



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Disciples of Christ

Welcoming All. Encountering Christ. Celebrating Community.

FEBRUARY 2021

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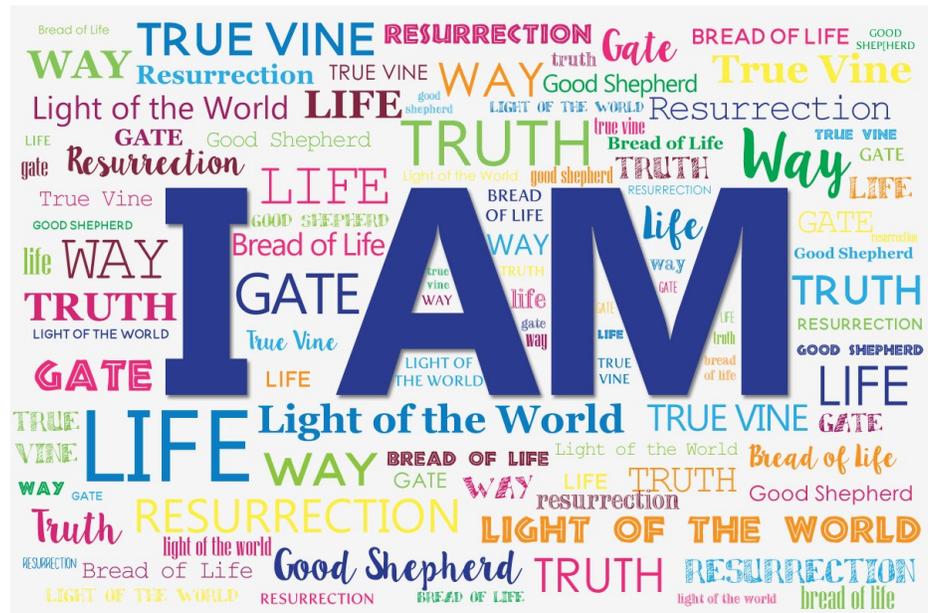
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STATEMENT OF MISSION

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.



On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we begin our Lenten passage to Holy Week and Easter, a journey to Jesus and an inward journey to self.

We may be worshipping apart at this time, but we will all be making this journey together. The six weeks of Lent can help us become more faithful disciples.



This year First Christian will provide a daily Lenten Devotional Booklet to enable the Spirit to help us focus on Jesus, who he is and who we are as His followers.

FROM BEN.....



The Elders are reading and discussing John Pavlovitz's book, "A Bigger Table." John shares his experiences going from a Christian tradition that maintained a small and exclusive table to an understanding of God's work in the world happening around an ever-expanding Table so that more people can taste and see the love of God in Jesus Christ. As Disciples of Christ, we know all about the Table. It is central to our weekly worship, and it is a constant reminder of our mission to be a "movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, welcoming all to the Lord's Table, as God has welcomed us."

I'll admit, building a bigger table is appealing to me...if the people who are gathering at the Table with me, think like me, believe like me, and look like me. It would be a rarity to come across a congregation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and not hear or see a statement about welcoming all people to the Table, but I wonder if we know and are up for the difficulties that come along with an expanding Table? The subtitle of John Pavlovitz's book is, "Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community." People are most themselves around the dinner table with people they love. People will say things around the dinner table that they would never say to anyone else or at any other place. For better or for worse. I am tempted to want to leave behind the "messy" in Pavlovitz's subtitle. And the more that I think about it, "authentic" sounds better in theory than in practice because when we are our authentic selves, it tends to get messy. This leaves me wondering, can we have a hopeful Table where people aren't allowed to bring their authentic, messy selves?

The church can be a light in this world by protecting and working for true open Tables for all people, where unity doesn't preclude uniformity. I love the words of Rev. Terri Hord Owens, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), "Unity is not a state of total agreement, but rather a state of honoring all that we each are. If we believe in God, we must acknowledge God's limitless love for all beings, a love that defines who God is." As we enter a month that is known for a cheap, romanticized, and watered-down idea of love, may we remember that sharing God's love in this world is hard work. It requires sacrifice, listening, sharing, forgiving, generosity, and a lot of grace. Indeed, love covers a multitude of sins. May we scoot over, and make space. Break bread, take a sip, and pass it on.

Grace & Peace,

Ben ><

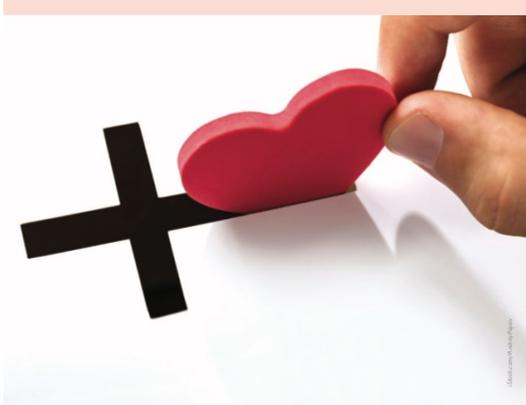


Ash Wednesday
February 17th

Stop by sanctuary to receive the ashes and spend some time in self-guided prayer. Come and go as you please.

9:00 - 10:00AM
Noon - 2:00PM
5:00 - 7:00PM

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



The core of stewardship is

love

At the Stewardship Ministry Team (SMT) meeting on January 21st the SMT evaluated and assessed the success of last year's congregation-wide planned giving effort to support the 2021 Annual Budget. As of December 31, 2020, a total of 26 pledges (\$208,860) were received in support of the 2021 Budget. Since the 2021 Budget includes a line for depreciation (new this year, but an important entry as we move forward) this pledged amount will support a little more than 40% of the 2021 Budget even though the pledged amount was approximately \$38,600 more than the pledged amount in support of the 2020 Budget.

Over the next few months the SMT will continue to address various ways of providing input, direction, and support to encourage, and guide philanthropic stewardship throughout the year. This will include identifying a variety of ways that individuals and families can contribute on both short-term and long-term bases and also addressing the various modes of disseminating this information to donors.

Richard Gallagher, Stewardship Ministry Team Chair

TECH SCHOLARSHIP

Do you appreciate our online services? Has this availability helped you stay connected to FCC?

If you answered "Yes" to those questions, then please consider this opportunity:

Our Technology Team is sorely needing additional consistent support. We are starting an educational scholarship for a KSU or MCC student to join our Technology Team. A \$500 per semester scholarship will be awarded to a student through their school's finance office. (This is the same system we use for our Choir Scholarship.)



Your support to this scholarship will help us recruit and maintain quality technical support, which in turn will improve our online broadcasting. Please send your financial donation to FCC with a notation of "Tech Scholarship".

Thank you for your support!

CHURCH BUSINESS

COORDINATING COUNCIL

January has been a quiet month for Coordinating Council business. In December, we normally would have held a congregational meeting, but with COVID, that was not practical. Instead, information was mailed to our church family on December 4. On December 13, we hosted a Zoom session to respond to any questions about the Servant Leadership nominations or the 2021 Annual Budget. About 25 households were represented in the Zoom session. By the end of December, fifty-seven ballots were returned, approving both the 2021 Servant Leadership and the 2021 Annual Budget.

The Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry Team brought a request to the Coordinating Council for the January meeting. The Coordinating Council has approved a \$500 per semester Technology Scholarship to attract the services of someone well versed in operating the equipment to work at the technology table in the rear of the sanctuary. Since we began streaming services last March, there has been an increased demand on the individuals working with this equipment to provide these services. They are responsible for managing the slides that we see on the screens, playing any audio or video recordings, managing microphones to avoid having sounds broadcast that should not be. Once we added streaming of the service, live cameras were added to the equipment mix that needs to be operated and managed. As a result, juggling all of this equipment becomes very difficult for one person to do alone as a service is in progress. An additional technical person at the table will support sound mixing and video broadcasting to go much more smoothly.

Alice Trussell
Coordinating Council Chair

**Watch for information on an upcoming
Talent Show Fundraiser
being planned by the
Discipleship Ministry Team.
At this time we can't have the Soup Supper
but we can sure enjoy the talent!**



YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP NEWS



OUR YOUTH PICK UP FOOD FOR FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET! (SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)

In January, the youth collected 147lbs. With the start of the new year, so that we can stay faithfully engaged with God as a group, I now send out every Sunday evening a daily devotional for the week.

Lukus Ebert, Ministry Intern, Youth Focus

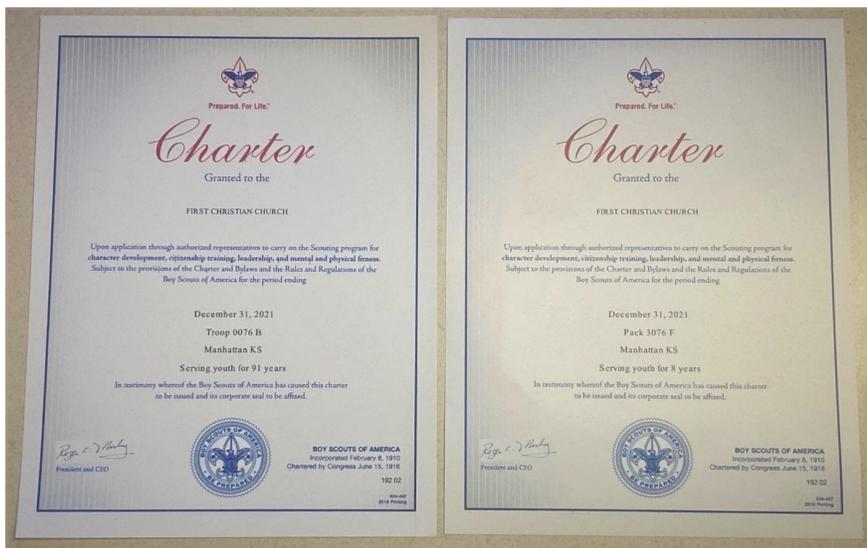


SCOUTING AT FIRST CHRISTIAN

Boy Scout Troop 76 and Cub Scout Pack 76 annual charter was renewed. Boy Scout Troop 76 has now completed 91 consecutive years of service to youth. Troop 76 has been sponsored solely by First Christian Church for more than nine decades! Troop 76 was formed in 1930 and has operated continuously since. Cub Scout Pack 76 was formed in 2013.

Charter presentation ceremonies are normally observed in the month of February, Scouting's anniversary month, and conducted during the worship service. However, due to the COVID pandemic, we must regrettably forego the ceremony this year to protect our Scouts and leaders. The Scouts and families of our two Scouting units sincerely appreciate the many years of support received by First Christian Church. We are grateful to all of the members of the congregation for supporting Scouting!

Robert Russell



WEEK OF COMPASSION

LET LOVE FLOW - WEEK OF COMPASSION 2021 SPECIAL OFFERING

*"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind.
For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs."
Isaiah 49:10*

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) working to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

When you give to Week of Compassion, you support water and other sustainable development projects worldwide. When you "let love flow," lives are not just saved; they are transformed. When water comes to a village, everything changes. It touches every area of life. Having clean water close by means that women in Nicaragua don't have to spend their whole day walking to the source--so they might have other opportunities for learning or vocational growth. Children in Kenya no longer spend their days carrying heavy buckets--so they can go to school instead. Improved sanitation slows the spread of disease--so there is less preventable illness. Crops thrive in Vietnam, meaning food security and nutrition improvement for the whole community. Families can spend more time together. People of all ages worldwide are empowered to provide for their families today while also planning for the future of their communities.

While we collect this offering during February, the offering supports this ministry's work throughout the whole year. Funds also allow the Church to respond to a disaster immediately to provide grants for urgent needs like emergency supplies, food, and water.

Think about the impact all the Bible verses and songs that mention water have had on your life. Then drop off or mail your offering to the church office, noting Week of Compassion, or on Sunday, put it in the offering plate. *Bless you for Letting Love Flow.*

Cindy Garwick, Chair, Local and Global Outreach Ministry Team



LOCAL AND GLOBAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

THE FOOD NEEDS OF OUR MANHATTAN COMMUNITY CONTINUE

Whether you are out shopping or picking up a delivery consider getting a few items to drop off at church or to set out next to your door for Youth pickup the second Sunday of the month.

Flint Hills Breadbasket (FHBB) Collection:

- Shelf stable bottled juice—apple, cranberry, grape, orange
- Spaghetti sauce
- Hamburger Helper
- Individually boxed hot cereal packets

Second Helping (2H) Sack Lunches:

- Oatmeal Packets
- Granola/Breakfast Bars
- Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers
- Cookies
- Napkins
- Paper Sacks
- Snack size Baggies



Please mark your bags for FHBB, 2H, or both. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to package the Second Helping 60 sack lunches contact Cindy Garwick through the church office.

Thanks to Barb & Eric King, Kathy Huntzinger, her daughter Kim, granddaughters Adi & Hailey for their work in January and February on the 2H sack lunch mission project.

Blessings,

Lukus Ebert & TRUTH Youth, and Cindy Garwick, Local Outreach



FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS CHILDCARE

January provided a great start to 2021 for From Cradles to Crayons. Our staff returned from winter break refreshed. We have transitioned to our spring staffing schedules since all of our student employees have returned to KSU. We are still working out a few kinks but getting settled.

We are excited to welcome a new full-time toddler assistant, Alex Howie, for our Explorer's toddler classroom and a new full-time infant assistant teacher, Carlee Torneden. We are still recruiting and interviewing for another full-time infant assistant teacher.

The children have been exploring many topics this month, including winter for toddlers and some special activities discussing equality around Martin Luther King Jr Day for preschoolers.

All of our teachers do a fantastic job of creating lesson plans based on the children's interests, skills they need to develop, and things happening in their lives. These, creative activities have been fun to watch.

Thank you to all the church members who support and provide so much for our program every month.

Cassie Anderson, Director, From Cradles to Crayons Childcare



ALL ABOUT US

THANK YOU

Thanks to First Christian Church for your help with our ministry to feed the food insecure residents in Manhattan.

Shari Tedford, Coordinator
Second Helping, (Sunday sack lunches)
First Congregational Church

Our Sympathy

We reach out in sympathy to the family and friends of Nancy Venburg who died on January 9th in Andover, Kansas.



ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the 2020 Annual Report will be available for pick up at the church on and after Sunday, February 7th. Like to have yours delivered? Just call the church office, 776-8790.

RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY FOR FROM CRADLES TO CRAYONS

As you clip coupons from online sites, the newspaper, and magazines remember our From Cradles to Crayons families can use the ones for diapers & wipes, baby food and formula, and vitamins & OTC medicines. Drop them off with Cassie or mail them to the church and she will share with the Childcare families.

BLESSED BIRTHDAY!

February 5	Mickey Bogart Caroline Hwang Nicholas Hwang
February 7	Nancy Goulden
February 22	Carolyn Myers
February 25	Jean Neipert
February 29	Hailey Honeycutt

TRUTH YOUTH WILL PICK UP FOOD FOR FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET

**Sunday Afternoon
February 14.**



Contact Lukus Ebert!
lukuse12@gmail.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3001 GRAND MERE PARKWAY, MANHATTAN, KS 66503
(785) 776-8790 fccmanhattan.org

Senior Minister: Ben Hitzfeld
Christian Education Director: Ashley VanGilder
Ministry Intern, Youth Focus: Lukus Ebert
From Cradles to Crayons Director: Cassie Anderson
Church Secretary: Marian Fuller
Coordinating Council:
 Chair: Alice Trussell
 Vice-Chair: Debi Rogers
 Secretary: Ruby Brower
 Financial Secretary: Lukus Ebert
 Treasurer:
 Trustee Chair: Elizabeth Jankord
 Elder Co-Chairs: Mickey Bogart
 Robert Russell
 Deacon Chair: John Trussell
Ministry Team Chairs:
 Discipleship: Linda Gallagher
 Fellowship: Renate Woodmansee
 Local & Global Outreach: Cindy Garwick
 Property, Co-Chairs: Fred Landis
 John Trussell
 Stewardship: Richard Gallagher
 Worship & Spiritual Life: Pam Russell
TRUTH Youth Sponsors:
 Dave Woodmansee
 Bill McReynolds

ben@fccmanhattan.org
ashley@fccmanhattan.org
lukuse@gmail.com
cassie@fccmanhattan.org
marian@fccmanhattan.org

alitrus@ksu.edu
derogers@ksu.edu
rkb0620@gmail.com
lukuse@gmail.com
treasurer@fccmanhattan.org
jsutd@ksu.edu
mickeybogart@yahoo.com
rrussell21@cox.net
johnrtrussell@gmail.com

corngirl61442@hotmail.com
renate.woodmansee@gmail.com
cindygarwick@cox.net
felandis@cox.net;
johnrtrussell@gmail.com
rrglg@ksu.edu
prussell5656@gmail.com

david.w.woodmansee@gmail.com
billybob@twinvalley.net

