

## **Kevin's Korner**

*Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!*

*The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. Zephaniah 3:14-15*

The Lord is in your midst... Good News for all! Good News for First Christian Church!

How do we know? We remember! We remember the promises of God from Genesis to The Book of Revelation. We remember that God's promises proved true. We look back over all human history and see that "...the Lord is in (our) midst..." We look back and remember God's promises and God's actions proving that His promises are true. And then we imagine how (not if) God's promises will come true today, tomorrow and in the days and years to come. That is our faith journey. And as we heard during Advent, "hope is the destination of our faith." We find our hope by remembering our faith journey and how "...the Lord (was in our) midst..." And our hope tells us that God is in our midst today and every day.

Good News! God is in our midst at First Christian Church. How do we know? Just read through our **"Celebration of Gratitude: 140+ Reasons to Give Thanks."** Over 140 ways that God's promises have proven true over the last 140 years here in Grand Junction. God is surely in our midst! Good News!

Good News in 2025! God will be with us in the New Year. How do we know? 140+ ways! What does the future hold for First Christian Church? The one thing we know for sure is, God will be in our midst. Have you stopped to consider what is possible with God in our midst? What could possibly go wrong? What could possibly happen that God could not use for good; for us, for our future church, for our community? And what could possibly go right? Just imagine!

As we put up our new calendars this next week, I hope you will do just that. I hope you will imagine. But I also hope you will remember what God has done,

how God's promises have proven true right here in our midst. We still have discussions to continue, about the direction of First Christian Church, about sustainability, about vital ministries that will continue to make a difference and change lives. We still have discussion to continue about what we do with this beautiful "old" building and our beautiful loving, aging, congregation. What we do together!

I invite you to keep, or start, imagining what God has in store for our future. Imagine what might be possible with God in our midst (Is anything impossible?). Oh, and imagine how you might find an important way to contribute to this future at First Christian Church. Do keep remembering how God has been present in our midst and what God has done through this church family. That is where we will find our hope for tomorrow.

Our next event will be our **Pot-Luck Dinner after worship on Sunday, January 12th**. We will be celebrating the New Year. We will also be remembering God's presence and actions in our lives and in our church. We'll still be remembering our 140 years together and continuing to give thanks. We'll remember that we've been church in more than one location, though most of our memories of church have been at 1326 N. 1st Street. Spaces are important and carry so many beautiful memories and even disasters, which were redeemed, mistakes that were made and forgiven. Being church is challenging, but oh so beautiful!

Until then, keep remembering and keep imagining! And remember always, "...the Lord is in (our) midst..."

God bless us everyone!

~ Pastor Kevin