



First Christian Church News

(Disciples of Christ) Emporia, KS

January 10th, 2023

VOLUME 72 NO. 1

JANUARY 10, 2023

Reflection

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday in the sermon, I called you and the whole congregation to a time of discerning prayer as we prepare to gather on January 22 for an exercise designed to help the congregation explore its future and articulate our response to the key questions:

1. Who does God call this congregation to be?
2. What does God call this congregation to do?

Individually and communally we are always facing decisions. Sometimes they are quite easy – what should I wear today or what should we eat tonight; but other times they are tormenting – for what vocation should I prepare, should I change jobs, who should we call as a leader, how do we balance the budget? These two questions which we will focus upon come January 22 are tough questions.

Frank Rogers defines discernment as the intentional practice by which a community or an individual seeks, recognizes, and intentionally takes part in the activity of God in concrete situations. Rogers outlines one way to engage in such discernment which involves several steps.

1. Become aware of as many dimensions of the decision before us as possible. We consider the consequences, gather information, gain insight from others, and even consult experts if need be.
2. Devote a particular amount of time – from a few days to several weeks – to considering the negative side or the decision we feel least inclined to choose. We reflect on what life would be like if this were our choice. We would continue to pray and listen for God’s movement. We would allow all of our emotions, thoughts, and stirrings to surface and then reflect upon them. Are we attracted towards this decision or repelled by it.
3. Discern if the source of these emotions, thoughts, and stirrings were divine or from another source such as our own wants and desires. This step calls for painful honesty and self-awareness. Here we ask ourselves if the source of these emotions, thoughts, and stirrings is life giving or destructive.
4. Repeat the second and third step with the decision we feel most inclined to choose. We ask ourselves what life would be like if this were our choice. What is the source of the emotions, thoughts, and stirrings? Is it life giving or destructive?
5. After some time, we would make a tentative decision and spend some more time living with, praying and reflecting on it so we might receive confirmation from God that this is the right decision.
6. Act in the direction that seems most in tune with the movements of the Spirit.

This process does not always lead to absolute certainty but it brings us into step with the activity of God (Rogers, Practices 107-110).

I’ve included the handout from Sunday’s bulletin as well. This handout includes two prayers to use in your discernment as well as some additional guidelines. I hope you will diligently engage in this period of discernment.

Peace be with you,
Dale

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Join us for Worship
In Person Worship

We are meeting at the church for worship at 10:40 a.m. on Sunday mornings! We are using pre-packaged communion. We hope to see you Sunday!

At Home Worship on Facebook/Vimeo



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! Find us on Vimeo at **First Christian Church— Emporia.**

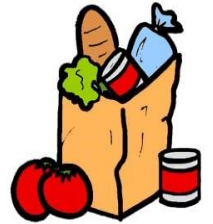


Upcoming Serving Schedule

January 15th, 2023
Elder~ Marie Harding
Worship Leader~ Jaylene Arnett

January 22nd, 2023
Elder~ Jaylene Arnett
Worship Leader~ Janet Lostutter

During the month of December/ January , the food pantry helped **132 families** with food, plus **various other items**, including **16 doz. Eggs**,



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.

Church Family Prayer List

Sharon Ball's Family
Joy Frevert's Friend
Dick Hubert
Max- Janece Bacon's Brother
Jennifer & Michael
Jeanice Miller, Kenny Miller
Jacob Ramirez Son of Sonya Ihde
Dee Thompson & Bill Simpson
Brooklyn Quick, Jeanice Miller's Great-Granddaughter
 ~Our sympathy to the family and friends of Novella Merry on her passing~
 ~The church as we go through the transition process with Pastor Dale Matherly~

Attendance and Giving Record

ATTENDANCE & GIVING RECORD

December 18th, 2022 ~ SS 28/49 AH & IP Worship
December 25th, 2022 ~ 42 AH & IP Worship
January 1st, 2023 ~ SS 12/35 AH & IP Worship
January 8th, 2023 ~ SS 11/43 AH & IP Worship

GIVING RECORD

December 18th, 2022 ~ Offering \$1,545.00/
 Spec. Offering \$80.00
December 25th, 2022~ Offering \$920.00/
 Spec. Offering \$130.00
Jan. 1st, 2023 ~ Offering \$1,499.00
Jan. 8th, 2023 ~ Offering \$760.00/ Spec. Offering \$13.00



Birthdays and Anniversaries

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 16 David & Kaari Harding
- 19 Jesse & Dina Solis
- 28 Larry & Glenna Gamblian

JANUARY Birthdays

- 06 Janis Thogmartin
- 10 Nancy Mayer
- 21 Brenda Hall

Mark The Dates

Sundays at 9:30am— Sunday School

Sundays at 10:40 am—Worship Service
via In Person & Facebook Live

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

Jan. 11, 2023 1:30pm—DWF Group

Jan. 11, 2023 4:00pm—Stewardship Meeting

Jan. 16, 2023—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 18, 2023 6:00pm—Board Meeting

Jan. 23, 2023—Newsletter Deadline

Food Pantry Needs

- 16 oz Jar Peanut Butter
- 15 oz Can Fruits
- 15 oz Can Vegetables
- Saltine Crackers
- Ramen Noodles
- Toilet Paper
- 5 oz Can Tuna & Chicken
- Mac N Cheese
- Soup
- Pork N Beans
- Instant Oatmeal Packets

With the rising cost of food our food pantry needs some help. This is a list of the items in the bags we give out. Donations of any of these items would be very helpful! This is a continuing need and your help is greatly appreciated!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the many warm greetings, cards, holiday snacks, and gifts from the congregation. They are much appreciated. I am thankful for you and your commitment to God expressed through the ministry of this congregation.

Peace be with you,
Dale



**Lectionary Schedule
January 15th, 2023—
February 5th, 2023**

January 15th, 2023

Isaiah 49:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
Psalm 40:1-11

January 22nd, 2023

Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23
Psalm 27:1, 4-9

January 29th, 2023

Micah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12
Psalm 15

February 5th, 2023

Isaiah 58:1-9a(9b-12)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)



Join us for an Appreciative Inquiry Conversation

On Sunday, January 22, we hope you will participate in an important conversation about who God calls us to be as congregation and what God calls us to do as a congregation. We will begin with a modified worship service that will include communion and continue with facilitated conversations among all participants. The conversations will include exploration of questions in pairs, small groups, and a group of the whole. The Transition Team anticipates this conversation will lead to further clarity about our purpose as a congregation.

Lunch will be included with this opportunity to make progress on our goals. The menu is shepherd's pie.

A Prayer for Beginning Your Day

Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace.

Help me to rely on your holy will.

In every hour of the day reveal your will to me.

Bless my dealings with all who surround me.

Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul and with the firm belief that your will governs all.

Guide my words and deeds, my thoughts and feelings.

Teach me to act firmly and wisely without embittering or embarrassing others. Give me the strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring.

Direct my will. Teach me to pray. Pray yourself in me.

Amen.

— Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow, 1826-1867

Participant Requirements for Communal Discernment Toward Consensus:

- Trust that the resolution has the potential to be based on something larger than self-interest and partisanship.
- Seek personal wisdom about God's direction for the community, laying aside control and esteem needs for the sake of finding God's leading through the whole community.
- Create a safe space to speak and process that includes the voices of everyone present, which may sometimes necessitate small group sharing.
- Remain open to the wisdom of other participants, even when it may not sound like wisdom upon first hearing.

Questions and Activities for Authentic Discernment

- Recall a decision that in retrospect was a wise one. How did you make it? What factors did you weigh? With whom did you consult? What would have been the consequences if you had made a different decision?
- Recall a decision you made that you now regret. What was the process by which you make that decision? Have you since discovered clues about how you could have made that decision differently?
- Make a short list of people you might call when you are faced with a tough decision. What do you look for from these people? How do they help you?
- As a group, role-play the process of communal discernment as if you were a decision-making body of your community. You could choose a real decision that faces your community to come up with a hypothetical scenario.
- Encounter scripture using a contemplative approach, such as lectio divina.

A Prayer for Your Practice of Discernment

As we look for what to do,

May your strong hand, O God, be upon our shoulder

guiding, admonishing,

and the wisdom of all eyes be our sight.

May the courage of the martyrs be our inspiration,

pushing us beyond our fear, beyond mere wanting.

May our foolishness for Christ shame worldly wisdom.

May our ears gather up the voice of the Spirit.

May we not take ourselves so seriously that we neglect to nurture joy in our being together.

Neither may we find cause to fear laying out our hearts.

Root deception out of us.

Convert appetite for power to hunger for justice.

May our ears gather up the voice of the Spirit.

Amen.

— Lani Wright, Cottage Grove, Oregon

First Christian Church

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Web Page: www.fcemporio.org

Email Office: fccoffices@yahoo.com

“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.”

Office Hours

Monday- 8:00-12:00

Tuesday- 8:00-12:00

Wednesday- 8:00-12:00

Thursday- 8:00-12:00

Friday- 8:00-12:00



Next Newsletter Deadline

January 23rd, 2023 & February 6th, 2023



January 9—January 23rd, 2023

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

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

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

*Even through troubled waters
God is with you*

Isaiah 43:2

JANUARY

Wednesday **11**

1:30pm ~ DWF Group

4:00pm ~ Stewardship Meeting

Monday **16**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday **18**

6:00pm ~ Board Meeting

Monday **23**

Newsletter Deadline



Family Promise of the Flint Hills is looking for volunteers to help with food delivery for its shelter program.

Director Jessica Corpening says volunteer groups, whether through businesses or civic organizations, are desired. Families using the Family Promise shelter plan their meals for the week and create a grocery list, with groups then shopping for groceries and delivering the food to Family Promise.

Seven local churches and two schools are currently involved. Family Promise would like to add at least four groups to this effort.

Groups interested in joining the delivery rotation can call Corpening at 620-208-7774 or go online to familypromiseoftheflinthillsks.org for information.