

# FEBRUARY

February 10, 2020

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Food Pantry Days  
Stewardship  
Ash Wednesday Service  
The Walk

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# First Christian Church News

## (Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 69 NO. 4

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

### Reflections

As we move through Robert Schnase's book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (2018), we discover how the practices intertwine. Over the last year, we have taken glimpses of "Radical Hospitality," "Passionate Worship," and "Intentional Faith Development." Each of them needs elements from the other in order for us to become a vital, nurturing congregation. And now, Schnase introduces in chapter 5, "The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service" (pp. 101-127). This is where the nurture of hospitality, the genuineness in our worship, and our faithful study of scripture meets Christ's commission. All of it comes together as we continue to grow in Christ.

In his discussion about mission and service, Schnase tells about a couple who, because of their pursuance of a deeper spiritual life, nourished through worship and faith development at their local church, wondered, "Where do the homeless people in our community go each day? Who are they? How do they live, and where do they find shelter?" The couple found small camps of people under a bridge and behind abandoned buildings. In encountering them, they found out what necessities they needed and brought to them. They met with them every Saturday and began to form relationships and eventually began taking worship to the people. All of this led to a surprise one day when the people under the bridge cleaned up the area and began to offer hospitality. This eventually led to the church adding space for showers, laundry, food, and clothing.

It used to be that hospitality, worship, study, and missions were all separate entities of the church. We are beginning to see at First Christian Church that this is no longer true. We are finding these units bumping into one another. We realized, this last year, that evangelism can no longer be its own committee. We find evangelism in every aspect of the church and so now we ask that each committee make evangelism part of their agendas. The same can be true of each of the above four areas. Sure, we need individual teams to help orchestrate worship, Christian education, and outreach, but they do not have to work separately. We need to see teams working across the board, collaborating and helping each other discover how each area blends with the other.

As the Holy Spirit guides our steps toward radical risk-taking in all areas of our ministry, may we, like the couple in Robert Schnase's story, search for a deeper spiritual life and continue to find that we "bump into each other" and tap into one another's gifts and work together toward radical mission and service.

Blessings along the Way,  
*Pastor Lorraine*

# Upcoming Serving Schedule



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

Candlelighter ~ Jack Dalton

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Jaylene Arnett

Diaconate Captain for February

Janece Bacon

Elder ~ Judy Moore

Greeters ~ (N) Debbie Hubert

(S) Karen Garnett

Worship Leader ~ Janece Bacon

## Feb. 23, 2020—Last Sunday before Lent

Candlelighter ~ Jaiden Kurzen

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Nancy LeClear

Diaconate Captain for February

Janece Bacon

Elder ~ Jaylene Arnett

Greeters ~ (N) Jim Tilton

~ (S) Melissa Tilton

Worship Leader ~ Marie Harding

## Mar. 1, 2020—1st Sunday in Lent

Candlelighter ~ Brayden Dill

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Cameron Moore

Diaconate Captains for March

Carl Richardson & Richard Becker

Elder ~ Robert Chatham

Greeters ~ (N) Richard Becker

(S) Lisa Rickabaugh

Worship Leader ~ Marlene Hanson

## Mar. 8, 2020—2nd Sunday in Lent

Candlelighter ~ Barb Gimple

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Joy Frevert

Diaconate Captains for March

Carl Richardson & Richard Becker

Elder ~ Marlene Hanson

Greeters ~ (N) Robert Chatham

~ (S) Marilyn Dalton

Worship Leader ~ Judy Moore

So far in February the Food Pantry has helped **18 families**, consisting of **41 people** with food, plus **various other items**. Of those families, **2 were new** to us.



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



**Lonnie Atchison** (*cancer*); **Lea Beers** (*medical*); **Glenn Boyce** (*medical*); **Lisa Cress** (*uterine cancer*); **Lynn Cress** (*heart surgery*); **Marilyn Dalton** (*sprained ankle*); **Wanda Davis** (*hip rehab*); **Joe Denson**, (*hip surgery*); **Brooke Franklin** (*cancer*); **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*); **Jeanice Miller** (*sciatic nerve pain*); **Betty Pierson** (*medical, no calls please*); **Pam Scheve** (*health problems*); **David Smith** (*cousin of Jeanice Miller, diabetic amputation*); **Jacque Umholtz** (*pneumonia*); **Andrea Vandruff** (*kidney issues*); **Liam Wagner**, (*open heart surgery*); and **Aubrey Wescott** (*stomach problems*).



## Mar. 1, 2020—1st Sunday in Lent

Candlelighter ~ Brayden Dill

Young Disciples' Moment ~ Cameron Moore

Diaconate Captains for March

Carl Richardson & Richard Becker

Elder ~ Robert Chatham

Greeters ~ (N) Richard Becker

(S) Lisa Rickabaugh

Worship Leader ~ Marlene Hanson



## Attendance and Giving Record

### ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

February 2, 2020 SS 14 / Worship 72

February 9, 2020 SS 11 / Worship 67

### GIVING RECORD

Feb. 2, 2020~Offering \$1,681.00 / Building \$10.00

Feb. 9, 2020~Offering \$1,099.60 / Building \$82.00





**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

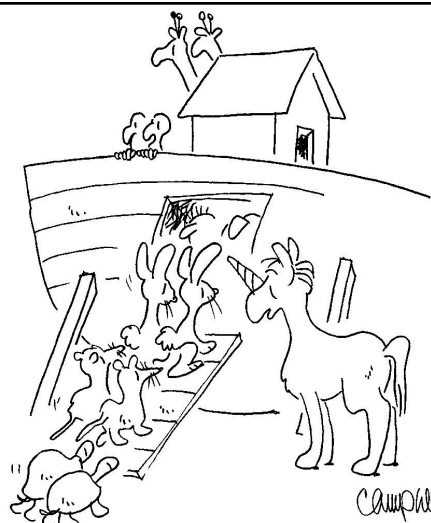


**THE SECRET PLACE**

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!



"Be my valentine .... Be my valentine ....  
 Be my valentine ...."

**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. Feb. 12, 2020 6:15 pm—Stewardship Meeting
- Thur. Feb. 13, 2020 4 pm—Nominating Committee
- Thur. Feb. 13, 2020 5 pm—Elder's Study
- Sun. Feb. 16, 2020—Week of Compassion Special Offering
- Wed. Feb. 19, 2020 5 pm—Worship Ministry
- Wed. Feb. 19, 2020 6:15 pm—Board Meeting
- Thur. Feb. 20, 2020 5 pm—Christian Ed.
- Fri. Feb. 21, 2020 8:30 am—CWU Friendship Coffee
- Sun. Feb. 23, 2020—Week of Compassion Special Offering
- Sun. Feb. 23, 2020 8:30 am—Diaconate Meeting
- Sun. Feb. 23, 2020 2 pm—Presbyterian Manor Service
- Sun. Feb. 23, 2020 6 pm—Game Night
- Wed. Feb. 23, 2020 5:30 pm—Facilities Meeting
- Wed. Feb. 26, 2020 7 pm—Ash Wednesday Service
- Thur. Feb. 27, 2020 5 pm—Elders Meeting



**Thoughts to Ponder**

- An open mind does not always require an open mouth.
- An optimist laughs to forget; a pessimist forgets to laugh.
- What your heart possesses, your life expresses.
- Being rich is not the same as being valuable.
- You don't have to attend every argument you're invited to.
- Big shots are little shots who just keep shooting.
- FAITH: Forward All Issues To Heaven



Lectionary Readings

**Lectionary Schedule  
Feb. 16—Mar. 22 2020**

**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

**Mar. 1, 2020—1st Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

**Mar. 8, 2020—2nd Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

**Mar. 15, 2020—3rd Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

**Mar. 22, 2020—4th Sunday in Lent**

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41



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.



NEEDED

**Volunteer Opportunity**

The Glass Blown Open, a disc golf event, is looking for volunteers for both on course and off course activities through the week of April 25 to May 3. If you would like to help out or want some more information, please contact Jackie Morris at 620-208-3472 or by e-mail at [events@dynamicdiscs.com](mailto:events@dynamicdiscs.com).

**Food Pantry Days**



Sunday, March 1st, we are going to have a Cereal Sunday, which will be one of our upcoming Food Pantry Days! Please bring boxes of cereal (or other food items) to services on March 1st to donate.



**Stewardship Pledge Drive**

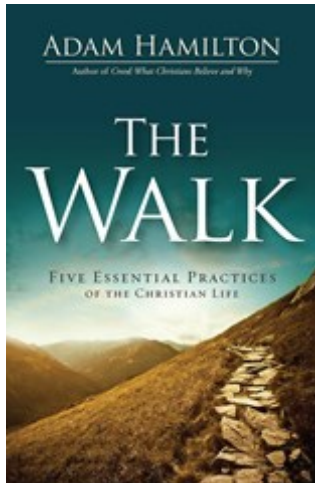
During our Love in Service stewardship pledge drive, remember what Jesus says in Luke 6:38. "Give and it shall be given unto you." God only asks for a portion of what we are given to be returned to him as a symbol of our awareness that he has given to us all we have. Pledge cards may be returned to the church anytime on or before March 1 which is Commitment Sunday.

Lana Richardson  
Stewardship Co-Chair



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**February 26, 2020 7:00 pm**

Christians prepare themselves spiritually to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ during the season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is on February 26th this year. Come join us as we begin this season of preparation during our Ash Wednesday service, which will take place at 7:00 pm on February 26th.



**The Walk**

Study Series—Tuesdays March 3-April 7  
 6:00 Soup Supper 6:30-7:30 Study

Don't forget to sign up for *The Walk*! This Lenten Study Series by Adam Hamilton discusses five essential spiritual practices that are rooted from Jesus' own walk with God. These include Worship, Study, Serve, Give, and Share. This is an excellent opportunity for spiritual and relational growth that you won't want to miss!

This Study Series will include a soup supper every week at 6:00, followed by the study class from 6:30-7:30. Each week, there will be a short DVD session followed by discussion of the chapter. Everyone is invited to attend!

Books are \$13.99 or are available on Kindle for \$9.99. Please let us know if you need financial assistance for purchasing the book.

Be sure to sign up in the parlor or church office by calling (620) 342-1582 or e-mailing ([fccoffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fccoffices@yahoo.com)).

We look forward to seeing you there!

**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: [pastorlorraineb@gmail.com](mailto: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 ap-**



**Next Newsletter Deadline**  
**Feb. 24, 2020 & Mar. 9, 2020**



**February 2020**

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Sunday School</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> <li>12pm Valentine Dinner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter Deadline</li> <li>7pm Boy Scouts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topeka</li> <li>6:15pm Stewardship Committee Meets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm Nominating Committee</li> <li>5pm ESU Cook Healthy, Eat Well Class</li> <li>5pm Elder's Study</li> <li>6pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valentine's Day</li> <li>3pm Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li> </ul>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Week of Compassion Special Offering</li> <li>9:30am Sunday School</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presidents' Day (regional holiday)</li> <li>7pm Boy Scouts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Worship Ministry Meets</li> <li>6:15pm Board Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Emily Prouse Cooking Class</li> <li>5pm Christian Ed.</li> <li>6pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am CWU Friendship Coffee</li> <li>3pm Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li> </ul>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Week of Compassion Special Offering</li> <li>8:30am Diaconate Meets</li> <li>9:30am Sunday School</li> <li>10:30am Worship Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter Deadline</li> <li>7pm Boy Scouts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ash Wednesday</li> <li>5:30pm Facilities Meeting</li> <li>7pm Ash Wednesday Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Emily Prouse Cooking Class</li> <li>5pm Elders Meeting</li> <li>6pm Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li> </ul>

**Spotlight on Disciples**

In this “Spotlight,” I have decided to use a section out of Duane Cummins’ book (2017), *A Handbook for Today’s Disciples in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, entitled, “Since 1968: A Church in Covenant.” Cummins gives a thumbnail sketch of the more recent developments in our Disciples history. As with the culture experiencing a change in loyalties to institutions, Disciples found “severe financial constraint due to declining membership coupled with weakness in stewardship and a near dysfunctional system of financial distribution.” During this time, Disciples closed one university, saw one bankruptcy, one misappropriation of funds, two mismanagements of regional resources, and the discontinuance of a major periodical. Membership declined between 1968 (over 1 million) and 2016 (274,000). It was “a time of growing religious pluralism, an environment marked by a new-age, post-modern search for individual spirituality, an age of disaffection from mainline Protestant institutional religion (Methodist, Presbyterian, American Baptist, United Church of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Disciples).” Through it all, Disciples remained driven.

*To be continued . . .*