

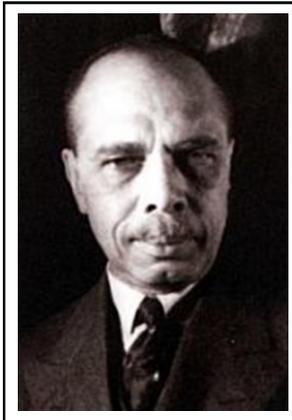
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### Reflections

Hymns are powerful faith builders for Christians. Through the ages, congregations continue to sing the songs of faith in good times, in times of peril, and in times that challenge us to the core. As part of a three-part series, today's hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," rings with hope today as when it was written.



**James Weldon Johnson**<sup>1</sup> (June 17, 1871 – June 26, 1938) studied literature at Atlanta University (graduated 1894, MA 1904), and went on to become a song writer, anthologist, teacher, and lawyer.

Another side of James was his talent at songwriting. He and his composer brother, John, wrote songs for musical theater on Broadway.

By the time he was 30 years old, he became the first African-American to pass the bar in the state of Florida and the author of the lyrics of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" to honor Booker T. Washington as part of an elementary school tribute to Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The song became known as the "Negro National Anthem," promoted by the NAACP.

**1) Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling  
sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun  
Of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.**

**2) Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn  
had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our  
people sighed?  
We have come over a way**

Blessings along the Way,  
*Pastor Lorraine*

**that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path  
through the blood of the slaugh-  
tered;  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the bright gleam of our  
bright star is cast.**

**3) God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
You who have brought us thus far  
on the way;  
You who have by your might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we  
pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places,  
our God, where we met you;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the  
wine  
of the world, we forget you;  
Shadowed beneath your hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native  
land.**

<sup>1</sup>Sources: Hymnary.org and Wikipedia.





**August Anniversaries**

31 Dave & Carolyn Meierhoff

**September Anniversaries**

02 Glenn & Barbara Gimple  
02 Harold & Joy Wonsler

**August Birthdays**

26 Marilyn Dalton  
27 Carl Richardson



**September Birthdays**

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



**Mark The Dates**

Until further notice, the method of meeting (In Person, via Zoom, E-mail, etc.) will be determined on a meeting by meeting basis.

Sundays at 10:30 am—Worship Service— In Person, via Facebook Live, & E-mail

Fri. Sept. 4, 2020—Newsletter Deadline

Mon. Sept. 7, 2020—Labor Day

Tues. Sept. 8, 2020 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Wed. Sept. 9, 2020 1:30 pm—DWF Group

Wed. Sept. 9, 2020 6:15 pm—Stewardship Committee

Thur. Sept. 10, 2020 4:00 pm—Elders’ Study

Thur. Sept. 10, 2020 5:00 pm—Leadership Team Meets

Sun. Sept. 13, 2020 12:00 pm—Diaconate Meeting

Tues. Sept. 15, 2020 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Wed. Sept. 16, 2020 5:00 pm—Worship Ministry Meets

Wed. Sept. 16, 2020 6:15 pm—Board Meeting

Thur. Sept. 17, 2020 5:00 pm—Christian Education

**Upcoming Serving Schedule**



**August 30, 2020—13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Elder** ~ Marie Harding

**Worship Leader** ~ Marie Harding

**Children’s Message** ~ Judy Moore

**September 6, 2020—14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Elder** ~ Cameron Moore/Nancy LeClear

**Worship Leader** ~ Nancy LeClear

**Children’s Message** ~ Jaylene Arnett

**September 13, 2020—15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Elder** ~ Judy Moore

**Worship Leader** ~ Jean Miller

**Children’s Message** ~ Cameron Moore



**Thoughts to Ponder**

- No burden is too heavy when carried with love.
- If you only pray when you’re in trouble . . . you’re in trouble.
- Don’t unsubscribe from God.
- One thing you can give and still keep is your word.
- If you want to make it easier to be happy, make it harder to be offended.

**Lectionary Schedule****Aug. 30—Oct. 4, 2020****August 30, 2020—13th Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

**September 6, 2020—14th Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

**September 13, 2020—15th  
Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

**September 20, 2020—16th  
Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

**September 27, 2020—17th  
Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

**October 4, 2020—18th Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Wanda Davis with a prayer shawl made by a member of our Prayer Shawl Ministry.



If you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, you are more than welcome to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry! If you cannot do any of those things, there are still other ways you can help. If you would like to donate yarn, please contact the church office. You can also help with this powerful ministry by keeping our home-bound members in your prayers.

## Meeting Time Changes

We have a couple of regular meetings that have changed to different times, so make sure you get these new times marked in your calendars!



### DWF Group

2nd Wednesday of the month  
1:30 p.m.

### Diaconate Meeting

1st Sunday of the month  
12:00 p.m.



## Audio/Video Equipment Update:

### Join us on Facebook Live!

A huge thank you to members of First Christian Church who have made donations to our audio-video project. (There's still room for donations if you are so inclined). The equipment has arrived and with the help of a very generous tech person at First Congregational Church, the pieces are in place to upgrade our Facebook live stream on Sunday mornings. Now the people who will be running the camera are educating themselves and hope you will be patient with them as they learn the ropes. If you'd like to be part of this team, call Barb Gimple. On those Sundays when you can't make it to church be sure to join us on Facebook.

As a reminder, you can join us on Facebook Live even if you don't have a Facebook account. Just go to our website at [www.fccemporiam.org](http://www.fccemporiam.org) and click on the Facebook icon on the top right corner of the webpage. It looks like this:



Also, if you join us on Facebook, make sure to leave a comment or like our worship service so that we know who is joining us!

**First Christian Church**  
**Lorraine W. Bailey,**  
**Transitional Minister**



*“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.”*

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 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey  
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**Office Hours**

**8 a.m. until Noon, Monday through Friday.**  
**Pastor Lorraine—8:00 am to 11:00 am, Tuesday through Friday. Afternoons by appointment.**



**Next Newsletter Deadline**  
**Sept. 4, 2020 & Sept. 21, 2020**



**August-September 2020**

23 • 10:30am Worship Service	24 Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	25	26	27	28	29
30 • 10:30am Worship Service	31 • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	Sep 1	2 • 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance	3	4 Newsletter Deadline	5
6 • 10:30am Worship Service	7 Labor Day • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	8 Acts Bible Study	9 • 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topeka • 1:30pm DWF Group • 6:15pm Stewardship Committee Meets	10 • 4pm Elders' Study • 5pm Leadership Team	11	12

**Spotlight on Disciples**

Information for this article came from the book, *Disciples: Who We Are & What Holds Us Together* (2019) by Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn, St. Louis: Christian Board of Publication, pp. 24-27.

**Covenant: Freedom with Accountability (part 7)**

In the final paragraphs of this chapter on “the freedom that is ours in Christ,” Kinnamon and Linn want to make known some concerns that come along side of these freedoms. They remind us that a healthy church will allow “the ‘three d’s—*dialogue, diversity, and dissent.*” The authors warn us that right now there are some missing pieces in our covenant:

- the absence of mutual accountability
- the absence of authoritative teaching by the church (authorized curricula, Assembly-approved studies, etc.)
- the absence of structures and processes of mutual accountability

Kinnamon and Linn remind us that in our society today, there is a deep hunger for a faith that demands discipline that will guide us to make a difference in the way we live and our witness to society. “To demonstrate disciplined community that yet values diversity, dialogue, and dissent—to model responsible freedom—requires real spiritual maturity.” The authors warn that without mutual accountability and authoritative teaching, we run the danger of becoming “clubs of culturally formed individuals” concerned with psychic distress relief and institutional maintenance. How does this affect our congregation?

*Next time—a conversation about scripture . . .*