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Reflection

Is anyone else experiencing Deja Vu? As we neared Christmas and the week after, we saw Covid cases skyrocket. I convinced myself it wouldn't hit Lyon County. Then it did. Organizations are going to virtual gatherings, and our Covid Task Force found themselves tasked with making a very hard decision. We join with churches all over moving to ONLINE ONLY for right now.

I know we are all weary. We all want life to return to "normal." Right now, this is our normal. It is easy to get discouraged, but I feel like now more than ever we are called to practice Jesus' radical and all inclusive love for our neighbor by doing what we can to help keep everyone safe.

A dear friend of mine, the Rev. Anna Hubbard, serves at Disciples Christian Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and made a video titled "Love looks like an empty church." She made one at the beginning of the Pandemic, and made another one this past weekend. It will appear in our service on Sunday, so look closely as there is a sanctuary pictured you will recognize.

While we are not physically meeting in the church, God calls us to continue to be the church by loving our neighbor, feeding the hungry, loving those society deems as unlovable, and welcoming all to the table as He welcomes us-even though we are gathering around different communion tables at the moment. As we worship and fellowship from our homes, may we not forget the spirit and love that binds us together as a community of faith.

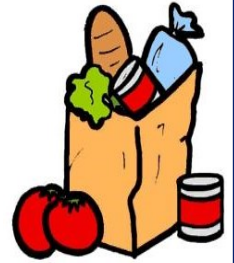
Blessings,
Tara

Join us for At Home Worship

At Home Worship on Facebook

Find us on Facebook at **First Christina Church (Disciples of Christ) of Emporia, KS** to join us for worship at 10:40 a.m. on Sundays!

During the month of January, the food pantry helped **89 families** with food, plus **various other items**, including **70 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
- Guy Bacon**
- Wanda Davis**
- Bonnie & Joe Denson**
- Brooke Franklin
- Joy Frevert**
- Karen Garnett**
- John Lewis
- Joe Lozier
- Rev. Steve Martin
- Jeanice Miller**
- Brooklyn Quick- **Jeanice Miller's** Great-Granddaughter
- Richard & Joann Rincon
- Curtis Rhoades**

Upcoming Serving Schedule

January 30th 2022

Elder~ Judy Moore
Worship Leader~ Jean Miller
Young Disciples~ Marlene Hanson

February 6th, 2022

Elder~ Janece Bacon
Worship Leader~ George Arnett
Young Disciples~ Judy Moore

Giving Record

GIVING RECORD

January 17, 2022 ~ Offering \$2,005.00/Building \$0.00
January 23, 2022~Offering \$1,685.00/Building \$2,000.00



JANUARY
Anniversaries

28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

FEBRUARY
Anniversaries

05 Jim & Judy Moore

JANUARY
Birthdays

26 Curtis Rhoades
27 Ginger Blades
29 Ed Mercer, Jr.
29 Joe Witten
31 Jim Norton

Mark The Dates

Until further notice, the method of meeting will be by Zoom.

Sundays at 10:40 am—Worship Service via Facebook Live
Mondays from 9:00—11:00 am—Food Pantry (Mask Required)
Mondays at 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts
Tuesdays at 12:15 pm—Noontime Prayers
Thursdays at 7:00 pm—Facebook Storytime

Mon. Jan. 24, 2022— Newsletter Deadline
 Wed. Feb. 2, 2022 10:15am— Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance
 Mon. Feb. 7, 2022— Newsletter Deadline
 Wed. Feb. 9, 2022 10:00am— NE KS Clergy— Topeka
 Wed. Feb. 9, 2022 1:30pm— DWF Group
 Wed. Feb. 9, 2022 4:00pm— Stewardship Ministry Meets
 Thurs. Feb. 10, 2022 4:00pm— Elders’ Meeting/Study

Follow us on our Vimeo channel!




FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH-EMPORIA

To help reach everyone during worship we will be sending out the weekly bulletin along with the link to Vimeo every weekend. The service will also be available on Facebook every Sunday morning at 10:40 a.m. If you have any questions please reach out to the church office.



CLOTHES CLOSET & HOUSEHOLD HUT WILL BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY DUE TO THE INCREASING COVID CASES OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS

THANK YOU FOR HELPING KEEP OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SAFE AND HEALTHY



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

Helping families in our community!

**Lectionary Schedule
January 30th—February
20th, 2022**

January 30th, 2022

Jeremiah 1:4-10
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30
Psalm 71:1-6

February 6th, 2022

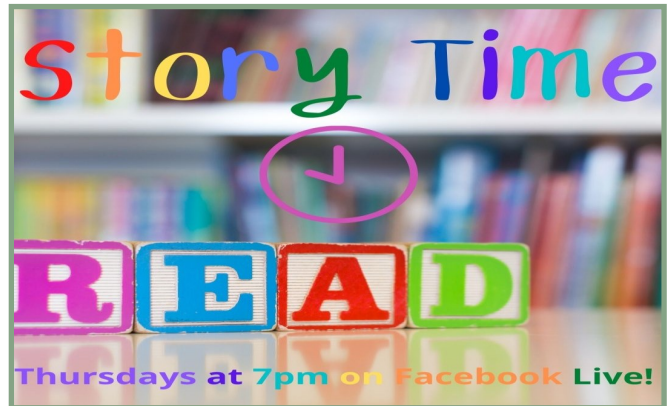
Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11
Psalm 138

February 13, 2022

Jeremiah 17:5-10
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26
Psalm 1

February 20, 2022

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40



FCC will be providing the evening meals for families in the Family Promise program the week of January 30th. If you would like to help with this ministry by preparing a meal, please contact Judy Moore or Lisa Rickabaugh.

First Christian Church is in need of plastic bags to use for our Food Pantry. If you have any and would like to give them to the church, please let the church office know. *-Thank You*



Notes From The Board

- Plans are underway for Lent which beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 2nd.
- Your tithes and offerings may be sent to, or dropped off at the church.
- As we meet virtually, worship services are available on Vimeo & Facebook.
- The sale of the parking lot to ESU has been finalized.
- The Crosswinds Therapeutic Preschool lease is renewed for 2022
- The Stewardship Ministry Team is preparing for the Annual Stewardship Campaign.

From you Stewardship Ministry Team

- It's that time again!
- Watch your mailbox for your 2022-2023 pledge drive campaign materials.
- Theme– Faithful, Hopeful, Loving
- It seems early to think about 2022-2023 when we just started 2022, but we have to plan ahead for
 - * ministries we want to continue
 - * new ministries that may be in store for us
- Please read the materials in your packet:
 - * Letter reminding us of how we are serving the community and each other, and information about the campaign
 - * Booklet with scripture and ways to be Faithful, Hopeful, Loving
 - * Pledge card and envelope to return your card to the church by Commitment Sunday, February 27,
- What will your commitment be in 2022-2023?
 - * Please prayerfully consider your commitment of
 - * Time, talent (your gifts), and treasure (your monetary resources)

Marie Harding and Diana Solis, Co-Chair



Our Lenten Study this year will be Witness at the Cross by AJ Levine; Pastor Tara will be leading this study. The cost of the book is \$13.49. We do not know yet if this study will be meeting by Zoom or in person, however we will meet on Thursdays at 10 am and 6 pm beginning on March 3-April 7. Please let the office know if you would like to sign up and which session you would like to attend.

In Witness at the Cross, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each Evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with a new insight. The witnesses at the Crucifixion watch Jesus die, and we watch with them, and we watch them. And we come away transformed.

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.”

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620-342-1582 Church Office

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Pastor: Rev. Tara Thompson

Email: tlynthompson@gmail.com



Office Hours

Monday- 8:00-11:30

Tuesday- 8:00-1:00

Wednesday- 8:00-12:00

Thursday- 8:00-11:30

Friday- 8:00-12:00

Next Newsletter Deadline

February 7, 2022 & February 21, 2022



February 2—February 10, 2022

Weekly Events

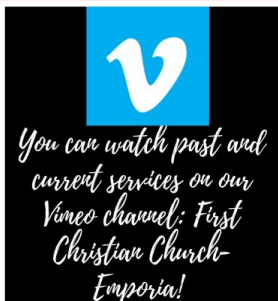
Sundays at 10:40am~ Worship Service (via Zoom)

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



FEBRUARY

Wednesday **2**

10:15am~ Lyon Co. Ministerial Alliance

Monday **7**

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday **9**

10:00am~ NE KS Clergy
1:30pm~ DWF Group (via Zoom)
4:00pm~ Stewardship Ministry

Thursday **10**

4:00pm~ Elders' Meeting/Study

WHAT IS BETHANY FELLOWS?

Bethany Fellows is a mentoring and spiritual leadership ministry for young clergy in their first four years of congregational service. Originally based on a grant through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment, this work has now been extended as an ongoing response to the need for bright, healthy and spiritually savvy clergy to meet the challenges of today's and tomorrow's church and building a cadre of leaders for the wider church as well.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF BETHANY FELLOWS?

Bethany Fellows serves congregations by assisting newly ordained pastors in their transition from seminary to sustained congregational ministry with a strengthened, healthy pastoral identity.

HOW DOES BETHANY FELLOWS CONNECT WITH DISCIPLES?

While the Bethany Fellows model is now also serving ecumenically as a pattern for healthy spiritual development, we were chartered to serve young Disciple ministers. Our fiduciary accountabilities are through Community Christian Church/KC and the Christian Church Foundation.