



DECEMBER 2017

December 4, 2017



First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 66 NO. 22

DECEMBER 4, 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Chimes
Advent
DWF News

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Reflections

I was 26 years old the night of my first-ever Christmas Eve church service. It was a cold night in Anchorage, Alaska with icy streets and snow glistening under the street lamps. Inside the church were the gathering of people, candles flickering in the windows, and festive decorations throughout the sanctuary. I walked to the room where the choir was getting ready, put on my robe, and took my place.

It was a glorious worship service! As I listened to the wonder of the Christmas story—the angel’s visit to Mary, the shepherds in the field, and the birth of Jesus—the familiar story I had heard all my life, I felt as though I was listening to it for the first time. The congregation and the choir sang songs and anthems of Jesus’ birth. Oh, how my heart sang that night. I felt that night, as I have felt in all the years since, that a joy filled my soul.

The joy is there because of who Jesus is. He was born God incarnate. He walked the earth as a man. He listened, healed, and loved people. And now, because of his death and resurrection, he listens, heals, and loves us! Because of his birth, we can relate to and know God!

John 1:16 reads, “From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”

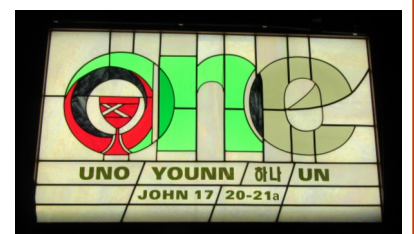
Perhaps it was grace that I received at my “first-ever” Christmas Eve service. When one receives grace, the ugliness that life brings seems to disappear. I certainly received joy that night—enough joy to fill my entire being! The love of God was so ever-present in the sanctuary that night that it might have melted all the snow and ice away from the hearts of everyone in the room.

Joy to the world! Our Lord, Jesus Christ is coming and we are getting ready in this Advent season to celebrate TOGETHER! Perhaps Christmas Eve service is also special because our church family will be there, other people we love who believe, to celebrate the promised gift God is sending. What are you doing Christmas Eve?

From out of God’s fullness, may you be filled with joy enough to share!

Wishing you a happy Advent as we prepare for our Savior’s birth!

Pastor Lorraine



Upcoming Serving Schedule

December 10, 2017 Sunday School Program

- Candlelighter** ~ Jaiden Kurzen
Children's Message ~ Judy Moore
Diaconate ~ Richard Becker*, Briana Becker
 Laurie Kurzen, Linda Maulsby
Elder ~ Jaylene Arnett
Greeters ~ (N) Guy & Janece Bacon
 ~ (S) Christine Kellum
Nursery ~ Kohlby Ketchum & Elizabeth Brown
Worship Leader ~ Marlene Hanson
Children's Church ~ Faith Coleman

December 17, 2017

- Candlelighter** ~ Jayden Johnson
Children's Message ~ Cindy Lexow
Diaconate ~ Carl* and Lana Richardson
 Jim and Melissa Tilton
Elder ~ LeRoy Garnett
Greeters ~ (N) Dick & Debbie Hubert
 ~ (S) Joan Shumate
Nursery ~ Richard Becker & Briana Becker
Worship Leader ~ Anita Imhoff
Children's Church ~ Joy Frevert

December 24, 2017

- Candlelighter** ~ Nicole Dalton
Children's Message ~ Laurie Kurzen
Diaconate ~ Carl* & Rita Headrick
 Tammie McDiffett, Joy Frevert
Elder ~ Jean Miller
Greeters ~ (N) Joe & Bonnie Denson
 ~ (S) Sonya Ihde
Nursery ~ John Lexow & Cindy Lexow
Worship Leader ~ Marie Harding
Children's Church ~ Jennifer Dalton

December 31, 2017

- Candlelighter** ~ Kelsey Shull
Children's Message ~ Sandy Heller
Diaconate ~ Jake Dalton*, John Lexow
 Betty & Alan Richardson
Elder ~ LeRoy Garnett
Greeters ~ (N) Dorothy Matile & Lola Walker
 (S) Wanda Davis & Marilyn Dalton
Nursery ~ Kat Dorcas & Rita Headrick
Worship Leader ~ Cameron Moore
Children's Church ~ Sonya Ihde

In November we helped **58 families** consisting of **153 people** with **59 bags** of food plus **1 dozen eggs** and **fresh pears**. Of these 58 families, **25 were new** to us or the first time they have come to us to receive food. Many have been sent from the Salvation Army and others heard of us by word of mouth from friends in the same apartment complex.



Voices of the people you have helped this month—" Thank you for all the information. It has been most helpful."

Don Allen, Lonnie Atchison (*cancer*); **Tom Bell; Chandler Bolen** (*health issues*); **Donna Brennan** (*cancer*); **Denise Calvert** (*broken leg*); **Joyce Cress** (*cancer & recovery*); **Diane** (*sister of Joyce Cress, breast cancer*); **Amy Hossfeld, Luella Hush, Bonnie Iverson** (*health issues*); **Jim Johnson** (*Jean Miller's nephew*); **Brad Jones** (*son of Jan Jones, heart problems*); **Wes Jones** (*health issues*); **Gale Kelley** (*hospice*); **Joyce Kellison** (*health issues*); **Carolyn Kuhn** (*health issues*); **Steve** (*broken neck*) & **Ramona Langley** (*brother-in-law and sister of Betty Richardson*); **Gary Logan**, (*brother-in-law of Janece Bacon*); **Pam Scheve** (*daughter Jan Weeks, health issues*); **Becky Shannon** (*daughter of Sharon Shannon, health issues*); **Jim Siebert** (*son of Janice Miller, back pain*); and **Elizabeth Wells** (*cancer & recovery*).



Eric MacGregor (*Military*)



We will be using various translations of the Bible in our Worship Service making us more aware of the differences available, while still delivering the same message.



Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

November 26, 2017 SS 18 / Worship 57

December 3, 2017 SS 28 / Worship 75

GIVING RECORD

Nov. 26, 2017 ~ Offering \$1,670.50 / Building \$178.00

Dec. 3, 2017 ~ Offering \$6,421.36 / Building \$67.00



December Anniversaries

- 10 Jody & Penny Fleming (1995)
- 15 Bob & Torchy Duncan

December Birthdays

- 01 Cameron Moore
- 02 Reece Johnson
- 02 Chad Kurzen
- 05 Kate Smith
- 08 Rachael LeClear
- 10 Richard Kellison
- 12 Mike LeClear
- 14 Duane Monroe
- 15 Kristi Smith
- 15 Traci Smith
- 15 Debbie Hubert
- 17 Justin Richardson
- 18 Cindy Lexow
- 20 Sheila Steinkuhler
- 24 Lougene Marsh
- 25 Barbara Gimple
- 30 Traeger Garnett



Mark these Dates

- Friday's 3-6 pm—Clothes Closet & Household Hut open
- Saturday's from 9—Noon—Clothes Closet and Household Hut
- Mon. & Tue, Dec. 4 & 5—ESU Student Coffee-Parlor 8-11am
- Tuesday, Dec. 5—7:30 p.m. Bible Study in the Library
- Wednesday, Dec. 6—NO DWF Night Group this month.
- Thur. Dec. 7—5:30 pm Youth Choir
- Saturday, Dec. 9—11:00 am Headrick/Simmons Daycare Christmas Party
- Sat. Dec. 9— SS Program Practice 4:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 10—9:30 am Sunday School Program in FH
- Mon & Tue. Dec. 11 & 12-ESU Student Coffee-Parlor 8-11 am
- Wednesday, Dec. 13—DWF Day Group Christmas Lunch at Noon in the Parlor
- Thur. Dec 14—Girl Scouts 6:00pm in FH
- Friday, Dec. 15-CWU Friendship Coffee at Braum's W. 6th Ave
- Sat. Dec. 16 ESU Graduation at 10 am & 2 pm
- Sat. Dec. 16—3:00 pm Hines Graduation Party in FH
- Sun. Dec. 24—2:00 p.m. Presbyterian Manor Service
- Sun. Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 pm
- Monday, Dec. 25—Office Closed
- Sun. Dec. 31—3:00 p.m. Holiday Resort Service
- Monday, Jan.1, 2017—Office Closed



Library News

We have many nice Christmas books on the book cart and in the library. Enjoy the season and read one

of them.

The Library staff wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Karen, Janice and Luella

Thought to Ponder

Life is about using the whole box of crayons.



BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Bible Study

Interested in a bible study? There is a six week study going on, using Max Lucado's book *The Gospel of Mark*. It began Nov. 7, 2017 and goes through December 12. It starts at 7:30 pm in the Library. The study is being led by John Lexow and a nursery will be available for young children. Come join us and check it out.



CHRISTMAS EVE





Lectionary Schedule October 29 – November 19, 2017

December 10, 2017

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 24, 2017

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 or
 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

January 7, 2018

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

December 17, 2017

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 31, 2017

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

January 14, 2018

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51



DWF News: (Disciple Women's Fellowship)



- *All women are invited to a Luncheon on Wednesday, December 13 at Noon in the Parlor hosted by Jean Miller and Janet Lostutter of the Day Group
 - *All women are welcome, whether you go to Day Group, Night Group, or even if you don't normally attend DWF meetings
 - *A suggested deadline for signing up to attend is Monday, December 11
 - *Sign up Sunday the 10th, or call the church office and let Susan know
 - *Signing up helps Jean and Janet know how much food to prepare, but no one will be turned away!
 - *Come and enjoy the food and fellowship
- *Please continue to save Best Choice Labels
- *Clothes Closet & Household Hut always need more volunteers; Fridays from 3-6pm and Saturdays from 9am-12 noon. Proceeds from the Clothes Closet/Household Hut are used to help supply the Food Pantry with groceries for those in need.
- *January meetings:
 - *Night Group – January 3 at 6:15pm; Pastor Lorraine, hostess; Judy Moore, lesson
 - *Day Group – January 10 at 1:30pm; no hostess yet; Vel Lukert, lesson
 - *If you need a ride to any of the meetings, please let us know or call the church office
Marie Harding & Karen Garnett, Co-Facilitators

Who Me, An Elder?

Information for this article came from *Your Calling as an Elder* by Gary Straub, p. 11. Here is a Straub’s brief interpretive summary of the biblical qualifications for elder leadership (his first and second):

1. Hospitable. Titus 1:8. This characteristic speaks to the natural spiritual role of becoming a befriender of those who are in need. It has nothing to do with being an off-the-charts extrovert on some psychological scale. Whether one’s personality type is quiet or loud, a genial generosity that witnesses warmth and authentic approachability is the key here. Perhaps Romans 15:7 says it best: “Welcome one another . . . just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God!”

2. Lover of Goodness. Titus 1:8 We are looking for an enthusiastic spirit of passion that embraces those things that are wholesome and positive (Phil. 4:8) in life and in the church family. This attitude builds healthy consensus and embodies the zest and joy of God’s life alive in ours. People who have no sense of humor—about their own problems, to say nothing of the faults and foibles of others—have no business being elders! Our sins of cynicism melt away when we devote ourselves wholeheartedly to that which is good. Enthusiasm for this good is contagious in church life!

Who Me, A Deacon?

Information for this article came from *Your Calling as a Deacon* by Gary Straub and James Trader II, p. 23. The following is part 1 of Straub and Trader’s interpretation of 1 Timothy 3:8. They are responding to arguments for excluding people from serving as deacons in the church.

1 Timothy 3:8 “Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money.”

Seriousness: Some have tried to suggest that when Paul says that the deacon should be serious (or earnest or grave), he means that humor has no place within the church, an absurd understanding at best. If this were true, most of Jesus’ parables wouldn’t work as teaching tools. Humor is not the opposite of seriousness. A better antonym would be frivolity. Obsession with the pursuit of frivolous activities separates us from God and service to others.

Over-indulgence of wine: Another qualification used to disqualify persons [from being a deacon] is the instruction to not indulge in too much wine. This is often read as a call to be teetotalers. Indeed, many people have difficulty when it comes to substance abuse, but as with any other thing that separates us from God and one another, those who are able to practice in moderation should not be excluded from serving God. Even those who are recovering alcoholics or addicts may serve, provided they have recognized the addiction, have sought treatment, and are sufficiently mature in the recovery process.



WAW/TPA School Outreach

We are collecting the following for William Allen White/Turning Point Academy (our adopted school): Facial tissue (Kleenex), Hand Sanitizer, Sanitizing Wipes (Lysol), Dry erase Markers and erasers. Plus—they would like volunteers to have lunch with children and to read to children—be a buddy. So, if you have 30 minutes a week and could do this, please contact Tabitha at WAW school at 341-2294.

Chimes

Julianna, Faith & Mikinzi playing the Chimes



Advent



First Christian Church
Lorraine W. Bailey,
Transitional Minister



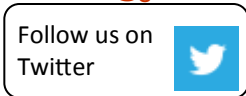
“The mission of First Christian Church is to inspire each other to reach out to the un-churched and to serve and share with our community by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

202 East 12th Avenue
 620-342-1582 Church Office
 620-342-8585 Prayer Line

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Web Page www.fcemporio.org
 Email Office fcocoffices@yahoo.com
 Email Pastor Lorraine Bailey at
pastorlorraine@gmail.com

Office Hours
8 a.m. until Noon, Monday through Friday.
Pastor Lorraine—9:00 am to Noon, Tuesday through Friday. Afternoons by appointment.



Next Newsletter Deadline
Dec. 18, 2017 & Jan. 1, 2018



December 2017

5 Food Collection--Soup & PB ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service <i>● 4pm Ly Co. Vespers</i> <i>● 5pm Advent Workshop</i>	6 Newsletter Deadline Time Sheets Due ● 8am College Coffee & Muffin ● 7pm Boy Scouts	7 ● 8am College Coffee & Muffin ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 7:30pm Bible Study-Gospel	8 ● 10:15am Lyon Co. Ministeri	9 ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Hous ● 7pm Set up for Headrick/sir ● 9am Clothes Closet & Hous ● 11am Headrick/Simmons D ● 4pm SS Christmas Program	
10 ● 9:30am Sunday School Prog ● 10:30am Worship Service	11 ● 8am College Coffee & Muffin ● 7pm Boy Scouts	12 ● 8am College Coffee & Muffin ● 1pm Evangelism Ministry ● 6pm Choir Practice <i>● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mission Club</i> <i>● 7:30pm Bible Study - Library</i> <i>last night</i>	13 ● 12pm DWF Day Group Chris ● 6:15pm Stewardship Comm	14 ● 6pm Girl Scouts	
15 ● 8:30am CWU Friendship Col ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Hous	16 ESU Graduation 10 am & 2 pm ● 9am Clothes Closet & Hous ● 3pm Hines Grad Party	17 ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service	18 Newsletter Deadline Time Sheets Due ● 7pm Boy Scouts	19 ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 6:15pm Sertoma Board Mee	
20 ● 5pm Worship Ministry Meet	21 ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Hous ● 9am Clothes Closet & Hous	22 ● 9am Clothes Closet & Hous	23 ● 9am Clothes Closet & Hous	24 Christmas Eve ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service <i>● 2pm Presbyterian Manor</i> <i>● 8pm Christmas Eve Service</i>	
25 Christmas Day NO USD 253 Office Closed ● 7pm Boy Scouts	26 NO USD 253 ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mission Clu ● 7pm Elders Meeting	27 NO USD 253 ● 5:30pm Facilities Meeting	28 NO USD 253 ● 6pm Girl Scouts	29 NO USD 253 ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Hous	
30 ● 9am Clothes Closet & Hous					

Spotlight on Disciples

Consolidation and Growth

Information for this article came from Journey in Faith by Lester G. McAllister and William E. Tucker, p. 159.

The January 1832 meeting at Lexington, Kentucky united the Reformer and Christian movements. This union ultimately brought about a change in the character of the movement. The thirty-year period from 1830-1860 saw consolidation and growth. Expansion was everywhere—from congregations mainly in Kentucky, southern and eastern Ohio, Indiana, western Pennsylvania to Virginia. Growth in numbers of followers, congregations, and preachers made institutional development inevitable. Alexander Campbell became the acknowledged leader of the movement. He continued his writing, publishing and teaching. The church continued to organize itself in district, state, and national manifestations. The Disciples proposal for a union of Christians on the basis of the New Testament came to be called “The Plea.” Alliteratively, it was later said the Disciples grew on “Preaching, Publishing, Pedagogy (education) and the “Plea” (the four “P”s” of the Disciples by Claude Spencer).