa will be facilitating a book study that will take place after Easter Sunday called "Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name" by Max Lucado. This class will meet every Sunday from 11:15 am until 12:15 pm, after 10 am worship, in the Community Room. The class will consist of 6 sessions, beginning Sunday, April 7th and ending Sunday, May 12th. The cost for the book and study guide is \$17. If you are interested, please email Matthew Aleksa at mdaleksa@gmail.com. Also, a sign up sheet will be posted in the hallway across from the Church Office.

Below is a description of the study:

You believe Jesus is God, but do you also think of Him as a real person? For thirty-three years, Jesus felt everything that we have ever felt: weakness, weariness, rejections, etc. To think of Jesus in such terms almost seems irreverent. There is something about keeping Jesus divine that keeps Him distant, packaged, and predictable. But we must remember that the people who saw Jesus first...saw Him first as a person. This six-session study "Jesus" inspires us to spend time at the foot of the cross and search the heart of the one who would rather die for us than live without us.

Be in the Know

CF& A	
Council on Finance and Administration	
Co-Chair	Roxie Denning
Co-Chair	Jeff Carpenter
Secretary	Niccole Gray
Lay Leader	Kamilee Rucker
SPR Chair	Vicki Stites
Trustee Chair	John Partin
Treasurer	Phyllis Neff
Financial Sec.	Rosalie Cowley
Family Min.	Anna Aleksa
UWF Rep	Ellie Young
Missions Chair	Donna Jennings
Program Min	Jessica Mays
Program Min	Carolyn Campbell
Pastor	Steve

SPRC	
Committee on Staff/Parish Relations	
Chair	Vicki Stites
Committee	
Glenna	Brayton
Kathy	Day
Shelby	Geisert
Debbie Beth	Hoffman
Eliot	Jennings
Gary	Parsons
Bruce	Woehl
Ellie	Young
Lay Leader	Kamilee Rucker
Pastor	Steve



BOT	
Board of Trustees	
Chair	John Partin
Committee	
Jim	Bragdon
Amy	Gibbs
Bill	Nail
Anna	Rowcliffe
Dave	Stiles
Staff Partner	Carolyn Campbell

NLDC	
Nominations & Leadership Development Committee	
Chair	Pastor Steve
Committee	
Kathy	Goemmel
Michelle	Huff
Buzz	Schoenbeck
Cindy	Smith
Max	Stites
Sue	Yeager
Lay Leader	Kamilee Rucker
Program Min. Dir.	Jessica Mays
Hospitality & New Mem. Dir.	Shyann Morrison

The Program Ministry Teams are the hands and feet of Christ in our Church. They are comprised of people who are in direct ministry in our congregation, our community, and our world and cover a very broad spectrum of ministry. Each team is essentially self-led, adding members as they see fit, and cycling members off as individuals discern the need to go in different directions. The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (NLDC) assists with this process and administers the organizational details of the PMC. The PMC meets quarterly to discuss issues pertinent to the various ministry areas represented.

If you are interested in being part of any committee or program ministry area, contact the Church Office, Pastor, or Program Ministry Director.

Family Ministry

Advent Spirals:

The Advent at home boxes this year connected families across Colorado. Families were provided items to create an Advent Spiral with air dry clay and wooden stars. Families were able to count down with prayer and anticipation the days leading up to our Savior's birth. We love seeing the connection and faith building while at home and away at college. Pictured is the TerLouw Family: Steve, Laura and Eric in Grand Junction, Kyra and Megan on the Front Range.



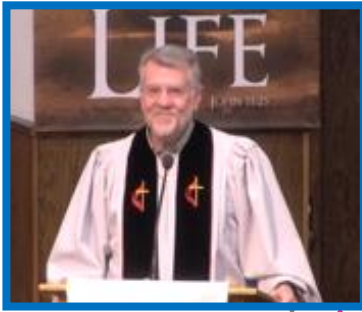
Come and Ring those Bells

Bells of Faith



Bells of Faith now has 13 regular ringers which is the ideal number of ringers needed to play FUMC's 5 octaves of handbells. We were glad to participate during the Christmas season, although, we are busy folks who travel a lot so we are always in need of substitute ringers. We are looking for 1 or 2 experienced subs who would be able to attend most rehearsals. These ringers would be needed to fill in any of the positions where a ringer would be missing with the exception of the largest bell ringing position. Bell rehearsal is at 4:00 PM, on Sunday afternoon. If you have the skill to ring anywhere or you haven't played bells in some time and would like to join this group of ringers contact Terri Godby at terrigodby@msn.com.

Our People Pictures



Worship



Praise Band



Unloading our new chairs.



Staff Christmas Lunch



Unwrapping 65 chairs & needing a lunch break



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRaise

NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

STARTS 5PM | LETS WORSHIP

WWW.FUMCGJ.ORG



A Little Noon Music

Free-Monthly-2nd Weds-12:15pm

March 13

Javier de los Santos
Guitar

April 10

Guitar Solos,
Ensembles

May 8

Cameron &
Eric Law
Cello Duets



Hospitality Opportunities

HOSPITALITY



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED
GREETERS**

- **Arrive at least 30 minutes before church service**
- **Pass out worship handout and flyers**
- **Welcome people into the church**
- **Assist with offering**

CONTACT

**Shyann,
hospitality@fumcgj.org**

Scholarships

2024 FUMC Memorial Scholarships

The FUMC Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that 2024 application forms for graduating seniors and others pursuing educational opportunities will be available beginning March 1. Application criteria and due dates may be obtained by emailing:

Sue Yeager, syeager@coloradomesa.edu, or Laura TerLouw, terlouwfamil@gmail.com.

Hospitality Opportunities

HOSPITALITY

How Can You Help With Fellowship?

Donate Baked Goods or Appetizers

- Marked With Date and Item Name/Description
- Place in Parlor Freezer

Volunteer Once a Month

Sundays 11am-12pm

- Help With Set Up and Take Down
- Provide Dessert or Appetizer
- Help Serve Food

Contact

Shyann,
hospitality@fumcgj.org
Tracey,
traceyb@htop.org



Have a celebration coming up? Anniversary around the corner?

Fellowship time special request forms can be found in the welcome breezeway on the wall in a labeled folder. To receive a google form version please email Shyann Morrison.

Questions?
Email: hospitality@fumcgj.org



United Women in Faith

GOOD NEWS! We have more books available to read!

Our United Women in Faith (UWF) Reading Program has benefitted by two positive developments: 1) the number of books selected for 2024 has noticeably increased, and 2) the number of books purchased for our church Library has increased, thanks to its \$200 UWF budget allotment, a \$20 reading award from the district reading program, and the generosity of some of our members.

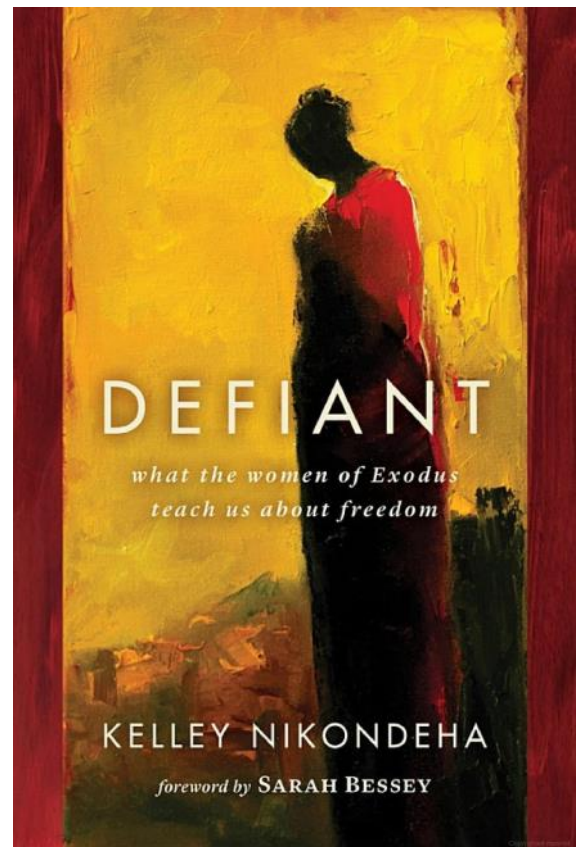
Have you never heard of the UWF Reading Program? It is one of the interest groups within UWF. Any woman can join this group. Its purpose is to encourage our women to: expand one's understanding and participation in God's mission; increase sensitivity to all human beings; encourage critical thinking about today's issues; grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to life today; enhance self-knowledge and act on it; and strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

How to participate: Pick up a Guidelines sheet from our Library and consider the four plans available to follow. (The only difference among the plans is the number of books read.) Proceed to the north shelves where the UWF books are located according to five categories -- Education for Mission, Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Nurturing for Community, and Leadership Development. Find a book, check it out by signing your name to the card and filing it in the recipe box right there, and enjoy learning something new. Return the book when finished, and repeat. Then, don't forget to fill out your booklist and turn it in when requested in early summer.

For over 150 years, members of UWF and its predecessor organizations have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study, and action. This Reading Program is a study opportunity that can lead to action and advocacy. Thus, it is another way to put your faith to work. We hope you will join us in this activity.



United
Women
in Faith



FUMC – Did you know?



United
Women
in Faith

Thanks to you, members of First UMC, for your generous support of the 2023 Holiday House Bazaar and the Mad Hatter Tea, United Women in Faith gifted over \$4,000 to various Grand Valley agencies!

Earlier in the year, the Community Food Bank was given a \$1,000 donation. As the year ended, Homeward Bound, Catholic Outreach, Diaper Depot, Hope of the Grand Valley, Western Slope Center for Children, Kids Aid, La Plaza (formerly Child and Migrant Center), Women's Recovery Center, and Project 1:27 all received a generous donation.

Not only were we able to support our local agencies, but United Women in Faith were able to support the work of our global missionaries and nationally through our National Mission Institutes. Through the World Thank Offering, monies were sent for the support of a food program in Bolivia and support of families living in poverty in the Philippines.

As we move forward into the new year, new officers have been installed. As our programming year begins issues such as climate justice, racism, food scarcity, and a focus on our spiritual growth will be presented. We look forward to a new version of the Mad Hatter Tea – Mad Hatter II--and another successful Holiday House Bazaar!

Thank you to each member of First UMC for your generous support of United Women in Faith that allows us to be in mission locally, nationally, and globally.

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EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

**GRAND
MESA
CAMP**

- June 20th–23rd Senior High Camp
- June 23rd–26th Mid High Camp
- June 26th– 28th Elementary Camp
- June 28th–30th Family Camp
- June 28th–30th Young Adult Camp

www.grandmesacamp.org

A decorative header featuring several colorful butterflies in shades of pink, blue, and green, along with clusters of small orange and red flowers, all set against a light yellow background.

HOSPITALITY

EXPLORING FUMC LUNCHEON

Want to learn more about the church
before you join?

Are you a new member wanting
more information?

Join us for a light lunch while we
visit and learn about FUMC!

SUNDAY, APRIL 28
@12PM

CONTACT SHYANN TO RSVP
HOSPITALITY@FUMCGJ.ORG

A decorative footer featuring a light blue butterfly, a purple butterfly, and clusters of purple and orange flowers, all set against a light yellow background.

Lord, I seek Your blessing for the journey I am on. You, too, are a Traveler – always moving and always on the move. I follow because You are ahead of me and You know the way. You are always with me. Though there is no promise of comfort or ease on this journey, You do provide guidance and protection. Along the way, give me opportunities to bless those I meet and may You send others to come along-

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

10 AM Worship

11 AM Fellowship & Classes

Our nursery is fully open for worship service

