

Circuit

Rider

Spring 2023



Mark Your Calendar

3/8 A Little Noon Music Free Concert

3/12 Time Change

3/20 1st day of Spring



4/2 Palm Sunday

4/6 Maundy Thursday

4/7 Good Friday

4/9 Easter Sunday

4/12 A Little Noon Music Free Concert

4/16 United Women in Faith Sunday

4/29 ShareFest

4/30 One Worship Sunday

5/10 A Little Noon Music Free Concert

5/13 Mad Hatter's Tea!

5/14 Mother's Day

Sr. Graduate Recognition

5/28 Pentecost Sunday

5/29 Memorial Day—Office Closed

Additional information can be found within this newsletter.

First United Methodist Church
Office: 242-4850 (option 1 in staff directory)
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.

There are Church Directories available in the Sanctuary. They are located on the back pew along the wall. Please feel free to take one. We will print these quarterly so if you have a directory with a cover, please save the cover for the Spring 2023 edition!

*My God and my Lord,
Help me to live a life worthy of Your call.
Where I am weak, give me strength.
If I cannot see, let faith be my guide.
When I am afraid, breathe courage into me.
Should I feel insufficient, remind me that You are enough.
May my story bring glory to Your story. Amen*

From Pastor Steve

[Jesus said to them,] “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

- Luke 13:34 [NRSV]

🎵 Lookin’ for love...in all the wrong places...



Many will be familiar with the hit country song from 1980 “Lookin’ for Love (in All the Wrong Places)” recorded by Johnny Lee for the movie of the same year, *Urban Cowboy*.

And many may rightly ask, “What does *that* song have to do with Lent?” Much like the Valentine boxes of candy hearts stamped with silly, two-word phrases that are supposed to convey sentiments of “love” to someone close to us, the song and its cinematic setting don’t have anything to do with Lent.

But the confession made in the chorus of the song is hard NOT to connect with the season of Lent if one looks at the words through the eyes of any one of us who has discovered in Jesus our hearts’ deepest longings after wandering aimlessly, looking for love...in all the wrong places.

That’s our worship theme for Lent this year, which began on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, with the first Sunday being February 26th.

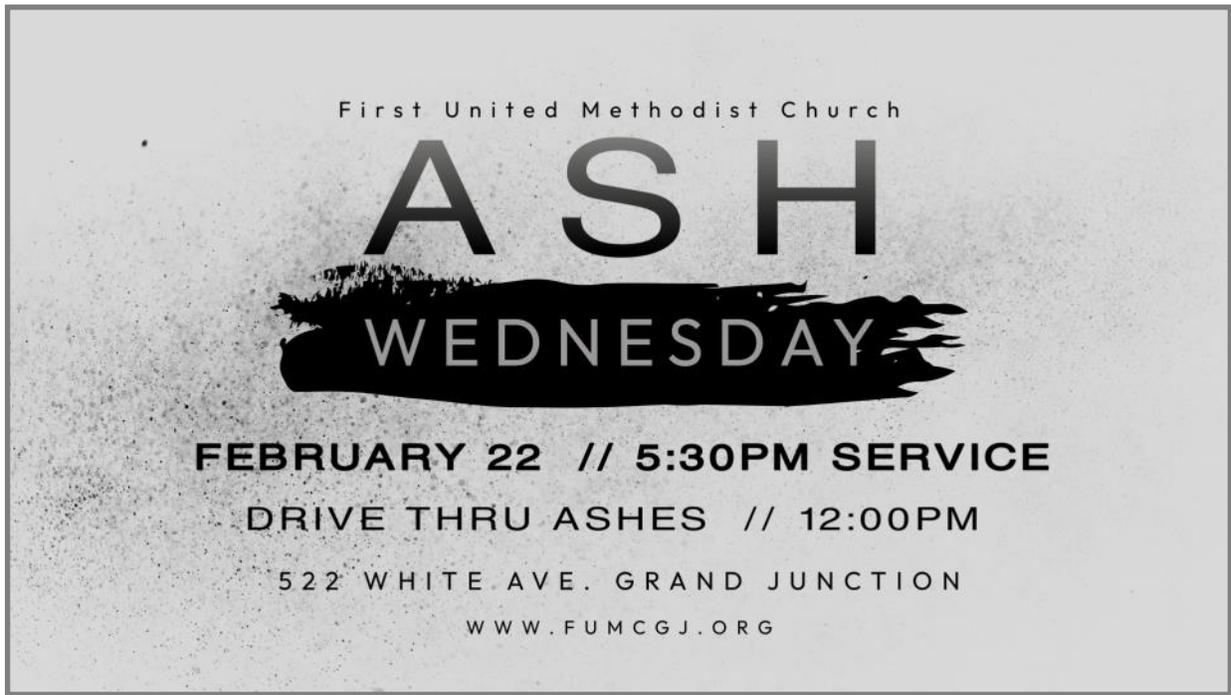
Dr. Marcia McFee, of *Worship Design Studio*, writes, “Don’t we often look for wholeness and happiness (love) in places that offer only temporary “good feelings” and satisfaction? Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning, for redemption, [and for love.] We’ll... [look at a variety of Biblical texts] to find out Who offers the “real deal.”

Worship is one of the marks of Christian discipleship. Plan to join us often through the season and grow in your relationship with Christ and the Body!

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

Yours in Christ always – **Pastor Steve**





Highlights of Spring 2023 in Worship

The Season of Lent: Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places

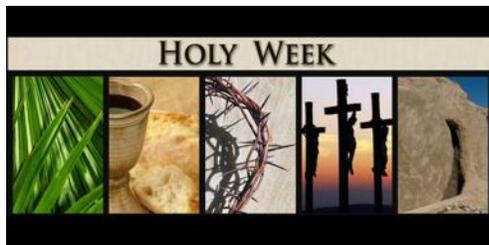
Sunday services held at the normal times: 9 AM and 11 AM. First Sunday in Lent is February 26th.

Special Dates:

Sunday, March 12th - **Switch to DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**
TIME: *Spring Ahead!*

Palm Sunday, April 2nd

- ◆ 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 have done the past couple of years.
- ◆ 11 AM Holy Week Cantata service featuring our Sanctuary Choir and string ensemble



- ◆ Maundy Thursday, April 6th Worship details to follow closer to the date

(Note that Passover begins after sunset the night

before for our Jewish brothers and sisters.)

- ◆ Good Friday, April 7th Community Good Friday service, 12:00 Noon in our Sanctuary
- Easter Sunday, April 9th. Worship at the normal times



Sunday, April 16th. *United Women in Faith* Sunday, normal worship times

Sunday, April 30th. 5th Sunday worship: One service at 11 AM. Traditional in style.

Sunday, May 14th. Mother's Day Recognition in worship

Sunday, May 28th – Memorial Weekend // Pentecost Sunday // Music Sunday // Choir's last Sunday for the program year

First United Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL

BIBLE STORY BASICS

STARTS AT 10am



~Music~
~Bible Lessons~
~Activities to Explore
the Bible~

Little Lambs- 3-5 years old
Kingdom Kids-6 years and above

Holy Week in a Box

A variety of ways to explore the events of Holy Week. There are hands on activities, and prayer activities to help you explore Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter; and help you draw closer to God.

Reserve one for you and your family and pick one up for your neighbor or friend too!
Limited number of boxes available.
Reservations not required, but appreciated!

Pick up boxes Sunday 3/26 or 4/2

Looking for some helping hands to assemble boxes in March ...

For more information, contact
Anna Aleksa
email: familyministry@fumcgj.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HOLY WEEK

Events

04. 2. 2023
PALM SUNDAY

9:00AM- PARADE OF PALMS AND WORSHIP SERVICE
FUMC TO HAWTHORNE PARK

11:00AM- CHOIR CANTATA WITH STRING ENSEMBLE AT FUMC

04. 6. 2023
MAUNDY THURSDAY
MORE INFORMATION TO COME

04. 7. 2023
GOOD FRIDAY
A NOON SERVICE WITH UMC CLERGY FROM
ACROSS THE VALLEY.

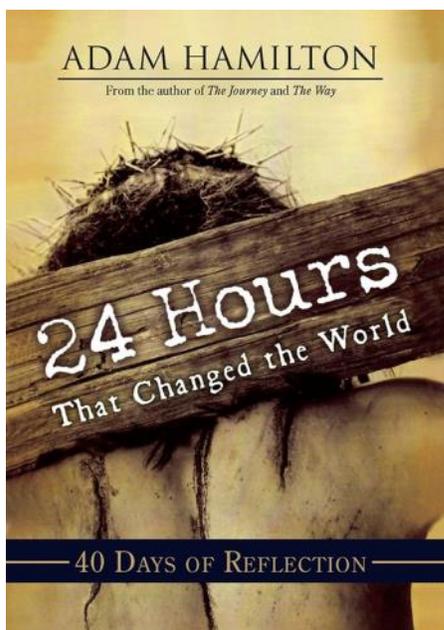
04. 9. 2023
EASTER SUNDAY
JOIN US FOR AN EASTER CELEBRATION
9:00AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
11:00AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE



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Lenten Study

Matthew Aleksa will be facilitating a Lenten study called “24 Hours That Changed the World” by Adam Hamilton. This class will meet every Sunday at 10 am, between worship services, in the Chapel. The class will consist of 7 sessions, beginning Sunday, February 19 and ending Sunday, April 2. If you are interested, please email Matthew Aleksa at mdaleksa@gmail.com.



Below is a description of the study:

In *24 Hours that Changed the World*, Hamilton takes readers on a Lenten journey to relive the one day in history that changed everything. He invites both readers and viewers to experience and understand the significance of Jesus’ final hours. Drawing on insights from history, archaeology, geography, and the Bible, Hamilton takes us to the Holy Land and provides a deeper understanding of the most amazing day in history. We visit the sites where those earth-shaking events took place, and we walk where Jesus walked along the road that led to the pain and triumph of the cross.

A Little Noon Music

Free Noon-time Concerts

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month,
from 12:15 to 1:00 PM

Upcoming Performers

March 8
Alisha Bean—Violin
April 12
Cameron & Eric Law—Cellists
May 10
James Werner—Baritone



Mission & Outreach

What's been happening?

2022/2023 Mission Trip Grand Bahama/New Hope Methodist Church



A group of 13 volunteers traveled with a goal to demolish the unsafe playground @ New Hope Methodist Church Grand Bahama and replace it with a larger, safe playground to serve the local children of Grand Bahama. The team, ages ranging from 2 (yes, two years old) to 62, sought to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our service work. It was a blessing to each of the volunteers to meet and serve alongside a community of God-loving people as they tackled the project, attended church services, and listened to their personal stories of struggle.

They suffered a devastating hurricane in 2019 followed by the impacts of COVID that brought massive job losses, and through it all what came through most in all the stories is their love of God for blessings and hardships ... in all things Glory to God they said often.

We completed the playground project before leaving and were able to witness the children enjoying it while Pastor Jessica Boyce blessed it. This was a God-led effort over a year in the planning, and we give God the Glory for the blessing of completing this project. A dedication plaque was affixed to the playground that reads: Jesus said "Let The Little Children Come To Me And Do Not Hinder Them" Matthew 19:14 Playground dedicated January 2023 to the Children of Grand Bahama and made possible by the generosity of THE BACON FOUNDATION & FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GRAND JUNCTION, CO, USA



With thanks and gratitude for everyone's prayers and support from the Mission Trip Team: Shayna, Ascher, Cora, Michelle Huff, Rick Huff, Casey Mays, Jessica Mays, Sawyer Mays (4), Bridger Mays (2), Aspen Hren, Keerah Jennings, Donna Jennings, & Eliot Jennings (aka Pop)

Shepherd Project – December 2022



Thank you to everyone for supporting the annual Shepherd Project. Your generous donations resulted in many workers receiving insulated gloves, boots, wool socks, insulated coveralls, and more. Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus by providing not only these much needed items, but for the love and hope this communicates to the grateful recipients. The items have been delivered by Ignacio to the very remote work areas with greetings of appreciation to the shepherders for their work on behalf of FUMC. Glory to God.



More... Mission & Outreach

What's been happening?



Annual ShareFest Event! April 28 & 29

ShareFest Leader - Wayne Sallade 941-661-9377 (Thank you Wayne!)

Work crews needed! More details to come!

R-5 High School lunch - December 16, 2022.

The Missions team brought a Hot Chicken Dinner to the learners and staff of R-5 High School .

With fantastic support of many of our church family, the request for Christmas Cookies yielded plenty of decorated individual dessert bags for the learners to enjoy with their meal or take home for the holiday.

Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese and other fixin's was enjoyed during a special Christmas mealtime. Both staff and learners voiced appreciation and thanks for the food and our efforts.

There was chicken that did not get eaten, and the Mission team took it to Homeward Bound right after the school meal. The folks in the Day Program were able to enjoy a meal as well.

It was a very enjoyable sharing of the Christmas spirit. Thanks, and Blessings to each of you that helped with this event.



Mission and Outreach additional Support

Hope of the Grand Valley - \$1,500.00 for support of a family for Christmas

Madagascar Mission - \$1,000.00

Mission With a Vision - Girl's Safehouse in Kenya - \$1,000.00

UNITED WOMEN



IN FAITH PROGRAM and EVENT CALENDAR

Mar
2

"WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?"
1PM FUMC PARLOR
PRESENTER: PAT BACKES

Apr
6

**"GOD IS NOT NEUTRAL
TOWARD INJUSTICE"**
1PM FUMC PARLOR
PRESENTER: TBA

Apr
16

UWF SUNDAY
SPEAKER: RUBEN PACHECO, CHILD AND MIGRANT CENTER
DISTRICT 51 LIAISON

May
13

MAD HATTER'S TEA!
WEAR YOUR FABULOUS HAT AND ENJOY A
TRADITIONAL TEA...WITH A SLIGHTLY MAD TWIST...
TIME TBA

Other Ministry News



ministry
*4th Thursday of
each month*
9:30AM TO 11:00AM
FUMC PARLOR

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2023 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

2023 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. You may also request an electronic copy via email. Questions may be directed to Committee Members:

Sue Yeager, syeager@coloradomesa.edu or

Laura TerLouw, terlouwfamil@gmail.com.

Bell Bits

Christmas season bell highlights



Christmas Music Celebration



Christmas Sunday

In December the bells joined the choir and other performing guests in the Christmas Music Celebration, and then were able to play in the Christmas Sunday Worship Service.

As spring approaches the bells ringers will be working on music for the Lenten/Easter season. They continue to rehearse at 4:00 PM, on Sunday afternoons. There is more opportunity for additional ringers and substitutes. Anyone desiring to join this group of handbell ringers please call or email Terri Godby at 303-437-5311 or terrigodby@msn.com.

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