

January

January 25, 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST  
Sound System Upgrade  
2021 Lenten Schedule  
From your Stewardship Ministry Team  
24 Hours That Changed the World

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# First Christian Church News

## (Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 70 NO. 2

JANUARY 25, 2021

### Reflections

#### In the Beginning. . .

As our time together is coming to a close, it is good to reflect on the journey and the progress we have made. There have been ups and downs along the way, but overall, we have made progress. In these last four installments of "Reflections," I would like to highlight some significant points that have impacted growth.

It's always good to, as Rogers and Hammerstein said, "start at the very beginning, a very good place to start." In July 2017, we held a "Wholeness Café" in order to identify areas for growth. We have worked very hard to set goals to make changes to meet the dreams people have for the church. While we still have much work to do on many projects, we have been successful on others.

Many of the dreams had to do with worship—which is always in progress because it belongs to the people. We have tried a variety of ways to worship which hopefully make it a joyful experience filled with upbeat and beautiful music. We have included all kinds of music experience from singing old hymns to adding a variety of instruments to including contemporary worship songs. People were hoping for Bible-based preaching that has been accomplished with hopefully meaningful messages.

Communication on Facebook was a goal that has been realized, yet is ongoing. A plus that has been added because of the pandemic is the live streaming which reaches people in a way we could not foresee.

Hospitality dreams such as a Coffee Bar have yet to be realized. Later ideas of a "Welcome Counter" and updating our Narthex, hallways, and bathrooms are goals.

Hopes for more young people and peer Bible studies have yet to be realized. The goal is to start small groups to bring people together to build lasting relationships. These are safe places young people can thrive and people can study God's word together. In order for this to be successful, the whole church should be involved in a small group.

Other goals such as new signage inside and outside the building; furthering our outreach in the community and the world; having full pews; and more have yet to be realized. Faithful workers continue to address these, but it takes EVERYONE in the church to make things happen—another goal that is still in progress.

We have come so far. Rejoice and be glad! God is always moving us and our growth will be the result of our response to God!

Continued next time . . .

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

During the month of January, the food pantry has helped **91 families** with food, plus **various other items.**



Our pantry continues to be a life-line 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.

**Lectionary Schedule**

**January 31—February 14, 2021**

**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

**Our church family prayer list:**

**Lonnie Atchison** (*cancer*); **Lea Beers** (*medical*); **Wanda Davis** (*hip rehab*); **Brooke Franklin** (*cancer*); **Bob Hush** (*medical*); **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*); **Lougene Marsh** (*medical*); **Steve Martin** (*stem cell cancer treatment*); and **Jeanice Miller** (*back pain*).



**Attendance and Giving Record**

**ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD**

Jan. 17, 2021 At Home Worship 42+

Jan. 24, 2021 At Home Worship 38+

**GIVING RECORD**

Jan. 17, 2021 ~ Offering \$1,236.60 / Building \$72.00  
 Jan. 24, 2021~Offering \$1,005.00 / Building \$1,000.00



**January Anniversaries**

28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

**February Anniversaries**

05 Jim & Judy Moore

**January Birthdays**

26 Curtis Rhoades

29 Ed Mercer, Jr.

29 Joe Witten

31 Tim Norton



**February Birthdays**

10 Kat Dorcas

10 Steve Dorcas



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

Tues. Jan. 26, 2021 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Thur. Jan. 28, 2021 4:00 pm—Elders’ Meeting

Thur. Jan. 28, 2021 6:30 pm—Youth Mission Club

Mon. Feb. 1, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Feb. 2, 2021 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Thur. Feb. 4, 2021 4:00 pm—Leadership Team

Sun. Feb. 7, 2021 12:00 pm—Diaconate Meeting

Mon. Feb. 8, 2021—Newsletter Deadline

Mon. Feb. 8, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Feb. 9, 2021 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Wed. Feb. 10, 2021 1:30 pm—DWF Group

Wed. Feb. 10, 2021 5:30 pm—Stewardship Ministry Meets

Thur. Feb. 11, 2021 4:00 pm—Elders’ Study

Thur. Feb. 11, 2021 6:30 pm—Youth Mission Club

**Upcoming Serving Schedule**



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

**Elder** ~ Nancy LeClear

**Worship Leader** ~ Marie Harding

**Children’s Message** ~ Jaylene Arnett

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

**Elder** ~ Marlene Hanson

**Worship Leader** ~ Jaylene Arnett

**Children’s Message** ~ Joy Frevert

**February 14, 2021—Transfiguration Sunday**

**Elder** ~ Marie Harding

**Worship Leader** ~ Cameron Moore

**Children’s Message** ~ Nancy LeClear

**Thoughts to Ponder**

- Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?
- Lay up your treasures in heaven where there is no depreciation.
- How cool is it that the same God who created mountains and oceans and galaxies thought the world needed one of you too!
- A giving church is a living church.
- A good example has twice the value of good advice.
- God’s way is the high way.

## SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE

Over the last several months we have experienced difficulties with our sound quality during Facebook streaming and services in the sanctuary, namely:

- Feed back
- Microphones cutting out
- Poor sound quality



We brought in a consultant who assessed the problems:

- 20+ year old equipment
- The main audio amplifier has only one channel, the other one has failed, so only one speaker in the sanctuary is served
- Several channels of the phonic mixer have failed
- The Digital processor is old and Windows 7 or 10 cannot support or make program changes
- The wireless microphones are outdated
- The analog equalizer for feedback control most likely is not working

With our move to include video and audio streaming of services newer equipment will be required for higher quality streaming. At the last Church Board meeting it was decided to proceed with the purchase and installation of the necessary items to upgrade our system. Along with this decision comes the need to pay for the equipment. Donations from members would be helpful and appreciated. You can send or bring in a contribution to the church office.

### **2021 Lenten Schedule**

#### **Zoom Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Zoom Lenten Bible Study: "24 Hours That Changed the World"**

Tuesdays, February 23—March 30 at 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

#### **Facebook LIVE Palm Sunday Worship**

Sunday, March 28 at 10:40 a.m.

#### **Facebook LIVE Maundy Thursday Service**

Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Facebook LIVE Easter Worship**

Sunday, April 4 at 10:40 a.m.



## From your Stewardship Ministry Team . . .

It's that time again!

Watch your mailbox for your 2021-2022 pledge drive campaign materials.

Theme - †Standing Strong Through the Storm! And what a storm in 2020!

It seems early to think about 2021-2022 when we just started 2021, but we have to plan ahead for

- ministries we want to continue
- new ministries we think of and decide to put in place
- AND, a new minister and all the new and exciting things that come with him/her

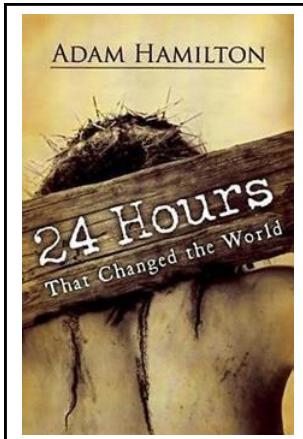
Please read the materials in your packet:

- Letter setting out some of the challenges we have had in 2020, how they are being faced, and information about the campaign;
- Campaign Prayer;
- 7-day Prayer Guide; and
- Pledge card and envelope to return it to the church by Commitment Sunday, March 7.

What will your commitment be in 2021-2022?

- Please prayerfully consider your commitment of
  - ◊ Time, talent (your gifts), and treasure (your monetary resources)

Marie Harding and Diana Solis, Co-Chair



## 24 Hours That Changed the World

What a difference a day makes. You hear people say that phrase all the time. It could not be truer than when talking about the last day of Jesus' life. *24 Hours That Changed the World* written by Adam Hamilton will be the Lenten Study Series starting Tuesday, February 23 through March 30. There will be sessions at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

The study book will help us experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death like never before. It retraces the day that changed human history in a straightforward yet easy conversational style that speaks to both long-time Christians and those who are simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion.

The videos draw on insights from history, archaeology, geography, and the Bible. They take place in the Holy Land. They visit sites where the earth-shaking events took place and walk where Jesus walked along the road that led to the pain and triumph of the cross. Jaylene Arnett will facilitate the group. The study book is \$10.00. Contact the church office to sign up for the Lenten Study Series.

**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](http://www.fcemporio.org)  
 Email Office [fcocoffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fcocoffices@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**  
**Feb. 8 & Feb. 22, 2021**



**January—February 2021**

24 • 10:40am Worship Service	25 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	26 • 10am Acts Bible Study	27	28 • 4pm Elders' Meeting • 6:30pm Youth Mission Club	29	30
31 • 10:40am Worship Service	Feb 1 <b>First Day of Black History Month</b> • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	2 • 10am Acts Bible Study	3 • 10:30am Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance	4 • 4pm Leadership Team	5	6
7 • 10:40am Worship Service • 12pm Diaconate Meeting	8 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	9 • 10am Acts Bible Study	10 • 9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topeka • 1:30pm DWF Group • 5:30pm Stewardship Ministry Meets	11 • 4pm Elders' Study • 6:30pm Youth Mission Club	12	13

**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. 51-53

**Understanding Baptism**

Kinnamon and Linn help to clarify understanding of baptism with the following points quoted from the text:

- 1) Campbell taught that baptism is “for the remission of sins” (sins actually committed, not guilt inherited from Adam). In baptism, penitent believers receive God’s assurance of acceptance and pardon—which is the foundation of holy living.
- 2) Believers’ baptism recognizes and upholds people’s freedom to affirm faith in Jesus Christ for themselves.
- 3) Baptism is a sign that the person is adopted by God and received into a new family of faith . . . [While not connected] to membership in a local congregation[,] Baptism is a public declaration both of God’s forgiveness and of one’s incorporation into the church of all times and places. In the words of the Preamble to the Disciples Design, “Through baptism into Christ, we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.”

. . . to be continued