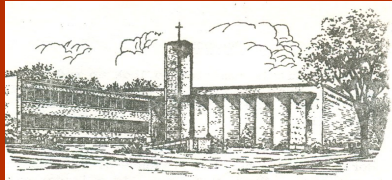


July

July 13, 2020



# First Christian Church News

## (Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 69 NO. 15

JULY 13, 2020

SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST  
DWF "Bring Your Own"  
Luncheon &  
Organizational Meeting  
Thank You!!  
Food Pantry Donation  
2020 Regional Assembly

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### Reflections

#### We've Never Done It This Way Before

There's no doubt that in churches everywhere, during the midst of making change, chime out with heart and soul, "*We've never done it this way before.*" How many times have every one of us either thought it or actually said it out loud when that pesky minister has asked us to make a change?

And then, there's the debate. How can we possibly do what is being asked of us? If it is a change that rubs us a little rough, there will be meetings of concerned people and then possibly town hall meetings of the congregation, and finally, board meetings where a decision can be made whether or not to move forward with the change. Ah, that's church life!

Change is difficult for everyone. Human beings usually do not like change. Change often rubs us the wrong way and we grumble and complain until we kind of get used to the idea after a while. And then here it comes. . . it just seems to pop out when we least expect it. . . that old adage, "*We've never done it like this before!*"

Currently, we all know that the coronavirus has put us in a state of change like no other. . . "*We've never done it this way before!*" There wasn't the usual long process of meetings to decide this first one, it was decided for us. We had to stay at home. We had to make do and get used to this whole new way of living. Parents became teachers—like it or not. People started working from home. For the first time, worship was broadcast from ministers' homes, and meetings were held on Zoom. We have never before felt so irritable and closed in.

So, as the community began to open up, we found yet another way to hold worship. There are those who have decided to come to the sanctuary, but believe me, it feels VERY different and awkward. Everyone wears a mask. Pews are roped off to make us social distance. We now are given a little wrapped packet of a wafer and juice for communion by someone with a gloved hand. We can't sing, but there is instrumental music. We come in, give air hugs and smile under our masks. You can almost hear people shouting it. . . wait for it. . . "*We've never done it this way before!*"

The pastor does her best to address both the people present in the room and at home on the Facebook broadcast. Multiple problems with the recording have left the videographers scratching their heads while attempting to solve the most recent dilemma. Everything is new and while we are silently screaming under our masks, "*We've never done it this way before!*" we take things in stride and continue on.

Change is always difficult, but we are living proof that we CAN handle it. Sure, "*we've never done it this way before,*" but there are some adaptive processes that are beginning to take shape. New beginnings for all of us—at home, at work, at church. God will continue to bless us as we reinvent how we do things to adapt to our current situation. WE CAN DO IT!

So, let us thank God for all God is doing in the midst of the chaos. Let us continue to be cautious and safe. Most of all, let us be loving and kind and forgiving as we travel together through this uncertain time. And may God give us patience that while "*we've never done it this way before,*" we do new things with a heart full of grace.

Blessings along the Way,  
*Pastor Lorraine*

**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 [fccoffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fccoffices@yahoo.com) to let us know!

**Upcoming Serving Schedule**



**July 19, 2020—7th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Elder** ~ Judy Moore

**Worship Leader** ~ Jean Miller

**Children’s Message** ~ Nancy LeClear

**July 26, 2020—8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Elder** ~ Cameron Moore

**Worship Leader** ~ Marlene Hanson

**Children’s Message** ~ Joy Frevert

**August 2, 2020—9th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Elder** ~ Judy Moore

**Worship Leader** ~ Diana Solis

**Children’s Message** ~ Marlene Hanson

So far in the month of July, the food pantry has helped **37 families** with food, plus **various other items**.



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

During this time, we have implemented a no contact method for providing food to the community and have reduced our food pantry hours to Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.



**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*); **Mary Hurd** (*open heart surgery*); **Brad Jones** (*heart problems*); **Steve & Ramona Langley** (*brother-in-law and sister of Betty Richardson*); **Dr. Tim & Paula Lavin and family** (*medical issues*); **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**

July 5, 2020 At Home/In Person Worship 31+  
July 12, 2020 At Home/In Person Worship 46+

**GIVING RECORD**

July 5, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,830.00 / Building \$40.00  
 July 12, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,786.60 / Building \$72.00



**July Anniversaries**

13 Jake & Jennifer Dalton

**July Birthdays**

13 Jill McGrath  
 18 Lola Walker  
 18 Sarah Wyrick  
 21 Adrian Ingles  
 24 Joy Frevert  
 25 Addison Lee Oulette  
 25 Corey Giger  
 26 Jared Johnson  
 26 Brayden Dill  
 28 Dorothy Boyce  
 28 Melissa Tilton  
 30 Lorraine Bailey



**August Birthdays**

05 Carl Headrick  
 05 Matthew Lexow  
 05 Lana Richardson  
 07 Jean Miller  
 08 Jayden Johnson



**Mark The Dates**

Until further notice, the method of meeting (In Person, via Zoom, E-mail, etc.) will be determined on a meeting by meeting basis.

Sundays at 10:30 am—Worship Service— In Person, via Facebook Live, & E-mail

Tues. July 14, 2020—Bible Basics Study

Tues. July 14, 2020 4:30 pm—Trustees Meeting

Wed. July 15, 2020 5:00 pm—Worship Ministry Meets

Wed. July 15, 2020 6:15 pm—Board Meeting

Thur. July 16, 2020 5:00 pm—Christian Education

Tues. July 21, 2020—Bible Basics Study

Wed. July 22, 2020 5:30 pm—Facilities Meeting

Thur. July 23, 2020 4:00 pm—Elders’ Meeting

Thur. July 23, 2020 7:00 pm—Zoom Family Promise Meeting

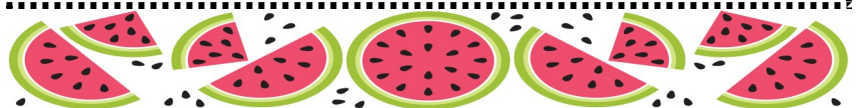
Sun. July 26, 2020 8:30 am—Diaconate Meets

Mon. July 27, 2020—Newsletter Deadline

Tues. July 28, 2020—Bible Basics Study

Wed. August 5, 2020 11:30 am—DWF “Bring Your Own” Luncheon & Organizational Meeting

Thur. August 6, 2020 5:00 pm—Leadership Team



**THE SECRET PLACE**

Devotions for Daily Worship  
 The Summer 2020  
 (June, July, August)

Secret Place daily devotional books

have arrived and are located on the hall table.

Still only **\$1.00 per copy** so get yours today!



**Thoughts to Ponder**

- Freedom is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to do what is right.
- The American flag is a symbol of national freedom. The cross is a symbol of eternal freedom.
- If you don’t believe in miracles, perhaps you’ve forgotten that you are one.
- If your arms can’t reach someone, hug them with your prayers.

**Lectionary Schedule****July 19—August 23, 2020****July 19, 2020—7th Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**July 26, 2020—8th Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**August 2, 2020—9th Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

**August 9, 2020—10th Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

**August 16, 2020—11th Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

**August 23, 2020—12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

**DWF “Bring Your Own” Luncheon & Organizational Meeting**

The DWF Salad Luncheon & Organizational Meeting scheduled for August 5, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. is still at the same time, but it has been updated to a “Bring Your Own” Luncheon instead. We are asking people to please bring their own lunches to eat, in order to help keep everyone safe during this time. We look forward to having you join us in DWF for the start of this new church year!



We would like to send a huge thank you to Janis Thogmartin, Janece Bacon, and Janet Lostutter for helping Rita Headrick with updating the membership information. These ladies dedicated a lot of time to calling, sending out letters, and contacting members to ensure that the church has updated information to use for our records, and we greatly appreciate their efforts and hard work!

## Food Pantry Donation from Kiwanis Club of Emporia, Rotary of Emporia, and Emporia Sertoma Club

A great big thank you goes out to these service clubs and their members for their \$200 donation to our food pantry. The Clubs gave donations to each of the food pantries in the area. If you see a Kiwanis, Rotary of Emporia, or Emporia Sertoma Club member, be sure and say thank you from us and our Food Pantry patrons.



## 2020 Regional Assembly Canceled



The following is excerpted from the original letter found in the June Kansas Messenger.

Due to the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Regional Assembly at Tawakoni, originally scheduled for August 8, has been canceled.

There are several regional business issues that require a vote by the region. The region has developed an alternative to the typical Regional Assembly voice vote with a mail-in voting method.

[The board of First Christian Church, Emporia, will elect at our July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, two] Certified delegates [along with Pastor Lorraine, who] will vote on several items including the slate of regional officers, 2021 General Assembly voting representatives, a revised Regional Policy on Misconduct, and the “Time and Place” recommendation for the 2022 Regional Assembly.

To help educate voters, two opportunities are available to discuss by Zoom video conference: Tuesday, July 14, or Thursday, July 23. Both calls are scheduled for 7 p.m. CDT. Computer log-in and phone dial-in information is available in each church’s information packet. Zoom discussion meetings will be recorded and made available upon request.

Votes are due to the CCK office in Topeka by end-of-business, August 6. Results will be available in the August *Kansas Messenger* and on our website.

**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.”*

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 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**  
**July 27, 2020 & August 10, 2020**



**July 2020**

12 • 10:30am Worship Service	13 • Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry	14 • Bible Basics Study • 4:30pm Trustees Meeting	15 • Tax Day • 5pm Worship Ministry Meets • 6:15pm Board Meeting	16 • 5pm Christian Ed.	17 • 8:30am CWU Friendship Coffee	18
19 • 10:30am Worship Service	20 • 9am Food Pantry	21 • Bible Basics Study	22 • 5:30pm Facilities Meeting	23 • 4pm Elders Meeting • 7pm Zoom Family Promise Meeting	24	25
26 • 8:30am Diaconate Meets • 10:30am Worship Service	27 • Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry	28 • Bible Basics Study	29	30	31	Aug 1

**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, p. 15-16.

**Covenant: Freedom with Accountability (part 4)**

The reorganization of the church in the 1960’s, called Restructure, revised the meaning of liberty as responsible freedom. As a result of the new church structure, all three manifestations or expressions of the church (Congregational, Regional, and General) are set in covenantal interdependence. This means for example that “The General Assembly. . . cannot dictate to the congregations, but neither are congregations free to ignore the corporate decision-making of the church in assembly.” The decision making goes to the majority who are made up of steadfast Christians.

Most importantly, covenant keeps us accountable to God and to each other by putting persons in place to help us to do so. The church exists to not only meet our needs, but to shape us to live in a Christ-like way, different from the world around us. The church challenges our presuppositions and calls us “to intimate life with persons we, humanly speaking, may not like or like.” In short, when we are in covenant, we become self-accountable to our promises.

*More next time on the meaning of covenant. . .*