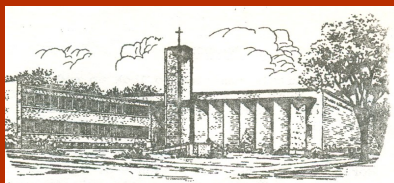




December 14, 2020



# First Christian Church News

## (Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 69 NO. 26

DECEMBER 14, 2020

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Congrats, Grads!  
Poinsettias 2020  
Let Your Light Shine  
Christmas Eve Service  
Christmas "Pop-In" Party

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### Reflections



Something spectacular is happening this month! We will see the conjunction of two planets, Jupiter and Saturn. They will be the closest they have been together since 1623. They will appear in the southwest sky just above the horizon. We can already see them up there, not too far away from each other.

Today, both historians and theologians believe that Jesus was born sometime between 6 BC and 4 BC. At the time of its invention, the calendar meant to show the new era, Anno Domini (A.D.), to start with the date of Jesus' birth at 1 AD, but by the time the mistake was realized, the calendar was already set. Also, King Herod died in 4 BC. This is important as we look at the dates of the convergence of the planets that could be responsible for the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem.

Some people believe that it was the conjunction of planets that created the "Christmas Star" that the wisemen followed to find the baby Jesus. One possibility is that it could have been a nova occurring in 5BC or 4BC near the conjunction of planets causing a remarkable brightness. Another possibility is the near proximity of three planets, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn that caused the great light in the sky around 6BC.

There are other possibilities. However, we will most likely never know the exact dates for Jesus' birth or the wisemen's visit.

What we do know is that a stunning astronomical phenomenon occurred that led the ancient astrologers to Bethlehem sometime after Jesus was born. Perhaps, as we gaze up on December 21<sup>st</sup>, we might wonder at the miracle of Jesus' birth as the wisemen did when they saw Emmanuel, "God with us," the One who came to save the world.

*<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:9-11)*

Let us still seek Him during this season of hope and beyond with our whole hearts, minds, souls, and strength.

Merry Christmas,  
*Pastor Lorraine*

**Join us for 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 10:40 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](mailto:fccoffices@yahoo.com) to let us know!

So far in the month of December, the food pantry has helped **50 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*); **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*); and **Gary Smith** (*recovery from bypass surgery*).



**THE SECRET PLACE**

**Devotions for Daily Worship  
The Winter 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!



**Attendance and Giving Record**

**ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD**

Dec. 6, 2020 At Home Worship 40+

Dec. 13, 2020 At Home Worship 41+

**GIVING RECORD**

Dec. 6, 2020 ~ Offering \$737.50 / Building \$0.00

Dec. 13, 2020 ~ Offering \$2,391.60 / Building \$72.00



**December Birthdays**

- 15 Debbie Hubert
- 17 Justin Richardson
- 20 Lisa Rickabaugh
- 20 Sheila Steinkuhler
- 25 Barb Gimple
- 26 Courtney Barger
- 30 Traeger Garnett



**January Birthdays**

- 01 Bonnie Schaefer
- 03 Heather Mitchell (Office)
- 04 Steven Sage
- 10 Nancy Mayer
- 15 Treva Stuck
- 21 Brenda Hall
- 22 Charles Wilhite



**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 via Facebook Live & E-mail

Mon. Dec. 14, 2020 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Dec. 15, 2020 10:00 am—Advent Bible Study—Morning

Tues. Dec. 15, 2020 6:30 pm—Advent Bible Study—Evening

Wed. Dec. 16, 2020 5:00 pm—Worship Ministry Meets

Wed. Dec. 16, 2020 6:15 pm—Board Meeting

Thur. Dec. 17, 2020 5:00 pm—Christian Education

Sun. Dec. 20, 2020—Christmas Special Offering

Sun. Dec. 20, 2020 3:00—5:00 pm—Christmas “Pop-In” Party

Mon. Dec. 21, 2020 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Dec. 22, 2020 10:00 am—Advent Bible Study—Morning

Tues. Dec. 22, 2020 6:30 pm—Advent Bible Study—Evening

Thur. Dec. 24, 2020 8:00 pm—Christmas Eve Service

Fri. Dec. 25, 2020—Christmas Day

Mon. Dec. 28, 2020—Newsletter Deadline



**Upcoming Serving Schedule**



**December 20, 2020—4th Sunday of Advent**

**Elder** ~ Nancy LeClear

**Worship Leader** ~ Diana Solis

**Children’s Message** ~ Judy Moore

**December 27, 2020—1st Sunday after Christmas Day**

**Elder** ~ Marlene Hanson

**Worship Leader** ~ Janece Bacon

**Children’s Message** ~ Laurie Kurzen

**January 3, 2020—2nd Sunday after Christmas Day**

**Elder** ~ Marie Harding

**Worship Leader** ~ Barb Gimple

**Children’s Message** ~ Marlene Hanson

**Thoughts to Ponder**

- Christians live around the world, but gather at the foot of the cross.
- Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future.
- Faith is caught, not taught.
- There’s no such thing as too many prayers.
- Tomorrow is uncertain, but forever is for sure!
- Work for a cause, not for applause.

**Lectionary Schedule****Dec. 20, 2020—Jan. 24, 2021****December 20, 2020—4th Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

**December 27, 2020—1st Sunday after Christmas Day**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

**January 3, 2021—2nd Sunday after Christmas Day**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**January 10, 2021—Baptism of the Lord**

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

**January 17, 2020—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

**January 24, 2020—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



We have two staff members who are receiving degrees from ESU this semester. Heather Mitchell, our office secretary, is receiving a Masters degree in Accounting and Kara Horton, our bookkeeper, is receiving a Bachelors degree in Business Administration. Both of these girls do so much in service to our church. They keep the day to day operation of the church going and they have worked hard to earn their degrees. We are very proud of them.

**Best Choice Labels**

This year is coming to an end, and that also means that the deadline for submitting your Best Choice Labels is approaching quickly. If you have labels to submit, please drop them off in the kitchen next to the parlor in the church before Christmas!

### ***Poinsettias 2020***

**Given By:**

Marlene Hanson  
John & Marie Harding

**Given By:**

Lorraine Bailey  
Joy Frevert  
Barb & Glenn Gimple

Marlene Hanson  
Carl & Rita Headrick

Dee Holmes

Janet Lostutter

Gary Lukert  
Jean Miller  
Judy Moore

Diana Solis

Janis Thogmartin

**In Honor Of:**

Marcus Hanson  
Lougene Marsh

**In Memory Of:**

Wilma Gartung  
Rick Frevert  
Louise & Walter Heitman  
Jonalou Harrington  
Jason Hanson  
R.B. & Margaret Headrick  
Gordon & Betty Smith  
Roger L. Findlay  
Betty Findlay  
Mary Frances Packer  
Charles Dee Packer  
Mae Jewell King  
Georgeann Packer  
Dr. Donna Jamar  
Dr. Jean Morrow  
Bill & Elizabeth Willard  
John Alan Lostutter  
Vel Lukert  
Fred Miller  
Ilda Kline  
Ruth Ford  
George Ford  
Lloyd & Clara Reisbig  
Roger Reisbig  
Clyde Thogmartin  
Gwen Thogmartin





## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

Along with other churches in town, we would like everyone to celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas Eve by turning on your porch light at 8:00 p.m. Let it shine! Tell all of your friends to turn their lights on as well. Shine the Good News on Emporia! Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has come to save us. "Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God." (Luke 2:14, CEV)

## JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**On Facebook LIVE at 8:00 P.M.**

for our live broadcast and pre-recorded

### **HOME FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Scripture and Carols

Featuring a Christmas Folktale

As told by Pastor Lorraine and Father Marc McDonald

and Traditional Lighting of the Advent Candle

and Christmas Candlelight Communion with Silent Night



*Come to our Zoom*

### *Christmas "Pop-in" Party!*

Come "pop-in" and say hello to your friends at First Christian Church for a few minutes this coming Sunday, December 20, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

### **Please**

*Call* and invite a friend (inside or outside the church) to stop in at the same time that you will be there (especially if you haven't seen them in a while). Watch for a reminder email and then the Zoom invitation.

*"Bring"* a Christmas remembrance to tell or share (a story, a remembrance, an ornament or decoration, or anything that is meaningful to you at this time of year).

*Plan* to enjoy seeing your friends at our festive celebration!

*Come and Go* as you wish!

**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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 620-342-1582 Church Office  
 Web Page [www.fcemporio.org](http://www.fcemporio.org)  
 Email Office [fccoffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fccoffices@yahoo.com)  
 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey  
 Email: [pastorlorraineb@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlorraineb@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**  
**Dec. 28, 2020 & Jan. 11, 2020**



**December 2020**

13 Christmas Special Offering • 10:40am Worship Service • 3pm Christian Movie Group	14 Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	15 • 10am Advent Bible Study - Morning Gr • 6:30pm Advent Bible Study - Evening C	16 • 5pm Worship Ministry Meets • 6:15pm Board Meeting	17 • 5pm Christian Ed.	18	19
20 Christmas Special Offering • 10:40am Worship Service	21 • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	22 • 10am Advent Bible Study - Morning Gr • 6:30pm Advent Bible Study - Evening C	23	24 Christmas Eve • 8pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26
27 • 10:40am Worship Service	28 Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	Jan 1 New Year's Day	2

**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. 45.

Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone differed somewhat in their approach to the Lord’s Table. Both were rationalists. Campbell’s dominant rational influence tended to leave the act of remembrance at just that, remembrance. Stone, on the other hand, while he was a rationalist, he also believed that the work of the Holy Spirit was “the Spirit of Christ himself working in a Christian’s life.” He had an appreciation for the mystical side of faith. While Campbell “thought” about being one in Christ around the Lord’s Table, Stone felt that the experience was deepened through interaction with the Holy Spirit. “The Holy Spirit is in the end the power for creating oneness in the body of Christ.” Stone believed,

It is the spirit of holiness, which, when received, hungers and thirsts for righteousness, pants for God and a perfect conformity to his lovely character. It is the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father. It is the spirit of love to God, and man. It is the spirit which unites the whole family of God. It is the spirit of power, by which we re enabled to oppose successful every temptation, and every enemy. It is the spirit of liberty, not of bondage; for where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. In a word, it is the spirit, the fruits of which are love, joy peace long suffering gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance (Galatians 5:22-23)

Our experience at the Lord’s Table, through the Holy Spirit, brings us to a deeper understanding of the memory of Christ’s sacrifice.