

Orientation Packet

Grand Junction Church of Christ

(2893 Patterson Rd. Grand Junction, CO 81506. 970-245-4210. Grandjunctionchurch.org)

What Kind of Church?

We are a diverse church that welcomes all who want to follow Jesus as their Lord. We come from various socio-economic backgrounds, many religious heritages, and all races. This is a church that encourages you to seek the Lord with all your heart and we welcome you to join us on our journey of faith and to become involved in one or more of our ministries. You will be loved here.

Elders: Elders are spiritually mature men often called “shepherds” or “bishops” in scripture. These men are responsible for the spiritual health and well being of the Christians that consider our congregation to be their church home and place of membership. The Elders have a two-fold role: Providing leadership and spiritual oversight in the congregation:

The elders meet based on needs but generally twice a month in order to discuss the spiritual needs and workings of the church, pray over immediate needs of families, and preliminary oversight topics. Please feel free to contact any of our elders.

Deacons and Ministry leaders/Coordinators: Our Deacons lead, direct, and organize many areas of service while focusing on those physical matters of church life freeing up our elders to work as spiritual leaders and pastors. Our church also uses many Ministry Coordinators, both men and women, who serve and lead in many vital areas of service

Members: Each member is expected to become an active participant in any area of service they may be gifted in. If there are no areas of formal ministry that call to you then you are strongly encouraged to start your own ministry effort (small or large) as a contributing part of the family church life and outreach to our community. Our church asks all of its members to be relevant, to grow, to serve.

Staff: The church supports four ministers (Outreach, Visitation, Youth, Preaching) and an Office Administrator to help facilitate the work of God’s kingdom.

Mission and Vision

Our mission and vision can be summarized by this phrase “**A Relevant, Growing, Serving Family of Jesus Followers.**” Our faith is an active faith. Membership is not something to be taken casually. We believe that Christians should be known by their love, their faith, their character, and their passion for Christ. We connect by being **relevant** to our culture. We strive to **grow** closer to Christ and spiritual maturity. We **serve others**. God has placed us here in this community for such a time as this to penetrate and influence the western slope of Colorado with love and service in the name of Jesus.

Core Beliefs

We offer these core beliefs as a theological framework to help unify our faith community under the authority of Christ and Holy Scripture, and to advance our efforts to embody the Gospel to the world.

Each member is free to study, think, and decide based upon their own interpretation and understanding of these matters. However, this is a brief description of what we generally believe as a church body about these subjects:

God

We believe there is One Divine Being who has existed eternally. God is the creator, ruler, and sustainer of the universe. He exists and reveals himself to humanity in three distinct, equally divine personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is by nature pure and holy and because of man's sin is unapproachable without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. God is the epitome and very definition of pure love and deeply desires a personal, eternal loving relationship with us (Genesis 1:1; 26-27; Psalm 90:2; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2).

Jesus

Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the eternal Son of God. He is equal with the Father, and our only way back into the life giving presence of the Father. Jesus chose voluntarily to take on humanity, was conceived of the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary, born both fully human and fully divine. He lived a sinless human life, and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. Jesus has bought the kingdom rule of God into our world. He ascended to Heaven and will return again someday (Matt. 1:22-23; John 1:1-18; 14:10-30; Heb. 4:14-15; 1Cor. 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:1-11; Titus 2:13).

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and Jesus the Son of God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christ follower from the moment of salvation distinguishing us as children of God, guiding and transforming us in the way of Jesus. He provides us with the power to live a fruitful, victorious life, discernment and understanding of spiritual truth, and boldness in sharing the good news of Jesus with others. The Spirit is also called our Comforter [John 14-16], the One who walks with us to share our burdens and give us guidance and companionship as we walk from here to heaven. The Holy Spirit continuously transforms us into increasing holiness as we daily yield our will to his, desiring to be further changed into Christ's image. He also gives each Christ-follower unique gifts for the purpose of serving others (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:12; 3:16; 12:4-11; Eph. 1:13; Gal. 5:25; Eph. 5:18; Rom. 6:11-13).

Salvation

We believe God created all of humanity in His image, to live in relationship with Him. Being made in God's image, we were designed for relationship. But due to our own willful rebellion against God, we are alienated from Him and are consequently lost and without hope. Jesus Christ is our only hope for reconciliation through forgiveness. Salvation, the forgiveness of our sins and deliverance by the invasive power of the Spirit of the risen Christ, cannot be earned, but is given freely by the grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus. We connect with this grace-gift of God through our baptism based upon an obedient and penitent heart. We practice believer's baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19), by immersion; baptizing those who believe and confess that Jesus is Lord of their life (Rom. 3:23-24; Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:1-11; 6:1-11, 23; Eph. 2:8-10).

The Bible

We believe the Bible is God's story, His love letter revealing his character to humanity. God divinely inspired human authors allowing them to write with freedom and choice within the context of their own experiences, culture, and traditions to communicate the values which please Him and which are in our eternal best interests. The Bible is accurate, reliable, and completely trustworthy. We accept the Bible as our timeless guide in all matters of life. We do not look upon it as a dead book of rules but as a living narrative of principals and relevant, specific guidance that tells us God's story and, thereby, our story (Mark 12:36; Acts 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Evil and its Powers

We believe Satan is a real force in the physical and spiritual world. He is the ultimate personification of selfishness and evil. He was originally an angel created as good by God, who, before the creation of the human race, rebelled against the Creator and became the chief antagonist of God and man. He and his army of fallen angels (demons) as well as the oppressive systems they perpetuate continue to work against God's purposes and God's children in the world (2 Cor. 4:3-4; Rev. 12:10; Eph. 2:2; 6:11-12). Despite Satan's evil intentions in the universe God has secured ultimate victory over him, over sin, and over death through Jesus Christ.

The Church

The church is not a physical structure. The church is a living, spiritual organism that Scripture calls the "body of Christ" and includes all the saved of the world. Jesus is the head of the body that carries out his ministry in today's world. The church is also called the Bride of Christ, the community or gathering, and the fellowship within communities. We believe the Spirit empowered, Bible based, Jesus centered, and love intensive local church family is the primary vehicle God uses to represent Jesus on earth and reach out to a hurting and fallen world (Col. 2:19; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27).

Church Membership

One of the ways that we at the Grand Junction Church of Christ may be unique is its view of membership. As a fellowship we emphasize the importance of baptism by immersion of those who have professed their faith in Jesus.

We encourage all who can to identify themselves as members at the Grand Junction Church of Christ and intentionally engage in the process of connecting with God and other believers, grow in the understanding and practice of faith, becoming an active participant in the works and ministries of the church and in serving others with the gifts and abilities that God has given.

We encourage each member to attend our weekly worship gatherings, participate in that assembly, be intentional about greeting and meeting visitors and seekers to our assembly, and to give in keeping with their financial blessings understanding the Lord, not our money and possessions, is God. (No one will tell you how much to give, or question you about whether you decide to give or not.)

All members are encouraged to visit with the elders as frequently as they desire and to seek their direction and guidance as needed.

Our Public Face

We will be a church that first asks “What would Jesus want us to do?” We want to be salt and light influencing our community for Jesus through love, acts of service and sharing the good news of salvation.

Our worship assemblies will be intentionally ordered to connect people to Jesus and help us grow spiritually, motivating and challenging us to become **active** servants of Christ who grow in daily relationship with God. We will try to make our assembly accessible, meaningful and relevant to all age groups, physically challenged (deaf ministry in particular), members, and seekers who do not yet know this Jesus who is our Savior and Lord.

Our goal and desire is for this church to be a culturally engaged and involved family of Jesus followers. We will be an outward looking church constantly trying to share the gospel of Jesus and reach out in acts of service and love to our community. We will actively work to equip members to become fully invested participants in our daily ministry efforts.

We intend on living out the love and story of Jesus at the Grand Junction Church of Christ and in our community. We want to be intentional about becoming known as a church that looks like Jesus.

We hope you choose to be a part of this Living Family of Faith!