



**SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST**  
Advent Workshop  
Craft Expo  
Thank you!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Serving Schedule	2
Food Pantry	2
Prayer List	2
Attendance & Giving	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	3
Mark the Dates	3
Thoughts to Ponder	3
Lectionary	4
DWF News	4
Craft Expo	4
Advent Workshop	4
Thank you!	5
Secret Place	5
Advent Pictures	5
Ugly Sweater Pics	5
Church Contacts	6
Calendar	6
Spotlight Disciples	6

### *Reflections*

In all of its beauty, Christmas is an odd time of year. At no other time do we pull out the old memories and decorate our houses with such strange customs as bringing living trees into our homes. At no other time do we make the most effort to see family and friends. We watch old Christmas movies and reminisce about Christmases gone by. Schools take their winter breaks and companies give extra time off. The downtown streets and houses around town don their Christmas dressings. Bell ringers and Santa Clauses are at all the stores. Christmas is, indeed, an odd time of year!

Still more strangely, are the customs surrounding the birth of the Christ Child. At no other time do Christians come together to celebrate God quite the way we do at Christmas. We decorate our churches and sing Christmas Carols. We gather at special fellowship meals and Advent workshops. Carolers take time to go together to see shut-ins and sing. We have special worship services that even the non-church goes attend. Christmas customs are indeed strange.

Peculiarly enough, when Christmas Day arrives and suddenly is gone, so are the trappings. It isn't long before all the decorations come down and the memories are put away. The nativity scene is put away, the Advent candles stored. Family and friends go home. Schools go back in session, and with the New Year, life returns to its normal routines. The joy of Christmas is boxed up and stored until next year. It's as though Christmas is just a day—a special day—like a birthday that we prepare for and celebrate and put away, but really, dear Christian friends, it is only the beginning.

God sent Jesus, not to be celebrated just one day out of the year, but to save us. Because of his birth, we are to celebrate, not only his birth, but our rebirth. We are new beings, reborn to make a difference in the world. What if we were to put as much effort into Jesus' command to make disciples of the future generation as we do in remembering what started it all? What would our churches look like? What would our cities look like? What would our nation and other nations look like?

As we continue to walk through this season of Advent, let us remember who it is that lies in the manger and what his birth means in the days and weeks ahead. We celebrate because Jesus is alive today in us, in creation, and in the universe. Jesus gives us hope to lay down our fears, our dusty old traditions, and our suspicions to begin accepting our incredible responsibilities as followers of Christ. Let us remember the past with fondness, but let's start this new year by embracing the future with a new courage and expectation of engaging in bold new ministries that make a difference here at home and around the world.

Wishing you all the peace of Christmas,  
*Pastor Lorraine*

# Upcoming Serving Schedule



## Dec. 22, 2019—4th Sunday of Advent

### Christmas Special Offering

Candlelighter ~ Judy Moore

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Nancy LeClear

Diaconate Captains for December

Carl Richardson & Richard Becker

Elder ~ Jean Miller

Greeters ~ (N) Barb Gimple

~ (S) Christine Kellum

Nursery ~ John Lexow

Worship Leader ~ Barb Gimple

## Dec. 29, 2019 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Candlelighter ~ Kelsey Schull

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Jaylene Arnett

Diaconate Captains for December

Carl Richardson & Richard Becker

Elder ~ Robert Chatham

Greeters ~ (N) Judy Moore

~ (S) Janet Lostutter

Nursery ~ Nikki Simmons

Worship Leader ~ Barb Gimple

## Jan. 5, 2020—2nd Sunday after Christmas Day

Candlelighter ~ Kinzie Kurzen

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Cameron Moore

Diaconate Captains for January

Carl Headrick & Tammie McDiffett

Elder ~ Judy Moore

Greeters ~ (N) Diana Solis

(S) Joan Shumate

Nursery ~ Rita Headrick

Worship Leader ~ Robert Chatham

## Jan. 12, 2020—1st Sunday after the Epiphany

Candlelighter ~ Janece Bacon

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Judy Moore

Diaconate Captains for January

Carl Headrick & Tammie McDiffett

Elder ~ Jaylene Arnett

Greeters ~ (N) Marie Harding

~ (S) Mary Volland

Nursery ~ Richard Becker

Worship Leader ~ Jean Miller

So far in December the Food Pantry has helped **26 families**, consisting of **71 people** with food, plus **6 dz. eggs and various other items**. Of those families, **5 were new** to us.

Our pantry continues to be a lifeline for those in our community.



Don Allen (*tumor*); Lonnie Atchison (*cancer*); Faith Coleman (*medical*); Lisa Cress (*uterine cancer*); Lynn Cress (*heart surgery*); Marilyn Dalton (*sprained ankle*); Wanda Davis (*hip rehab*); Joe Denson, (*hip surgery*); Brooke Franklin (*cancer*); Robert Hossfeld, (*health issues, kidney dialysis, in and out of Topeka hospital*); Brad Jones; (*heart problems*); Jan Jones (*hip replacement*); Joyce Kellison (*health issues*); Steve (*broken neck*) & Ramona Langley (*brother-in-law and sister of Betty Richardson*); Joe Lozier (*brain tumor, Father of Jen Dalton*); Steve Martin (*stem cell cancer treatment*); Tammie McDiffett, (*broken leg, rehab, home recuperating*); Jeanice Miller (*sciatic nerve pain*); Pam Scheve (*health problems*); Sharon Shannon (*health issues*); Davis Smith (*cousin of Jeanice Miller, diabetic amputation*); Jacque Umholtz (*pneumonia*); Andrea Vandruff (*kidney issues*); Liam Wagner, (*open heart surgery*); and Aubrey Wescott (*stomach problems*).



## Attendance and Giving Record

### ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

December 8, 2019 SS 11 / Worship 50

December 15, 2019 SS 31 / Worship 41

### GIVING RECORD

Dec. 8, 2019~Offering \$999.60 / Building \$92.00

Dec. 15, 2019~Offering \$920.00 / Building \$20.00



**December Anniversaries**

15 Bob & Torchy Duncan

**December Birthdays**



15 Debbie Hubert  
 17 Justin Richardson  
 18 Cindy Lexow  
 20 Lisa Rickabaugh  
 20 Sheila Steinkuhler  
 25 Barbara Gimple  
 26 Courtney Barger (Nursery)  
 30 Traeger Garnett

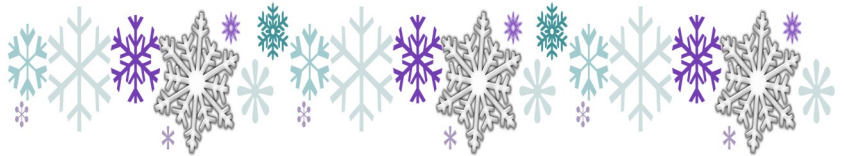
**January Birthdays**

01 Ruth Ford  
 01 Bonnie Schaefer  
 04 Robert Hossfeld (Office)  
 04 Steven Sage (2018)  
 06 Brad Richardson  
 10 Nancy Mayer  
 11 Kindra Garnett  
 12 Suzanne West  
 15 Treva Stuck  
 16 Dona Jones  
 18 John Lexow  
 21 Brenda Hall  
 22 Charles Wilhite  
 26 Marie Kelley (1921)  
 26 Curtis Rhoades  
 26 Tyler Tilton  
 28 Sadj Davis  
 29 Ed Mercer, Jr.  
 29 Stanley Smith  
 29 Joe Witten  
 30 Robert White  
 31 Tim Norton



**Mark The Dates**

Tuesday's 4:30 pm—Bible Study in the library  
Friday's 3-6 pm—Clothes Closet & Household Hut open  
Saturday's from 9—Noon—Clothes Closet and Household Hut  
Thurs. at 6:00 pm—Choir practice  
March 28, 29, and April 4, 2020—Spirit Fest  
Wed. Dec. 18, 2019 6:15pm—Board Meeting  
Thur. Dec. 19, 2019 5pm—Elders Meeting  
Fri. Dec. 20, 2019 8:30am—CWU Friendship Coffee  
Sun. Dec. 22, 2019 2pm—Presbyterian Manor Service  
Tues. Dec. 24, 2019 8pm—Christmas Eve Service  
Sun. Dec. 29, 2019 8:30am—Diaconate Meeting  
Sun. Dec. 29, 2019 2:30pm—Holiday Resort Service  
Sun. Dec. 29, 2019 6pm—Game Night  
January—No DWF Meeting  
Wed. Jan. 1, 2020 3pm—Emporia Place Service  
Thur. Jan. 2, 2020 5pm—Leadership Team  
Sun. Jan. 12, 2020 12 pm—Congregational Meeting  
Wed. Jan. 29, 2020—Stewardship Mail Campaign



**Thoughts to Ponder**

The giant in front of you is never bigger than the God inside of you.  
 When you go with God, you're always in the majority.  
 If you act like life's a blessing, it feels like life's a blessing.  
 Just because your path is different doesn't mean you're lost.  
 Pray when you are doing laundry and it will be loads of fun!  
 Remember that people are the least lovable when they need love the most.  
 Life Lessons from Noah's Ark: God sends rainbows.  
 Ignore what people say, but watch what they do.  
 You're not too bad to come in. You're not too good to stay out.  
 By perseverance, the snail reached the ark.





Lectionary Readings

**Lectionary Schedule  
Dec. 22—Jan. 26, 2020**

**Dec. 22, 2019-4th Sun. of Advent  
Christmas Special Offering**

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

**Dec. 29, 2019—1st Sun. after  
Christmas Day**

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

**Jan. 5, 2020—2nd Sun. after  
Christmas Day**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**Jan. 12, 2020—1st Sun. after the  
Epiphany**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

**Jan. 19, 2020—2nd Sunday after  
the Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

**Jan. 26, 2020—3rd Sunday after  
the Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23



Interested in  
Electronic Giving?

Download the free app from the Apple's App Store or Google's Play Store. You are not charged a fee to make donations using the app.



**DWF News**

There will be no DWF meeting for the month of January. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2019! Our day group meets at 10:30am, and our night group meets at 5:30pm.

**Home Business/Craft Expo**

Thank you to all that helped make our Home Business/Craft Expo an outstanding success. Thanks to Susan for being our point of contact in the office. Scott for setting up tables and preparing fellowship hall. Judy for all her tireless work and help. All the bakers who furnished goods for the bake sale and everyone who gave of their time and spent time here with the vendors. I know our vendors were very pleased with our efforts and want to do it again. Thank you all.

Janet Lostutter  
Co-Chair Stewardship



**News from the Advent Workshop**

Advent activities were kicked off on December 1 with Advent Workshop. Those present enjoyed a delicious covered dish meal. Fuzzy Advent Posters with a weekly devotional were colored for the first day of Advent with theme-Hope. Each week of Advent an additional candle will be colored. Advent Blessings Jars were created. 24 blessings were put in the jar. Each day of Advent a blessing is drawn. Money for the number of that blessing a person has such as ceiling fans, beds, electronic toys, etc. will be added to the jar. At the end of Advent, the money will be donated to a charity of choice. Advent Bingo was very popular. Everyone got candy and winners loved their prizes.





## Advent Workshop December 1, 2019

Thank  
You!



Thank you!  
FCC Members,

Thank you for the best wishes, cards, and e-mails but most of all the opportunity of being your church office secretary these past nine years.

One of the greatest pleasures of the job has been getting to know each of you, and I cherish the friendships I have made, but I'm also looking forward to retirement.

You are such a welcoming and friendly congregation to all who enter and I hope you never lose that focus.

Susan Iwert



## Ugly Sweater Sunday—Dec. 8, 2019



## THE SECRET PLACE

Devotions for Daily Worship  
The Winter 2019-2020  
(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!



**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.fccemporia.org](http://www.fccemporia.org)  
 Email Office [fccoffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fccoffices@yahoo.com)  
 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey  
 Email: [pastorlorraine@gmail.com](mailto: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 ap-**



**Next Newsletter Deadline**  
**Dec. 30, 2019 & Jan. 13, 2020**



**December 2019**

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Christmas Special Offering ● 9:30am SS Christmas Pr ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 3:15pm Christmas Carol	Newsletter Deadline ● 7pm Boy Scouts	● 1:30pm Blue Christmas-f ● 4:30pm Bible Study	● 5pm Worship Ministry M ● 6:15pm Board Meeting	● 5pm Elders Meeting ● 6pm Choir Practice ● 6:30pm MLK Meet-MPRM	● 8:30am CWU Friendship ● 3pm Clothes Closet & Hc	● 9am Clothes Closet & Hc
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Christmas Special Offering ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 2pm Presbyterian Manor	● 7pm Boy Scouts	Christmas Eve ● 4:30pm Bible Study ● 8pm Christmas Eve Serv	Christmas Day	● 6pm Girl Scout Christma ● 6pm Choir Practice	● 3pm Clothes Closet & Hc	● 9am Clothes Closet & Hc
29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4
● 8:30am Diaconate Meets ● 9:30am Sunday School ● 10:30am Worship Service ● 2:30pm Holiday Resort S ● 6pm Game Night	Newsletter Deadline ● 7pm Boy Scouts	New Year's Eve ● 4:30pm Bible Study	New Year's Day ● 3pm Emporia Place Serv	● 5pm Leadership Team ● 6pm Choir Practice	● 3pm Clothes Closet & Hc	● 9am Clothes Closet & Hc

**Spotlight on Disciples**

Information for this article came from Journey in Faith by Lester G. McAllister and William E. Tucker, pp. 443-447.

**Implementing the Provisional Design**

Upon its adoption at the Kansas City Assembly in 1968, the Provisional Design made provision for interim work to begin within the new structures that were set forth. Committees were set to examine every facet of governance. The new name stood for a new interrelatedness in the various manifestations of the church. Former agencies of the International Convention became divisions, councils, administrative units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Later, other agencies restructured themselves to become responsible units of the Church. Through the years, most of these have survived (some have updated their names), others were dissolved and new units have been added to keep us moving into the future.