

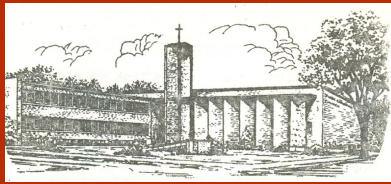


November 2, 2020

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST**
Christian Movie Group
Coming this Advent
Month of Thankfulness

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First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

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Reflections

To begin his discussion on stewardship in chapter six, "The Practice of Extravagant Generosity" (pp. 129-132), in *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (2018), Robert Schnase tells a story of Matt and Keri. They were a young couple who both grew up in the church. After college and marriage, a Bible study they attended together "deepened their desire to learn more about the faith and to offer more of themselves in service."

The story follows Matt and Keri's faith journey of service. As they became more involved in the ministries of the church, they were asked to write a short devotional about giving for the newsletter. In doing so, they discovered that they were only giving 2 percent of their annual income to God's purposes through the church. Upon that realization, they decided to explore the idea of tithing their income.

Basing their devotional on the story of the poor widow who gave two coins out of her poverty (Mark 12:42-44), they raised their giving to 3 percent. The next year they raised it to 4 percent and found that they needed to rethink their spending patterns. They discovered that they could make changes in their lifestyle to enable them to be faithful to their pledge. The increase in giving meant that they needed to consider other financial obligations. They continued to increase their giving until they reached the "full practice of tithing." That first 10 percent check was what Keri remembered as a "gut check moment" in their faith journey, but gave them both an incredible sense of gratitude toward God.

Five years after they were asked to write the devotional, Matt and Keri were asked to "share about their journey of faith and their growth in the grace of giving." They decided to tell about how tithing deepened their practice of faith. They had learned through prayer, talk, reading, and commitment to put God at the center of their lives. The couple discovered that the spiritual discipline of giving the first fruits of their income to God, rather than giving God the leftovers at the end of the month, "forced them to think about the use of money and how all they receive has been entrusted to them by God."

Because of tithing, Matt and Keri found that they spent money more wisely, saved more diligently, and considered the impact their investments have on society. For them, each dollar had a mission. They felt that their job as stewards was "to see that the money fulfilled purposes consistent with their being followers of Christ." Their spending and saving were reflected in this sense of mission. They lowered their debts which freed substantial amounts for saving and giving.

Not only were they making better financial choices, their relationship was enriched as well. Discussions about their goals and values as a family deepened. They became more engaged with the mission of the church and interested in the well-being and fruitfulness of the faith community. The church's mission became part of their own and "they delighted in the fruitfulness of its ministries."

As God generously gives to us, so we give back to God. As Matt and Keri found peace with their generous giving, so can each of us. The practice of tithing (10%) our income may seem overwhelming and impossible when ends just do not meet. Giving to God the full fruits of our labor brings glory to God and God honors our efforts in ways yet to be imagined. It is an adventurous and wonderful journey that will bring joy to all who choose to embark upon the path toward extravagant generosity.

Shalom,
Pastor Lorraine

Join us for Worship

In Person Worship

We are now meeting back at the church for worship at 10:40 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 10:40 a.m. on Sundays. Leave a comment on our worship service to let us know you are with us!

At Home Worship via Email

You are encouraged to open your email at 10:40 a.m. to be part of our worshipping community. 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!

During the month of October, the food pantry has helped **81 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*); **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*); and **Jeanice Miller** (*back pain*).



IN NEED OF
Prayer



Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

Oct. 25, 2020 At Home/In Person Worship 47+

Nov. 1, 2020 At Home/In Person Worship 53+

GIVING RECORD

Oct. 25, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,435.00 / Building \$5.00

Nov. 1, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,470.00 / Building \$120.00



November Birthdays

01	Jaylene Arnett
02	Glenn Greenlee
02	Brooklynn Pedersen
03	Vicki Thornton
04	George Arnett
04	Carol Rhoades
04	Landon Fuller
07	Susan Webb
08	Adam Harding
08	Jerry Marshall
10	Vicki Cole
13	Shirley Ayers
14	Carolyn Meierhoff
14	David Meierhoff
15	Anita Imhoff
16	Jacque Umholtz



Upcoming Serving Schedule



November 8, 2020—23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Elder ~ Nancy LeClear

Worship Leader ~ Barb Gimple

Children's Message ~ Barb Gimple

November 15, 2020—24th Sunday after Pentecost

Elder ~ Marlene Hanson

Worship Leader ~ Jaylene Arnett

Children's Message ~ Lorraine Bailey

November 22, 2020—25th Sunday after Pentecost

Elder ~ Marie Harding

Worship Leader ~ Nancy LeClear

Children's Message ~ Cameron Moore

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 10:40 am—Worship Service— In Person, via Facebook Live, & E-mail

Mon. Nov. 2, 2020 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Nov. 3, 2020—Election Day

Tues. Nov. 3, 2020 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Thur. Nov. 5, 2020 4:00 pm—Leadership Team Meets

Mon. Nov. 9, 2020 9:00 —11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Nov. 10, 2020 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Wed. Nov. 11, 2020—Veterans Day

Wed. Nov. 11, 2020 1:30 pm—DWF Group

Wed. Nov. 11, 2020 6:15 pm—Stewardship Ministry Meets

Thur. Nov. 12, 2020 4:00 pm—Elders' Study

Thur. Nov. 12, 2020 6:30 pm—Youth Mission Club

Sun. Nov. 15, 2020—Thanksgiving Special Offering

Sun. Nov. 15, 2020 3:00 pm—Christian Movie Group

Mon. Nov. 16, 2020—Newsletter Deadline



Thoughts to Ponder

- God makes people like we carve pumpkins: Pick one from the patch and wash it. Scoop out all the icky stuff. Add a smiling face. Put a light inside for all to see.
- We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds it.
- When you're working on the big picture, don't worry about spilling some paint.
- On my best day, I need God as desperately as I did on my worst day.

Lectionary Schedule **Nov. 8—Dec.13, 2020**

November 8, 2020—23rd **Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

November 15, 2020—24th **Sunday after Pentecost**

Judges 4:1-7

Psalms 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2020—25th **Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

November 29, 2020—1st Sunday **of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

December 6, 2020—2nd Sunday **of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

December 13, 2020—3rd Sunday **of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126 or Luke 1:46b-55

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28



Month of Thankfulness

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving this month, we think of all that we are thankful for. While thankfulness

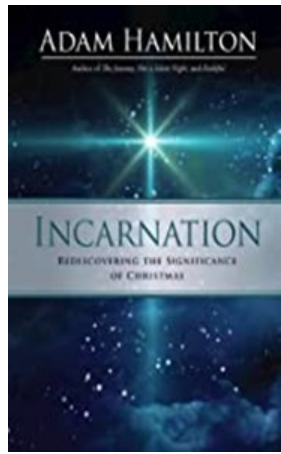
is not limited to just this month, it is a good time to reflect on those that either positively impacted our lives or those we are simply grateful for on a daily basis. As you reflect on this, think about sending a card or other form of a “thank you” to someone you are thankful for to let them know they are appreciated!

Christian Movie Group

The Christian Movie Group invites you to join us on November 15th at 3:00 pm to watch the movie “90 Minutes in Heaven”. It will be shown both via Zoom and In Person at the church. We hope to see you there!

Veterans Day—November 11th





Coming this Advent

Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas

4 Week Hybrid Study: In-person and via Zoom

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22

10:00 am or 6:30 pm

The season of Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Its name is

derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” It is a time of preparation for Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

This year, the Christian Education Ministry Team has chosen to use a brand-new study entitled, “**Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas**” by Adam Hamilton, as our congregational Advent study. Each session will include a short DVD session followed by discussion of the chapter. The user-friendly format allows for everyone to participate in their own way.

We will meet every Tuesday for 4 weeks beginning December 1 via Zoom and In-person (socially distanced in the Parlor). The class will be offered at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

The study examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

Books are \$13.99 and will be purchased through the office. They are also available on Kindle for \$9.99. Scholarships are available upon request.

Be sure to sign-up by November 16th in the Parlor or church office by calling (620) 342-1582 or emailing (fccoffices@yahoo.com).



First Christian Church
Lorraine W. Bailey,
Transitional Minister



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 620-342-1582 Church Office
 Web Page www.fcemporio.org
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 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.”

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
Nov. 16, 2020 & Nov. 30, 2020



November 2020

SUN Nov 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
Daylight Saving Time ends • 10:40am Worship Service • 12pm Diaconate Meeting	Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	Election Day (General Elections) • 10am Acts Bible Study	• 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance	• 4pm Leadership Team		
• 10:40am Worship Service	• 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	• 10am Acts Bible Study	Veterans Day • 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topeka • 1:30pm DWF Group • 6:15pm Stewardship Ministry Meets	• 4pm Elders' Study • 6:30pm Youth Mission Club		
Thanksgiving Special Offering • 10:40am Worship Service • 3pm Christian Movie Group	Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite		• 5pm Worship Ministry Meets • 6:15pm Board Meeting	• 5pm Christian Ed.		

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. 40-41

Kinnamon and Linn continue to explore the meaning of the Lord's Supper and church unity within the Disciples tradition.

Alexander Campbell believed so strongly in the oneness of the church that he stressed the symbolism of the one loaf at the communion table. He preferred to describe the act as “the breaking of the loaf,” saying, “As there is but one literal body and one mystical or figurative body having many members, so there must be but one loaf.” Barton Stone also felt it was important that one loaf be broken at the “Table of the Lord.”

Campbell felt communion was much more than a ritual—it “functions as the glue that holds the household of God together.” Much more than a passive act, communion is for Disciples, “a moment when. . .we open ourselves to experiencing the living presence of Christ among us as his gathered community.”

Unity is central to the meaning of the Lord's Table in Disciples tradition. It is not our table, but the Lord's. “When the church claims ownership, the table represents division. When the church remembers that the table belongs to God, the table becomes the gathering place for the one community under Christ.”

The Table is a reminder that our covenant with God and each other transcends any differences we bring to the table.