



December 28, 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST
Christmas Food Pantry Bags
Christmas Eve Service
Reminder from Stewardship

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First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 69 NO. 27

DECEMBER 28, 2020

Reflections

In just a few days, we will be ending the strangest year that any of us may ever know. As the year draws to a close, there are two activities that come to mind—waiting and praying. We have become experts at waiting—waiting for the pandemic to end, waiting for things to get back to normal, waiting for the kids to go back to school, waiting to see a loved one who we have been unable to see, or just simply waiting for a hug. Our capacity for waiting is at its max, yet we have no choice but to keep waiting. How will we make it through?

Prayer is the answer. For some, prayer is a much too casual thing. Prayer only happens when something catastrophic comes along in life, otherwise communication with God goes out the window. For others, prayer is part of a daily routine, but that’s as far as it goes. Still, for others, prayer is an integral part of everyday life—like breathing. Prayers come in and out all day long and keep us in tune with God’s ways.

Thomas Merton, a theologian and writer of many prayer meditation books, wrote “waiting is a window opening on many landscapes.” What a beautiful picture! Imagine standing at the window of your favorite outlook and not only seeing the vistas you are used to seeing there, but many others as well. For me, these windows are often preludes to prayer. The window that first comes to mind for me is the window of the chapel in Teton National Park looking out at the Tetons in Wyoming. My visit there when I was 8-years-old left an incredible memory for me. The imagery of looking through that window opens up other majestic windows that I can always visit as prayer starters of thankful praise. We all have these windows we can gaze through in our memories, whether it’s a view of someplace you have visited far away, the glance back at the raising of the children, or the glimpse of the beautiful garden you’ve labored over in the back yard.

Prayer can begin with the memory of gazing through the windows of our lives and giving thanks. The year, 2020, will also leave a window for us to look through now and again. It would be wise to pray about what happened in our lives and in the lives of others as we pull down the shades. As we move into the new year, we will need to, once in a while, raise the blind for a peek so that we can be thankful that we are able to move forward.

The prayer windows of our souls are places we visit as we talk to God. As we move into the new year, let’s first say a thankful prayer and then a hopeful prayer while we wait for God’s love and light to fill the new year so that our souls will shine brightly to lead the way in 2021.

Shalom,
Pastor Lorraine

Join us for Worship

At Home Worship on Facebook

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!

At Home Worship via Email

You are encouraged to open your email at 10:40 a.m. to be part of our worshiping community. If you would like to be added to our e-mail worship service, send us an e-mail at fccoffices@yahoo.com to let us know!

So far in the month of December, the food pantry has helped **72 families** with food, plus **various other items**.



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.



Lonnie Atchison (*cancer*); **Lea Beers** (*medical*); **Wanda Davis** (*hip rehab*); **Brooke Franklin** (*cancer*); **Steve & Ramona Langley** (*brother-in-law and sister of Betty Richardson*); **Dr. Tim & Paula Lavin and family** (*medical*); **Joe Lozier** (*brain tumor, father of Jen Dalton*); **Steve Martin** (*stem cell cancer treatment*); and **Jeanice Miller** (*back pain*).

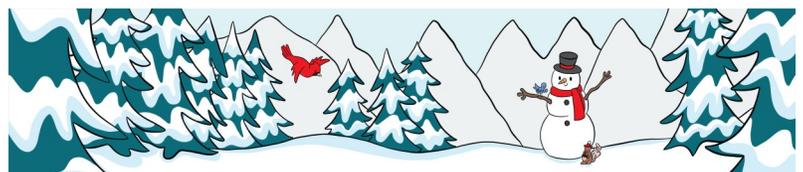


THE SECRET PLACE

**Devotions for Daily Worship
The Winter 2020
(December, January, February))
Secret Place daily devotional
books**

have arrived and are located on the hall table.

Still only **\$1.00 per copy** so get yours today!



Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

Dec. 20, 2020 At Home Worship 40+

Dec. 27, 2020 At Home Worship 32+

GIVING RECORD

Dec. 20, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,055.00 / Building \$0.00

Dec. 27, 2020 ~ Offering \$575.00 / Building \$0.00



January Anniversaries

- 16 David & Kaari Harding
- 19 Jesse & Diana Solis
- 28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

December Birthdays

- 30 Traeger Garnett



January Birthdays

- 01 Bonnie Schaefer
- 03 Heather Mitchell (Office)
- 04 Steven Sage
- 10 Nancy Mayer
- 15 Treva Stuck
- 21 Brenda Hall
- 22 Charles Wilhite



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 10:40 am—Worship Service via Facebook Live & E-mail

Mon. Dec. 28, 2020 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Thur. Dec. 31, 2020—New Year’s Eve

Fri. Jan. 1, 2021—New Year’s Day

Sun. Jan. 3, 2021 12:00 pm—Diaconate Meeting

Mon. Jan. 4, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Jan. 5, 2021 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Thur. Jan. 7, 2021 4:00 pm—Leadership Team

Mon. Jan. 11, 2021—Newsletter Deadline

Mon. Jan. 11, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Jan. 12, 2021 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Wed. Jan. 13, 2021 1:30 pm—DWF Group

Wed. Jan. 13, 2021 6:15 pm—Stewardship Ministry Meets

Thur. Jan. 14, 2021 4:00 pm—Elders’ Study

Thur. Jan. 14, 2021 6:30 pm—Youth Mission Club

Upcoming Serving Schedule



January 3, 2021—2nd Sunday after Christmas Day

Elder ~ Marie Harding

Worship Leader ~ Barb Gimple

Children’s Message ~ Marlene Hanson

January 10, 2021—Baptism of the Lord

Elder ~ Cameron Moore

Worship Leader ~ Judy Moore

Children’s Message ~ Marie Harding

January 17, 2021—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Elder ~ Judy Moore

Worship Leader ~ Nancy LeClear

Children’s Message ~ Barb Gimple

Thoughts to Ponder

- You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.
- 2020 years ago heaven touched the earth. The rest is “his story”.
- You are worth a miracle. That’s why God sent Jesus.
- Gratitude is the best attitude.
- If you walk with the Lord, you’ll never be out of step.



Lectionary Schedule**Jan. 3—Feb. 7, 2021****January 3, 2021—2nd Sunday
after Christmas Day**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**January 10, 2021—Baptism of
the Lord**

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

**January 17, 2021—2nd Sunday
after the Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

**January 24, 2021—3rd Sunday
after the Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

**January 31, 2021—4th Sunday
after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

**February 7, 2021—5th Sunday
after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Christmas Food Pantry Bags

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Christmas food pantry bags! We put together 30 bags to hand out, which consisted of ham, corn, rolls, mashed potatoes, gravy, oranges, apples, hot cocoa, candy canes, home-made sugar cookies, and an ornament. We were able to give out all 30 of the bags along with our regular food pantry items. A special thank you to Barb, Judy, and Marlene for making the sugar cookies and to the Youth Group for making the ornaments that were included in the bags! We appreciate everyone's help in allowing us to provide some in our community with a Christmas dinner when they may not have gotten the chance to celebrate otherwise.



Christmas Eve Service

For our Christmas Eve service this year, we got the opportunity to collaborate with St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in putting together a pre-recorded “Home for Christmas” service, which consisted of readings from both churches, various musical performances, and even a children’s story! Here are some pictures from the service.



Just a Reminder...

Reminder! Please have any and all year-end donations to the church by Thursday, December 31. Thanks to all for your faithful giving during 2020.

Stewardship Ministry Team



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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 Email Office fccoffices@yahoo.com
 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey
 Email: pastorlorraineb@gmail.com

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
Jan. 11, 2021 & Jan. 25, 2021



December 2020—January 2021

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI Jan 1	SAT 2
10:40am Worship Service	Newsletter Deadline 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite			New Year's Eve	New Year's Day	
3 10:40am Worship Service 12pm Diaconate Meeting	4 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	5 10am Acts Bible Study	6 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance	7 4pm Leadership Team	8	9
10 10:40am Worship Service	11 Newsletter Deadline 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	12 10am Acts Bible Study	13 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topeka 1:30pm DWF Group 6:15pm Stewardship Ministry Meets	14 4pm Elders' Study 6:30pm Youth Mission Club	15	16

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. 46-48.

Kinnamon and Linn remind us that is important to remember the controversies over Communion practices through the years.

- Should we take by intinction or pass plates through the pews?
- Should laity administer the meal without clergy involvement?
- Should unbaptized children be allowed to take Communion, and is it a decision left to the parents or one determined by congregation policy?

The authors suggest that while these are important questions, they are not the primary ones. In their words, “what matters is the recognition that coming to the Lord’s table is first and always an act of contrition through which we are acknowledging our unworthiness as recipients of God’s grace.”

The celebration at the Lord’s Table is what we do as Disciples. Our worship revolves around Communion. When Kinnamon and Linn say that “Experiencing what Communion means is strengthened by living what it means,” they refer to faithfully attuning ourselves to the call of unity and justice, committing to living our lives as Jesus lived his—loving and serving to bring reconciliation to all people. We come to the table, every time, with these things in mind and remember that “Anything less turns Communion into an empty ritual.” We remember that this is what shapes and forms us and connects us to God and community.