



July 27, 2020



First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 69 NO. 16

JULY 27, 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Welcome to the World!
Congratulations Lana!!
DWF Date Change
2020-2021 Board Members
Keep Facebook Live
Donations Needed

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Reflections

Recently, the focus of the *Spotlight on Disciples* article (in our church newsletter) has been on Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn’s book, *Disciples: Who We Are and What Holds Us Together*. In chapter 2, the authors discuss the meaning of covenant.

Covenant is described as “a key term in scripture.” The authors remind us that covenant is more than an agreement with humans. It is “a commitment to mutual accountability that presupposes a community intent on the study of scripture, intent on living a life centered on God, intent on recognizing God’s grace in the other.” It “emphasizes responsibilities as well as rights and is based on ‘because/therefore’ thinking . . .” Finally, “[c]ovenant involves limitations, but they are limitations that lead to the real freedom of living no longer for ourselves (pp. 13-15).

It is suggested that Disciples have lost the sense of covenant in our churches, yet *The Design* (our constitution) incorporates the following covenantal language:

[T]his church expresses itself in covenantal relationships in congregations, regions, and general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), bound by God’s covenant of love. Each expression is characterized by its integrity, self-governance, authority, rights, and responsibilities, yet they relate to each other in a covenantal manner, to the end that all expressions will seek God’s will and be faithful to God’s mission. We are committed to mutual accountability (p. 18).

What does this mean? Most importantly, we are bound together by God’s love and that we seek to understand who God is and how we can live out our understanding through faithful accountability to God, each other, and our commitment to following Christ.

When we become members of the church, we covenant with God and the other members of the congregation that we will become active in worship, study, community life, and service or mission. We promise that we will give a portion of our God-given time, talent, and resources back to God and for Christ’s mission in thankful praise for all that God has given to us.

Are the authors correct? Have we lost this sense of covenant among our people? How can we renew and restore this beautiful part of being a Christian and belonging to a Christian family? How can we renew our baptismal vows and rediscover our covenantal responsibilities?

God bless all of us who share life and ministry together as we seek God’s will and may our lives be a blessing to others.

Shalom,
Pastor Lorraine

Join us for Worship

In Person Worship

We are now meeting back at the church for worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays! We care about the safety of our congregation and have taken many precautions during this time. We are wearing masks, social distancing, using pre-packaged communion items, and using alternative methods for our music worship that do not include singing, so as to help ensure a safer environment for everyone joining us. We hope to see you there!

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 worshiping 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 to let us know!

So far in the month of July, the food pantry has helped **63 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*); **Wanda Davis** (*hip rehab*); **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*); **Joe Lozier** (*brain tumor, father of Jen Dalton*); **Steve Martin** (*stem cell cancer treatment*); **Jeanice Miller** (*back pain*); **Andrea Vandruff** (*kidney issues*); and **Stephen Wierd** (*recovery from bypass surgery*).



Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

July 19, 2020 At Home/In Person Worship 42+
July 26, 2020 At Home/In Person Worship 43+

GIVING RECORD

July 19, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,915.00 / Building \$0.00
 July 26, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,914.00 / Building \$205.00



August Anniversaries

- 07 George & Jaylene Arnett
- 07 Alan & Betty Richardson

July Birthdays

- 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
- 10 Owen Hopkins



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 28, 2020 6:30 pm—Bible Basics Study

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

Mon. August 10, 2020—Newsletter Deadline

Wed. August 12, 2020 11:30 am—DWF “Bring Your Own” Luncheon & Organizational Meeting

Thur. August 13, 2020 5:00 pm—Elders’ Study

Wed. August 19, 2020 5:00 pm—Worship Ministry Meets

Wed. August 19, 2020 6:15 pm—Board Meeting

Thur. August 20, 2020 5:00 pm—Christian Education

Mon. August 24, 2020—Newsletter Deadline

Wed. August 26, 2020 5:30 pm—Facilities Meeting

Thur. August 27, 2020 5:00 pm—Elders’ Meeting

Sun. August 30, 2020 8:30 am—Diaconate Meets

Upcoming Serving Schedule



August 2, 2020—9th Sunday after Pentecost

- Elder** ~ Judy Moore
- Worship Leader** ~ Diana Solis
- Children’s Message** ~ Marlene Hanson

August 9, 2020—10th Sunday after Pentecost

- Elder** ~ Jaylene Arnett
- Worship Leader** ~ Janece Bacon
- Children’s Message** ~ Laurie Kurzen

August 16, 2020—11th Sunday after Pentecost

- Elder** ~ Nancy LeClear
- Worship Leader** ~ Judy Moore
- Children’s Message** ~ Marie Harding



Thoughts to Ponder

- If you leave God’s umbrella, the world will rain on you.
- Live for the day, not by the day.
- God is good—even when life isn’t.
- When in doubt, pray it out!
- You can’t control the wind, but you can adjust your sail.
- No beauty shines brighter than a good heart.

Lectionary Schedule

August 2—September 6, 2020

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

August 30, 2020—13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

September 6, 2020—14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 149
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-20

Welcome to the World!

Congratulations to Carl and Lana Richardson, who have a new grandson, Carter Reed Richardson, born on Monday, July 13, 2020, 8 lbs. 8 oz. and 21 1/4 inches long.



Congratulations Lana!!

Join us for a drive by party to say “Congratulations” to Lana Richardson on her retirement! The drive by parade will be from 4 to 5 pm on Saturday, August 1st, with a video chat portion from 5 to 6 pm for those that cannot join the parade. You can find more details on the invitation sent out via e-mail. If you did not receive an invitation or cannot find yours and would like to attend, please contact the church office, and we can send it to you!



The DWF “Bring Your Own” Luncheon & Organizational Meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th has been rescheduled to Wednesday, August 12th at 11:30 a.m.

2020-2021 Board Members

Transitional Minister	Lorraine Bailey
Moderator	Janet Lostutter
Vice Moderator	Joy Frevert
Secretary	Diana Solis
Treasurer	Lana Richardson
Trustee Chair	Michael LeClear
Elder Co-Chairs	Nancy LeClear & Carol Hopkins
Christian Education	Jaylene Arnett
Communication & Social Media	Judy Moore & Joy Frevert
Facilities Co-Chairs	Carl Richardson & Alan Richardson
Membership/Fellowship	Rita Headrick & Nikki Simmons
Outreach	Marlene Hanson
Evangelism	Guy Bacon
Stewardship Co-Chairs	Marie Harding & Diana Solis
Worship Committee	Barb Gimple



KEEP FACEBOOK LIVE - Try it, you might like it!

Have you watched our worship service on Facebook LIVE? You may have noticed that we need to upgrade our system.

This is what's happening.

- A small task force has researched how we can continue this service with more ease, clarity, and reliability.
- Our research has led us to a camcorder that has zoom capability among other important features.
- We will also need additional equipment to assure a high-quality broadcast each week.
- We feel this is an important purchase as we continue to broadcast our services to our congregation and beyond.
- Contributions are necessary to help with this project.
 - ◊Any amount will be appreciated.
 - ◊Please mark your check "A/V Equipment"
 - ◊Mail your check to the church or leave it in the offering basket.

Donations Needed

The Outreach Committee is collecting hand sanitizer and Kleenex to donate to William Allen White School for the upcoming school year. If you would like to donate, you can bring your donations to the church and place them on the table in the sanctuary.

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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 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey
 Email: 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
August 10, 2020 & August 24, 2020



July-August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Diaconate Meets 10:30am Worship Service 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Bible Basics Study 	29	30	31	Aug 1
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship Service 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite 	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Leadership Team 	7	8
9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship Service 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite 	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topoka 11:30am DWF 'Bring Your Own' Lunch 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Elder's Study 	14	15

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. 16-22.

Covenant: Freedom with Accountability (part 5)

In the continued topic of covenant, Kinnamon and Linn highlight Robert Bellah's conclusion in *Habits of the Heart*, "that most Americans no longer get moral instructions from character-forming communities of any kind, including the church." While we Disciples "believe in the freedom of every Christian to make [their] own decisions in matters of faith," we choose to freedom over covenantal responsibility. Clark Williamson, professor of theology at Christian Theological Seminary believes that our stance on this freedom places opinion over understanding. Basically, we have let the importance of covenant slip out from under us and have forgotten our understanding of covenant with God which includes not only ourselves, but each other. We discount our need for communal Christian Education and therefore we assert our opinions without having spent time grappling with deeper matters of faith. The authors recommend that congregations begin an intentional, ongoing conversation about covenant and suggest ways to bring individual and communal covenant back into the life of the congregation.

More next time on the meaning of covenant. . .