



SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST
DWF in December
Thank You!
Stewardship Ministry
Christmas Food
Pantry

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Reflections

Every year we celebrate the season of Advent. During the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day, Christmas decorations are placed in the sanctuary and the month is filled with traditional activities such as a Christmas Pageant. In recent years, a family time of making decorations and cookies has been added to prepare for Christmas. The congregation typically comes together for a traditional Christmas dinner following worship. It's a wonderful, joyous time in the church of getting ready for Christ's coming. So, what exactly is Advent? Why do we light candles on the Advent wreath?

The season of Advent is a time of waiting. The name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning coming or arrival. While the meaning holds that we wait expectantly for the coming of God as a human child, it also means the second coming of Christ in the last days. This is why the scriptures in Advent include lessons on Christ's second coming—"be alert and watchful," we are told. Of course, the focus is on the birth of Jesus, wrapped in cloth and laid to rest in a manger of straw. We celebrate this event on Christmas Day.

Advent fills us with joy at the expectation of the birth of baby Jesus. The church celebrates through worship, singing, and simple readings along with the lighting of the Advent candles.

The origins of the celebration of Advent are relatively unknown, but the period of preparation can be traced as far back as 480 A.D. The practice of lighting the Advent wreath likely originated in Germany or France within the Lutheran church around the 16th century. Traditionally, the Advent Wreath is in the form of a circle as a crown to represent God's unending love and symbolizing victory. It is traditionally decorated with fir branches with red ribbon, pinecones, holly, laurel, and sometimes mistletoe to symbolize the hope of eternal life that God's people share. The holly recalls the crown of thorns resting on the head of Christ.

Four candles are set in the wreath with the Christ candle in the center to represent the four weeks until Christmas Day, as well as the thousands of years people have awaited the coming of the Messiah. The flames of the candles represent the Light of the World coming to bring hope and peace and are a symbol of the struggle against darkness. The lighting of an additional candle each week in Advent marks the anticipation of the coming of the Light of the World.

Purple has been used for Advent since the 13th century. Some churches today prefer to use blue (traced to the Church of Sweden) as a sign of hope for Advent rather than the purple which has the Lenten associations of solemnity and somberness.

Purple (or blue) candles are traditionally used to mark the first, second and fourth Sundays in Advent and represent Hope, Peace and Love. A pink candle is used on the third Sunday to represent Joy. The white Christ candle is used on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the birth of the Messiah.

While 2020 hosts a most unusual Advent, families can make their own Advent wreaths at home to celebrate the coming of the Christ child. During our broadcast as the candles are lit in the sanctuary each Sunday, families can light their candles at home. This practice will symbolize unity and togetherness. If you do not have the materials to make a wreath, it's okay to improvise. I once made an Advent wreath with a styrofoam base and all red candles. Be creative and celebrate any way you can! Maybe you only have one candle (or flashlight)—you can still read the Advent scriptures and light your candle to anticipate the coming of the Christ child!

Continue to celebrate Advent with joyous expectation of the coming of the Christ child. Christ is the Promise of Hope we all need right now. Let us prepare our hearts for the One who comes to save us all.

Anticipating Christ's coming with you,
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 to let us know!

So far in the month of November, the food pantry has helped **123 families** with food, plus **various other items**.



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

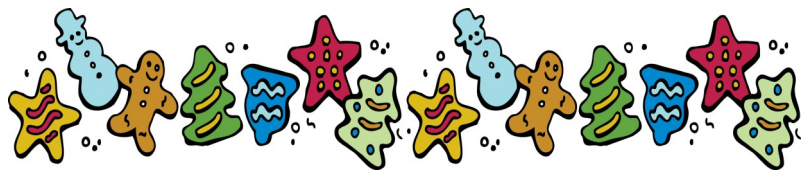
During this time, we have implemented a no contact method for providing food to the community and have reduced our food pantry hours to Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.



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*); and **Jeanice Miller** (*back pain*).



Worship
with us
from
HOME



Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

Nov. 22, 2020 At Home Worship 32+

Nov. 29, 2020 At Home Worship 38+

GIVING RECORD

Nov. 22, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,215.00 / Building \$0.00

Nov. 29, 2020 ~ Offering \$1,940.00 / Building \$100.00



November Birthdays

30 David Harding
30 William Hopkins



December Birthdays

01 Cameron Moore
02 Reese Johnson
02 Chad Kurzen
05 Kate Wiggins
08 Rachael LeClear
10 Richard Kellison
12 Michael LeClear
15 Debbie Hubert
17 Justin Richardson
20 Lisa Rickabaugh
20 Sheila Steinkuhler
25 Barb Gimple



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. Nov. 30, 2020 9:00 am—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Dec. 1, 2020 10:00 am—Advent Bible Study—Morning

Tues. Dec. 1, 2020 6:30 pm—Advent Bible Study—Evening

Thur. Dec. 3, 2020 4:00 pm—Leadership Team Meets

Sun. Dec. 6, 2020 12:00 pm—Diaconate Meeting

Mon. Dec. 7, 2020 9:00 am—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Dec. 8, 2020 10:00 am—Advent Bible Study—Morning

Tues. Dec. 8, 2020 6:30 pm—Advent Bible Study—Evening

Wed. Dec. 9, 2020 1:30 pm—DWF Group via Zoom

Thur. Dec. 10, 2020 4:00 pm—Elders’ Study

Thur. Dec. 10, 2020 6:30 pm—Youth Mission Club

Sun. Dec. 13, 2020—Christmas Special Offering

Sun. Dec. 13, 2020 3:00 pm—Christian Movie Group

Mon. Dec. 14, 2020—Newsletter Deadline

Upcoming Serving Schedule



December 6, 2020—2nd Sunday of Advent

Elder ~ Judy Moore

Worship Leader ~ Marie Harding

Children’s Message ~ Nancy LeClear

December 13, 2020—3rd Sunday of Advent

Elder ~ Jaylene Arnett

Worship Leader ~ Cameron Moore

Children’s Message ~ Joy Frevert

December 20, 2020—4th Sunday of Advent

Elder ~ Nancy LeClear

Worship Leader ~ Diana Solis

Children’s Message ~ Judy Moore



Thoughts to Ponder

- Prayer is talking to God. Meditation is listening to God. Be good at both.
- When prayers go up, blessings come down.
- Inhale the future, exhale the past.
- Is the glass half empty or half full? Either way, it’s refillable.
- It takes both sides to build a bridge.
- Attend church weekly, not weakly.
- Caution! God at work, people in progress.

Lectionary Schedule**Dec. 6, 2020—Jan. 10, 2021****December 6, 2020—2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 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

Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

**DWF in December**

DWF will be meeting via Zoom for their meeting on December 9th at 1:30 pm. Make sure to mark your calendars, as you won't want to miss this time of fellowship with a great group of ladies! All are welcome to join, and we hope to see you there!



A huge THANK YOU to everyone that donated to make it possible for us to hand out Thanksgiving bags last Monday, November 23rd to those that came to the food pantry. We had 30 Thanksgiving bags made up to hand out, and there were exactly 30 families that came to the food pantry on that day. Those that came to get bags were very appreciative at getting extra food for their Thanksgiving holiday, and we are exceptionally thankful to those that helped make this possible.

From the Stewardship Ministry . . .

Thank you for your generous giving to the needs of the church and others:

- for the special donations for the Thanksgiving meals given to our food pantry patrons on Monday, November 23;
- for extra donations to the Food Pantry so we can continue to provide food every Monday for those in need;
- for continuing to mail your offerings to sustain the church and its ministries.



Thanks also to those who give of their time:

- to greet people and distribute food bags on Monday mornings;
- to make sure we are able to worship via Facebook Live on Sunday mornings when we can't be in the sanctuary in person;
- to the Ministry Teams who continue to carry out ministries in every way possible
- to those who make phone calls to check on others and/or send notes to brighten someone's day
- to the Search Committee
- to Pastor Lorraine and our staff for all they do
- and to everyone who serves as the hands and feet of God through our church and in the community.

Marie Harding and Diana Solis, Stewardship Ministry Team

Christmas Food Pantry Bags

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response we received from those who were given one of our Thanksgiving food pantry bags, we would like to continue to help families celebrate this holiday season. We are currently making plans to give out special food pantry bags for Christmas as well. As our celebrations continue to be very different from normal this year, we would again like to help those who may not get the opportunity to have a nice Christmas meal. Any monetary donations would be much appreciated as we plan what to include in these bags in the coming weeks.



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
 Email Office fccoffices@yahoo.com
 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey
 Email: 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. 14, 2020 & Dec. 28, 2020



December 2020

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE Dec 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:40am Worship Service 	<p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Advent Bible Study - Morning Gr 6:30pm Advent Bible Study - Evening C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm Leadership Team 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:40am Worship Service 12pm Diaconate Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Advent Bible Study - Morning Gr 6:30pm Advent Bible Study - Evening C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topeka 1:30pm DWF Group via Zoom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm Elders' Study 6:30pm Youth Mission Club 		
<p>Christmas Special Offering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:40am Worship Service 	<p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Advent Bible Study - Morning Gr 6:30pm Advent Bible Study - Evening C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Worship Ministry Meets 6:15pm Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 43-44.

As Kinnamon and Linn explore Disciples' interpretation of celebrating the Lord's Supper, they discuss Paul's recount of the supper as remembrance. "This do in remembrance of me," Paul writes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). The Greek term "anamnesis" means to remember, but as the authors say, "it carries special force." It is more than remembering, it is "a re-presentation which makes what is past a vivid and lively reality here and now." This means that as we gather at the Table, Christ is not only remembered, but is also present with us.

Nils Dahl says, "The Lord's supper was central to the church's act of remembering, not as an individual experience as Disciples tend to make it, but as a moment in worship when the church as the body of Christ enters into collective experience in recalling the history of salvation. The Lord's Supper was in effect this history 're-presented by the sacramental commemoration.'"

Paul, influenced by his Jewish background, wrote of anamnesis—this way of remembering—to help us understand how we participate in the Lord's Supper both personally and collectively taking Communion. We carry with us a communal sense of not only remembering the story, but also re-experiencing the past suffering and rescue. The power of anamnesis opens us to experiencing the Holy Spirit.