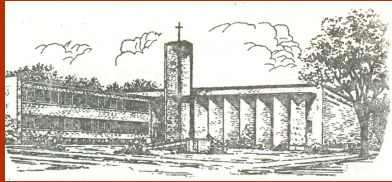




August 22, 2023



# First Christian Church News (Disciples of Christ)

VOLUME 72 NO. 16

AUGUST 22, 2023

## Reflection

Dear Friends,

When I see the images of the devastation in Maui, my heart hurts. Now the images of flooding and mudslides along with an earthquake in California add to the hurt. I want to do something to go and help - to make a difference for the good of others. I've known this impulse before when there have been tornados, flooding, and other disasters. Sometimes, I've been able to do that alongside siblings in faith. In those instances and now, that impulse has to take a backseat. Right now what is needed most is the direct relief that will aid disaster response teams to make a difference.

Week of Compassion is the best option, in my opinion, to make an impact in response to these disasters. Week of Compassion works directly with local agencies and congregations in the disaster area to share God's radical love with all in need. I encourage you to make a donation to Week of Compassion to support their disaster response efforts. You can go to [WeekofCompassion.org](http://WeekofCompassion.org) and make a donation or you can write a check and put Week of Compassion in the memo line and the church will send it to Week of Compassion. Either option is reliable and will make a big impact in people's lives.

Peace,  
Dale

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**Join us for Worship**  
**In Person Worship**

We are meeting at the church for worship at 10:40 a.m. on Sunday mornings! We are using pre-packaged communion. We hope to see you Sunday!

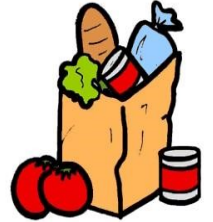
**At Home Worship on Facebook/Vimeo**



Find us on Facebook at **First Christian Church—Disciples of Christ of Emporia, KS.** to join us for worship at 10:40 a.m. on Sundays. Leave a comment on our worship service to let us know you are with us! Find us on Vimeo at **First Christian Church— Emporia.**



During the month of August, the food pantry helped **144 families** with food, plus **various other items**, including **20 doz. eggs.**



Our pantry continues to be a lifeline for those in our community.

During this time, we have implemented a no contact method for providing food to the community and have reduced our food pantry hours to Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

*Church Family Prayer List*

**Sharon Ball & Family**

Mark Davis, **Marilyn Dalton's** Cousin

**Joy Frevert's** Friend

**Dick Hubert**

Paul Martinez, Friend of the **Arnett's**

Hunter McCoy, **Chad & Laurie Kurzen's** Nephew,

**Jaiden & Kinzie Kurzen's** Cousin

Jennifer & Michael

Jacob Ramirez Son of Sonya Ihde

JoAnn Rincon, Friend of **Marilyn Dalton**

**Dee Thompson**

~The church as we go through the transition process with Pastor Dale Matherly~

**Upcoming Serving Schedule**

**August 27th, 2023**

**Elder**~ Jaylene Arnett

**Worship Leader**~ Jean Miller

**September 3rd, 2023**

**Elder**~ Nancy LeClear

**Worship Leader**~ Judy Moore

**Attendance and Giving Record**

**ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD**

August 13th, 2023 ~ SS 4/39 AH & IP Worship

August 20th, 2023 ~ SS 13/ 45 AH & IP Worship

**GIVING RECORD**

August 13th, 2023 ~ Offering \$960.00

August 20th, 2023 ~ Offering \$1,835.00



**AUGUST**  
Anniversaries

31 Dave & Carolyn Meierhoff

**SEPTEMBER**  
Anniversaries

02 Glenn & Barb Gimple

**AUGUST**  
Birthdays

- 23 Doris Baird
- 23 Nicole Dalton
- 26 Marilyn Dalton
- 27 Carl Richardson
- 29 Owen Hines

**SEPTEMBER**  
Birthdays

- 01 Marlene Hanson
- 01 Rita Headrick
- 03 Dick Hubert
- 04 Jack Dalton
- 05 Jaiden Kurzen

Mark The Dates

Sundays at 9:30am— Sunday School

Sundays at 10:40 am—Worship Service  
via In Person & Facebook Live

Mondays from 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Mondays at 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Fridays from 3:00—6:00 pm—Clothes Closet &  
Household Hut

Saturdays from 9:00 am—12:00 pm—Clothes Closet  
& Household Hut

Sept. 4, 2023—Newsletter Deadline

Sept. 4, 2023—Labor Day (Office Closed)



# Lectionary Schedule August 27th, 2023— September 17th, 2023

## August 27th, 2023

Exodus 1:8-2:10  
Isaiah 51:1-6  
Matthew 16:13-20  
Psalm 124

## September 3rd, 2023

Exodus 3:1-15  
Jeremiah 15:15-21  
Matthew 16:21-28  
Psalm 26:1-8

## September 10th, 2023

Exodus 12:1-14  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20  
Psalm 149

## September 17th, 2023

Exodus 14:19-31  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35  
Psalm 114



**FOOD PANTRY**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
202 E. 12TH AVE.

**Mondays, 9-11am**

*Helping families in our community!*

**CLOTHES  
CLOSET &  
HOUSEHOLD HUT**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
202 E. 12TH AVE.

**Fridays, 3-6pm  
Saturdays, 9am-12pm**



## A FRAGILE STONE PETER: JESUS' FRIEND STUDY OPPORTUNITY

An Adult Bible Study will begin Tuesday, September 12, at 10 a.m. in Church Parlor entitled **A Fragile Stone Peter: Jesus' Friend**. Peter and Jesus had a special friendship. In this 8 week study video narrator Michael Card reveals the intricacies of their friendship by traveling to Israel to walk us through places where Jesus and Peter interacted. Peter's life serves as a model for Christian discipleship, offering hope that we likewise can be changed as Jesus calls us to follow him. The story of Peter is the story of Jesus. Student study books are available at no cost. Jaylene Arnett will lead the study. Sign up sheet is on table outside church office.

First Christian Church.  
202 E. 12th Ave. Emporia, KS 66835  
620-342-1582

# FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- |                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 16 oz Jar Peanut Butter | Ramen Noodles           | Soup                    |
| 15 oz Can Fruits        | Toilet Paper            | Pork N Beans            |
| 15 oz Can Vegetables    | 5 oz Can Tuna & Chicken | Instant Oatmeal Packets |
|                         | Mac N Cheese            | Saltine Crackers        |

*Thank you for your help!*



## Search Committee Update

The Search Committee continues have contact with Tom Stanley, Regional Minister, who continues to be extremely helpful throughout this process. When Tom sends candidate profiles, we review them immediately and meet to discuss them and determine if we want to interview via Zoom to begin with, and then go from there. As you know, we are not closing so we are searching to find the right fit for our congregation in a settled, part-time pastor.

In this regard, we have a candidate we are very interested in as our part-time settled pastor. One who will help us move into the future. We are in negotiations and will update the congregation when we are able.

The Bylaws are specific in the process, so If we move forward with this candidate, we will immediately be in touch with Marlene Hanson as Moderator and then notice will be given as to when the congregation would meet the candidate.

Also, when a call for a part-time, settled pastor is made at a special congregational meeting vote, Pastor Dale will accept that as his 30-day notice.

Again, confidentiality is a key in the search process, but we will keep you informed and we will follow the process set out in our governing documents.

Marie Harding, Chair

Committee members: Marilyn Dalton, Joy Frevert, Barb Gimple, Marie Harding, Carl Headrick, Nancy LeClear, and Diana Solis

## First Christian Church

202 East 12th Avenue

620-342-1582 Church Office

Web Page: [www.fcemporio.org](http://www.fcemporio.org)

Email Office: [fccoffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fccoffices@yahoo.com)

*"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."*

### Office Hours

Monday- 8:00-12:00

Tuesday- 8:00-12:00

Wednesday- 8:00-12:00

Thursday- 8:00-12:00

Friday- 8:00-12:00



### Next Newsletter Deadline

September 4th, 2023 & September 18th, 2023



September 4th, 2023

## Weekly Events

Sundays at 9:30am~ Sunday School

Sundays at 10:40am~ Worship Service

Monday's from 9:00am-11:00am~ Food Pantry

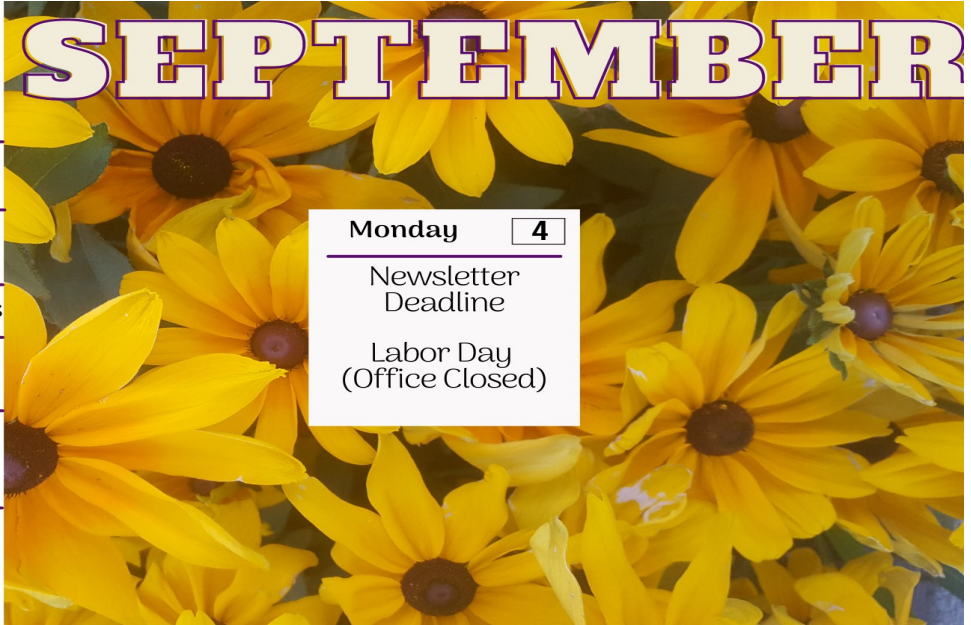
Mondays at 7:00pm~ Boy Scouts

Fridays from 3:00pm-6:00pm~ Clothes Closet & Household Hut

Saturdays from 9:00am-12:00pm~ Clothes Closet & Household Hut

*Even through troubled waters  
God is with you*

Isaiah 43:2



As you continue to reflect on and practice forgiveness, I encourage you to join with me in praying this prayer from Bishop Desmond Tutu:

I want to be willing to forgive  
But I dare not ask for the will to forgive  
in case you give it to me  
and I am not yet ready  
I am not yet ready for my heart to soften  
I am not yet ready to be vulnerable again  
Not yet ready to see that there is humanity in my tormentor's eyes  
Or that the one who hurt me may also have cried  
I am not yet ready for the journey  
I am not yet interested in the path  
I am at the prayer before the prayer of forgiveness  
Grant me the will to want to forgive  
Grant it to me not yet but soon

Can I even form the words  
Forgive me?  
Dare I even look?  
Do I dare to see the hurt I have caused?

I can glimpse all the shattered pieces of that fragile thing  
That soul trying to rise on the broken wings of hope  
But only out of the corner of my eye  
I am afraid of it  
And if I am afraid to see  
How can I not be afraid to say  
Forgive me?

Is there a place where we can meet?  
You and me  
The place in the middle  
The no man's land  
Where we straddle the lines  
Where you are right  
And I am right too  
And both of us are wrong and wronged  
Can we meet there?  
And look for the place where the path begins  
The path that ends when we forgive  
Amen.