



SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST
Pastor Lorraine's
Retirement
Thank you!
Lenten Study Series
Stewardship Moment

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Reflections

Focus Groups of 2018

In August 2018, the congregation held "Focus Groups" where five topics were discussed: spiritual growth, membership, visibility, fellowship, and nurture. These groups were to make suggestions to help the congregation move forward. Some of the ideas were doable right away while others, it was realized, would take time.

Spiritual Growth

A priority for this group was the hope that formal prayer groups would be formed to pray for the congregation, the wider church, and the world. (One such group eventually met and prayed together for a time, but it has since disbanded). It was suggested that the congregation develop small groups; that the congregation be stricter in choosing deacons and elders that lead servant-leadership lifestyles, act as Christian role models that others look to, and meet on a regular basis for study and prayer; that the people of the congregation "learn the Bible" and become more committed, passionate, and "hungry for God's word."

Membership and Visibility

These two groups essentially came up with similar plans. There was agreement that the church's exposure would increase with social media such as Facebook. Other suggestions to increase visibility included: putting up a digital sign, putting in a book station, having a concert on the lawn, begin a "Friends of Troop 157" group, becoming more involved in the community such as Family Promise (plans continue to develop).

Fellowship

Ideas to increase our church fellowship included: once-a-month game nights alternating with movie nights; outdoor BBQ's, before and after worship coffee, inside picnics during colder months, blessing of the pets on St. Francis Day, small group activities (fitness, day journeys, movies), progressive dinners, setting up a quilt or puzzle where anyone can work on them, Old-fashioned Singalongs, and mission projects.

Nurture

This group felt that it is very important for individuals to recognize their spiritual gifts to find a good fit for ministries, to call on members in person or by phone, offer rides to church and events, and organizing a shepherd ministry (primarily with the elders).

While certain aspects of these suggestions have been realized, others are still formulating. God is working in us and through us to bring the peace of Christ to every individual, even amid our experiences through the pandemic. This is a good time to plan fellowship events and small groups for when you emerge from isolation. God is with you and loves you.

As God moves you into future ministry, my prayer is that you will come together regularly to include these five areas of the Christian life into your walk with God and each other in ways you know and in ways you have yet to discover.

Shalom,
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 February, the food pantry has helped **28 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.

Lectionary Schedule

February 14—February 28, 2021

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

February 28, 2021—2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22:23-31
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Our church family prayer list:

Lonnie Atchison (*cancer*); **Lea Beers** (*medical*); **Wanda Davis** (*hip rehab*); **Joe Denson** (*medical*); **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. 31, 2021 At Home Worship 34+

Feb. 7, 2021 At Home Worship 36+

GIVING RECORD

Jan. 31, 2021 ~ Offering \$1,790.00 / Building \$100.00



February Birthdays

- 10 Kat Dorcas
- 10 Steve Dorcas
- 15 Margie Coffman
- 16 Royal Garnett
- 21 Guy Bacon
- 27 Shelby Pedersen
- 28 Roycean Garnett



Upcoming Serving Schedule



February 14, 2021—Transfiguration Sunday

- Elder** ~ Marie Harding
- Worship Leader** ~ Cameron Moore
- Children’s Message** ~ Nancy LeClear

February 21, 2021—1st Sunday in Lent

- Elder** ~ Cameron Moore
- Worship Leader** ~ Marlene Hanson
- Children’s Message** ~ Judy Moore

February 28, 2021—2nd Sunday in Lent

- Elder** ~ Judy Moore
- Worship Leader** ~ Diana Solis
- Children’s Message** ~ Marlene Hanson

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

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

Sun. Feb. 14, 2021 3:00 pm—Christian Movie Group

Mon. Feb. 15, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Feb. 16, 2021 10:00 am—Acts Bible Study

Tues. Feb. 16, 2021 5:00 pm—Worship Ministry

Tues. Feb. 16, 2021 6:15 pm—Board Meeting

Wed. Feb. 17, 2021 7:00 pm—Ash Wednesday Service

Thur. Feb. 18, 2021 5:00 pm—Christian Education

Sun. Feb. 21, 2021—Week of Compassion Special Offering

Mon. Feb. 22, 2021—Newsletter Deadline

Mon. Feb. 22, 2021 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Tues. Feb. 23, 2021 10:00 am—Lenten Study Series—Morning

Tues. Feb. 23, 2021 6:30 pm—Lenten Study Series—Evening

Thoughts to Ponder

- A grateful mind is a great mind.
- Morning praise will make your days.
- Christianity doesn’t guarantee a smooth flight, but it does provide a safe landing.
- Do you stand with the great or kneel with the broken?
- Salvation is what we receive, not what we achieve.
- Believe the best, forgive the rest.

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.



Pastor Lorraine is retiring and her last Sunday with us will be February 28, 2021. She will be moving to California to live closer to family. If you haven't yet, make sure to tell her that you wish her the best in this next chapter!



Church family,
 Thank you all so much for thinking of us and our new addition to the family! All of the gifts, diapers and other essentials are appreciated!

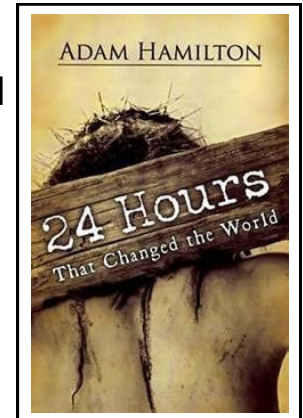
-Kate and Matt Wiggins

Lenten Study Series: 24 Hours That Changed the World

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, and the videos draw on insights from history, archaeology, geography, and the Bible. Jaylene Arnett will facilitate the group. The study book is \$10.00.

If you are interested in joining this study, there is still time to sign up. Contact the church office by Wednesday, February 10th to be part of this great educational opportunity!



Stewardship Moment:

Some questions you might be asking right now:

"Why are you asking us to fill out pledges for 2021-2022 fiscal year, and at the same time asking us to give to upgrade the sound system as explained in the last newsletter, and to give to the food pantry which is a vital need in our community? Isn't all that included in our regular offering?"

The answer: No, those special ministry requests are called "above and beyond giving". They are in addition to your regular giving to the "Operating Fund". They are special ministry opportunities for any and all to participate in giving, and they are much-needed ministries.

Your regular offerings go to support the budget which is approved annually by the congregation. The budget provides for ministries through: Worship; Christian Education; Outreach; Facilities; Personnel; Communications; Office; Membership/Fellowship; Evangelism; and Stewardship. These ministries make up the "Operating Fund" which is funded by your regular offerings.

Please give to those extra ministries which give you joy, and please give generously to support the general ministry work of our church through your regular offerings, your pledges.

If you have questions at any time about extra ministries, the budget, or the Operating Fund, please don't hesitate to contact either of us by phone or email.

Thank you again for your support of the church through your time, talent & treasure.

†Standing Strong Through the Storm!
Marie Harding & Diana Solis, Stewardship Co-chair

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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 Pastor: Rev. Lorraine Bailey
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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. 22 & Mar. 8, 2021



February 2021

7 • 10:40am Worship Service • 2pm Diaconate Meeting	8 Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	9 • 10am Acts Bible Study	10 • 9:30am NEKS Clergy-Topeka • 1:30pm DWF Group • 5:30pm Stewardship Ministry Meets	11 • 4pm Elders' Study • 6:30pm Youth Mission Club	12	13
14 Valentine's Day • 10:40am Worship Service • 3pm Christian Movie Group	15 Presidents' Day (regional holiday) • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	16 • 10am Acts Bible Study • 5pm Worship Ministry Meets • 6:15pm Board Meeting	17 Ash Wednesday • 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	18 • 5pm Christian Ed.	19	20
21 Week of Compassion Special Offering • 10:40am Worship Service	22 Newsletter Deadline • 9am Food Pantry • 7pm Boy Scouts - Offsite	23 • 10am Lenten Study Series - Morning • 6:30pm Lenten Study Series - Evening	24	25 • 4pm Elders' Meeting • 6:30pm Youth Mission Club	26	27

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. 54-56.

Three Missional Implications in Baptism

1. We are compelled to oppose discrimination based on such things as race, gender, and economic status. We identify simply as Christians. Our distinctiveness is that we are baptized into Christ—any devaluation of those who are different from ourselves has been overcome (see Galatians 3:27-28). We are all Christians, some of us are female while others are male. Some of us are Caucasian while others are Hispanic, Asian, or African. Kinnamon and Linn state, “Racism, sexism, and classism in church and society are abominations to God that we oppose, not because we are good people, but because our very identity is at stake. That’s what it means to be baptized.”
2. We are bound in solidarity with Christians who suffer or celebrate anywhere in the world, near or far—when one suffers, the entire Christian body suffers, when one is honored, the entire body rejoices (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-31). We demonstrate the same care for each child of God. “That’s what it means to be baptized.”
3. We are enabled through God’s grace to reject idolatry. Paul reflects on the transformation we all receive at our baptisms (see Romans 6). Through baptism, the enslaving power of sin is broken. In our new morality, our lives are defined by Christ, not worldly idols such as money or power. “That’s what it means to be baptized.”

to be continued . . .