



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Disciples of Christ

Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.

CONTENTS

Minister
Page 2

Coordinating Council
Page 3

Stewardship
Page 4

Outreach
Page 5

Soup Supper/Talent Show
Page 6, 7

Fellowship
Page 8

Church Life
Page 9

Scouts
Page 10, 11

Discipleship
Page 12

Men & Women Fellowship
Pages 13

From Cradles to Crayons
Page 14

All About Us
Page 17

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.

MARCH 2024



MARCH 24 10:30 A.M. PALM SUNDAY

Walk through the Easter processional
immediately after worship

MARCH 28 6:00 P.M. MAUNDY THURSDAY

TENEBRAE, SILENCE, LORD'S SUPPER

MARCH 30 10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

EASTER FESTIVAL AND EGG HUNT

MARCH 31 EASTER

9:30 A.M. BRUNCH

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

Don't Miss A Thing!

A WORD FROM LAURIE....



Just when we think it is time to put up the sweaters, the wind blows in and brings a dusting of snow. Makes it feel like spring is arriving!

February was full of fun. Besides the Super Bowl, and K State basketball; we has the annual camp fundraiser: The Soup Contest and Talent Show. What a delightful evening of laughter, talent, and delicious food. Thanks to all who joined in for such a worthwhile cause.

what r u up 2? Our worship theme for Lent has helped us think of ways we can do little things that will make a difference in another's life. The image of hot air balloons flying upward in our sanctuary is great. Special thanks to Pam Russell and Deb Marfield for their amazing creativity! There is even a passenger in one of the balloons! Can you believe it – Easter is in 5 weeks!

On March 30th, we will have our annual Easter Festival and Egg Hunt. Come help us make Easter a favorite holiday for children in our neighborhood. We learned a lot last year about what we need to do to make the event special *and* ways to keep the children busy while they wait for the egg hunt. Join in helping make the party memorable!

The Lenten Bible Study continues through March. The topic of our study is the *I Am* sayings of Jesus. My thanks to Steve Dyer and Linda Uthoff for helping lead the discussions. As always, the cooks are outdoing themselves. It's not too late to check it out.

We will be an election polling place for the primaries on March 19th. Please remember the County sets up the machines on Monday, the 18th; and collects the equipment on the 20th. **Our main responsibility** is to stay out of the Community Hall, away from the voting machines and the voters. If for some reason you need to meet, or come to the church on the 19th, please use the office entrance and meet in the conference room. What a privilege to have our neighbors voting in our facilities. We have already heard how much they love getting to be in our space!

In Regional responsibilities, I will be in Salina on the 8th and 9th as part of the Committee on Ministry as we encourage and evaluate candidates for ordination. It is a honor to share in their exploration of who God is calling them to be. Also, I am serving on the taskforce to encourage our Region's congregational leaders to take advantage of the scholarships we have received from the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita. This year, KLC is asking churches to send more than one to participate. They have learned over the years that organizations who send a team of participants have better success in implementing Adaptive Changes in their congregations. Many of you have already participated in KLC, but a refresher with fellow church cohorts will be very helpful! I will be talking to our Elders and Coordinating Council about considering this opportunity.

Finally, a heads up about Earth Day in April. We will be hosting an Interfaith Service with our friends we made at the Thanksgiving Service last fall. It will be on Sunday afternoon, April 21st. People will be invited to come and enjoy our hills starting at 3. Hiking, learning, playing together until we are called into worship by the Shofar. Following the service, we will invite all to join us for conversation and treats in the Community Hall. The combined choir will be singing *Look at the World*, by John Rutter. Please know, depending on the weather, we could have well over 100 attending.

It is such a joy to be alongside you in ministry!

Laurie

COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Lenten Season is upon us. The Coordinating Council and Ministry Teams met on February 11. They will meet next on March 17. Thank you to all who made February Worship and events so special. We had a good celebration of Scouting on Scout's Sunday. We had a reflective meditative Ash Wednesday service and a wonderful Soup and Talent Show on February 18. Lent is a season to be reflective concerning our relationship with Jesus and God. As you reflect and celebrate Lent in your individual way, please also think about your relationship with First Christian Church Manhattan. The Church and our community have many needs, please keep fulfilling those needs by using your time, your talent, and your treasure for the Church.

Love and Peace,

Grant Chapman, Coordinating Council Chair

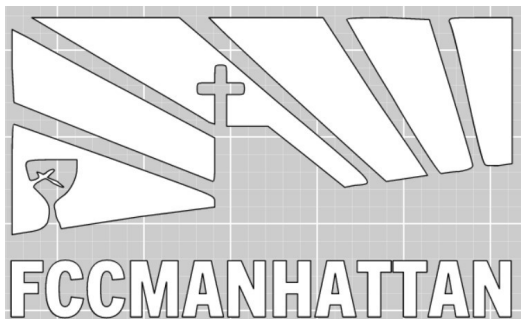
Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10th



Let's not be late for worship!

MARCH WORSHIP MESSAGES

March 3	Nobody Sang Kum Ba Yah	John 2:13-22	
March 10	The Light at the End of the Tunnel	John 3:14-21	
March 17	Conjure Up Jesus For Me	John 12:20-33	
March 24	Dancing the Sidestep	John 12:12-29	Palm Sunday
March 31	Friday is Old News	John 20:1-18	Easter Sunday!



Show off your FCC heart while you drive around Manhattan. Ashley VanGilder has decals for \$2 to display on the rear window of your car. Buy one from her Sunday !

STEWARDSHIP

Think of stewardship as a daily, joyful commitment to the church. The Church needs us to continue to be good stewards by providing our resources to the church to sustain and thrive!

Grant Chapman & David Woodmansee
Stewardship Ministry Interim Co-Chairs

Support the Camp Fund when you shop at Dillons



To Enroll in the Dillon's Community Rewards Program:

1. Visit www.dillons.com/community-rewards
2. Sign-in to your account
3. Click on "Enroll now"
4. Search for "First Christian Church Manhattan"
5. Click "Enroll"



HELP THE CAMP FUND!

PURCHASE



Hy-Vee
Gift Cards

Purchase gift cards in the church office from Marian or before worship from Debi Rogers.

The money raised from selling gift cards goes back to sending our youth to Camp Tawakoni!

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY—MARCH 10

CHRIST IS COUNTING ON US



**Flint Hills Breadbasket greatest needs:
Canned Meat, Sugar, Syrup, Rice, Dish
Soap, Toilet Paper**

Please bring your March donations to the church on the 10th to help us fill the Breadbasket shelves.

Make a difference with kindness!

LOCAL AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

HELPING WITH “TEFAP TUESDAY” AT THE FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET!

A big thanks to Dave Woodmansee, Robert and Pam Russell, Pam Crawford, Mark Maxwell, Linda Uthoff and Ron and Heather Thomas for volunteering at the Flint Hills Breadbasket food bank on February 13 as part of “TEFAP Tuesday”. Since the truck was late arriving, we had an opportunity to sort produce and other food items while we waited. Once the truck got there, we loaded all the pallets outside due to space limitations. We were thankful that we had good weather that day! The job went fast since we had plenty of volunteers from FCC along with a few helpers from a K-State fraternity.



This job is critical for the Breadbasket operation to ensure that food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) gets delivered to the surrounding communities that may not have easy access to food. The Flint Hills Breadbasket was very thankful for the work we did. We will continue to make this a regular volunteer event every other month with the next one planned for April 9. If interested in helping, we'll be looking for volunteers in early April.

SUCCESSFUL SOUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Souper Bowl Sunday food drive. As a church body, we donated almost 300 lbs of food and toiletry items to help re-stock the Flint Hills Breadbasket. Of course hoping for a Chief's win brought out the best in everyone (and was even better when they won!) Our condolences to JT VanGilder for picking the wrong team, once again! GO CHIEFS!



VALENTINE DAY GOODIES

Hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day. Once again this year we sent out Valentine gift bags to many of our treasured “singles” to remind them how much we love them. And what better way to show our love than with a gift bag loaded with chocolates and goodies. A big thank you to Heather Thomas for preparing the gift bags and also the elders and youth for making deliveries.

BRING IT!

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.

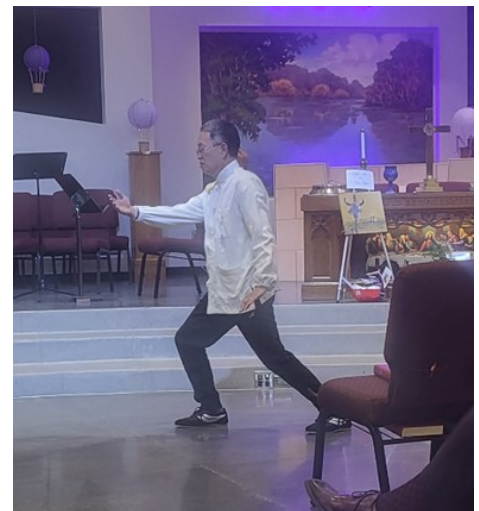


SOUP SUPPER/TALENT SHOW



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Soup Supper and Talent Show a success!

Fred Landis won the Golden Ladle for the 3rd time since the competition began in 2016. Congratulations, Fred! Your chicken - tortellini soup was delicious! There were many talents from juggling, instrumental music, and storytelling. It was a fun night—full of joy and laughter. Thank you to Ron Thomas for serving as our fantastic Master of Ceremonies. We were able to raise \$3590.56 for our camp fund.



SOUP SUPPER/TALENT SHOW



The lucky winners of the raffle baskets:

Bloom and Grow donated by the Outreach Ministry Team – *Linda Uthoff*

Gift Card Shower donated by the Elders – *The Chapmans*

But First Coffee donated by Fellowship Ministry Team – *Bill Hill*

I Love MHK donated by Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry Team – *Elaine Hwang*

Cozy Day In donated by Disciples Ministry Team – *Diane Stefano*

Quilt donated by Do Day Ladies – *Tresa Landis*

Heather Thomas was the winner of the autogyro ride with David Rogers.



FELLOWSHIP

"Meals with Faith Friends" has begun. These are small group fellowships centered around a shared meal that is contributed by those attending. We are aiming for the weekends of March 22-24, and April 26-28. If you are interested in being added, please contact Marilyn Masterson or leave a message with Marian in the office.

Updated pictorial directory: We are beginning the process of updating the FCC online pictorial directory. This is intended to help all of us better connect names and faces of FCC members and participants. It only contains photos and names, no other personal information, and is accessible only with a password via the church website. We will be contacting those of you whose photo was not included, either because you hesitated when we initiated this project last year, or because you are newer to our faith family. We would love to add everyone to the online version. You can either let us use an existing photo of yourself / family, or we can take a new one. Let Marian or me (Debi) know your preference and we can work out the details. Please don't be left out!

Easter continental brunch: More details to come, but just to let you know, we are planning to host a casual continental brunch prior to Easter worship, March 31. All are welcome to come and have a relaxed visit with faith friends as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR DAVID & RENATE WOODMANSEE!

This month we shine the spotlight on Renate and David Woodmansee. David is the Chair Elect of the Coordinating Council, and Renate has served and contributes on many committees.

Renate was born in Zeil, Germany. She came to the United States at the age of 21 with her first husband who was stationed at Ft Riley. She attended Kansas State working on a Bachelor of Science. She divorced in 1987 and was a single mom raising 4 children. She has her own child care business and after 30 years has cared for over 90 children.

David was born in Great Bend, Kansas and moved to Manhattan in 1982 to attend K-State where he received his Bachelor Degree in Architecture.

David is a designer and salesman for a kitchen, bath and home decorating company called Custom Wood Products in St Mary's KS. He has been with them for 28 years. Prior to that, Dave was with Bruce McMillan Architects and helped restore the Colombian Theatre in Wamego and the Riley County Courthouse Building.



David and Renate met in 1991 when David was matched with Renate's son, Thomas, through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. After a year of mentoring, the children encouraged them to start dating. They were married at First Christian Church in 1993.

David and Renate claim 7 children: her 4 and 3 step and half siblings. They have 14 grandchildren with another on the way and 1 great grandchild with another on the way.

David and Renate love to spend time camping with family and friends mostly at Council Grove Reservoir on as many weekends as possible from April to October. Their biennial trips to Colorado are a favorite way to spend a couple of weeks with family and friends.

We are so blessed that they are a part of our church family.

Pam Crawford

CHURCH LIFE



Our Do Day Quilters add beauty and love to the world.



Steve Jankord single handedly made FCC a Pickle Ball Court! Who does that?? Thank you, Steve!



Making a joyful noise unto the Lord!



Janie Brokenicky, Director of the Flint Hills Children's Choir

SCOUT SUNDAY



It was wonderful to have all the scouts and their families with us, and a special honor to surprise Robert Russell with a reception celebrating his years of dedicated Scout Leadership. Robert, God bless you for this ministry.



CUB SCOUTS



Cub Scout Pack 76 toured the KSU Veterinary Medicine School recently. Many thanks to Melissa Upchurch, DVM and mom of two of our cub scouts for arranging the tour. We separated in two groups and toured the facility. The attached photos depict some of the areas we saw. Catelyn was our student-tour guide who did a wonderful job explaining everything. We observed a dog undergoing surgery, the anatomy lab, an alligator being dissected, large and small animal clinics. It was just fantastic!



Everyone had a great time at the LEAP trampoline park! The scouts were treated to climbing, bouncing, pizza and cake. We celebrated Scouting's 114th anniversary and Pack 76's twelfth birthday. We had 100% participation!

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, raffle item/tickets, soup donations, cash votes for your favorite soup, or silent auction bids all contribute to our successful fund raising! 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.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

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.

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 that call forth your best self and much more.

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 AND WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

How Often Does the Word Love Appear in the Bible?

(Credit: Bethany Verrett, writer for Bible Study Tools)

Valentines Day is February 14th. Since Love is the central theme of Valentines Day, I did some research to see how many times the word "Love" appears in the English language. It appears frequently, based on the source of research I found on the internet. Beginning in Genesis, love appears between 442 and 686 times depending upon the specific Bible translation. The high frequency of the word may be because there is only one word for "love" in the English language. Contextually, "love" refers to familial love, God's love, romantic love, or the brotherly love between brothers and sisters in Christ.

Below is an approximate list of the number of times love appears in different popular translations of the Bible:

English Standard Version: 684
King James Version: 442
New American Standard Bible: 479
New Living Translation: 759
New International Version: 686

One thing to note is that the King James Version count does not include counting the word "charity," a word used in the early 17th century when the King James translation was first published. In this version, "charity" represented the highest form of selfless and reciprocal love. "Charity" appears in the King James Bible approximately 24 times. The most famous passage using this word for love is 1 Corinthians 13:13, which defines the word, and culminates in, "and now abideth faith, home, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

These numbers may not match with non-English translations of the Bible, because English (which I never thought of before), only has one word for love, while some other languages have more than one. In the original Greek language of the New Testament, there were four words: *agápē*, *érōs*, *philia*, and *storgē*. They are brotherly love, romantic love, dispassionate and friendly love, and familial affection usually between parents and offspring, respectively. These different words connote different kinds of affection, which can only be inferred from the English word for love.

While Valentines Day celebrates romantic love, I hope we can take some time to celebrate brotherly love as well. The world can certainly use more of it!

Robert Russell, Coordinator

Next Men's Fellowship Meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 8 a.m. at Vista Restaurant

Disciples Women

Coming up—Treasurers in the Trunk Sale on April 20, 8 a.m. to noon.

May 1 is the annual Women's Salad Supper! So much fun with super good food and wonderful entertainment planned. Be thinking about who you could invite to come to this gathering!



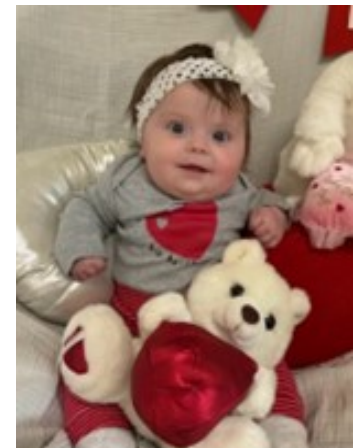
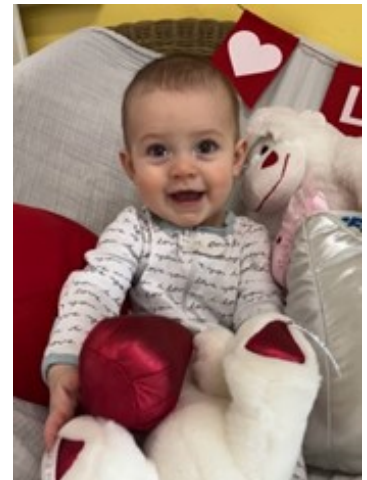
FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE



The month of February flew by!! I don't know where it went. I became a grandma (Mamaw) for the 1st time. Heston was born on Jan. 22nd and from there it has been a whirlwind! We worked hard on decorating the center for Valentine's Day. Every class did a Valentine craft and we hung them up on the big window, outside the door and some on the ceiling down the hallway. We enjoy displaying the crafts that the children make. We had class Valentine's parties on the 14th, parents brought so many goodies to share with each class. The children really enjoyed themselves. We are ready for the spring to come, Discoverers have 5 babies that will turn 1 and move to the Explorers room. I have babies taking their places and Explorers will be at full capacity in mid May!! Adventurers have 8 kiddos and will be getting a new child soon. The preschool rooms are also at full capacity!! With the news of Hope Lutheran closing their doors at the end of this month, I was able to help out 2 families with infants and I had several families that were put on the waitlist. It was sad

getting those phone calls, but I am thankful that we were able to help some families out! I have hired a few new staff, Katie Frazier will be in the infant room as a part time assistant teacher, she is Pam Russell's great niece. My youngest daughter, Kynzie Underwood is going to be a sub. We had a few college students come back to help us as well. They were very excited to come back!! We are looking forward to Parent Teacher Conferences on March 29 and will be getting ready for those soon. March will be a great month. Can't wait to get outside more!!

Chan'Tal Underwood, Director



Earth Day

Interfaith Service

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 4:30PM
(Kite flying and outdoor festivities begin at 3PM.)

Sponsoring communities:

Manhattan Jewish Congregation

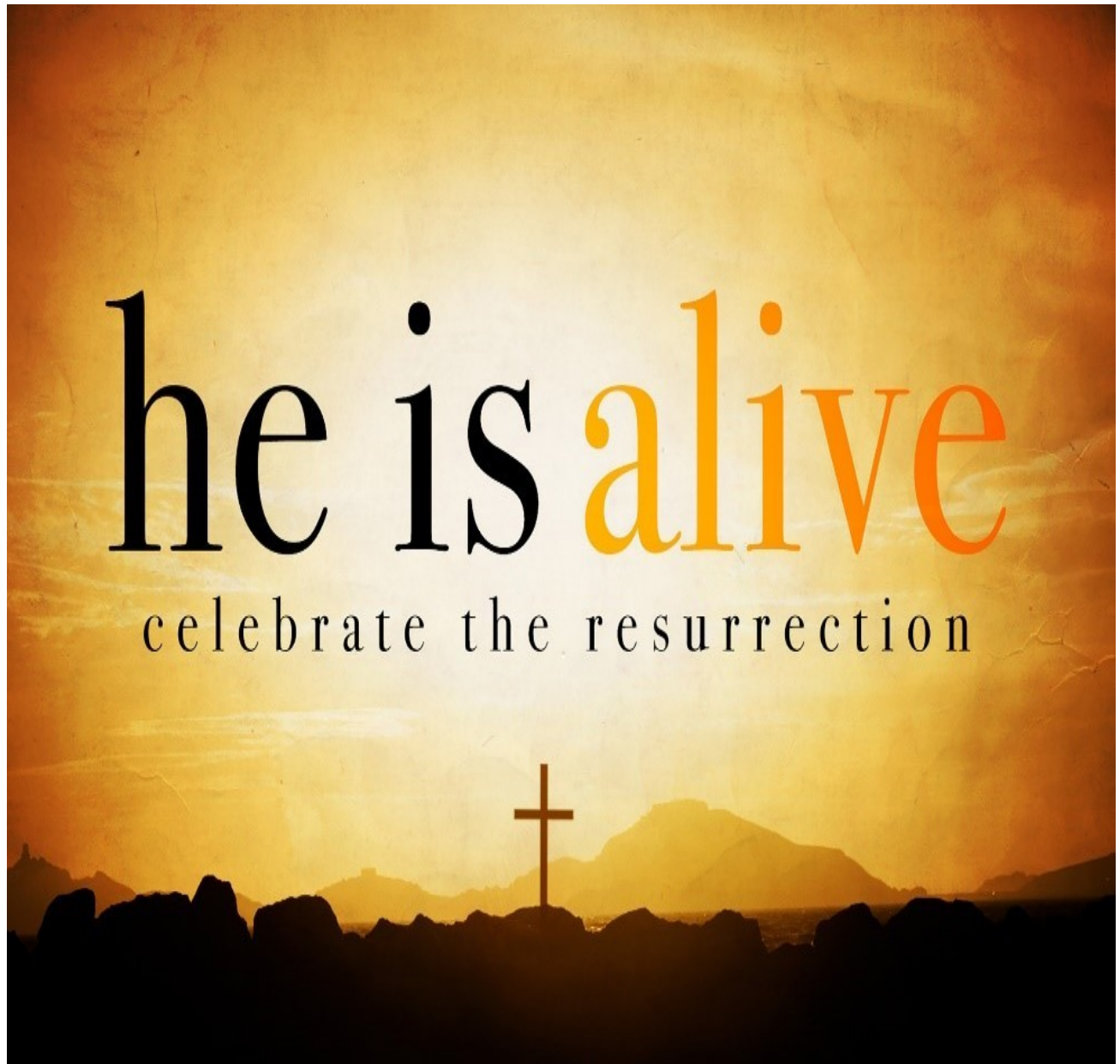
Ecumenical Campus Ministry at K-State

First Christian Church of Manhattan

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan

Join us at First Christian Church
3001 Grand Mere Pkwy, Manhattan, KS

GLORY TO GOD!



ALL ABOUT US



Thank you for the lovely plant that you sent to honor Phyllis. First Christian Church was a big part of her life. Your remembrance means a lot to us.
Floyd Price

To the Congregation of First Christian Church:

The Scouts, families and leaders of Cub Scout Pack 76 thank you for your support of our scouting program. It means more to us than words can adequately describe. We appreciate you so much.

*Yours In Scouting, Robert Russell
Cubmaster Pack 76*

Thanks to all those who came to the "open house" at the Prairie Star reception room arranged by my family. It was so good to see everyone and have time to visit. Thanks also to all who sent their greetings with phone calls and cards. It means so much to have a faith family like I have at FCC. I also want to thank the Youth Group who came to visit me, bringing a Valentine from FCC. I loved having the chance to visit with them and hear what their plans for the future.
Love, Mickey Bogart

I am so grateful to Robert Russell for being so kind as to fix my husband Jim's falling apart wren house. That birdhouse is 20 years old, with sentimental value in that it was made by a friend who has since died, and it brings no end of pleasure with cheerful wrens occupying it all summer. Those little birds can sing! Thank you, Robert, for being so kind—and so skillful!

Much love, Marian



March 10	Christian Watkins
March 16	Barb Sloan
March 23	Ken Stith
March 24	Kathryn Maxwell
March 29	Courtney Haig Kathy Huntzinger

If we missed your birthday, contact the office .

CONGRATULATIONS!

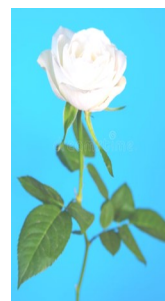
Reiley VanGilder was chosen to be part of the Elementary State Honor Choir! They performed at the KMEA meeting on Feb. 22. Well done, Reiley!

Doug & Verleta Meyers celebrated 46 years of marriage on February 25. They were married at FCC by Pastor Ben Duerfeldt. We love you, Doug and Veleta!

OUR SYMPATHY

We were so sad to hear of the death of James Johnson who was very active with FCC several years ago. We treasured his time with us and he felt the same way about being at FCC. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family.

*God bless you, James, forever.
Amen*



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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From Cradles to Crayons Director: Chan'Tal Underwood	director@fccmanhattan.org
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John Trussell	johnrussell@gmail.com
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Elder Chair: Frank Hwang	fhp537@yahoo.com
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Fellowship: Debi Rogers	derogers@ksu.edu
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Ron Thomas	ronniedale59@gmail.com
Stewardship Interim Co-Chairs: Grant Chapman	rrgllghr@ksu.edu
David Woodmansee	
Worship & Spiritual Life: Pam Russell	prussell5656@gmail.com

Christ before us.
Christ behind us.
Christ among us.
