



# Christian Church News

### Weekly Bible Readings

#### Nov. 23-29, 2008

Mt. 25:31-46  
Ezek. 34:11-16,  
20-24  
Ps. 100  
Eph. 1:15-23

#### Nov. 30-Dec. 6, 2008

Mk. 13:24-37  
Deut. 8:7-18  
Ps. 65  
2 Cor. 9:6-15

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Volume 57 - No. 22 - November 17, 2008**

### **YOU ARE INVITED!**

***Thanksgiving Music Fest & Dinner  
Sunday, November 23, 2008 @ 4:00 p.m.  
First Christian Church Fellowship Hall***

***Preschool Holiday Activities (see page 8)***

***"We have been so busy with our learning theme, 'Going Places'."***

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Sunday School ~ 9:30 a.m.  
Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.**



**First Christian Church**  
202 East 12th Avenue / Emporia, KS 66801-5009  
(620) 342-1582 (Church Office)  
(620) 342-8585 (Fax)  
Web Page: [www.firstchristianchurch.org](http://www.firstchristianchurch.org)

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 11  
EMPORIA, KS 66801**

***"The mission of First Christian Church is to inspire each other to reach out to the un-churched and to serve and share with our community by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ."***





This Sunday, November 23, begins National Bible Week. For that Sunday, please bring a Bible that has special meaning for you. It could be your Mother's, or grandfather's or a Bible you got as a child and have read for years. We will have a table near the front of the sanctuary where we will display the Bibles. Please put your name on it and why it is special to you.

These are exciting times for our church. We have our annual music- and food- and fun-fest with New Covenant Church coming up on Sunday, November 23rd. I hope you have made plans to attend. Every year the celebration just gets better and better.

Then, the next Sunday, November 30th is our annual Hanging of the Greens Service which begins the Season of Advent. This is a special time of the year with much symbolism and meaning as we prepare to welcome the Christ-Child into the world and into our lives. Each Sunday of Advent will be a distinctive and unique time of worship. I will be preaching a sermon

series based on one of the most beloved films of all time: "It's a Wonderful Life." I hope you will come and that you will bring a friend or neighbor.

Then, we will gather for worship, as we do every year, at the church for Christmas Eve. It is an 8:00 p.m. service which should give you time for supper with your family yet not keep you out too late. As usual, our Christmas Eve Service will be beautiful. Make plans to bring your family with you and someone else, too.

And as part of our Christmas Celebration, "Nativities Around the World" will make a return to Emporia. Over 300 nativities, some large, some small, from all over the globe will be displayed in our sanctuary for all Emporia to experience. There will be refreshments.

When you combine all the Thanksgiving and Christmas activities with the New Beginnings meetings, it ends up being quite a season. Our faith can be a comfort to us, as it should be, but even more, our faith should be call to action. To me, faith is not so much a comfortable sofa as it is a pair of work jeans and gloves. Christianity is not for the faint of heart!

It is my prayer that this season you will choose to become involved and that you will invite your friends, neighbors and family to join you.

BLESSINGS, Pastor Bob

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PANTRY

Thanks so much for being faithful to support our food pantry. With your generous donations we have been able to fill the pantry. Please continue to remember us, either with non-perishable items or cash donations. We appreciate your help blessing those less fortunate. ~ Betty Hilton & Marjorie Rose

### NEED A RIDE?

If you would like a ride to church on Sunday, please call the church office at 342-1582 by Noon on Friday.

### HOW TO PUT THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

After providing for their families and loved ones, members may want to put First Christian Church in their wills, thus helping to assure the long-term future of this church. Bequests are free of estate tax, and can substantially reduce the amount of your assets claimed by the government. You can give needed support for First Christian Church by simply including the following words in your will: *I give, devise, and bequeath to the First Christian Church (insert amount to be given here) to be used to support the ministry of First Christian Church.*

A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of property, a percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. You can also name First Christian Church as a contingency beneficiary in the event someone named in your will is no longer living.

It is recommended that a lawyer help in drafting or amending a will.

~ Pastor Bob

Please pray for...



LOCALLY

Brandon Ayers, Bill Bowles, Will Calvert, Doris Douglas, Fran Grisell, Jason Hart, Becky Lauxman, Elmaleda McMinn, Freeda Paasch, Helen Price, Jim Resch (friend of Sandy Heller), Elizabeth Wells, Don White

*Our prayer/concerns/joy list continues to grow longer. Don't forget to call the office if a name can be removed. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.*

IN THE HOSPITAL

If you are a "friend in the hospital" and would like a visit or to be on our prayer list, call the church office and let us know! Also, if you do **NOT** want your name published in our church newsletter, but would like to be remembered in prayer, let us know that too!

MANY THANKS...

So often good and hard work done around the church is not recognized the way it should, and, those who do the work, often at personal expense, are not acknowledged and thanked for their contribution. This month, I would like to lift up Curtis and Winona Rhoades who have contributed greatly to the beauty of this church, for years, by tending the raised flower beds on either side of the main entrance and the flower bed parallel to the north side of the handicap ramp. Winona and Curtis are professionally educated in the planting and care of flowers and shrubs and they have graciously shared their knowledge and toil in lovingly tending our flower beds. Our flower beds, with their color and diversity of plants, add so much to the beauty of our church. Our thanks and appreciation go to Curtis and Winona for their dedication and hard work. (As you can imagine, tending these flower beds is a big job, soooo...if you would like to help with our flower beds please contact Curtis and Winona Rhoades.) ~ Pastor Bob

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes to the family & friends of June Meyer, who went to be with the Lord on November 13th. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. ~ Your family at FCC



NATIONALLY & GLOBALLY...

Pray for First Christian Church in Olympia, Washington in the New Beginnings Process.

Pray for those defending our nation: missionaries; and victims of war, hunger, disease and natural disasters. Pray for those suffering and in need around the world! Also, pray for our city and county leaders.

PASTOR'S HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

M-W-TH 9-11 a.m. & 2-4 p.m.  
 Fridays & Saturdays are by appointment  
 620-342-1582 (Church)  
 620-757-6298 (Cell)  
 1-877-941-2828 (Toll Free in KC)  
 944 Whittier-Emporia  
 E-Mail: [bobcolerick@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcolerick@yahoo.com)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday  
 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday  
 8 a.m. to Noon



Attendance and Offering Report

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance

November 9, 2008  
 SS - 30 / Worship - 72

November 16, 2008

SS - 31 / Worship - 80

Stewardship Report

November 9, 2008  
 Offering - \$2,245.75  
 Capital - \$1,013.00

November 16, 2008

Offering - \$1,898.50  
 Capital - \$1,855.00

DWF NEWS

The next meeting for the DWF Day Group will be November 12th at 1:30 p.m. Vel Lukert will be the study leader. Wanda Davis will serve as hostess.

ALSO... First Christian Church Day Group of DWF would like to invite all the women of the church to a Christmas luncheon to be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 12:00 p.m. at the American Legion. Reservations must be made to: Sandy Heller, Jean Miller or Imegene Marsh by December 3rd. We are encouraging everyone to bring a dozen cookies. We will be making up plates of cookies to take to our shut-ins. We hope that some of the night group will be joining us also.

PRAYER CHAIN

We care about you! If you or anyone you know would like to be added to our existing DWF prayer chain, please call Jeanice Miller at 343-9592 or Luella Hush at 342-2493.

HE'S COMING!

As we approach the Advent season, we've had several reminders of what Christ taught us to do while we await His return...

Sandy Heller and Rev. Hal Lewis led a fun and informative look at Advent by sharing the Advent songs in the Chalice Hymnal; Pastor Bob preached an excellent sermon reminding us to continually prepare for Christ's return through prayer, study and service; the evening DWF ladies had a great study, led by Marie Harding, exhorting us to help each other hear God's voice.

We as a congregation are attempting to hear God's voice as we make decisions about our church's future. The entire New Beginnings process has encouraged us to prayerfully look at the need to make significant changes. I'm reading Max Lucado's books, "On The Anvil" and in it he writes about staying alert and vigilant to Christ's mission; about not becoming complacent; and about changing complacency into action.

He says, "Satan's best tools of destruction are not from outside the church; they are within the church. A church will never die from the immorality in Hollywood or the corruption in Washington. But it will die from corrosion within ~ from those who hear the name of Jesus but have never met Him and from those who have religion but no relationship." (p. 26)

We need to look around, ask the challenging questions, and help each other hear God's voice. Lucado, again, "The most deadly trick of Satan is not to rob us of answers. It's to steal our questions." (p. 31)

So, as we anticipate so much... this season, New Beginnings, Christ's return... please

be sure that your voice is among those asking questions, giving support as we strive to do God's will at First Christian Emporia. What do YOU think we should do to help meet Jesus and develop deep, strong relationships with Him?

The mechanics of church administration can lead to feeling distant from the work. "There's a Ministry Team for that... I'm sure they'll take care of it!"

For a moment, pretend there is no leadership except for you, and what you believe God is leading you to do. What would YOU do if all ministry decisions could be made by you? What ministry would you support? How would you spend your prayers, time and finances to minister as we await Christ's return?

These aren't simply rhetorical questions. Please take a moment to call, or write, or visit with me to share your thoughts. We joyfully anticipate becoming a more dynamic congregation. Share your talents!

"Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking, because you were all called together in one body to have peace. Always be thankful." (Colossians 3:15 NCV)

~ Cindy Lexow

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYSDecember Anniversaries

10	Jody & Penny Fleming (1995)
15	Bob & Torchy Duncan
24	Bill & Anita Imhoff (1984)

December Birthdays

01	Cameron Moore
01	Betty Worcester
02	Chad Kurzen
05	Kate Smith
06	Dean Grisell
07	Donna Breshears
08	Thomas Beeman
08	Rachael LeClear
11	David Harris
12	Mike LeClear
13	Craig Pruitt
14	Dan Cline
14	Duane Monroe
15	Kristi Smith
15	Traci Smith
17	Krista Harding
17	Justin Richardson
18	Jon Breshears
18	Cindy Lexow
19	Marjorie Rose
20	Becky Ewy
20	Sheila Steinkuhler
24	Lougene Marsh
25	Barbara Gimple
30	Misty Knight

NEWSLETTER ON LINE

Our Web Page is at [www.fccemporium.org](http://www.fccemporium.org).  
Call the church office (342-1582) or  
e-mail [ttltpit@yahoo.com](mailto:ttltpit@yahoo.com) if your name  
can be removed from the newsletter  
mailing list. Thanks!

FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone! It seems that November has flown by... We have been so busy with our learning theme "Going Places." Along these lines, we've talked about how we can choose to go God's way or our own way. Noah chose to go God's way, and ended up taking the ride of his life on a big boat! When we choose to follow Him, God promises to go with us wherever we go!

This week we're beginning our preschool food collection project for the FCC food pantry. We're exploring ways to give thanks for all the good gifts we have in our lives as well as how to give to others who may not have as much.

When we come back from Thanksgiving, we will be ready to start a new learning theme: Christmas is Coming! If anyone has any items they would be willing to share with the preschool for our Nativity dramatic play center, your help would be greatly appreciated! We are in need of all sorts of nativity dress-up props: child sized bath robes, colorful sashes and head scarves, props for shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph. Please label your belongings and leave them in the church office; everything loaned to the preschool will be returned.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Learning Center Preschool!  
~ Suzanne West

November 23, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Emily Lauxman

Children's Message ~ Cindy Lexow

Diaconate ~ Tim Norton, Larry Breshears, Joyce Cress,  
Bonnie Denson, George Ford, Dean Grisell

Elder - John Lexow

Greeters - (N) Richard Becker & Robert Chatham

(S) Alberta Brinkman & Norma Leonard

Nursery - Rita Headrick / Organist - Donna Breshears

Worship Leader - Dianna Lewis

November 30, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Briana Becker

Children's Message ~ Marlene Hanson

Diaconate ~ Carl Headrick, Rita Headrick, Lola Farr,  
Dianna Lewis, Hal Lewis, Ardie Lauxman

Elder - LeRoy Garnett

Greeters - (N) Joe & Bonnie Denson / (S) Betty H. & Marjorie R.

Nursery - Tim Norton / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Nancy LeClear

December 7, 2008

Candlelighter(s) ~ Allyson Lauxman

Children's Message ~ Judy Moore

Diaconate ~ Karen Garnett, Alan Richardson, Betty Richardson, George Arnett,  
Becky Lauxman, Larry Gamblian

Elder - Jaylene Arnett

Greeters - (N) Carl & Rita Headrick / (S) Leta Moore & Joan Shumate

Nursery - Kathy Harris / Organist - Sandy Heller

Worship Leader - Barb Gimple

JUST A REMINDER

Please remember that if you are unable to fulfill your turn as a greeter, nursery volunteer, worship leader, children's message giver, server, etc., please find your own replacement and let the church office know. Thanks!

