



SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST
Birthday Card Shower
Welcome, Janis!
New Baby Coming Soon
Christian Movie Group

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Reflections

As the new year begins and as we consider the events of recent days, we may want to pause and consider our commitment to and walk with God. In times such as these, we would do well to spend time in introspection, considering God's faithfulness from generation to generation and to us today. Even as God is faithful, we are called to be faithful.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, after Solomon finished building the temple and God accepted it, God told Solomon in a dream, "if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." While the Jews were exiled in Babylon, Jeremiah wrote a letter to the remaining elders among the exiles with this promise of God: "When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord. . ." (Jeremiah 29:13-14a).

For faithful Christians, prayer is a way of life. Prayer is like walking and talking—it's innate. God promised the exiles that if they would search for God, they would find God. Yet in these days, amid all the chaos, it feels to the faithful that we are living in a strange land. The stable Christian values that have sustained us and our society seem very far away. It's hard to fathom that so many people have forgotten God's promises. Still, we hold on to faith.

Through the prophets of old, God reminds us of God's love for the world. Even when we are in a jam, God's faithfulness stands true and strong. Our faithfulness through prayer must not waiver. Jesus taught that we should love our neighbors and our enemies and for those who persecute those who love God (Mark 12:31a, Matthew 5:44). God wants our voices to be heard, but our speech should "always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that [we] may know how [we] ought to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6).

In this season of unrest, my prayer is for each of us to look to God to find the strength and courage to endure. We are Christ's light that shines so that all may see the glory of God. As small as we think our one light might be, our light cannot be hidden (Matthew 5:14-16).

*If we'd all say a prayer that the world would be free,
The wonderful dawn of a new day we'll see!
And, if everyone lit just one little candle,
What a bright world this would be!*

~ J. Moly Roach / George Mysels

Shalom,
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 worshiping 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 January, the food pantry has helped **45 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

Jan. 3, 2021 At Home Worship 34+
Jan. 10, 2021 At Home Worship 40+

GIVING RECORD

Jan. 3, 2021 ~ Offering \$2,595.00 / Building \$100.00
Jan. 10, 2021 ~ Offering \$1,140.00 / Building \$0.00
Christmas Special Offering ~ \$285.00



January Anniversaries

- 16 David & Kaari Harding
- 19 Jesse & Diana Solis
- 28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

January Birthdays

- 15 Treva Stuck
- 21 Brenda Hall
- 22 Charles Wilhite
- 26 Curtis Rhoades
- 29 Ed Mercer, Jr.
- 29 Joe Witten
- 31 Tim Norton



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. Jan. 11, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Jan. 12, 2021 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Wed. Jan. 13, 2021 1:30 pm—DWF Group

Wed. Jan. 13, 2021 6:15 pm—Stewardship Ministry Meets

Thur. Jan. 14, 2021 4:00 pm—Elders’ Study

Thur. Jan. 14, 2021 6:30 pm—Youth Mission Club

Sun. Jan. 17, 2021 3:00 pm—Christian Movie Group

Mon. Jan. 18, 2021—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Mon. Jan. 18, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Jan. 19, 2021 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Wed. Jan. 20, 2021 5:00 pm—Worship Ministry Meets

Wed. Jan. 20, 2021 6:15 pm—Board Meeting

Thur. Jan. 21, 2021 5:00 pm—Christian Education

Mon. Jan. 25, 2021—Newsletter Deadline

Mon. Jan. 25, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Upcoming Serving Schedule



January 17, 2021—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

- Elder** ~ Judy Moore
- Worship Leader** ~ Nancy LeClear
- Children’s Message** ~ Barb Gimple

January 24, 2021—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

- Elder** ~ Jaylene Arnett
- Worship Leader** ~ Jean Miller
- Children’s Message** ~Lorraine Bailey

January 31, 2021—4th Sunday after the Epiphany

- Elder** ~ Nancy LeClear
- Worship Leader** ~ Marie Harding
- Children’s Message** ~ Jaylene Arnett

Thoughts to Ponder

- Jesus invested his life in yours — have you shown any interest?
- Get your praise on!
- To rise highest, start on your knees.
- Have you “crossed” paths with Jesus lately?
- Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you.
- I trust the next chapter because I know the author.
- You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage them.

Lectionary Schedule**Jan. 17—Feb. 21, 2021****January 17, 2021—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, 2021—3rd Sunday
after the Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

**January 31, 2021—4th Sunday
after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

**February 7, 2021—5th Sunday
after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

**February 14, 2021—
Transfiguration Sunday**

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

**February 21, 2021—1st Sunday in
Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15



Please send birthday greetings to Curtis Rhoades on his 102nd birthday, January 26th. Please send cards to Curtis Rhoades at 727 Arundel, Emporia Kansas 66801.

**Welcome, Janis!**

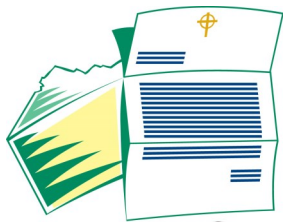
Janis Thogmartin recently joined our church family as a new member! Janis attended First Christian Church in Emporia earlier in her life, when attending ESU, and before moving out of state. She moved back to Emporia last year and has been involved in our church for several months now. If you haven't yet had the chance, make sure you tell her "Welcome" and that we are all excited to have her join us.



New Baby Coming Soon

A new baby for Kate and Matt Wiggins is due to arrive in February! Kate is Kat Dorcas’ daughter and Judy Moore’s granddaughter.

We are putting together a “Baby Bundle” basket of daily needs items that need replenishing in caring for a baby: wipes, diapers, lotion, baby wash, gift cards, etc. Please drop your items off during the week during office hours: 8:00am – 12 Noon Monday through Friday. The deadline is Monday, January 18! Let’s help make this time of transition for our new family a little easier and welcome this little one into our church family!



Annual Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2020 are now ready and can be picked up in the church office anytime Monday–Friday from 8:00–12:00. If they are not picked up, they will be mailed on January 28. Your help in saving us postage is appreciated.

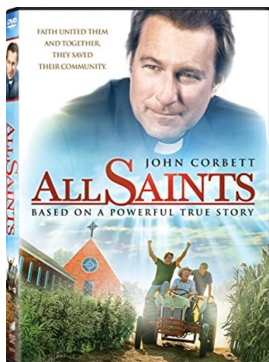
Lana Richardson
Treasurer

Emporia Christian School Job Opportunity

Emporia Christian School is seeking a part-time bookkeeper. The candidate must have experience with QuickBooks and Microsoft Excel and Word, and be able to demonstrate good typing and filing skills. Interested persons may email administrator Sally Kaiser at skaiser@emporiachristianschool.org or call (620) – 342 – 5353.

Join us for a Christian Movie!

Next Sunday, January 17 at 3pm on Zoom!



Based on a true story. A salesman-turned-pastor of a tiny church in Tennessee is ordered to shut it down. He and a group of refugees work together and risk everything in an attempt to save the church.

Please call or email the church office for a Zoom invitation!

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.”

202 East 12th Avenue
 620-342-1582 Church Office
 Web Page www.fcemporio.org
 Email Office fccoffices@yahoo.com
 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
Jan. 25 & Feb. 8, 2021



January 2021

10 • 10:40am Worship Service	11 Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	12 • 10am Acts Bible Study	13 • 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topeka • 1:30pm DWF Group • 6:15pm Stewardship Ministry Meets	14 • 4pm Elders' Study • 6:30pm Youth Mission Club	15	16
17 • 10:40am Worship Service • 3pm Christian Movie Group	18 Martin Luther King Jr Day • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	19 • 10am Acts Bible Study	20 • 5pm Worship Ministry Meets • 6:15pm Board Meeting	21 • 5pm Christian Ed.	22	23
24 • 10:40am Worship Service	25 Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	26 • 10am Acts Bible Study	27	28 • 4pm Elders' Meeting • 6:30pm Youth Mission Club	29	30

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. 49-51

Kinnamon and Linn explore the meaning and implications of baptism in chapter 5. In 1985, a theological consensus was developed by the Consultation on Church Union (later becoming Churches Uniting in Christ) and agreed on the following statement:

Diversity of baptismal practice in the churches reflects different dimensions of the meaning of Baptism into the body of the one Lord. It is therefore appropriate that alternative practices be maintained within a [future united church]. Infant Baptism calls attention to human need and helplessness, and to the reality of God’s gracious initiative and action on our behalf. Baptism of confessing believers emphasizes the persona response to grace and the forgiveness of sin. It bears witness to the Church as a community reborn in the Spirit (p. 49).

The shift from “immersion-only” thinking to a broader acceptance of infant baptism affected Disciples as the conviction to immerse trickles down from Alexander Campbell. Campbell was convinced that immersion of believers was the form mandated by scripture. While Barton W. Stone admitted membership to the unimmersed, Campbell stood strong on his position. Although Disciples, for more than a century, followed Campbell’s conviction, we now focus more on the meaning rather than the mode of baptism. The basic meaning is that one’s decision to follow Christ is received in faith and entirely by God’s grace.

to be continued . . .