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First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

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Reflections

As we begin the New Year, it is a good time to reflect on the peace that only Christ can give us. While the world goes on in its usual way with wars, street killings, trafficking, hunger, poverty, homelessness, abuses, addictions, and so on and so on, it's hard to focus on finding daily peace.

We have had heroes who fought and given their lives for peace in our country. Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, and Martin Luther King, Jr. were such persons. Another man, Howard Thurman (1899-1981), who is lesser known, but also played a leading role in many social justice movements, was very influential. He was "an African-American author, philosopher, theologian, education and civil rights leader" (Wikipedia). His writings are profound and inspirational. Thurman reminds us of how to make peace a part of our everyday lives in his book, *The Inward Journey*:

We must remember that at the level of the daily round we must put our own courage, gentleness, and kindly devotion at the disposal of simple community in our homes, in our work, and in our play. The good deed continues to be good, the kind word continues to be kind, the cup of cold water given to the thirsty continues to be refreshing and reassuring—the need for love is as urgent and desperate as it ever was. Faith in life, faith in one's self, faith in one another, faith in God: these are the necessities for our peace.

Perhaps the lesson here is to strive to turn to God to truly find the inner peace which we search for. As we become centered in our spiritual life, we learn to fully communicate with God—to be at peace with our souls. Our goal is to have faith in the One from whom we owe our very existence.

Shalom,

Pastor Lorraine

Upcoming Serving Schedule



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

Candlelighter ~ Gavin LeClear
Young Disciples' Moment ~ Marlene Hanson
Diaconate Captains for January
 Carl Headrick & Tammie McDiffett
Elder ~ Robert Chatham
Greeters ~ (N) Tammie McDiffett
 (S) Joy Wonsler
Worship Leader ~ Faith Coleman

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

Candlelighter ~ Kinzie Kurzen
Young Disciples' Moment ~ Laurie Kurzen
Diaconate Captains for January
 Carl Headrick & Tammie McDiffett
Elder ~ Marlene Hanson
Greeters ~ (N) Sonya Ihde
 ~ (S) Jill McGrath
Worship Leader ~ Diana Solis

Feb. 2, 2020—4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Candlelighter ~ Mckinzie Simmons
Young Disciples' Moment ~ Marie Harding
Diaconate Captains for February
 Jill McGrath & Janece Bacon
Elder ~ Jean Miller
Greeters ~ (N) Carl Headrick
 (S) Rita Headrick
Worship Leader ~ Nancy LeClear

Feb. 9, 2020—5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Candlelighter ~ Karen Garnett
Young Disciples' Moment ~ Lorraine Bailey
Diaconate Captains for February
 Jill McGrath & Janece Bacon
Elder ~ Cameron Moore
Greeters ~ (N) Guy Bacon
 ~ (S) Janece Bacon
Worship Leader ~ Gary Lukert

So far in January the Food Pantry has helped **20 families**, consisting of **42 people** with food, plus **3 dz. eggs and various other items**. Of those families, **0 were new** to us.



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



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*); **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

January 5, 2020 SS 8 / Worship 48
January 12, 2020 SS 3 / Worship 34

GIVING RECORD

Jan. 5, 2020~Offering \$1,546.00 / Building \$10.00
 Jan. 12, 2020~Offering \$1,111.60 / Building \$82.00





January Anniversaries

- 16 David & Kaari Harding
- 19 Jesse & Diana Solis
- 28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

February Anniversaries

- 05 Jim & Judy Moore

January Birthdays

- 15 Treva Stuck
- 18 John Lexow
- 21 Brenda Hall
- 22 Charles Wilhite
- 26 Marie Kelley
- 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



February Birthdays

- 10 Kat Dorcas
- 10 Steve Dorcas
- 15 Margie Coffman
- 16 Royal Garnett
- 17 Mindy Williams
- 21 Guy Bacon
- 27 Shelby Pederson
- 28 Roycean Garnett



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. Jan. 15, 2020 5 pm—Worship Ministry Meeting
- Wed. Jan. 15, 2020 6:15 pm —Board Meeting
- Thur. Jan. 16, 2020 5 pm—Christian Ed.
- Fri. Jan. 17, 2020 8:30 am—CWU Friendship Coffee
- Wed. Jan. 22, 2020 5:30 pm—Facilities Meeting
- Thur. Jan. 23, 2020 5 pm—Elders Meeting
- Sun. Jan. 26, 2020 8:30 am—Diaconate Meeting
- Sun. Jan 26, 2020 12 pm —Curtis Rhoades Birthday Party
- Sun. Jan 26, 2020 2 pm—Presbyterian Manor Service
- Sun. Jan. 26, 2020 6 pm—Movie Night
- Wed. Jan. 29, 2020—Stewardship Mail Campaign



Thoughts to Ponder

- Enlightenment is when a wave realizes it is the ocean.
- Get your joyful noise back in tune!
- You can't do everything, but you can do something.
- Physical strength is measured by what we can carry, spiritual by what we can bear.
- Shine, don't whine!
- If the words you spoke appeared on your skin, would you be beautiful?
- It's just a bad day, not a bad life.
- Learn from yesterday. Plan for tomorrow. Live for today.
- Be a fountain, not a drip.
- Count your rainbows, not your thunderstorms.
- Is the Son in your eye?
- Love lights more fires than hate extinguishes.
- No amount of darkness can hide a spark of light.



Lectionary Readings

Lectionary Schedule
Jan. 19—Feb. 23, 2020

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
 Matthew 11:2-11

Feb. 2, 2020—4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
 Psalm 15
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

Feb. 9, 2020—5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
 Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
 Matthew 5:13-20

Feb. 16, 2020—6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

Feb. 23, 2020—Last Sunday before Lent

Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9



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.

Happy Birthday!



We want to wish a very happy birthday to Curtis Rhoades, who will be 101 years old on Sunday, January 26, 2020. You are all invited to a birthday party in his honor after services on the 26th at around 12 pm in the FCC Parlor!



Prayer for the New Year

O Lord God,
 I have no idea where I am going,
 I do not see the road ahead of me,
 I cannot know for certain where it will end.
 Nor do I really know myself.
 And the fact that I think I am following your will
 Does not mean that I am actually doing so,
 But I believe that the desire to please you
 Does in fact please you.
 And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
 ...I will trust you always
 Though I may seem to be lost
 And in the shadow of death
 I will not fear,
 And you are ever with me,
 And you will never leave me
 To make my Journey alone.

—Thomas Merton

What Does Evangelism Mean?

The New Testament word for “evangelize” is *euangelizomai*. Our English word evangelism is a direct transliteration from that Greek verb. In the Greek, *euangelizomai* was a common word long before the New Testament was written. The classic illustration from Greek literature deals with the marathon race. Why do we call the race “marathon”? Why do we make it exactly 26 miles, 385 yards?

In 490 B.C., the Persians with a huge army invaded Greece and were met by a small army of soldiers from Athens. They met on the plains of a city called Marathon. And the Greeks won. They then chose one of their fastest runners and sent him to tell the good news of the victory to the people back home in Athens. He ran all the way—26 miles, 385 yards—and raced into the streets of Athens shouting “Rejoice! We won!” The account which tells this story called Phillipides an “evangelist.”

When the New Testament was written and the writers looked for a Greek word which meant “good news” they chose that word. It is used, for instance, in the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. When Gabriel came to announce to Zechariah that he was to have a son, he said, “I have good news” or “an evangel” for you. When the angel said to the shepherds at Bethlehem, “I bring you good news of great joy,” the word is *evangel*. When the Gospel writers tell about Jesus preaching the good news, they use the verb *euangelizomai*, and it is used this way throughout the Gospels and the Book of Acts to refer to telling the good news about Jesus Christ.

So the basic meaning of the word *evangelism* is to tell good news (*eu* is a Greek prefix for good and *angel* means message). To evangelize is to tell the good news and it is that good news that the Spirit of God uses as the means to work in the heart of a person to create faith.

--Erwin J. Kolb
Net Results, 1990

A Volunteer Is:

Very necessary,
Old, young or in between,
Loving and caring,
Unselfish with their time,
Needed in many different areas,
Tireless (sometimes)
Encouraging,
Effective,
Responsible!!!

LOVE IN

 SERVICE

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



202 East 12th Avenue
 620-342-1582 Church Office
 Web Page www.fcemporio.org
 Email Office fccoffices@yahoo.com
 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey
 Email: pastorlorraineb@gmail.com

“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.”

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
Jan. 27, 2020 & Feb. 10, 2020



January 2020

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Congregational Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Worship Ministry Meets 6:15pm Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Christian Ed. 6pm Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am CWU Friendship Coffee 3pm Clothes Closet & Household Hut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Clothes Closet & Household Hut
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Luther King Jr. Day 5pm MLK March 6:30pm MLK Program 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Facilities Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Elders Meeting 6pm Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Clothes Closet & Household Hut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Clothes Closet & Household Hut
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Diaconate Meets 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Curtis Rhoades Birthday Party 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Bible Study 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Clothes Closet & Household Hut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Clothes Closet & Household Hut

Spotlight on Disciples

Information for this article came from Journey in Faith by Lester G. McAllister and William E. Tucker, pp. 454-458.

Ecumenical concerns have been at the forefront among Disciples from very early in our history. Peter Ainslie, in 1910, formed an organization that would become the Association for the Promotion of Christian Unity. In October 1954, it was renamed Council on Christian Unity. Through conferences, its aim was to promote Christian union between denominations. Negotiations as early as the 1820’s, 1840’s, 1860’s, and 1890’s made union with the Baptists a possibility, but to avail. Conversations were arranged with the American Baptists in the early 20th century, but nothing came of it. The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and Disciples discussed a union in 1918. Tentative agreements with the United Church of Christ were put on hold. However, after a meeting of the National Council of Churches, an ecumenical alliance formed among ten denominations that came to be known as the “Consultation on Church Union” (COCU) in the 1960’s. As Alexander Campbell once said, “Unity is our Polar Star.” Disciples continues today for its quest for such unity.