

# Grand Junction Labyrinth Tour

Saturday—July 11, 2020—7:30a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Come to one or all (see approximate schedule below)



## 1 7:30 a.m.

Independent Unity  
3205 N. 12th Street, GJ 81506  
north side of church / upper east parking lot

There are many different types and design of labyrinth. The labyrinth here at the Unity church was built by our congregation in 2001. It is a classical seven circuit design.

The 'Classical' family of labyrinths were first documented on a clay tablet from Pylos, Greece (circa 1200 BCE), and constructed using a seed pattern. The 'seven circuits' refers to the seven paths that lead to the center or goal.

## 3 9:30 a.m.

Koinonia  
730 25 Road, GJ 81505  
Southwest side of church / just off parking lot

Koinonia offers a labyrinth located southwest of the parking lot. It's a spiritual tool meant to awaken connections within and around you. Use it as a walking meditation . . . a path for prayer . . .

## 4 10:30 a.m.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
3888 27-1/2 Road, GJ 81506  
Southeast corner of church property/parking lot (enter next to The Knolls neighborhood)

This labyrinth is always open to the public. It is a medieval type and a Chartres replica. We use grass as the dividing lines of the path and crushed granite to walk upon. The large trees surrounding the labyrinth provide shade and respite from the sun.

## 2 8:30 a.m.

First Congregational Church  
1425 N. 5th Street, GJ 81506  
south side of church / parking all around

Design: Santa Rosa

Date: 2015 (dedicated October 11, 2015)

In 2006 a **Chartres** labyrinth was constructed in the front yard of the church. Numerous volunteers helped prepare the ground: leveling, hauling in crushed granite, planting the honey locust tree in the center, bringing in large rocks, drawing out and laying the design. Plastic landscape edging was chosen to border the paths of the 11-circuit design. The edging was held in place with iron stakes. Thyme was planted in all the hour-glass-shaped spaces within the labyrinth and in the center. The area outside the labyrinth was planted with low water plants, including lavender, grasses and quince. The labyrinth was dedicated in October 2005 and quickly became a beloved meditation spot. Over the years, it became apparent that both the design and materials chosen were not as suitable to the site. The paths were too narrow to navigate comfortably and the material chosen to divide the paths was not holding up well to the hot Western Colorado sun.

In 2015, following several years of research and discussion by church members, the decision was made to replace the Chartres labyrinth with a **Santa Rosa** design, a 7-circuit variant of the Chartres design, originally developed by Lea Good-Harris, who generously made the design available at no cost to organizations building their labyrinths on a low budget. The Santa Rosa design is unique in that it has what Lea calls a "heart space" on the 4<sup>th</sup> circuit that is approached from all four directions.

The landscape edging was torn out and additional crushed granite and several loads of river rock were brought in. The irrigation to the area was redesigned to include a water efficient drip system. Church volunteers leveled the ground and sketched out the design in chalk. Over about 4 weeks, church members were invited to come lay the river rock along the path edges and everyone from the youngest to the oldest showed up to help. The rocks were then embedded in water-filled trenches and the crushed granite has held them in place with little maintenance over the years.

The outdoor labyrinth is open to visitors at any time with no reservation needed. Groups wishing to walk the labyrinth should let the church administrator know by calling (970) 250-7960 so we can be sure we're not doing yard maintenance at the time you wish to walk. Information about Santa Rosa design and Lea Goode-Harris, the design creator:

<https://creativelabyrinths.com/blog/2018/4/4/the-santa-rosa-labyrinth>

**Be at Peace.**