



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
202 E 12th Avenue, Emporia, KS 66801 620-342-1582

NEWSLETTER - February 6, 2024 Vol 73 No 27

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From the Pastor . . .

"Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees." Victor Hugo

Beloved Jesus,

I want to be all Yours! I invite You to wean me from other dependencies. You have shown me that my security rests in You alone—not in other people, not in my circumstances.

Trying to depend only on You sometimes feels like walking on a tightrope. Yet I don't need to be afraid of falling because Your everlasting arms are a safety net underneath me.

Please help me to keep looking ahead to You, Jesus. I know that You're always before me, beckoning me on—one step at a time. As I spend quiet time with You, I can almost hear You whispering, "Follow Me, beloved."

Blessings, Pastor Les

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News and Upcoming Events:

Food Pantry Grant Received - CableOne/ValueNet approved a grant application submitted by Lana Richardson, Treasurer, which resulted in the receipt of \$3,000 for our Food Pantry.

THANK YOU CableOne/ValueNet.

Pancake breakfast, February 10, Saturday, Scout Troop 157 in Fellowship Hall (basement).

\$6.00 for all you can eat pancakes, 2 sausages, and drink.

Valentine Dinner February 11, Sunday, following Worship; hosted by Membership-Fellowship

Ash Wednesday

On February 14 this year, some people will be celebrating a day of love, while others will be commencing the start of a season of prayer and fasting known as Lent. During Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday, Christians throughout the world take part in rituals to prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter.

As you prepare "to follow Christ's will more faithfully," you are invited to come to the church for a time of meditation and prayer. You may visit our prayer stations and receive the cross of ashes on Wednesday, February 14, any time between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm.

Week of Compassion Special Offering February 18 and 25

GIFTS TO LIVE ON: "...they contributed out of their abundance, but she, out of her poverty, has put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:4

February may have been shorted on days, even in Leap Year, but it certainly

received more than its share of "special" days. Groundhog Day, Lunar New Year, Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday (this year), Valentine's Day, and President's Day.

(Remember when it used to be Washington's birthday and Lincoln's birthday?)

Among all these other days, I hope we can spare some time to consider a special offering for Week of Compassion. Although Week of Compassion is busy all year long supporting people in need all around the world, the month of February is when we place special emphasis on their work and receive a special offering to support their efforts. We will receive this offering on February 18 and 25. Please read the bulletin insert detailing some of the activities of this ministry. Whether flood or fire, tornado or war, Week of Compassion is there. We can be there, too, by supporting Week of Compassion through a special offering. Jean Miller for Outreach Ministry

Lenten Study - Wednesdays, February 21-March 27 in the Parlor

Pastor Les will lead the study based on the book entitled, "A Marginal Jew, rethinking the historical Jesus," by John P. Meier. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parlor.

Our Family:

Prayer List:

Hunter McCoy, Chad & Laurie Kurzen's nephew; Jaiden & Kinzie Kurzen's cousin
Jennifer & Michael; Jeanice Miller; Jacob Ramirez, Son of Sonya Ihde
JoAnn Rincon, Friend of Marilyn Dalton; Dee Thompson

Anniversaries: February 5 - Jim & Judy Moore

Birthdays: February 10 - Kat Dorcas and Steve Dorcas

February 16 - Maggie Wiggins

February 21 - Guy Bacon

February 27 - Shelby Pedersen

...Special wishes were sent by many to Curtis Rhoades on his 105th birthday on January 26.

...A rosebud was presented during worship Sunday, January 29, to the family of Silas Aguilar, born to Joey & Chantel Aguilar

Serving the Community:

Clothes Closet/Household is open every week: 3:00-6:00 pm Friday; 9:00 am-12 noon Saturday

We welcome everyone to come shop and find good bargains. Proceeds are used to help fund the Food Pantry. (Volunteers are always needed - sign-up sheet by the office)

Food Pantry is open the last Monday of each month from 9:00-11:00 am, or until bags are gone.

January 29: 36 bags of groceries given out; next Food Pantry morning is February 26

Scout Troop 157 meets at the Church every Monday at 7:00 pm

Food Pantry items we are encouraged to donate to put in the bags for distribution:

16 oz jar peanut butter; 15 oz can fruit; 15 oz can vegetables; 5 oz cans tuna and chicken; Ramen noodles; Mac N Cheese; Soup; Pork N Beans; Instant Oatmeal packets; saltine crackers; toilet paper. **Thank you for your donations, whether food items or money donations.**

Calendar items:

February 8 - Scout District Dinner

February 12 - 4:00 pm Elders meeting

February 14 - 11:00 am -1:00 pm Ash Wednesday come and go meditations

- 1:30 pm - Disciple Women's Fellowship in the Parlor; All women are welcome!

- 4:00 pm -Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting

February 18 - Newsletter deadline

February 21 - 6:00 pm Board Meeting

February 26 - 9:00-11:00 am - **Food Pantry** - or until bags run out

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**Upcoming Serving Schedule:**

February 11: Elder - Judy Moore; Worship Leader - Marlene Hanson

Children's Message - Marie Harding

February 18: Elder - Marlene Hanson; Worship Leader - Jean Miller;

Children's Message - Pastor Les

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Attendance and Giving Record:

January 28: SS 10; Worship at home/in person 44

Offering \$1,100.00; Building \$2,000.00;

February 4: SS 11; Worship at home/in person 40

Offering \$2,325.00 ; Special Week of Compassion Offering \$100.00

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**Join together Sunday mornings for:**

Worship at 10:40 am

All are Welcome to come worship and share in communion

A nursery is provided for preschool aged children

If you cannot be here in person, watch on Facebook at First Christian Church—

Disciples of Christ of Emporia, KS

Be sure and leave a comment so we know you are with us.

Sunday School at 9:30 am - children and adults

Children: Infant - Pre-K; and Love Station for Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade

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Contact Information:

Church Address: 202 E 12th Avenue, Emporia, KS 66801 - Church Office: 620-342-1582

Email Office: fccoffices@yahoo.com - Web Page: www.fccemporia.org

Pastor Les Dotson - Email: revles50@gmail.com - Phone: 918-850-7006

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