



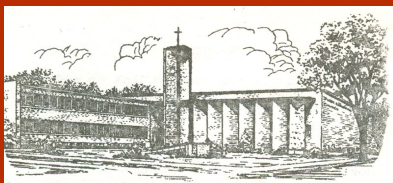
February 26, 2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Soul Feast Soup Supper and Study every Thursday at 6:00 pm

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First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 67 NO. 5

FEBRUARY 26, 2018

Reflections

As we are journeying on our personal and communal Lenten walks, we begin to look deeper within ourselves. Some are beginning a course in Spiritual Disciplines. Others continue in their day to day lives, hopefully filling the day with prayer. Still others give something up—a bad habit or food—and fast in God’s presence. And still others begin something new—a new project of helping others or a creative personal project to help them get more in touch with God like painting, writing, sculpting or making jewelry or pottery. It is this area that caught my attention this week.

In her book, The Artist’s Way, Julia Cameron explores her creativity and shares her finding with her readers. She has found that “Creativity is an experience . . . a spiritual experience. It does not matter which way you think of it: creativity leading to spirituality or spirituality leading to creativity.”

On our Christian spiritual journeys this year, we might look to our inner creativity that God has given to us. Creativity does not only belong to the painter or musician or writer. Creativity lies deep with each of our souls—in the gardener, the carpenter, the farmer, and the teacher, to name just a few. Cameron lists 10 Basic Principals for creative recovery and discovery. Perhaps we can open ourselves up to the Spirit to find the creativeness inside that is God-given.

- Creativity is the natural order of life. Life is energy: pure creative energy.
• There is an underlying, in-dwelling creative force infusing all of life—including ourselves.
• When we open ourselves to our creativity, we open ourselves to the creator’s creativity within us and our lives.
• We are, ourselves, creations. And we, in turn are meant to continue creativity by being creative ourselves.
• Creativity is God’s gift to us. Using our creativity is our gift back to God.
• The refusal to be creative is self-will and is counter to our true nature.
• When we open ourselves to exploring our creativity we open ourselves to God; good orderly direction.
• As we open our creative channel to the creator, many gentle but powerful changes are to be expected.
• It is safe to open ourselves up to greater and greater creativity.
• Our creative dreams and yearnings come from a divine source. As we move toward our dreams, we move toward our divinity.

Peace on the journey,
Pastor Lorraine

Cameron, Julia. The Artist’s Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity. New York: Tarcher/Putnam, 1992. pg. 3

Upcoming Serving Schedule

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

March 18, 2018

Candlelighter ~ Mikinzi Simmons
Children's Message ~ Laurie Kurzen
Diaconate ~ Carl* & Rita Headrick
 Tammie McDiffett, Joy Frevert
Elder ~ Judy Moore
Greeters ~ (N) Dorothy Matile & Lola Walker
 ~ (S) Wanda Davis & Marilyn Dalton
Nursery ~ John & Cindy Lexow
Worship Leader ~ George Arnett
Children's Church ~ Jennifer Dalton

March 25, 2018

Candlelighter ~ Faith Ihde
Children's Message ~ Cindy Lexow
Diaconate ~ Jake Dalton*, John Lexow
 Betty & Alan Richardson
Elder ~ Jaylene Arnett
Greeters ~ (N) Carl & Rita Headrick
 (S) Janet Lostutter
Nursery ~ Kat Dorcas & Rita Headrick
Worship Leader ~ Judy Moore
Children's Church ~ Sonya Ihde

So far in February we have helped **18 families**, consisting of **44 people** with **18 bags** of food plus 2 dz. eggs. Of these 18 families, **5 were new** to us.



Voices of the people you have helped this month—*"My grandson just turned 18 so I got my social security cut, so thank goodness you are here for us. Bless You!"*

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*); **Myrna Jensen** (*sister of Sharon Ball, cancer surgery*); **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 18, 2018 SS 9 / Worship 54
February 25, 2018 SS 8 / Worship 75

GIVING RECORD

Feb. 18, 2018 ~ Offering \$ 1,740.00 / Building \$10.00
 Feb. 25, 2018 ~ Offering \$2,601.00 / Building \$10.00



March Anniversaries

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

February Birthdays

- 24 Kayla Fraley
- 25 Joshua Shumate
- 28 Roycean Garnett



March Birthdays

- 02 Glenna Gamblian
- 02 Rosemary Robinson
- 02 Parker Simmons
- 06 Breann 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



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. 27—6:30 pm Chi Rho Mission Club meets
- Tue. Feb. 27—7:00 pm Elders Meet
- Wed. Feb. 28—5:00 pm Worship Committee
- Thur. March 1—9:30 am CWU Practice, 5:30 pm Youth Choir
6:00 pm Soul Feast Soup Supper & Study
- Fri. March 2—CWU World Day of Prayer at FCC, 9:30 am
- Tue. March 6—7:00 pm Stewardship Committee
- Wed. March 7—10:15 am Lyon County Ministerial Alliance
with First Christian Church hosting
- Thur. March 8—6:00 pm Soul Feast Soup Supper & Study
- Sunday, March 11—Daylight Savings Time begins
- Sunday, March 11—Noon to 2:30 pm Chili Soup Fundraiser
for Joyce Cress. Community is invited. In Fellowship Hall
- Tue. March 13—6:30 pm Chi Rho Mission Club
- Tue. March 13—7:00 pm Christian Ed
- Wed. March 14—3:30 pm Leadership Team meets
- Wed. March 14—6:15 pm Stewardship

Thank You

Thank you to the Membership/
Fellowship Committee, especial-
ly Carl & Rita Headrick & Nikki
Simmons for a delicious Valentine's Din-
ner Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018 served by the
Girl Scouts. Awesome and appreciated!



We use various translations of the Bi-
ble in our Worship Service-
same message different ways.



Thoughts to Ponder

Don't stumble over something
behind you.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*"HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? BE
STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT
BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOUR-
AGED, 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 wilder-ness 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



Who Me?

Lectionary Schedule March 4 — April 8, 2018

March 4, 2018

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 25, 2018**Palm Sunday**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11 or
John 12:12-16

March 11, 2018

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

April 1, 2018**Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43 or
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Mark 18:1

March 18, 2018

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

April 8, 2018

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Who Me, An Elder?

Information for this article came from *Your Calling as an Elder* by Gary Straub, pp. 14-15. Here is Straub's continued brief interpretive summary of the biblical qualifications for elder leadership:

12. "Married Only Once." Titus 1:6

This precept is usually interpreted in most congregations' practice as "loving and gracious fidelity within the bonds of marriage." A person's faithfulness in marriage reflects covenant-keeping with God. "Integrity here means living out the honoring of one's marital vows to one's spouse in practical ways that include speaking and acting consistently with the blessing of this sacred commitment." If one has suffered a divorce, it usually does not mean that one is automatically disqualified from the privilege of office. A single person is not excluded from consideration. It is the responsibility of the congregation to weigh carefully the unique circumstances of a person's life—that "... the elder's marital status creates no public scandal that would reflect negatively on the congregation or the gospel."

Who Me, A Deacon?

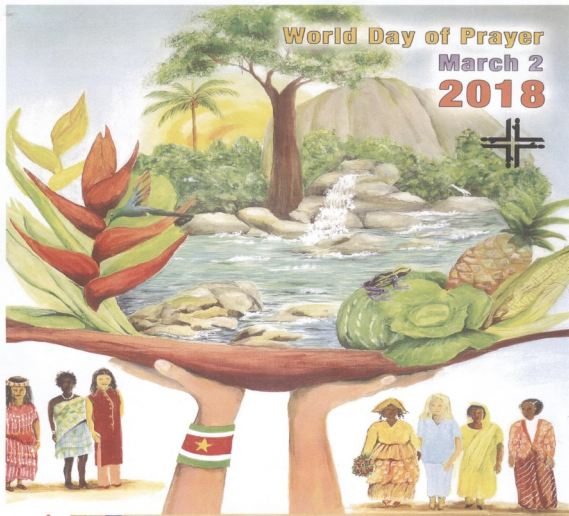
Information for this article came from *Your Calling as a Deacon* by Gary Straub and James Trader II, pp.35-37. Straub and Trader continue a discussion about "*Discerning Our Gifts as Deacons.*" (part 3)

"The fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) are another way of talking about [the] internal re-vitalization process" that begins at our baptism. We reflect the development of "spiritual character" as Christ's light shining through us. "A progression of this spiritual growth can be summarized like this: We are *rooted* in the soil of God's Spirit, *fruited* to manifest the mind and heart of Christ, then *gifted* for kingdom service." It is critical that we discover and use our spiritual gifts. As we discover our individual purpose in life, we will find fulfillment in the rightful use of our gifts. To see what the scriptures say about spiritual gifts, see 1 Corinthians 12, 2 Corinthians 5, Romans 12, John 15, and Ephesians 4.

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

Please Join Us!

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



Thank You BS Troop 157

A big THANK YOU goes out to Boy Scout Troop 157 who helped restock the church food pantry shelves by sponsoring a food drive during their annual pancake feed as a memorial to long time member LeRoy Garnett

Check out our shelves! Awesome!



SOUL FEAST

You are invited to join us for **Soup for the Soul each Thursday evening, March 1 to March 22 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.** Following supper we will take part in the four-week study of Marjorie J. Thompson's Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life. Pastor Lorraine will lead the discussion. Please read **Chapter 1** to be prepared for our first class (you also may find the forwards and introduction helpful).



So, we provide: a crockpot of soup, veggies & bread, light dessert & drink. You provide: yourself-(just come), a \$2 donation for supper and time for fellowship and study.

Even if you missed the first session you can still come and join in. See you Thursday!

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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Twitter



Like us on
Facebook



Next Newsletter Deadline

March 12 & 26, 2018



February/March 2018

Sun 25	Mon 26	Tue 27	Wed 28	Thu Mar 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
WEEK OF COMPASSI	Newsletter Deadline	● 6pm Choir Practice	● 5pm Worship Minist	● 9:30am CWU Choir	● 9:30am CWU World	● 9am Clothes Closet
● 9:30am Sunday Sch	Time Sheets Due	● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mis	● 5:30pm Facilities M	● 5:30pm Youth Choir	● 3pm Clothes Closet	
● 10:30am Worship S	● 7pm Boy Scouts	● 7pm Elders Meeting	● 6:15pm Board Meet	● 6pm Soul Feast Sup		
● 2pm Presbyterian M		● 7:30pm Community				
4 Popcorn Sun.	5	6	7	8	9	10
● 9:30am Sunday Sch	● 7pm Boy Scouts	● 6pm Choir Practice	● 10:30am Lyon Co. M	● 6pm Girl Scouts	● 3pm Clothes Closet	● 9am Clothes Closet
● 10:30am Worship S		● 7pm Stewardship		● 6pm Soul Feast Sup		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Daylight Saving Time	Newsletter Deadline	● 6pm Choir Practice	● 3:30pm Leadership	● 6pm Soul Feast Sup	● 8:30am CWU Friend	● 9am Clothes Closet
● 9:30am Sunday Sch	● 7pm Boy Scouts	● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mis	● 6:15pm Stewardshp		● 3pm Clothes Closet	5 pm BD Party FH
● 10:30am Worship S		● 7pm Christian Ed.				
● 12pm Chili Fundrais						

SPOTLIGHT ON DISCIPLES

Information for this article came from Journey in Faith by Lester G. McAllister and William E. Tucker, pp. 175-176.

Toward a National Organization (part 1)

The first national convention was held in Cincinnati on October 23, 1849. The first order of business was the election of officers. Alexander Campbell was elected president and four vice-presidents were elected. The term, “delegate” was discussed, but because of the suspicion of “ecclesiastical authority,” the result was that Disciples would meet in “mass meetings” until 1967 when regions would start sending delegates to General Assembly. Resolutions of this first convention were to encourage Sunday School in every congregation, strict observance of the “Lord’s Day,” and to urge churches to form district and state meetings and to report the names and addresses of congregations and their leaders. It was at this meeting that the *American Christian Missionary Society* was born. It would include home and foreign missions. Today, we know this as two separate entities: Disciples Home Missions and Disciple Global Missions.