



May 18, 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Mask Pageant
- A note from your Treasurer
- Graduates

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# First Christian Church News

## (Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 69 NO. 11

MAY 18, 2020

### Reflections

#### Opening Up

*And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.” Matthew 14:23*

Everyone is talking about it—the whole “opening up” thing. Everywhere we turn, TV, Facebook, radio, and others, the world is generally tired of waiting out the coronavirus and wanting to “open up.”

FCC is making plans for when the day comes that we will be able to return to worship services and other normal activities. Our human instincts tell us to get back to a normal way of life. Being caged up is no fun.

There is another kind of “opening up” that we need to consider while we are waiting and hoping for reopening of our town and country amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It’s the kind of opening up that makes a bigger impact. It’s the opening up of our spiritual selves.

Jesus often went off to pray—to retreat from his busy schedule—to renew his spirit so that he would be in tune with God in his ministry. It’s crucial that we be able to find retreat so that we can remain connected with an integral part of our beings—our spirit.

In his book, *20/20 Vision*, former General Minister and President Dick Hamm defined Christian spirituality as “. . . a way of life that relates who and what we are to who and what God is as revealed in Jesus Christ and as experienced through the Holy Spirit.” Jesus modeled a way for us to replenish and nourish our inner spirit. It’s a way of “opening up” to God.

“Opening ourselves up to God” is important for us as we decide to open ourselves back up to the community. This time we have all had at home causes us to take a step back from the busy-ness in our lives and to see ourselves for who we really are. There may be challenges in households with kids and teenagers during their time at home—the peaceful Spirit may seem far away amid their young energies. But whether your household is energy charged or a peaceful, quiet place, we can all find time to be with God. By emptying ourselves to God, we, in effect, are recharging our spiritual lives and are able to open ourselves in deeper, more meaningful ways in the community.

An unknown author explains this deep Christian spirituality as emboldening “Disciples to feed when there is only bones and broth, to teach where the binding on books is worn, and to speak when evil renders members of God’s family speechless.”

Like Jesus, let’s open ourselves up to experiencing God more deeply, to feel the Spirit moving us as we come down from the mountain to take part in a world that is opening itself up to a whole new way of doing things.

Shalom,  
Pastor Lorraine

<sup>1</sup> Disciples.org/spirituality, in an article from the *Justice Primer*.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*.

**Join us for At Home Worship**

**At Home Worship on Facebook**

Find us on Facebook at **First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Emporia, KS** to join us for worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays!

**At Home Worship via Email**

You are encouraged to open your email at 10:30 a.m. to be part of our worshipping community. Just sign-in and let us know you are with us. If you would like to be added to our e-mail worship service, send us an e-mail at [fc Coffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fc Coffices@yahoo.com) to let us know!

**Zoom Worship**

We have started worshipping together via Zoom on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to join us for this more interactive worship service, please let us know at [fc Coffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fc Coffices@yahoo.com), and we will send you an invitation to our next Zoom Worship Service!



**Upcoming Serving Schedule**



**May 24, 2020—7th Sunday of Easter**

**Elder** ~ Robert Chatham  
**Worship Leader** ~ Janece Bacon  
**Children’s Message** ~ Cameron Moore

**May 31, 2020—Day of Pentecost**

**Elder** ~ Marlene Hanson  
**Worship Leader** ~ Barb Gimple  
**Children’s Message** ~ Judy Moore

**June 7, 2020—1st Sunday after Pentecost**

**Elder** ~ Jean Miller  
**Worship Leader** ~ Marlene Hanson  
**Children’s Message** ~ Marlene Hanson

**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*); **Steve & 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*); **David Smith** (*cousin of Jeanice Miller, diabetic amputation*); **Andrea Vandruff** (*kidney issues*); and **Aubrey Wescott** (*stomach problems*).



**Attendance and Giving Record**

**ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD**

May 10, 2020 At Home Worship 48+  
May 17, 2020 At Home Worship 40+

**GIVING RECORD**

May 3, 2020 ~ Offering \$863.00 / Building \$10.00  
 May 10, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,304.60 / Building \$82.00



**May Anniversaries**

24 Kurt & Sheila Steinkuhler

**May Birthdays**

23 Brandon Hopkins  
 25 Robert Hush  
 27 Robert Wells  
 28 Larry Gamblian  
 28 Nathan LeClear  
 31 Dennis Kelley



**June Birthdays**

03 Kurt Steinkuhler  
 04 Gary Lukert  
 04 Harold Stevenson  
 05 Elizabeth Brown



**Thoughts to Ponder**

- Forgive yourself for not knowing what you didn't know before you learned it.
- You can have few possessions and still have immeasurable wealth.
- When a train goes through a dark tunnel, you still trust the engineer.
- Someone will keep going tomorrow because you prayed for them tonight.

**Mark The Dates**

Until further notice, all scheduled "in-person" meetings are cancelled. Alternative meeting methods such as conference calls, meetings on Zoom, meetings through email, etc. will be used.

**Lectionary Schedule**

**May 24—June 28, 2020**

**May 24, 2020—7th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:6-14  
 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
 John 17:1-11

**May 31 2020—Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21  
 John 20:19-23; 7:37-39

**June 7, 2020—1st Sunday after**

**Pentecost**  
 Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
 Psalm 8  
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
 Matthew 28:16-20

**June 14, 2020—2nd Sunday after**

**Pentecost**  
 Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)  
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
 Romans 5:1-8  
 Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

**June 21, 2020—3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 21:8-21  
 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
 Romans 6:1b-11  
 Matthew 10:24-39

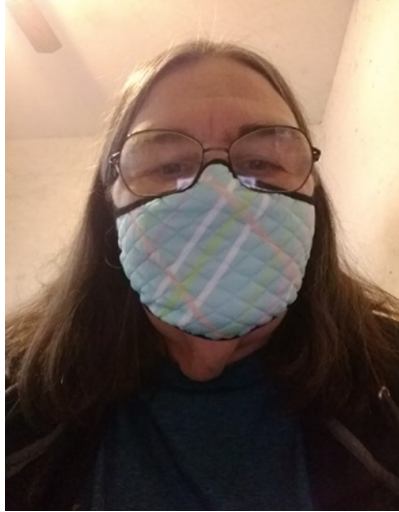
**June 28, 2020—4th Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 22:1-14  
 Psalm 13  
 Romans 6:12-23  
 Matthew 10:40-42



## Mask Pageant

Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures with their favorite masks for our Mask Pageant! There are some really cool designs on masks out there, including these!



**A note from your Treasurer . . . . .**

Copied from Gary Lukert's Offering Meditation for worship last Sunday:

"Normally, during our usual Sunday Morning Services, I would be calling upon the Ushers for our Tithes and Offerings. However, I will remind everyone to send their Offerings to the Church...as the work of the Church continues."

Again, thank you to those who are mailing their offerings to the Church or me.

The exciting news is that, barring any unforeseen issues, we anticipate we will end the fiscal year with a positive balance! We don't know how much of a positive balance, but at least a positive one.

Thanks also to everyone who is contacting members of the Church family during this time away from the church building. That is an important part of Stewardship - our time & talent in the 3 T's of Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasure.

As always, please call if you have questions about Church finances and/or your giving status. I've had some nice visits with a few who have done so.

We are all looking forward to the time when we can worship in person once again. Until then, we continue praying for our Church family and others.

Love in Service, Marie Harding, Treasurer  
1725 W Wilman Ct, Emporia, KS 66801  
620-340-9404; email: marieharding59@gmail.com



## Congratulations to all our Graduates!

### Will Arnett

Grandson of George and Jaylene Arnett  
Graduating from 8th Grade at North Ridge Middle School

### Nicole Dalton

Daughter of Jake and Jennifer Dalton  
Graduating from 8th Grade at Emporia Middle School

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## Congratulations to all our Graduates!

### Briana German

Granddaughter of George and Jaylene Arnett  
 Graduating from Shawnee Heights High School  
 and Washburn Tech Cosmetology Academy



### Gracie German

Granddaughter of George and Jaylene Arnett  
 Graduating from Topeka High School  
 Attending ESU in Fall 2020

### Kenya German

Granddaughter of George and Jaylene Arnett  
 Graduating from 8th Grade at Shawnee Heights Middle School

### Jayden Johnson

Daughter of Reese and Breann Johnson  
 Graduating from 8th Grade at Emporia Middle School

### Kinzie Kurzen

Daughter of Laurie and Chad Kurzen  
 Graduating from 8th Grade at Emporia Middle School



### Jami LeClear

Daughter of Nancy and Michael LeClear  
 Graduating from Flint Hills Technical College with LPN

### Juliana Martinez

Daughter of Chantel Martinez  
 Graduating from 8th Grade at Emporia Middle School



### Mikinzi Simmons

Daughter of Kent and Nikki Simmons  
 Graduating from 8th Grade at Emporia Middle School

### Frankie Turner

Granddaughter of Jeff and Vicki Cole  
 Graduating from Emporia High School

**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)

**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**  
**June 1, 2020 & June 15, 2020**



**May—June 2020**

17 • 10:30am All Home Worship	18 • Newsletter Deadline	19 • 4:30pm Bible Study	20 • 5pm Worship Ministry Meets • 6:15pm Board Meeting	21	22	23
24 • 9:30am Sunday School • 10:30am Worship Service • 2pm Presbyterian Manor Service	25 • Memorial Day	26 • 4:30pm Bible Study	27 • 5:30pm Facilities Meeting	28 • 5pm Elders Meeting	29	30
31 • Pentecost Special Offering • 8:30am Diaconate Meets • 10:30am All Home Worship • 12pm Congregational Meeting	Jun 1 • Newsletter Deadline	2 • 4:30pm Bible Study	3 • 10:30am DWF Day Group • 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance • 5:30pm DWF Night Group	4 • 5pm Leadership Team	5	6

**Spotlight on Disciples**

Information for this article came from the book, *Disciples: Who We Are & What Holds Us Together* (2019) by Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn, St. Louis: Christian Board of Publication, pp. 6-10.

**Our Special Calling**

Kinnamon and Linn are very up-front when they say that the “reform movement called the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is, itself, in great need of reformation. We have not adequately taught our own heritage to a new generation, to the point that even leaders in our congregations are frequently unfamiliar with central aspects of our historical identity” (6). It is important that we know our past so that we can reach into the future. Our identity lies in our special calling of Christian unity, yet we have not lived it—not really. In 2001, the general assembly adopted a mission priority to form 1,000 new congregations by 2020. It’s a goal that is in sight! While our new churches are racially diverse, we are called to embrace the unique cultural flavors brought to the worship experience. As Disciples, we covenant with our diversity to bring a richness to sharing the gospel. As we continue our work to strengthen our Disciples’ identity, it is central that we focus on God beyond self-preservation, to participate in “God’s mission of peacemaking and compassionate service” (10). May God renew our calling and give us the courage to live into our possibilities.