



January 29, 2018



First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Boy Scout Pancakes
Valentine Dinner
Souper Bowl

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Reflections

As we are moving past Christmas and Epiphany in the church calendar, the season of Lent is upon us. I recently ran across an article entitled, *The Origins of Lent*, by my colleague, Louise Sloan-Goben at First Christian Church, North Hollywood, California. I hope you find it helpful as we prepare ourselves to observe this meditational season.

Lent! The name probably comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning "lengthen," referring to the fact that days get longer in spring. It is interesting to note that neither Lent nor Easter have their origins in Christianity, but in the religions of people that existed before the Christian faith was brought into Europe by the first missionaries. But the church has always been willing to adopt native customs and re-signify their meanings and put them to work for Christ.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and extends for 40 days until Easter. The 40 days represent the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness during his temptation (*Matthew 4:1-11*). Easter is one Christian holiday that moves around the calendar from year to year, corresponding to the spring calendar and full moons, and usually falling sometime around the celebration of the Jewish Passover.

Where did we get this custom of celebrating Lent? Jesus did not command it. The disciples never observed any such custom as 40 days set aside for prayer and repentance before Easter. There is no mention of Lent in the Bible. Lent owes its origin to two different customs that grew up in the Christian Church.

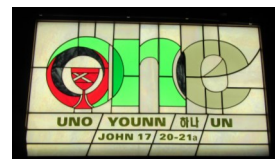
Very early in the life of the church, believers recognized that the most important steps in Jesus' life occurred that last week which led to the resurrection of Jesus. The early Christians fasted from 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening until 3:00 a.m. Easter morning. Then they celebrated the Lord's Supper together and rejoiced in the good news of the resurrection.

Soon the fast was extended to 40 hours to represent the time that Jesus was in the grave and eventually expanded to include all of Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday). In addition to fasting, Christians in Jerusalem also began to re-create the steps Jesus and his accusers took on Good Friday, leading to Jesus' crucifixion and pilgrims came to the city and walked the way of sorrows to the cross, the Via Dolorosa. Some of these customs, begun before 400 A.D. are still observed in Jerusalem today.

The second source also centered on the Saturday night/Sunday morning vigil for it became the practice of the church to baptize new Christians early on Easter morning. In the New Testament times it apparently was the practice to baptize people immediately upon their coming to faith. Later when the church was under persecution, it became customary for new Christians to undergo a lengthy period of instruction before an individual was permitted to learn the secret creed of the church and be considered worthy of membership. This was simply a matter of survival. So the time before Easter became a period of study, meditation and fasting for candidates for baptism.

The two sources of Lent remain part of our Lenten observance to this day; one places emphasis on Jesus' activity, and the other stresses our own preparation for Easter. Lent bids us look up to the one who is our Lord, but also invites us to look into our hearts and lives to make sure Christ dwells there too.

Together on the journey,
Pastor Lorraine



Upcoming Serving Schedule

February 4, 2018

Candlelighter ~ Jack Dalton
Children's Message ~ Nancy LeClear
Diaconate ~ Carl* & Rita Headrick
 Tammie McDiffett, Joy Frevert
Elder ~ Jaylene Arnett
Greeters ~ (N) Jim & Melissa Tilton
 ~ (S) Joy Wonser
Nursery ~ Cindy & John Lexow
Worship Leader ~ Betty Richardson
Children's Church ~ Faith Coleman

February 11, 2018

Candlelighter ~ Juliana Martinez
Children's Message ~ Cameron Moore
Diaconate ~ Jake Dalton*, John Lexow
 Betty & Alan Richardson
Elder ~ Jean Miller
Greeters ~ (N) Karen Garnett
 ~ (S) Judy Moore
Nursery ~ Rita Headrick & Kat Dorcas
Worship Leader ~ George Arnett
Children's Church ~ Faith Coleman

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 & Miki Simons
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

So far in January we have helped **38 families** consisting of **103 people** with **41 bags** of food plus 10 lb. of hamburger and 3 dozen eggs. Of these 38 families, **17 were new** to us.



Voices of the people you have helped this month—"Thank you for the meat. We really appreciate that. The poinsettia was so fun to get plus my sister will really enjoy hers too.."

Lonnie Atchison (*cancer*); **Tom Bell**; **Chandler Bolen** (*health issues*); **Denise Calvert** (*broken leg*); **Joyce Cress** (*cancer & recovery*); **Marla Darby**, **Diane** (*sister of Joyce Cress, breast cancer*); **Ana Gonzales** (*broken back*); **Amy Hossfeld** (*brain tumor*); **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*); **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*)



Valentine Dinner

You are invited to join us for a Valentine Dinner on **Sunday, February 11, 2018** following Worship. You will be served by the Girl Scouts.

Please make your reservation by **signing the sheet on the parlor table** so that we prepare enough food. Everyone is welcome, so we hope to see you there.

Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

January 21, 2018 SS 9 / Worship 69
January 28, 2018 SS 11 / Worship 70

GIVING RECORD

Jan. 21, 2018 ~ Offering \$ 1,238.00 / Building \$30.00
 Jan. 28, 2018 ~ Offering \$3,240.50 / Building \$1,015.00



January Anniversaries

28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

February Anniversaries

05 Jim & Judy Moore (1966)

January Birthdays

- 29 Ed Mercer, Jr.
- 29 Stanley Smith
- 29 Joe Witten
- 30 Robert White
- 31 Tim Norton
- 31 Kerry (Thornton) Willoughby



February Birthdays

- 10 Kat Dorcas
- 10 Steve Dorcas
- 10 Pauline Hall
- 12 Marlene Bowman
- 14 Rikki Sunderman
- 15 Margie Coffman
- 16 Royal Garnett
- 16 Norma Leonard
- 17 Mindy Williams
- 21 Guy Bacon
- 21 Barbara Wilhite
- 24 Kayla Fraley
- 25 Joshua Shumate
- 28 Roycean Garnett



Mark these Dates

- Friday's 3-6 pm—Clothes Closet & Household Hut open
- Saturday's from 9—Noon—Clothes Closet and Household Hut
- Tue. Jan. 30—Bible Study at 7:30 pm
- Thur. Feb. 1—5:30 pm Youth Choir
- Thur. & Fri. Feb. 1 & 2 — No School USD 253
- Sunday, Feb. 4—Boy Scout Sunday
- Sunday, Feb. 4—Food Collection Sunday for Tuna & PB
- Tue. Feb. 6—7:30 pm Bible Study
- Wed. Feb. 7 — Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance Meets 10:30 am
- Wed. Feb. 7—6:15 pm DWF Night Group
- Thur. Feb. 8—6:30 pm Christian Ed.
- Thur. Feb. 8—Girl Scouts 6:00 pm
- Sat. Feb. 10— 6:00 am to 12:30 pm Troop 157, Boy Scout Pancake Feed in Fellowship Hall
- Sun. Feb. 11—After Worship Valentine Dinner in Fellowship Hall served by Girl Scouts
- Tue. Feb. 13—6:30 pm Chi Rho Mission Club
- Tue. Feb. 13—7:30 pm Bible Study



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.

Thoughts to Ponder

To thrive in life you need three bones: A wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"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 Schedule January 21 – February 25, 2018

February 4, 2018

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 11, 2018

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18, 2018

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

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

DWF News: (Disciple Women's Fellowship).

February meetings:

Night Group – **Wednesday, February 7 at 6:15 pm** Joy Frevert hostess & Jaylene Arnett study leader
Day Group – **Wednesday, February 14 at 1:30 pm** Janece Bacon hostess & Ruth Ford is study leader
All women are welcome and encouraged to join the fellowship & study.

If you need a ride to any of the meetings, please let us know or call the church office.

Service Project – The groups chose to give up to \$135 to buy one-pound frozen meat packages to give to food pantry patrons during February. Ideas for future service projects are always welcome and will be discussed at meetings

Reminder: Clothes Closet/Household Hut need your help on Fridays 3-6 and Saturdays 9-12; call a friend and sign up on the sheet in the foyer. You'll enjoy meeting the shoppers and helping support the food pantry with the proceeds.

Hope you saw the article in the Emporia Gazette recently. We've already had new customers because of the article. 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.12-13. Here is Straub's continued brief interpretive summary of the biblical qualifications for elder leadership:

7. Holder of the Word. Titus 1:9

Another elder quality is to be able to "[surrender] one's own desires and outcomes to the truth of God revealed." An elder embraces God's word in his or her soul and embraces it and keeps it as a fit vessel or an ark (Thessalonians 4:4).

8. Orderly. 1 Timothy 3:2

An elder is able to monitor and honor the process of decision-making and to help give others structure amid chaos.

Who Me, A Deacon?

Information for this article came from *Your Calling as a Deacon* by Gary Straub and James Trader II, pp. 34-37. Straub and Trader begin a discussion about "*Discerning Our Gifts as Deacons.*" (part 1)

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).



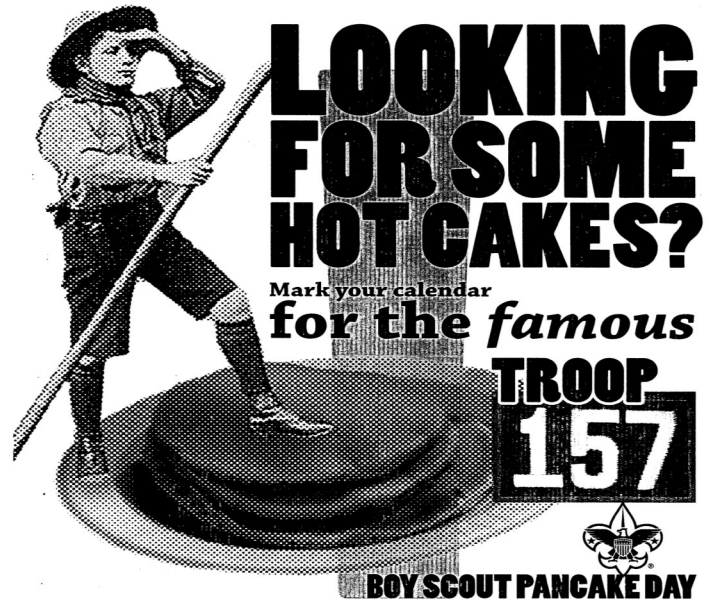
**Boy Scout Troop #157
Annual Pancake Day Fundraiser**

Proceeds from this fundraiser help offset the cost of the Troops High Adventurer program and summer camp fees for the scouts.

This year we are also doing an event to help stock the Food Pantry at First Christian Church. We are sponsoring the LeRoy E. Garnett Memorial Food Drive to help restock the church food pantry.

LeRoy, who was a long time member of the Christian Church, was a hero of the Vietnam War, serving as a Green Beret with the Special Forces. He was also the recipient of the Purple Heart as well as honored with both the bronze and silver star medals for heroism. So to help boost the pantry collection, those who bring in a non perishable food item at this pancake fundraiser, the donors name will be placed in a drawing for various prizes including a \$25 Emporia Chamber gift certificate as well as troop hats and t-shirts. You don't have to present to win in the drawing. So, come enjoy breakfast out, help boost the food pantry collection and help our local scouts at the same time.

Hope to see you there!



All you can eat Pancakes with 3 Sausages, Coffee or Milk
• Extra Sausage 25¢ or 3 for 50¢ • Extra Milk 50¢ • Kids under 5 eat free

Saturday, Feb. 10
First Christian Church \$5
202 East 12th Ave.
Serving from 6:00am to 12:30pm

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.



Bible Study

The Bible Study "The Gospel of Mark" meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend and learn more about what Max Lucado has to say in his book. This study is being led by John Lexow. Come join us.



**Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, February 4, 2018**

We will observe the Super Bowl of Caring by bringing food and/or money for our food pantry. Items that go in our bags are: tuna, fruit, PB, veggies, pork 'n beans, soup, instant oatmeal packets, Ramen noodles, mac 'n cheese, soda crackers and toilet paper. Thank You!!

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

pastorlorraineb@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.



Next Newsletter Deadline

Feb. 12 & 26, 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 2pm Presbyterian Manor	29 KANSAS DAY Newsletter Deadline Time Sheets Due ● 7pm Boy Scouts	30 ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 7:30pm Bible Study	31 ● 5:30pm Facilities Meeting	Feb 1 NO USD 253	2 NO USD 253	3 ● 9am Clothes Closet & Ho
4 Boy Scout Sunday SOUPER BOWL OF CARING ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service	5 ● 7pm Boy Scouts	6 ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 7:30pm Bible Study	7 ● 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministe ● 6:15pm DWF Night Group	8 ● 6pm Girl Scouts ● 6:30pm Christian Ed.	9 ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Ho ● 5pm Set up BS Pancake D	10 ● 6am Troop 157 Pancake E ● 9am Clothes Closet & Ho
11 ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 12pm Valentine Dinner	12 Newsletter Deadline Time Sheets Due ● 7pm Boy Scouts	13 ● 1pm Evangelism Ministry ● 4:30pm Leadership Team ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mission C ● 7:30pm Bible Study	14 Valentine's Day ● 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Top ● 1:30pm DWF Day Group ● 6:15pm Stewardship Com ● 7pm Ash Wednesday Serv	15	16 ● 8:30am CWU Friendship C ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Ho	17 ● 9am Clothes Closet & Ho
18 Begin Yearly Pledge Drive-5 WEEK OF COMPASSION ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service	19 Presidents' Day ● 7pm Boy Scouts	20 ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 6:15pm Sertoma Meets	21 ● 6:15pm Board Meeting	22 NO USD 253 ● 6pm Girl Scouts ● 6pm Soul Feast Supper & study	23 NO USD 253 ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Ho	24 ● 9am Clothes Closet & Ho
25 WEEK OF COMPASSION ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 2pm Presbyterian Manor	26 Newsletter Deadline Time Sheets Due ● 7pm Boy Scouts	27 ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 6:30pm Chi Rho Mission C ● 7pm Elders Meeting	28 ● 5pm Worship Ministry Me ● 5:30pm Facilities Meeting	Mar 1 ● 5:30pm Youth Choir ● 6pm Soul Feast Supper & study 9:30 am CWU Choir Practic	2 ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Ho 9:30 am CWU World Day of Prayer at First Christian Church	3 ● 9am Clothes Closet & Ho

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 1)

After dissolving the Mahoning Association in 1830, the movement began the sometimes uncooperative process of becoming an organization. The first task at hand was to bring this frontier society—the school teachers, farmers, lawyers, doctors, and business men—together in unity. “Following this expression of open-mindedness they announced a sermon on Christian union at which time the evangelist would portray the evils of a divided church and human creeds. They would then propose a plan on which all reasonable people could unite: the restoration of New Testament teaching.” Alexander Campbell gave much space in his *Millennial Harbinger* journal for the reports of evangelists’ successes. As these successes were made known, Campbell began to advocate for cooperation and became a responsible and representative leader of the movement.