



July 13, 2021



# First Christian Church News

## (Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

VOLUME 74 NO. 13

JULY 13, 2021

**SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST**  
 Protocol Update  
 Invitation to Disciples  
 Virtual Gathering  
 DCE Regional Gathering  
 DWF News  
 Clothes Closet &  
 Household Hut

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### Reflections

As I sit here reflecting on my first week of being on the job, I can only think of one word: grateful. I am grateful for the warm welcome both Sully and I have received since accepting the call to come to First Christian Church; and I am grateful for this call. Ministry is a mixed bag of blessings. I am grateful, and excited, to see what is in the bag of blessings as we begin our ministry together.

The Search Committee asked me to describe my theology, which I described as a *table theology*. Meaning, I believe all are welcome at the table of love, just as Christ welcomes us. EVERYONE has a place not only at the table, but also within the beloved community of First Christian Church. As we begin our shared ministry together, I pray you feel that is true.

The identity statement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) states: “We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.” I am looking forward to living out this identity statement with you as we seek to welcome all to the table, as Christ welcomes us, sharing in ministry together by being the hands and feet of Christ. May it be so.

Agape,  
 Pastor Tara Thompson

## Join us for Worship

### **In Person Worship**

We are meeting back at the church for worship at 10:40 a.m. on Sundays! We care about the safety of our congregation and have taken many precautions during this time. Our protocol has been updated and masks for worship are now optional. Masks are available should anyone need one. Please continue to social distance and use hand sanitizer. We are enjoying singing during worship again! We continue to use prepackaged communion. We hope to see you Sunday!

### **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!

worship  
WITH US

During the month of June, the food pantry helped **41 families** with food, plus **various other items**, including **20 doz. eggs**.



Our pantry continues to be a lifeline for those in our community. (Masks are required) 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.



### Our Church Family Prayer List:

**Lonnie Atchison** (*cancer*); **Robert Chatham** (*health*); **Wanda Davis** (*hip rehab*); **Joe Denson** (*medical*); **Brooke Franklin** (*cancer*); **Anita Imhoff**; **Dr. Tim & Paula Lavin and family** (*medical*); **Joe Lozier** (*brain tumor, father of Jen Dalton*); **Gary Lukert** (*health*); **Steve Martin** (*stem cell cancer treatment*); **Don McDiffet, Tom Keylan, & Wife** (*health*); **Jeanice Miller**; **Joy Wonser** (*surgery*);



## **Attendance and Giving Record**

### ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

July 4, 2021 ~ At Home/In Person Worship 59+  
July 11, 2021 ~ At Home/In Person Worship 49+

### GIVING RECORD

July 4, 2021 ~ Offering \$2,565.00/ Building \$0.00  
July 11, 2021 ~ Offering \$1,013.00 / Building \$0.00

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## JULY Anniversaries

13 Jake & Jennifer Dalton

## JULY Birthdays

13 Jill McGarth  
 18 Lola Walker  
 18 Sarah Wyrick  
 21 Adrian Ingles  
 24 Joy Frevert  
 25 Addison Lee Oulette  
 25 Corey Giger  
 26 Jared Johnson



### Upcoming Serving Schedule

**July 18th, 2021**

**Communion Elder** ~ Judy Moore

**Worship Leader** ~ Janece Bacon

**Children's Message** ~ Judy Moore

**July 25, 2021**

**Communion Elder** ~ Janece Bacon

**Worship Leader** ~ Cameron Moore

**Children's Message** ~ 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 In Person, Facebook Live & E-mail (mask optional)

Mondays from 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry

Mondays at 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Fridays from 3:00—6:00 pm—Clothes Closet & Household Hut

Saturdays from 9:00 am—12:00 pm—Clothes Closet & Household Hut (Masks required for CC&HH)

Wed. July 14, 2021 12:00pm— DWF Group Luncheon

Wed. July 14, 2021 5:30 pm— Stewardship Ministry Meeting

Thur. July 15, 2021 5:00pm— Trustees Meeting

Sat. July 17, 2021- Thomas Family Reunion

Wed. July 21, 2021 6:15pm— Board Meeting

Thur. July 22, 2021 4:00pm— Elders Meeting

Mon. July 26, 2021— Newsletter Deadline

### Thoughts to Ponder

- Happily ever after starts here
- Are you living or existing?
- Change your perception of what a miracle is, and you'll see them all around you.
- We would worry less about what others think of us if we realized how seldom they do.
- When fear calls, let faith answer



# Lectionary Schedule July 18th—August 08, 2021

## July 18th, 2021

2 Samuel 7:1-14a  
Psalm 89:20-34  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56  
Jeremiah 23:1-6

## July 25, 2021

2 Samuel 11:1-15  
Psalm 14  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

## August 01, 2021

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

## August 08, 2021

2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33  
Psalm 130  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51



### An Invitation from our Moderator

The Virtual Gathering will be a way for Disciples to connect virtually, grow spiritually and explore learning opportunities in one easy to navigate digital platform.  
Connect now by registering for this one day event on August 7.

### Have a question?

Visit our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page to have your questions answered.



### OUR SPONSORS

The Disciples Virtual Gathering is made possible through Disciples Mission Fund and the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with additional support from:



### DWF News



DWF is meeting once again in person on Wednesday, July 14th. If you would prefer to join us on Zoom instead, please let the office know so that we can send you an invitation. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

### Clothes Closet & Household Hut

Our Clothes Closet and Household Hut has officially reopened. Its hours of operation are Fridays from 3:00 to 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We always need volunteers, so if you are interested, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex where you can sign up for specific dates to volunteer. (Masks are required)



**Household Hut**



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS  
**Disciples  
 Connect  
 and Equip**  
 Reconnecting by Covenant

**Saturday, August 14  
 Disciples Center at Tawakoni**

Registration — 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.  
 Closing Worship — 3 to 4 p.m.



**Keynotes By:**

<- Terri Hord Owens  
 General Minister and President

Erin Wathen ->  
 Week of Compassion



Celebrate with Kansas Regional Minister Steve Martin. Retiring after 24 years of regional ministry



Cost is \$10/adult  
 Children & Youth are FREE  
 (18 years and younger)



Register online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org),  
 through your ENGAGE account,  
 Scan the QR code (left)

Pre-registration is highly encouraged  
 Lunch preference not guaranteed after July 31

### DWF News

DWF will be having a salad luncheon for Tara on July 14th at 12:00pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring a salad and/or dessert of their choice.



Thank you to the ladies of DWF who cleaned and organized the fellowship kitchen . It looked great and was ready for the cover dish dinner!



## First Christian Church



**“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.fccemporia.org](http://www.fccemporia.org)

Email Office [fccoffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fccoffices@yahoo.com)

### Office Hours

**8 a.m. until Noon, Monday through Friday.**



**Next Newsletter Deadline  
June 28 & July 12, 2021**



### July 11 – July 31 2021

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>10:40am Worship Service</li><li>12pm Covered Dish Dinner</li></ul>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9am Food Pantry</li><li>7pm Boy Scouts</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9:30am NE KS Clergy-Topeka</li><li>12pm DWF Group Luncheon</li><li>6pm Stewardship Ministry Meets</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4pm Christian Ed Mtg</li><li>5pm Trustee Meeting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3pm Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li></ul>	<b>Thomas Family Reunion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9am Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li></ul>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>10:40am Worship Service</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9am Food Pantry</li><li>7pm Boy Scouts</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>6:15pm Board Meeting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4pm Elders' Meeting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3pm Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9am Clothes Closet &amp; Household Hut</li></ul>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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## 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. 87

### Congregation: Church but Not the Whole Church

#### Church as Community of Communities

It is no secret that congregations across denomination lines have faced many difficult years in our recent history, but there is strong evidence that we have come through our roughest days, perhaps smaller, but in significant ways stronger than ever. For Disciples that has included a more pronounced sense of being “church together,” consciousness we see having grown much stronger since the first edition of this book we published ten years ago. Numerical growth continues to be a focus among many of our congregations, but the meaning of “growth” has expanded to include compassion, justice, and reconciliation as expressions of our evangelistic witness. Regional ministers in fact report that there has been a significant increase in the number of Disciples congregations finding new life by engaging in local and global missions.

This is not to say there are no Disciples churches struggling to remain viable. The rate of closures across Protestant lines continues to be significant, and that includes congregations of our own. Others remain open, but can no longer support a full-time pastor as they once did. But the evidence says that pastors and congregations are proving up to the challenge that declining number and finances has posed over the last 40 plus years. Disciples congregations are finding a new sense of meaning and directions that gives the whole church reason to feel hopeful for the future.