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First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Fast this Lent
Lenten Journey

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Reflections

In her *New Forward* to Marjorie J. Thompson's, *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*, Barbara Brown Taylor encourages this book to be "... not only on [our shelves], but in [our lives] ... it [gives the reader] the tools to engage the spiritual life—both for your health and the health of the world" (pp. ix, x).

Henri J. M. Nouwen, in the original *Forward* to the book reminds us that "Spiritual disciplines are nothing more and nothing less than ways to create a room where Christ can invite us to feast with him at the table of abundance." Nouwen is convinced "that for those who take this book seriously and apply it to their individual as well as communal lives, a true transformation will take place—a transformation that will affect not only [our] interior [lives] but also the life of the Body of Christ, the Church" (p. xiv).

Marjorie Thompson reminds us that we are in a post-modern world and that we live in a time where the Spirit is breaking through. This is a time of emerging Christianity which is "... profoundly Spirit-centered, seeking discernment through deep listening ... " (p. xix).

As we move through the first four chapters of Thompson's book during the upcoming weeks of the Lenten season, we will be introduced in chapter 1 to the "basic terms and perspectives concerning the Christian spiritual life," in chapter 2, "consider the practice of spiritual reading understood as the meditative reading of scripture," in chapter 3, we will look at the Christian practice of prayer, and in chapter 4, examine "the role of public worship in our spiritual formation" (p. xxv).

Just as a flowing river slowly changes the landscape of a river bed, so deciding to explore spiritual disciplines can change our spiritual lives. The river carves its bed over time with the current of the natural water flow. The Spirit's current within us is always carving a new shape to the faith within us over time. Sometimes, a force of nature will cause a river to change course and sometimes, when we are introduced to a different way of considering things, a natural force within us, the Spirit, causes us to make a change. When this happens, we hear God from a new inner place and we develop a deeper understanding of God. The Spirit has a mystical power that touches and changes lives. Perhaps this is what you are seeking.

We are about to embark on an individual and communal journey that will hopefully open the door to a glimpse of a deeper relationship with God. It is a journey that each of us takes alone, yet not alone. Our inward relationship with God is private, yet it is outwardly shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Together we ask questions and discuss our thoughts so that we can better understand how God interacts with one another.

Be faithful in reading, meditating on scripture, praying, and in worship as we journey together through the Christian Spiritual Life. May God grant each of us grace and love and peace in the days and weeks ahead.

Shalom,
Pastor Lorraine

Upcoming Serving Schedule

February 18, 2018

- Candlelighter** ~ Jaiden Kurzen
- Children's Message** ~ Marie Harding
- Diaconate** ~ Larry Gamblian*, Joy Wonser
Cameron Moore, Carol Rhoades
- Elder** ~ Anita Imhoff
- Greeters** ~ (N) Richard Becker, Robert Chatham
~ (S) Jean Miller
- Nursery** ~ Nikki Simmons & Mikinzi Simmons
- Worship Leader** ~ Marlene Hanson
- Children's Church** ~ Cindy & John Lexow

February 25, 2018

- Candlelighter** ~ Jayden Johnson
- Children's Message** ~ Marlene Hanson
- Diaconate** ~ Nikki Simmons*, Elizabeth Brown
Joe & Bonnie Denson
- Elder** ~ Judy Moore
- Greeters** ~ (N) Guy & Janece Bacon
(S) Christine Kellum
- Nursery** ~ Jennifer Dalton & Marilyn Dalton
- Worship Leader** ~ Nancy LeClear
- Children's Church** ~ Joy Frevert

March 4, 2018

- Candlelighter** ~ Nicole Dalton
- Children's Message** ~ Joy Frevert
- Diaconate** ~ Richard Becker*, Briana Becker
Laurie Kurzen, Linda Maulsby
- Elder** ~ Anita Imhoff
- Greeters** ~ (N) Dick & Debbie Hubert
~ (S) Joan Shumate
- Nursery** ~ Kohlby Ketchum & Elizabeth Brown
- Worship Leader** ~ Barb Gimple
- Children's Church** ~ Faith Coleman

March 11, 2018

- Candlelighter** ~ Kelsey Shull
- Children's Message** ~ Judy Moore
- Diaconate** ~ Carl* & Lana Richardson
Jim & Melissa Tilton
- Elder** ~ George Arnett
- Greeters** ~ (N) Joe & Bonnie Denson
~ (S) Sonya Ihde
- Nursery** ~ Richard Becker & Briana Becker
- Worship Leader** ~ John Lexow
- Children's Church** ~ Faith Coleman

In January we helped **41 families** consisting of **112 people** with **45 bags** of food plus 10 lb. of hamburger and 6 dozen eggs. Of these 41 families, **11 were new** to us.



So far in February we have helped **5 families**, consisting of **14 people** with **5 bags** of food plus 2 dz. eggs. Of these 5 families, **3 were new** to us.

Voices of the people you have helped this month—"Thank you for the meat, eggs and calendars."

Lonnie Atchison (*cancer*); Tom Bell; Chandler Bolen (*health issues*); Denise Calvert (*broken leg*); Joyce Cress (*cancer & recovery*); Marla Darby (*spine surgery*); Diane (*sister of Joyce Cress, breast cancer*); Ana Gonzales (*broken back*); Amy Hossfeld (*brain tumor*); Luella Hush; Grace Hyatt (*Betty Pearson's mother*); 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*); Jeanice Miller (*knee replacement*); 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*)



THE SECRET PLACE Devotions for Daily Worship

The Spring 2018
(March, April, May)
Secret Place

daily devotional booklets

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

February 4, 2018 SS 9 / Worship 77
February 11, 2018 SS 6 / Worship 71

GIVING RECORD

Feb. 4, 2018 ~ Offering \$ 1,565.50 / Building \$110.00
Feb. 11, 2018 ~ Offering \$1,037.60 / Building \$82.00



March Anniversaries

- 03 Bill & Carol Hopkins (1973)
- 18 George & Ruth Ford
- 22 Glenn & Dorothy Boyce

February Birthdays

- 10 Kat Dorcas
- 10 Steve Dorcas
- 10 Pauline Hall
- 15 Margie Coffman
- 16 Royal Garnett
- 16 Norma Leonard
- 21 Guy Bacon
- 21 Barbara Wilhite
- 24 Kayla Fraley
- 25 Joshua Shumate
- 28 Roycean Garnett



March Birthdays

- 02 Glenna Gamblian
- 02 Rosemary Robinson
- 02 Parker Simmons
- 06 Breann Frevert Johnson
- 06 Tina McCurdy
- 11 Robert Chatham
- 11 Imegene Marsh (1922)
- 20 Bertha Kelly
- 21 Nikki Simmons
- 21 McKinzi Simmons
- 29 Dorothy Matile
- 29 Craig Richardson
- 31 Randy Kelley
- 31 Mary Volland

We use various translations of the Bible in our Worship Service—same message different ways.



Thoughts to Ponder

No one every injured their eyesight by looking on the bright side.

Mark The Dates

- Friday's 3-6 pm—Clothes Closet & Household Hut open
- Saturday's from 9—Noon—Clothes Closet and Household Hut
- Tue. Feb. 13—6:30 pm Chi Rho Mission Club
- Tue. Feb. 13—7:30 pm Bible Study
- Wed. Feb. 14—DWF Day Group, 1:30 pm in the parlor
- Wed. Feb. 14—Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm
- Thur. Feb. 15—6:15 pm Stewardship Committee meets
- Fri. Feb. 16—8:30 am CWU Friendship Coffee at Braum's on W. 6th Ave.
- Sun. Feb. 18—Begins Week of Compassion
- Wed. Feb. 21—6:15 pm Board Meeting
- Thur. Feb. 22—6:00 pm Soul Feast Supper of "Soup for the Soul" and study
- Thur. Feb. 22 & Fri. Feb. 23—No School USD 253
- Sun. Feb. 25—Week of Compassion continues
- Sun. Feb. 25—2:00 pm Presbyterian Manor Services
- Tue. Feb. 27—6:30 pm Chi Rho Mission Club meets
- Tue. Feb. 27—7:00 pm Elders Meet
- Fri. March 2—CWU World Day of Prayer at FCC, 9:30 am



"HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."

As we enter the season of stewardship, we encourage you to re-read the book of Joshua. Our emphasis this year is to focus on, recognize and utilize the spiritual gifts God has bestowed. Joshua tells the beautiful story of God leading His people into the promised land. Max Lucado, in his book *Glory Days*, states, "In Canaan you do not fight *for* victory. You fight *from* victory. In the wilderness you strive. In Canaan you trust. In the wilderness you seek God's attention. In Canaan you already have God's favor. In the wilderness you doubt God's salvation. In Canaan you know you are already saved. You move from wanting-to-have to believing you already do." Learning to recognize the gifts God has given is one step in moving to *Promised Land* living.



Lectionary
Readings

Lectionary Schedule February 18 — March 25, 2018

February 18, 2018

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

March 4, 2018

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 18, 2018

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

February 25, 2018

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

March 11, 2018

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

March 25, 2018

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16



Who
Me?

Who Me, An Elder?

Information for this article came from Your Calling as an Elder by Gary Straub, pp. 13-14. Here is Straub's continued brief interpretive summary of the biblical qualifications for elder leadership:

9. "Grave." (KJV) Titus 2:2

An Elder takes pain, distress, and need seriously; gives attention to serious matters.

10. Able to Teach. Titus 1:9

An elder teaches and preaches the gospel. "A teachable and teaching spirit is the elder's spiritual legacy to the congregation."

11. Blameless. Titus 1:6

Not to be construed with perfectionism or faultlessness. An Elder lives by God's grace "above reproach, accusation, or complaint that might be leveled, whether legitimate or just those 'sour grape' aspersions that often make the best whine!"

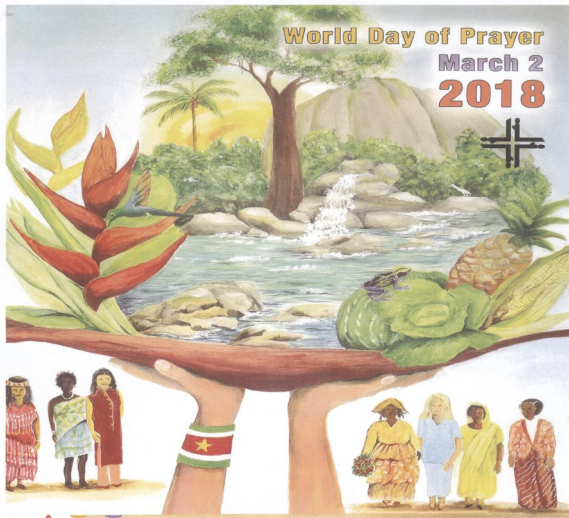
Who Me, A Deacon?

Information for this article came from Your Calling as a Deacon by Gary Straub and James Trader II, pp.35-37. Straub and Trader continue a discussion about "Discerning Our Gifts as Deacons." (part 2)

As the Spirit works within us, we become sensitized to discern what is of the spirit and what is of the flesh. Our spiritual character begins to develop, we begin to see the fruit of the Spirit manifested through our " . . . character, compassion, quiet strength, and courage in danger. All these graces become ours as we open ourselves up and welcome the Holy Spirit to commune with our spirit in the depths of our being."

"Spiritual gifts are unmerited blessings from God." They are "special powers or abilities given by God to build up the body of Christ. Gifts are essentially job descriptions for ministries . . . The presence of Christ is known through the exercise of our gifts." Discovering our spiritual gifts gives us purpose in life and the fulfillment in the rightful use of the gifts.

Acts 2:38 – "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." This is the scripture that tells us that the Holy Spirit, who has been abiding in us since birth, is unleashed in us upon our baptism. It is because of our baptism that we can begin to understand the spiritual gifts God has given to us and for us to use them as we grow spiritually. " . . . It is critical to our discipleship as deacons that we discover and use our spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1). Fulfillment comes in the right use of our gifts (Rom. 12:1-2; Jn. 15:8, 10-11; Eph. 4:11-15).



World Day of Prayer
March 2
2018

World Day of Prayer Friday, March 2 9:30 am at First Christian Church 202 E. 12th Ave.

ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD!
Prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname

First Christian Church
302 E 12th

MARCH 2nd 9:30am

World Day of Prayer USA • www.wdp-usa.org • 212.870.2466
475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1523 • New York, NY 10115
by Alice Pomstra-Gilmont • The Divine Gift

Please Join Us!



SOUL FEAST

You are invited to join us for a **Soup Supper each Thursday evening from February 22 to March 22 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall.** Following supper, please stay and take part in our five-week study of Marjorie J. Thompson's *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*. Pastor Lorraine will lead. Please read **Chapter 1** to be prepared for our first class (you also may find the forwards and introduction helpful). If you need a book, please call or email the church office.



Bible Study

The Bible Study *"The Gospel of Mark"* that met on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm **is canceled during Lent.** We will begin again Tuesday, April 3, 2018.



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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Lenten Journey

February 14, Lent begins. Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. This Lenten Journey lasts 6 weeks. The earliest Christians were referred to as "followers of the way". Today we are still following "the way" which leads us to know Jesus in all aspects of our life.

Following The Way Lenten Devotional Booklets will be available starting February 4 as a resource for daily meditation. We are in this journey together, yet the experience of following "the way" can be very different for each person. This booklet is written by a collection of young pastors who are gifted by the Bethany Fellowships which is connected to the Christian Church. They represent different contexts, denominations, and life experiences that will help us find our own place on the road to "the way". The devotions use passages from the book of Isaiah and the Gospel of John to follow the way to the Lord, the way of Jesus, the way to the cross, and the way to new life.

Following the Way Lenten Devotional Booklet will enrich your Lenten Journey. Booklets will be available in the Church Parlor.



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

Web Page www.fcemporio.org

Email Office fccoffices@yahoo.com

Email Pastor Lorraine Bailey at

pastorlorraine@gmail.com

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

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.

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Next Newsletter Deadline
Feb. 26 & March 12, 2018



February 2018

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
● 9:30am Sunday School	Newsletter Deadline	● 1pm Evangelism Ministry	Valentine's Day	● 6:15pm Stewardship Com	● 8:30am CWU Friendship C	● 9am Clothes Closet & Ho
● 10:30am Worship Service	Time Sheets Due	● 4:30pm Leadership Team	● 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Top		● 3pm Clothes Closet & Ho	
● 12pm Valentine Dinner	● 7pm Boy Scouts	● 6pm Choir Practice	● 1:30pm DWF Day Group			
		● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mission C	● 7pm Ash Wednesday Serv			
		● 7:30pm Bible Study				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Begin Yearly Pledge Drive-5	Presidents' Day (regional hr	● 6pm Choir Practice	● 6:15pm Board Meeting	NO USD 253	NO USD 253	● 9am Clothes Closet & Ho
WEEK OF COMPASSION	● 7pm Boy Scouts	● 6:15pm Sertoma Meets		● 6pm Girl Scouts	● 3pm Clothes Closet & Ho	
● 9:30am Sunday School				● 6pm Soul Feast Supper &		
● 10:30am Worship Service						
25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3
WEEK OF COMPASSION	Newsletter Deadline	● 6pm Choir Practice	● 5pm Worship Ministry Me	● 9:30am CWU Choir Practic	● 9:30am CWU World Day of	● 9am Clothes Closet & Ho
● 9:30am Sunday School	Time Sheets Due	● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mission C	● 5:30pm Facilities Meeting	● 5:30pm Youth Choir	● 3pm Clothes Closet & Ho	
● 10:30am Worship Service	● 7pm Boy Scouts	● 7pm Elders Meeting		● 6pm Soul Feast Supper &		
● 2pm Presbyterian Manor		● 7:30pm Community Chor				

SPOTLIGHT ON DISCIPLES

*Information for this article came from Journey in Faith by
 Lester G. McAllister and William E. Tucker, pp. 166-168..*

The Beginning of Organization (part 2)

Statewide organization began to appear as early as 1834. The Disciples in Pennsylvania organized with signs of several congregations in Springfield, Illinois coming together. June 1839 marks the announcement in *The Millennial Harbinger* for the first statewide meeting, held in Indianapolis, June 7-11. It was well attended with 139 congregations and 8,000 members reported as present. Barton W. Stone preached. “Resolutions on education, on cooperation, and on supporting evangelists were made and discussed.” The next meeting was set for June, 1840. Alexander Campbell wrote in *The Millennial Harbinger*:

An annual meeting in some central point in each state in the union, conducted on similar principles, exhibiting the statistics of the churches united in the primitive faith and manners, would in many ways greatly promote the prosperity of the cause. Co-operation and combination of effort is the great secret of success.

Other states soon followed suit.