



# First Christian Church News

## (Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

December 14, 2021

VOLUME 85 NO. 24

DECEMBER 14, 2021

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### Reflection

Christmas is less than 2 weeks away, and I know everybody is busy with shopping, cooking, parties, and lots of preparations. I can't help but wonder, do we get so busy with the "stuff" of Christmas that we forget about the true meaning of Christmas? Our Advent Study this year is about not only making room for God in our hearts, but also making room for our neighbors as well.

I remember hearing stories about how my great-grandfather would bring random people home for dinner, especially around Christmas time. They would be people he met out and about that day who needed a hot meal, or the homeless he would see downtown on the square. It didn't matter. If they were in need he would help them. I remember my great-grandmother say how she never knew who, or how many, he would bring home for dinner.

In our Advent study book, *Making Room*, Ed Robb writes: *I can't think of a better time to open our doors to those around us than Christmas, to invite a neighboring family into our home to share a meal or perhaps host a holiday neighborhood party. After all, doesn't following Jesus require more from us than our usual Advent traditions of singing carols and lighting candles? Don't we need to discover the joy of loving others in tangible ways?*

How are you making room for your neighbor this Advent and Christmas season? How are you loving your neighbor in real and tangible ways?

Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Tara

**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.

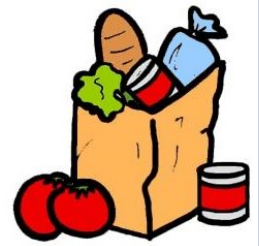
Our protocol has been updated and masks are optional for worship and all church activities. Masks are available should anyone need one. Please continue to social distance and use hand sanitizer.

We have resumed singing during worship. We will 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!

During the month of December, the food pantry helped **48 families** with food, plus **various other items**, including **41 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.

*Church Family Prayer List*

Betty Anderson- **Jean Miller's** neighbor

Lonnie Atchison

**Wanda Davis**

**Bonnie & Joe Denson**

Brooke Franklin

Joe Lozier

**Jeanice Miller**

Brooklyn Quick- **Jeanice Miller's** Great-Granddaughter

Richard & Joann Rincon

~Our sympathy to **Tammie McDiffett** on the passing of her cousin Nathaniel Pearson~

**Upcoming Serving Schedule**

**December 19th, 2021**

**Elder**~ Janece Bacon

**Worship Leader**~ Janet Lostutter

**Young Disciples**~ Tara Thompson



**December 26th, 2021**

**Elder**~ Jaylene Arnett

**Worship Leader**~ Diana Solis

**Young Disciples**~ Joy Frevert

**Attendance and Giving Record**

**ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD**

December 5, 2021 ~ SS 25 /AH & IP Worship 57+

December 12, 2021 ~ SS 22 /AH & IP Worship 46+

**GIVING RECORD**

December 5, 2021 ~ Offering \$2,340.00/Building \$0.00

December 12, 2021 ~Offering \$2,138.00/Building \$0.00



**December**  
BIRTHDAYS

- 15 Debbie Hubert
- 17 Justin Richardson
- 20 Lisa Rickabaugh
- 20 Shelia Steinkuhler
- 25 Barbara Gimple
- 26 Courtney Barger
- 30 Traeger Garnett

*Advent Study*  
*"Making Room"*  
By Ed Robb



Mondays  
during Advent  
at 2 pm and  
6 pm



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight  
and  
Communion Service  
8 pm  
First Christian Church

**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 9:30am— Sunday School

Sundays at 10:40 am—Worship Service via In Person & Facebook Live (masks optional)

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

Mondays at 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesdays at 12:15 pm— Noontime Prayers

Thursdays at 7:00 pm— Facebook Storytime

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

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

Tues. Dec. 14, 2021 3:30pm— Christian Ed. Meeting


Sun. Dec. 19, 2021 9:30am— Christmas Program

Mon. Dec. 20, 2021 2:00pm— Advent Study

Mon. Dec. 20, 2021 6:00pm— Advent Study

Fri. Dec. 24, 2021— Office Closed

Fri. Dec. 24, 2021 8:00pm— Christmas Eve Service

Sat. Dec. 25, 2021— Christmas Day 

Mon. Dec. 27, 2021— Newsletter Deadline

If you are out of town Christmas weekend, you can join us for worship through Facebook live. The sermon will be a special message on "The Christmas Truce."



**Lectionary Schedule  
December 19th—January  
9th, 2022**

**December 19th, 2021**

Micah 5:2-5a  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45  
Psalm 80:1-7

**December 26th, 2021**

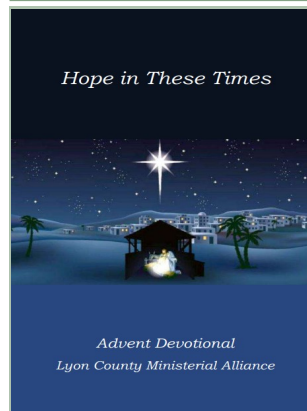
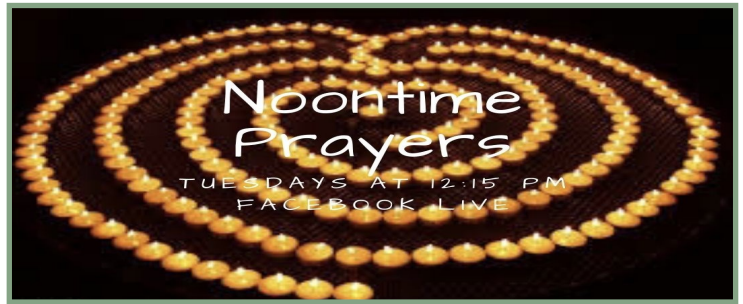
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52  
Psalm 148

**January 2nd, 2022**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**January 9th, 2022**

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



Lyon County Ministerial Alliance  
"Advent Devotional"

LCMA Advent devotionals are now available. You can pick a copy up at the church or have one sent to you electronically. If you would like one electronically you can either call or email the church.

**Message From Pastor Tara**

I will be on vacation from December 26th—January 1st. There will NOT be Noontime Prayers, or Facebook Storytime that week as well. If you have pastoral needs during this time, please do not hesitate to reach out to your elder.



*First Christian Church*  
202 E. 12th Ave.

**Clothes Closet and Household Hut**

FRIDAYS, 3-6PM  
SATURDAYS, 9AM-12NOON  
FACE MASKS REQUIRED!



**FOOD PANTRY**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
202 E. 12th Ave.  
Mondays, 9-11am  
FACE MASKS REQUIRED!

Helping families in our community!



You are invited to send your Christmas card to the church, and we will post it on the bulletin board. This is a way you can share your card with our church family.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Christmas Program*



*Sunday, December 19th*



Wow! A big thank you to ValuNet for providing more than 900 pounds of non-perishable food items to our pantry. This generous donation will not only bolster our pantry, but also help with preparing meals for families in Family Promise.



**First Christian Church**  
**Tara Thompson,**  
**Senior 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.fcemporiam.org](http://www.fcemporiam.org)  
Email Office: [fcoffices@yahoo.com](mailto:fcoffices@yahoo.com)  
Pastor: Rev. Tara Thompson  
Email: [tlynthompson@gmail.com](mailto:tlynthompson@gmail.com)



### Office Hours

Monday- Friday: 8:00 a.m.– 12:00p.m.



### Next Newsletter Deadline

January 10, 2022 & January 24, 2022



December 14—December 27, 2021

## Weekly Events

Sundays at 9:30am~ Sunday School

Sundays at 10:40am~ Worship Service

Monday's from 9:00am-11:00am~ Food Pantry

Mondays at 7:00pm~ Boy Scouts

Tuesday's at 12:15pm~ Facebook Live Noontime Prayer

Thursday's at 7:00pm~ Facebook Live Storytime

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

Saturdays from 9:00am-12:00pm~ Clothes Closet & Household Hut

## DECEMBER

Tuesday **14**

3:00pm~ Christian Ed. Meeting

Sunday **19**

9:30am~ Christmas Program

Monday **20**

2:00pm~ Advent Study  
6:00pm~ Advent Study

Friday **24**

Christmas Eve  
Office Closed  
8:00pm~ Christmas Eve Service

Saturday **25**

Christmas Day  
Merry Christmas from First Christian Church!

Monday **27**

Newsletter Deadline

MAY YOU NEVER BE TOO OLD TO SEARCH THE SKIES ON



## Christmas Offering

*Received in many congregations on Dec. 12 & 19, 2021*



Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

**The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.**