



December 2, 2019



First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 68 NO. 22

DECEMBER 2, 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

DWF Combined Group—
Catered Lunch on Wed.
12/4, 12:30 PM, parlor
Sun. 12/8 after Worship
Reception for Retiring
Secretary Susan

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Reflections

Over the past two and a half years or so, I have been summarizing the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from Lester G. McAllister and William E. Tucker’s book, *Journey in Faith*. These summaries appear in “Spotlight on Disciples” in our church newsletter every two weeks. This has been a disciplined task for me and has helped me (and hopefully you) to be more acquainted with our church history. In today’s edition, false fear resulted in the exiting of many congregations as work on a new constitution proposed change in the structure of the denomination.

Some were opposed to making the changes. Someone thought that these changes would cause harm to individual congregations. They didn’t understand the complexities and circulated their misunderstandings among the people. Fear happens with change. We humans want to be comfortable and have things continue in the same manner of which we are accustomed. Change is difficult especially when false information is disseminated. Faith becomes challenged. Hope can seem far away.

If change is to occur, faith must be a partner. Faith, however, isn’t easy because faith, according to theologian Jurgen Moltmann, is itself a contradiction. Moltmann, wrote in his book, *Theology of Hope* (1967), “ . . . faith, wherever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience. It does not calm the unquiet heart, but is itself this unquiet heart in [the self]. Those who hope in Christ can no longer put up with reality as it is, but begin to suffer under it, to contradict it” (21).

Moltmann tells us that the faith that we hold is actually the underlying cause of conflict within us. Because of faith, we are at conflict with the world, but we are left with hope. Hope also leaves the Church in constant disturbance with society as we seek justice and freedom.

So it is, at this time of year, we ask God to strengthen our faith and our hope as we seek the baby in the manger. The One who is lying there is the Hope we need. He is the Hope we are looking for to bring a change in our ways of doing things in our personal lives and in our church. He is the One who will give us courage and faith to endure any fear or doubts we have in bringing about a newness of life in our congregation.

In hope, we must learn the lessons of history. The great change in our church history was in the restructure of our denomination’s ways of thinking about how the mission of Jesus Christ should be carried out. We must not lose hope as we grapple with our own fears.

Let us awaken to all that God is calling us to do in this coming year. We will have **many** sacrifices to make in order to move forward into this new decade. May the hope of the coming birth of the Christ child take us to new understanding of God’s mission so that we may become true witnesses of the “future of Jesus Christ.”

Shalom,

Pastor Lorraine

Upcoming Serving Schedule



Dec. 8, 2019-2nd Sunday of Advent Peace Sunday

Candlelighter ~ Barb Gimple
Young Disciples' Moment ~ Lorraine Bailey
Diaconate Captains for December
 Carl Richardson & Richard Becker
Elder ~ Cameron Moore
Greeters ~ (N) Robert Chatham
 (S) Marilyn Dalton
Nursery ~ Richard Becker
Worship Leader ~ John Lexow

Dec. 15, 2019-3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Special Offering

Candlelighter ~ Brayden Dill
Young Disciples' Moment ~ Jaylene Arnett
Diaconate Captains for December
 Carl Richardson & Richard Becker
Elder ~ Marlene Hanson
Greeters ~ (N) Carl Richardson
 ~ (S) Lana Richardson
Nursery ~ Briana Becker
Worship Leader ~ Marie Harding

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 ~ Cameron Moore

Dec. 29, 2019 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Candlelighter ~ Kelsey Schull
Young Disciples' Moment ~ Joy Frevert
Diaconate Captains for December
 Carl Richardson & Richard Becker
Elder ~ Cameron Moore
Greeters ~ (N) Judy Moore
 ~ (S) Janet Lostutter
Nursery ~ Nikki Simmons
Worship Leader ~ Barb Gimple

During the month of November the Food Pantry helped **31 families**, consisting of **72 people** with food, plus **11 dz. eggs and various other items**. Of those families, **10 were new** to us.



Our pantry continues to be a lifeline for those in our community. Some Emporia statistics are: 29% of Emporia is at the poverty level and 59% of USD 253 students (2,770 of the 4,700 students) are on free or reduced lunches. This information was taken from the 11/13/19 Emporia Gazette article on food insecurity in Emporia. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.



Don Allen (*tumor*); **Lonnie Atchison** (*cancer*); **Bob Beers**, (*Lea's husband—went on hospice*); **Lynn Cress** (*heart surgery*); **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*); **Andrea Vandruff** (*kidney issues*); **Liam Wagner**, (*open heart surgery*); and **Aubrey Wescott** (*stomach problems*).



Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

November 24, 2019 SS 14 / Worship 52

December 1, 2019 SS 10 / Worship 54

GIVING RECORD

Nov. 24, 2019~Offering \$1,927.00 / Building \$70.00

Dec. 1, 2019~Offering \$3,006.25 / Building \$130.00



December Anniversaries

15 Bob & Torchy Duncan

December Birthdays



- 01 Cameron Moore
- 02 Reece Johnson
- 02 Chad Kurzen
- 05 Kate Wiggins
- 08 Rachael LeClear
- 10 Richard Kellison
- 12 Mike LeClear
- 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 Sage, Steven Dale (2018)
- 06 Brad Richardson
- 10 Nancy Mayer
- 11 Kindra Garnett
- 12 Suzanne West
- 15 Treva Stuck

Clothes Closet & Household Hut
(New Guidelines)

We now accept only
Clothing
Linens
& SMALL Kitchen items

Take all other garage
Sale/rummage
Items elsewhere.
Thank you!



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
- Tue. 12/3—5:30 pm Youth Choir
7:00 pm Emporia Christmas Parade-Downtown
- Wed. 12/4—10:30 am Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance
12:30 pm DWF Day & Night Groups Catered Lunch
3:00 pm Emporia Place Services
- Thur. 12/5—1:00 pm Ring Salvation Army Bell at Bluestem
5:00 pm Leadership Team
- Fri. 12/6—4:00—7:00 pm Set up for Home Bus/Craft Fair in FH
- Sat. 12/7—9:00 am to 4:00 pm—Home Bus/Craft Fair in FH
- Sun. 12/8—Reception after church for Secretary Susan Iwert.
She is retiring. Welcome Heather Mitchell, our new secretary.
- Tues. 12/10—4:30 pm Bible Study
6:30 pm Christian Ed.
- Wed. 12/11—9:30 am NE KS Clergy in Topeka
6:15 pm Stewardship
- Sat. 12/14—FH all day Headrick-Simmons Day Care Party
- Sun. 12/15—9:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program
- March 28, 29, and April 4, 2020—Spirit Fest

Thoughts to Ponder

- Promises are like garbage, they should be carried out daily.
- Why wake up stressing when waking up is a blessing?
- Are you a part of or apart from the family of God?
- Ask not for a lighter burden but for broader shoulders.
- Better to be over the hill than under it.
- When troubles drive you to prayer, prayer can drive away your troubles.
- There is no danger of developing eyestrain from looking on the bright side of things.
- You either get better, or you get bitter.
- To fear death is to misunderstand life.
- We seldom lose our faith by a blowout. Usually it's a slow leak.
- Thanksgiving is not a day, it's a lifestyle.



Lectionary Readings

Lectionary Schedule

Dec. 8—Jan. 12, 2020

Dec. 8, 2019--2nd Sun. of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 15, 2019-3rd Sun. of Advent

Christmas Special Offering

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm 146:5-10 or
 Luke 1:46b-55
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11

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



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

The December meeting of DWF will be held **Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 12:30 pm.**

Both groups (Day and Night) will meet for a Christmas lunch and social.

The cost will be \$8.00 and the lunch will be catered by Bobby D's.

A sign up sheet will be available in the church parlor or call the church office by Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

If you would like to attend and need a ride, please let us know by calling the office (342-1582) or Janet 343-0337.



Home Business & Craft Expo

Do you have a home business or know someone who does? Are you crafty and have items to sell?

The church will be hosting a Home Business/Craft Expo on December 7th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

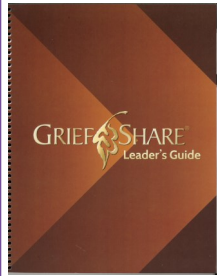
Booth spaces are 15 x 15 and rent for \$20.00. Tables and chairs will be furnished.

For more information contact Janet Lostutter at 620-343-0337.

Church Ladies—if you would like to donate muffins or a dozen cookies to sell at the Expo, please contact the church office or sign the sheet on the parlor table.

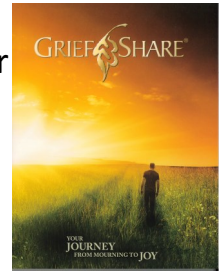
Also, if you would be will to be available to answer questions for vendors during the expo, please sign up in the parlor.





Grief Share

Anyone (men or women) interested in being a facilitator for Grief Share please let Janet Lostutter or Nancy LeClear know so they can do a training session before we have a class in the spring. Thanks



Remember These?

DWF is still collecting Best Choice labels as a fund raiser. So, cut the UPC code off any **Best Choice** can, bag or other Best Choice item and drop them by the office or put in the Best Choice Label Box in the parlor kitchenette. Thanks for your help.



Happy Retirement Secretary Susan

Our office secretary, Susan Iwert, is retiring at the end of December. Come bid her farewell after worship on Sunday, December 8 as we have a reception for her.

Our new secretary will be Heather Mitchell. Stop in and meet her and tell her "Hello".



Ugly Sweater Sunday, December 8

It's that time of year once again to pull out the ugly Christmas sweater. Plan to proudly wear it to church on **Sunday, December 8,**. Let's see what a variety we will have.



Great Music

Have you ever paid with your hard earned money or limited income to attend a concert only to be some what disappointed? Let me let you in on a secret! Sunday mornings at the First Christian Church there is an amazing group of young people who graciously share their musical talent with the congregation. So next Sunday come enjoy the message, music, and friendship. Hear what you've been missing. All are welcome, we would love to share this experience with you.

Bob & Torchy Duncan
Burlington, KS

THE SECRET PLACE

Devotions for Daily Worship
The **Winter2019-2020**
(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
 Email Office fcceffices@yahoo.com
 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey
 Email: 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
Dec. 16 & 30, 2019



December 2019

SUN Dec 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
Hanging of th ● 9:30am Sun ● 10:30am Wc ● 12pm Potluc ● 3pm Pastor	Newsletter Dc ● 7pm Boy Sc	● 4:30pm Bibl ● 5:30pm Your ● 7pm Christn	● 10:30am Lyc ● 12:30pm DW ● 12:30pm DW ● 3pm Empori	● 1pm Ring Sa ● 5pm Leader ● 6pm Choir P	Set Up in FH 1 ● 3pm Clothes ● 4pm Home E	Home Bus Cr: ● 9am FH-Cra ● 9am Clothes
8 ● 9:30am Sun ● 10:30am Wc Reception Sec. Susan Ugly Sweater Sunday	9 ● 7pm Boy Sc	10 ● 4:30pm Bibl ● 6:30pm Chri	11 ● 9:30am NE H ● 6:15pm Stev	12 ● 6pm Choir P	13 ● 3pm Clothes	14 ESU Winter G Simmons-He: ● 9am Clothes
15 Christmas Sp ● 9:30am SS C ● 10:30am Wc 3:45 pm Caroling	16 Newsletter Dc ● 7pm Boy Sc	17 ● 1:30pm Blue ● 4:30pm Bibl	18 ● 5pm Worshi ● 6:15pm Boa	19 ● 5pm Elders I ● 6pm Choir P	20 ● 8:30am CWL ● 3pm Clothes	21 ● 9am Clothes

Spotlight on Disciples

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

Opposition to Restructure and the Provisional Design

As with any change, there were those who opposed the work of the Commission on Restructure. Change is difficult and the unknown is often frightening. It is usually out of fear that opposition arises and so it was with this fundamental change in direction of the Disciples. One such resistance was an anonymous Committee for the Preservation of the Brotherhood appeared with concerns that individual congregations would lose their property rights with the adoption of the new Provisional Design. Two pamphlets entitled, “Freedom or Restructure?” and “The Truth About Restructure” were widely distributed causing a great upheaval in the brotherhood, ultimately still a concern after the Provisional Design was passed resulting in more than 2,300 congregations removing themselves from Year Book in 1968 leaving 4,046 participating congregations by 1970. This was a formal acknowledgement of a division that had been in process since 1927. The work of implementing the provisional design had begun. *to be continued . . .*