

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples of Christ

Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.

FEBRUARY 2024



A ministry of the whole Church, serving vulnerable communities throughout the world. As a relief mission we work with partners to alleviate suffering. Any time we respond to a need, we bear witness to the unity of the Lord's Table, faithfully sharing the gifts that we have received as an expression of Christ's love.

Offerings to this ministry will be received at First Christian on February 18 and 25.

CONTENTS Minister Page 2

Coordinating Council Page 3 Stewardship

Page 4

Outreach Page 5

Church Happenings Page 6

> Fellowship Page 7

Church Life Page 8

Soup Supper/Talent Show Page 9

> Discipleship Page 10

Disciples Men Pages 11

From Cradles to Crayons Page 12

> All About Us Page 13

STATEMENT OF MISSION

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called to witness to all humankind with a spiritual vitality that embraces inclusiveness and Christ-like justice. Therefore, we seek to be a community that **reaches in** to one another, **reaches up** to God, and **reaches out** to the world with the love of Jesus Christ.

A Word From Laurie....



Probably the best word to describe January this year is **frigid**! February promises to start us off with warmer weather...you know, above the 30s!

Thank you for my continuing education time at Phillips Theological Seminary. The topic was *Mapping Ministry in a Changed World: Charting New Terrain*. It was also great to see colleagues again, and to see grandsons.

Our first February celebration of worship, February 4, will be the annual Scout Sunday. It is always a joy to have the scouts with us in worship. They will be joining us as we talk about Jonah.

On February 13, join the fun at the Flint Hills Bread Basket as we prepare the pallets of food for the food banks in neighboring communities.

With Lent starting on Valentine's Day, we will have a brief service of ashes and prayer in the Sanctuary at 6 pm, so those of you who have dinner plans with your sweetheart can still make dinner reservations.

And from there, we jump right into Lent. Our worship series and theme will be **what r u up 2**? *Get up to something* instead of *giving something up*. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name.

There will be Lenten Journals available in the Welcome Center for you to use for daily devotion and prayer. Bible study will start again February 21 at 5:30 - 7. There is a sign up sheet in the kitchen for bringing food to share. We will have the privilege of conversing again with Rev. Arthur Stewart. The topic of our study will be the *I Am* sayings of Jesus.

Be looking forward to our 2^{nd} annual Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Festival on Saturday, March 30, 10 – 11 am. The actual hunt last year, with over 100 eggs took 4 minutes! This year while people are gathering there will be face painting, magic, games, and fun to be had. Please provide plastic eggs and wrapped candies. There is a container in the Welcome Center for your contributions to this activity.

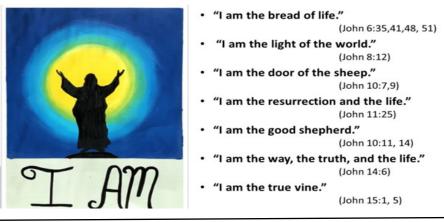
Thank you for all you are and do!

See you at the Table! Laurie



BIBLE STUDY IN LENT

Reverend Arthur Stewart will lead us in a Lenten Bible Study Wednesday evenings February 21 though March 20. The study will cover Jesus' "I AM" teachings. We will meet in our Community Room for a light supper, 5:30 pm, and discussion from 6-7 pm. Sign up on the clipboard in the Community Room to share soup, bread, salad, or dessert for these lively sessions! Just let us know if you want childcare.



COORDINATING COUNCIL

Greetings and Blessings to you, your family, and your friends. Please join me in thanking Debi Rogers for serving as Coordinating Council Chair the past two years! The Coordinating Council held their January meeting virtual via Zoom so all would not have to venture out in the cold, wind, and snow on January 14. A special thank you to all who made the Advent, Christmas, and New Years season magical. Wonderful worship services, music and decorations. Also, thank you to all those who keep the church grounds cleared off and the church building warm and comfortable for our January worship services. We had a wonderful Laity Sunday Service January 21 learning from Ron and Heather Thomas about their mission trips to Cuba. We also installed our 2024 lay servant leaders. February is the time of year for Raffle Baskets and the annual Soup Supper/Talent Show (February 18) with funds raised going to sending the youth to Summer Church Camp. Now it is the time of the year for Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day (February 14) and the start of the Lent season. We have a warm and friendly church, so, invite a neighbor/friend to come to worship and to these special events with you.

Love and Peace,

Grant Chapman, Coordinating Council Chair



Servant Leadership Installation—January 21, 2024



Show off your FCC heart while you drive around Manhattan. Ashley VanGilder is selling decals for \$2 for display on the rear windows of our car. Find her before or after service to get yours!

STEWARDSHIP

As you recovered from the unusual January weather, I trust you had enough time sitting in a warm house reflecting on the abundance of blessings that God provides for you each day. And thinking about how you can give a portion of your treasures to support the work of our church during 2024. I will not emphasize the concept of "giving of our treasures" as it relates to "Tithing" (Malachi 3:10-11) but scriptures do suggest that we bring everything to the storehouse. You can establish your own definition and personal understanding of tithing.

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry Team and our Finance Team I extend a thank-you for giving of your treasures and pray for your support in 2024 and the years ahead. We do have challenges but by working together we can position First Christian Church on a forward path of financial stability with an

opportunity to continue to spread the love of Jesus throughout our local community and beyond. God has given us intellectual capacities to be wise and creative in giving of our treasures!! Let's work together and implement these important options.

In the recent past several members of our church family have participated in informational sessions dealing with the topic of Multiple Stewardship Giving Opportunities. There are infinite ways to provide effective philanthropic stewardship throughout the year. We have assembled information that describes the optimal use of cash contributions, effective use of retirement/savings/ investment accounts, trusts, wills, stock gifts, IRA charitable rollovers and Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), development of personal and FCC owned life insurance policies, and gifting of physical properties, plus more. Many of these options (short-term and long-term) can be coalesced together for



the benefit of the giver and FCC. The current program, titled "Giving of Our Treasures Program" has been updated to include changes in the tax laws. Copies are available in the church office.

The Stewardship Ministry Team wants you to know that we are here to help you. Just contact the church (785-776-8790) and we will offer opportunities that address various ways of providing input, direction, and support to encourage and guide your philanthropic stewardship throughout the year. Also, on a very personal and confidential basis we will offer and discuss these materials in ways that will integrate with your concept of tithing.

Rich Gallagher,

Stewardship Ministry Team Chair (2020-2023)



Flint Hills Breadbasket

Greatest Needs: Canned Meat, Sugar, Syrup, White Rice, Dish Soap, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Conditioner

We may take having all these things for granted in our homes. But not so with people who are financially stressed. Please bring your February donations to the church on the 11th to help us fill the Breadbasket shelves.

Make a difference with kindness!

LOCAL AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY!

While we may be celebrating the last big game of the football season, there are many people throughout our area struggling to meet their basic needs and Manhattan is not exempt. More than 25% of our community lives at, or below, the poverty level.

We know that donations to many food pantries tend to decline after the holiday season, yet the need for food continues. Souper Bowl Weekend was created to help raise awareness of those who are experiencing food insecurity and to collect donations for our local food pantry.

Again, this year FCC will be participating with other local churches in this worthy effort. The Flint Hills Breadbasket will be accepting both food and hygiene ducts (greatest need: sugar, white rice, syrup, canned meat, shampoo, conditioner, dish soap & toilet paper). Please



bring your donations to the church on February 11 to help us fill the shelves of the Breadbasket.

A big thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of FCC's monthly food drives which support the Breadbasket and its satellite food pantries.

BE A "TEFAP TUESDAY" VOLUNTEER AT THE FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET!

We will be seeking FCC volunteers to once again help at the Flint Hills Breadbasket food pantry on



February 13 to prepare The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food pallets for regional distribution. This job is critical for the Breadbasket food bank to ensure that food from TEFAP gets delivered to the surrounding communities.

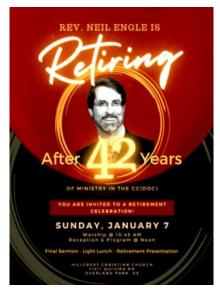
Everyone who has participated in this event in the past has enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to work alongside fellow FCC brethren. We continue to make this a regular volunteer event every other month. A SignUp Genius email will be sent out in early February for sign-ups.

EASTER EGGS AND WRAPPED CANDIES

Plastic Easter eggs and wrapped candies are needed for our neighborhood Easter egg hunt. Please bring your donations to the church office, or place them in the basket in the welcoming center near the church entrance. It is amazing how many are needed for this fun filled neighborhood event.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS



Rev Neil Engle, who served as minister at FCC Manhattan from 2002 to 2009, was recognized for his 42 years of ministry with a special retirement celebration on 7 Hillcrest January at Christian Church, Overland Park. A number of current and former Manhattan folks were there to wish him well. Pictured here are part of the Manhattan group who were in attendance.





God bless those among us who see a need and meet it. Pictured on the left are Steve Jankord and Dave Rogers who got out on a frigid day in January o help folks get their driveways and steps cleared of over 5 inches of snow.

Pictured on the right is the front door opener which has been relocated from a wall to the actual door for easy access. Thank you, Dave Rogers!





Disciples Women Faith Sisters Group enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship on a cold snowy January night at the home of Heather Thomas. Pictured L-R Back row: Alice Trussell, Barb King, Tresa Landis, Marilyn Masterson, Kay Stith, & Ruby Brower. Front Row: Pam Crawford, Susan Brabrec, Heather Thomas, Linda Uthoff, Linda Gallagher, & Pam Russell

Fellowship

"**MEALS WITH FAITH FRIENDS**" begins soon – have you signed up? It is a great way to make new friends, and renew friendships with not-so-new ones. The host provides the location (usually their home or the church Community/ Fellowship Hall) decides the date and time, furnishes the main dish, and coordinates side dishes with the others. Traditionally this is an evening meal, but some groups may decide to do brunch (can you tell this is a low pressure, flexible event?). Each month is hopefully a new mix of people.

We are aiming for the weekends of Feb 23-25, March 22-24, and April 26-28. You can sign up for the month(s) that works for you. Singles are definitely welcome. If you don't want to commit you can also sign up to be a substitute. I highly encourage you to participate. The more the merrier!

There is a signup sheet in the Welcoming Center area and another in the office so you can call Marian and she can sign you up. We are asking for names, number of people, month(s) you can participate, month(s) available to host (if you can), address, email, any food allergies, and do you have pets in the home (if so, what – again, related to allergies).

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE: Did you know that the great tasting coffee we serve at all fellowship events comes from Equal Exchange, one of the first authentic Fair Trade companies (founded in 1986)? Equal Exchange partners with farmer cooperatives who are democratically organized, sharing resources and decision-making among their members. Collectively, they gain crucial market access and decide how to invest fair trade and organic premiums in their communities. Equal Exchange now sources from over 40 small farmer organizations around the world.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR LISA BERGGREN!

This new column for our newsletter will be written by Pam Crawford highlighting church members who contribute greatly to our church life. This month we honor Lisa Berggren.

Lisa, an only child, grew up on a farm. She has a Bachelor Degree from K-State in Piano Performance. She has been the amazing pianist for FCC since the 1990's. Lisa has been teaching piano in her private studio for 30 years.

She works for Edward Jones in Junction City and recently completed her Financial Planner professional designation.



She and Tim were married at FCC in 2005 and Tim brought 2 wonderful daughters to the marriage. They now have 2 grandchildren as well.

In May 2011, Tim and Lisa moved from Manhattan home to the family farm. Tim runs the farm as well as their business called Meuli, Inc. Lisa loves to drive the combine at harvest time and Tim epitomizes the overalls he wears—a real Kansas farmer!

Thank you, Lisa for your service to First Christian Church, and thank you, Tim, for supporting her ministry.

Pam Crawford

CHURCH LIFE



New Year's Worship and fellowship.



Heather and Ron Thomas shared their mission experience in Cuba for the message on Laity Sunday.

Jeremiah Charles VanGilder was dedicated recently during worship.



SCOUT SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 4!

Cub Scouts and their leaders will participate in worship on this special Sunday. We always love celebrating the good works of our Cub Scouts and are grateful for their excellent leadership.



DEACON LUNCHEON

We had a very good luncheon to celebrate the installation of the new Deacons for 2024-2026. The luncheon also included all Deacons past and present and their families, with 26 people attending. Thank you to Renate Woodmansee, Linda Gallagher, Linda Uthoff, Kylia Lewis and Ron Jones for helping in some way with the set up and serving of the meal. It make for a good start to the new year.

Thank you all and may we have a most blessed year.

Marilyn Lewis, Deacon Chair

COMING UP THIS MONTH!



Golden Ladle Competition 5:00 pm

Come sample and vote for your favorite soup! The chef whose soup raises the most money will be deemed the Golden Ladle winner!

Talent Show 6:30 pm



All are welcome to perform at the talent show!

Basket Raffle winners and Golden Ladle Winner will be announced at the conclusion of the Talent Show.

It is January, and time for the annual FCC Camp Fundraising activities. FCC has traditionally given scholarships to cover the registration fees of our youth that want to attend camp at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. The Basket Raffle ushers in this money-making event with a display of the baskets in the Narthex each Sunday Morning until the Soup Supper. Interested in helping with a basket? Contact Ashley VanGilder for more information. View the baskets and purchase tickets before and after worship each Sunday.

Raffle chances are 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, and 14 for \$10. You do not need to be present to win, but we encourage everyone to buy tickets, and join the fun at the Soup Supper and Talent Show.

The Soup Supper will include the Golden Ladle contest, where members of the congregation share their cooking talents with us. The competition is open to all who wish to make their favorite soup and share. Those in attendance may sample the soup entries and then make a monetary donation towards the one(s) they like. Donation jars will be next to each of the soups for your vote. Any amount is accepted; the soup that earns the most money will be deemed worthy of the "Golden Ladle" award. All are welcome to enjoy the soups, even if they do not wish to vote. The winning participant's name and their soup will be written on our prestigious "Camp Style" trophy.

The Talent Show will immediately follow the soup supper. Any talent is wanted! We share whatever gift we have, vocal, instrument, drama, humor — we want it ALL! Linda Uthoff can answer your questions about this fun event.

This is a great way to support this worthy cause!

DISCIPLESHIP



CHURCH CAMP SEASON WILL BE HERE SOON!

Do you know? FCC sends our young people to Church Camp at Disciples Center at Tawakoni for FREE!

This makes a huge impact on their lives! It takes an average of \$400 to send each student, so please help us with your scholarship donation, raffle item/tickets, soup or silent auction bid! What a gift to these young people from their Church!

We sent FIVE last year. Lets make it a goal to send even MORE this year!

Please contact Ashley VanGilder if you have any questions and to get the registration link.

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The church nursery is open every Sunday morning for children 0-Preschool. From Cradles to Crayons Teachers staff the Nursery: Ms. Ruby, Ms. Samatha, and Ms. Sophia.

TRUTH Youth Group (Jr/Sr High) meets each week, usually right after church for a light meal. TRUTH Youth & Project MHK students continue to offer free tutoring to students on Monday nights at FCC and Flint Hills Children's Choir rehearses that evening as well.

WORSHIP MESSAGES IN FEBRUARY

February 4	I Don't Deliver Good News	Jonah 3.1-5, 10
February 11	If I Had the Wisdom of Solomon	2 Kings.1-12
February 18	Bitter or Better	Genesis 9.8-17
February 25	My Tears in Your Bottle	Mark 8.31-38

Manhattan Voices Choir

All Manhattan area folks who like to sing-along together are welcome to join this informal choir. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm in the Sanctuary. No experience necessary! Just come sing for the fun of it.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Your own personal Daily Journal for Lent is available for you on the counter in the Welcoming Center at church.

The idea is to really dig deep and take this time to reflect on your life and on your relationship with God – so treat yourself to a brand new journal for this exploration. Plan to spend 10 minutes a day ruminating on the questions and writing. As you take this time to chart your inner landscape, you may discover some hidden treasures!

Along the way, you will get to see where your life is in alignment with your spiritual path, where your spiritual journey mirrors Jesus' journey, what pursuits you've been up to

CE DIRECTOR OFFICE HOURS

Ashley VanGilder can be reached at 620-218-2594 Monday, 9:25-10:10am; Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:40-10:30am; Thursday, 10:05-11am; and everyday, after 3:30pm. She can also be reached via email any time of day. ashley@fccmanhattan.org

DISCIPLES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Due to bad weather Disciples Men didn't meet in person, but they did have a chance via email to contemplate the reflection scheduled for that breakfast group.

SOMETIMES IT IS JUST HARD TO BE POSITIVE....

I need to develop a better attitude in 2024. I know this will not be easy. I tend to dwell on the things that irritate me like poor road conditions, roundabout construction, the relentless barrage of computer or phone scams, the Chiefs receivers dropping yet another catchable pass. It is exhausting....this can really wear a guy out! Perhaps there are alternative means of dealing with things of this nature instead of letting them get to me.

There is no shortage of studies or action plans dealing with overcoming negativity. A quick Google search rendered 30,900,644 results. Evidently, I am not alone in seeking to be more positive.

It will take effort to flush out these thoughts and replace them with gratitude and joy. Will it be worth the effort? I believe it can and should be worth it.

In this election year I realize political vitriol has only begun. By late October I realized I must find ways to focus my attention on other things. A return to Waikiki would do me a world of good. Don't' you agree?

Or perhaps I need to own my negativity and take steps to overcome it. Translation: Do something about it!

Many of us set forth to establish new year resolutions. According to what I have read, very few actually achieve them...mostly because their resolutions lack specificity. For example, one resolution often heard is, "I will get healthier in 2024". But what does this really mean? Resolutions are more likely to be achieved if they are specific and measurable. Example: "I will only use <u>one</u> packet of sweetener in my morning coffee for the next three months", would be a specific, measurable goal. I think I will attempt this and see what happens.



Ultimately, I hold the keys to improving my attitude. I must

"want" to improve it and take action steps to do so. However, there is a tool at my disposal to help me this year: Scripture. When it comes to overcoming negativity, a scripture passage that resonates with me is **John 15:11**. "These things have I spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

Another passage is: **Philippians 4:6–7** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

How is your attitude so far this year? Would you also benefit from some scripture reading?

Robert Russell, Coordinator

Next Men's Fellowship is Tuesday, February 13, 8 am at Vista. Following the breakfast, all in the group who are able will go to the Flint Hills Breadbasket at 9:30 am to join other FCC volunteers. There is plenty to do—the more that come, the better!

FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE



It has been a very cold, but great start to the year! We were able to work through this January winter weather and keep everyone safe. The parents have appreciated us opening the doors by the circle entrance, during this very cold weather. We also made it through the holidays with our 4 college students gone. Between our awesome subs and dedicated staff that were willing to work more hours, I would say it was a non-event.

We have hired some new staff, Hannah is an asst. teacher and the closer in the Investigators room. I also hired a sub that can help out when needed, her name is Kynzie Underwood. If her name sounds familiar, it is my youngest daughter. We are excited to have them with us and welcome them to FCC. We will be saying goodbye to one of our assistant teachers, Flora. We wish her luck on her move!

The enrollment is looking great and I just recently got 2 calls for the 1 yr old room. We will have 2 new children starting in Explorers and in the April/May time frame we will have 5 babies that will be turning 1 and moving up in that room as well. We have 4 spots that we are opening up as drop in care or short term spots until those babies are ready to transition. With this being said we will finally have 9 in Explorers!! The Discoverers are full and I have babies waiting to take 6 of those spots when they transition up. Adventurers just had one transition into their room and have a new one starting at the end of the month. They will have 9 and be at full capacity! Inventors have 1 transitioning up into their room and will have 1 new kid starting soon. They will also be full with 10 kids!! Investigators remain full with 10 kids! It has been a good start this year with our enrollment! Yay!

I am looking forward to a new year, with some new beginnings. Not only at FCC, but in my personal life. We welcomed our first grandbaby on January 22 and we can't be more excited to be a Memaw & Papaw! We are thrilled to join the grandparents club!!

Life has been good and I appreciate all the support and look forward to all the blessings to come.

Chan'Tal Underwood, Director





Page 12

ALL ABOUT US



I thank First Christian for the beautiful flowers that came to the hospital during my stay, and for the cards and calls from church folks. It feels so good to be back home! *Love, Virginia Wesley*

I want to shout out a big thank you to everyone that gave me help, support and encouragement before, during and after foot surgery. It kept me going. *Marilyn Lewis*

We thank you so much for your prayers for our family when our newborn grandson was experiencing pneumonia. We cannot begin to tell you how much that touches our hearts. God bless you all!

Chan'Tal and Russell Underwood



CONGRATULATIONS!

Ricky Gutierrez, a grandson of Richard & Linda Gallagher, has been recognized as a **2024**

Kansas Horizon Award winner.

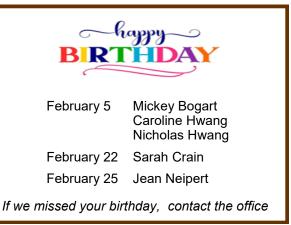
This program sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, rewards teachers who have served as outstanding representatives of excellent teaching in the state's elementary and secondary classrooms during their first year of teaching. Out of the many first-year teachers in Kansas, 16 are chosen



each year as Elementary Horizon Award winners.

Ricky, is a K-State graduate, and he teaches at Turner Elementary School in Kansas City, KS

Ricky, you are a blessing in this world!



TREASURES IN THE TRUNK SALE"

A perfect way to recycle things you no longer want in your home.

Coming in April—watch for more details.



NEW BABY!

Congratulations to Chan'Tal Underwood and her husband, Russell, now grandparents! Heston Brooks was born January 22 to Bry'anna and Austin Nachbar.

OUR SYMPATHY

.We reach out in sympathy to Floyd Price and his family at the death of his wife, Phyllis, on January 22 in Newton, Ks. Cards may be sent to Floyd at Kansas Christian Home, 401 Bender Lane, Newton, KS 67114

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Relations Committee is scheduled to meet in the middle of the months of February, May, August, and November in 2024. The first meeting is scheduled for February 18 at noon.

PRC members are Frank Hwang (Elder Chair), Dave Woodmansee, Deb Marfield, Carolyn White, and Ron Thomas.

Frank Hwang, Elder Chair



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 3001 GRAND MERE PARKWAY, MANHATTAN, KS 66503 785.776.8790 fccmanhattan.org

Minister: Rev. Laurie Lewis Christian Education Director: Ashley VanGilder From Cradles to Crayons Director: Chan'Tal Underwood Church Secretary: Marian Fuller Property Co-Chairs: Fred Landis John Trussell Coordinating Council: Chair: Grant Chapman Chair-Elect: David Woodmansee Secretary: Ruby Brower Trustee Chair: Álice Trussell Elder Chair: Frank Hwang Deacon Chair: Marilyn Lewis Ministry Team Chairs: Discipleship: Linda Uthoff Fellowship: Debi Rogers Local & Global Outreach Co-chairs: Ann Foster Ron Thomas Stewardship: Richard Gallagher Worship & Spiritual Life: Pam Russell

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